Regional Refugee Response for the Ukraine Situation

HUNGARY

SOCIO-ECONOMIC INSIGHTS SURVEY

December 2025

Preliminary analysis

Photo credit: © UNHCR/Erno Simon

OBJECTIVES & METHODOLOGY

OBJECTIVES

Regional Refugee Response for the Ukraine Situation

The SEIS identifies the most pressing needs of refugees across various sectors. Comprehensive and accurate data is gathered to guide the planning, implementation, and evaluation of programs and interventions aimed at addressing those needs. The 2025 SEIS closely aligns to the 2024 SEIS, and MSNAs conducted in ‘22-’23 to produce comparative results over time on:

- Priority needs of refugees from Ukraine in Hungary;
- Socio-economic integration and access to national systems;
- Service gaps and refugees’ priorities for the coming year;

The following topics are covered: demographics; protection, education, employment, economic capacity, health and accommodation.

METHODOLOGY

Regional Refugee Response for the Ukraine Situation

POPULATION	Refugees from Ukraine living in Hungary. Households were eligible if at least one member was Ukrainian and arrived on or after Feb 24, 2022
SURVEY METHOD	Household interviews
DATA COLLECTION	From 19 Sep to 26 Oct 2025 by enumerators from Scale Research
DATA ANALYSIS	UNHCR
SAMPLE SIZE AND DESIGN	431 HHs; covering 973 HH members Purposively selected (geographical coverage), but not statistically representative. Results are indicative.
WEIGHTS	Weights have been applied to account for discrepancies in gender and age when compared to official TP statistics, 2024 results have been recalculated

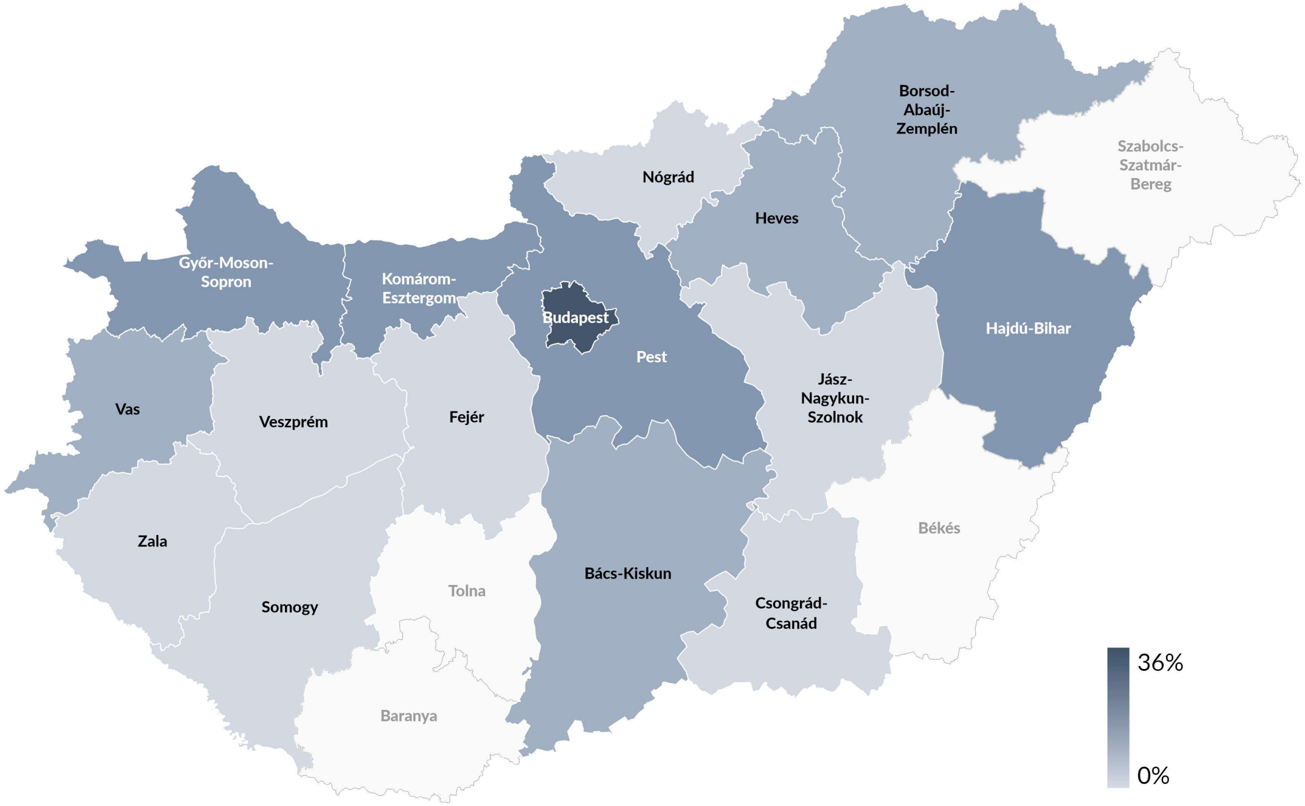
LIMITATIONS:

- **Different data collection period compared to previous years**, affects comparability of the sample;
- **Lack of comprehensive and up-to-date data on population locations**, limits the accuracy of geographical targets;
- **Potential sensitivity around protection and income questions**, can lead to under-reporting or over-reporting of certain indicators due to respondent subjectivity and perceptions.

METHODOLOGY

Regional Refugee Response for the Ukraine Situation

INTERVIEWS BY COUNTY OF RESIDENCE



Interviews were conducted in 16 out of the 20 counties.

Around 1/3 of the interviews were conducted in Budapest.

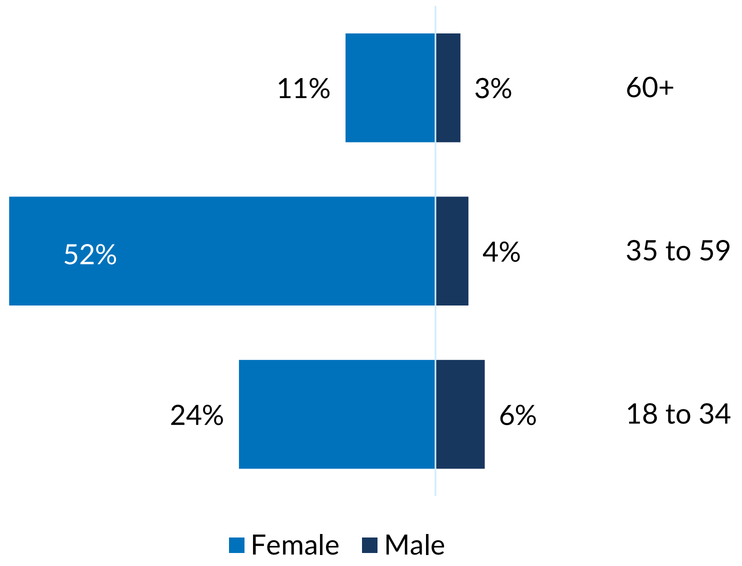
The vast majority of respondents were interviewed in the same county where they are residing, around 20% of the interviews were conducted over the phone.

DEMOGRAPHICS

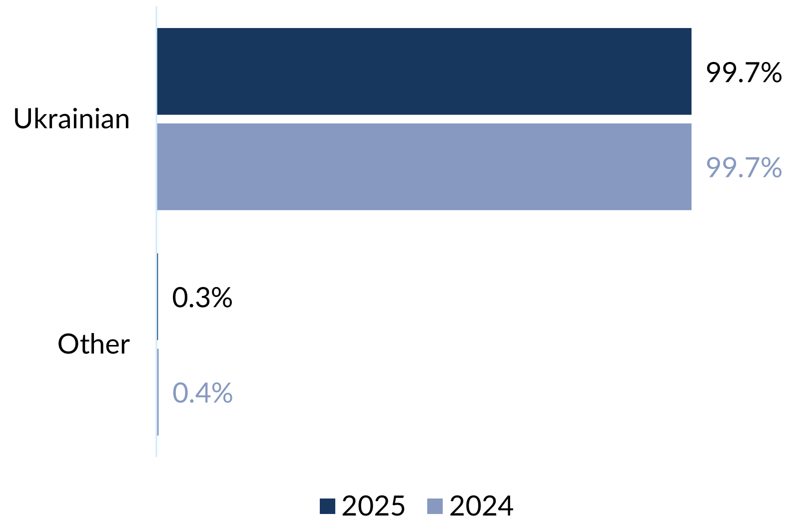
DEMOGRAPHICS

RESPONDENT CHARACTERISTICS

Respondents by age and gender [N=431]



Respondents by nationality [MCQ - N=431]



87% of respondents were women, 13% were men. The largest age group is 35-59 years (56%).

Almost all respondents have Ukrainian citizenship, very few have other (e.g. Russian) or dual nationalities.

DEMOGRAPHICS

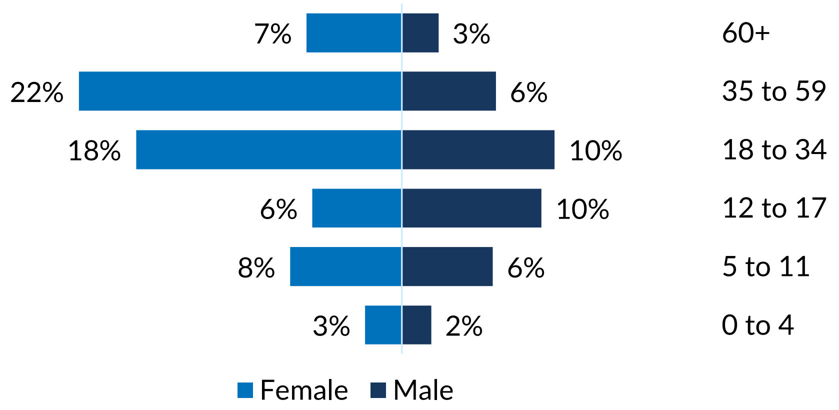
Regional Refugee Response for the Ukraine Situation

HOUSEHOLD AND POPULATION CHARACTERISTICS

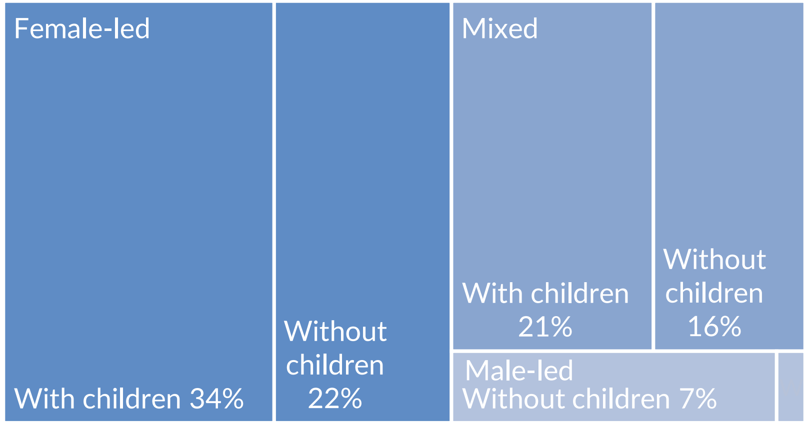
Average HH size

2.35

Household members by age and gender[N=973]



Distribution of HH by gender of adults [N=431]



