Regional Refugee Response for the Ukraine Situation

HUNGARY

SOCIO-ECONOMIC INSIGHTS SURVEY 2025

January 2026

Key findings

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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

The following topics are covered:

- Demographics
- Protection
- Employment
- Economic capacity
- Education
- Health
- 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 February 24, 2022. People with EU nationality (e.g. Hungarian-Ukrainian dual nationals) were not included.
SURVEY METHOD	Household interviews
DATA COLLECTION	From 19 Sep to 26 Oct 2025 by scale
DATA ANALYSIS	UNHCR
SAMPLE SIZE AND DESIGN	431 households (HHs); covering 973 HH members Purposively selected (geographical coverage)
WEIGHTS	Weights have been applied to account for discrepancies in gender and age (compared to official TP statistics). 2024 results have been recalculated accordingly.

LIMITATIONS:

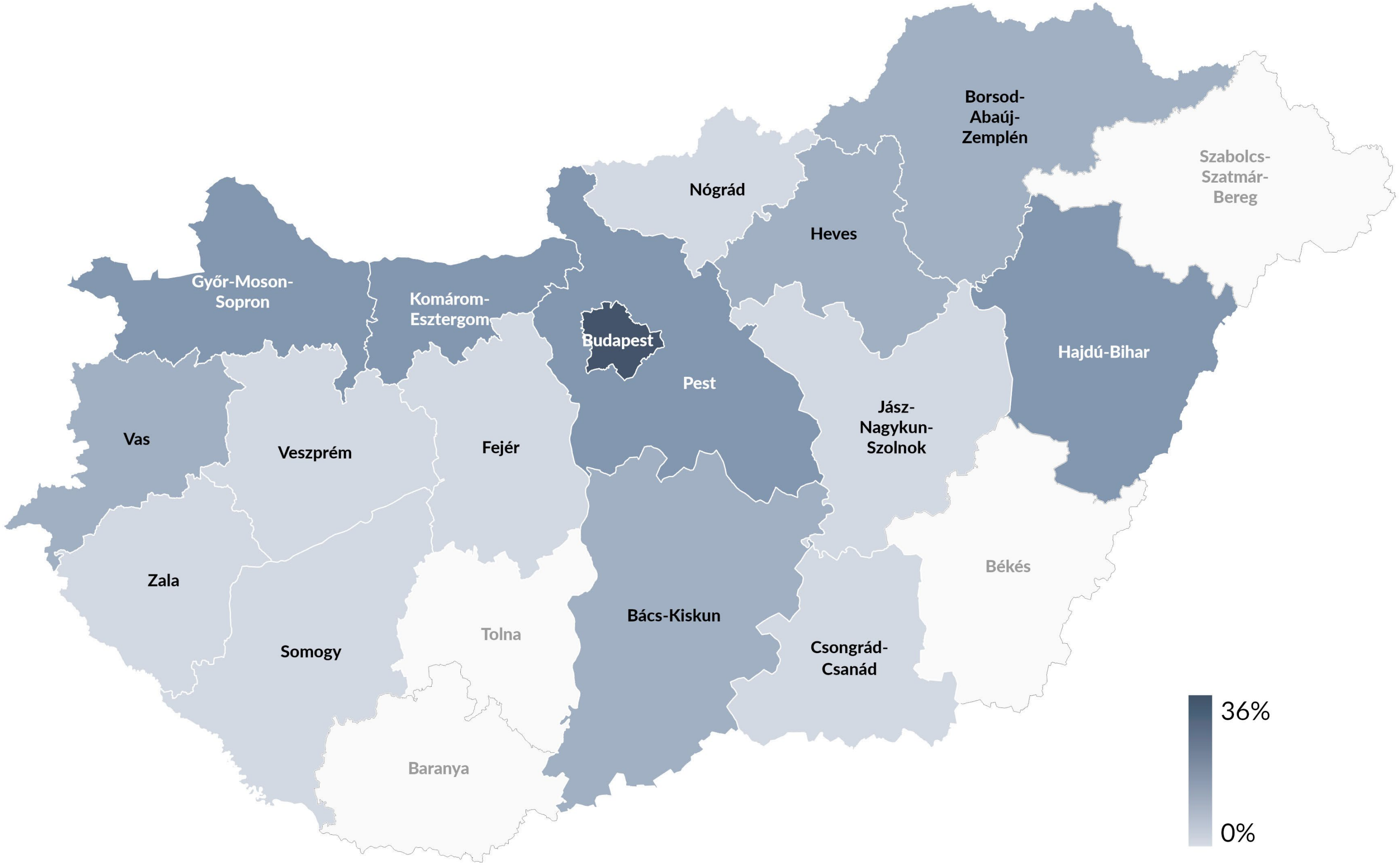
- Different data collection period compared to previous years affects comparability.
- Lack of comprehensive and up-to-date data on population limits the accuracy of geographical targets and ability to draw a random sample.
- Potential sensitivity around protection and income questions can lead to under-reporting or over-reporting of certain indicators due to respondent subjectivity and perceptions.
- As a result, findings are indicative and not statistically representative.

METHODOLOGY

Regional Refugee Response for the Ukraine Situation

INTERVIEW AND RESPONDENT DETAILS

Interviews took place in Budapest and 16 of the 19 counties



90% of households reside in urban locations

87% of respondents were women

1/3 of the interviews were conducted in Budapest; closely mirroring the last known distribution of TP applications (2023)

20% of the interviews were conducted by phone

DEMOGRAPHICS

DEMOGRAPHICS

HOUSEHOLD AND POPULATION CHARACTERISTICS

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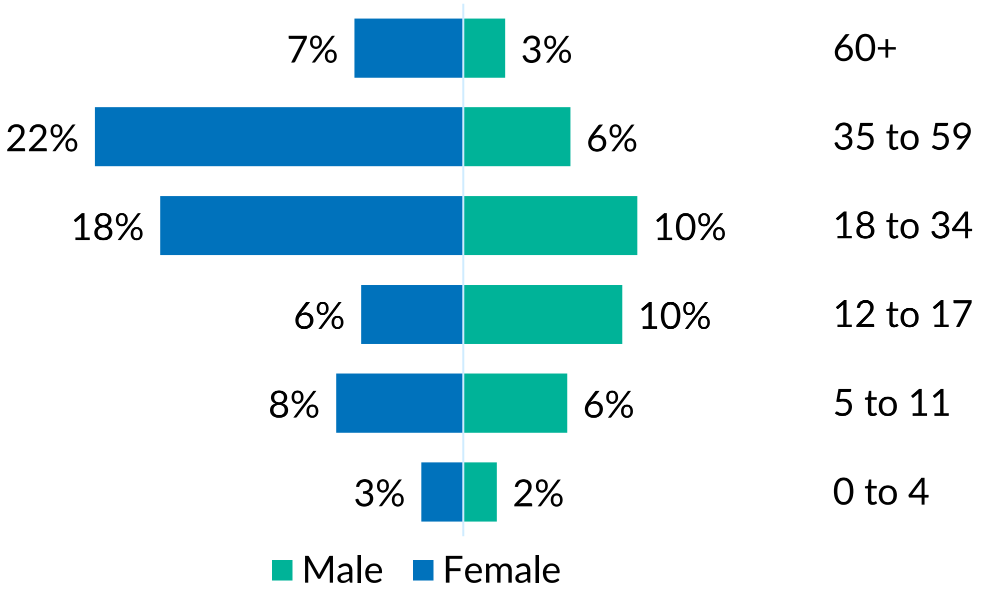
Average HH size

