Regional Refugee Response for the Ukraine Situation

Bulgaria

MULTI-SECTOR NEEDS ASSESSMENT

August 2023

Preliminary Analysis

Photo credit: Dobrin Kashavelov / UNHCR 2023

Regional Refugee Response for the Ukraine Situation

OBJECTIVES & METHODOLOGY

OBJECTIVES

Regional Refugee Response for the Ukraine Situation

The **MSNA** is a regional interagency multi-sectoral assessment, seeking to capture and understand:

- the needs of refugees in Bulgaria, focusing on the in-country refugee population;
- the current level of access to basic services, and how refugees' needs are met;
- Service gaps and refugees' priorities for the coming year.

The MSNA is a key source of information for the **2024 RRP planning**, which aims to capture funding and planning requirements for the response.

These preliminary results cover the following topics:

1. DEMOGRAPHICS
2. PROTECTION
3. EDUCATION
4. SOCIAL ECONOMIC INCLUSION AND LIVELIHOOD
5. HEALTH
6. ACCOMMODATION

OVERVIEW

Regional Refugee Response for the Ukraine Situation

COMPLETED VISITS

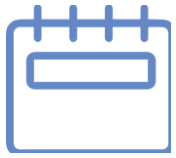
1054 HH

POPULATION COVERAGE

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

DATA COLLECTION BY

[Global Metrics Ltd.]



DATA COLLECTION

From **22/7** to **18/8**

PRELIMINARY ANALYSIS BY

[Global Metrics Ltd.]

METHODOLOGY

Regional Refugee Response for the Ukraine Situation

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, rentals, hostels/hotels and in government-designated collective sites.
DESIGN	Household interviews.
DATA COLLECTION	From **22/7 to 18/8** by enumerators from Global Metrics Ltd.
SAMPLE SIZE (preliminary r. / MSNA)	1054 HHs; covering 2258 HH members 8.3% living in collective sites or accommodation shared with other refugees. 91.0% living in privately rented accommodation at their own expense, Government sponsored-accommodation under the humanitarian programme (hotel or state recreational facility), Hotel/hostel or other.

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 data regarding the exact areas of refugee population **outside of collective sites**; Data available on settlement level
- 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.

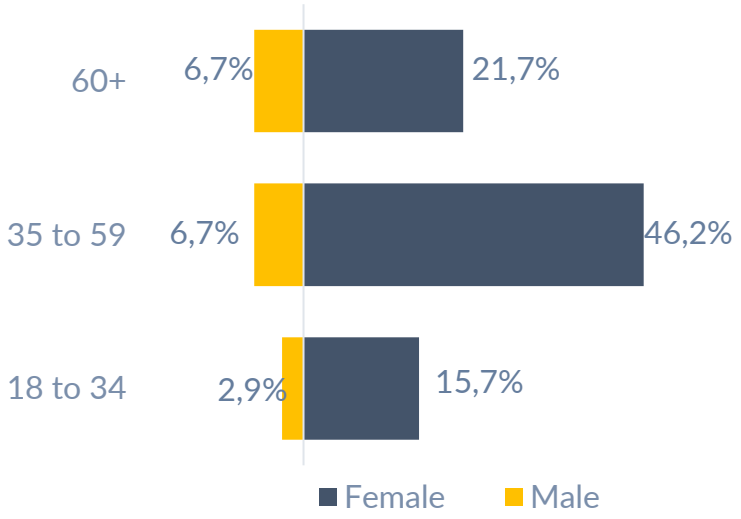
DEMOGRAPHICS

DEMOGRAPHICS

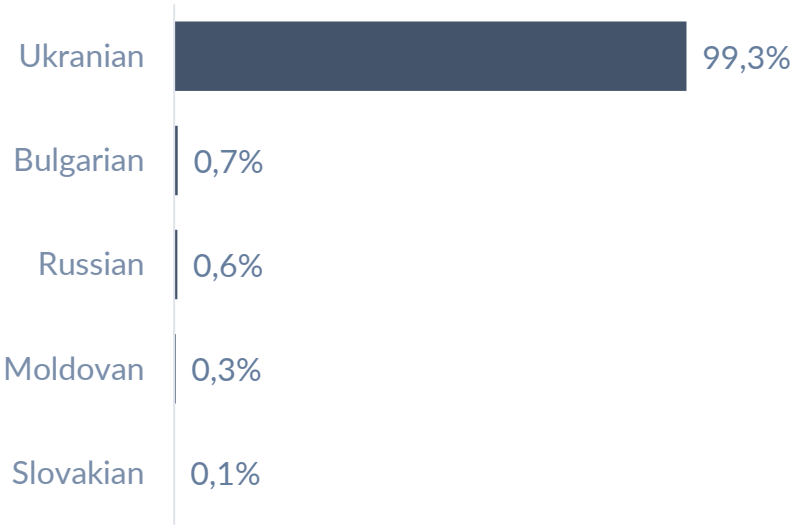
RESPONDENTS

Regional Refugee Response for the Ukraine Situation

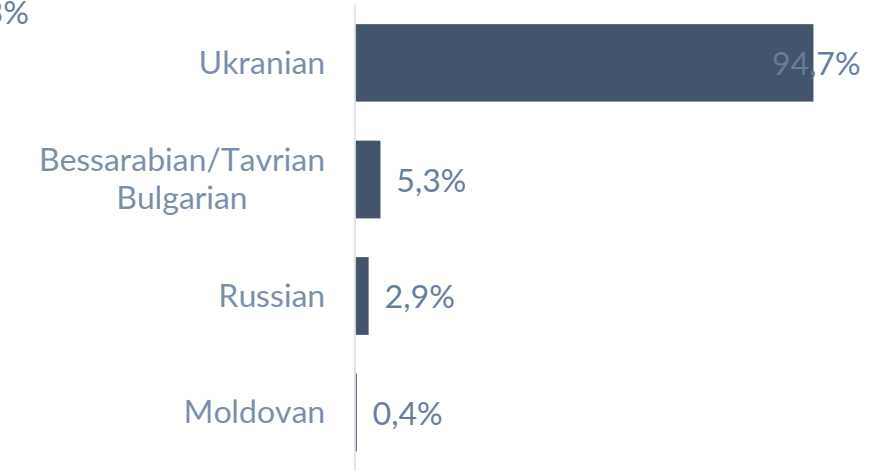
% of respondents by gender & age



% of respondents by citizenship (MCQ)



% of HH by ethnic background (self-identified)



Two thirds **(66.6%)** of respondents were **women**, **33.3%** were **men**. The largest age group is 35-59 years.

94.7% of all respondents identify themselves as Ukrainians. **0.7%** have **Bulgarian** citizenship, **0.6%** have **Russian**, **0.3%** have **Moldovan**, and **0.1%** have **Slovakian**. **94.7%** of respondents **self-identified** as of **Ukrainian background**, **5.3%** as **Bessarabian/Tavrian Bulgarian**, **2.9%** as **Russian**, and **0.4%** as **Moldovan**.

DEMOGRAPHICS

HOUSEHOLD AND POPULATION CHARACTERISTICS

Regional Refugee Response for the Ukraine Situation

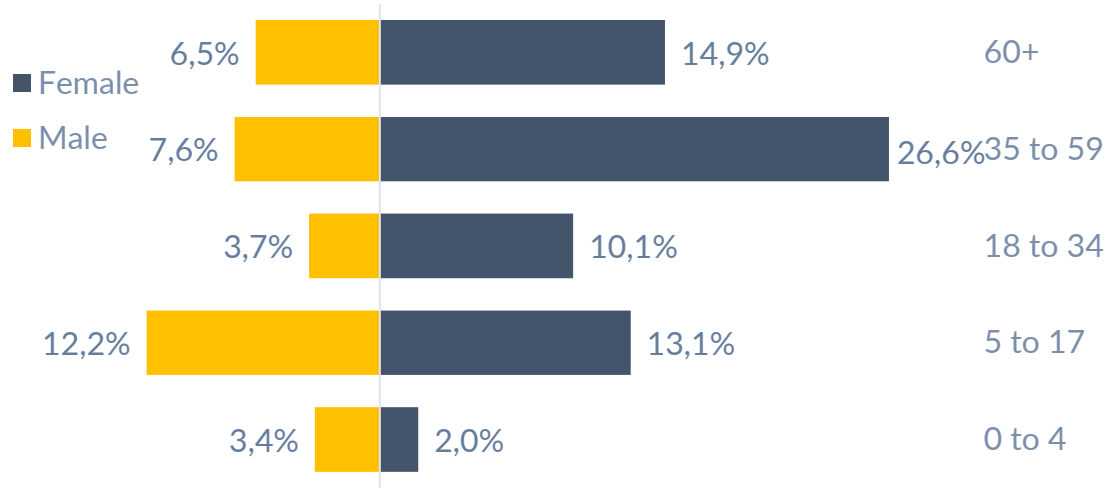
Average HH size
2.1

HH with children
45.4%

% of HHs with a chronically ill member
51.2%

% of HHs with a Pregnant or Breastfeeding Women
2.9%

Household Members by Age Group and Gender



% of children
30.7%

% of older refugees
21.4%

% of individuals with disability level 3 and above
10.2%

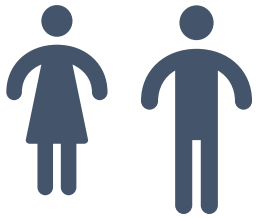
DEMOGRAPHICS

HOUSEHOLD PROFILES

Regional Refugee Response for the Ukraine Situation

One or more adults (18-59) without dependents

24.4%

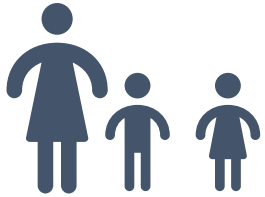


Two or more adults (18-59) with dependents

15.4%

Only one adult (18-59) with dependents

34.4%



One or more older persons (60+)