HHs with children

55%

HHs with older refugees

22%

HHs with members with disability level 3 and above

10%

HHs with a chronically ill member

57%

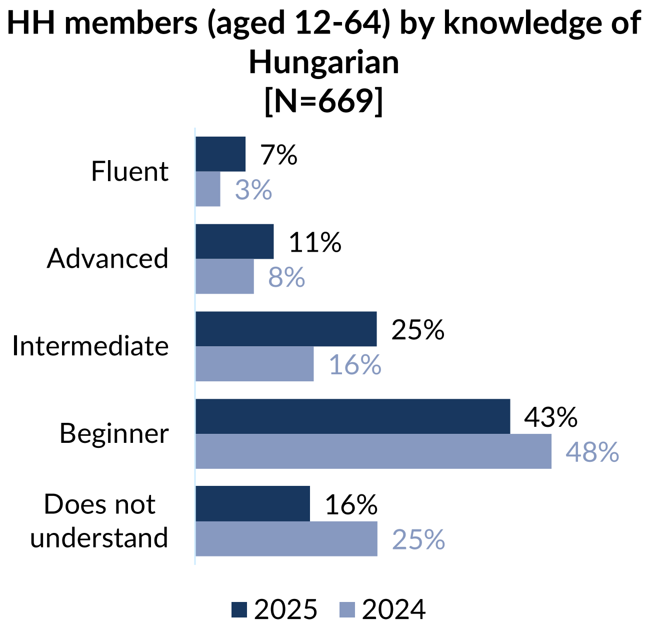
HHs with infants

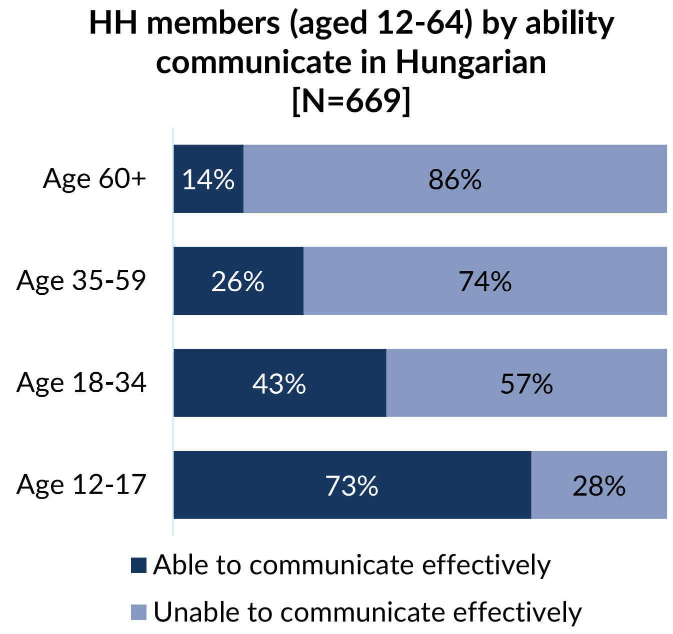
3%

DEMOGRAPHICS

Regional Refugee Response for the Ukraine Situation

LANGUAGE



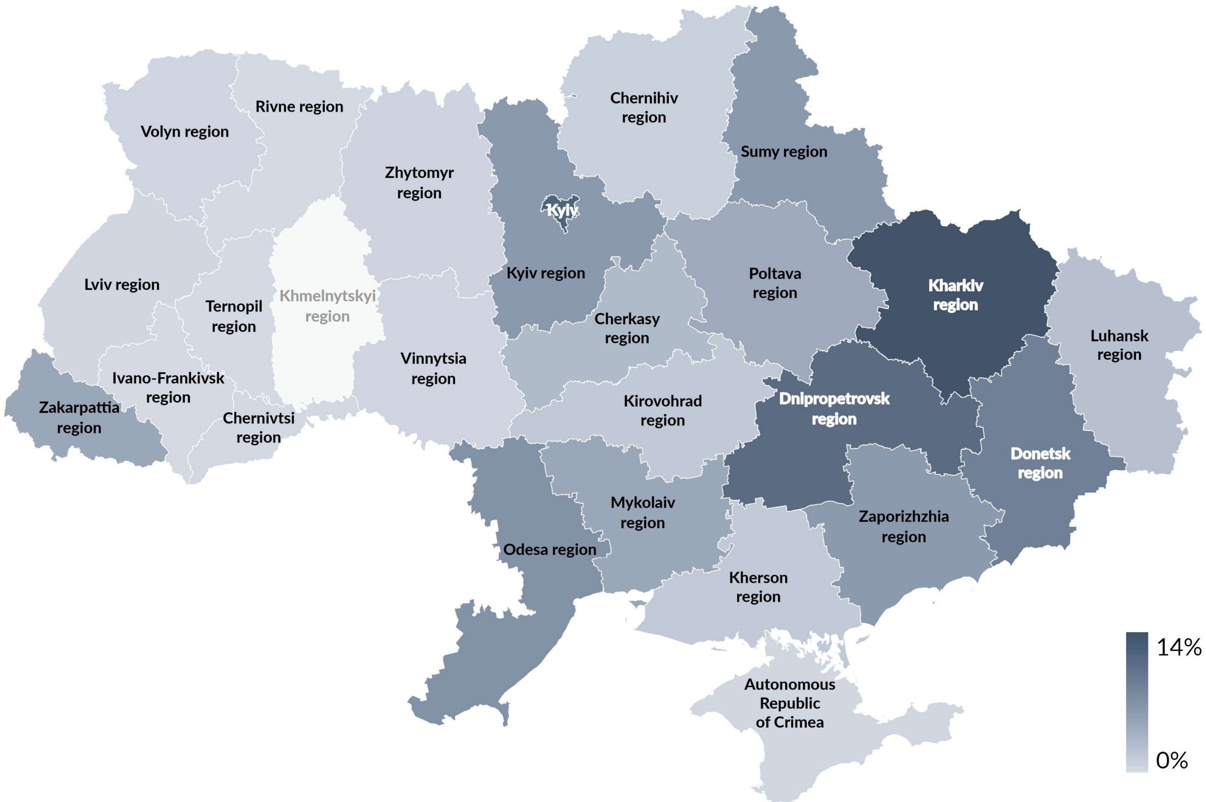


42% of household members aged 12-64 can communicate effectively in Hungarian, this is up 15% compared to last year. The ability to communicate in Hungarian remains strongly linked to age, with lower age groups showing higher percentages compared to older ones.

DEMOGRAPHICS

Regional Refugee Response for the Ukraine Situation

UKRAINIAN REFUGEES BY REGION OF ORIGIN



Each shaded region represents the specific oblast from which interviewed households have been displaced.

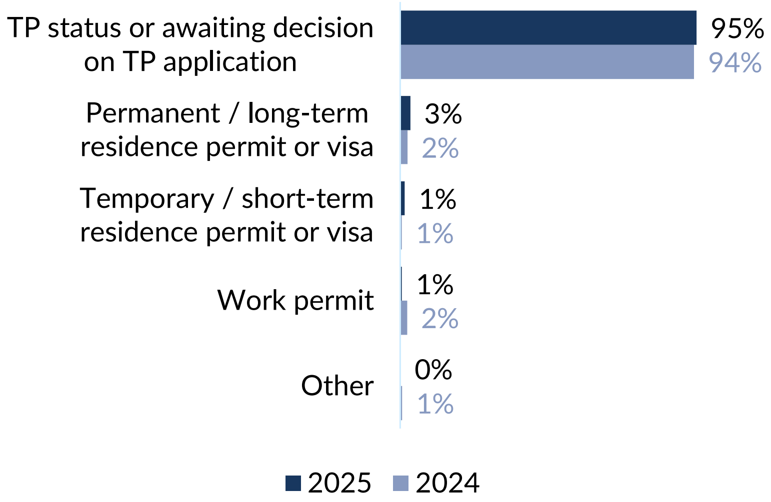
The majority of respondents originate from Kyiv and surrounding Kyiv region (18%), Kharkiv region (14%), Dnipropetrovsk region (11%) and Donetsk region (9%).

PROTECTION

PROTECTION

LEGAL STATUS

Current legal status in the country [N=431]



Reasons for not applying for TP or asylum [N=20]

1. Transited to other legal status
2. Applied for / been granted different type of residency
3. I do not meet eligibility criteria
4. Do not need protection and related benefits
5. Waiting to see if the situation in Ukraine improves

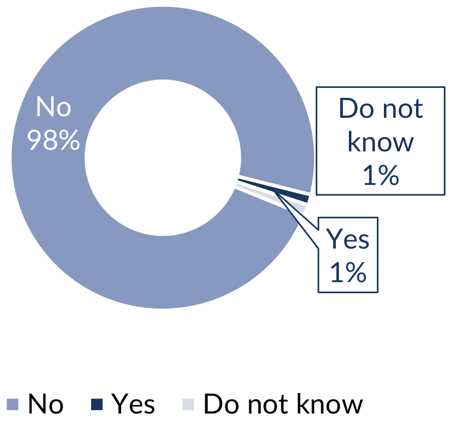
As in previous years, almost all respondents have TP status (95%). An accurate comparison of reasons for not applying for TP or asylum with last year is difficult because of the low number of respondents who answered the question this year, however, the reasons are mostly related to transition to other legal statuses or residency types, whereas fewer are waiting to see if the situation in Ukraine improves.

PROTECTION

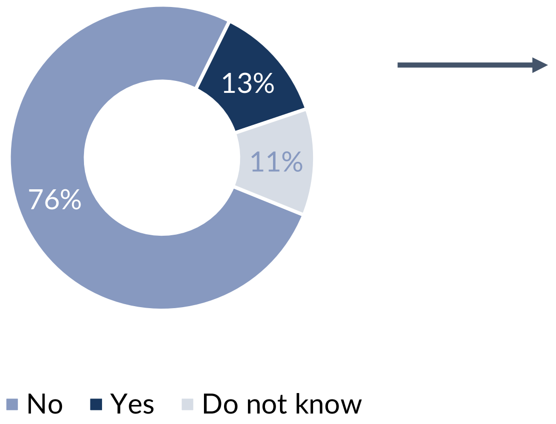
Regional Refugee Response for the Ukraine Situation

LEGAL STATUS

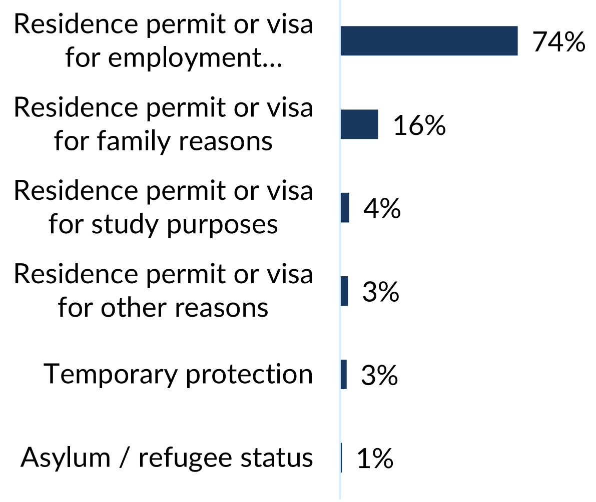
Difficulties faced during the TP application/extension process [N=411]



Plans to apply for a different legal status in the next 12 months [N=431]



Legal status planning to apply for [N=48]

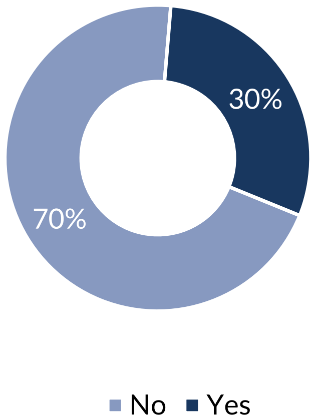


As in previous years, almost all respondents have TP status (95%). Very few respondents experienced difficulties during the TP application or extension process (7% in 2024). A new question for 2025 shows that 13% plans to apply or another legal status in the next 12 months, with work permits the most popular option (74%).

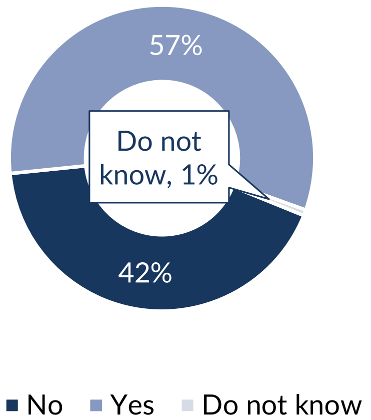
PROTECTION

DOCUMENTATION

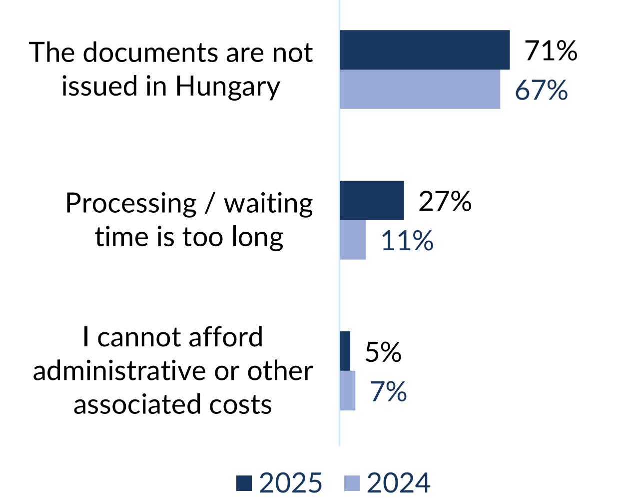
Respondent needed to replace/renew identity documents since departure from Ukraine [N=431]



Respondent able to obtain or replace/renew these identity documents in Hungary [N=120]



Top 3 reasons document could not be replaced/renewed [MCQ - N=52]



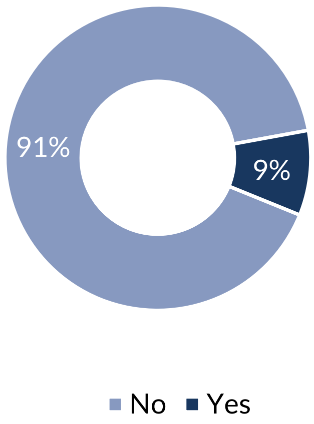
As a result of prolonged displacement, the proportion of respondents who had to replace identity documents since leaving Ukraine has increased with 10% compared to last year. The proportion of respondents able to do so in Hungary remained stable compared to last year, the main reason for those who are unable to do replace or renew their identity document remains that they are not issued in Hungary.

PROTECTION

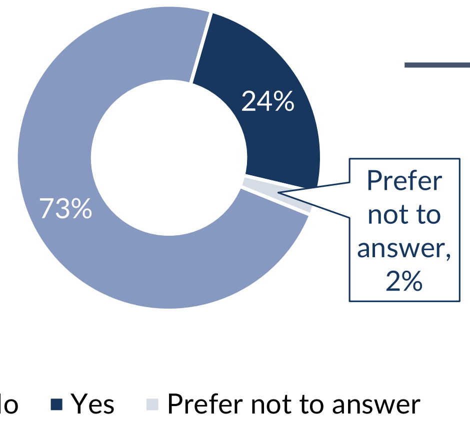
DOCUMENTATION

Regional Refugee Response for the Ukraine Situation

Respondent reported changes in family composition / civil status since leaving Ukraine [N=431]



Respondent reported challenges to register these event(s) with the civil authorities of Hungary [N=33]



Top 5 reasons event could not be registered [N=8]

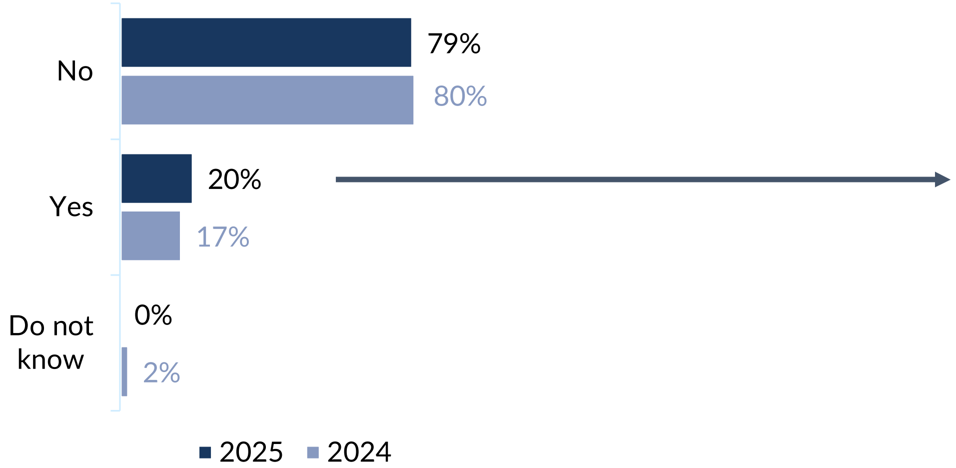
1. Language barriers
2. Unaware of the procedure
3. Lack of required supporting documents from the host country
4. Document is not issued in host country
5. Waiting/processing time too long

Like last year, around 1 in 10 respondents reported changes in family composition or civil status. Around a quarter of respondents reported challenges in registering these events with civil authorities in Hungary, mostly due to the language barrier and lack of awareness around procedures.