2.35

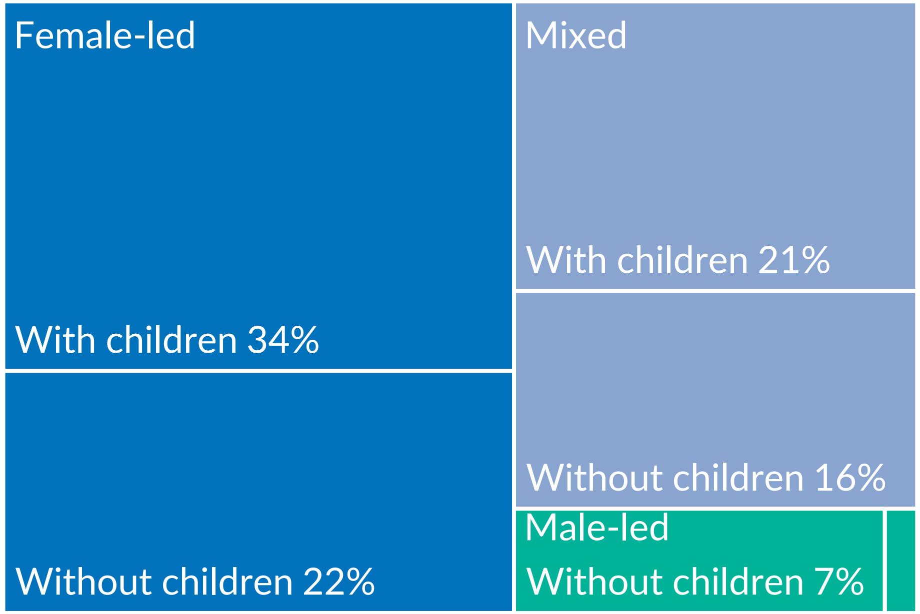
Individuals with higher education

55%

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%

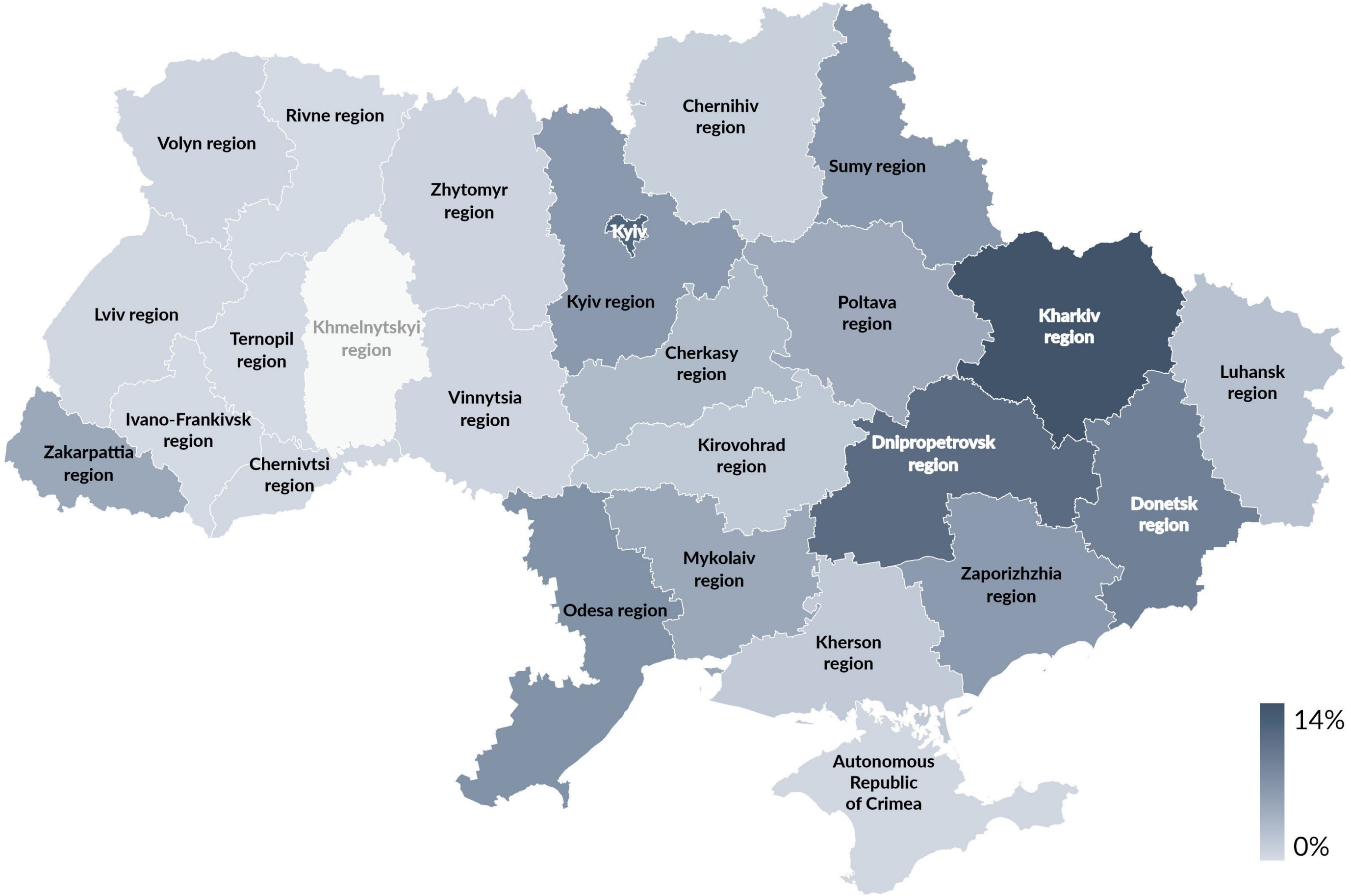
HHs with members with a disability
10%

HHs with a chronically ill member
57%

HHs with infants
3%

DEMOGRAPHICS

RESPONDENTS BY REGION OF ORIGIN



18% originate from Kyiv and Kyiv regions

14% originate from Kharkiv region

11% originate from Dnipropetrovsk region

17% of households are from areas not designated as 'war affected'

PROTECTION

PROTECTION

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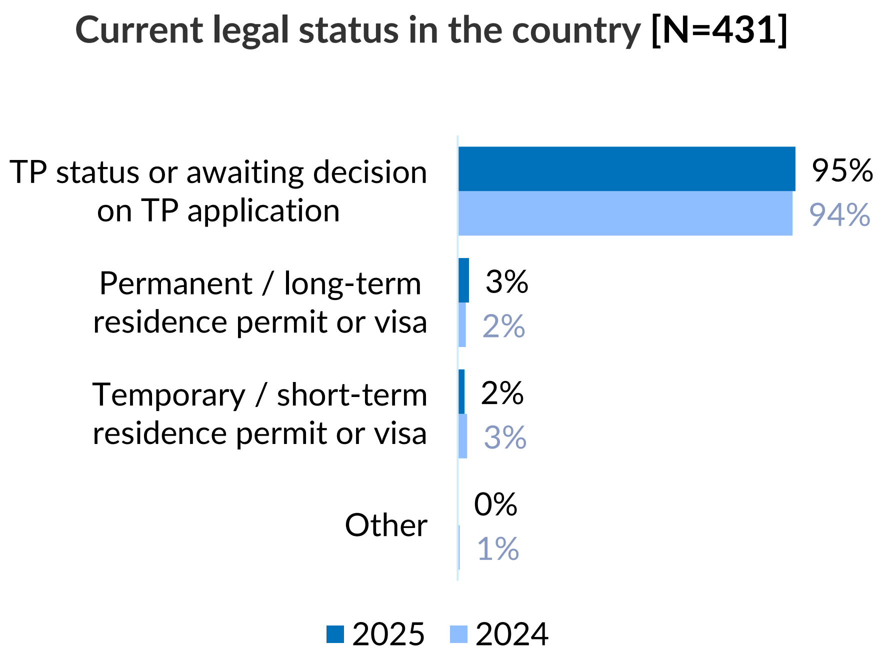
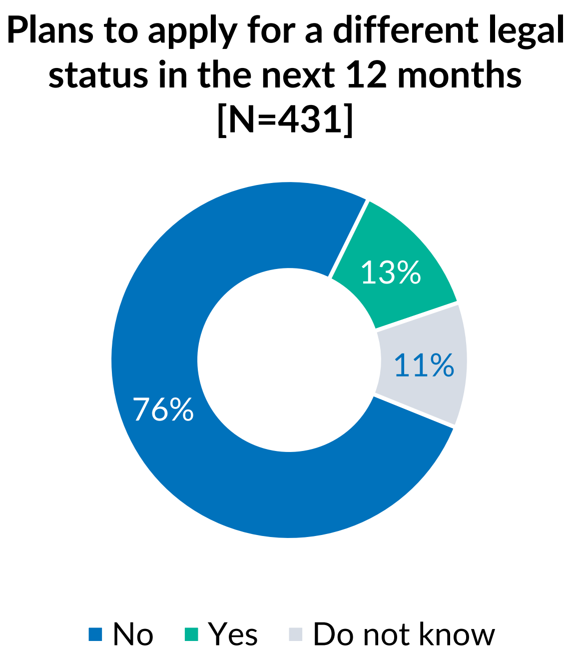
LEGAL STATUS





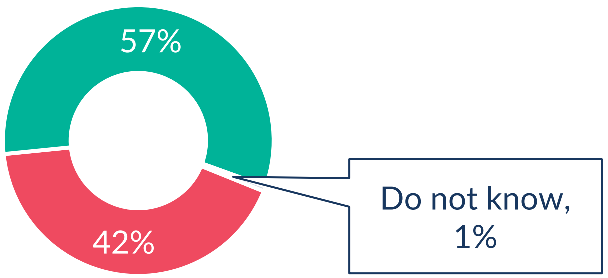
Similar to last year, almost all respondents have TP status (95%), which is slightly above the regional average (89%). Only 1% encountered difficulties during the application process (7% in 2024), mostly due to long queues. Reasons for not applying for TP are mostly related to transition to other legal statuses or residency types, whereas fewer are waiting to see if the situation in Ukraine improves.