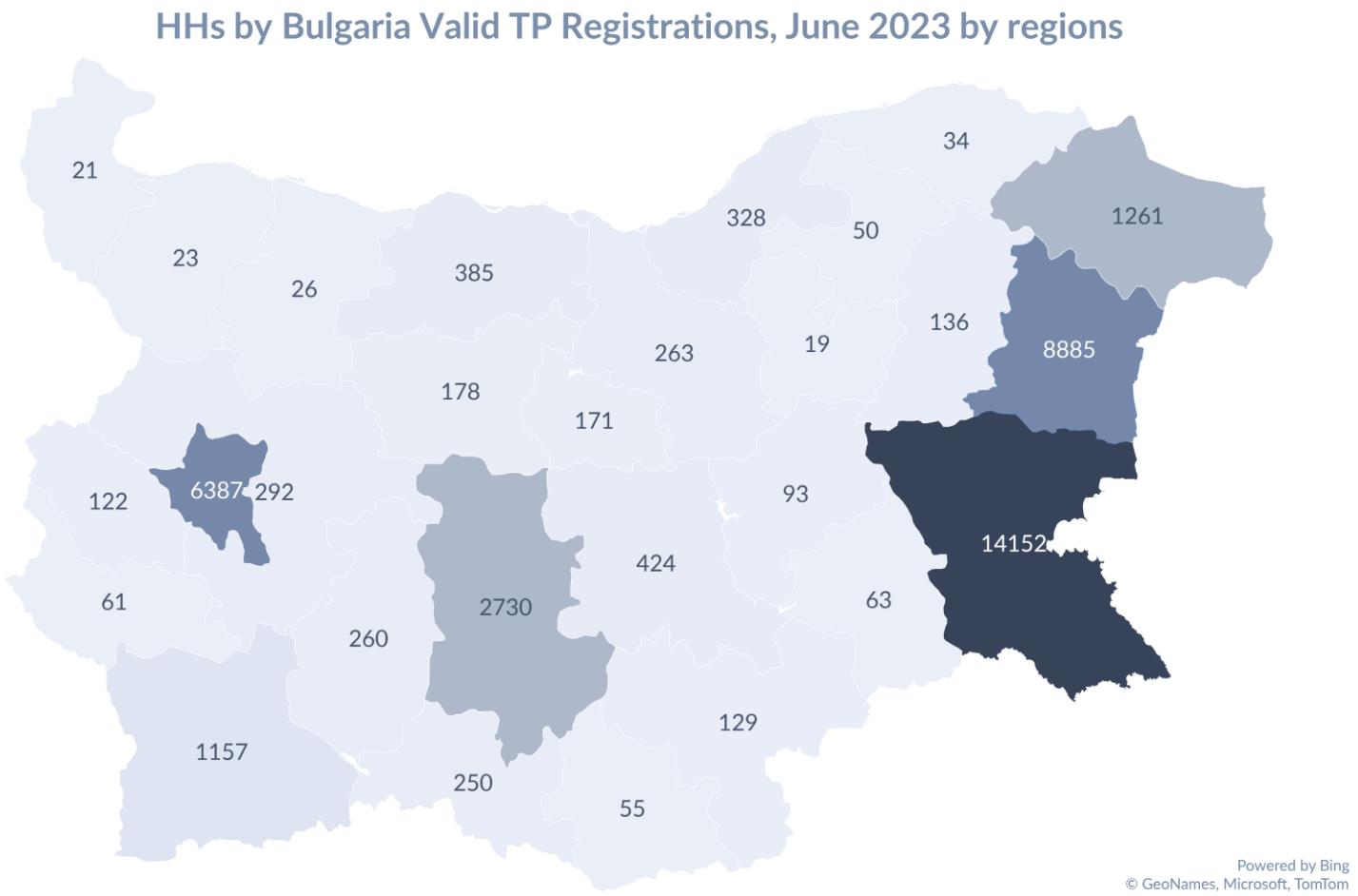
22.2%

Dependent definition: 1) children below 18 years of age; 2) adults who have level 3 disability; 3) older persons (age 60+)

DEMOGRAPHICS

AREA OF RESIDENCE

Regional Refugee Response for the Ukraine Situation



At the end of August 2023, there were 5,834,100 refugees from Ukraine residing in Europe. For the same period, 86,490 persons were reached and registered on the territory of Bulgaria, with 57,000 being reached through the 5 operating Blue Dot Centers in the country. After reaching Bulgaria around 50 000 decided to stay on the territory of the country. The largest share of persons granted Temporary Protection choose to reside in the regions of Burgas, Varna, Sofia and Plovdiv, and this trend has been observed and maintained since March 2022.

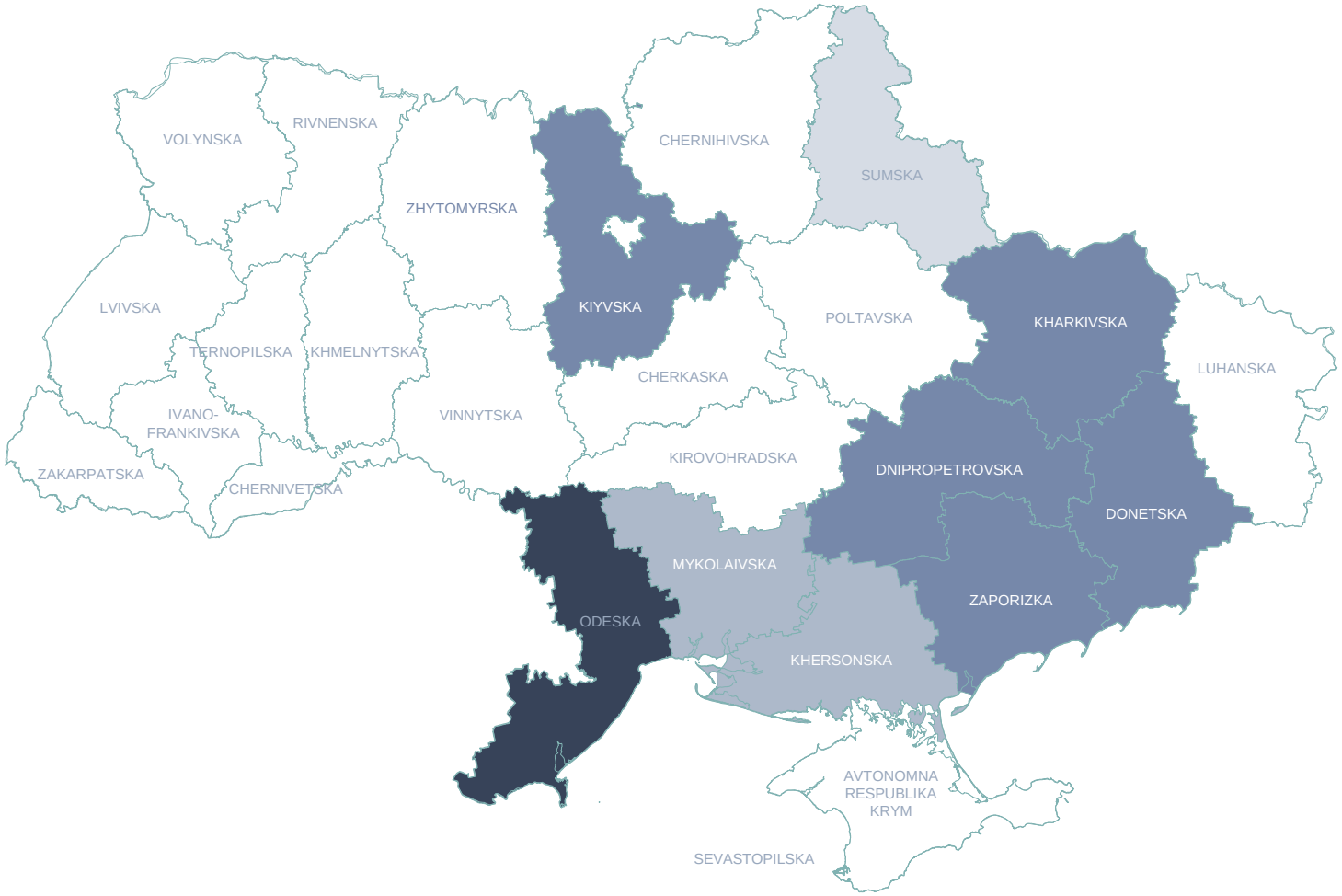
In order to maximize the representativeness and similarities of the sample to the structure of the general population, in the study are covered 32 settlements with over 100 Ukrainian citizens with temporary protection status in Bulgaria aged 18+ for which data have been provided by SAR to UNHCR.

Source: Ukraine Situation in Bulgaria, Temporary Protection Registration, 30 June 2023 (https://data.unhcr.org/en/dataviz/313?sv=0&geo=0)

DEMOGRAPHICS

Regional Refugee Response for the Ukraine Situation

Distribution of Ukrainian Refugee Origins by Oblast



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

The highest share of Ukrainian refugees in Bulgaria originate form Odeska oblast (18.2%). Those coming from Kyiv (13.9%), Dnipropetrovska (12.9%), Kharkivska (11.4%), Zaporizka (10.6%) and Donetska (10%) have lower, but similar shares.

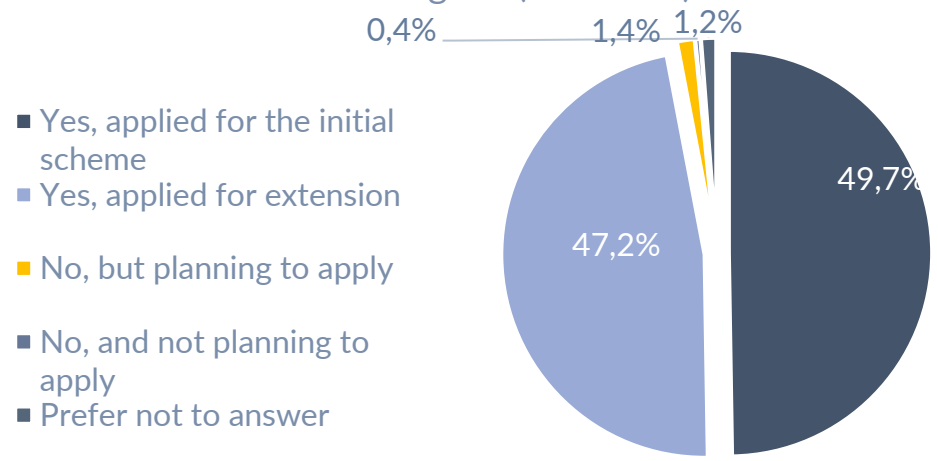
The other regions from which refugees from Ukraine come from are Mykolaivska (7.2%), Khersonska (5.9%) and Luhanska (2.2%).