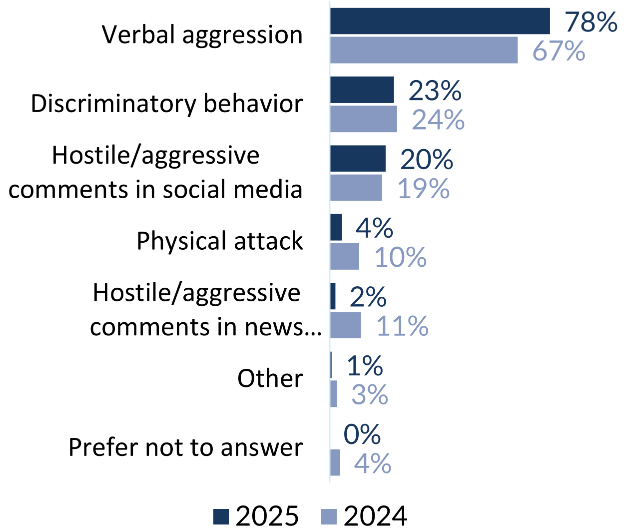
PROTECTION

SOCIAL COHESION

HHs reporting hostile behavior or attitudes from the local population [N=431]



Type of hostile behavior reported [MCQ - N=83]



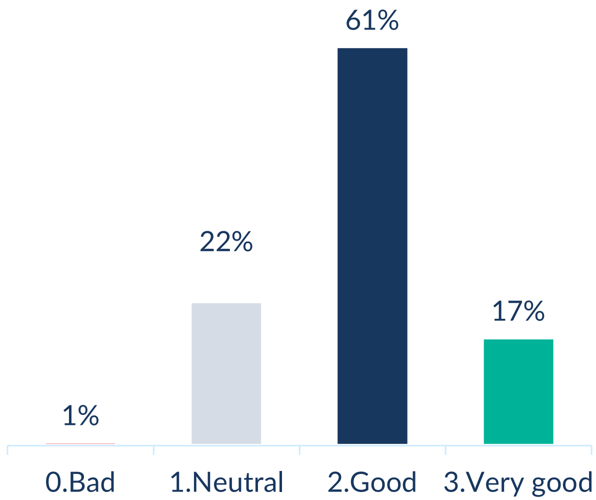
Like last year, around 1 in 5 respondents reported hostile behavior from the local population. They mostly reported verbal aggression (up with 10%), discriminatory behavior or negative comments on social media.

Regional Refugee Response for the Ukraine Situation

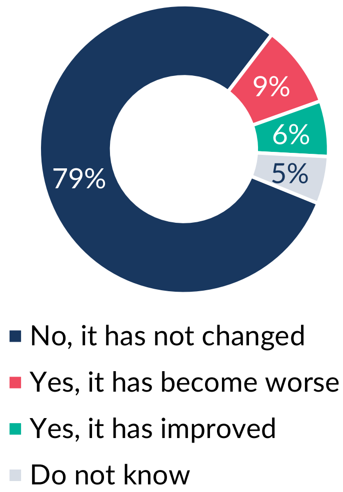
PROTECTION

SOCIAL COHESION

Respondent relationship with host community in area of residence [N=431]



Change in relationship in the last 12 months [N=431]

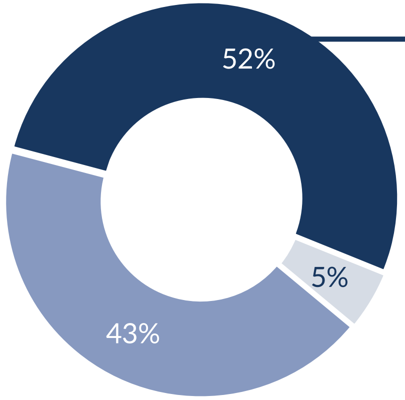


3 out of 4 respondents rate the relationship with host community as good or very good, in line with results from last year. This year, slightly more people (+14%) reported that the relationship remained unchanged.

PROTECTION

CHILD PROTECTION

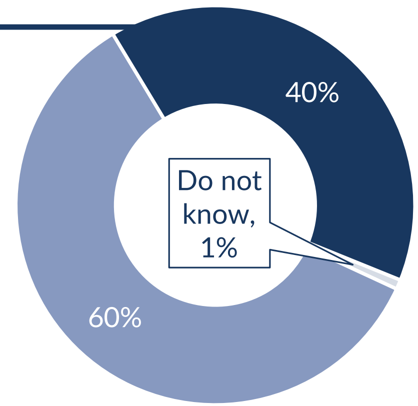
Respondent reporting safety and/or security concerns for boys [N=144]



Top 3 concerns

Boys	Girls
1. Vulnerability to abuse	
2. Vulnerability to violence online 3. Worsened mental wellbeing	2. Psychological violence in community 3. Vulnerability to violence online

Respondent reporting safety and/or security concerns for girls [N=111]



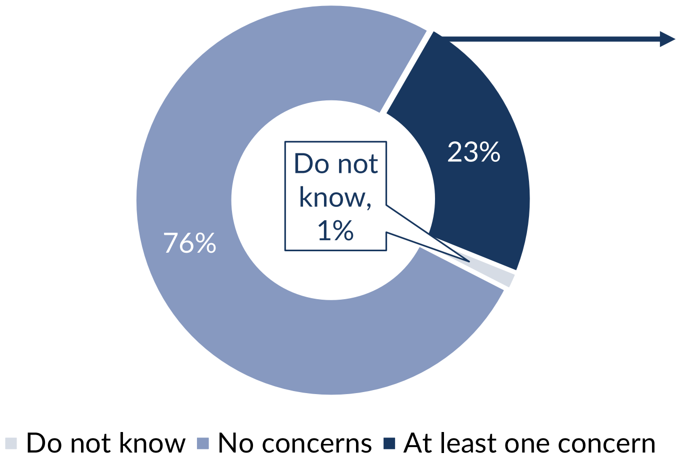
One out of two respondents reported safety and/or security concerns for boys, whereas 2 out of 5 reported concerns for the wellbeing of girls. Vulnerability to abuse and violence online are concerns for both.

11% of respondents reported having cared for a child outside of their nuclear family, even for a limited period, during the past 12 months.

PROTECTION

GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE

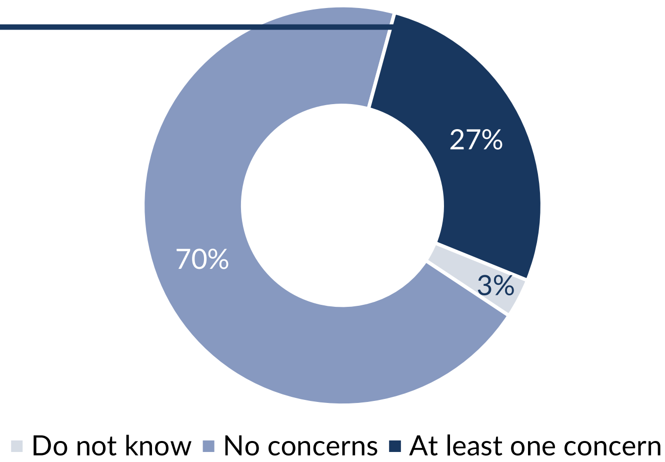
Respondent reporting safety and/or security concerns for men [N=172]



Top 3 concerns

Men	Women
1. Being robbed	
2. Being deported 3. Being threatened with violence	2. Suffering from verbal harassment 3. Being threatened with violence

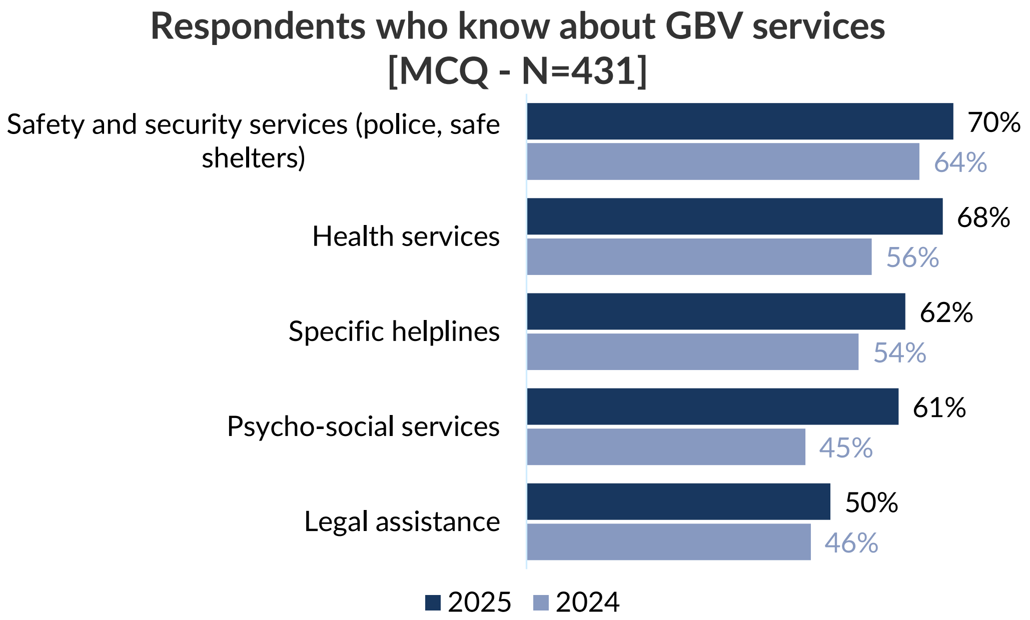
Respondent reporting safety and/or security concerns for women [N=402]

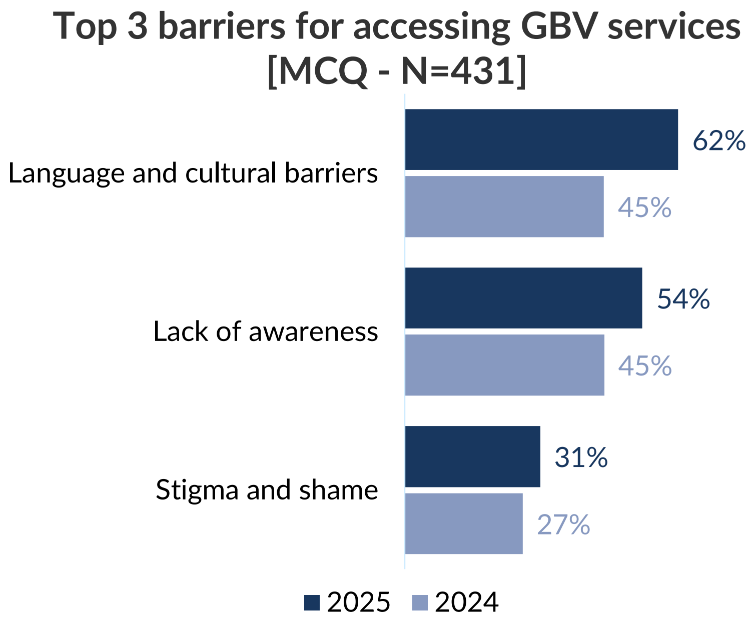


Around a quarter of respondents reported safety and/or security concerns for men and women. Being robbed or threatened with violence are common concerns for both, deportation is a concern specifically for men.

PROTECTION

GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE





Knowledge of existing GBV services has increased slightly compared to last year (from 77% to 80%).

Most respondents identified barriers for accessing GBV services, with only 1 in 10 saying there are none (up from 6% last year). The top impediments remain language and cultural barriers as well as lack of awareness, followed by stigma and shame.

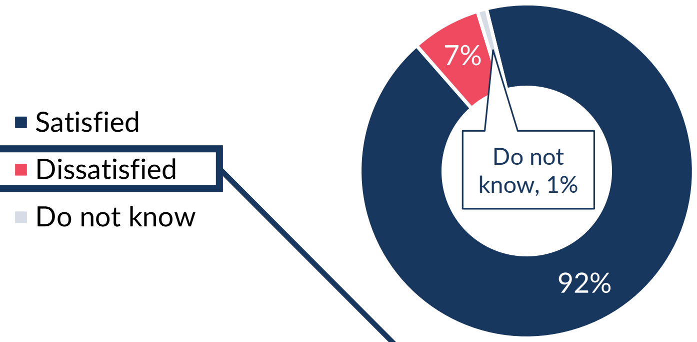
PROTECTION

SATISFATION WITH AID RECEIVED

Respondents who received aid in the last 3 months [N=431]

48%

Satisfaction with the aid received in the last 3 months [N=230]

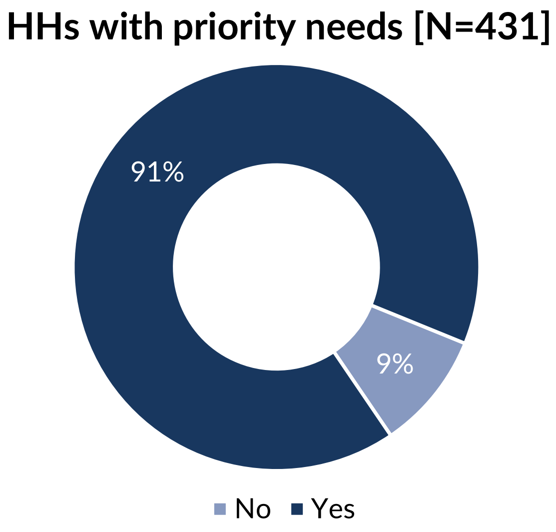


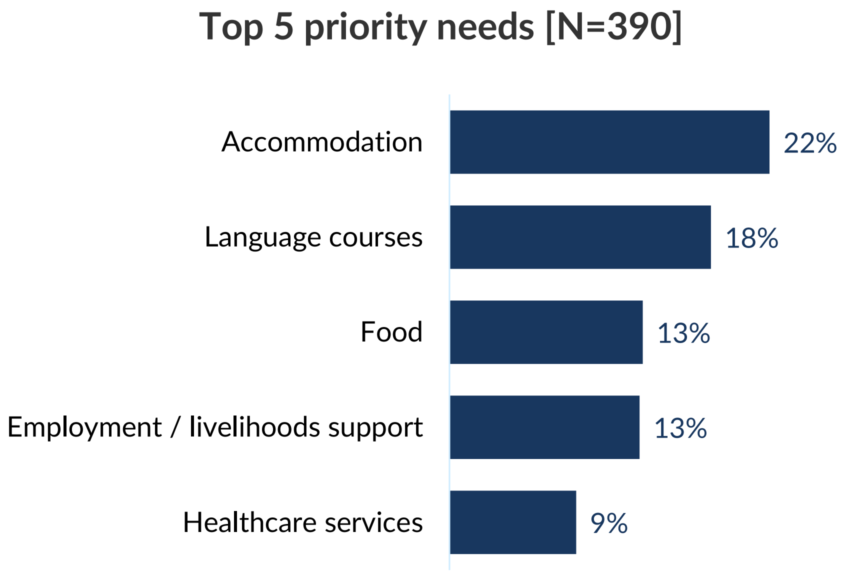
Top 3 reasons for dissatisfaction with aid received [N=19]	Top 3 types of aid dissatisfied with [N=19]
1. Assistance received was not enough or not frequent enough 2. The assistance delivered was not what the household needed 3. I was not consulted on what I need	1. Humanitarian financial aid 2. Government social protection 3. Humanitarian in-kind distributions

Less households reported receiving aid compared to 2024 (-20%), this could the result of a decrease in humanitarian funding in 2025. The proportion of respondents who are dissatisfied with aid decreased with 10%, but the main reason for dissatisfaction remains insufficient quantity or frequency of assistance. Compared to 2024, humanitarian in-kind distributions are no longer the type of aid respondents are most dissatisfied with.