A new question for 2025 shows that 13% plans to apply for another legal status in the next 12 months: residence permits for employment are the most popular option (74%), followed by residence permits for family reasons (16%).

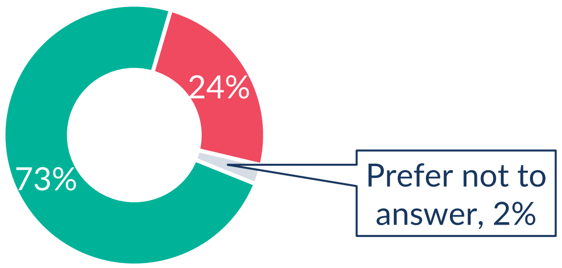
PROTECTION
DOCUMENTATION

Regional Refugee Response for the Ukraine Situation

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



Respondent reported challenges to register changes in family composition with Hungarian authorities [N=33]



Due to prolonged displacement, 30% of respondents needed to replace identity documents, such as passports (+10% compared to 2024). Among the 42% who experienced challenges, the most common obstacles were the limited availability of Ukrainian internal passport renewal - possible only in Bratislava or in Ukraine - along with long waiting times (27%) and cost-related issues (5%). These difficulties have influenced mobility patterns: some individuals chose to temporarily return to Ukraine, with 9% of those who went back citing document renewal as the reason for their return.

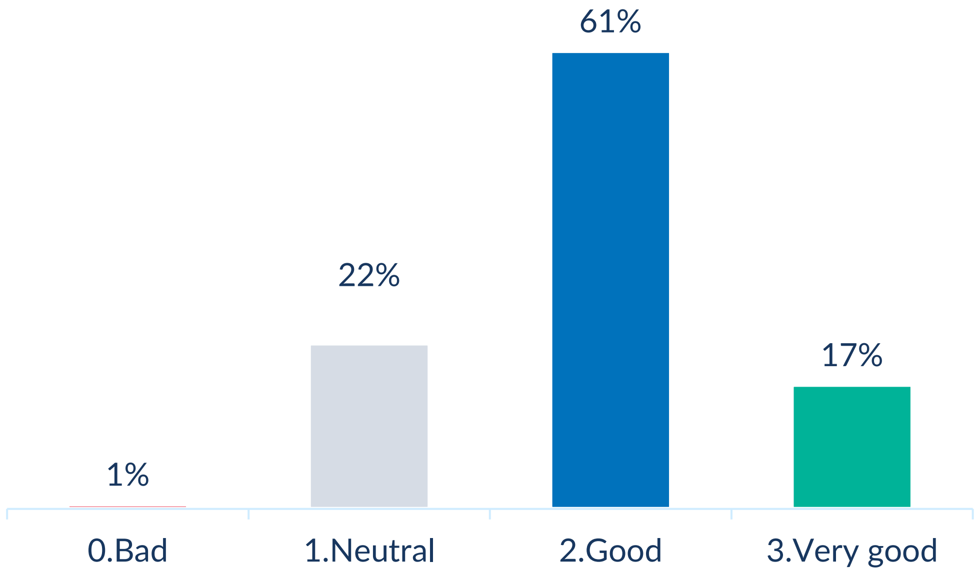
As last year, about 1 in 10 reported changes in family composition or civil status. Roughly a quarter faced challenges registering these events in Hungary, mainly due to language barriers and limited knowledge of procedures.

PROTECTION

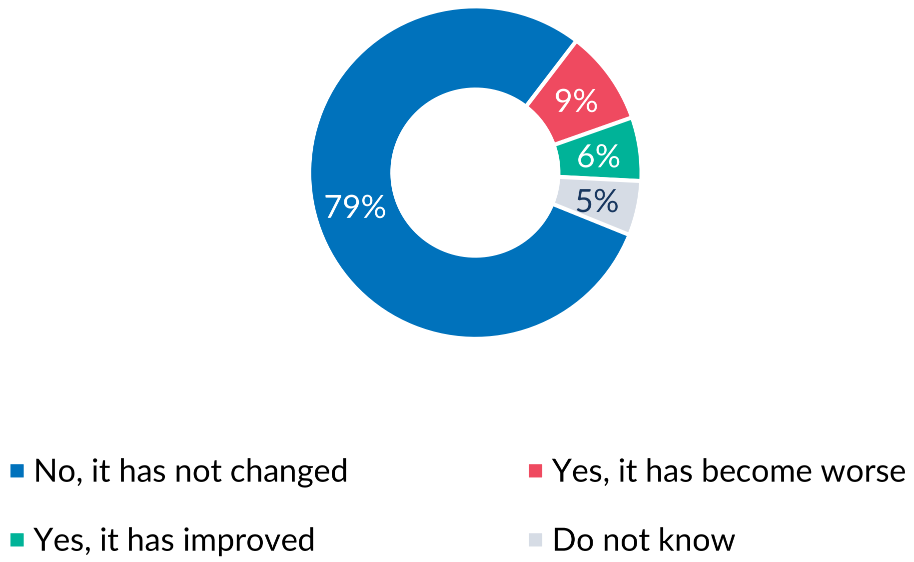
Regional Refugee Response for the Ukraine Situation

SOCIAL COHESION

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



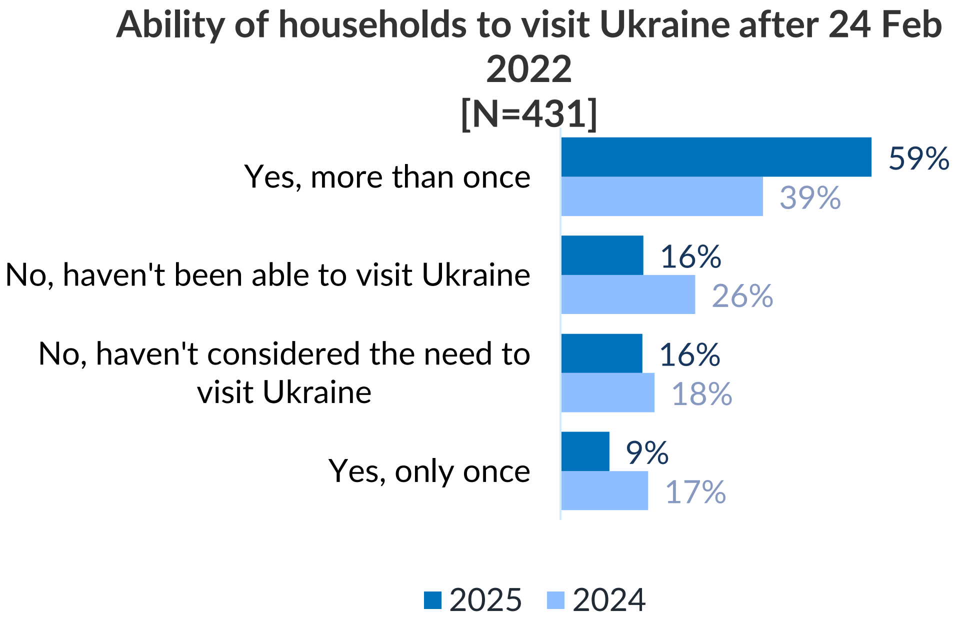
Change in relationship in the last 12 months [N=431]



Similar to last year, almost four out of five respondents rated the relationship with the host community as good or very good, much higher than regional results (62%). Those who view the relationship as bad or neutral are twice as likely to have experienced hostile behavior. Like last year, 1 in 5 respondents reported such behavior, mostly in the form of verbal aggression (up with 10%), discriminatory behavior or negative comments on social media.