PROTECTION

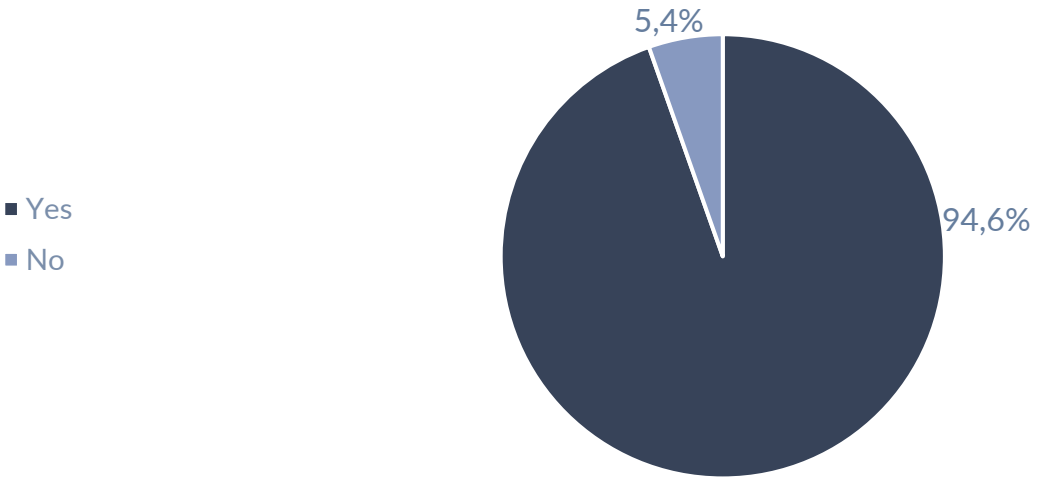
PROTECTION

STATUS

Has your family applied for Temporary Protection in Bulgaria (% of HHs)



Did you re-register for Temporary Protection in Bulgaria after February 2023?



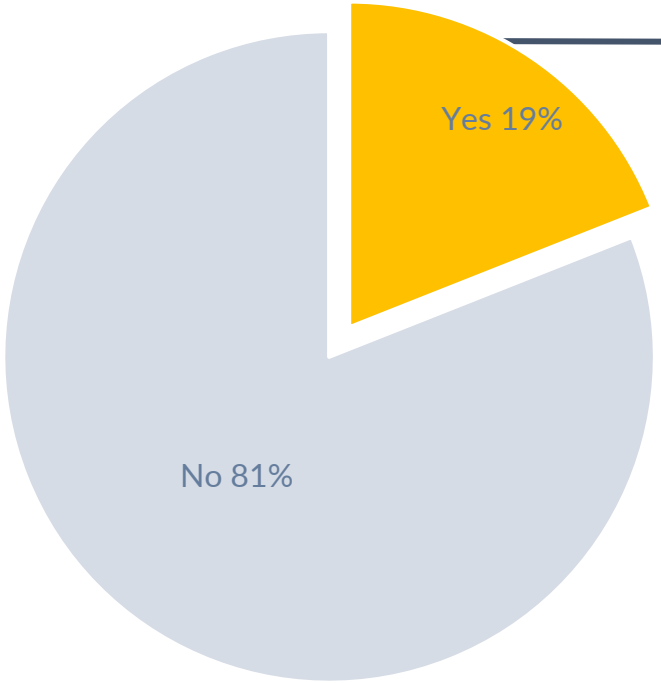
X% reasons for not applying or re-registration for TP
top 4 reasons

PROTECTION

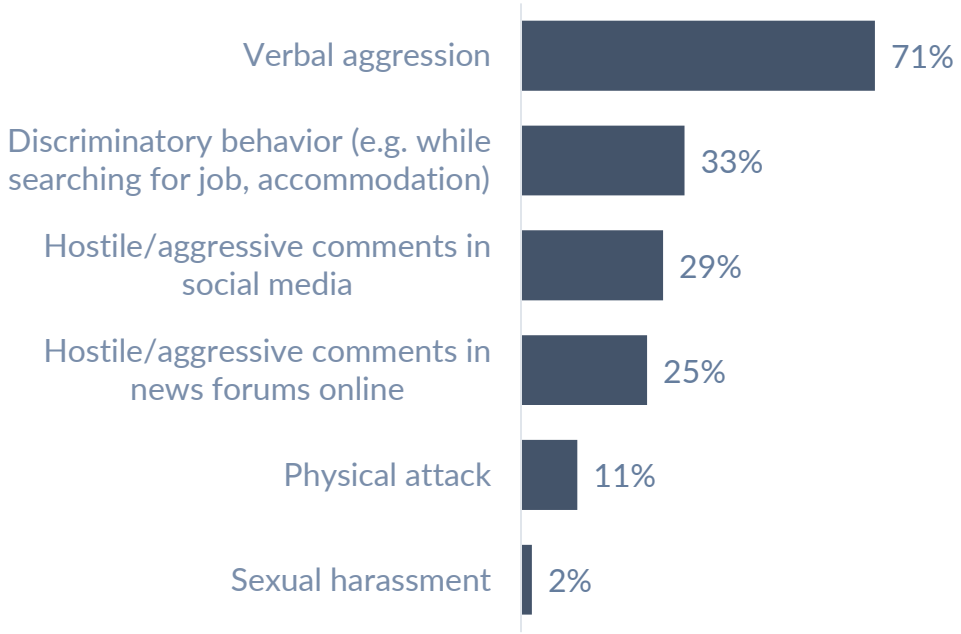
Social Tension

Regional Refugee Response for the Ukraine Situation

% of HHs reporting tensions with host community



Type of hostile behavior reported (out of the 19% reporting tensions)

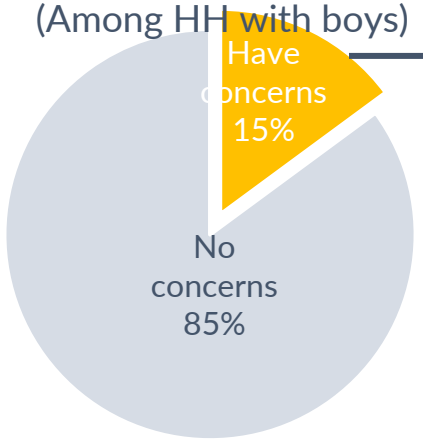


PROTECTION

CHILD PROTECTION

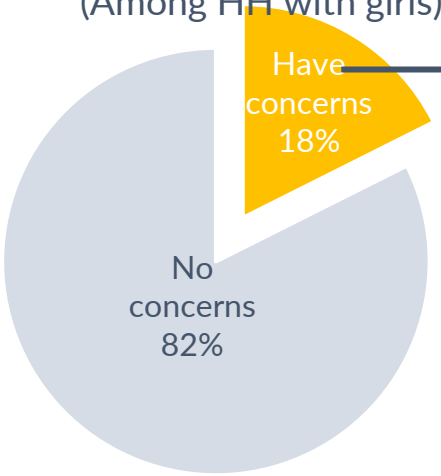
Regional Refugee Response for the Ukraine Situation

% of HHs who have concerns regarding risks faced by boys (Among HH with boys)



% of HHs reporting on most serious risks faced by boys

% of HHs who have concerns regarding risks faced by girls (Among HH with girls)



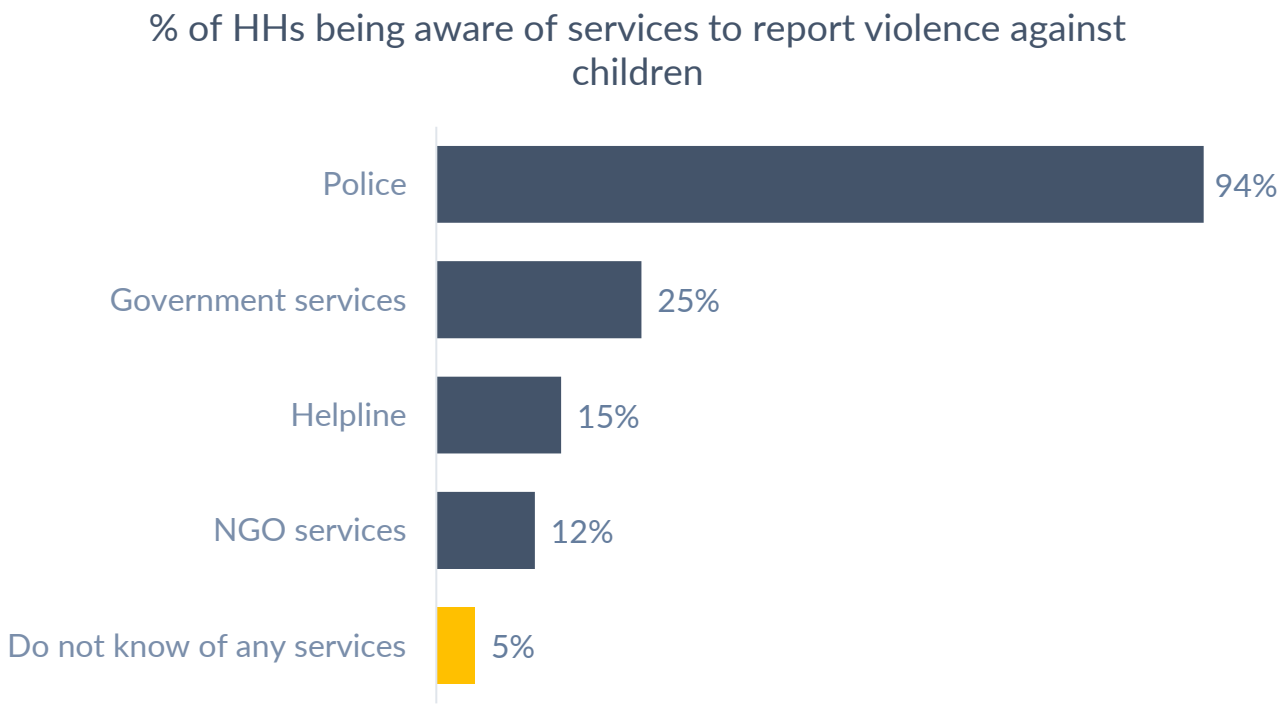
% of HHs reporting on most serious risks faced by girls

Around the same proportion of HHs have **concerns regarding risks faced by boys and girls**, **15%** and **18%**, respectively.