PROTECTION

PRIORITY NEEDS



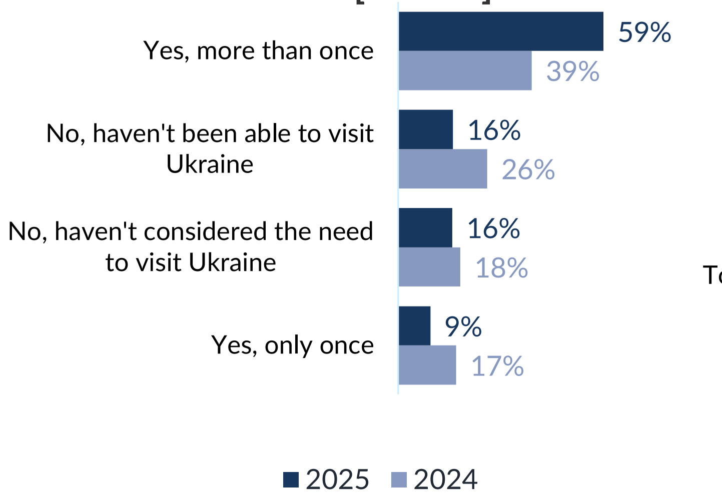


Most respondents continue to have priority needs, with only 1 in 10 saying they have none. The top priority needs are accommodation, language courses, food, livelihoods and healthcare. Results cannot be directly compared with 2024 due to a change in the question type, however, accommodation remains the top need, overall, the types of needs in the top 5 remain the same despite differences in ranking.

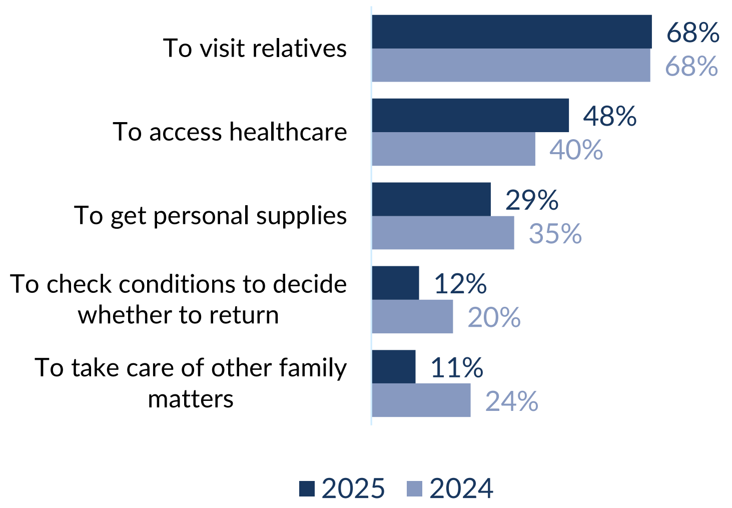
PROTECTION

TEMPORARY VISITS

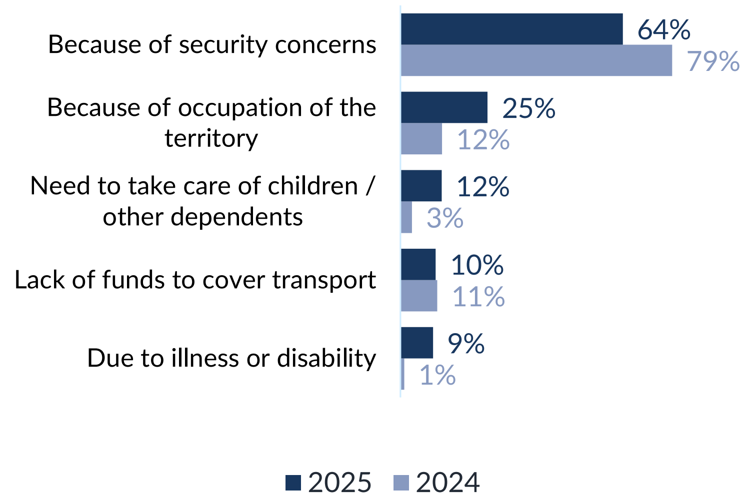
HH where 1 or more members have been back to visit Ukraine after 24 Feb 2022 [N=431]



Top 5 reasons for visiting Ukraine [MCQ - N=299]



Top 5 reasons for not being able to visit Ukraine [MCQ - N=74]

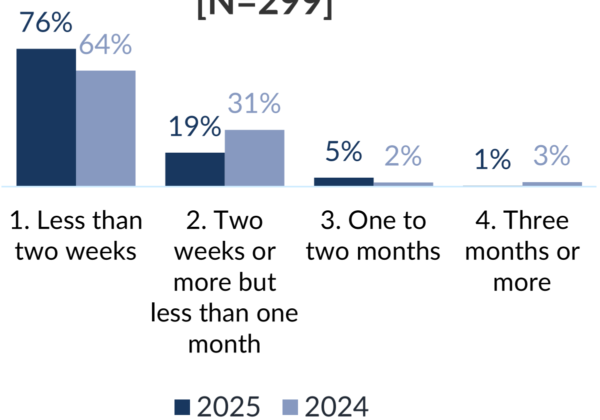


Compared to last year, more households had members who were able to visit Ukraine multiple times (+20%). The most common reason for visiting remains to see relatives. Accessing healthcare is increasingly mentioned as a reason, while fewer people mention returning to check on conditions for return or taking care of family matters. For those unable to visit, the main reason remains linked to security concerns (including occupation of territory).

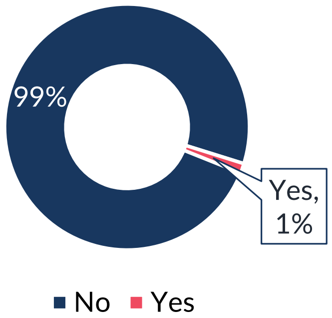
PROTECTION

RETURNS AND INTENTIONS

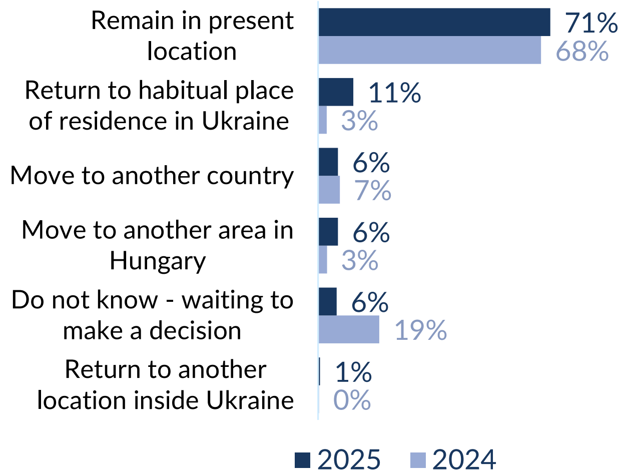
Length of stay in Ukraine during most recent visit [N=299]



HHs experienced difficulties returning from Ukraine [N=299]



Intentions for the next 12 months [N=431]



The vast majority of respondents visits Ukraine for less than 1 month, with less than 2 weeks being the most common. Only 1% of respondents experienced problems when returning to Hungary from Ukraine, a slight reduction compared to last year (3%).

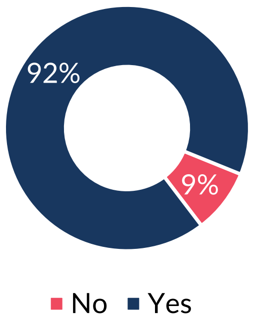
Most respondents (71%) plan to remain where they are for the next 12 months. Compared to last year, fewer are undecided (-13%), most likely because they plan to return to Ukraine (+9%) or move to another area in Hungary (+3%).

EDUCATION

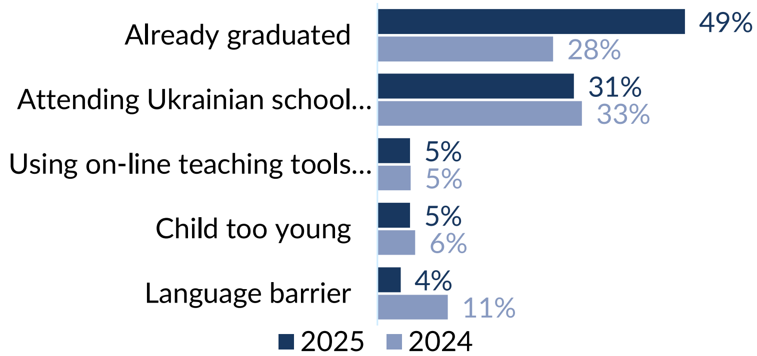
EDUCATION

ATTENDANCE / ENROLMENT IN HUNGARIAN SCHOOL

School-aged children (3-16) reported attending school in Hungary [N=276]

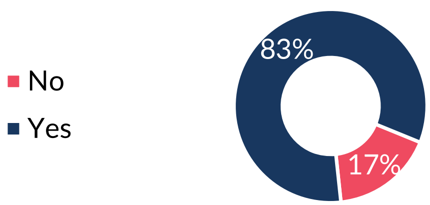


Main reasons for non-enrollment in Hungarian school [MCQ - N=63]

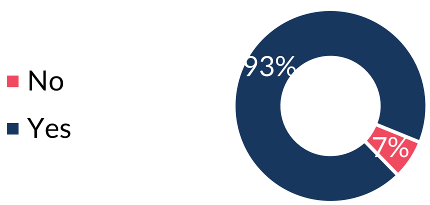


The proportion of children who were reported to be enrolled in Hungarian schools during the previous school year has increased (+14%), excluding age-related reasons, non-enrollment remains mostly due to remote attendance of Ukrainian school.

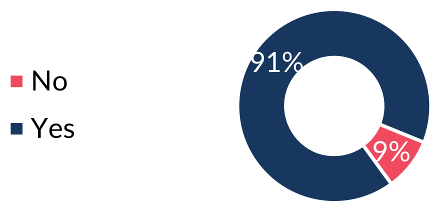
Kindergarten (3-5) [N=34]



Primary (6-13) [N=169]



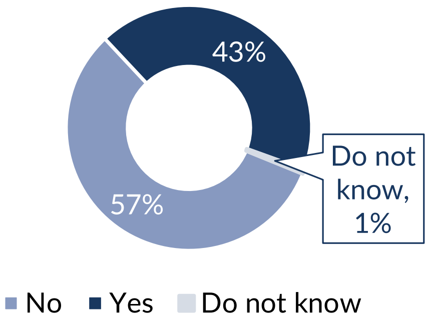
Secondary (14-16) [N=73]



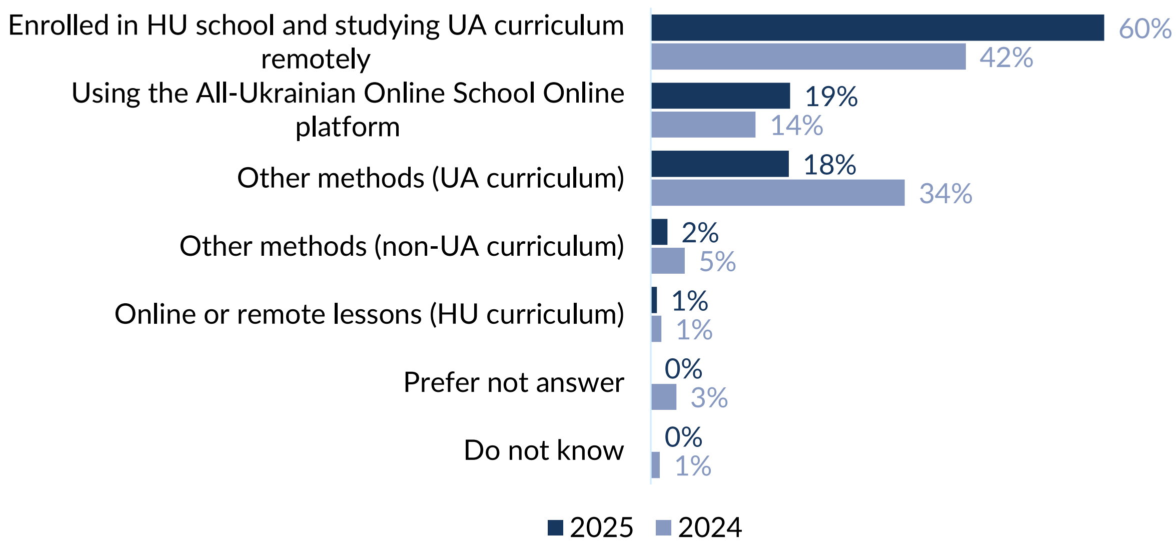
EDUCATION

REMOTE OR ONLINE LEARNING

School-aged children attending remote or online learning [N=306]



