

# LATVIA

## SOCIO-ECONOMIC INSIGHTS SURVEY 2024



# CONTRIBUTIONS

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**UNHCR**  
The UN Refugee Agency

**Cover photo:** Refugees and members of the host community participate in festivities for World Refugee Day in Riga, Latvia, in June 2024.  
UNHCR/Gregory Matthew Cameron

The full anonymised dataset of this survey is available on the [UNHCR Microdata Library](#).

*The views expressed in this report are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect those of the United Nations or UNHCR. Any errors are the author's own.*

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## INTRODUCTION

Since the full-scale invasion of Ukraine in February 2022 more than 6.2 million people from Ukraine have been registered across Europe<sup>1</sup>. By November 2024, 61,459 refugees from Ukraine had been cumulatively registered for temporary protection (TP) or similar protection schemes in Latvia. To date, around 48,000 refugees from Ukraine remain registered with active TP status in Latvia, constituting some 2.6% of the host country population<sup>2</sup>.

Latvia has been part of the Regional Refugee Response Plan (RRP) for the Ukraine situation since January 2023. In line with the RRP for the Ukraine situation, UNHCR, together with UN agencies and other partners, is assisting the government of Latvia in responding to the needs of refugees.<sup>3</sup>

## OBJECTIVES

UNHCR commissioned this Socio-Economic Insights Survey (SEIS) to obtain up to date information on the displacement patterns, needs, intentions and coping mechanisms of refugees from Ukraine. The SEIS is an essential interagency tool for planning and prioritization, decision-making and needs-based programme design.

The main purpose of the SEIS is to support the RRP coordination and to facilitate planning among key humanitarian actors by providing updated information on multi-sectoral needs and priorities of refugees from Ukraine. Results of the SEIS will be used by all stakeholders under the RRP to understand the evolving situation, unpack risks and vulnerabilities, and advocate for funding from donors.

This report covers the following topics:

- Demographics;
- Protection;
- Education;
- Social Economic Inclusion and Livelihoods;
- Health;
- Accommodation.

## METHODOLOGY

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 programmes and interventions aimed at addressing those needs. The SEIS aligns with the Multi-Sector Needs Assessments conducted in 2023 to produce comparative results over time:

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

The SEIS, which regards protection, health, including mental health, basic needs and food security, as well as livelihood and integration, was conducted among refugees from Ukraine and third-country nationals fleeing the war in Ukraine who are in Latvia and have or have applied for temporary protection status.

The survey was implemented through face-to-face interviews with a digital questionnaire. The information thus obtained is self-reported.

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<sup>1</sup> As of January 2025, according to UNHCR's data portal <https://data.unhcr.org/en/situations/ukraine>

<sup>2</sup> Ibid.

<sup>3</sup> Other reports and policy documents are available at <https://www.unhcr.org/neu/about/unhcr-in-the-baltic-countries>

Furthermore, the data collection had a municipal quota, proportional to the number of refugees from Ukraine living in each municipality (according to data from Latvian authorities). As this process did not include a true randomization procedure, the information presented here is indicative, not statistically representative.

The survey questionnaire pertains to both the individual and the household (HH) needs of refugees from Ukraine.

### POPULATION

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

### DESIGN

Household interviews

### DATA COLLECTION

Within the period 17 May - 30 June 2024 by enumerators from SKDS and Gribu palīdzēt bēgļiem (I Want to Help Refugees)

### SAMPLE SIZE

600 HHs covered; all respondents were adult refugees in Latvia (18 years old and above)

Covering 1,278 individual household members:

85% living outside of collective sites

15% living in collective sites (incl. workers hostels)

### GEOGRAPHIC COVERAGE

Interviews were conducted in all 6 regions of Latvia. The majority were in Riga.

### SAMPLING AND REPRESENTATIVENESS:

Purposively selected only regarding geographical coverage and accommodation types dimensions, but not age, gender. None of the selected dimensions are statistically representative. Results are indicative.

### LIMITATIONS

- Lack of comprehensive and reliable statistical data on demographic dimensions of the target group;
- Lack of comprehensive data on population locations, and difficulties to access target group outside of collective sites and service 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 as well as lack of awareness.

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The majority of refugees from Ukraine in Latvia report being satisfied with their living conditions and have their basic needs covered. Nonetheless, there are some groups of refugees with specific needs who require targeted assistance, services and support. According to the criteria used, they can be estimated to account for 9-12% of the entire population of refugees from Ukraine in Latvia.

**Demographics.** Of the 1,278 household members covered by the survey, 61% are female, and 39% are male. Children aged 0 to 17 constitute 29%. Nearly half of the refugees from Ukraine in Latvia have been displaced for more than two years (44%) and arrived by the first three months after the invasion's onset. Those who arrived after January 2024 account for 17%. Households with children make up 41% of the populations surveyed, with 4% breastfeeding or pregnant women. Further, 49% of households surveyed include members with chronic health issues, and 8% of refugees reported having a disability. A little less than a fourth of families (23%) consist of single women with children (with no men over the age of 18 in the household). Older people (60+) account for 18% of refugees from Ukraine in Latvia, while 53% are people in active age (18-59).

**Legal and Civil Status.** At the time the survey was conducted, nearly nine in ten households (86%) reported that they had been granted temporary protection in Latvia. In contrast, 6% declared they had applied for temporary protection and were waiting for a decision, 6% stated they had been granted refugee status, and 0.5% have a permanent, long-term residence permit or visa.

Around one fifth (17%) of households reported

the need to replace identity documents since their departure from Ukraine. While 49% do not know whether they can replace their documents in Latvia, 9% are certain that they are not able to do so, mainly due to lack of such services in Latvia (63%), or long waiting times (16%). The majority of respondents (72%) were able to register changes in their family composition or civil status via Latvian civil authorities.

**Child protection.** Approximately one in three household members is a child (29%), most aged 5-17 (24%). Employment and livelihood support, together with healthcare services and education for children seems to be among the main challenges faced by families with children. Psychological and physical violence in the community and increased vulnerability to violence online were reported as the main serious risks faced by boys and girls.

**Safety and security.** 30% of interviewed men and 35% of women have safety and security concerns. Men are specifically concerned about legal risks (deportation), while women noted robbery and verbal harassment as possible security threats.

**Education.** In the 2023/2024 school year, 62% of refugee children aged 7-16 years were reported by their parents as enrolled in Latvian schools. The level of enrolment differs across age groups. It is 77% for children in the age group 3-7-year-old, increases to 63% among 7 to 12-year-old and goes down to 53% for the age group 13-18. For those who are of tertiary education age (18-24) the enrolment rate is 9%. The main reason for not being enrolled in the education system in Latvia is the fact that some children (mainly above 12 year of age) are still enrolled in a school in Ukraine and are attending this school remotely / online while staying abroad. Among those children who are

not enrolled in school in Latvia 89% are formally enrolled in a school in Ukraine and studied remotely (online) in the school year 2023-2024 while in Latvia. Around 9% do not attend school activities neither in Latvia, nor remotely in Ukrainian schools. The latter are either children in the beginning of education (7-9 years old) or teenagers in their last years of secondary education (15-17).

In general, the Ukrainian refugees surveyed in Latvia, aged 15-64, are well educated. About 5% have primary education only. Almost 22% have completed secondary education, and another 30% have finished technical or vocational education. Another 8% have completed a bachelor's degree, specialization - 19%, master's degree - 14%, and 0.2% - Ph.D.

**Local language level.** Around a third of refugees from Ukraine consider that they can understand and use most everyday expressions in Latvian (national language). Nearly 30% have attended language courses to learn the local language, and the majority of them are satisfied with the quality of education. Around 40% are likely to attend Latvian language courses in the next six months. That could help labour market inclusion, interactions with institutions and everyday activities and services that refugees use.

**Employment.** Among working-age refugees, 56% were employed and 8% unemployed at the time of the survey. Regular employment was more common than part-time or self-employment, and most had formal contracts. Language barriers (38%) most often hindered employment. De-skilling is prevalent, with refugees often working in jobs that do not match their skills. Additionally, 15% of youth (15-24) were NEET (not in education, employment, or training). According to refugees

from Ukraine who participated in the survey, language training (45%) and job matching (32%) are among the main measures that they believe would help to improve their financial situation.

**Income and Economic Capacity.** Refugee household income primarily comes from employment (56%), with remittances, social protection benefits, and humanitarian aid supplementing it. Low-income levels severely impact refugee households' ability to meet daily needs, with 23% reporting they can now afford fewer goods and services than when they first arrived. For more than 40% of families (42%) the income is not enough to cover their needs: for 10% there is not enough income for food, for 32% there is enough income for basic food, but not enough for regular utility bills, medicine, and the purchase of new clothes.

**Coping strategies.** Around 30% of refugee families have adopted one or more negative coping strategies. A quarter of them spent from their savings and 5% reduced important health expenditures. Households that had relied on a coping mechanism at least once in the past week often compromised on eating out, most often relying on less preferred and less expensive food (17%).

**Priority Needs.** The key priority needs for refugee households from Ukraine in Latvia are access to healthcare (39%), the need to secure employment, livelihoods support (28%), language courses (26%), medicines (14%), education for children under 18 (12%) and accommodation (12%).

Specific needs stand out among vulnerable groups of refugees from Ukraine. Among families with children or families with breastfeeding and pregnant women main priority needs are healthcare services, employment, livelihoods support, education for children

under 18 and language courses. Among households with a family member with a disability or chronic illness access to healthcare services, medicines and employment, livelihoods support stand out as priority needs. Households with at least one family member of working age who is unemployed are most likely to need access to employment, livelihoods support, healthcare services, language courses, education for children under 18 and accommodation. The similar are the needs in the families without any working adults. Families without income need mostly employment, livelihoods support, language courses, healthcare services, accommodation and medicines. Households with at least one family member over the age of 65 most often need healthcare services, employment, livelihoods support, medicines, language courses.

**Health.** 8% of refugees from Ukraine have a disability and 49% of the surveyed refugee households (N=600) reported having at least one chronically ill member. Nearly 30% of refugees from Ukraine in Latvia have had a healthcare problem in the last 30 days that required access to healthcare. The majority of them (94%) were able to get the help they needed. Only one in twenty refugees with health needs struggles to access medical care (6%), citing most commonly long waiting times, financial barriers (could not afford fees), access to health facilities (unable to make an appointment) and lack of health insurance in Latvia. Access to healthcare remains as a priority need for 39% of respondents.

**Mental Health and Psychosocial Support.** Mental health concerns for refugees remain a pressing issue. Women were the most vulnerable to mental health issues being twice as likely as men to have felt so upset, anxious, worried, agitated, angry, or depressed that

it affected their daily functioning in the two weeks prior to the survey (women 22% vs. men 10%). Among older people (60 and over) 24% of men and women felt emotional discomfort that interfered with their daily activities in the four weeks prior to the survey being held. 56% of people reporting MHPSS needs tried to access support; out of them, the vast majority did receive support (96%) and 70% of those who received support reported improvements after accessing MHPSS services.

**Accommodation.** Most households secured private accommodation arrangements, while others rely on temporary options such as hotels or shared spaces. According to the type of accommodation, about 47% of refugee households from Ukraine residing in Latvia declare that they live in an individual apartment or house, 27% live in hotels/hostels, 15% are settled in a collective site (accommodation centre, transit centre, etc.), and about 8% share an apartment or house with others. More than half of households (56%) depend on external financial support to cover rent and utilities entirely, leaving them vulnerable to changes in assistance schemes. Additionally, around 8% face challenges paying rent on time.

**Social Cohesion.** The data points to a generally positive environment for Ukrainian refugees in Latvia. Respondents generally reported positive relations between refugees and the host communities in the location where they live, with 80% rating them as very good (24%) or good (56%). Refugees in rural areas report slightly better relations and communication with the local population compared to those in urban settings (30% describing them as very good). Respondents over the age of 65 most often considered the relationship between refugees and local communities to be very good. On the other hand, those aged between

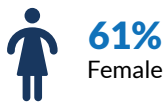


25 and 45 were the most sceptical. Women more often than men describe relations as good (81% vs. 77%). Although the majority of refugees describe relations between refugees from Ukraine and local citizens as good, 25% report that they have been subjected to hostile behaviour, and for 47% this has happened in the six months prior to the survey. In the majority of the cases, it was a situation of verbal aggression. Despite these challenges, 76% of adult refugees have at least one local friend, indicating a level of successful integration, especially among refugees aged between 36 and 55.

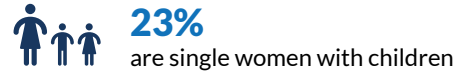
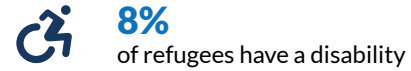
**Intentions.** In the next 12 months, 75% of refugees plan to stay in Latvia, with few intending to return to Ukraine or relocate. No more than 6% believe that in the coming 12 months they will have the opportunity to move back to their habitual place of residence in their home country. This hope is shared more often by men and by people aged 60+. This can be related to the fact that the largest share of refugees from Ukraine in Latvia are from the eastern part of Ukraine – Kharkivska, Donetska, Khersonska and Dnipropetrovska, which are, or are close to, non-government-controlled areas of Ukraine. Over fifth (21%) of households have had at least one family member visit Ukraine since 2022, often to visit relatives (44%) and obtain documentation (21%).

# RESULTS AT A GLANCE

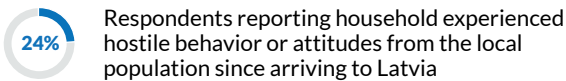
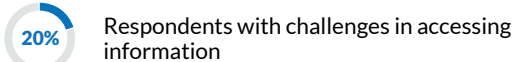
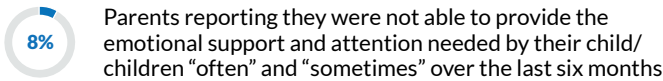
## DEMOGRAPHICS



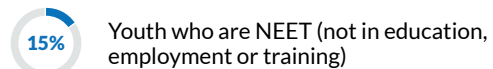
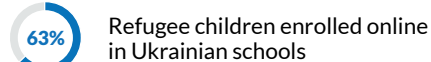
Age breakdown



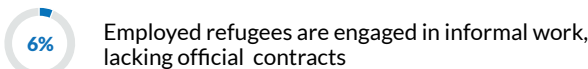
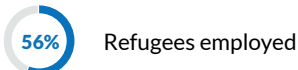
## PROTECTION



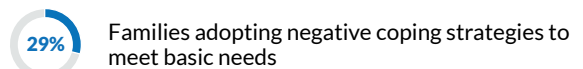
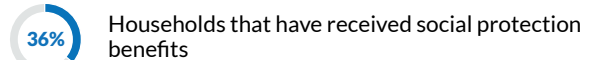
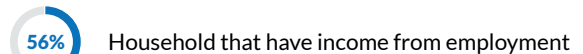
## EDUCATION



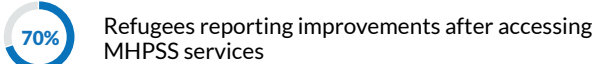
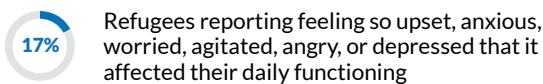
## EMPLOYMENT



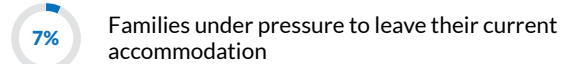
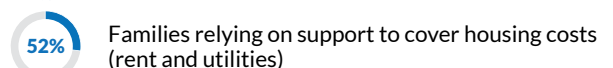
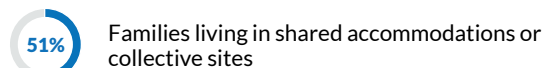
## ECONOMIC INCLUSION



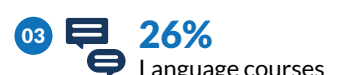
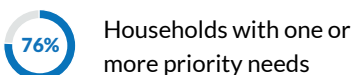
## HEALTH



## ACCOMODATION



## PRIORITY NEEDS



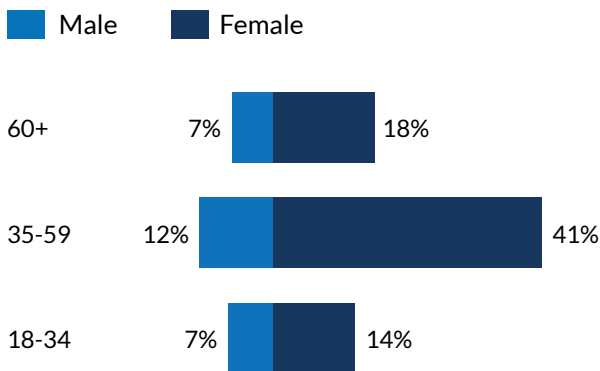
# DEMOGRAPHICS

## CHARACTERISTICS OF INDIVIDUALS

### Respondents' profiles

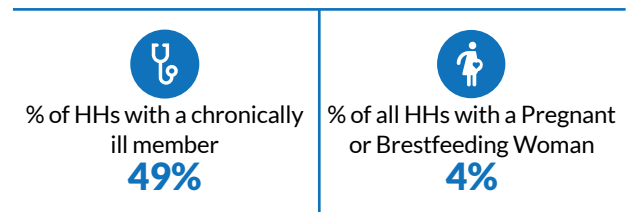
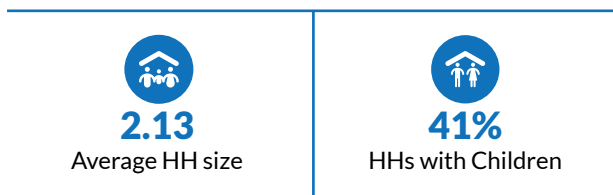
The survey includes approximately 74% female and 26% male respondents. The most represented age group (53%) are respondents at the age of 35-59. Almost all respondents report having Ukrainian citizenship (99.5%).

Graph 1: Respondents by Gender & Age N=600

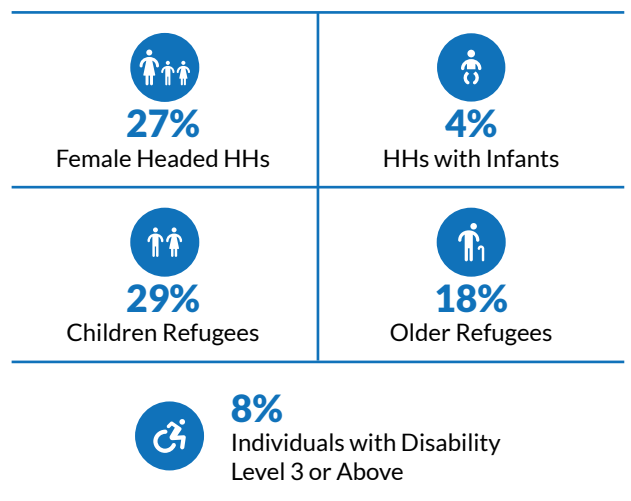
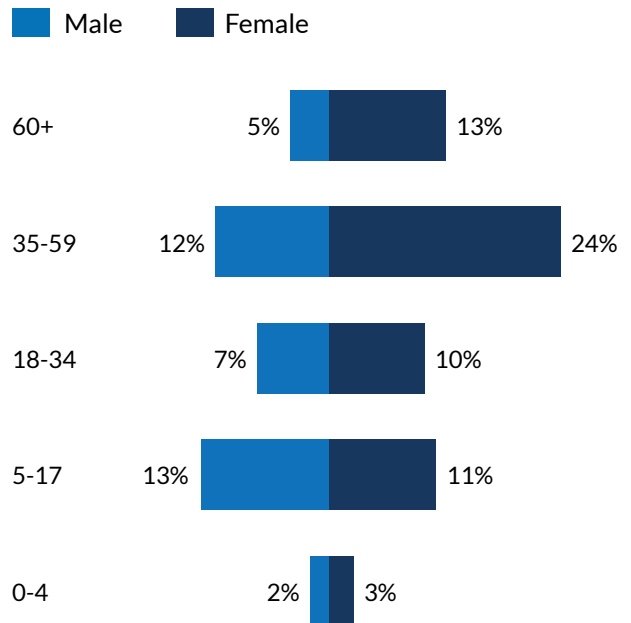


## HOUSEHOLD AND POPULATION CHARACTERISTICS

Surveyed individuals reported 61% female and 39% male members in their households which corresponds to statistical gender representativeness in Latvia. The average size of the surveyed HHs is 2.13 persons, and almost half of the HHs (41%) have children. Female Ukrainian refugees are solo parenting in 27% HHs. Almost half of the surveyed HHs have a chronically ill member.