Psychological harm, including impaired psychosocial well-being, is considered a bigger risk for girls, while physical abuse and vulnerability to abuse were considered a bigger risk for boys.

PROTECTION

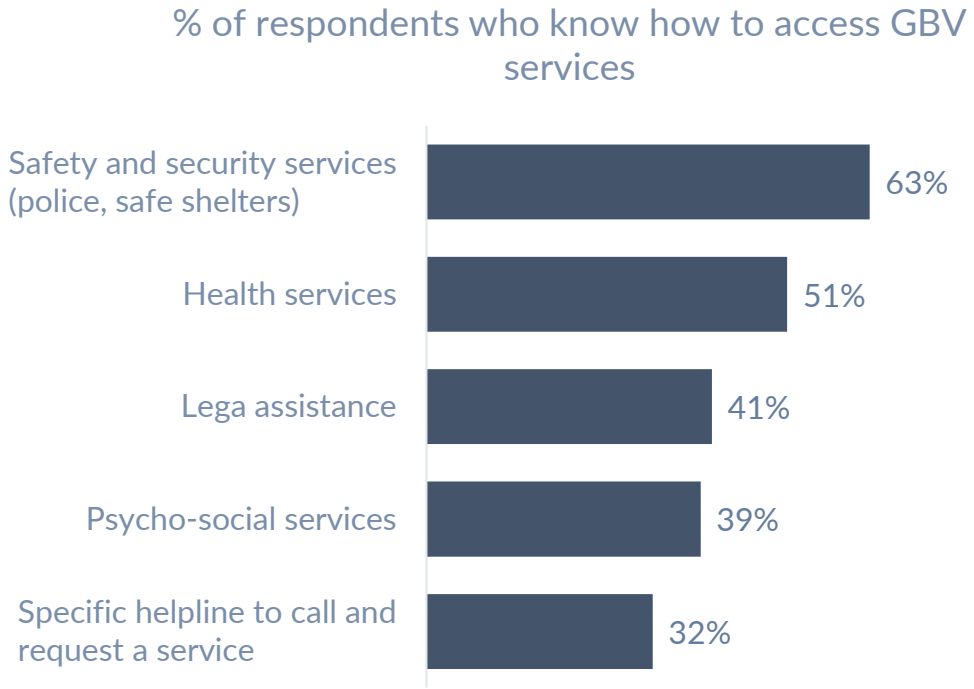
CHILD PROTECTION

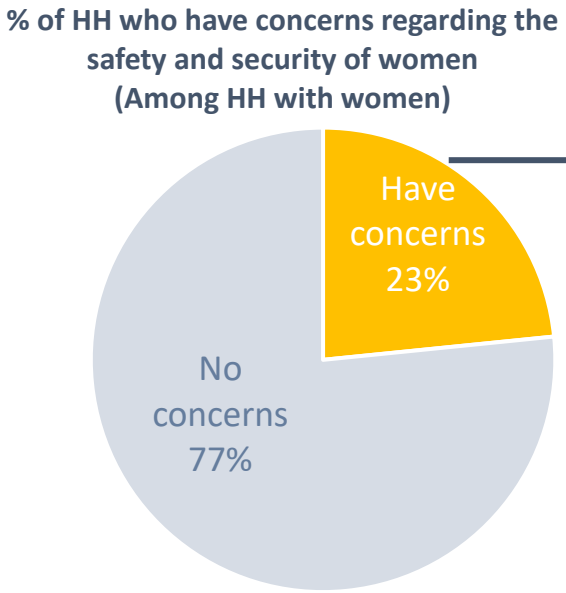


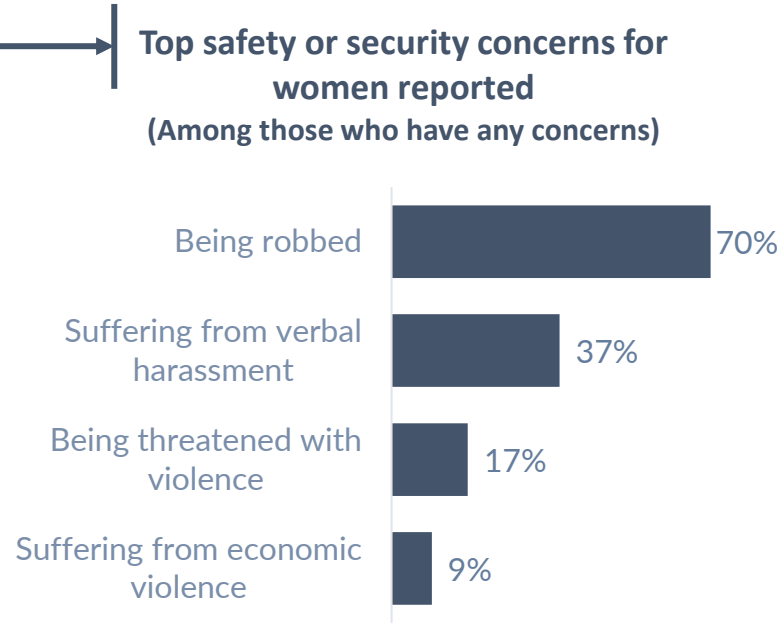
In cases of violence, exploitation, or neglect to children in the community the respondents will suggest to go to **the police** (94%). The other public services are less familiar of the respondents. A quarter will search for **Government service**, 15% would call a **helpline,** and 12% would contact an **NGO.**

PROTECTION

GBV







23% of HHs **report concerns regarding the safety and security of women**, the top three being a high risk of **getting robbed** (**70%** mentioned this), suffering from **verbal harassment (37%**), and being **threatened with violence** (**17%**).

When it comes to GBV services, respondents are most familiar with **safety and security** as well as with **health services** (**63%** and **51%**, respectively). Significant part of respondents know how to request **legal assistance** (**41%**), or **psycho-social services** (**39%**), and know specific **helpline** (**32%**).

PROTECTION

GBV

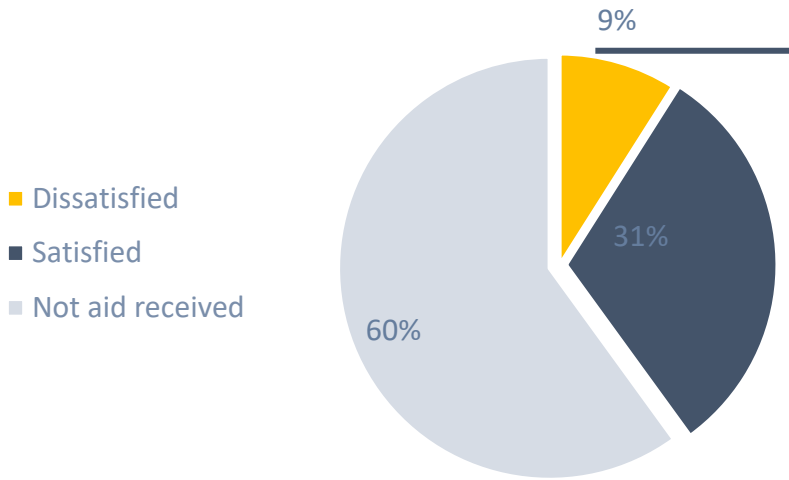
19% of HHs **have concerns regarding the safety and security of men**, a slightly smaller proportion than in the case of women. The four main concerns are **being robbed** (**74%**), suffering from **verbal harassment** (**39%**), **being threatened with violence (20%),** and suffering from **economic violence** (**13%**).

PROTECTION

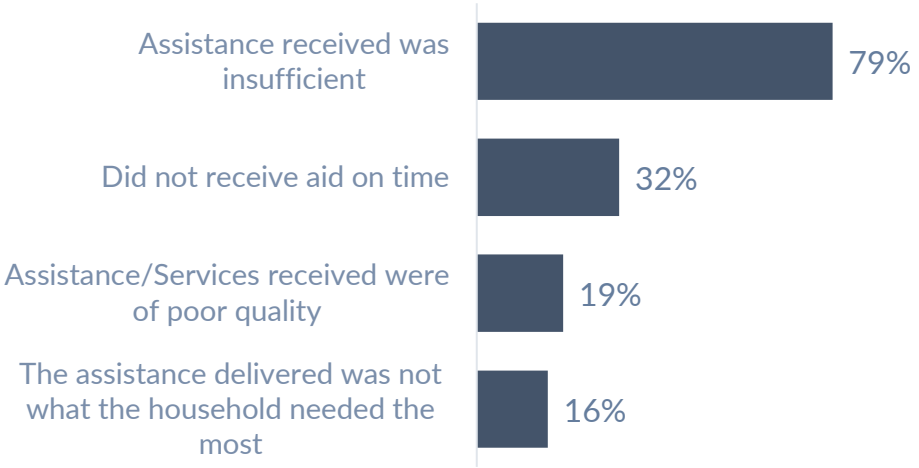
AAP

Regional Refugee Response for the Ukraine Situation

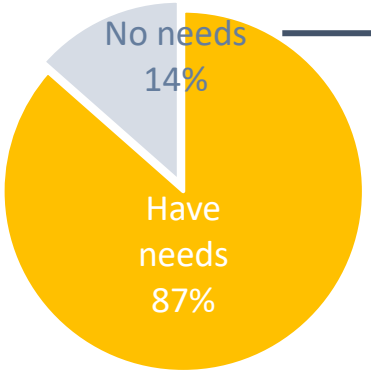
% of HHs satisfied with aid



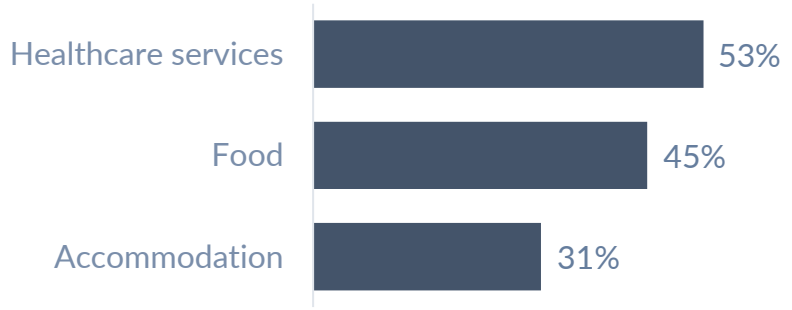
Reasons for dissatisfaction with aid



% of HHs with reported need (Among all HHs)



Top 3 most commonly reported priority needs (Among those who have priority needs)



More than half of HHs have not received any aid in the last 3 months. 31% are those who have received some kind of support and express high satisfaction with it

9% were not satisfied with the aid received (small proportion). The **main reason for dissatisfaction** with the aid received was that it was **insufficient (79%)**.