Type of remote or online learning attended [N=132]

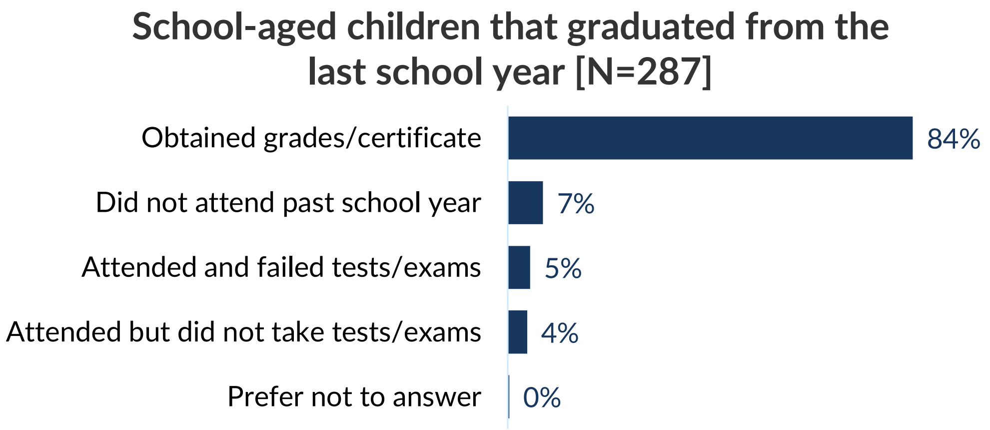


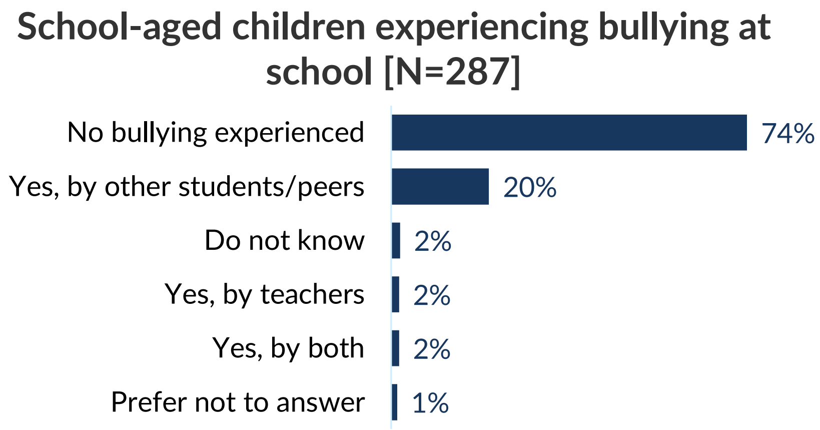
Compared to last year, fewer children are attending remote or online learning (-10%). Secondary age children (58%) are more likely to be enrolled in remote or online learning compared to primary age children (46%), although the difference is less stark compared to last year (80% vs 56%). For those who are attending remote or online learning, two out of three are only studying the Ukrainian component of the Ukrainian curriculum next to the Hungarian curriculum (+18%).

EDUCATION

Regional Refugee Response for the Ukraine Situation

GRADUATION AND BULLYING





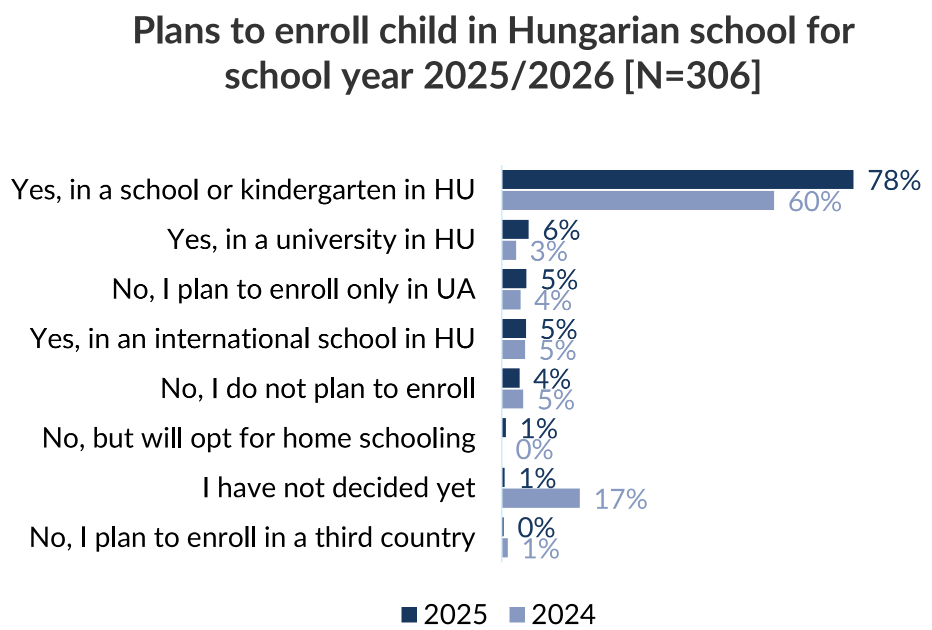
New questions asked in 2025 reveal that most children (84%) were able to sit the required texts or exams and obtain passing grades / certificates.

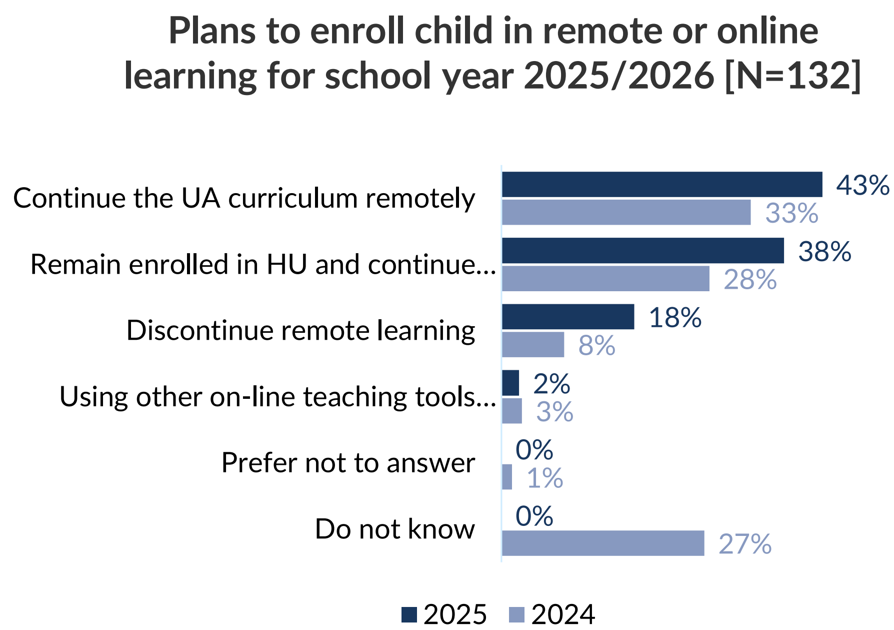
One out of four children experience some form of bullying at school, mostly by other students or their peers.

EDUCATION

Regional Refugee Response for the Ukraine Situation

ENROLMENT INTENTIONS FOR 2025-2026





Three out of four respondents planned to enrol their children in Hungarian schools for the current school year, this is an increase of +18% compared to last year and shows that there is less uncertainty.

Respondents are also clearer about their plans for online learning, with most deciding their children will continue to only be enrolled in the remote UA curriculum (43%) or will combine it with attending school in Hungary (38%), an increasing proportion also indicates not to want to continue remote learning (18%).

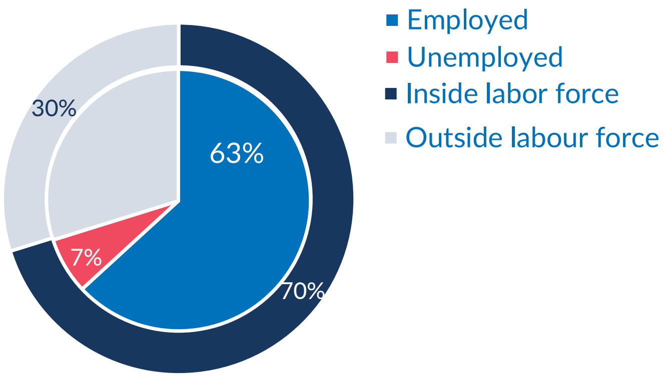
SOCIO-ECONOMIC INCLUSION & LIVELIHOOD

SOCIO-ECONOMIC INCLUSION & LIVELIHOOD

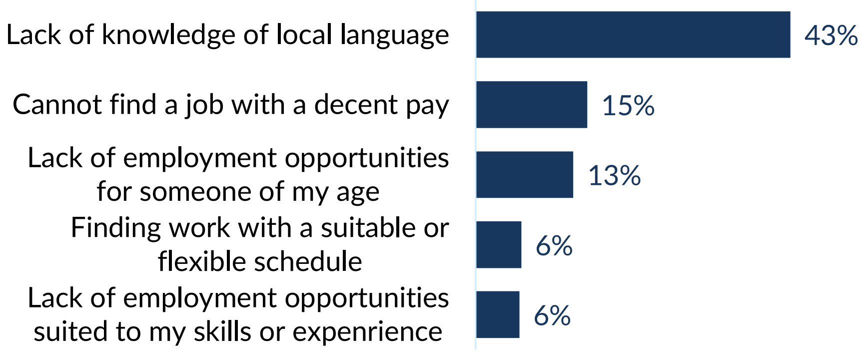
Regional Refugee Response for the Ukraine Situation

LABOR FORCE PARTICIPATION AND EMPLOYMENT BARRIERS

Labor force participation [N=708]
(out of working-age population 15-64)



Top 5 difficulties in finding work in Hungary [N=274]



Almost two out of three working-age individuals are employed, like last year. At the same time, the unemployment rate decreased from 13% to 7%, driven by an increase of working-age individuals who are not part of the labor force (which went up from 24% to 30%).

Two out of five individuals mention lack of knowledge of Hungarian as the main barrier in finding work in Hungary, this is followed by the inability to find jobs with decent pay and lack of relevant employment opportunities considering age.

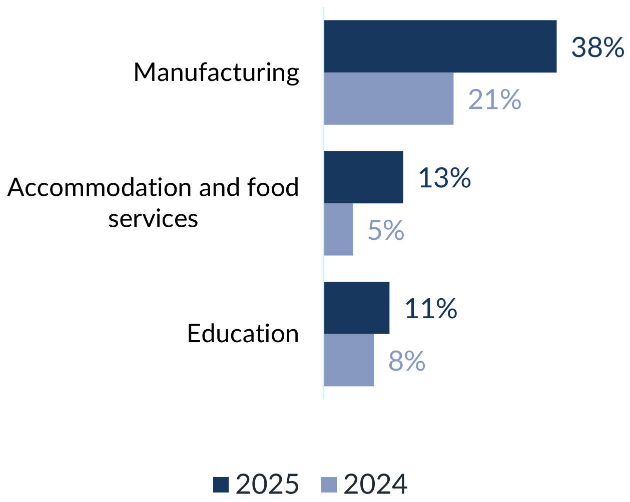
Results for barriers to employment cannot be directly compared with 2024 due to a change in the question type, however, lack of knowledge of Hungarian remains the top barrier in finding employment. Overall, except for caretaking responsibilities and lack of documents, the types of barriers in the top 5 remain similar despite small differences in ranking.

SOCIO-ECONOMIC INCLUSION & LIVELIHOOD

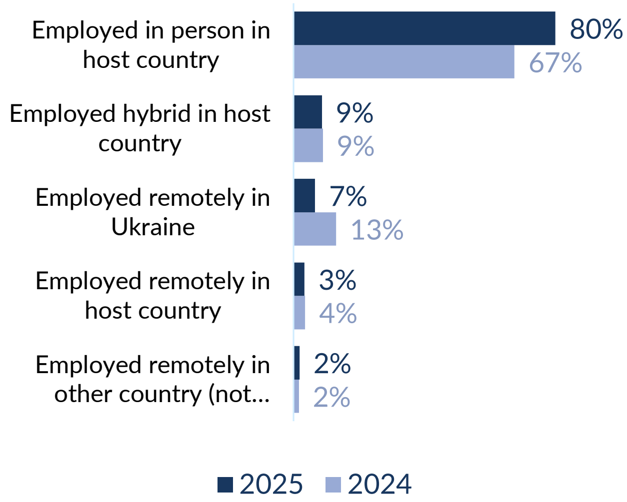
Regional Refugee Response for the Ukraine Situation

EMPLOYMENT SECTOR, WORKING MODALITY AND CONTRACT TYPE

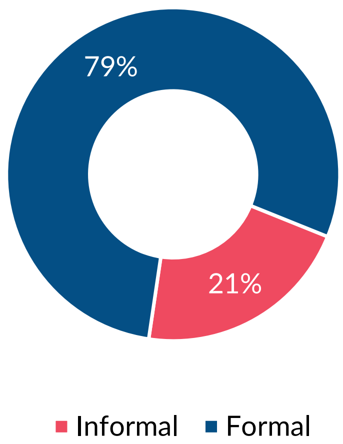
Top 3 sectors of current employment [N=431]



Working modality [N=420]



Individuals by contract type [N=420]



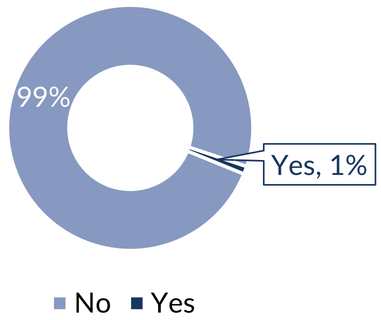
1 out of 5 employed individuals work in manufacturing, it remains the most common sector (+17%). 4 out of 5 working individuals are employed in person in Hungary and have a formal contract. The proportion of individuals employed without a contract has decreased compared to last year (-11%).