Graph 2: Household members by Age Group and Gender

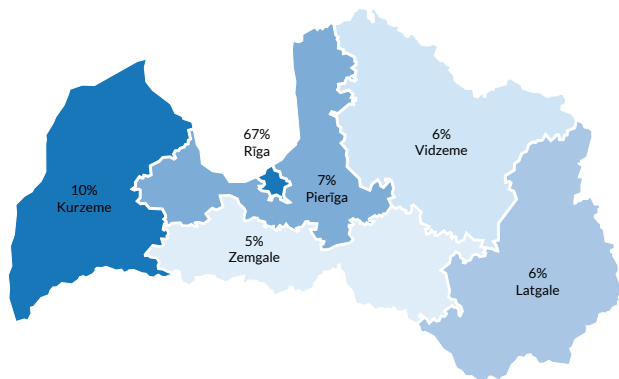


HH sample: 600, covering information for 1,278 household members.

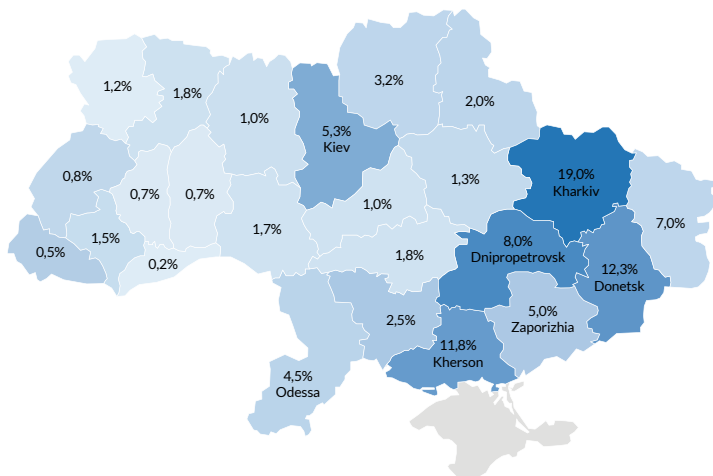
## GEOGRAPHICAL COVERAGE

Approximately two-thirds of the surveyed refugees from Ukraine live in Riga (67%) and Pieriga (7%), while others are in Kurzeme (10%), Latgale (6%) and Zemgale (5%).

Graph 3: % HHs by county of residence  
N=600



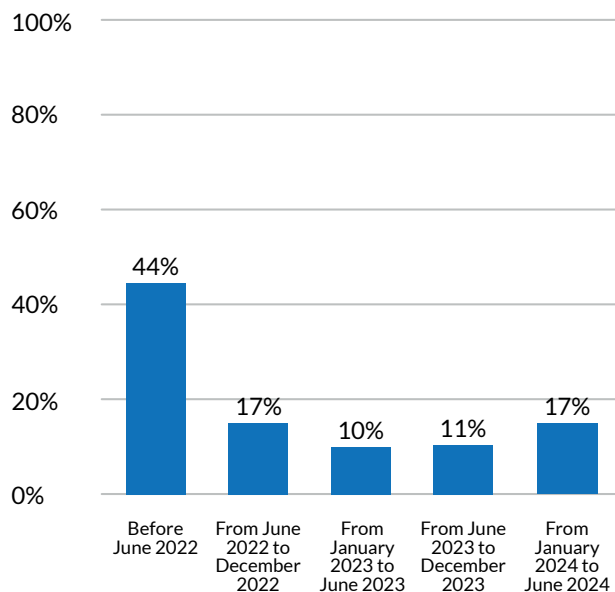
Graph 4: Refugees from Ukraine by their place of origin in Ukraine (by Oblast)  
N=600



Most of the surveyed Ukrainian refugees in Latvia originate from Eastern and Southern regions of Ukraine where active warfare takes place.

Each shaded region represents the specific area from which these households were displaced. The survey indicates that the highest percentage of Ukrainian refugees arrived in Latvia in March 2022.

Graph 5: **When did this individual arrive in Latvia:**  
N=1,278



The majority of refugees from Ukraine covered by the survey arrived in 2022 (61%). More middle-aged men arrived after October 2023 (new arrivals) compared to the period before that. It could be a reaction to mobilization or results of other ongoing factors.

## PROTECTION

### CIVIL STATUS AND DOCUMENTATION

Most of the surveyed refugees (86%) from Ukraine have temporary protection status in Latvia. About 6% have applied for temporary protection and are waiting for a decision, while another 6% have been granted refugee status (N=600). Temporary / short-term

residence permit or visa (less than 12 months - unconnected to temporary protection) is mentioned by 0.7%, and permanent / long-term residence permit or visa (12 months or more - unconnected to temporary protection) – by 0.5%. About 0.3% declare they have applied for refugee status and are waiting for a decision.

Approximately 94% respondents declare they have not experienced any difficulties during the application/extension process, and about 5% do not know. Only 1% say that they encountered difficulties during the application/extension process.

Respondents mentioned the following as main difficulties:

- Long waiting times to receive decision on application
- Lack of information about the application process
- Refusal of access to the registration procedure.

The majority (83%) of respondents have not had to replace any of their household members' identity documents (e.g. due to expiry) since leaving Ukraine. However, some respondents had to replace the following documents:

- International biometric passport (8%)
- Residence permit for stateless persons (4%)
- Internal passport (4%)
- ID cards (3%)
- International non-biometric passport (2%)
- Refugee certificate (issued by Ukrainian authorities) (0.2%).

**About 42% are confident that they can obtain or replace/renew these identity documents in Latvia and about 49% admit they do not know. (N=600)**

Those who indicate that they cannot replace or renew their documents in Latvia most often point out the following as the main obstacle:

- The documents are not issued in the host country (63%);
- Processing / waiting time is too long (16%);
- Do not know the procedure (16%);
- Because of restrictions in consular services (12%);
- Cannot afford administrative or other associated costs (2%).

**96% say that there have been no changes in their family composition/civil status since they left Ukraine (e.g. birth of a child, marriage, divorce, death of a family member) (N=600)**

The majority (96%) confirm that there have been no changes in their family composition/civil status since they left Ukraine. However, the following are mentioned:

- Childbirth (2%); • Divorce (1%); • Death (1%).

The majority of those who have seen changes in their family composition/civil status since they left Ukraine for any of the above-mentioned reasons, have not encountered any challenges to register these events with the civil authorities of Latvia.

## **CHILD PROTECTION**

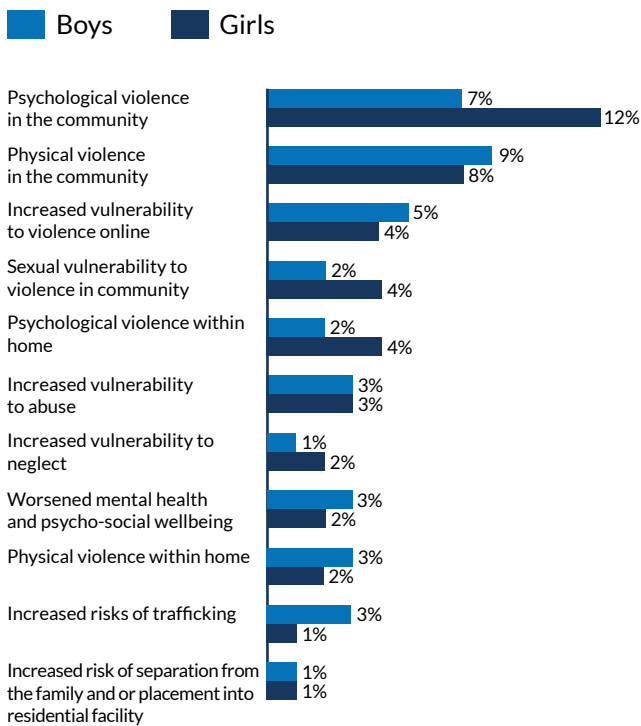
In 2024, the most commonly reported concerns for risks faced by refugee girls (under 18 years old) from Ukraine are psychological and physical violence in the community. According to the data, girls are perceived to be generally at greater risk of violence. Concerns for girls were more often related to psychological violence (12%), while for boys the most frequently shared concern was the

possibility of physical violence in the community (9%).

According to refugees from Ukraine, girls are more often perceived to be at risk of sexual abuse in the community, psychological abuse at home and neglect. Boys, on the other hand, are more often considered to be at risk of worsened mental health and psychosocial well-being, physical violence at home and risk of trafficking.

**Graph 6: % HH reporting the most serious risks faced by boys and girls under the age of 18**

Boys N=152 / Girls N=140

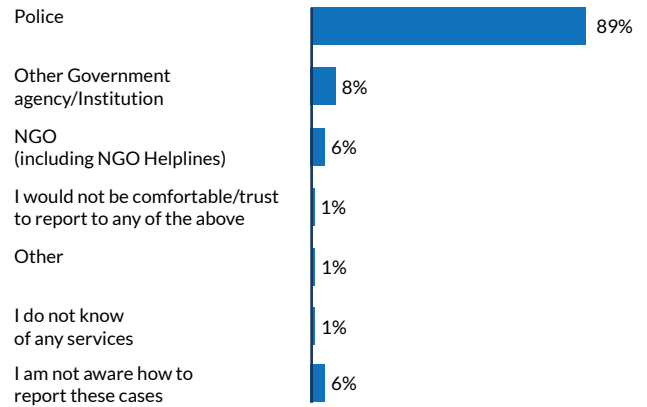


In the majority of cases people feel comfortable to report to the police (89%). Other government structures or organizations are mentioned rarely.

**Nearly 9 out of 10 surveyed refugees from Ukraine in Latvia declare they feel safe and comfortable to contact police in case of violence, exploitation, or neglect to children in their community.**

**Graph 7: Who would you feel safe and comfortable to contact to report a case of violence, exploitation, or neglect to children in your community?**

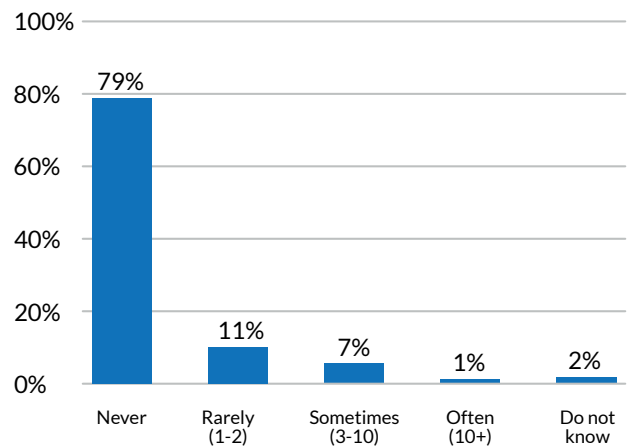
N=600



In the last six months (or since arrival if they arrived less than six months ago), most parents (80%) have had no problems to provide the emotional (including psychosocial) support and attention their children need. Almost a fifth of the parents admit that they were not able to provide the required support a few or several times, while only 1% agreed that it happens often (19%).

**Graph 8: Over the last six months, have you ever felt that you were not able to provide the emotional (including psychosocial) support and attention needed by your child/children?**

N=221



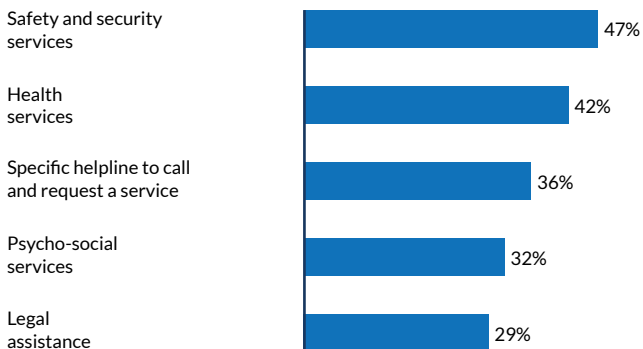
## GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE (GBV)

The respondents demonstrated somewhat low awareness of specialized GBV response services. Mostly the respondents are aware of safety and security services (police, safe shelters) (48%) and health services (42%).

Quite a bit lower is the share of those who would advise a person from their community who has experienced gender-based violence to seek help from specific helpline to call and request a service (36%), to contact psychosocial services (32%), and/or to seek support from legal assistance institutions (29%).

Graph 9: **If someone in your community is subject to gender-based violence and asks for your help, would you be able to tell this person about the following services in this area:**

N=600



According to the views of refugees from Ukraine, the main barriers that the survivors may encounter when trying to access GBV services are lack of awareness (50%), stigma and shame (35%), language and cultural barriers (20%), and fear of retaliation (17%). Men and women have similar views on what the barriers to accessing support are. However, men are relatively more likely to think that the reason is lack of awareness. Trends in the opinions of

those living in urban and rural areas are also similar. The main differences are that those living in urban areas place a stronger focus on the possibility of stigma and shame when seeking support for gender-based violence. There is also a relatively stronger perception that language and cultural barriers are the cause.

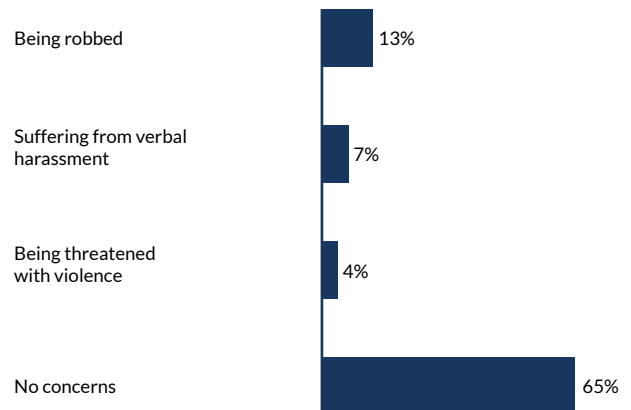
## SAFETY AND SECURITY

Approximately seven out of ten respondents believe that Ukrainian refugee men do not have any safety and security problems in their areas of residence. Approximately six out of ten respondents felt the same about Ukrainian refugee women.

Concerns about women's safety were most associated with risk of robbery, verbal harassment, being threatened with violence, being deported, and violence in the household. The main concerns for the men include firstly the risk of being deported, and only secondly the fear that they could be robbed in Latvia, or experiencing violence.

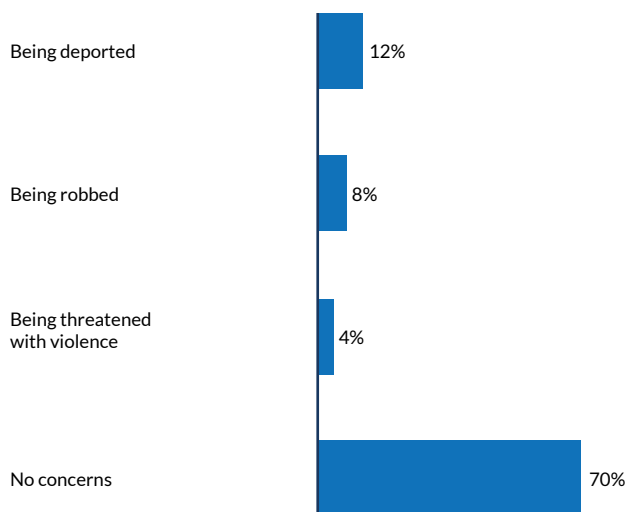
Graph 10: **Share of Main 3 safety and security concerns for women in the areas of residence**

N=506



Graph 11: **Share of Main 3 safety and security concerns for men in the areas of residence**

N=280



### ACCOUNTABILITY TO AFFECTED POPULATIONS (AAP) AND PROTECTION FROM SEXUAL EXPLOITATION AND ABUSE (PSEA) AAP AND PSEA

In regard to Accountability to Affected People (AAP), practically half of the surveyed households have received any aid in the last three months (49%) and the other half have not (50%) (n=600). It was rare that the aid received was not satisfactory (5%), with 89% indicating that they were satisfied with the support received.

**89% are satisfied with the aid received (N=296)**

Those who have received this type of aid within the last three months say that it has been most often:

- Humanitarian distributions (67%);
- Government social protection (42%);

- Humanitarian financial aid (Cash) (41%);
- Government housing programmes (24%);
- Government assistance programmes (20%);
- Humanitarian protection services (9%);
- Humanitarian financial aid (Vouchers) (2%).

N=296

Humanitarian distribution and government social protection were received more often by HHs with people with disabilities, from HHs with chronically ill member, HHs with pregnant and breastfeeding women, HHs with more difficult living conditions (without insulation, not enough heat). Those living in urban areas more often received support in the form of humanitarian distributions and relatively less often humanitarian financial aid (Cash). However, humanitarian distributions remain the most frequently received support in all locations. Government social protection (government) was approximately twice as often received in urban areas (44% vs. 18%). Similar trends are observed for Government housing programmes (25% vs. 5%). Ukrainians over the age of 50 were more likely to receive support, with the support received following general trends.

Those who have received aid but at the same time report being dissatisfied most often mention insufficient humanitarian financial aid (cash) and that assistance received was insufficient / was not enough / not frequent enough.

In general respondents are aware of the following services in the area they are residing:

- State social services for families (62%)
- Safe spaces, protection, and support hubs (such as child-friendly spaces) (31%)
- Legal services (14%)
- Government or NGO helplines (13%).



There is a noticeably lower awareness of the following services:

- Psychosocial support (PSS) mobile teams (7%)
- Services for older people (5%)
- Day-care for people with disabilities (4%)
- Reproductive health services for women and girls: service delivery point (4%)
- Crisis room (3%)
- Day-care for children (3%)
- Services offered for women and girls if they experience some form of violence (3%)
- Shelter for Gender-based violence (GBV) survivors (1%).