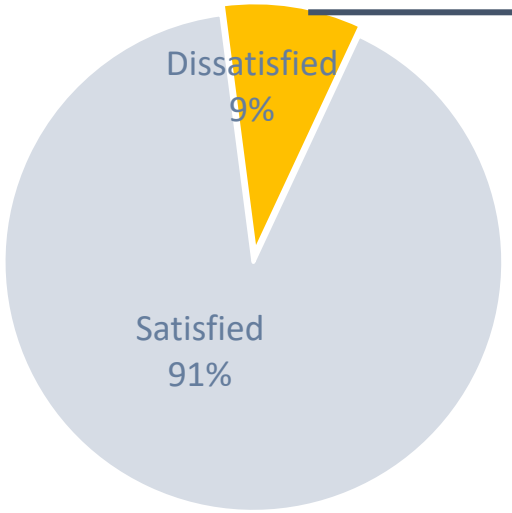
87% of HHs have reported **unmet needs** – the most commonly mentioned ones are **healthcare services (53%), food** (**45%**), and **accommodation** (**31%**).

PROTECTION

AAP

Regional Refugee Response for the Ukraine Situation

% of HHs satisfied with aid workers



Reasons for dissatisfaction with aid workers

The large **majority** of HHs, **91%** are **satisfied with aid workers**. Among those who are dissatisfied **(9%),** the main reported reasons are related to the **quality or insufficiency** of the assistance provided. Another reason for dissatisfaction is the **lack of communication and consultation with the user himself**, so that the assistance provided is relevant to his needs.

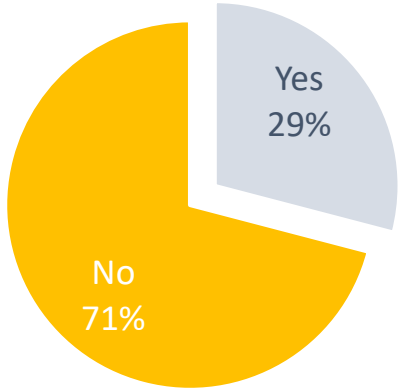
EDUCATION

EDUCATION

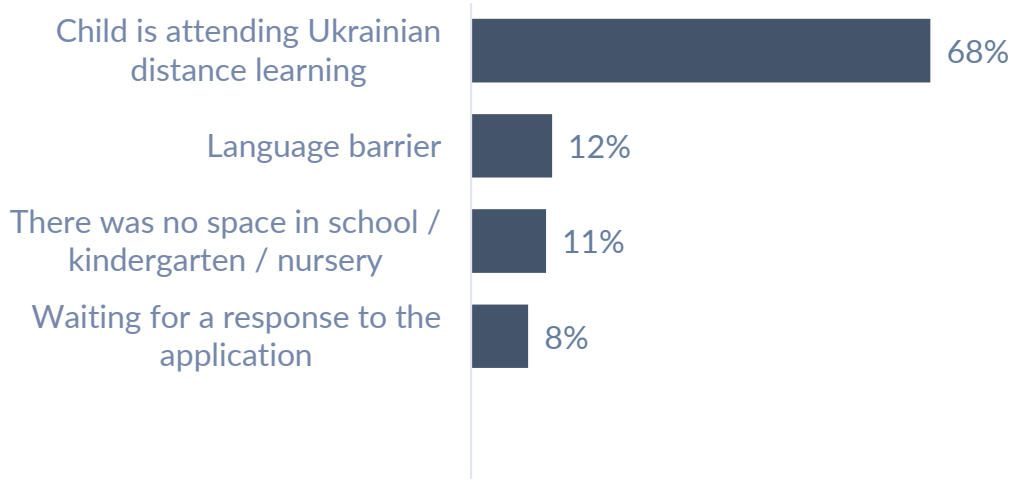
REPORTED ATTENDANCE / ENROLLMENT

Regional Refugee Response for the Ukraine Situation

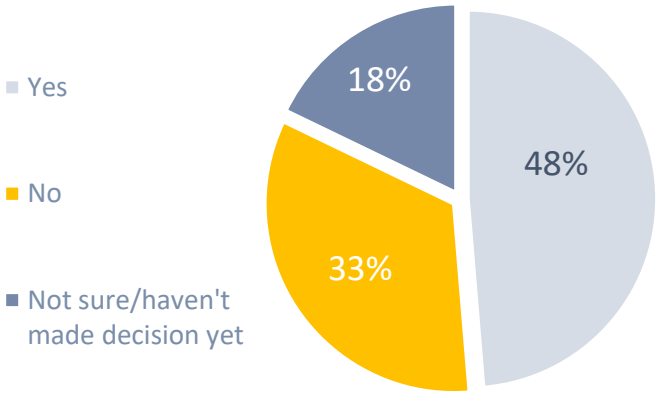
% of school-aged children REPORTED attending 2022/23 school year in Bulgaria



Primary reasons for not enrolling children in school



Children planned to be enrolled in school in 2023/24



Most of the children, **71% were REPORTED NOT enrolled** in school in Bulgaria in the school year 2022/23. The primary reasons for non-enrollment were the fact that the **child was attending Ukrainian distance learning** (**68%**), the **language barrier** (**12%**), as well as **lack of space in school, kindergarten or nursery (11%).**

The percentage of **children planning to be enrolled** in school in the coming school year is **48%**. **33%** are **not planning to be enrolled**, and **18%** of children's parents have **not decided** on this issue yet.

Disclaimer: The education attendance figures are based on self-reported responses from participants and do not rely on official attendance records from schools.

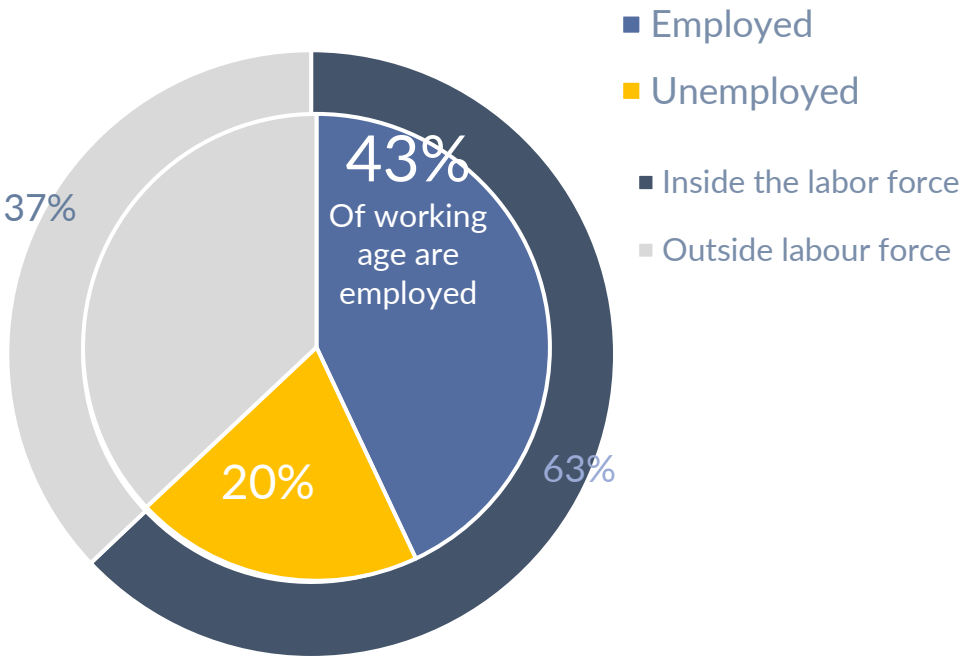
Socio-Economic Inclusion and Livelihood

SOCIAL ECONOMIC INCLUSION AND LIVELIHOOD

Regional Refugee Response for the Ukraine Situation

LIVELIHOODS AND INCLUSION

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



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

17%

The definitions below are based on the core ILO Labor Force Survey (LFS) questions.

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.