PROTECTION

TEMPORARY VISITS



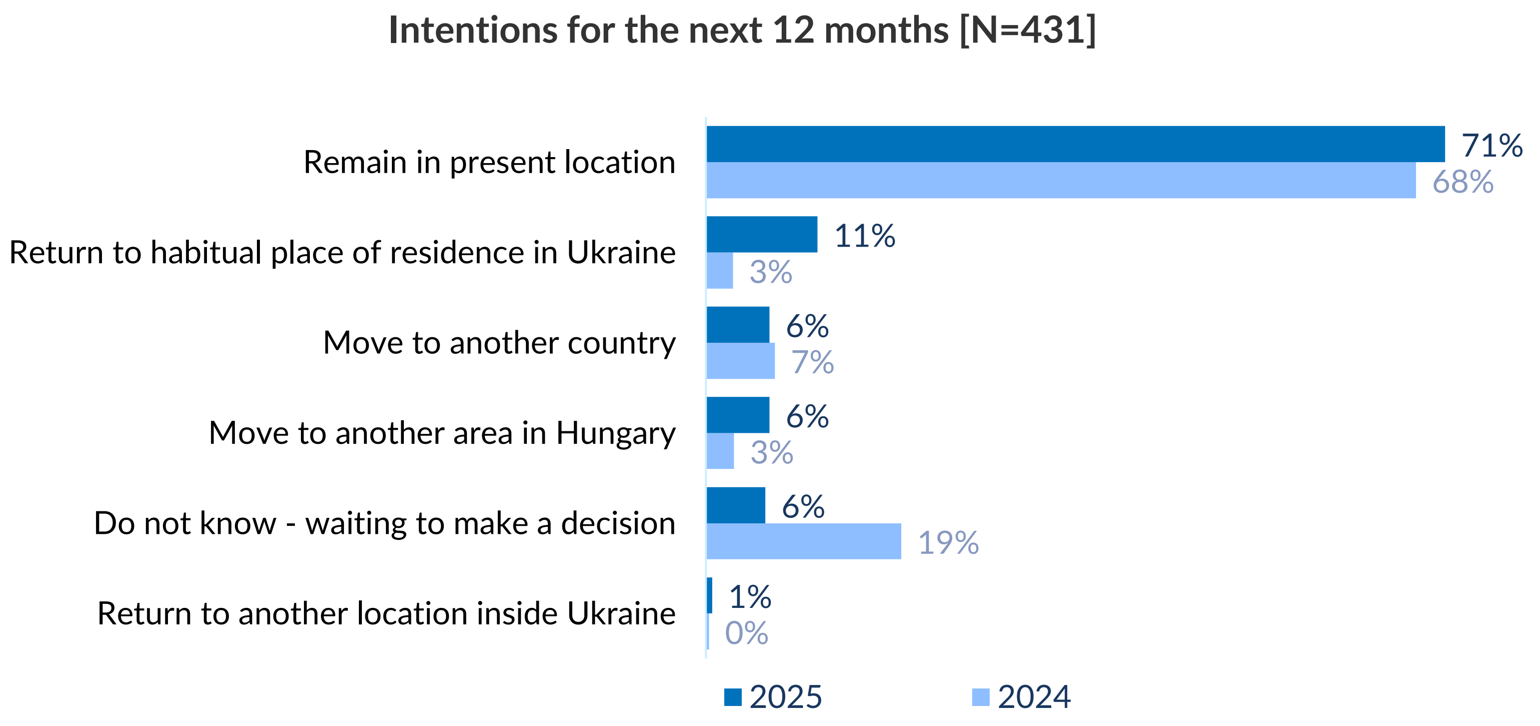
Compared to last year, more households had members who were able to visit Ukraine multiple times (+20%). The most common reason for visiting remains to see relatives. Accessing healthcare is increasingly mentioned as a reason, while fewer people mention returning to check on conditions for return or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

For those unable to visit, the main reason remains linked to security concerns (including occupation of territory). 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%).

PROTECTION

INTENTIONS

Regional Refugee Response for the Ukraine Situation



Most respondents (71%) plan to remain in the same location 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%).

ECONOMIC INCLUSION & LIVELIHOOD

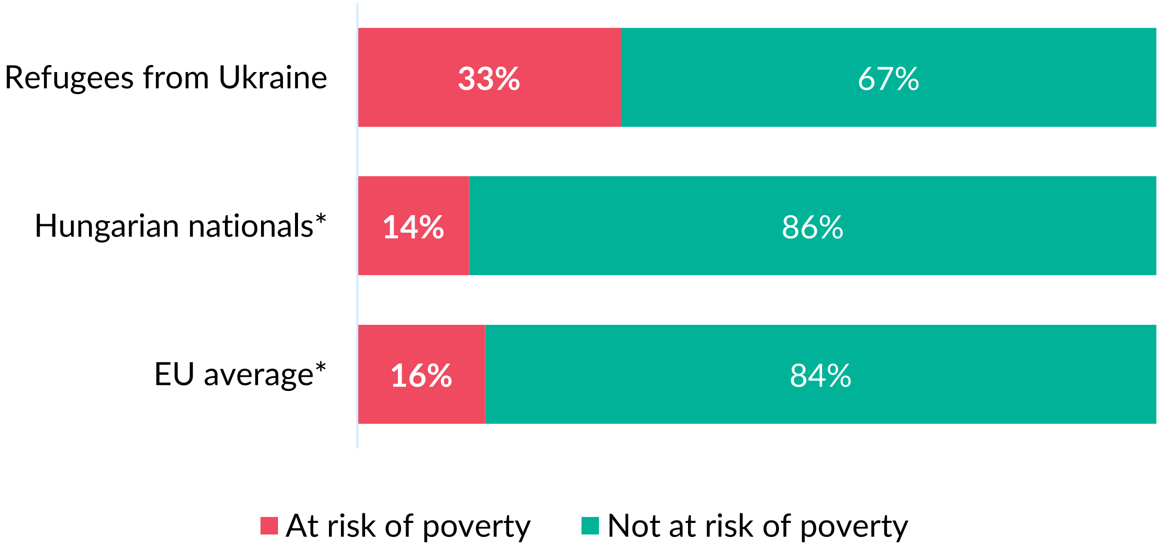
SOCIO-ECONOMIC INCLUSION & LIVELIHOOD

RISK OF POVERTY

Regional Refugee Response for the Ukraine Situation

33% Households at risk of poverty

At risk of poverty rate [N=425]



* *2024 data*

Refugee households have an equivalized median income of 233,000 HUF, which is 17% below that of Hungarian nationals. More than half of the respondents (56%) reported being able to afford fewer goods and services compared to when they first arrived, a clear increase compared to last year (+17%).

The at-risk-of-poverty rate for Hungarians has been around 14% in the last 15 years. In comparison, around one in three refugee families are at risk of poverty (-5% compared to 2024), indicating widespread financial hardship. At risk of poverty is defined as having an equivalized household income below 60% of the host country median.

Correspondingly, more than a third of respondents (38%) indicated that their income is insufficient to meet basic needs.

SOCIO-ECONOMIC INCLUSION & LIVELIHOOD

SEVERE MATERIAL AND SOCIAL DEPRIVATION

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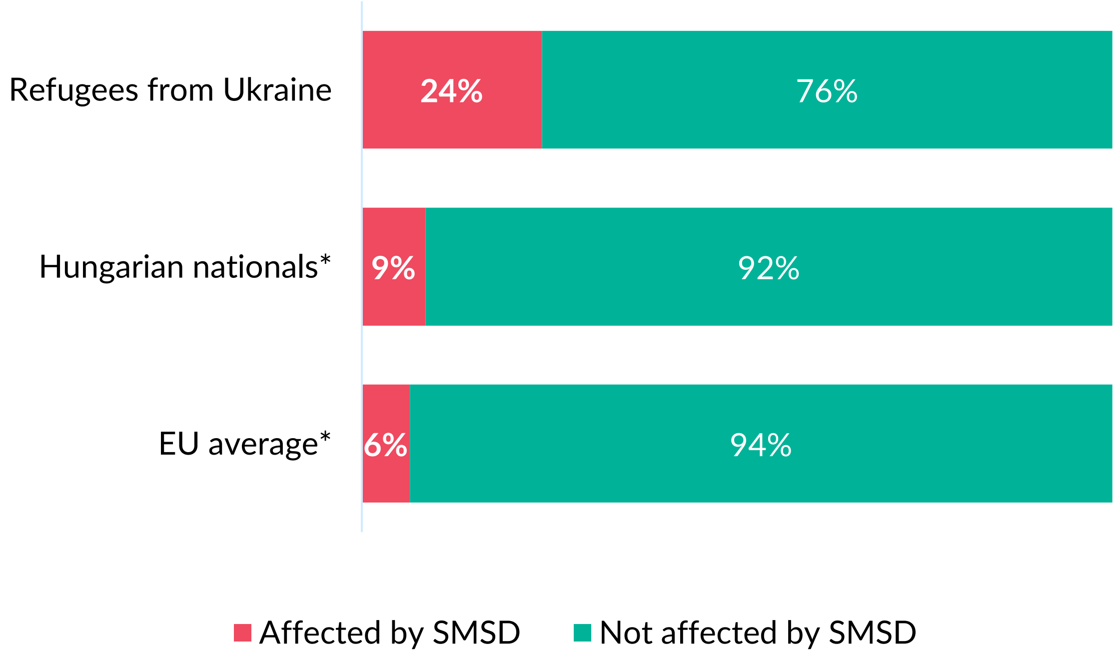
24% Households affected by severe material and social deprivation

Severe material and social deprivation rate [N=426]



* *2024 data*

1 out of 4 refugee families face severe material and social deprivation, almost three times the rate of Hungarian nationals, and almost 4 times the average rate across the EU.