SOCIO-ECONOMIC INCLUSION & LIVELIHOOD

Regional Refugee Response for the Ukraine Situation

YOUTH NOT IN EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT OR TRAINING (NEET)

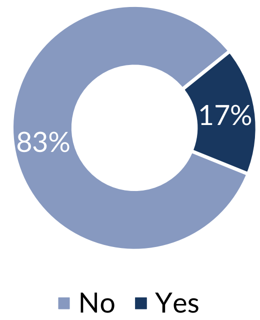
Boys (15 to 24) who are NEET [N=71]



Youth (15 to 24) who are not in education, employment or training (NEET):

9%

Girls (15 to 24) who are NEET [N=60]

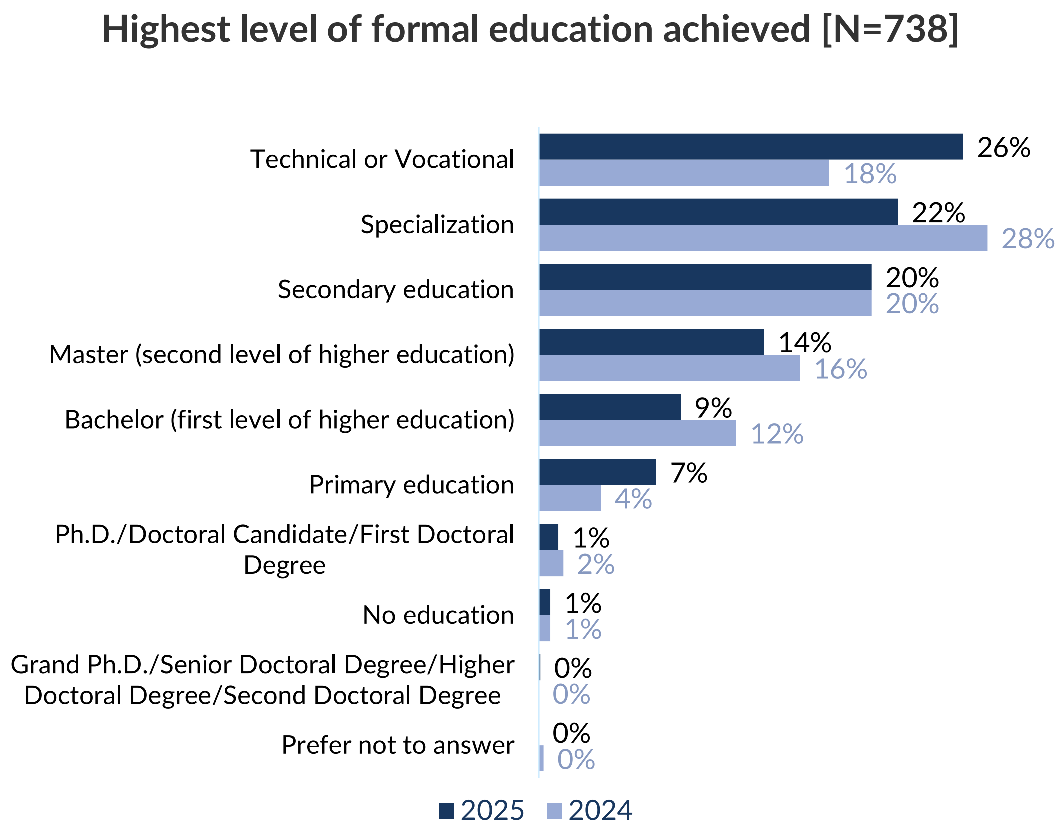


Almost 1 in 10 youth aged 15-25 are not in education, employment or training, a slight decrease from last year (12%). The result shows a stark gender discrepancy, whereas only 1% of boys is out of education, employment or training (down from 11% last year), it is the case for 17% of the girls (up from 13% last year).

SOCIO-ECONOMIC INCLUSION & LIVELIHOOD

Regional Refugee Response for the Ukraine Situation

EDUCATION LEVEL



1 out of 4 household members have either completed a university degree or technical / vocational training. The latter has increased since last year (+8%). More than 1 in 5 has completed a specialization and another quarter has completed primary or secondary education.

SOCIO-ECONOMIC INCLUSION & LIVELIHOOD

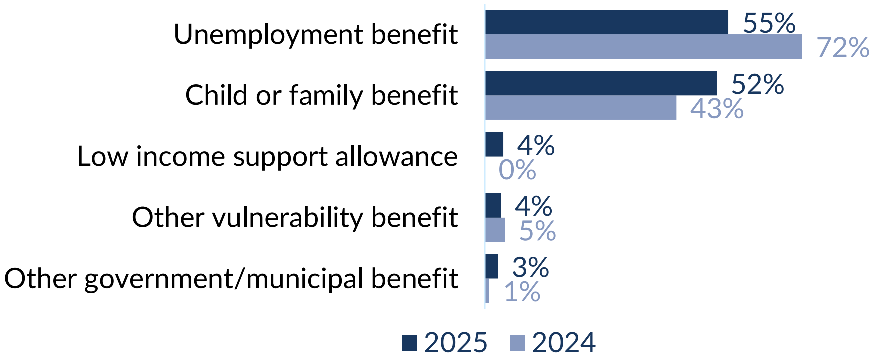
Regional Refugee Response for the Ukraine Situation

SOCIAL PROTECTION IN HUNGARY

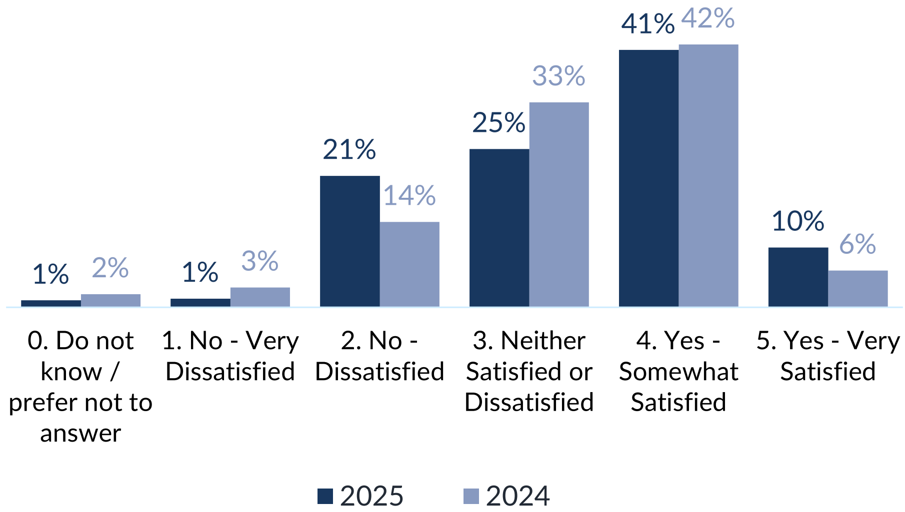
Households receiving social protection benefits from the Hungarian government [N=429]:

32%

Top 5 types of social protection benefits received from host government [N=211]



Satisfaction with the level of support from national social protection system [N=209]

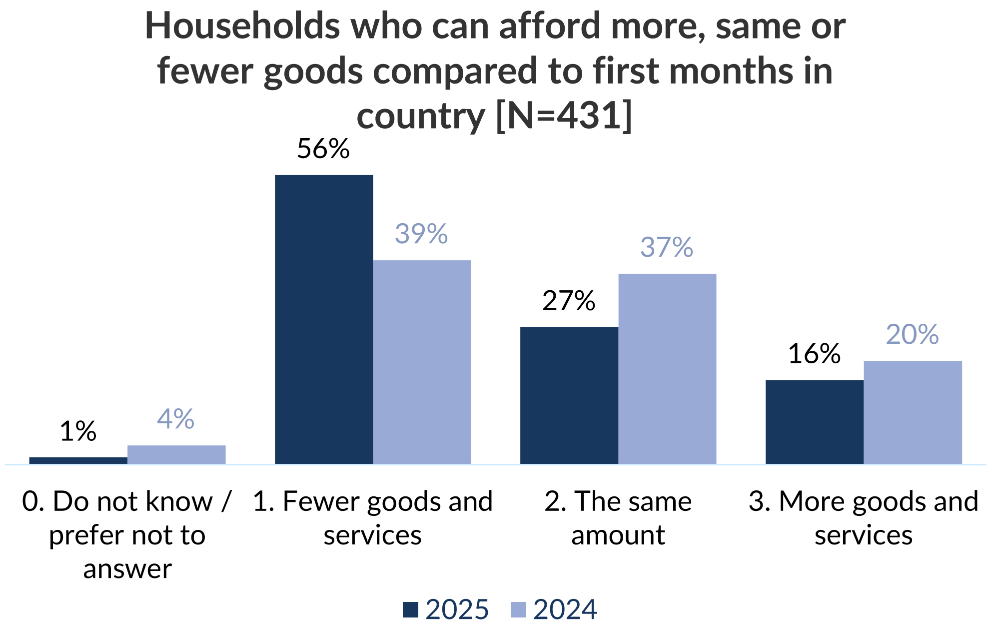


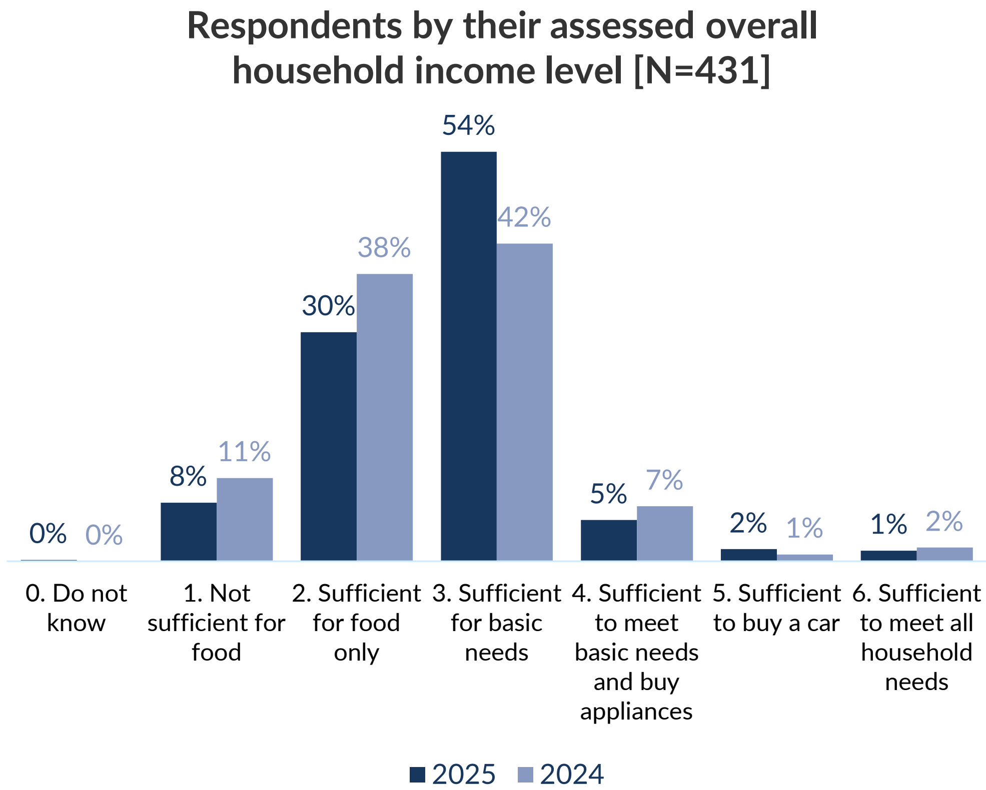
The proportion of households receiving support from the national social protection systems remained stable at around 1/3. Unemployment benefits (-17%) and child or family benefits (+9%) are the most common types, each are reported by more than half of the recipient households. Similarly, around half of the recipient households is either satisfied or very satisfied with the level of support, whereas around one fifth is dissatisfied.

SOCIO-ECONOMIC INCLUSION & LIVELIHOOD

Regional Refugee Response for the Ukraine Situation

PURCHASING POWER





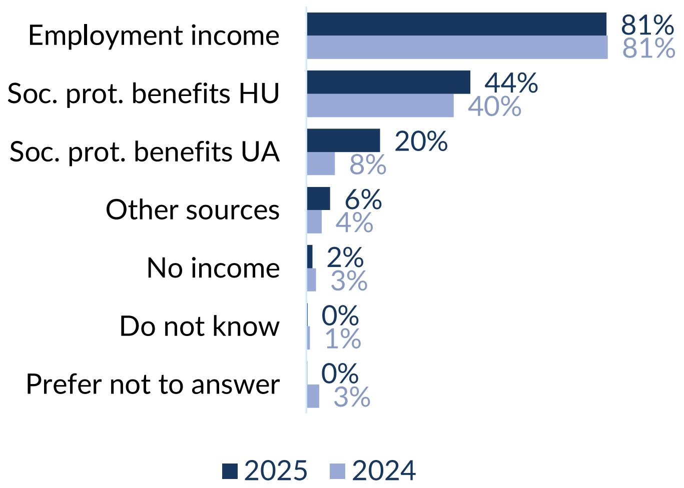
More than half of the respondents reported being able to afford fewer goods and services compared to when they first arrived, an increase compared to last year (+17%). Linked to this, more than a third of respondents indicated that their income is insufficient to meet basic needs.

SOCIO-ECONOMIC INCLUSION & LIVELIHOOD

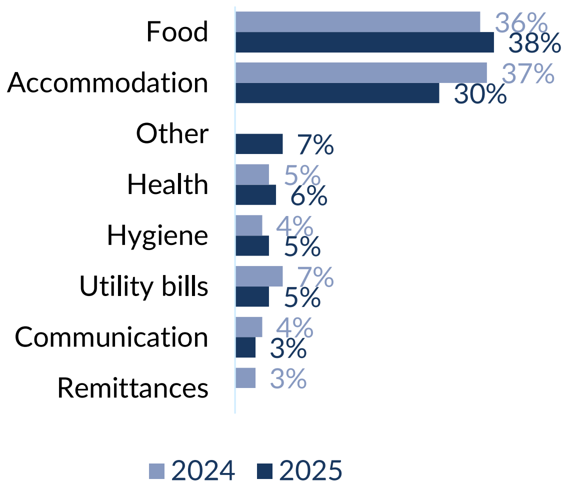
Regional Refugee Response for the Ukraine Situation

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE

Households by income source in the last 30 days [MCQ - N=431]



Share of average household expenditure per category in the last 30 days [N=431]



Average household income (from all forms of employment)	Average household income from HU social protection benefits	Average estimated household expenditure in the last 30 days
350,000 Ft.	**22,800 Ft.**	**249,667 Ft.**
336,407 Ft.	36,500 Ft.	242,000 Ft.