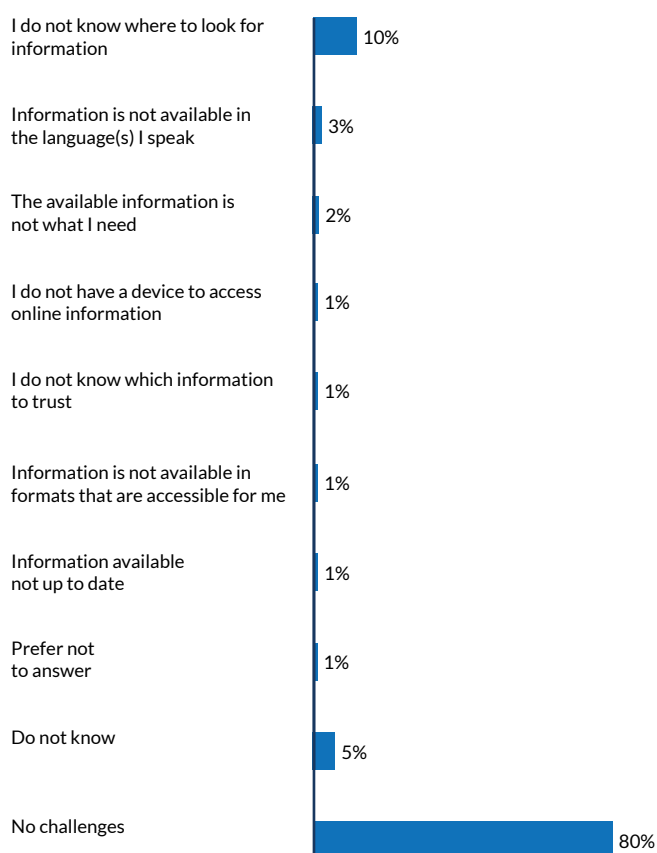
N=600

Men are approximately twice as likely to be unaware of the services available in the area where they live. There is also less awareness among those living in rural areas (30% vs. 23%). Ukrainians aged between 50 and 59 are most often aware of available services. Women and those living in urban areas are significantly more likely to know about available safe spaces, protection and support hubs. Although by a small statistical margin, those living in rural areas are more likely to be aware of the availability of legal services. Approximately 65% of those aged 60+ said they knew about the availability of state social services for families, and around a third knew about safe spaces, protection and support hubs. Trends are similar among those aged 50 to 59. Those aged between 18 and 29 and between 40 and 49 have the lowest levels of awareness. However, even among them, approximately one in two knows about the availability of state social services for families. It is noticeable that Ukrainian citizens aged between 30 and 39 are most often informed about the existence of legal services (20%) and psychosocial support (PSS) mobile teams (11%). Among the rest these shares are approximately twice lower.

80% of respondents did not encounter any challenges in accessing information. The main barriers faced by those who had difficulties were that they did not know where to look for information (10%), information was not available in the language they spoke (3%), and the information available was not what they needed (2%). Ukrainians aged over 50 and men were more likely than others to have problems accessing information. (N=600).

Graph 12: **What challenges are you facing in accessing information that you need at the moment (including information on rights and entitlements, access to services)?**

N=600



The main five preferred means (channels) of receiving information are: phone call/

helpline (35%), WhatsApp (32%), followed by SMS (29%), Telegram (27%) and Viber (26%). Facebook (21%), email (15%) official websites (11%), Messenger (9%), Instagram (6%) and face-to face were outside the top five responses (N=600).

In terms of preferred methods for giving feedback to aid providers on the quality, quantity, and appropriateness of aid, two in three highlight e-mail correspondence first. Three in ten added that a phone call was their preferred communication channel, and one in five said Facebook. Around 17% mention official websites and 13% - Telegram (N=600).

### Prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse (PSEA) – Satisfaction with Aid Workers Behaviour

In general, positive evaluations prevail regarding the behaviour of aid workers in the areas refugee households from Ukraine inhabit. The data shows that the level of satisfaction is significantly high with 96%, about 11 p.p. higher than the level recorded in the previous year.

**96% are satisfied with aid workers' behaviour (N=600)**

Among those who declare they are not satisfied with the way aid workers behave, as main reasons are highlighted lack of empathy and not giving information about entitlements.

In case experiencing or observed inappropriate behaviour from an aid worker, approximately two in five (40%) say they do not know how/ where to report (N=600). Those who do not know are mainly with lower education, equally men and women.

The main preferred channels to provide feedback to aid providers about the behaviour of aid workers and other sensitive issues are most frequently cited:

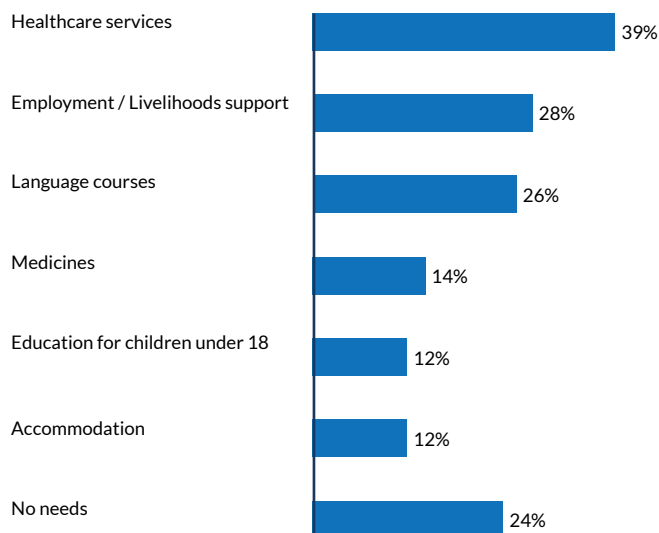
- Social media (38%);
- Telephone calls (34%);
- Email (7%);
- Online form (6%);
- Face-to-face interactions (44%);
- Complaint / Suggestion box (4%);
- Mobile apps for messaging (3%).

N=600

### PRIORITY NEEDS

Graph 13: **What are currently the main three priority needs of your household?**

N=600



**76% state that their household has at least one priority need at present**

Households most frequently identified the need for health services as their priority need (39%). Those are mainly households with chronically ill member and households with people with

disabilities, but also households mainly from new arrivals and households with children. 28% said they needed employment and livelihoods support. This need is reported mainly in households where there are unemployed person(s). The proportion needing language lessons is 26%. This need is expressed by households with unemployed people, but also among those who are employed, where the need for improvement arises. Approximately twice as low a proportion indicated a need for medication (14%). Relatively equal shares of 12% indicated education for children under 18 and housing as their priority needs.

According to the data obtained, those housed in collective sites were more likely than others to feel that their households did not currently have priority needs. However, similarly to the others, health services were most frequently cited as a priority need among them (24%). According to the data obtained, those accommodated with partial payment covered by household (subsidized by government) and those with free accommodation (government scheme, NGO, etc.) significantly more often than the others do not have any pressing needs (25% and 22% respectively). Those with such needs among them follow the general trends.

Graph 14: **Main priority needs**

N=600

Top priority needs	Urban	Rural
Healthcare services	40%	30%
Employment / Livelihoods support	29%	20%
Language courses	27%	17%
Medicines	13%	17%
Education for children under 18	12%	13%
Accommodation	12%	11%

Although those living in urban and rural areas put the need for health services first, it is noticeable that among those living in urban areas the need is significantly stronger. Similar trends can be observed with regard to the need for employment and livelihoods support. In urban areas, the need for lessons in the local language is significantly more frequently reported (27% vs. 17%). In contrast, in rural areas, medicines are ranked third as a priority need. The need for education for children under 18 and accommodation is relatively similar in urban and in rural locations.

Graph 15: **Main priority needs**

N=600

	18-29	30-39	40-49	50-59	60+
Employment / Livelihoods support	30%	32%	35%	26%	19%
Language courses	27%	27%	35%	29%	16%
Healthcare services	25%	40%	46%	36%	41%
Accommodation	18%	12%	6%	14%	11%
Medicines	9%	7%	17%	17%	17%
Education for children under 18	6%	22%	21%	7%	2%

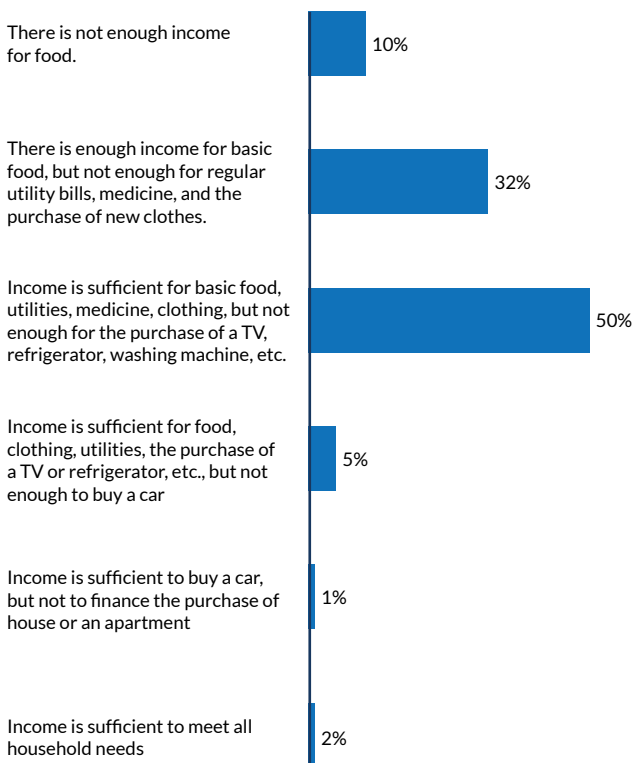
Refugees from Ukraine in the ages between 40 and 49 are more likely than others to identify the need for health services, finding a job and providing language courses as priority needs. Nevertheless, these remain the top priority needs among other age groups as well. The exception is refugees over the age of 60, for whom the need for medicines takes precedence over that for language courses. Youth, aged 18 to 29, are more likely than others to report a need for accommodation (18%). Among those aged 30 to 49, on the other hand, the need for education for children under the age of 18 was more frequently reported. Medicines are a priority need more often for refugees over the age of 40. The proportion in need of medicines in the 18 to 29 age group is 9% and decreases to 7% among those aged 30 to 39.

## ECONOMIC CAPACITY

Around 50% of the households have income that is sufficient for basic food, utilities, medicine, clothing, but not enough for the purchase of a TV, refrigerator, washing machine, etc. Around 10% are in the most difficult position, where they do not have enough income to purchase food.

**Graph 16: How would you assess the overall income level of your household?**

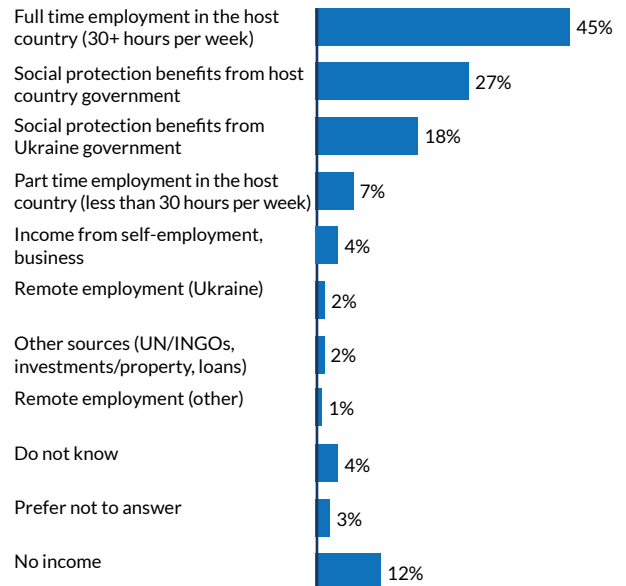
N=600



45% of refugee households from Ukraine had income from full-time work in the last 30 days. In total, about 27% of households highlighted that among the sources of family income in the last 30 days (or after arrival if it was less than 30 days ago) they were able to rely on social protection benefits from the Latvian government.

**Graph 17: What are the sources of your household income in the last 30 days, or since arrival if it was less than 30 days ago?**

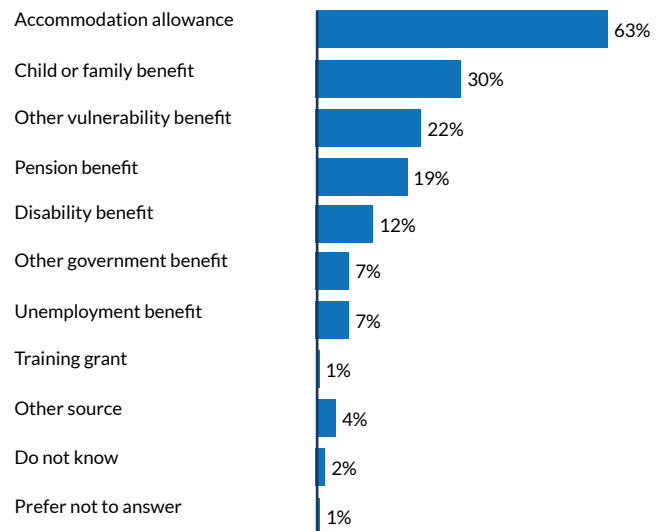
N=600



Regarding social protection benefits provided by the Government of Latvia for refugees from Ukraine, the following have been received in the last 30 days:

**Graph 18: In the last 30 days which social protection benefits do you receive from the Latvia government?**

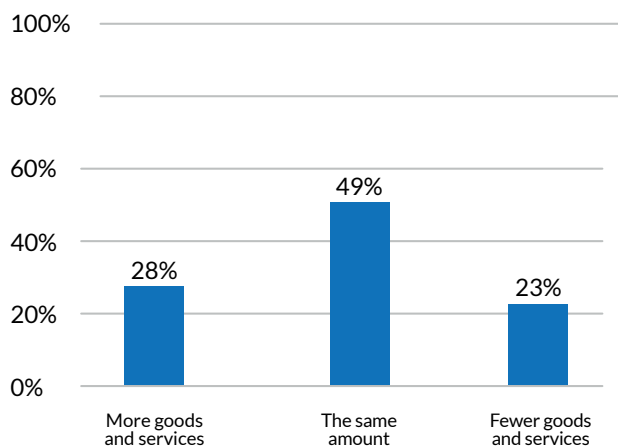
N=162



Almost half of the refugees from Ukraine indicate that they can currently afford the same amount of goods that they could have afforded in the first months of their arrival in the country (49%). Just over 28% can afford more, and 23% less. According to the data obtained, younger refugees coming from Ukraine were much more likely to be able to afford more goods compared to their first month in the country. Approximately one-third of those aged between 18 and 35 stated that they could purchase more goods. Among refugees aged over 55, the trend is reversed. Refugees in advanced age and poor health were most likely to have reduced their purchasing ability because of the lower income (pensions) and expenditures they have for medicines.

**Graph 19: % of HHs who can afford more, same or fewer goods compared to first months in country**

N=600



The data shows that around 32% of the households possess savings enough to live on for one month in case of an emergency. However, 19% of the households have no savings to speak of.

According to the respondents, the following

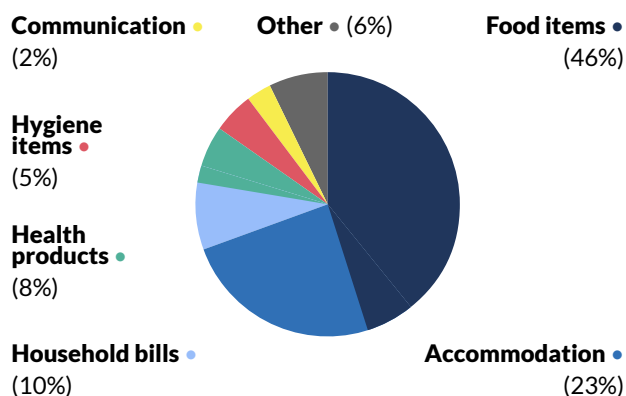
types of services would help them improve their financial situation:

- Language training 45%
- Job matching 32%
- Support for accessing social assistance 21%
- Individual counselling 18%
- Access to information 13%
- Upskilling 12%
- Skills recognition 8%

N=600

**Graph 20: Expenditure in the last 30 days (in euros)**

N=600



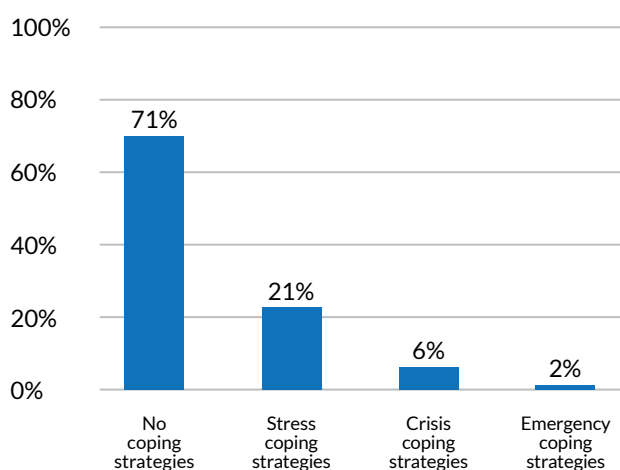
Just over 46% of refugees' expenditure in Latvia in the last 30 days was on food, with an average expenditure of 296 euros per household. The next largest expense was for accommodation, with 23% of the expenditure going towards paying for accommodation. The average amount spent on accommodation was 145 euros per household. Household bills accounted for 10% of the monthly expenditure, with the average amount spent by households with such spending being 63 euros. Medicines and health products also accounted for a relatively similar share of expenditure (8%), with the average amount spent being 10 euros lower (53 euros). Spending on hygiene products accounted for

roughly twice the share (5%) and the average financial expenditure amounted to 30 euros. The smallest share of refugees' expenditure was money spent on communication, with the average amount spent being 14 euros.

## VULNERABLE GROUPS<sup>4</sup>

Slightly less than a third of respondents admit that they have had to apply different coping strategies in the last 30 days. Possible situations are divided into the following categories, with the question focusing on whether respondents have been in such a situation in the last 30 days: Stress coping mechanisms: including spending savings, selling household assets/goods, purchasing food on credit or borrow food, entire household migrating / becoming displaced. Crisis coping mechanisms: reducing essential health expenditures, withdrawing school-aged children or youth from school/university, selling productive assets or means of transport, reducing essential education expenditures. Emergency coping mechanisms:

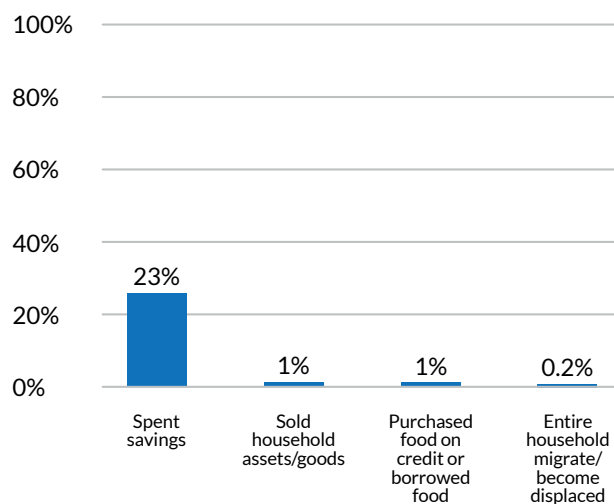
Graph 21: % of HHs by coping strategy  
N=600



engaging in high-risk or dangerous work/jobs, involving school-aged children in income generation, selling house or land (including inside Ukraine). Refugees from Ukraine are also asked a block of questions that focus on food coping mechanisms. These cover the frequency with which respondents have had to implement various coping measures to obtain food in the last week.

Nearly 21% have used some of the listed stress coping mechanisms in the past 30 days. 6% have used crisis coping mechanisms and 2% emergency coping strategies.