(The severe material and social deprivation (SMSD) rate is an EU indicator that measures whether people can obtain the necessary and desirable items needed to lead an adequate life. It is a new question asked in 2025.)

SOCIO-ECONOMIC INCLUSION & LIVELIHOOD

Regional Refugee Response for the Ukraine Situation

LABOR MARKET TRENDS

	Population	Hungarian nationals ’24	Ukrainian refugees ‘24	Hungarian nationals ’25	Ukrainian refugees ‘25	Regional SEIS ‘25
Labor force participation rate	Working age (15-64)	79%	66%	79%	75%	73%
Employment rate	Working age (15-64)	75%	60%	75%	68%	71%
Unemployment rate	Labor force	5%	10%	4%	9%	9%

Compared to last year, the employment rate increased to 68% (+8%) whereas the unemployment rate remained stable at 9%. Labor force participation and employment rates are in line with regional SEIS results and show a convergence to those of Hungarian nationals. Refugees from Ukraine remain twice as likely to be unemployed compared to their hosts.

Despite improvements in basic Hungarian language comprehension, a sufficient level of knowledge of Hungarian remains a key barrier in finding work in Hungary, as mentioned by more than two out of five individuals (44%). Other barriers are the inability to find jobs with decent pay (15%) and lack of relevant employment opportunities for individuals closer to retirement age (13%).

SOCIO-ECONOMIC INCLUSION & LIVELIHOOD

LANGUAGE KNOWLEDGE

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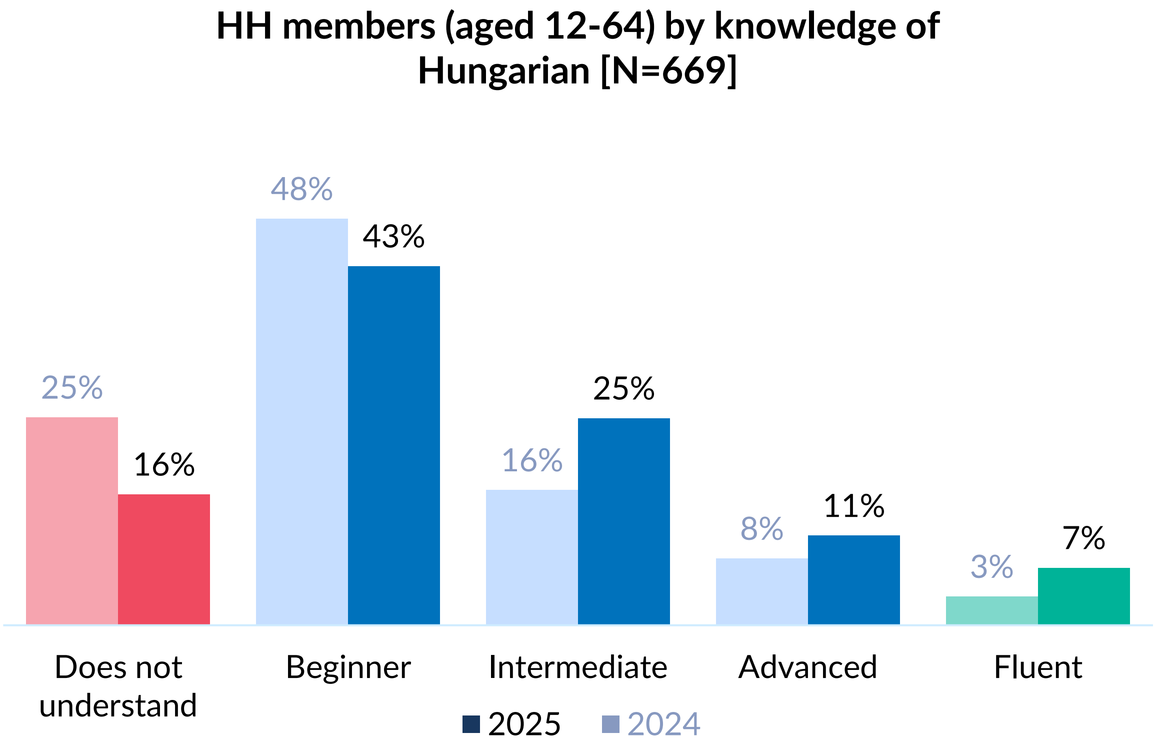
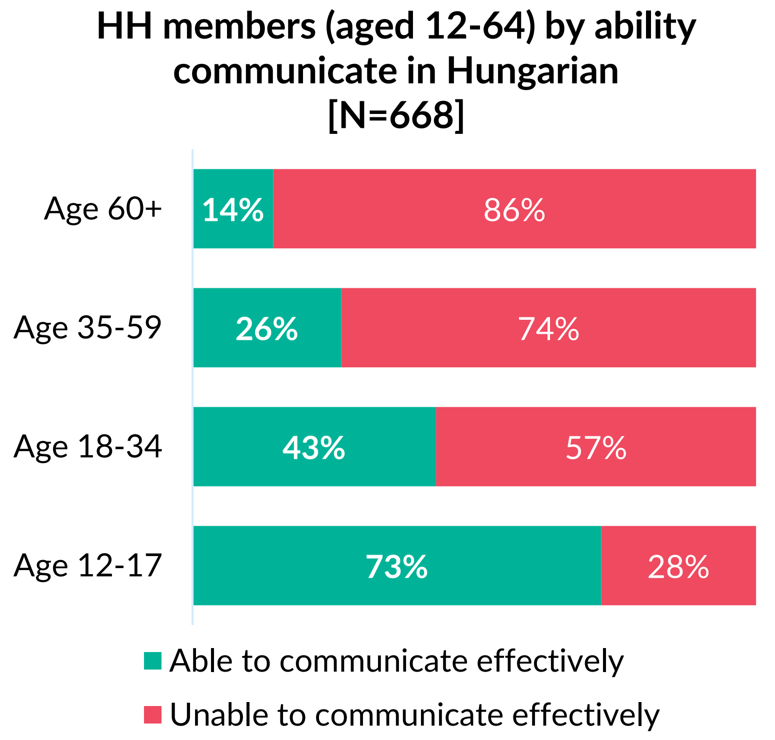




Although, knowledge of Hungarian has improved among younger age groups, 59% of household members still do not understand Hungarian or have beginner level (down from 73%).

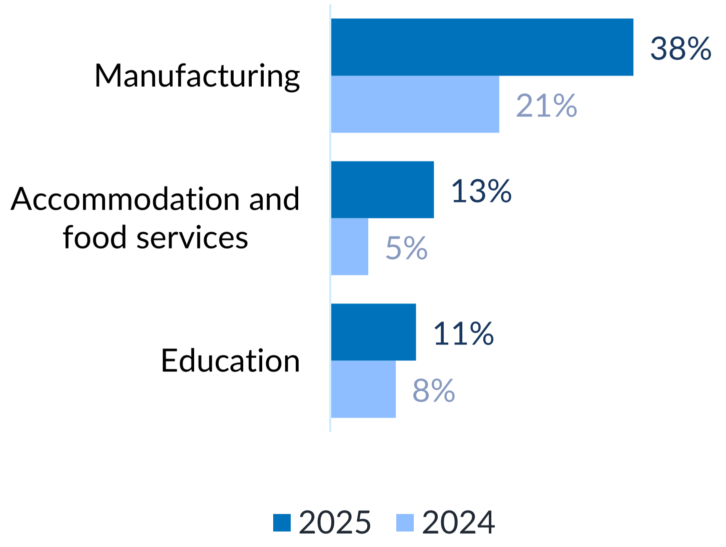
The ability to communicate in Hungarian remains strongly linked to age, with lower age groups showing higher percentages compared to older ones.