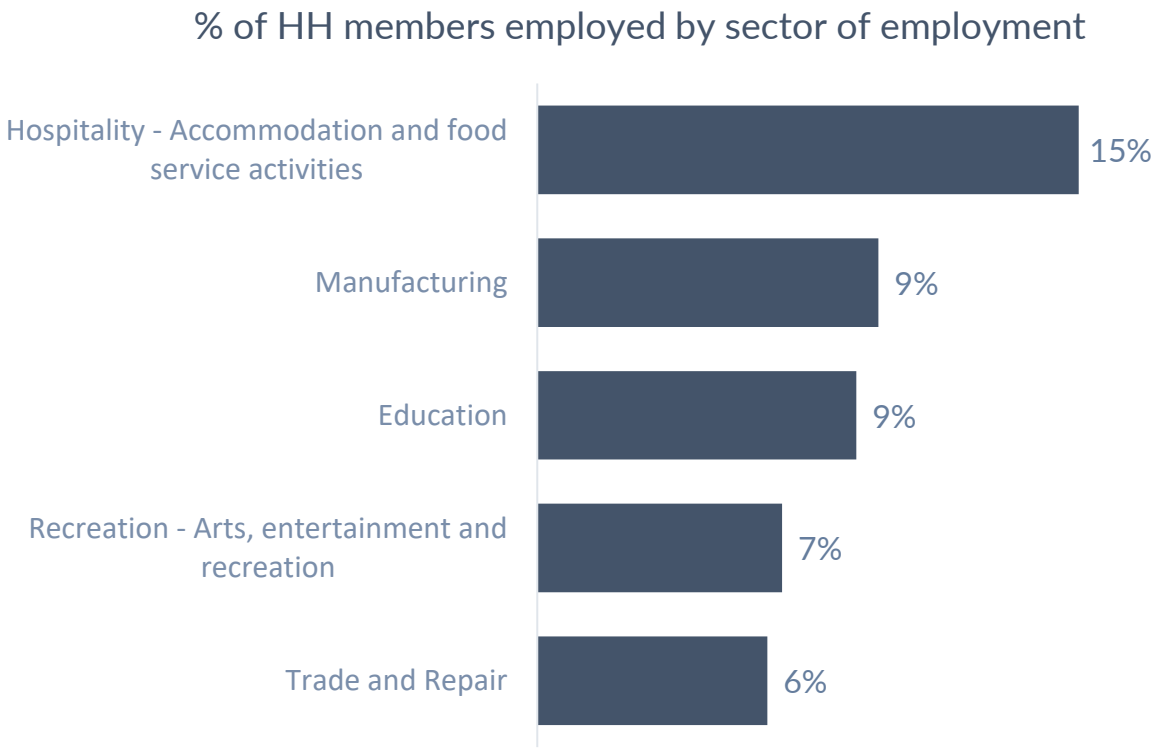
Outside labor force: # working-age individuals (who were not employed during the past week, and who either cannot start working within the next 2 weeks if a job or business opportunity becomes available, or did not look for a paid job or did not try to start a business in the past 4 weeks.

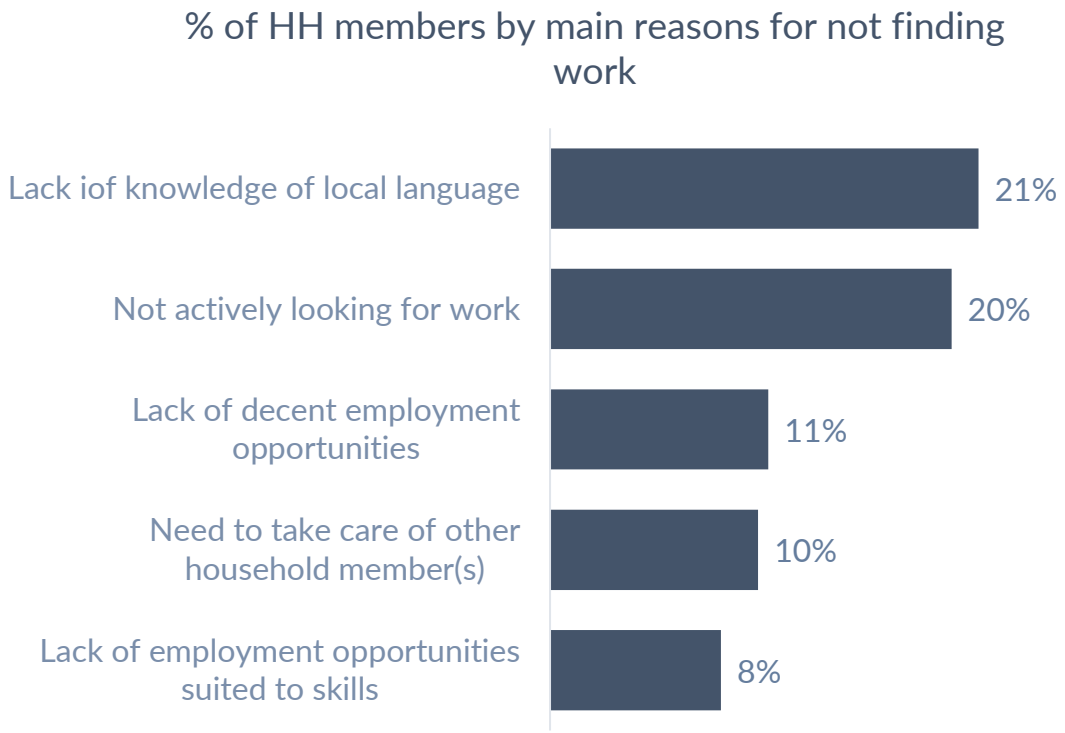
Inside labor force: Employed and Unemployed

SOCIAL ECONOMIC INCLUSION AND LIVELIHOOD

Regional Refugee Response for the Ukraine Situation

LIVELIHOODS AND INCLUSION





43% of working-age HH members (16-64 years) are **employed**, **20%** are **unemployed**.**17%** of HHs with youth (16-24 y/o) have a member who is **NEET**. The most common **sectors** of employment are **hospitality, manufacturing**, **education** and **recreation**.

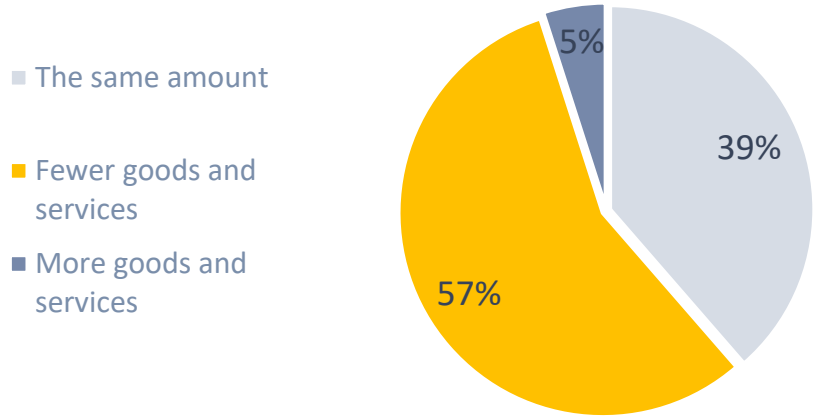
The main challenges reported are **lack of knowledge of the Bulgarian language**, a **lack of decent employment opportunities** and a **lack of employment opportunities suited to** their **skills**.

SOCIAL ECONOMIC INCLUSION AND LIVELIHOOD

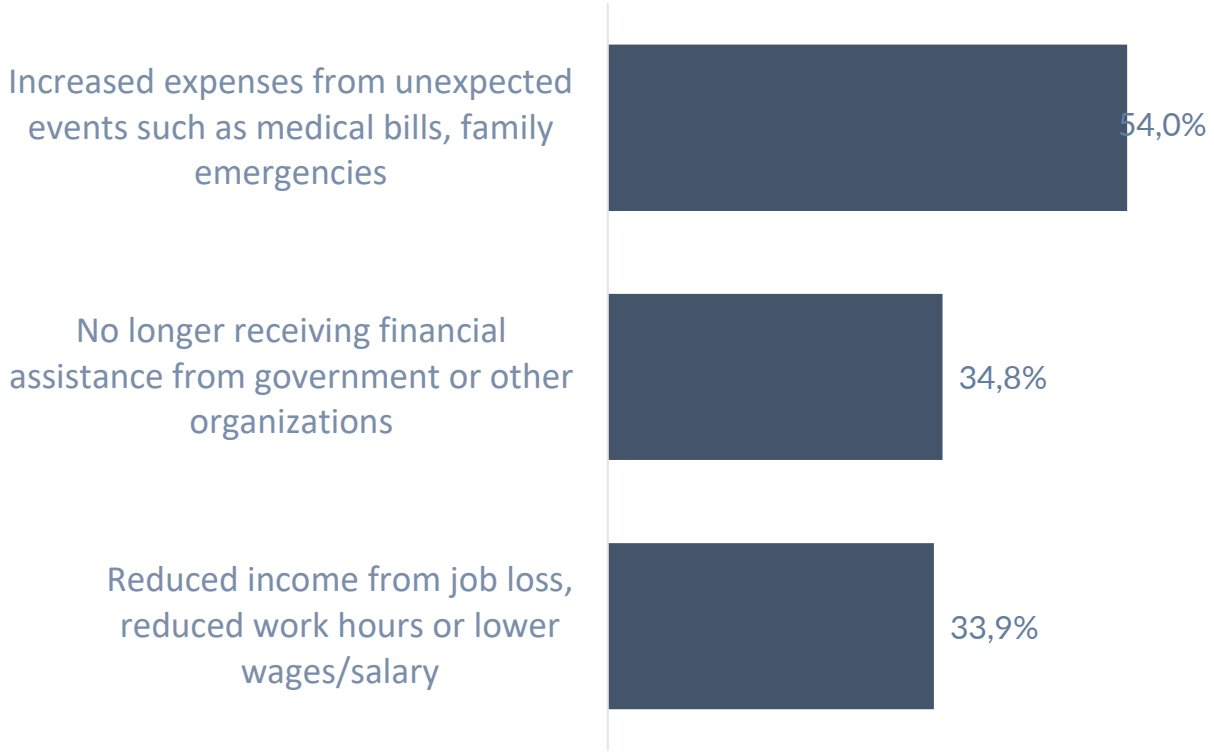
Regional Refugee Response for the Ukraine Situation

LIVELIHOODS AND INCLUSION

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



% of HHs being able to afford less goods and services by reason for change
(Among those who can now afford fewer goods and services, compared to their first months in Bulgaria)



% of HHs received social protection benefit from Bulgarian or and Ukrainian government.
20.2%

% of HHs received social protection benefit only from Bulgarian government.
4.0%

% of HHs received social protection benefit only from Ukrainian government.
14.8%

% of HHs received social protection benefit from both Bulgarian and Ukrainian governments.
1.4%