Graph 22: % of families using stress coping mechanisms  
N=600



The statistical distribution shows that one in four refugees from Ukraine in Latvia with university education spent some of their savings, while one in five of those with secondary education resorted to such a measure. Among refugees with primary or lower education, there is a higher proportion

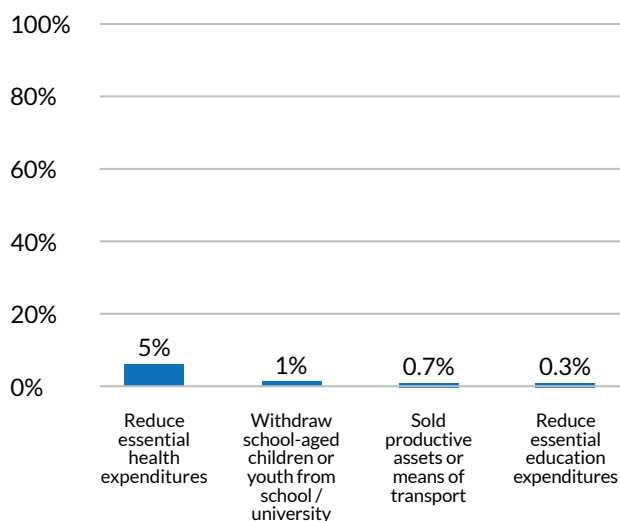
<sup>4</sup> In this section vulnerable groups are defined as people with disability or chronic illness, old people (60+), unemployed people, or HHs with people with disability, HH without chronically ill member, HH with children, HHs without employed people, HH with old people (60+), HHs without income.

of people spending from their savings (22%) in the last 30 days. This is also valid for households without income – 38% of them spent their savings. Refugees aged 55 and over are more likely to have taken such an action.

1% had to sell household assets/goods, and 1% had to shop for food on credit or borrow food. In individual isolated cases, the whole family had to migrate or become homeless.

### Graph 22: % of families using Crisis coping mechanisms

N=600 (except from “Withdraw school-aged children or youth from school/university” where N=209)

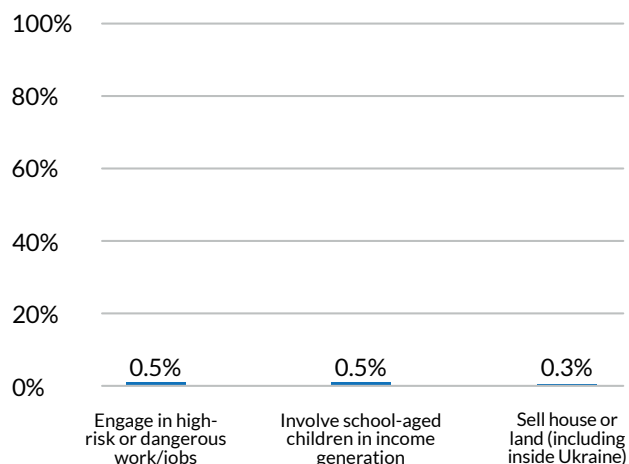


Nearly 5% had to cut important health expenditures. A 1% share is accounted for by those who have had to withdraw school-age children from school or young people from school/university. In the last 30 days, less than 1% have had to sell productive assets of means of transportation. Although the accumulations are very small, it is noticeable that it has been more common for children and young people

to be suspended from school compared to important education expenditure being cut (0.3%).

### Graph 23: % of families using emergency coping mechanisms

N=600 (except from “Involve school-aged children in income generation” where N=209)



The listed emergency coping mechanisms have been used the least by refugees. With shares of 0.5%, those who started high-risk work and involved school-age children in generating income for the family stand out. 0.3% had sold houses or land to cope with their situation.

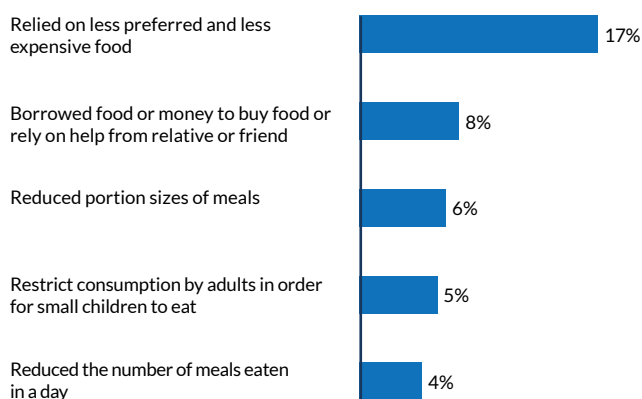
One of the main indicators of vulnerability is the change in food consumption. Although over 46%<sup>5</sup> of refugees from Ukraine’s expenditure in Latvia was on food, they still had to rely on less preferred and cheaper food. A total of 17% of refugees from Ukraine responded that they mobilized this coping strategy in the last week, at the time of interview. Just over 6% indicated that this was the case on all days of the week. A total of 5% said that they had taken

<sup>5</sup> For comparison the average share of household consumption expenditure for food and beverages is 23% (2019), Official statistic of Latvia, <https://stat.gov.lv/en/statistics-themes/population/household-expenditure/5193-household-consumption-expenditure?themeCode=MB>

such measures on one or two days of the week. According to the statistical distribution, this occurred more frequently to those in the 55+ age groups. For refugees aged 65 and over, approximately one in five had implemented this coping strategy, and one in ten indicated that this occurred on seven days of the week.

**Graph 24: % of families who relied on coping mechanism at least once in the past week**

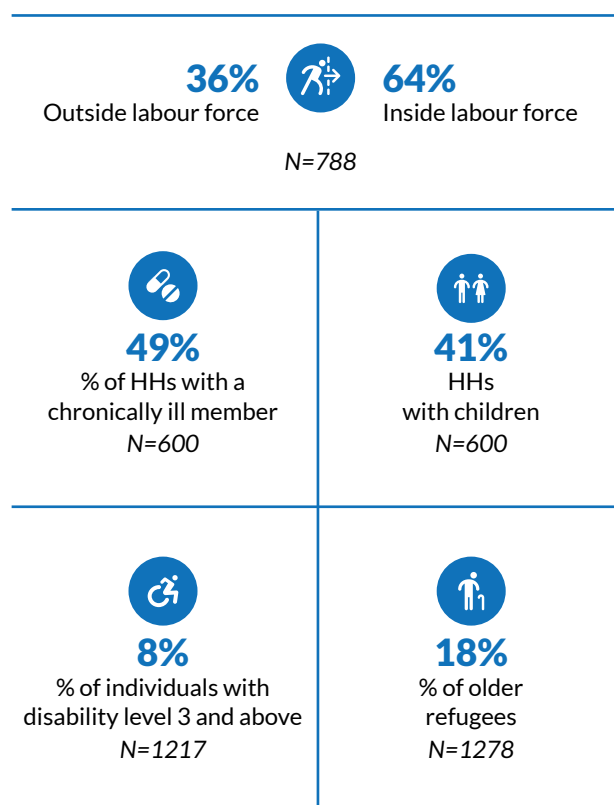
N=600 (except from “Restrict consumption by adults in order for small children to eat” where N=246)



8% borrowed money to buy food, with 4% stating this happened on between one and three days during the week and 4% on between four and seven days. 6% reduced their portions, again with equal percentages stating this happened on between one and three days and between four and seven days. 5% reduced consumption by adults so that young children could eat, with this happening most often on two days of the week (3%). The least were those who had to reduce the number of meals they ate (4%).

Different forms of vulnerability appear with different incidence rate among the community of Ukrainian refugees. The biggest group are households without employed members (45%)

while those with an unemployed member are 38% and without income - 12%. Households with children are 41%, while those with older persons are 32%. Households with chronically ill member are 39% while households with person with disability are 13%. There are a small number of households with problems with living conditions - HH without insulation are 4% and HH without sufficient heat are 3%. HH with pregnant or breastfeeding women at the period of the survey account to 3%.



Specific group with certain level of vulnerabilities are new arrivals. Households with new arrivals are around 25% of Ukrainian households.

Households with family members with disabilities were most likely to have persons over the age of 65 (29%). Among the age groups 18 to 35 years (50%) and 36 to 55 years (57%), households with children are most common.



Graph 25: **Social -demographic profile of households with potential vulnerability**  
N=600

	Male	Female	18-35	36-55	56-65	65+
HH with disability	15%	13%	5%	14%	10%	29%
HH without disability	85%	87%	95%	86%	91%	71%
HH with children	21%	48%	50%	57%	15%	11%
HH without children	79%	52%	50%	43%	85%	89%
HH without employed members	47%	45%	36%	32%	57%	88%
HH with employed members	53%	55%	65%	68%	43%	12%
HH with older persons	33%	31%	-	13%	62%	100%
HH without older persons	67%	69%	100%	87%	38%	-
HH with chronically ill member	28%	43%	16%	34%	52%	72%
HH without chronically ill member	72%	57%	84%	66%	48%	28%

## REGIONAL DISTRIBUTION

The data provides information on the location where the interview was conducted, for the purpose of the analysis the location identified will be considered the respondent's region of residence.

Graph 26: **Where the interview is taking place:**  
N=600

Riga	67%
Kurzeme	10%
Pieriga	7%
Latgale	6%
Vidzeme	6%
Zemgale	5%

Although Latgale and Kurzeme have significantly lower numbers of refugees, the proportion of persons with disabilities in these regions is significantly higher than in the others. Households with children are most frequent in the Vidzeme (52%) and Kurzeme (50%)

regions. Unemployment is most pronounced among those living in Zemgale (66%). On the other hand, the highest proportion of those participating in the labour market is in Vidzeme.

Graph 27: **Geographical profile of households with potential vulnerabilities**  
N=600

	Riga	Vidzeme	Pieriga	Zemgale	Kurzeme	Latgale
HH with disability	13%	6%	8%	13%	18%	17%
HH without disability	87%	94%	92%	88%	82%	83%
HH with children	38%	52%	46%	44%	50%	46%
HH without children	62%	49%	54%	56%	50%	54%
HH without employed members	43%	39%	46%	66%	48%	54%
HH with employed members	57%	61%	54%	34%	52%	46%
HH with older persons	31%	33%	28%	28%	36%	34%
HH without older persons	69%	67%	72%	72%	65%	66%
HH with chronically ill member	35%	27%	44%	31%	57%	57%
HH without chronically ill member	65%	73%	56%	69%	44%	43%

Kurzeme and Latgale regions have the highest number of elderly and chronically ill persons. Among those living in Kurzeme and Pieriga there are more households with children.

Graph 28:  
**Main priority needs:**

	HH with disability	HH with children	HH with employed members	HH without employed members	HH with older persons	HH with chronically ill member
Healthcare services	51%	39%	38%	40%	39%	44%
Medicines	28%	11%	13%	15%	19%	19%
Employment / Livelihoods support	20%	30%	21%	36%	20%	26%
Accommodation	10%	15%	10%	14%	11%	12%
Education for children under 18	10%	28%	14%	9%	7%	8%
Language courses	9%	26%	27%	25%	18%	20%
	N=79	N=247	N=328	N=272	N=189	N=232

Health services are prioritized among all vulnerable groups. However, according to the data, they are most needed among households with persons with disabilities (51%). Households with people with disabilities ranked the need for medicines after health services (28%), followed by employment (20%), housing (10%), education for children under 18 (10%) and language courses (9%).

The need for employment/livelihoods support is most pronounced among households with unemployed members (36%) and those with children (30%). However, households with chronically ill members also had a similar proportion in need of such support (26%).

The need for accommodation is most pronounced among households with children (15%), followed by those without working members (14%). According to the data obtained, there is also a strong need for language lessons, with families with children being the most in need of such support (26%).

Graph 29: **Main priority needs:**  
N=600

Riga		Vidzeme		Pieriga	
No needs	20%	No needs	24%	No needs	31%
Healthcare services	43%	Healthcare services	24%	Healthcare services	51%
Employment / Livelihoods support	33%	Employment / Livelihoods support	21%	Language courses	28%
Language courses	31%	Accommodation	12%	Medicines	23%
Medicines	13%	Food	12%	Employment / Livelihoods support	18%
Education for children under 18	13%	Medicines	12%	Accommodation	10%
Accommodation	11%	Education for children under 18	9%	Education for children under 18	8%

Zemgale		Kurzeme		Latgale	
No needs	41%	No needs	29%	No needs	26%
Language courses	31%	Healthcare services	29%	Healthcare services	43%
Accommodation	16%	Medicines	16%	Employment / Livelihoods support	29%
Employment / Livelihoods support	13%	Accommodation	15%	Accommodation	14%
Medicines	13%	Employment / Livelihoods support	15%	Education for children under 18	11%
Education for children under 18	13%	Language courses	11%	Food	9%
Healthcare services	9%	Education for children under 18	10%	Cloth/Winter clothes	9%

The statistical distribution by locality shows that health services remain the most frequently cited priority need. Those living in Pieriga (51%) most often need this type of support. Those in need of health services in Latgale and Riga also stand out with shares of nearly 43%. In Zemgale, where a high percentage of the unemployed is also registered, the need for language lessons is ranked first (31%). Language lessons are also a highly desired support by those living in Riga (31%) and Pieriga (28%). Among those living in Zemgale, the highest proportion of people who are currently unable to indicate priority needs.

The need for employment and livelihoods support is most pronounced in Riga (33%) and Latgale (29%).

## INFORMATION REGARDING SERVICES

Various services are available for refugees. In general respondents are aware of the following services in the area they are residing:

- State social services for families (62%)
- Safe spaces, protection, and support hubs (such as child-friendly spaces) (31%)
- Legal services (14%)
- Government or NGO helplines (13%).

There is a noticeably lower awareness of the following services:

- Psychosocial support (PSS) mobile teams (7%)
- Services for older people (5%)
- Daycare for people with disabilities (4%)
- Reproductive health services for women and girls (service delivery point) (4%)
- Crisis room (3%)
- Day-care for children (3%)
- Services offered for women and girls if they experience some (3%)
- Shelter for Gender-based violence (GBV) survivors (1%).

N=600

80% of respondents did not encounter any challenges in accessing information. The main barriers faced by those who had difficulties were that they did not know where to look for information (10%), information was not available in the language they spoke (3%), and the information available was not what they needed (2%) (N=600).

The top five sources preferred means (channels) of receiving information are: phone call/helpline (35%), WhatsApp (32%), followed by SMS (29%), Telegram (27%) and Viber (26%). Facebook (21%), email (15%) official websites (11%), Messenger (9%), Instagram (6%) and face-to face were outside the top five responses (N=600).

In terms of preferred methods for giving feedback to aid providers on the quality, quantity, and appropriateness of aid, two in three highlight e-mail correspondence first. Three in ten added that a phone call was their preferred communication channel, and one in five said Facebook. Around 17% mention official websites and 13% - Telegram. (N=600). The telephone is more often the preferred method among Ukrainians aged 50+, with approximately one in two of those aged 60+ preferring to give feedback via a phone call. Among other age groups, the most preferred feedback methods differ. Those aged between 40 and 49 were most likely to mention SMS (39%), and those aged between 30 and 39 WhatsApp (41%). The youngest were more strongly aligned around the preference to give feedback via Telegram (35%), but with little statistical difference to phone call and SMS (32% and 32%). Households with a member with a disability are significantly less likely than others to prefer a method other than a phone call. The most preferred among the other methods is by SMS, with around 20% giving this

response. Similar trends are observed among households with chronically ill members, except that the second most preferred method of feedback is WhatsApp (31%).

## EDUCATION

### ATTENDANCE/ENROLMENT

In the 2023/2024 school year, 62% of refugee children aged 7-16 years were reported by their parents as enrolled in Latvian schools. The level of enrolment differs across age groups. It is 77% for children in the age group 3-7-year-old, increases to 63% among 7 to 12-year-old and goes down to 53% for the age group 13-18. For those who are of tertiary education age (18-24) the enrolment rate is 9%. The main reason for not being enrolled in the education system in Latvia is the fact that some children (mainly above 12 year of age) are still enrolled in a school in Ukraine and are attending this school remotely/online while staying abroad.

**62% of school-aged children reported attending 2023/2024 school year in Latvia. N=242**

This forms very interesting split of children refugees from Ukrainian in Latvia based on their school enrolment.

Graph 30: **School-aged children school year 2023/2024**

N=242

	Studying online in Ukraine	Do not study online in Ukraine
<b>Enrolled in Latvia</b>	32%	30%
<b>Not enrolled in Latvia</b>	32%	6%

The main reasons why school-age refugee children from Ukraine do not attend school/ kindergarten/nursery schools that are part of

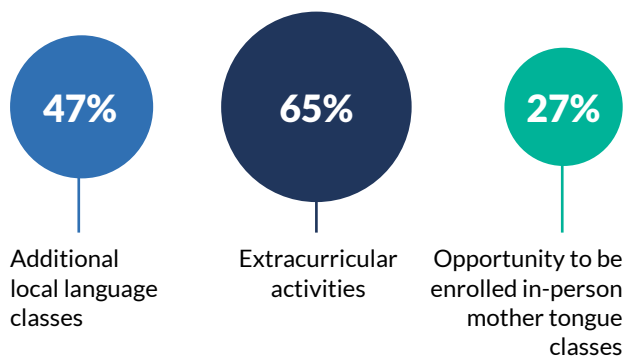
the national education system in Latvia are the following:

- Still enrolled in a school in Ukraine and is attending this school remotely/online while staying abroad (86%);
- Language barrier (12%);
- No longer enrolled in a school in Ukraine but is using remote/online teaching tools at home to continue learning (4%);
- Parents believe that enrolling children in Latvian school in addition to attending Ukrainian school remotely will put additional burden on child(ren) to follow both (Ukraine and Latvia) curricula (3%);
- Intention to return to Ukraine (3%).

N=91

Among those children who are not enrolled in school in Latvia 89% are formally enrolled in a school in Ukraine and study remotely (online) in school year 2023-2024 when being in Latvia. Around 9% do not attend school activities neither in Latvia, nor remotely in Ukrainian school. The latter are either children in the beginning of education (7-9 years old) or teenagers in their last years of secondary education (15-17).

Data shows the following opportunities for the children/youth aged under 24 of refugees from Ukraine:



N=242

A total of 47% of refugee children, aged between 7 and 16, attend additional language courses in schools in Latvia. Just under 6% indicate that they do not receive any additional support at school. 27% of children had the opportunity to be enrolled in in-person classes in their mother tongue. According to the data, a large proportion of children participate in extracurricular activities (65%).

The proportion of school-age students (7 to 16 years) still enrolled in schools in Ukraine is 89%. The proportion among those aged up to 24 is 72%. The majority of children who do not go to school in Latvia are formally enrolled in a school in Ukraine in school year 2023-2024 and study remotely (online) when being abroad.

Among children/youth under the age of 24, the largest proportion are attending primary school (44%) or early childhood education or child care (e.g., nursery, kindergarten, day care centre, staying with a caregiver, care from a caregiver who comes to the household's home) (35%) in the 2023-2024 school year.

Children in early childhood educational development or pre-primary school (e.g. kindergarten, pre-school, école maternelle or similar school for very young children) are 4%. There are 10% in secondary school, 4% in technical and vocational education and training and 4% in higher education institutions (university, academy, etc.) (N=235).

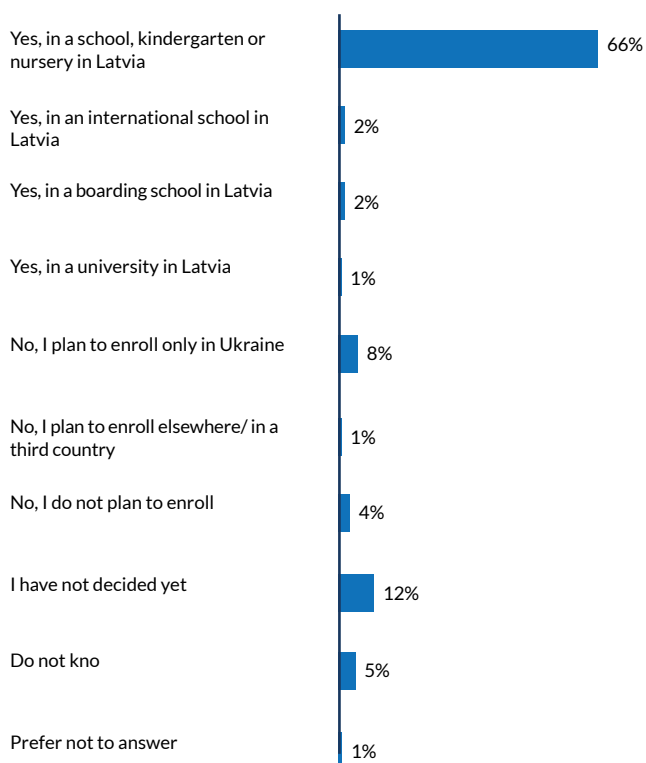
The majority of the parents said that their children feel generally supported by education professionals at school/kindergarten/nursery/university.