SOCIO-ECONOMIC INCLUSION & LIVELIHOOD

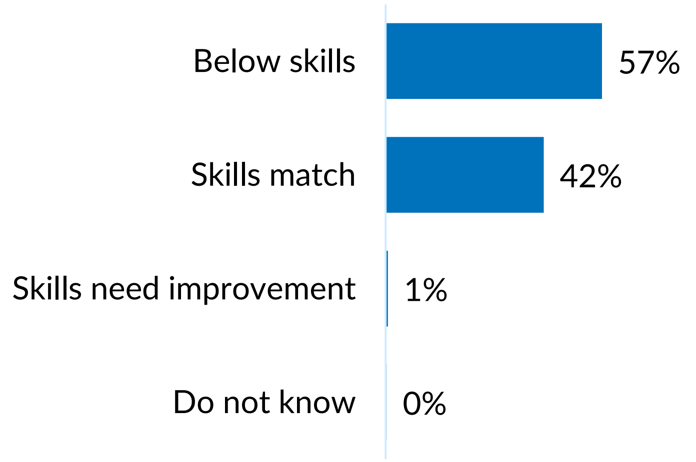
Regional Refugee Response for the Ukraine Situation

EMPLOYMENT SECTOR, LEVEL AND CONTRACT TYPE

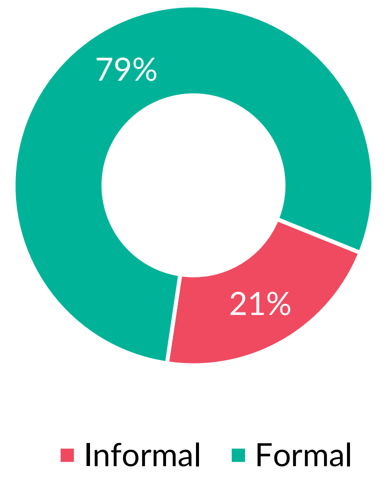
Top 3 sectors of current employment [N=420]



Employment matches professional level of skill or qualification [N=420]



Individuals by contract type [N=420]



More than a third of those employed work in manufacturing, it remains the most common sector (+17%).

For more than half of those employed (57%), their employment is somewhat or significantly below their level of professional skills or qualifications. This is in line with regional results (58%).

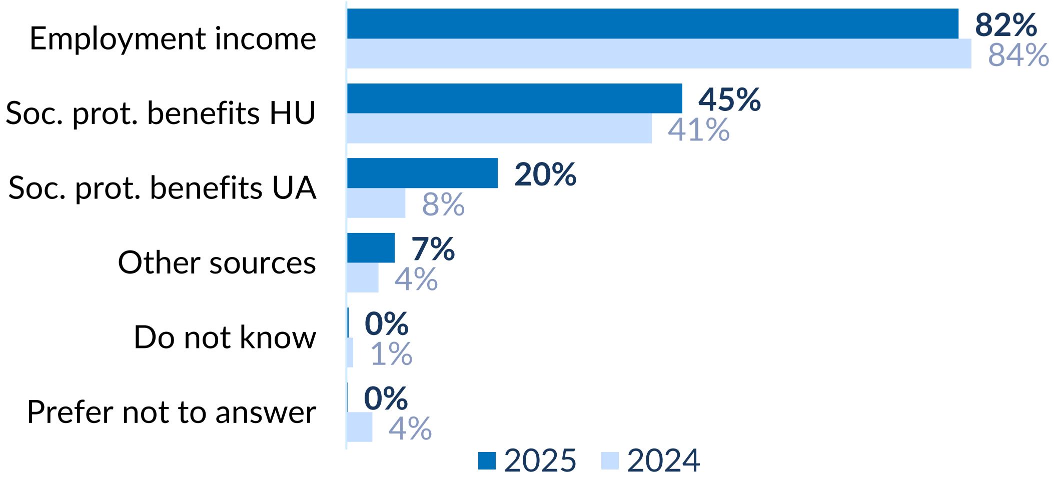
In terms of contract, 4 out of 5 working individuals are employed in person in Hungary and have a formal contract. The proportion of individuals employed without a contract has decreased compared to last year (-11%).

SOCIO-ECONOMIC INCLUSION & LIVELIHOOD

ACCESS TO SOCIAL PROTECTION

45% **of households received financial support from the Hungarian government**

Households by income source in the last 30 days [MCQ - N=425]



Average household income from HU social protection benefits
27,851 Ft. *(2025)*
38,342 Ft. *(2024)*

Most households continue to rely on income from employment (82%).

Two out of five households receive support from the Hungarian government, similar to last year (+4%). At the same time, the proportion of households receiving social protection benefits from Ukraine increased to one in five.

The average monthly amount received in terms of financial support from the Hungarian government is 28,000 HUF, in comparison, households spend monthly on average three times this amount on food alone.

Access to mainstream social welfare programs is limited, impacting the provision of comprehensive support for children at risk, older people (22% of HHs) and people with disabilities (10% of HHs).

SOCIAL INCLUSION

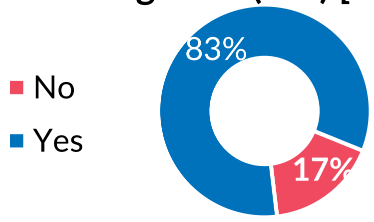
EDUCATION

ENROLMENT IN FORMAL EDUCATION

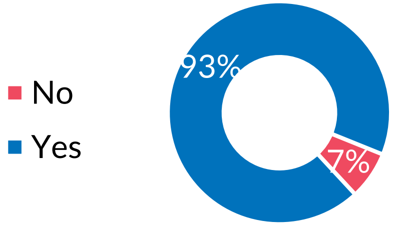
Reported enrolment of children subject to compulsory education (3-16) [N=276]

91% of children aged 3–16 are enrolled in formal education

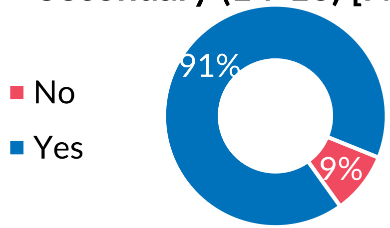
Kindergarten (3-5) [N=34]*



Primary (6-13) [N=169]



Secondary (14-16) [N=73]



The proportion of children who were reported to be enrolled in formal education during the previous school year has increased to 91% (+13% compared to 2024), which is higher than the regional average (75%). This rise may be supported by the opening of the first Ukrainian–Hungarian bilingual schools in the capital.

This is self-reported and does not serve as official enrolment rates nor reflect the ability of students to pass exams.

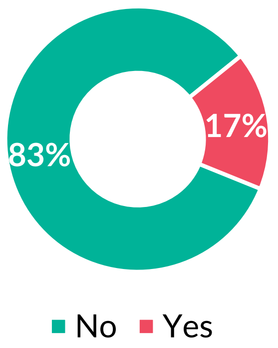
Non-enrolment remains mostly due to remote attendance of Ukrainian school, but home schooling and language barriers are also mentioned in some cases.

**Interpret with caution due to small sample size*

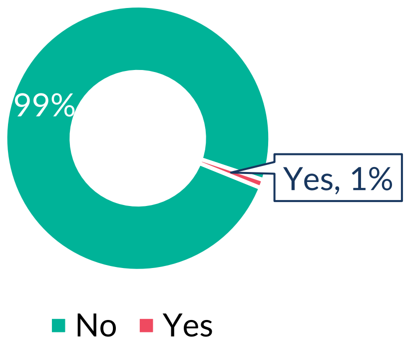
EDUCATION

YOUTH NEET RATE

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



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



9% **Youth (15 to 24) who are *not* in *education*, *employment* or *training* (NEET)**

Almost 1 in 10 youth aged 15-24 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).