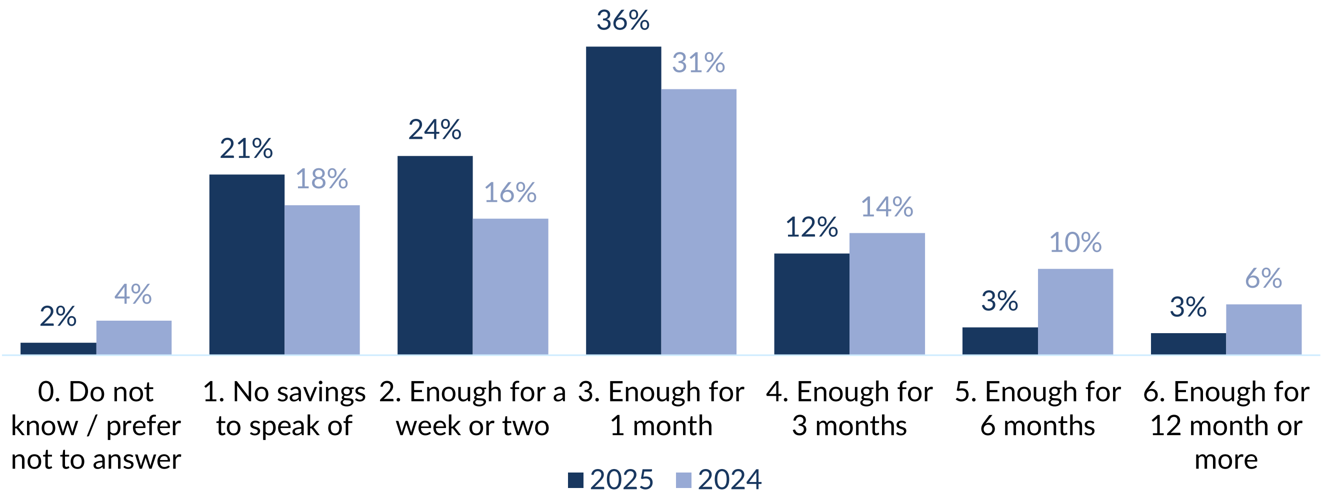
Four out of five households reported income from employment, it remains the most common income source. The proportion of households receiving social protection benefits from UA has increased to one in five (+12%).

Food (38%) and accommodation (30%) remain the two key items on which households spend more than half of their income.

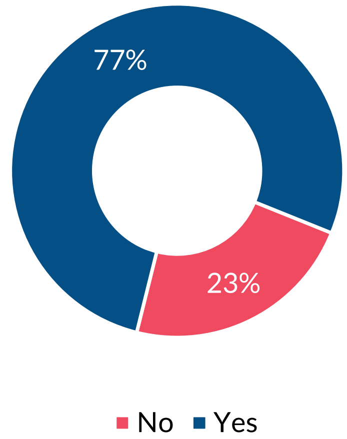
SOCIO-ECONOMIC INCLUSION & LIVELIHOOD

SAVINGS AND ACCESS TO FINANCIAL SERVICES

Households by amount of savings in case of emergency [N=431]



HHs reporting access to financial services [N=431]



Two out of five households have no savings or just enough to cover two weeks in case of an emergency (+11%). A little over one third of the households has enough savings to survive 1 month. Compared to last year, the number of households that could survive for 3 months or more has decreased with 12%. More than a quarter of households have access to financial services, a slight improvement compared to 2024 (+8%)

HEALTH

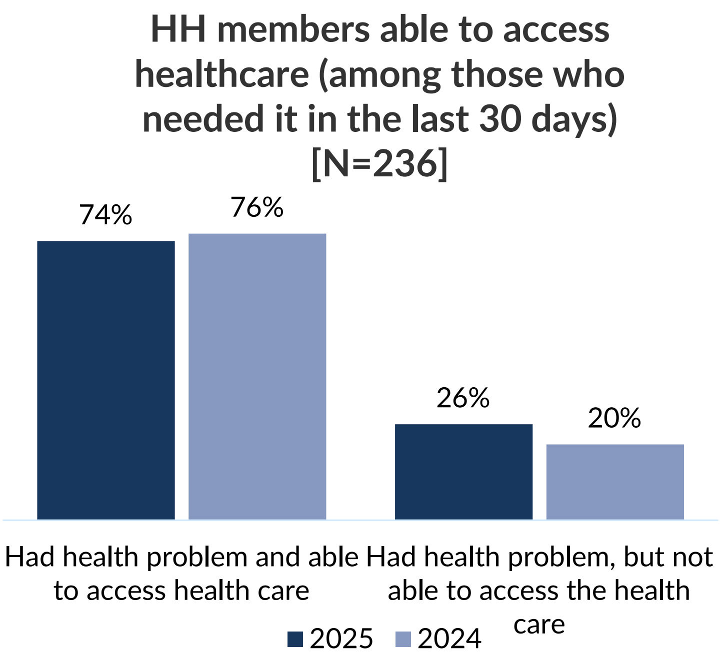
HEALTH

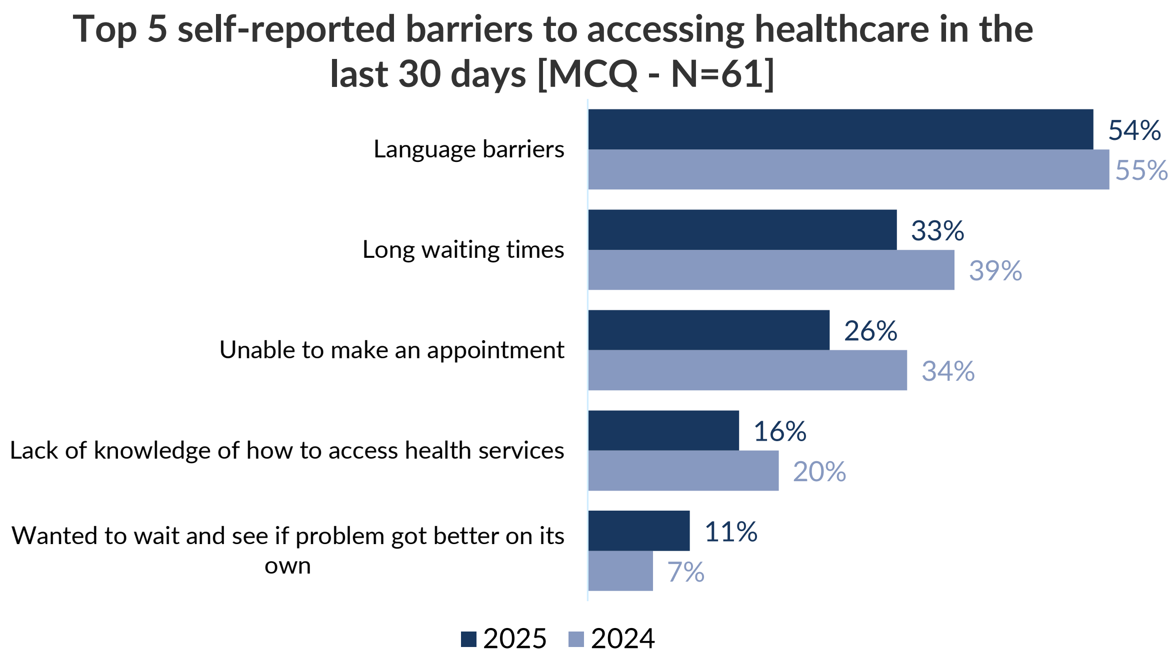
ACCESS TO HEALTHCARE

Regional Refugee Response for the Ukraine Situation

% of HHs with a chronically ill member: **57%**

A quarter of household members were unable to access healthcare when they needed it, mostly due to language barriers, long waiting times or the inability to make an appointment.





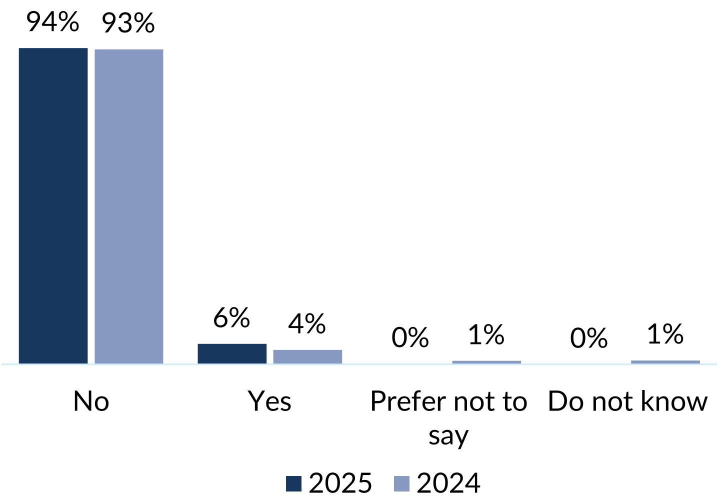
HEALTH

Regional Refugee Response for the Ukraine Situation

ACCESS TO SEXUAL AND REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH

Like last year, most respondents indicated no barriers in accessing sexual and reproductive health (94%). Those that faced barriers indicated language, cost and long waiting times as the main ones.

Women facing barriers to accessing sexual and reproductive health services [N=413]



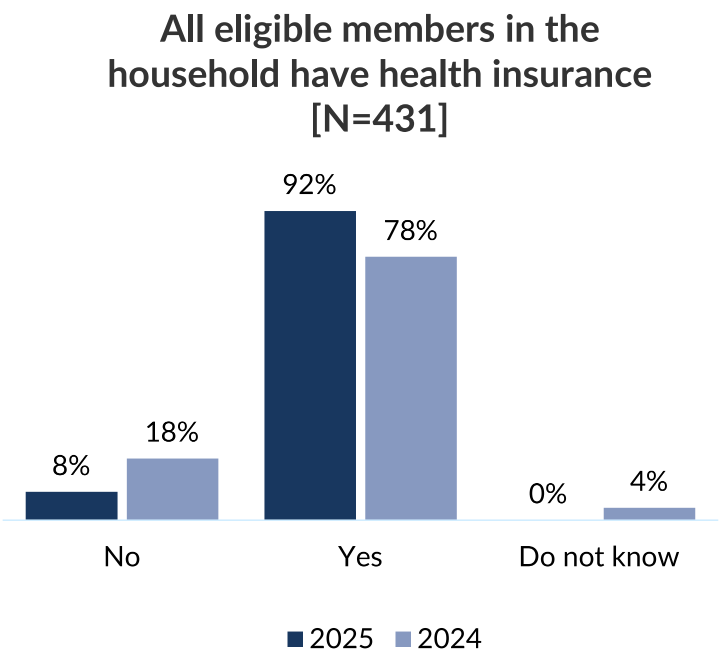
Self-reported barriers to accessing sexual and reproductive health services [MCQ - N=23]

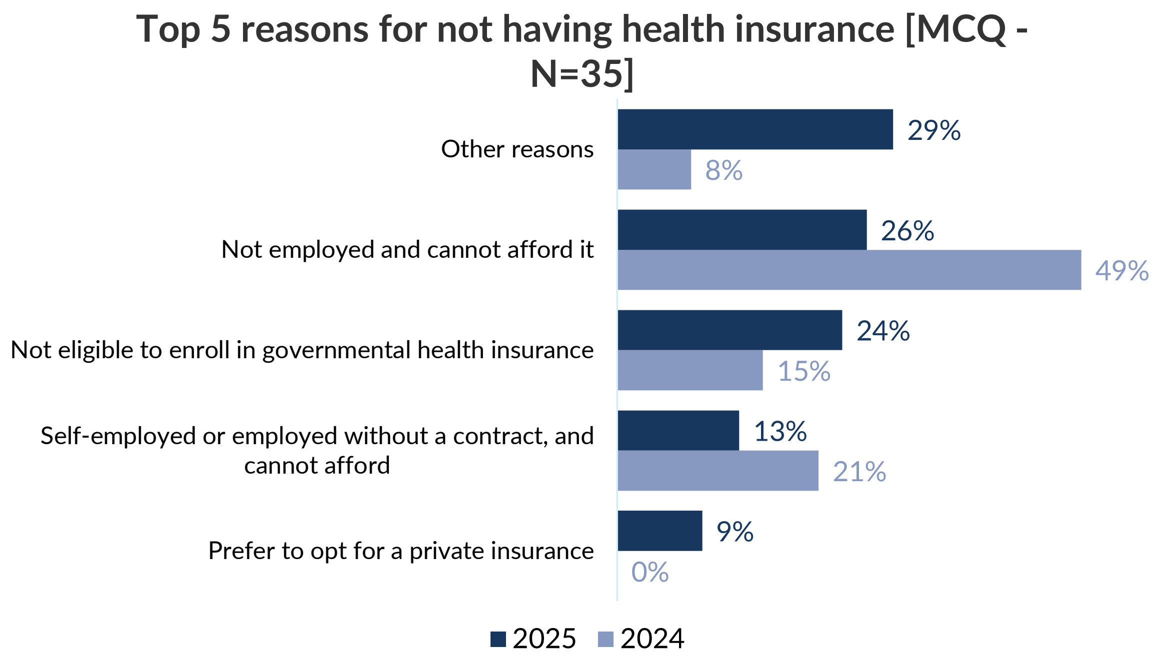
1. Language barriers
2. Could not afford fee at the clinic or cost of medication
3. Long waiting times
4. Could not afford fees at hospital
5. Lack of knowledge of how to access health services
6. Do not trust local provider
7. Unable to make an appointment

HEALTH

HEALTH INSURANCE

Compared to last year, 14% more households reported that all eligible members are covered by health insurance. Not being employed and therefore unable to afford health insurance is less common (-23%). Under other reasons, respondents indicated lack of awareness about the fact that TP status grants health insurance.