Just over 70% intend to enrol their children in a school, kindergarten/nursery in Latvia next year 2024/2025. Those planning to enrol their children in Ukraine are 8%. At the time of

the survey a significant proportion of parents indicate that this decision has not yet been made (12%).

**Graph 31: Will you enrol this child/young person in a school/kindergarten/nursery that is part of the national education systems in Latvia for next year, 2024/2025?**

Among those aged from 3 years old to 18 years old, N=365

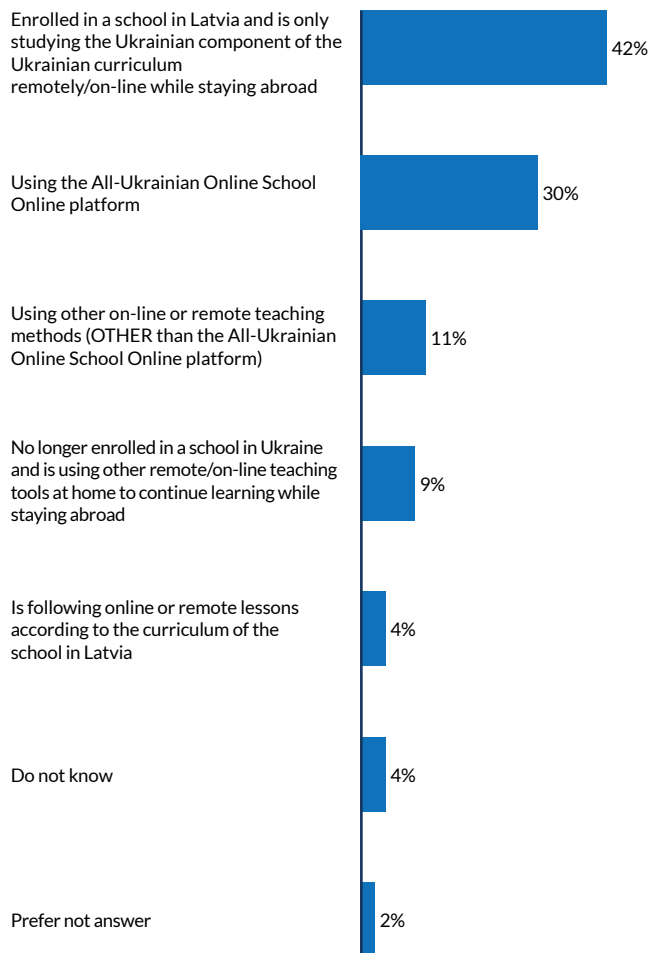


Approximately 55% children/young people were learning remotely or online in the school year 2023-2024. The highest proportion of students enrolled in a school in Latvia and are only studying the Ukrainian component of the Ukrainian curriculum remotely/online while staying abroad (42%). Nearly 30% were using the All-Ukrainian Online School Online platform (30%). 11% were using other online or remote teaching methods (other than the All-Ukrainian Online School Online platform).

**55% of children/young people were learning remotely or online in the school year 2023-2024 N=365**

**Graph 32: What type of remote or on-line learning was the child/young person enrolled in or conducting during the school year 2023-2024?**

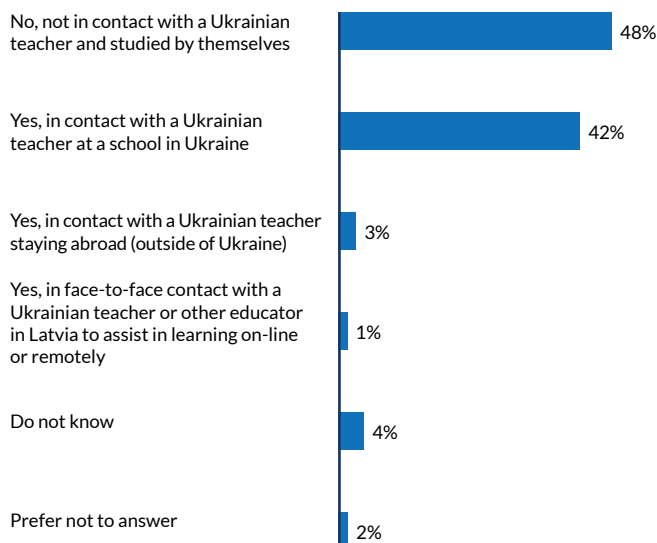
N=199



The proportion of those who were no longer enrolled in a school in Ukraine and were using other remote/online teaching tools at home to continue learning while staying abroad is 9%. Almost 4% were following online or remote lessons according to the curriculum of the school in Latvia.

**Graph 33: Is/was this child/young person studying under supervision of a teacher or other qualified educator from Ukraine?**

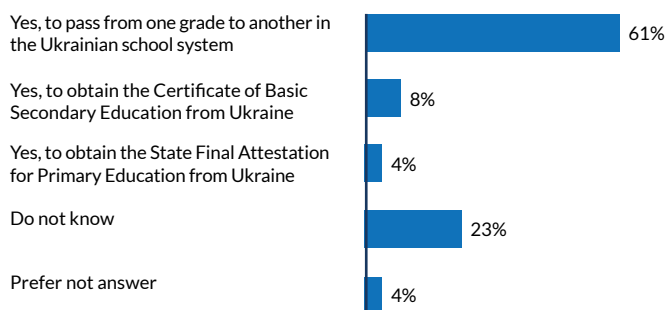
N=199



A higher proportion of children were not in contact with a teacher in Ukraine and studied independently (48%). 42% were assisted by a teacher who was located in Ukraine. The lowest proportions of children studied with the help of a teacher who was not located in Ukraine (3%) and were in face-to-face contact with a Ukrainian teacher or another educator in Latvia (1%).

**Graph 34: Did this child/young person participate in exams, tests or evaluations while learning remotely/online?**

N=199

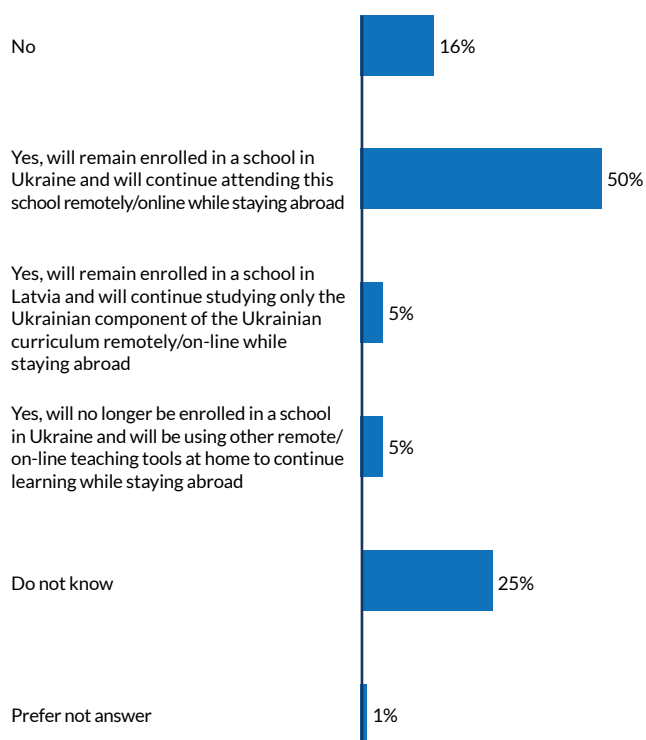


The data show that over 61% took exams during their online/distance learning to move from one grade to another in the Ukrainian education system. 8% took exams to obtain the Certificate of Basic Secondary Education from Ukraine, and 4% to obtain the State Final Attestation for Primary Education from Ukraine.

According to the data obtained, a major proportion of children/youth spent more than four hours learning remotely/online in 2023-2024 (44%). 19% studied between three and four hours. With an overall percentage share of 25%, children who studied between two and three hours (13%) and between one and two hours (13%) stand out. Those who spent less than one hour per day in online/distance learning accounted for 9%.

**Graph 35: Will this child/young person continue learning remotely/on-line in the school year 2024/2025?**

N=199



Almost 60% of refugees from Ukraine responded that their children will continue to study online/remotely in some form in the next 2024/2025 school year. Almost 50% of children will remain enrolled in a school in Ukraine and will continue attending this school remotely/online while staying abroad. 5% will remain enrolled in a school in Latvia and will continue studying only the Ukrainian component of the Ukrainian curriculum remotely/online while staying abroad and 5% will no longer be enrolled in a school in Ukraine and will be using other remote/online teaching tools at home to continue learning while staying abroad.

According to the data obtained, nearly 39% of children who will not be attending online education next school year are 17 or 18 years old, and 29% (nine children) are 9 or 10 years old. The proportion of children who will not study online is also relatively higher among those who have spent between one and three hours studying online in 2023-2024. The data also show that more than half (55%) of children who will not study online in the next year have not been in contact with a teacher from Ukraine so far and have studied on their own.

Just over a quarter of the children who are not attending local language courses have not yet decided whether they will attend online learning in the next academic year, and around 14% will not attend.

## LANGUAGE ACQUISITION

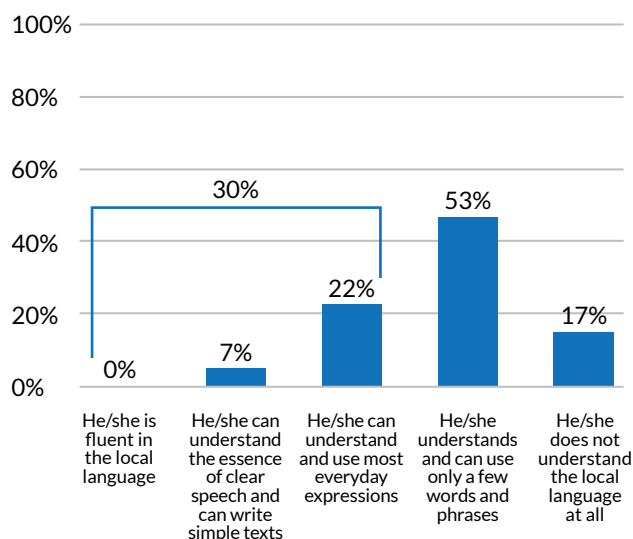
**29% attend local language courses**

Around 30% of the surveyed refugees from Ukraine in Latvia say that they speak Latvian to the level that they can at least understand basic Latvian and use everyday expressions. However,

17% do not understand the local language at all.

**Graph 36: Which of the following options best describes this person's knowledge of Latvian language?**

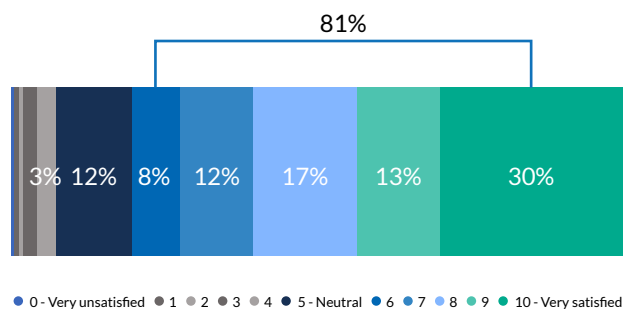
N=880



Approximately 40% are likely to enrol in a Latvian language course in the next six months, while 29% have already attended such courses. The majority of them said they were generally satisfied (level 6 to 10 from 1 to 10-point scale) with the level of instruction (81%), with 30% being completely satisfied, 12% put a neutral rating on the courses they attend.

**Graph 37: How satisfied were they with the local language courses overall?**

N=349



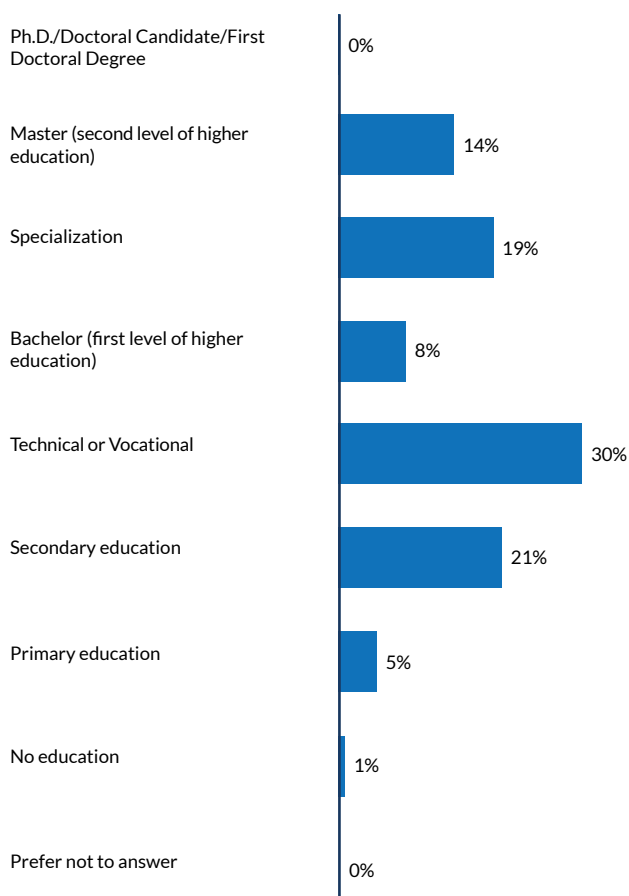
# SOCIO-ECONOMIC INCLUSION AND LIVELIHOOD

## EDUCATION PROFILE

In general, the surveyed refugees from Ukraine in Latvia, aged 15-64, are well educated. Only about 5% have primary education. Almost 22% have completed secondary education, and another 30% - technical or vocational. 8% have completed a bachelor’s degree, specialization - 19%, master’s degree - 14%, and 0.2% - Ph.D./ Doctoral Candidate/First Doctoral Degree or Grand Ph.D./Senior Doctoral Degree/Higher Doctoral Degree/Second Doctoral Degree.

Graph 38: % of HH members by highest education level achieved

N=810



## EMPLOYMENT. CHALLENGES FOR FINDING WORK

Refugees from Ukraine in Latvia aged 15-64 described their working status before leaving Ukraine as follows:

- Work for someone else for pay, for one or more hours (53%);
- Studying (13%);
- Run or do any kind of business, farming or other activity to make money (12%);
- Engaged in household or family responsibilities including taking care of children and elderly (7%);
- Retired or Pensioner (4%);
- Professional training (2%);
- With a long-term illness, injury or disability (2%);
- Help in a family business or farm (1%);
- Unemployed/job-seeker (1%);
- Doing unpaid volunteering, community or charity work (0.2%).

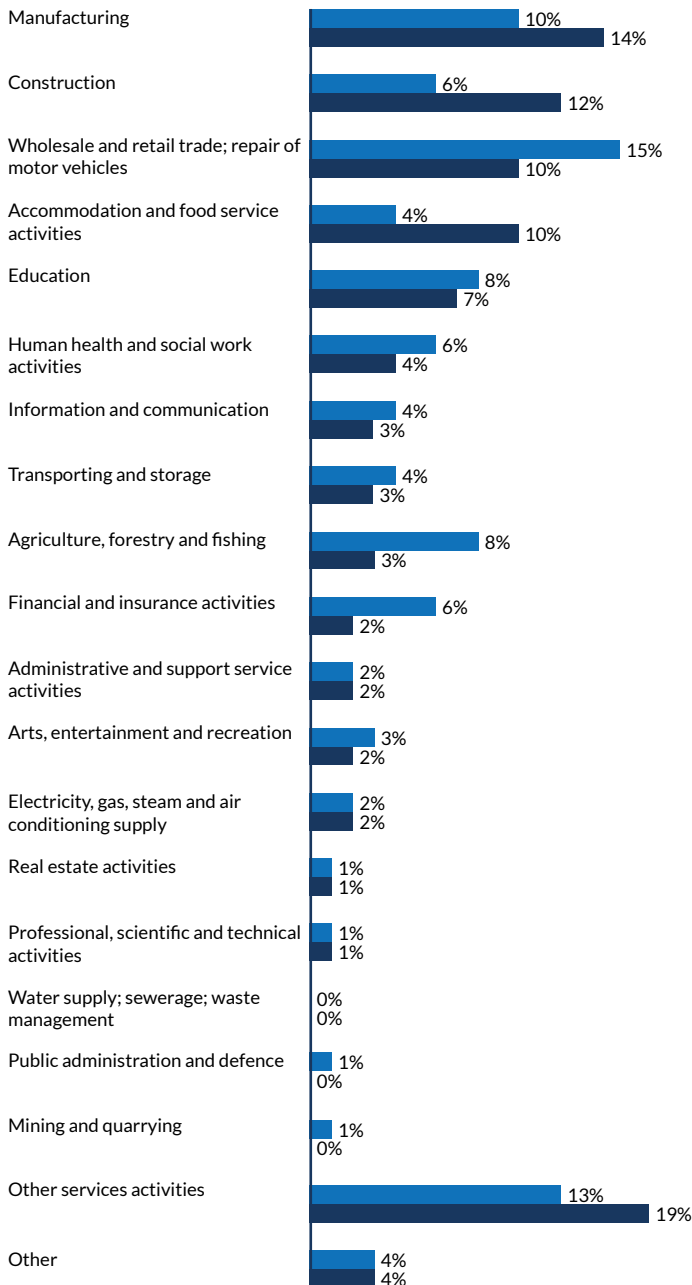
It is observed that after leaving Ukraine some of the refugees have changed their field of work. The data shows that those working in the field of trade (wholesale and retail)/repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles have mostly switched to manufacturing. Those involved in manufacturing, on the other hand, are relatively more likely than others to be working in a similar position now. Those who have changed their field of work are most often employed in construction. According to the data, those who worked in the field of agriculture most often had to change their occupation. Approximately a quarter of those who worked in agriculture, forestry and fishing now work in construction, while only about 15% continue to work in agriculture. Around 38% of those who worked in the field of education also carry out similar activities in Latvia. Construction workers most often kept their jobs



### Graph 39: Main activity before living Ukraine vs. main activity in Latvia

N=535 – for main activity before leaving Ukraine  
N=421 – for main activity in Latvia

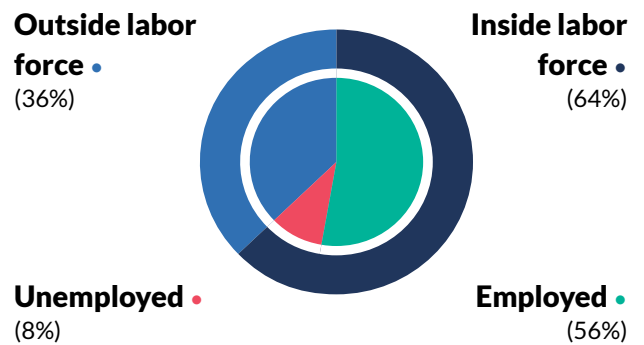
- Main activity of the place or business where individual was working before leaving Ukraine
- Main activity of the place or business where individual is working in Latvia



after moving to Latvia. However, the data show that in this field working through informal work agreements is relatively more common (12%). Agriculture, forestry and fishing is the most frequent sector in which people work without a formal contract. These two areas also have the highest proportion of refugees who are unwilling to state exactly how they were employed - in person/remotely.