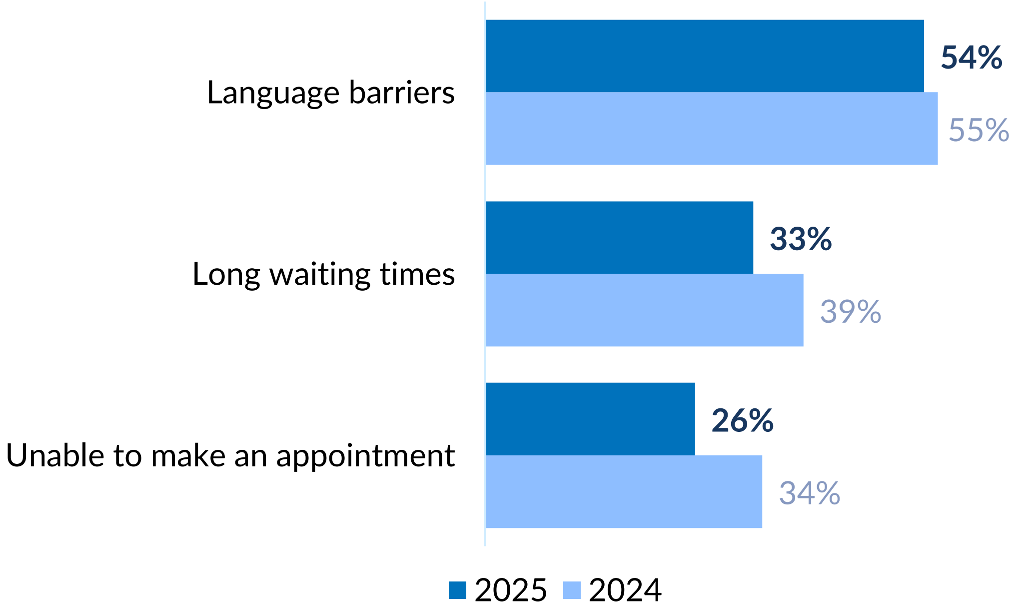
HEALTH

ACCESS TO HEALTHCARE

Regional Refugee Response for the Ukraine Situation

22% Of household members with health problems were unable to access healthcare

Top 3 self-reported barriers to accessing healthcare in last 30 days [MCQ - N=61]



One in five household members were unable to access healthcare when they needed it, this is higher compared to the regional average (14%).

Difficulties in accessing healthcare are mostly linked to language barriers, long waiting times or the inability to make an appointment.

In addition, respondents indicated lack of awareness about the fact that TP status grants health insurance.

The proportion of households with a chronically ill member has increased from 33% in 2023 to 57% in 2025.

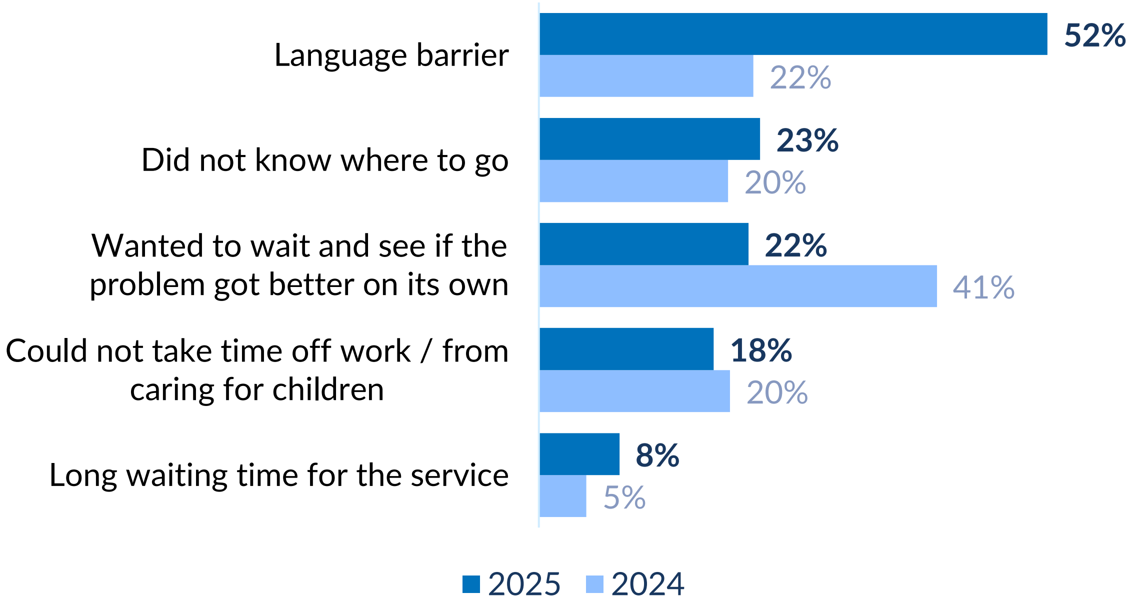
HEALTH

Regional Refugee Response for the Ukraine Situation

ACCESS TO MENTAL HEALTH AND PSYCHOSOCIAL SUPPORT (MHPSS)

64% **of individuals received MHPSS services*** *(of those that needed support and tried to access it, excludes support from a friend, family or community member, spiritual support or support from employer)*

Top 5 reported barriers to accessing MHPSS services [MCQ – N=60]



16% of individuals experienced mental health or psychosocial problems, a slight reduction compared to last year (-5%).

Two-thirds tried to seek support (62%), the majority opted for informal support through friends, family or community members (58%). The proportion of those who received formal services (64%) is slightly lower compared to the regional average (70%).

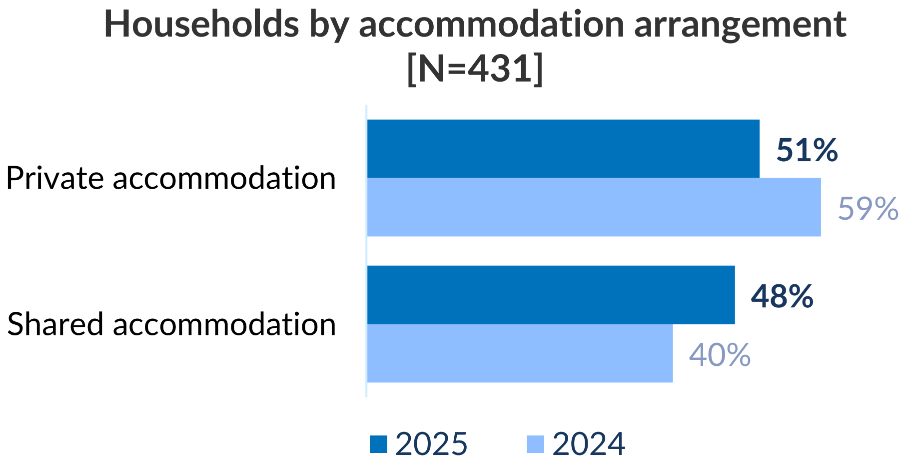
4 out of 5 people who received support reported a slight (52%) or significant improvement (28%) in their wellbeing, slightly below regional average (88%).

Compared to last year fewer people are trying to wait and see if the problem go away on its own (-19%), this results in more people reporting language barrier (+30%) as the most common barrier for accessing MHPSS services.

ACCOMMODATION

Regional Refugee Response for the Ukraine Situation

LIVING ARRANGEMENTS AND CONDITIONS



38% of households live in overcrowded conditions

32% of households report issues with their accommodation

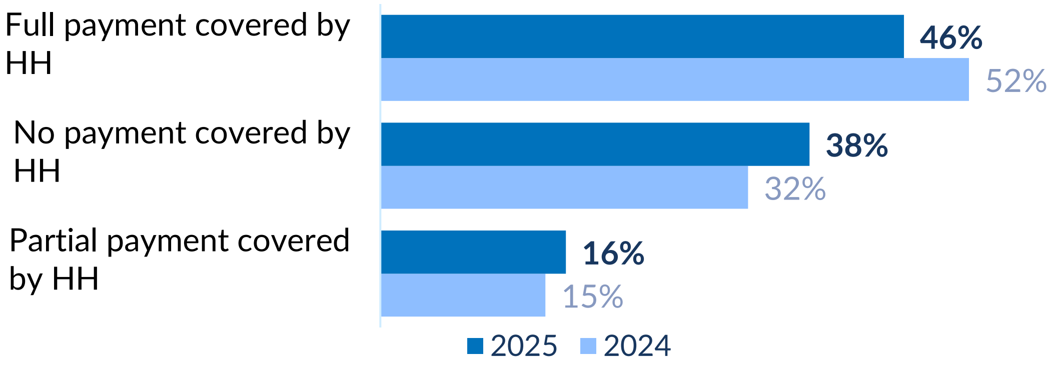
Half of the households interviewed reside in private accommodation (apartments or houses), a slight decrease compared to last year (-8%). This change was mostly driven by an increase of households staying in shared accommodation provided by their employer (+6%), either in worker’s accommodations or through a benefit called “housing allowance for employed beneficiaries”.