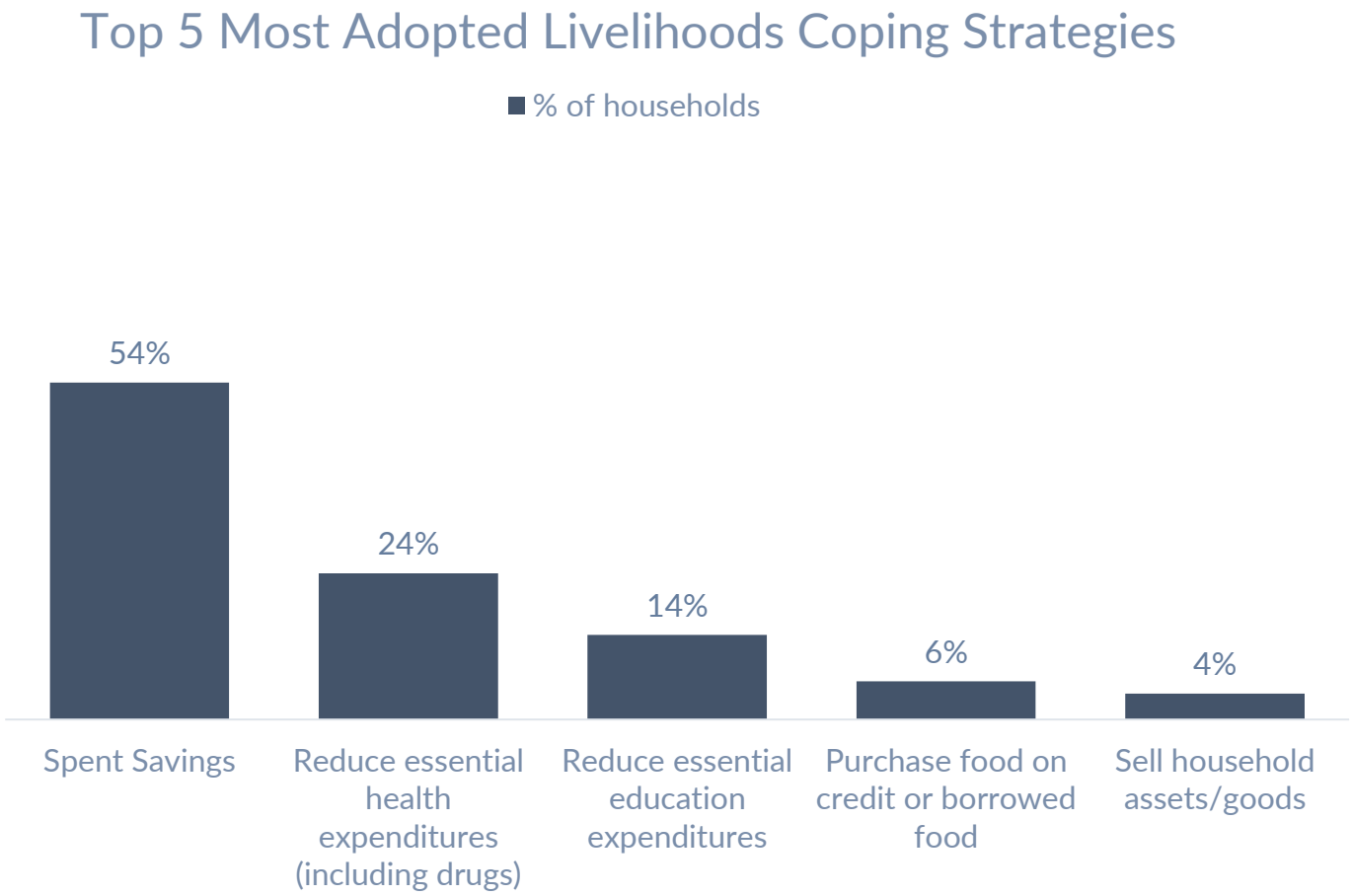
SOCIAL ECONOMIC INCLUSION AND LIVELIHOOD

Regional Refugee Response for the Ukraine Situation

LIVELIHOOD COPING STRATEGIES

61.2%

Of HH adopted at least one livelihood Coping strategy



SOCIAL ECONOMIC INCLUSION AND LIVELIHOOD

Regional Refugee Response for the Ukraine Situation

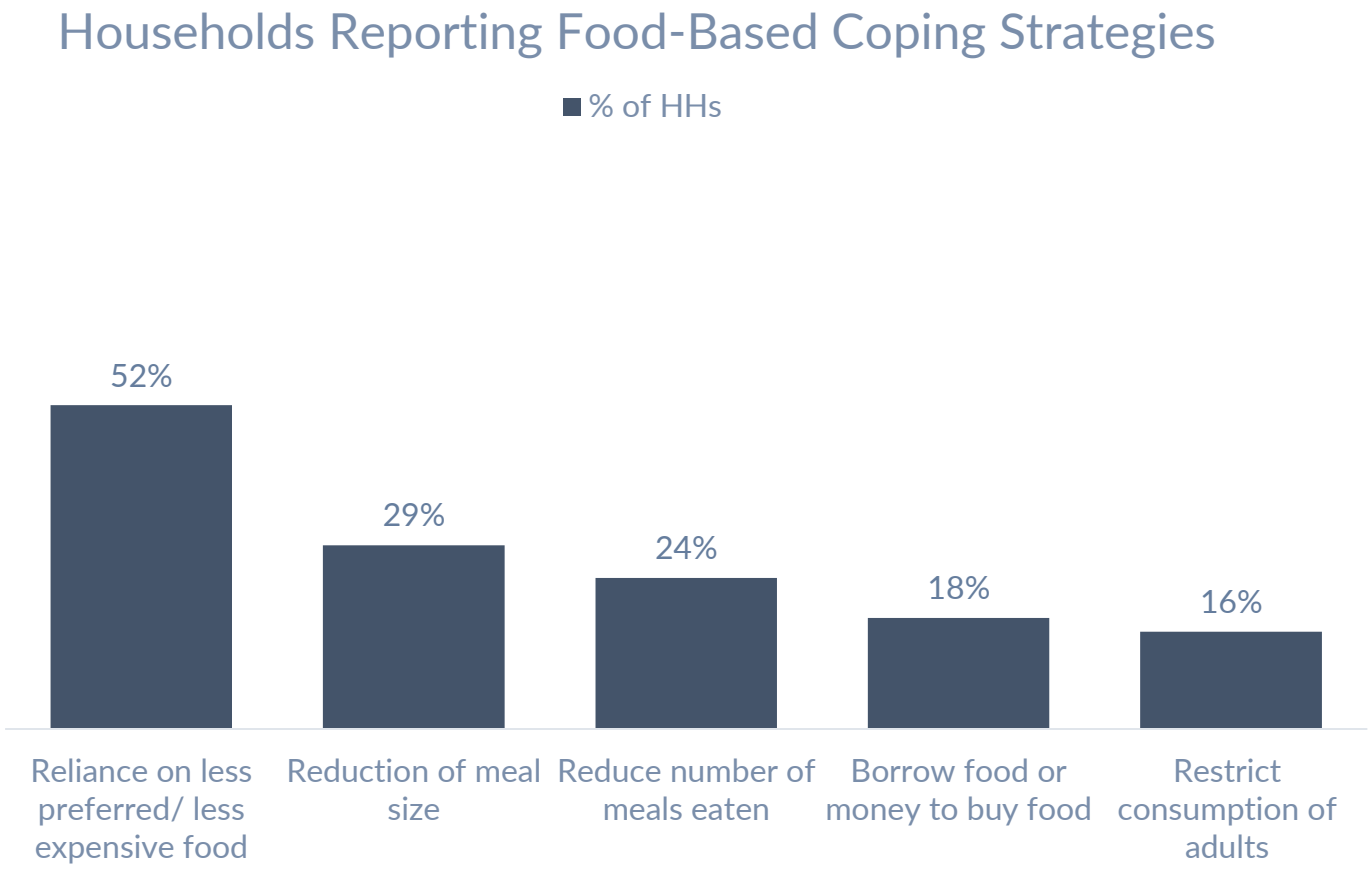
FOOD COPING STRATEGIES

RCSI

11.3

Reduced Coping Strategy Index

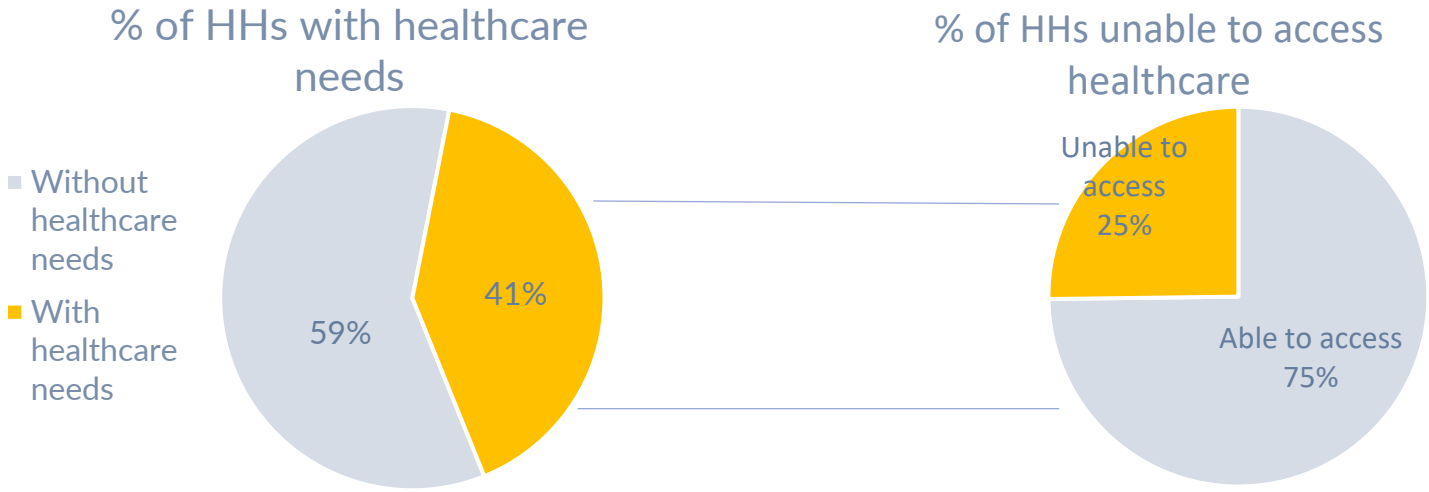
**The closer to 0 the score is, the less common are any coping strategies*
(Min. value – 0; Max. value – 56)