At the time of this survey, 56% of surveyed working age refugees were employed and 8% were unemployed. The total proportion of persons who are out of the labour force is 36%.

Graph 40: Labor Force Participation (out of working age population 16 to 64)  
N=788



**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 four weeks, and who are available to start working within

the next two weeks if ever a job or business opportunity becomes available.

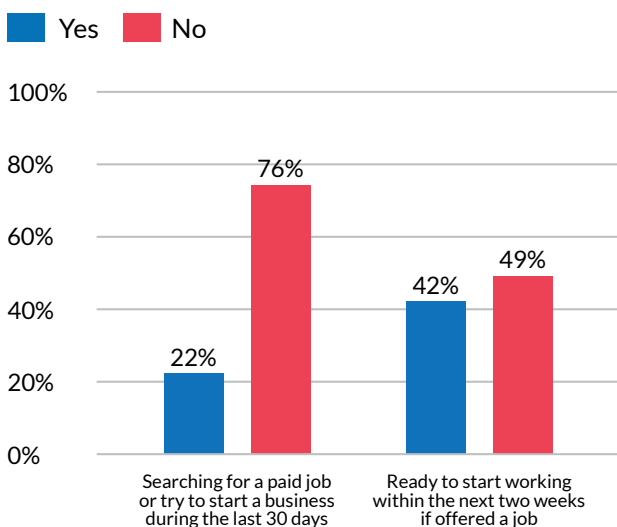
**Outside labour force:** # working-age individuals who were not employed during the past week, and who either cannot start working within the next two weeks if a job or business opportunity becomes available, or did not look for a paid job or did not try to start a business in the past four weeks.

**Inside labour force:** Employed and Unemployed.

**15% of youth (16 to 24) who are Not in Education, Training or Employment (NEET) N=106**

The proportion of young people aged 16 to 24 who are not in education, training or employment (NEET) is 15%. These young people have a very poor knowledge of the local language, split evenly between those who do not understand the local language at all and those who only know a few words or phrases.

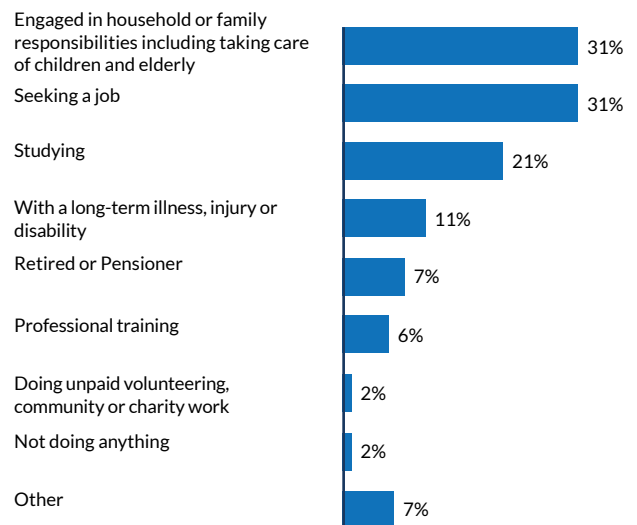
**Graph 41: Share of refugees searching for a paid job and share of refugees ready to start working**  
Missing percentages are on account of “Do not know” and “Prefer not to answer”, N=369



Approximately one fifth of refugees from Ukraine in Latvia who do not have a job have looked for one in the last 30 days. Just over 42% of people surveyed in Latvia are willing to become part of the country’s workforce in the next two weeks if offered the opportunity. Nearly 68% of refugees who would like to start work in the next two weeks indicated that the main barrier to finding a job for them was a lack of knowledge of the local language. 16% cite the lack of a workplace with a convenient flexible schedule and 10% the lack of a job with good pay as the reason.

Approximately one-fifth of refugee pensioners living in Latvia who said they were not currently working are willing to start work in the next two weeks. It is also noticeable that 38% of refugees from Ukraine who were engaged in household and family responsibilities in Ukraine and are not currently working in Latvia would start working as soon as possible. Among those studying this proportion is 26% and among those with a long-term illness, injury or disability it is 6%.

**Graph 42: Which of the following best describes what (this person) is mainly doing at present?**  
Among refugees from Ukraine who are not in the workforce, N=369



The majority of those not working are engaged in household or family responsibilities including taking care of children and elderly (31%) or currently seeking a job (31%). Just over 21% are studying. 11% have a long-term illness, injury or disability; 7% are retired or pensioners; 6% are engaged in vocational training. The lowest percentages are those involved in charity (2%) and those doing nothing (2%). Among men, there is a relatively higher proportion of job seekers (33%) compared to women (30%). The age groups among whom jobseekers are most likely to be found are between 25 and 35 years (43%) and between 36 and 45 years (44%). The statistical distribution by gender shows that female jobseekers are younger than male jobseekers.

Refugees from Ukraine who are not in the labour force and are engaged in domestic work or family responsibilities are four times more likely to be women (40%). The data shows that nearly 60% of non-working women aged between 25 and 35 are caring for the household or an adult/child, while one in five is looking for work. Among non-working women aged between 36 and 45, around 52% are responsible for household duties and just over 16% are also looking for work. The overall proportion of women who indicated that they are responsible for the household but are also looking for work is just under 16%.

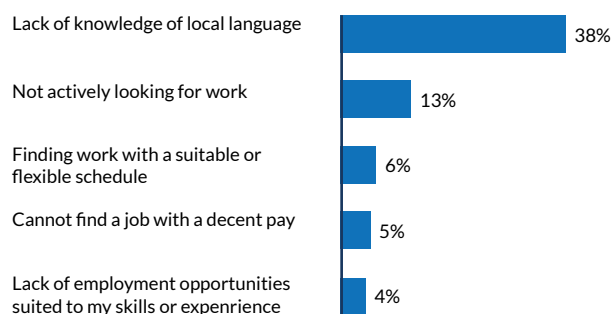
Refugees from Ukraine over the age of 45 most often suffer from serious illnesses, disabilities or injuries. Just over 23% of those aged between 46 and 55 have a permanent disability or illness. Among those aged between 56 and 65, just over 19% have a permanent disability/illness.

The main barrier to finding a job for refugees from Ukraine is not knowing the local language (38%). The other reasons were significantly less frequently cited, with only four reasons given

by more than 2% of respondents. 13% said that the main barrier to finding a job was the lack of active job search. For about 6%, the reason was that employers did not offer a sufficiently suitable and flexible work schedule. 5% could not find a job with good pay, and 4% felt that there were not enough jobs to match their abilities and experience.

**Graph 43: Which difficulties (if any) has (this person) encountered finding work in this country?**

N=810 / Values with percentage accumulation above 2% are displayed



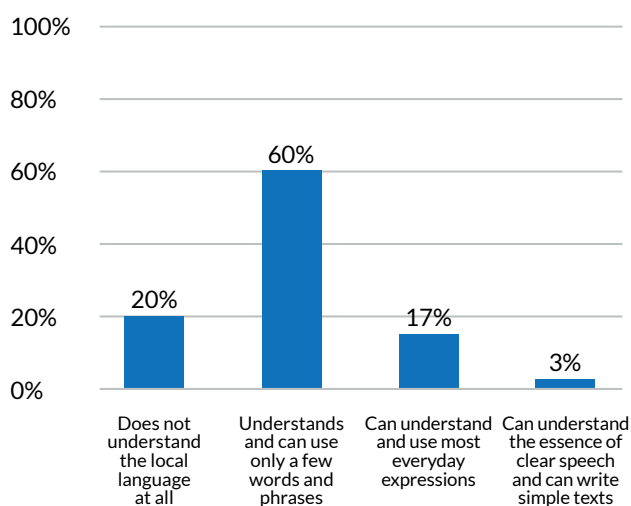
According to the data, women are more likely to face the listed challenges in finding a job. However, not knowing the local language remains the most frequently cited reason of all. The data shows that 40% of women fail to find a job because of the language barrier, among men this proportion is 35%. The data also show that those who worked in certain sectors before leaving Ukraine more often have difficulties finding a job because they do not know Latvian. This proportion is highest among those working in the financial sector, followed by those working in human health and social work activities and education. Refugees from Ukraine who were professionally involved in arts, entertainment and recreation before coming to Latvia and those working in the financial sector in general most often have difficulties finding a job.

Among refugees aged 18 to 34, it is more important to find a job with a flexible schedule, while those aged 35 to 59 place more emphasis on good pay. However, for both groups, not knowing the local language remains as the biggest barrier.

Among those who responded that the main barrier to finding a job was not knowing the local language (38%), the proportion of those who did not understand it at all was 20%.

**Graph 44: Among people who site lack of knowledge of local language as difficulty for finding a job**

N=310



60% understand and can only use a few words and phrases. Nearly 17% of refugees from Ukraine can understand and use the most necessary everyday phrases. An extremely low proportion of refugees have a good understanding of the local language and can write simple messages (3%). Nearly 30% of men who find the language barrier an obstacle to finding work do not speak the local language at all, while among women this percentage is approximately twice as low. On the other hand,

women who consider not knowing the language a barrier are approximately twice as likely to report that they understand and use the most commonly used phrases (20%).

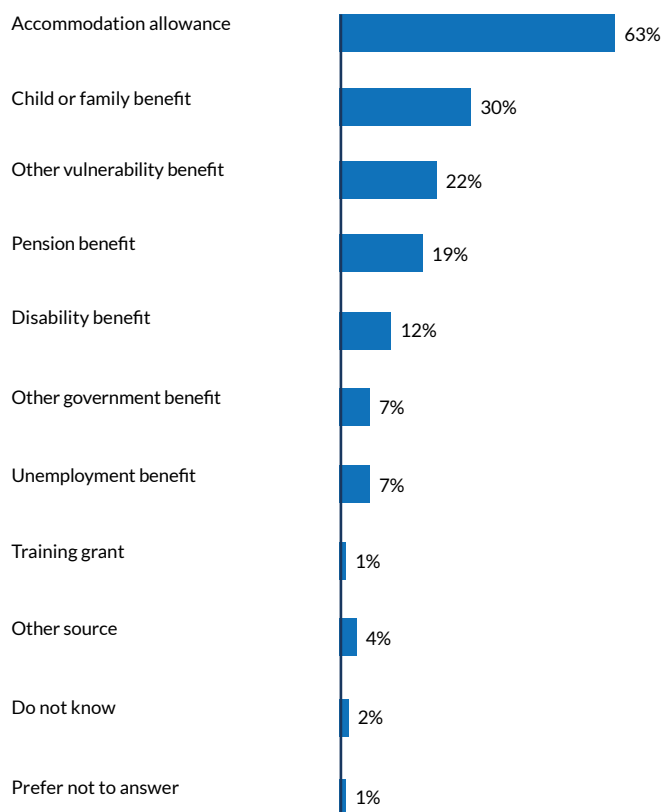
## SOCIAL PROTECTION

**35% of individuals are covered by social protection systems. N=600**

35% of all surveyed refugees' households received social support. The proportion covered by the social system in Latvia is 17%, while the proportion covered by the social system in Ukraine is 8%. 10% receive social support from both countries.

**Graph 45: % of HHs covered by types of social protection system in Latvia**

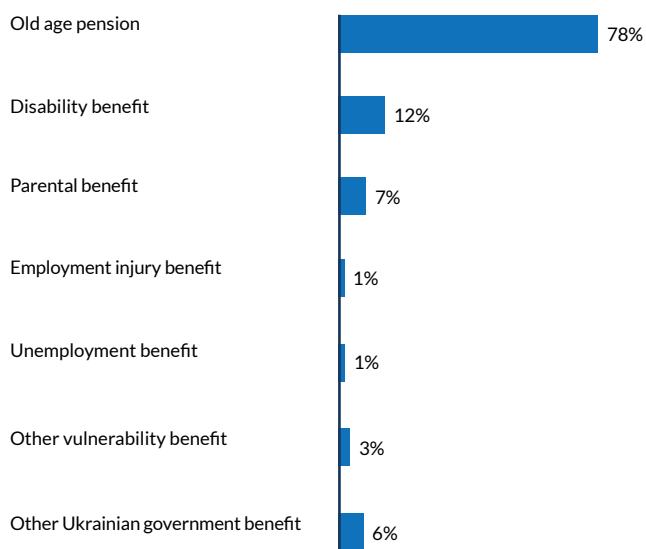
Among those covered by social protection system in Latvia (27%), N=162



Most refugees from Ukraine covered by the country's social protection system receive accommodation allowance in Latvia (63%). Nearly 30% receive a child or family benefit. Nearly 20% also receive a pension benefit. 12% of the respondents report that in their household there is at least one person who receives a disability benefit. Those receiving another type of disability benefit is 22% and those receiving other government benefit is 7%. The lowest proportions are those receiving unemployment benefit (7%) and training benefit (1%).

**Graph 46: % of HHs covered by types of social protection system in Ukraine**

Among those covered by social protection system in Ukraine (18%), N=107



The main social support that Ukrainian refugees in Latvia take from Ukraine is old-age pension (78%). Just over 12% receive disability benefits, and 7% parental benefits. The shares of refugees from Ukraine in Latvia who receive employment injury benefits or unemployment benefits are below 1%. Nearly 3% receive another vulnerability benefit, and 7% another Ukrainian government benefit.

## HEALTH

### ACCESS TO HEALTH CARE

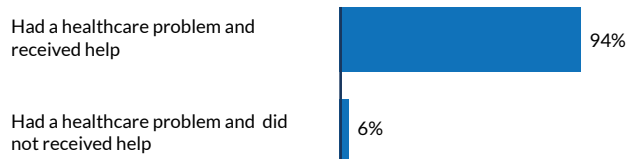
**49% of HHs have a chronically ill member.**  
N=600

Regarding access to healthcare, it is highlighted that based on self-reporting, 49% of the surveyed refugee households report at least one chronically ill person (e.g., someone who has diabetes, hypertension, asthma). Chronically ill individuals were approximately twice as likely to be women (28%). Among refugees above the age of 60, the proportion of chronically ill is 56%; among those aged between 35 and 59 years, this proportion drops to 27% (47%) and reaches 10% among those aged between 18 and 34 years. The proportion of children aged between 5 and 17 years suffering from a chronic illness is 5%. The proportion of children aged between 0 and 4 years suffering from such an illness is similar (5%).

Nearly 30% of refugees from Ukraine in Latvia have had a healthcare problem in the last 30 days that required access to healthcare (N=1,278). Refugees over the age of 60 were most often in this situation (52%). However, it should be noted that this also occurred relatively frequently in the age groups 35-59 years (32%) and 0-4 years (31%).

**Graph 47: % of refugees with access to health services**

N=379



Just over 94% of refugees from Ukraine declare that they had a health problem and were able to get the help they needed. The proportion of those who had such a problem but failed to get health care is 6%.

Children under the age of 18 most often had a health problem for which they did not receive support. Respondents who stated that they were unable to get the health care needed identified the following main barriers (above 5%):

- Long waiting times (27%);
- Financial: Could not afford fee at the clinic or cost of medication (23%);
- Access to health facilities: Unable to make an appointment (e.g. administrative barrier, referral issues for specialist) (18%);
- Lack of health insurance in Latvia (18%);
- Knowledge and Information: Lack of knowledge of how to access health services - don't know where to go (14%);
- Medical staff did not want / refused to provide care (9%);
- Personal factors: Wanted to wait and see if problem got better (9%).

N=22

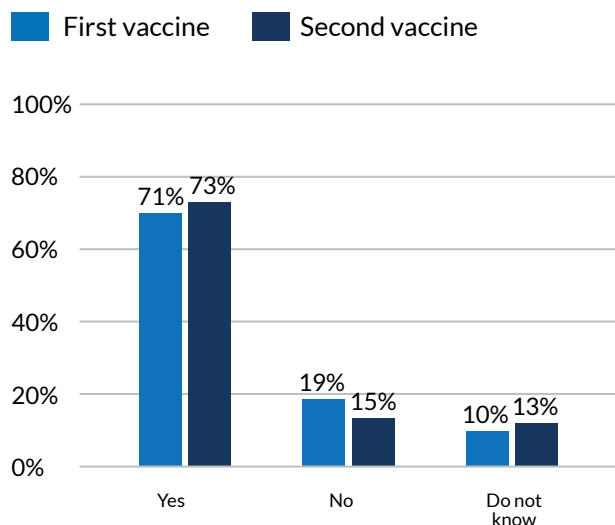
Around 85% of the respondents report that no one from their household has experienced significant difficulties registering with a General Practitioner in Latvia (N=600).

## CHILD HEALTH

The share of children with the first dose of the measles vaccine is 71%, against 19% who have not received one (N=80). A second vaccine was given to 73% of the children (N=57).

### Graph 48: Measles-containing vaccine for children aged 9 months - 5 years

First vaccine N=80 / Second vaccine N=57



## MENTAL HEALTH AND PSYCHOSOCIAL SUPPORT (MHPSS)

**17%**

% of people that feel so upset, anxious, worried, agitated, angry, or depressed that it affected your/the person's daily functioning (N=207 out of 1,217)

**56%**

% of individuals with mental health or psychosocial problems who tried to access MHPSS support (N=115 out of 207)

**96%**

% of individuals who received MHPSS support (N=110 out of 115)

The older the respondents, the more likely they were to report having felt so upset, anxious, worried, agitated, angry, or depressed that it affected their daily functioning in the past four weeks. Among refugees over the age of 60, this occurred most frequently, with approximately one in four experiencing similar emotional and psychological discomfort. These problems are also significantly more common among women (22%).

**Graph 49: During the last four weeks did you/he/she currently feel so upset, anxious, worried, agitated, angry, or depressed that it affected your/the person's daily functioning?**  
N=1,217

		Yes	No	Do not know	Prefer not to answer
<b>Sex</b>	<b>Male</b>	10%	87%	2%	1%
	<b>Female</b>	22%	76%	2%	1%
<b>Age</b>	<b>5-17</b>	7%	91%	2%	0%
	<b>18-34</b>	16%	82%	2%	1%
	<b>35-59</b>	21%	76%	2%	1%
	<b>60+</b>	24%	74%	1%	1%

As reported by their parents, among children aged between 5 and 17, just over 7% felt so upset, anxious, worried, agitated, angry, or depressed that it affected their daily functioning in the last four weeks. This proportion is approximately twice as high in the 18 to 34 age group (16%) and reaches 21% among those aged 35 to 59. The proportion seeking support is highest among refugees aged between 5 and 17 (58%) and lowest among those aged between 18 and 35 (47%). Women are more likely to seek support (56%), although by a small statistical margin. Approximately 56% of those above the age of 60 most frequently fell into a similar condition and sought help for the problem.