HEALTH

MENTAL HEALTH AND PSYCHOSOCIAL SUPPORT

Individuals who experienced mental health or psychosocial problems [N=929]:

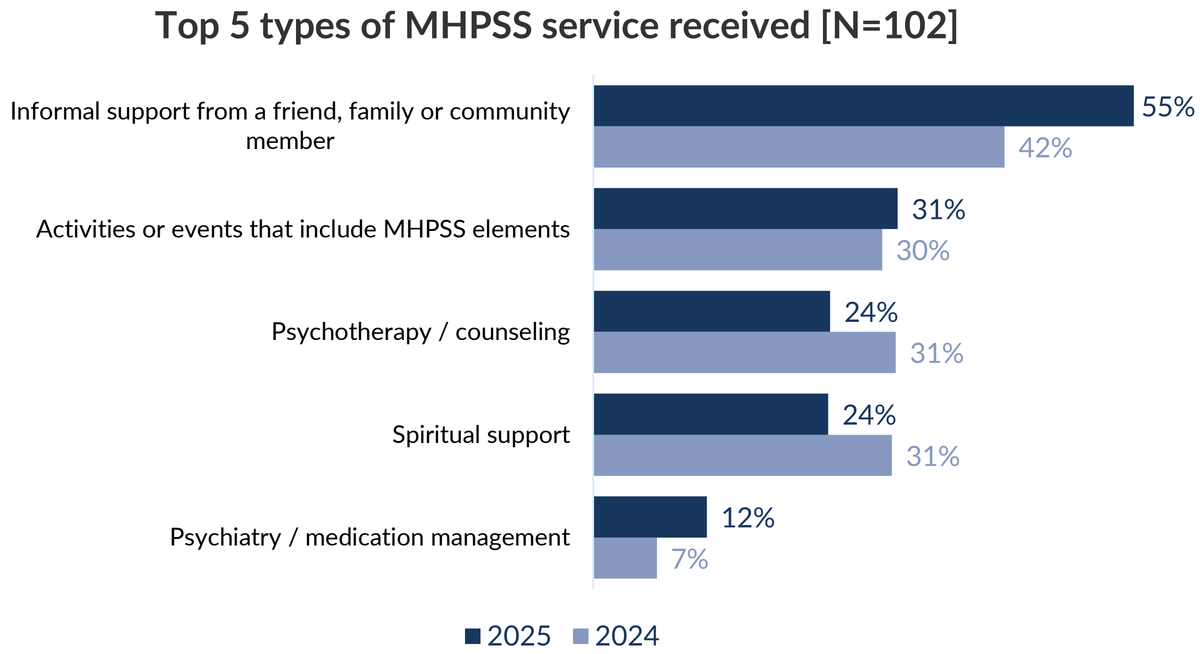
16%

Individuals who tried to access MHPSS support [N=162]:

62%

Individuals who received MHPSS support [N=102]:

95%



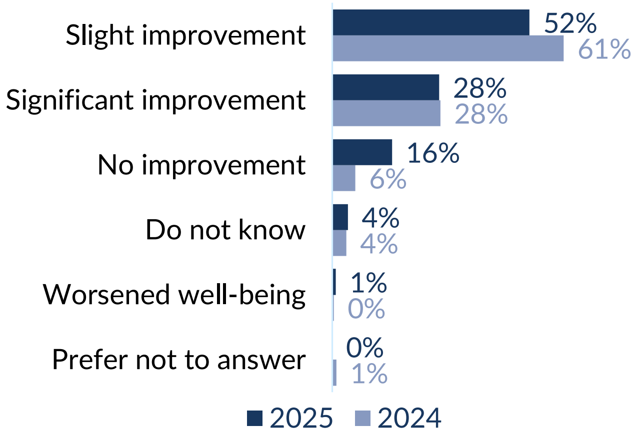
The proportion of individuals who experienced mental health or psychosocial problems has slightly reduced compared to last year (-5%), two-thirds sought support, with the majority opting for informal support through friends, family or community members.

HEALTH

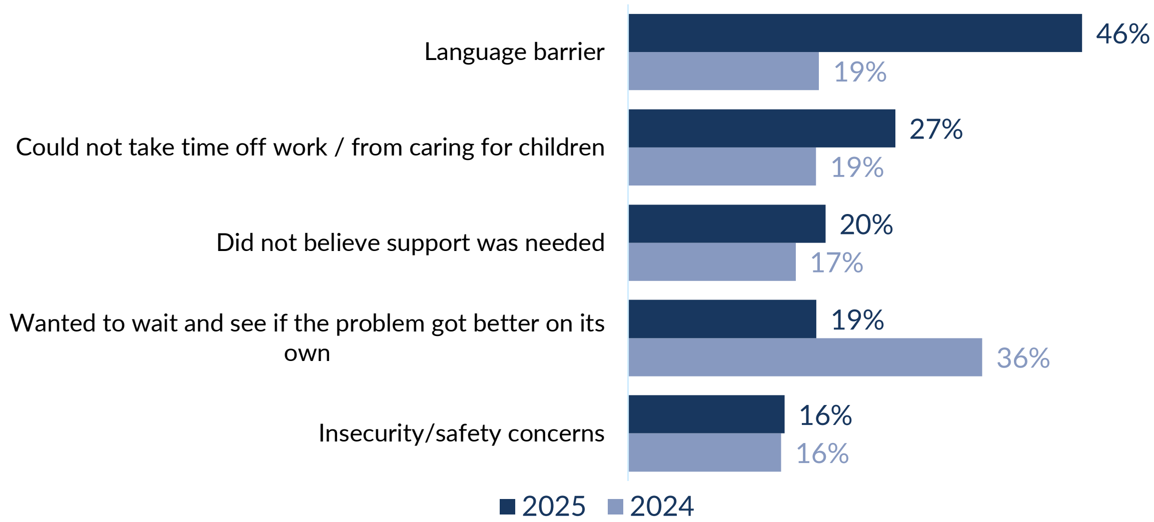
Regional Refugee Response for the Ukraine Situation

MENTAL HEALTH AND PSYCHOSOCIAL SUPPORT

Individuals who received mental health and psychosocial support services – impact on wellbeing [N=96]



Top 5 reported barriers to accessing mental health and psychosocial support services [MCQ – N=65]



Half of the people who received MHPSS reported a slight (52%) improvement in their wellbeing, and more than a quarter even felt significantly better.

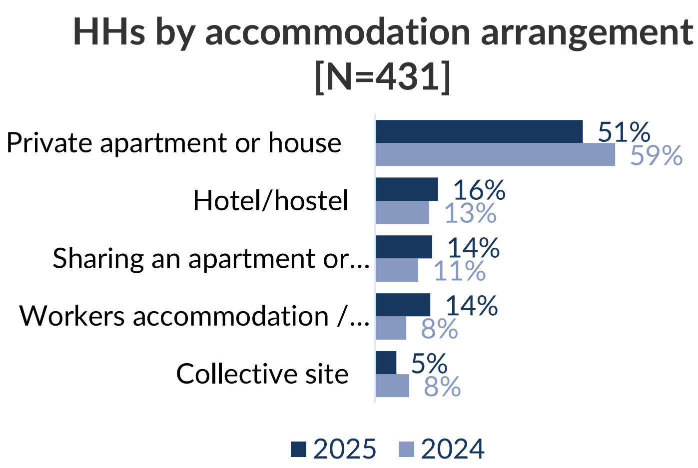
Compared to last year fewer people are trying to wait and see if the problem go away on its own (-27%), this results in more people reporting language barrier (+27%) as the most common barrier for accessing MHPSS services.

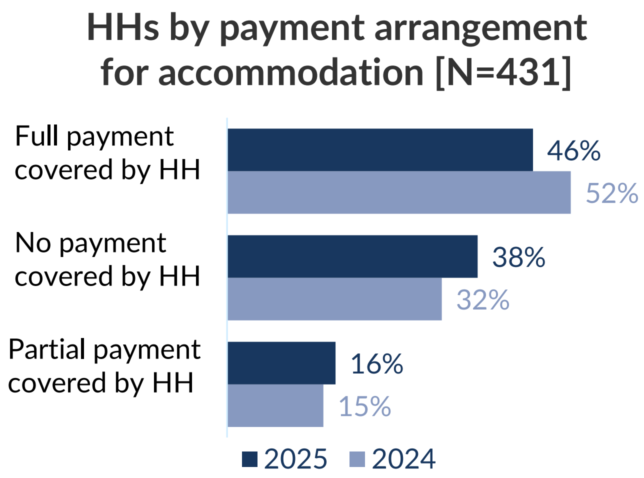
ACCOMMODATION

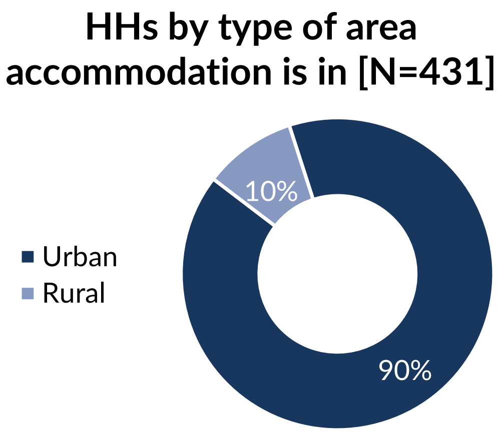
SHELTER/ACCOMMODATION

Regional Refugee Response for the Ukraine Situation

LIVING AND PAYMENT ARRANGEMENTS







Half of the households interviewed reside in private apartments or houses, like last year although there is a slight decrease (-8%). On the other hand, a slight uptick was seen for households staying in accommodation provided by their employer (+6%).

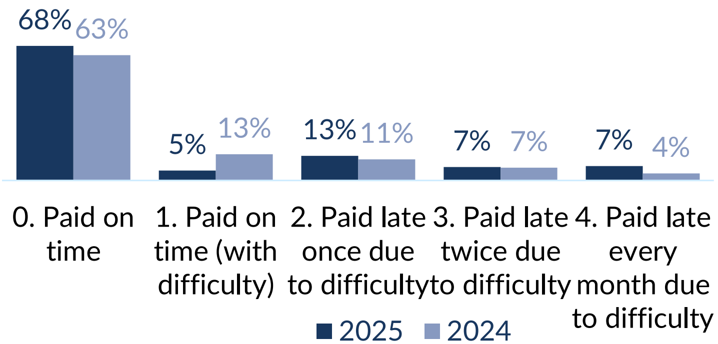
Most households continue to pay in full for their accommodation, however the proportion is slightly lower compared to last year. The reverse is true for those whose accommodation expenses are fully covered (+6%), either by their employer, the government, NGOs or through hosting arrangements.

SHELTER/ACCOMMODATION

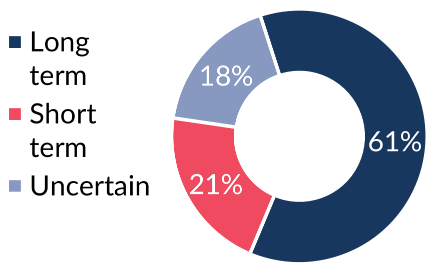
Regional Refugee Response for the Ukraine Situation

SECURITY OF TENURE

% of HH paying rent without financial distress



HHs by length of stay [N=431]



Households with a written occupancy agreement
82%

Households with a verbal occupancy agreement
16%

Households under pressure to leave
2%

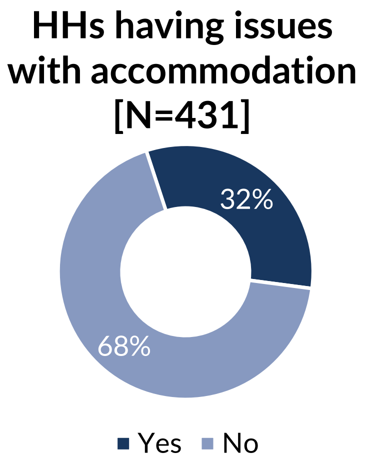
Two thirds of households can pay their rent on time, like last year. Occupancy agreements are increasingly in writing (+13%) instead of verbal (-11%).

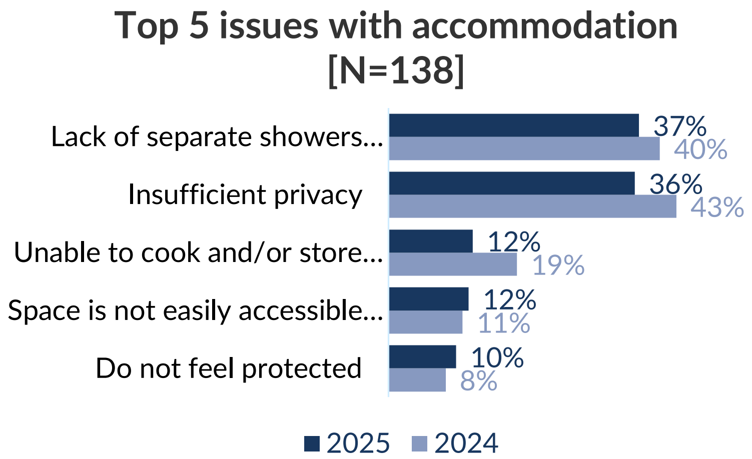
Compared to last year, the proportion of households who reported feeling under pressure to leave their current accommodation has decreased (-11%) as at the time of the last survey the effects of the new law were more prevailing.

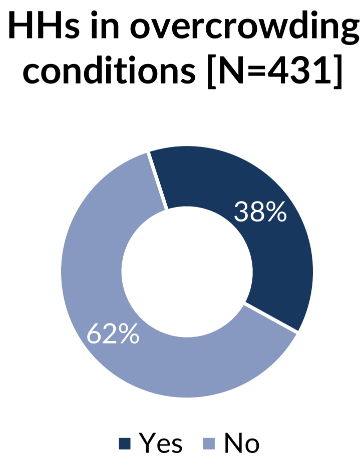
2 in 5 households either do not know how long they can stay in their current accommodation or can stay for less than 6 months, this is an improvement compared to last year, when almost half of the households were in this situation.

ACCOMMODATION

LIVING CONDITIONS







Like last year, one third of households face issues with their accommodation. The most common issues are related to privacy because of shared accommodation, or lack of access with local transportation.

Additionally, 38% of households are living in overcrowded accommodations,