HEALTH

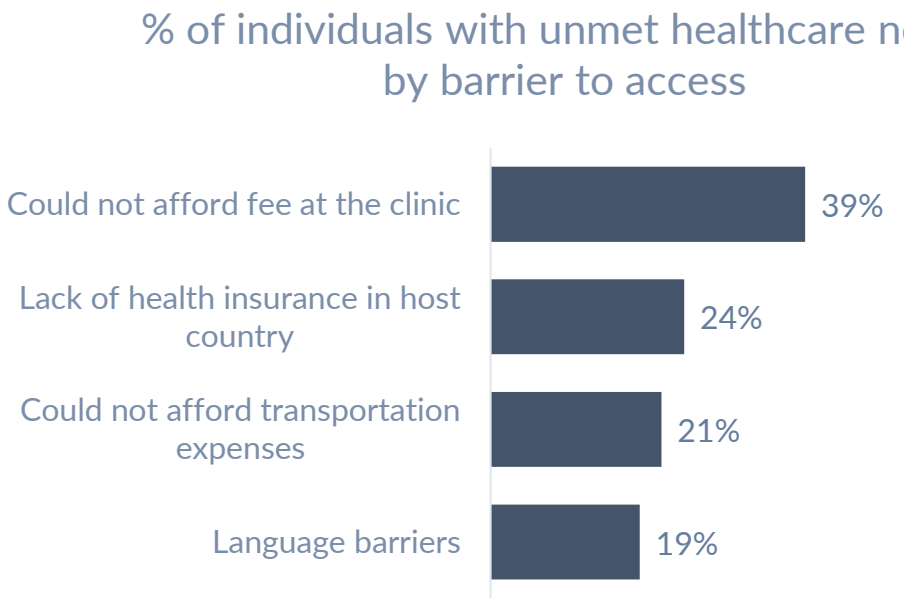
HEALTH

ACCESS



% of all Ukrainian refugees in Bulgaria with healthcare needs who were unable to access healthcare

6.5%



25% of HHs with needs are unable to access the necessary healthcare. On individual level, **6.5%** of all Ukrainian refugees in Bulgaria with healthcare needs were unable to access healthcare.

The main reported barriers in access to healthcare are the not being able to afford the **fee at the clinic (39%) or transportation expenses (21%),** a **lack of Bulgarian health insurance** (**24%**), and language (**19%**).

HEALTH

MHPSS

Regional Refugee Response for the Ukraine Situation

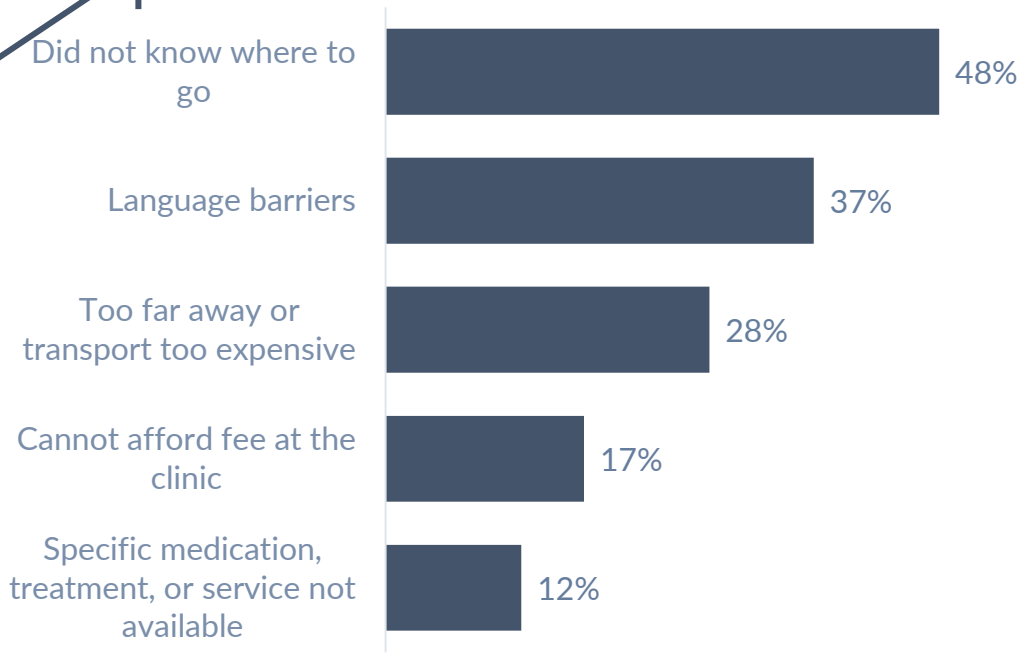
% of HH members who need mental health or psychosocial support

7%

% of HH members who received MHPSS

24.2%

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



According to the respondents, **7%** of HH members are **in need of mental health or psychosocial support**. Out of these persons, **24% have received help** for their problem. The main reason for not getting the help they needed were the fact that they **did not know where to seek help** (48%).

Regional Refugee Response for the Ukraine Situation

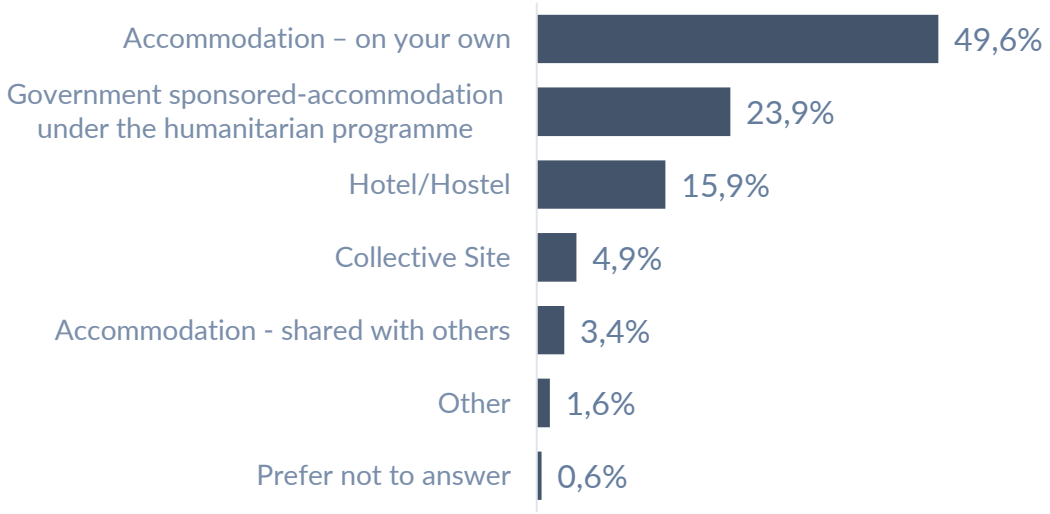
ACCOMMODATION

SHELTER / ACCOMMODATION

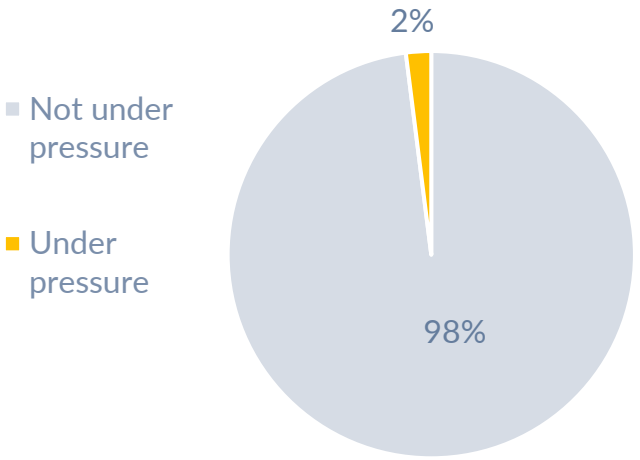
SECURITY OF TENURE, LIVING CONDITIONS

Regional Refugee Response for the Ukraine Situation

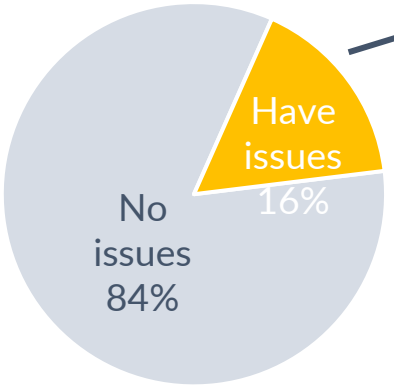
% of HHs by accommodation arrangement



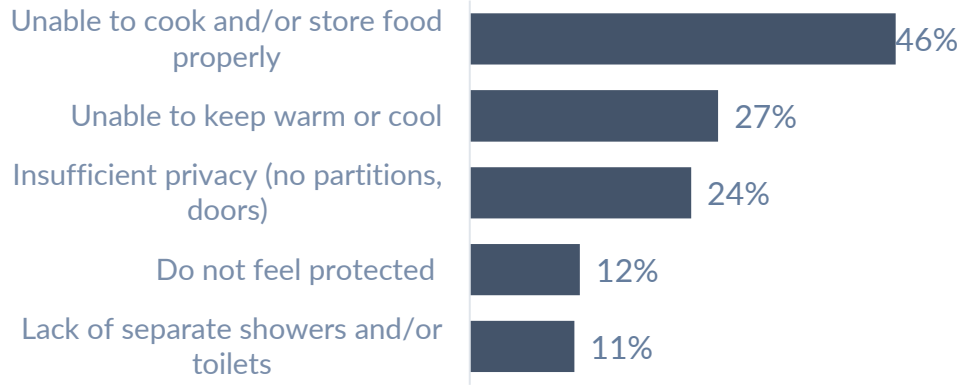
% of HHs under pressure to leave accommodation



% of HHs with living conditions issues in current accommodation



% of HHs by type of living conditions issues
(Among those who have any issues)



Regarding the living conditions of HHs, the most common arrangement is **accommodation on their own (49%)**. **23%** residing in Government sponsored-accommodation under the humanitarian programme, **15%** live in hotel/hostel, **4%** live at a collective site, and **3%** share accommodation with others.

Only **2%** of HHs are facing **pressure to leave** their accommodation.

16% of HHs **report issues with** their current **living conditions**. The most common problems are being **unable to cook or store food properly, unable to keep the place warm or cool** and **insufficient privacy**.