Those who received some type of mental health and psychosocial support were asked to indicate what specific type of support they received. The resulting data are as follows:

- Informal support from a friend, family member or community member (48%);
- Psychotherapy/counselling (33%);
- Spiritual support (16%);
- Psychiatry/medication management (12%);

- Creative, recreational, arts, and sports activities or cultural/community events that include MHPSS elements (12%);
- Group or individual support using a structured intervention designed to improve wellbeing (4%);
- Support from my employer (4%);
- Support from the school/ educational institution (2%);

N= 115

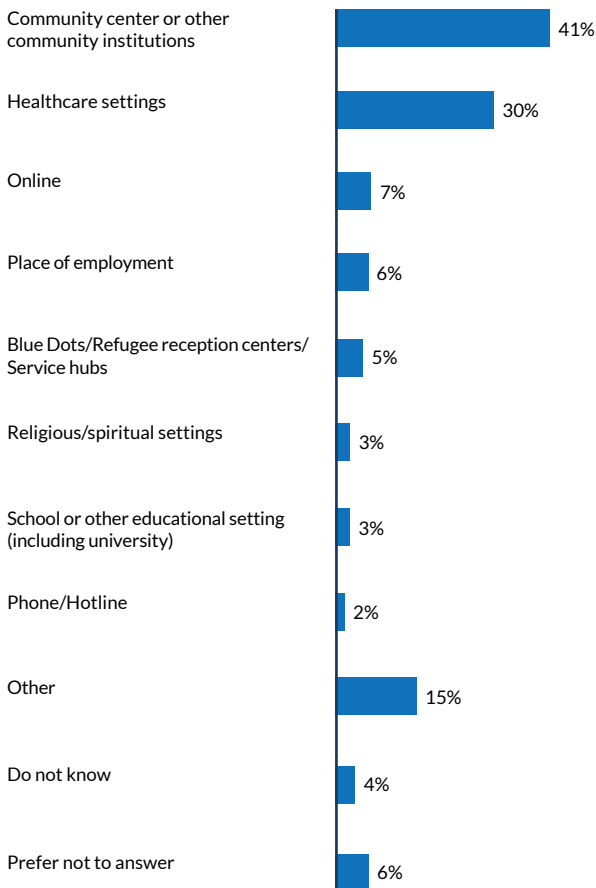
The data obtained shows that a major proportion of refugees received informal support from a friend, family member or member of their community (48%). 33% were referred to psychotherapy/counselling. Spiritual support was also a relatively common approach to dealing with mental health issues (16%). With equal proportions of 12%, respondents indicated that they had received psychiatric help and that they had participated in various activities, such as sports activities and art, that were related to MHPSS. It was relatively rare to receive help from an employer (4%) and support from school/educational institutions (2%). The statistical distribution showed that women were significantly more likely to have relied on psychotherapy/counselling (38% vs. 16%), whereas men were more likely to have sought informal support from friends, family and acquaintances (56% vs. 46%). However, for both genders, informal support from close people remained most preferred. The data show that children aged between 5 and 17 were most likely to have received help in the form of psychotherapy/counselling (46%), with this percentage falling as age increased, reaching 27% for refugees aged 60+.

The majority of refugees from Ukraine felt that they experienced an improvement in their condition after receiving mental health and psychosocial support (70%), with 37%

describing their improvement as significant, while 34% noted a slight improvement. The proportion who experienced no improvement in their condition is just over 12% (N=115).

**Graph 50: Where did you/he/she receive MHPSS services?**

N=109



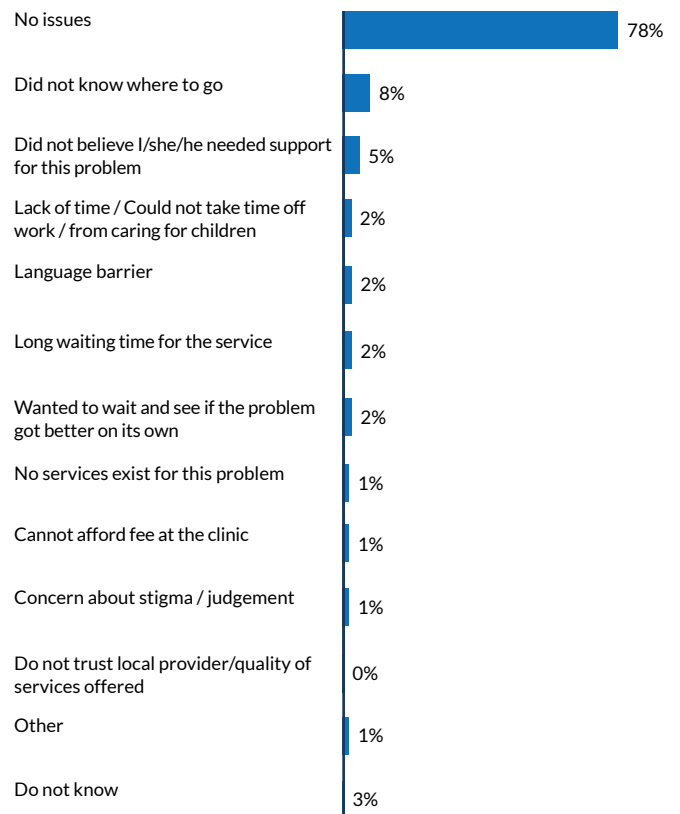
Refugees from Ukraine most often received MHPSS services in community centres or other community institutions (41%). Just over 30% visited healthcare settings for this purpose. Those who received support online were 7% and at their place of work 6%. The other options for getting help were used by less than 5% of those who said they had this type of problem. The data collected shows that community centres or other community institutions

were chosen approximately twice as often by refugees aged 60 and over, while health facilities were visited more often by younger people. Among the 18-34 age group, online services were preferred most often.

In terms of which of the institutions listed resulted in more cases in which an improvement in the condition of the person seeking help was recorded, it is observed that although community centres and institutions were more frequently chosen by refugees, health institutions were more likely to have implemented approaches that resulted in a significant improvement in the condition of those in need (52% vs. 38%).

**Graph 51: % of individuals with reported barriers to accessing mental health and psychosocial support services**

N=207





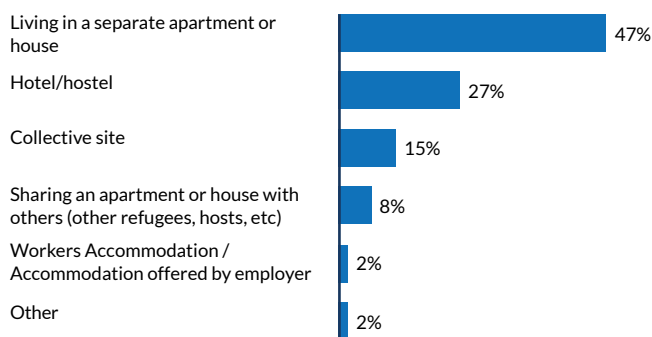
Nearly 80% of refugees from Ukraine had no problem accessing mental health and psychosocial support services in Latvia. The main barriers to accessing these services were not knowing where to go (8%) and believing that the problem did not need special support (5%). The next most common difficulties were the language barrier and a lack of time. Such difficulties were experienced by equal proportions of 2% of respondents. 2% wanted to wait and see if the problem would go away on its own. The same percentage was separated by those who said that the waiting time for examination was too long. The remaining barriers to accessing psychological help were experienced by less than 2% of respondents, these were as follows: inability to pay the clinic fee, lack of services for the specific problem, stigma considerations and lack of trust in the local provider.

## ACCOMMODATION

Approximately 47% of households of refugees from Ukraine in Latvia report that they live in a separate apartment or house. 27% live in hotels or hostels and 15% in collective sites. New arrivals more often stay in collective sites or shared apartments than old arrivals (before 1 October 2023).

Graph 52: % of HHs by accommodation arrangement

N=600



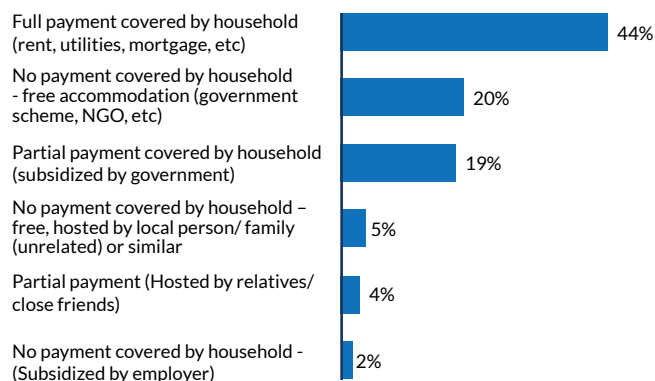
Just under 8% share an apartment or house with other people. The lowest proportion of refugees from Ukraine are accommodated in housing offered by an employer. Those living in workers accommodation, collective site and hotel/hostel are more often in rural areas. However, even among them, the proportions living in urban environments are predominant. Almost all those living in apartments, alone or with others, are in urban settings (97% and 98%).

91% of refugees live in urban areas. N=600

A major proportion of refugees live in urban areas (91%). The proportion living in rural areas is 9%. Approximately 77% of refugees in urban areas intend to stay in the same location for the next 12 months, while in rural areas this groups is 74%. The difference comes from those who are not sure about their accommodation in the future which in rural areas are 14%.

Graph 53: % of HHs by accommodation payment arrangement

N=600



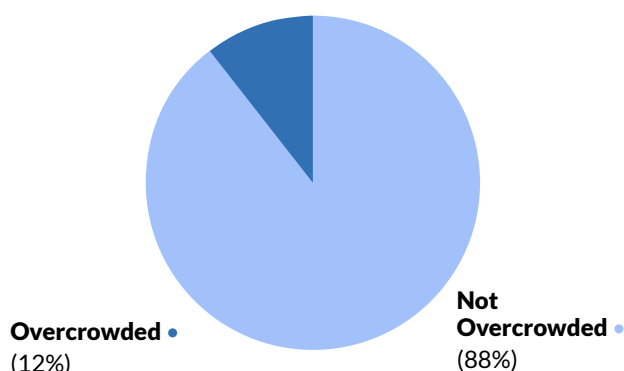
A major share of refugees from Ukraine indicated that their household pays the entire amount required for their accommodation (44%). Just under 20% are accommodated free of charge (government scheme, NGO, etc.), and 19% with partial payment by the household (subsidized by government). Households accommodated free of charge through the

support of local residents accounted for 5%. Slightly less than 4% pay partially as they rely on relatives and close friends. Those subsidized by an employer are 2%.

Families living in overcrowded conditions are 12%. The conditions for determining overcrowding are three or more people living in one room.

**Graph 54: % of HHs in overcrowding conditions**

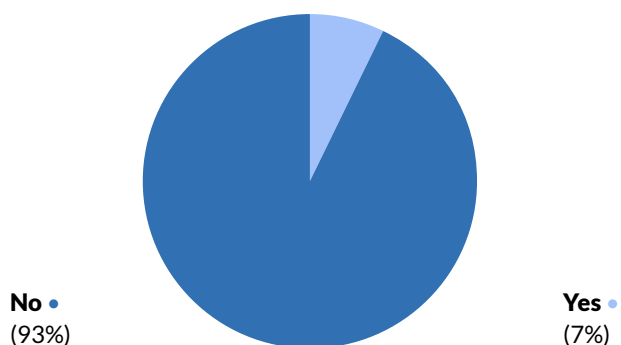
N=600



The vast majority (89%) of households of refugees from Ukraine who found asylum in Latvia confirm that they pay the accommodation rent on time and have no concerns about paying for accommodation. A total of 7% paid late, in most cases only once (4%).

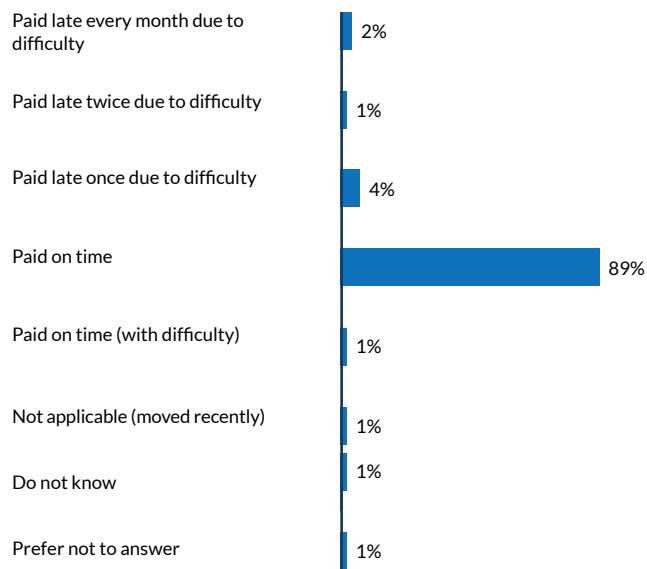
**Graph 55: % of HHs under pressure to leave**

N=58



**Graph 56: % of HH paying rent without financial distress**

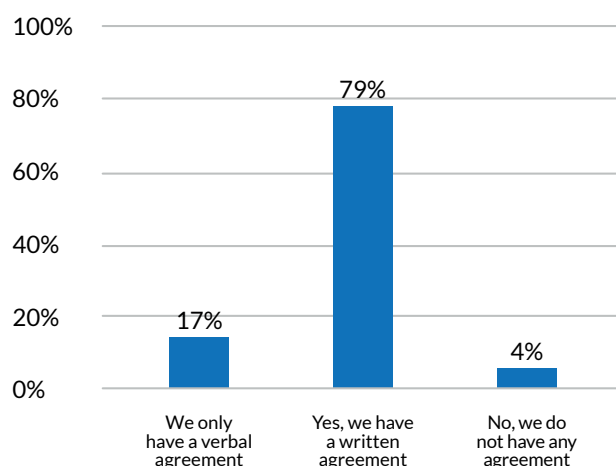
N=408



Eight out of ten households have written documentation to prove that they inhabit their accommodation, while another 17% report they have a verbal agreement. 4% declare they do not have any agreement.

**Graph 57: Does your household have a written documentation to prove your occupancy arrangement for your accommodation?**

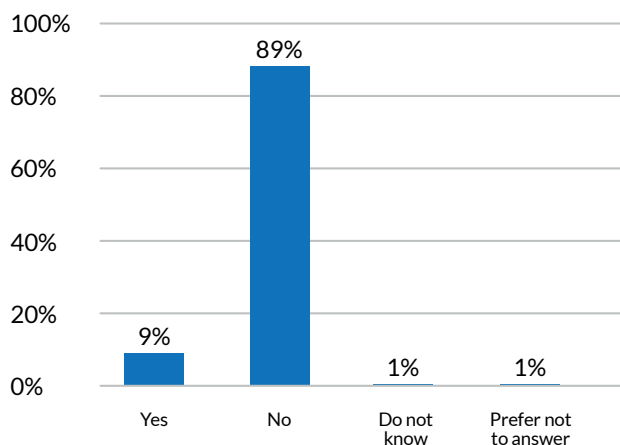
N=600



The majority of households said that there was no member of their household in Ukraine who could support them financially. About 9% said that there was such a person they could rely on.

**Graph 58: Do you have a family member in Ukraine who is supporting your household financially? Examples would include putting money on another family member’s Ukrainian ATM card, direct transfers, bringing cash with them when they travel, etc?**

N=600



## SOCIAL COHESION

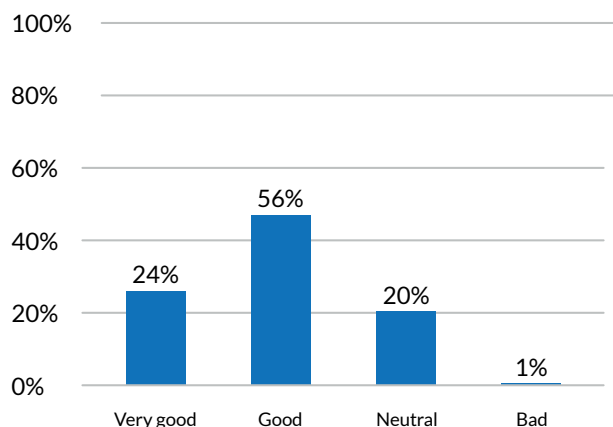
80% of refugees from Ukraine in Latvia have good relations with local communities, with 56% describing them as good and 24% as very good. Nearly 20% describe their relationship with the locals as neutral, and only 0.8% have poor relations. Respondents over the age of 65 most often considered the relationship between refugees and local communities to be very good. On the other hand, those aged between 25 and 45 were the most sceptical.

The data show that refugees who describe the relationship between refugees and local communities as neutral are much more likely than others to report concerns that the place they inhabit is unsafe for both adults and children

under the age of 18. Their strongest concerns relate to the safety of boys under the age of 18, with the possibility of physical violence in the community cited most frequently.

**Graph 59: How would you describe the relationship between the refugee and the host communities in the location where you live?**

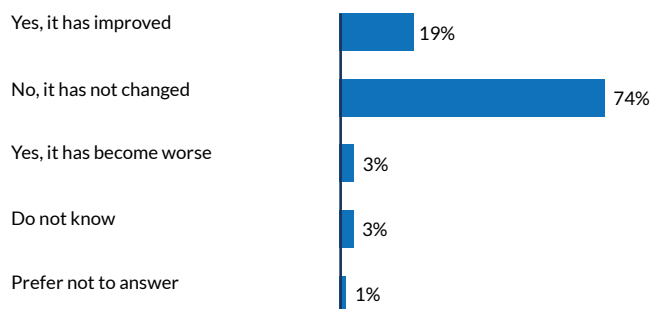
N=600



In the majority of cases, respondents said that they did not perceive any change in the relationship between refugees and the local population. Nearly a fifth believe that there has been a change and it is in a positive direction. The share of those who perceive a deterioration between the relations between refugees coming from Ukraine and local communities in Latvia is 3%.

**Graph 60: Has the relationship changed since your household first arrived in this location?**

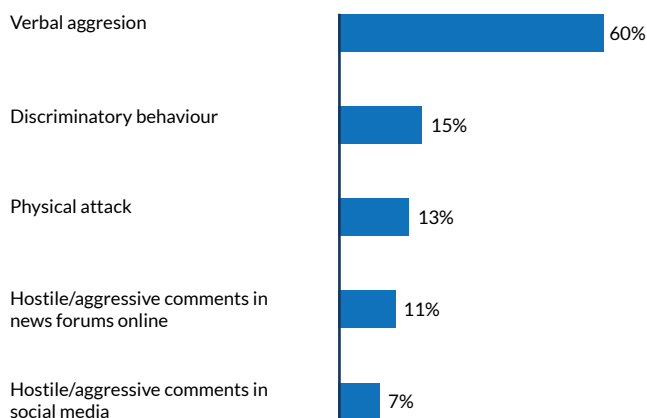
N=600



Although the majority of refugees describe relations between refugees from Ukraine and local citizens as good, 25% report that they have been subjected to hostile behaviour, and for 47% this has happened in the last six months (N=600).

Graph 61: **Type of hostile behaviour reported (out of the % reporting tensions)**

N=230



The most common form of hostile behaviour they encountered was verbal aggression (60%). Other forms of hostile behaviour from the local community occurred significantly less frequently. 15% were subjected to discriminatory behaviour and 13% to physical attacks. 11% were targeted in online forums and 7% in social media (N=230).

Refugees from Ukraine were asked to indicate what they thought were the reasons for the hostile behaviour towards them. The following were cited:

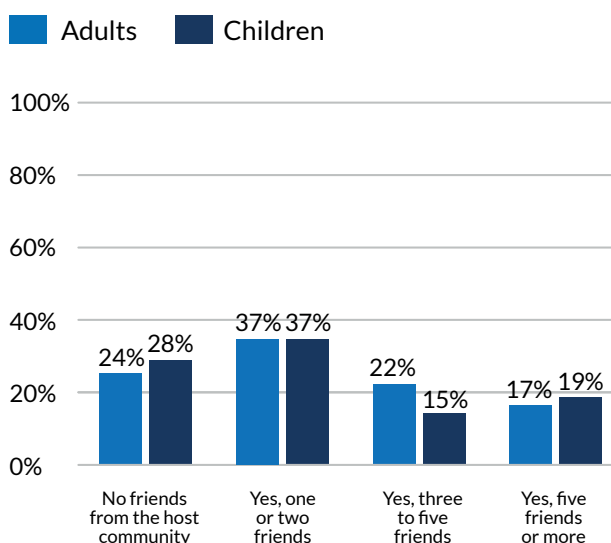
- Refugee status (56%);
- Nationality discrimination (46%);
- Language discrimination (36%);
- Ethnicity (12%);
- Cultural differences (9%);
- Disability (1%);
- Socio-economic status (1%);

- Competition for resources (housing, food/markets etc) (1%);
- Competition for jobs (1%).