Similar to last year, one out of three 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.

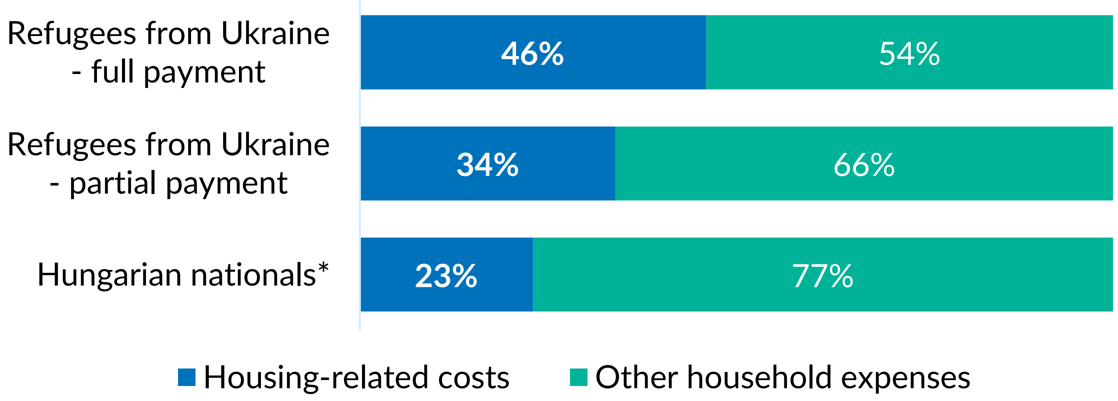
ACCOMMODATION

PAYMENT AND COSTS

Households by payment arrangement for accommodation [N=431]



Average share of housing-related cost out of total household expenditure



* *2022 data*

54% **of households need financial support to cover accommodation expenses**

30% **Average share of housing-related cost out of total household expenditure**

Most households continue to pay in full for their accommodation, but the proportion is slightly lower compared to last year.

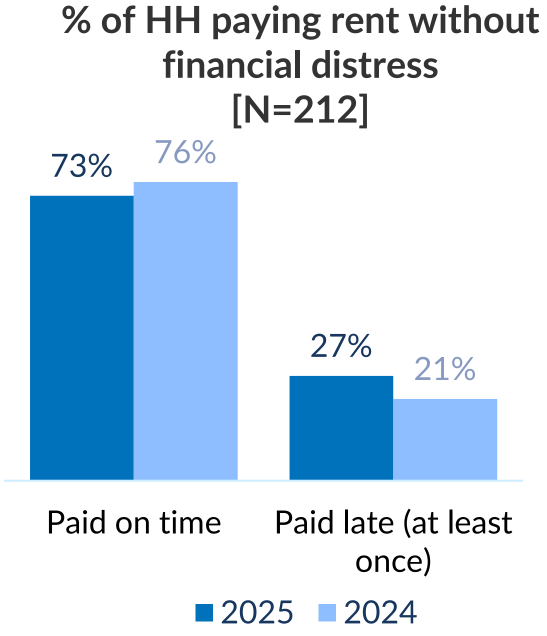
In addition, the proportion of those whose accommodation expenses are fully covered through government schemes or NGOs has decreased slightly (18%, down from 22% last year). Half of those who pay partial costs for their accommodation are staying with host families.

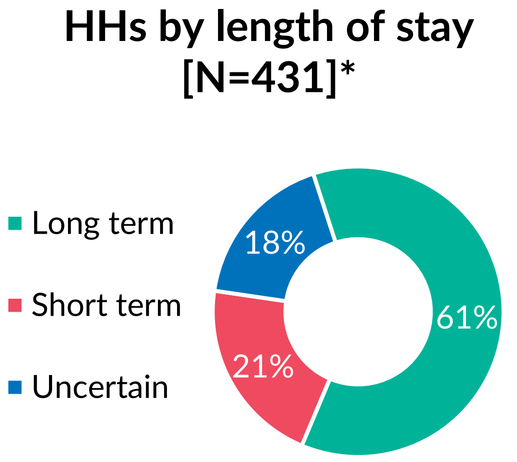
Housing-related expenditure accounted on average for around 30% of final household consumption (compared to 23% for Hungarians – latest data from 2022). For those who cover accommodation costs in full this rises to 46%.

ACCOMMODATION

Regional Refugee Response for the Ukraine Situation

SECURITY OF TENURE





*Long term: 6 months or more
Short term: less than 6 months

More than a quarter of households struggled to pay their rent on time at least once, a slight increase compared to last year. Occupancy agreements are increasingly in writing (+13%) but 16% continue to have verbal agreements.

Compared to last year, the proportion of households who reported feeling under pressure to leave their current accommodation (2%) 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.

Households with a written occupancy agreement
82%

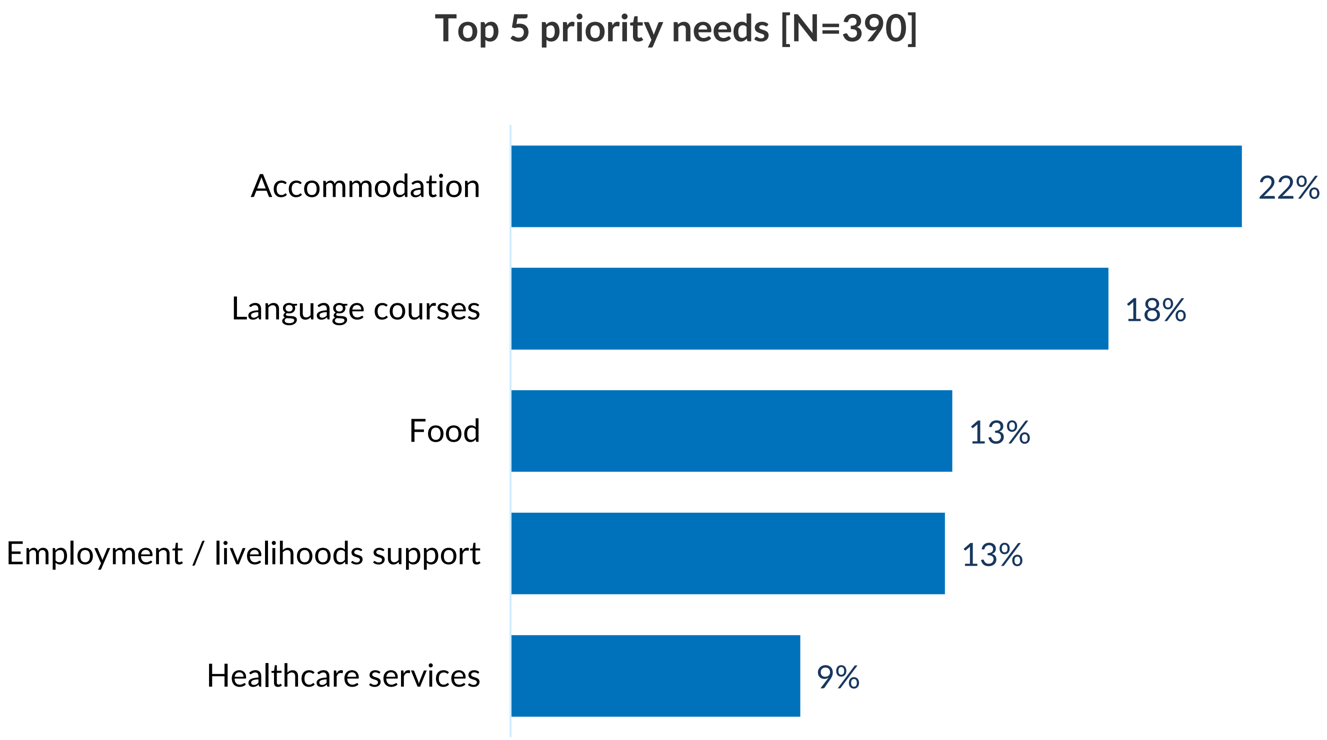
Households with a verbal occupancy agreement
16%

Households under pressure to leave
2%

CONCLUSION

CONCLUSION

PRIORITY NEEDS



Accommodation is the top priority need, due to high cost and limited availability.

Language courses remain a key priority, since sufficient knowledge of Hungarian improves relevant employment prospects while also reducing barriers to accessing healthcare and education.

Almost 1 in 10 households assessed their income as insufficient to buy food and 3 in 10 assessed it as only sufficient to buy food but nothing else, highlighting the precarious living conditions of many refugees.