N=230

Graph 62: **Friends from host community of adults and children refugees from Ukraine**

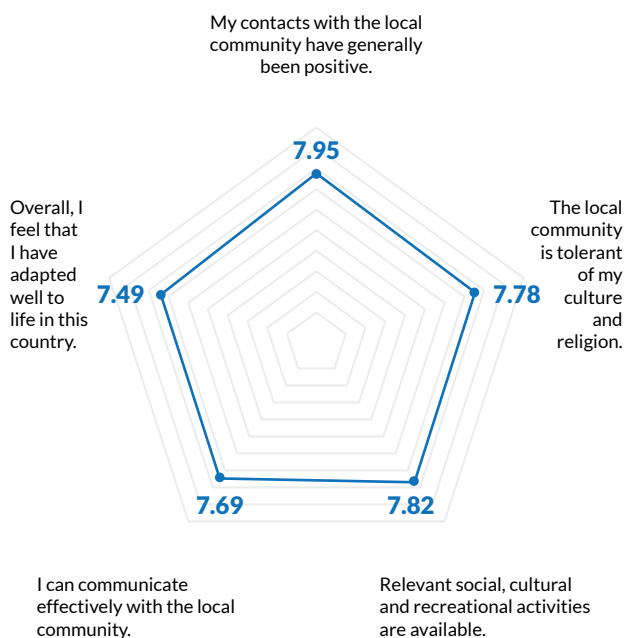
Adults N=600 / Children N=209



Both adults and children most often have only one or two friends from the Latvian host community (37%). The proportion of adults who do not have a single friend from the local community is 24%, among children this proportion is 28%. Adults who have five or more friends account for 19% of the surveyed population. Children with five or more friends are nearly 17%. The statistical distribution shows that refugees aged between 36 and 55 most often have five or more friends in the local community. On the other hand, those over the age of 65 are most likely to report that they have not made any friends since arriving in the country (38%). Although by a small statistical margin, men are more likely to have no friendships with locals. People in collective sites and hotels are less integrated, as well as those with lower education.

Graph 63: **To what extent... (Mean)**

N=600



\* Respondents answered on a scale of 0 to 10 where 0 is Strongly disagree, 5 Neutral and 10 Strongly agree

Although all indicators of integration into the local community are rated positively, with an average score above 5 on a scale of 0 to 10, where 0 is “Strongly Disagree” and 10 “Strongly Agree”, some trends are noticeable. Statements indicating the presence of continuity and tolerance on the part of the local community were rated higher, while establishing effective communication with the population and adapting to life in the country remained relatively less pronounced. Older refugees from Ukraine place higher marks on their relations and communication with the local community. The statistical distribution by gender shows that women are much more likely to agree with the statements listed, with the greatest difference observed in terms of the opportunity for appropriate social, cultural and recreational activities, followed by the local community’s tolerance of their culture and religion and the availability of positive contacts accompanied by a welcoming and supportive environment.

Graph 64: **To what extent... (Mean)**

N=600

	Urban	Rural
<b>My contacts with the local community have generally been positive</b>	7.96	7.83
<b>Relevant social, cultural and recreational activities are available</b>	7.87	7.33
<b>The local community is tolerant of my culture and religion</b>	7.81	7.51
<b>I can communicate effectively with the local community</b>	7.69	7.64
<b>Overall, I feel that I have adapted well to life in this country</b>	7.51	7.20

\* Respondents answered on a scale of 0 to 10 where 0 is Strongly disagree, 5 Neutral and 10 Strongly agree

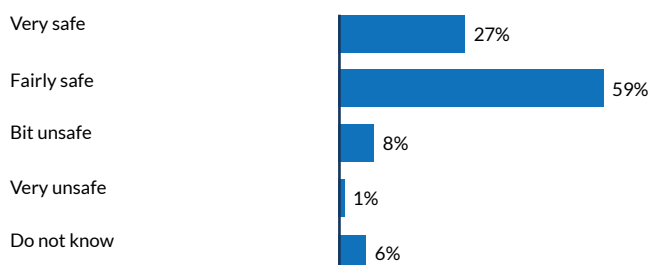
The study shows that refugees from Ukraine living in urban areas were better integrated with the local community compared to those living in rural areas within Latvia. The most significant difference is observed in terms of the supply of appropriate social, cultural and recreational activities, which could also be linked to the fact that cities generally have a greater number of such opportunities. Although the scores of those living in rural areas are generally lower, it is noticeable that the opportunity to communicate effectively with the local community is ranked second, while among those living in urban areas this statement is ranked second to last. These data suggest that although the level of integration is relatively lower in small settlements, refugees tend to make more personal contacts with the local community, whereas in urban areas the essence of integration is more often reduced to the availability of opportunities and tolerance.

A total of 9% of the refugees who came from Ukraine say they do not feel safe when walking at night in the neighbourhood where they live. However, in the majority of cases, refugees do not feel a strong fear. The largest proportion of respondents indicated that they feel somewhat

safe (59%). Young people (17%) and those aged between 40 and 49 (18%) most often fear for their safety. Women were relatively more likely to respond that they were afraid to walk at night. The data also show that perceptions of safety are more pronounced in rural areas. The proportion of those feeling completely safe in an urban environment was 26%, while in a rural environment the proportion was as high as 37%.

**Graph 65: How safe do you feel walking alone in your area/neighbourhood after dark?**

N=600

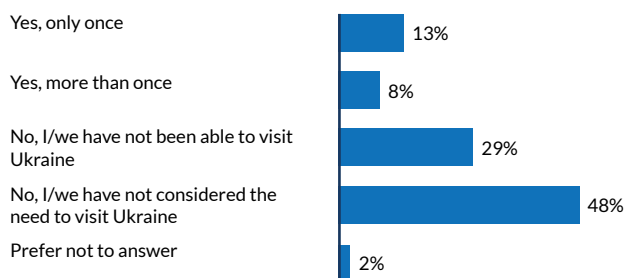


## VISITING UKRAINE

Overall, one in five say that at least one household member has managed to return to Ukraine at least once after 24 February 2022, with 13% specifying that they have been able to go back only once and another 8% - more than once.

**Graph 66: % of HH where 1 or more household members have been back to visit Ukraine after 24 Feb 2022**

N=600



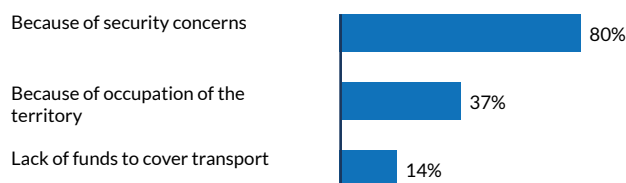
The highest proportion are those who have not considered the need to visit Ukraine - practically one in every two households (48%). Three in ten (29%) admit they have been unable to visit Ukraine. Respondents who have not had the opportunity to visit Ukraine share different reasons for this.

The reason with the highest prevalence is security concerns (80%), because the territory in which they live in Ukraine is currently occupied (37%), and lack of funds to cover transport costs (14%).

Other reasons include: lack of documentation (4%), unable to leave due to work commitments (2%), need to care for children/other dependents (2%), due to illness or disability (2%), and fear of losing the legal status in the host country Latvia (2%).

**Graph 67: Reasons for not being able to visit Ukraine (main 3)**

N=173



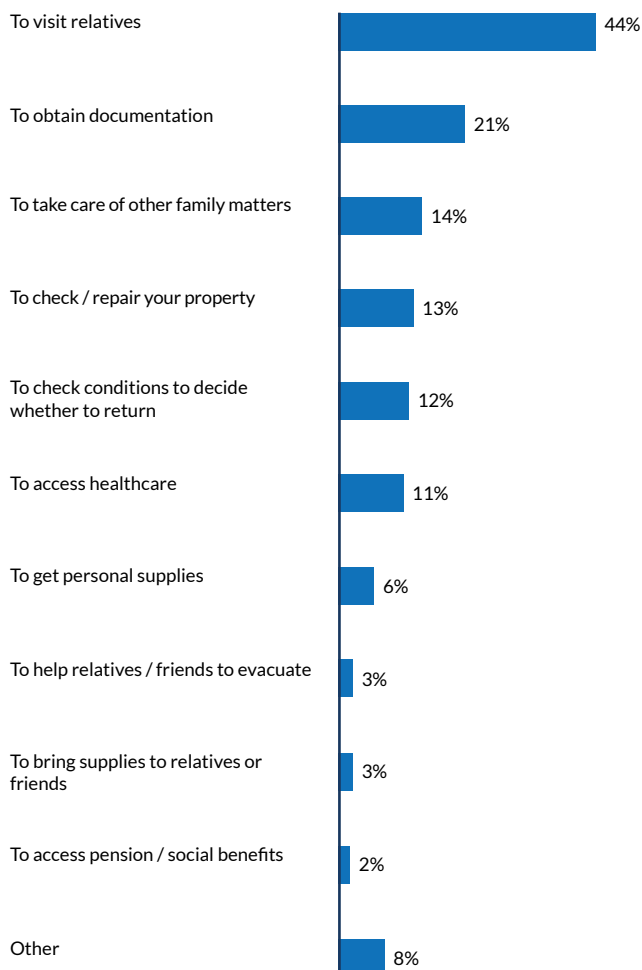
Among those who say that they have managed to get back to Ukraine at least once since, the main motive is most often concern for close relatives (e.g., spouse, children, extended family)/ friends (44%).

Other motives included obtaining documentation (21%), checking the status of property (13%), checking conditions to decide whether to return (e.g. security conditions, availability of jobs, accommodation, basic

services, etc.) (12%) and access health care (11%) (N=173).

**Graph 68: What was the main reason why you went back to Ukraine last time?**

N=126



Among those who said that they had to go home to Ukraine to get documents, the types of documents most frequently cited were:

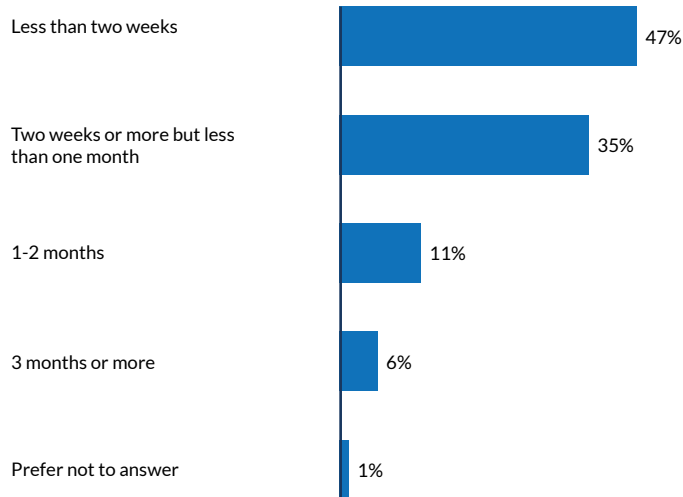
- Identity documents (passport, national ID, etc.) 64%
- Medical records 18%
- Civil status documents (birth, death, marriage, divorce certificate 9%
- Disability certificate 9% (N=11).

Among those who say they have managed to return to Ukraine at least once since 24 February 2022, nearly 47% have been there for less than two weeks and another 35% for at least two weeks but less than a month. One in ten have managed to stay in their home country for one to two months, and 6.3% for three months or more. 96% of them confirmed that they had not experienced any problems returning to the host country Latvia after their return to Ukraine.

In terms of households' intentions for the foreseeable future regarding their accommodation over the next 12 months, around three quarters (76%) are confident that they will remain in their current location. On the other hand, nearly 6% hope that they will be able to return to their habitual place of residence in Ukraine, and another 2% believe that they will be able to return to Ukraine, even if in a different location.

**Graph 69: How long did you stay in Ukraine during your most recent visit?**

N=126



Almost 2% believe they will stay in the host country even though they will move to another location, and 1% intend to move to another

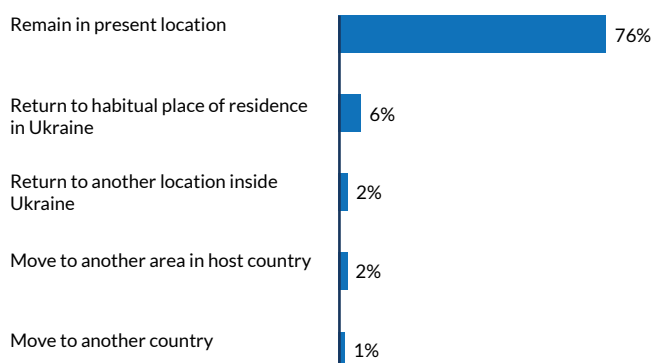
host country. One in ten households admitted that they did not know where they would be in the next 12 months and are waiting to make a decision (N=600).

## INTENTION TO STAY/LEAVE HOST COUNTRY

In regards of refugees' intentions for the next 12 months, the highest proportion are those who think they will stay in their current location (76%).

Graph 101: **What are your HH's intentions regarding your location within the next 12 months?**

N=600



With a time horizon of 12 months, very few refugees plan to change their residence to a different place, but again in the territory of Latvia (2%). Only 6% hope that they will be able to return to their home in Ukraine, and another 2% hope to return to Ukraine, albeit to a different location. The share of those who plan to move to a third country is the lowest (1%).

This hope is shared more often by men and by people aged 60+. This can be related to the fact that the largest share of refugees from Ukraine in Latvia are from the eastern part of Ukraine – Kharkivska, Donetska, Khersonska and Dnipropetrovska, which are, or are close to,

non-government-controlled areas of Ukraine. Over a fifth (21%) of households have had at least one family member visit Ukraine since 2022, often to visit relatives (44%) and obtain documentation (21%).



## RECOMMENDATIONS

**Refugees with Specific Needs:** Analysing the key findings of this survey and the demographic profile of refugees from Ukraine, it becomes clear that refugees with specific needs, such as children, persons with disabilities, and older refugees, require inclusive services tailored to their age, gender, and other specific needs. In this regard, systematic and ongoing vulnerability assessments, which help identify refugees with specific needs and refer them to service providers, are essential for effective assistance. To complement the efforts of state protection authorities responsible for integrating refugees with specific needs into the social protection system, humanitarian actors can offer targeted assistance to ensure timely and effective aid, thereby reducing reliance on negative coping strategies.

**Legal and Civic Status, and Documentation:** Findings indicate that most refugees in Latvia did not face difficulties accessing information about temporary protection registration and extension procedures. Although the majority have not needed to register changes in family composition or civil status, it is crucial to enhance awareness among refugees about various registration systems in Latvia. This can be achieved for instance through information materials, campaigns, and individual counselling. A differentiated communication approach is necessary, including more individual counselling for older people, persons with disabilities, and newly arrived refugees, as well as practical assistance with online registration processes.

**Child protection:** One in three household members is a child, mostly aged 5-17. Some children are concerned about psychological and physical violence in the community where they

live. Further, parents have expressed concerns about their children's vulnerability to online violence. To create a safer environment for refugee children and their families, parenting programmes focused on emotional and psychological support can be considered. Further, refugee children should have effective access to child protection services and counselling. Finally, digital literacy programmes can help parents protect children from online risks. These efforts can be supported with awareness campaigns to educate refugee families about online safety, supported by awareness campaigns on online safety.

**GBV:** Awareness about GBV services is low among refugees. The development of proactive information and awareness campaigns concerning GBV services is to be considered. These initiatives should not only focus on improving access to information but also address sociocultural barriers, such as stigma, cultural differences, and fear of retaliation.

**Education:** While general school enrolment in Latvia is around 60%, it drops to 53% for the 13-18 age group and 9% for those aged 18-24. Therefore, more focus is needed on including refugee children, especially those aged 13-18, in the education system. Additionally, attention should be given to opportunities for youth to enrol in higher education, vocational courses, or secure decent employment. Assisting children and youth with Latvian language learning could be beneficial. Furthermore, offering activities to foster collaboration and socialization with local children, along with providing mental health services, could enhance integration in the school environment and improve the well-being of refugee children.

**Local Language level:** About one-third of refugees from Ukraine feel they can understand

and use most everyday expressions in Latvian. Nearly 30% have attended language courses and are satisfied with the quality, while around 40% plan to attend Latvian language courses in the next six months. Improving language skills can enhance refugees' inclusion in the labour market, interactions with institutions, and daily activities. To further promote and improve proficiency in Latvian among refugees from Ukraine, more tailored approaches to language learning are recommended, including online learning options. NGOs can continue to serve as a bridge, helping refugees access and connect with these courses and offering informal language support clubs.

**Employment:** Among working-age refugees, 56% were employed and 8% were unemployed. Regular employment was more common than part-time or self-employment, and most had formal contracts. However, findings show that language barriers are the main factor hindering decent employment, and de-skilling is prevalent. Additionally, 15% of youth (15-24) are NEET (not in education, employment, or training), with rates increasing with age. To improve employment outcomes for refugees, it is recommended to enhance Latvian language programs to overcome language barriers, provide job matching services to align refugees' skills with decent job opportunities, and offer vocational training to address skill gaps. These measures will not only improve employment rates but also ensure that refugees can contribute meaningfully to their host communities in Latvia.

**Healthcare:** With 8% of refugees having a disability and 49% of surveyed refugee households reporting at least one chronically ill member, it is crucial to focus on refugees' access to healthcare, especially for those who are unemployed, uninsured, or unable to afford health insurance. To address this, creating a network of health mediators to support refugees

in accessing health services and ensuring their effective inclusion in the national health system could be considered.

#### **Mental Health and Psycho-social Support:**

The findings show that women were the most vulnerable to mental health issues, being twice as likely as men to have felt so upset, anxious, worried, agitated, angry, or depressed that it affected their daily functioning in the past two weeks (women 22% vs. men 10%). Additionally, 24% of older adults (60+) reported emotional discomfort that interfered with their daily activities in the four weeks before the questionnaire was taken. Awareness-raising campaigns for refugees and service providers may increase accessibility to mental health services. Furthermore, an individual approach, such as face-to-face counselling, should be considered for older people and children.

**Accommodation:** 50% of refugees live in hotels/hostels, collective sites, or shared apartments/houses with others. More than half of households (56%) rely entirely on external financial support to cover rent and utilities, making them vulnerable to changes in assistance schemes. Additionally, around 8% face challenges paying rent on time. In larger cities, refugees encounter high rental costs and a lack of affordable and sustainable housing. To address these housing challenges, it is recommended to consider targeted housing support programmes for persons with specific needs and newly arrived refugees, as well as sustainable housing solutions that facilitate the transition of refugees from emergency to long-term and affordable housing. NGOs can also assist with finding accommodation and providing emergency housing.

**Social Cohesion:** The data indicates a generally positive environment for refugees from Ukraine

in Latvia, with 80% reporting good or very good relations with host communities, particularly in rural areas (urban areas see higher instances of hostile behaviour). Additionally, 76% of adult refugees have at least one local friend, suggesting successful integration. To further strengthen the positive environment for refugees from Ukraine in Latvia, it is recommended to enhance community-based protection programmes, particularly in urban areas where hostile behaviour is more prevalent. Initiatives could include community empowerment initiatives promoting intercultural dialogue, support services for women and older refugees increasing their self-reliance and inclusion, and family mentorship and friendship programmes expanding social activities to foster good relations and enhance refugee resilience.