



Regional Refugee Response

Bulgaria

SOCIO-ECONOMIC INSIGHTS SURVEY

Refugees from Ukraine with
Temporary Protection

June-November 2025

Preliminary analysis

Photo credit: UNHCR/Nikolay Stoykov

Bulgaria

OBJECTIVES & METHODOLOGY

OBJECTIVES

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 programs and interventions aimed at addressing those needs. The 2025 SEIS provides crucial results on:

- the needs of refugees from Ukraine in Bulgaria, focusing on the in-country refugee population;
- the level of socio-economic integration and access to national systems;
- service gaps and refugees' priorities for the coming year.
- identifying changing trends in refugees needs

The SEIS is a key source of information for the 2026 RRP planning, which aims to capture funding and planning requirements for the response.

These preliminary results cover the following topics:

- **DEMOGRAPHICS**
- **PROTECTION**
- **EDUCATION**
- **SOCIAL ECONOMIC INCLUSION AND LIVELIHOOD**
- **HEALTH & MHPSS**
- **ACCOMMODATION**

OVERVIEW



**COMPLETED
VISITS**

499 HH



**POPULATION
COVERAGE**

499 HH covered, obtaining information for 1134 refugees from Ukraine in Bulgaria living in private accommodation, with host families, rentals, hostels/hotels and in government-designated collective sites.



**DATA COLLECTION
BY**

UNHCR Bulgaria, Global Metrics, Association Energy, Caritas, USRF Foundation, Bulgarian Red Cross, Zapochvam Otnachalo Foundation



DATA COLLECTION

From **18 June to 14
November 2025**



**PRELIMINARY ANALYSIS
BY**

UNHCR Bulgaria/Global Metrics

METHODOLOGY

The **preliminary result** are based on the analysis of part of the total surveys to conducted.

POPULATION	Refugees living in private accommodation, with host families, rentals, hostels/hotels and in government-designated collective sites.
DESIGN	Household interviews.
DATA COLLECTION	From 18 June to 14 November 2025 by enumerators from UNHCR Bulgaria, Global Metrics, Association Energy, Caritas, USRF Foundation, Bulgarian Red Cross, Zapochvam Otnachalo Foundation
SAMPLE SIZE (preliminary r. / SEIS)	499 HHs covered; obtaining information for 1134 individual HH members

SAMPLING AND REPRESENTATIVENESS: Purposively selected (geographical coverage, different accommodation types), but **not statistically representative**. Results are indicative.

Weights were applied to correct for over-representation of children and older persons and under-representation of those aged 18–34 (especially males) in the SEIS sample.

LIMITATIONS:

- **Data collection during summer / school holidays** most likely affected the sample;
- **Lack of comprehensive data on population locations**, and difficulties interviewing outside of collective sites and distribution 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.

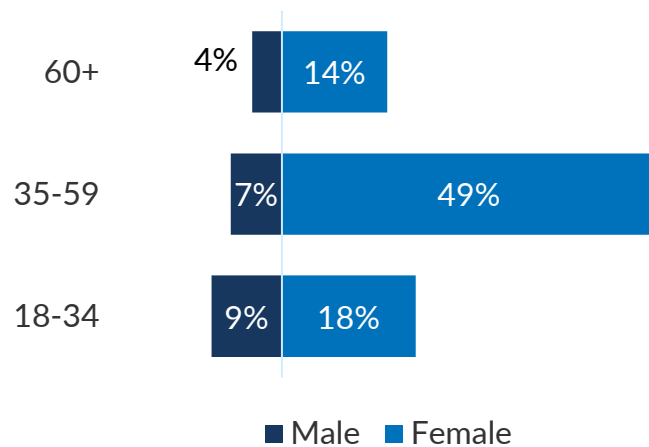
Bulgaria

DEMOGRAPHICS

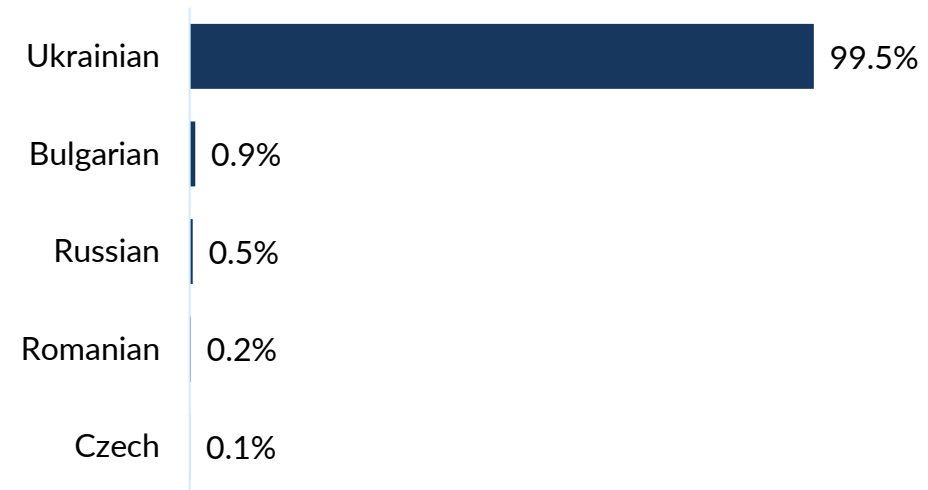
DEMOGRAPHICS

RESPONDENTS

Respondents by gender & age
(HH level)



% of respondents by citizenship



Around **81%** of household respondents were **women**, **19%** were **men**. The largest age group is 35-59 years (56%).

Almost all respondents have **Ukrainian** citizenship (**99,5%**). **0,9%** have **Bulgarian** citizenship, while **0,5%** have **Russian** citizenship (dual citizenships).

DEMOGRAPHICS

HOUSEHOLD AND POPULATION CHARACTERISTICS



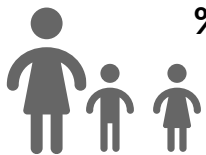
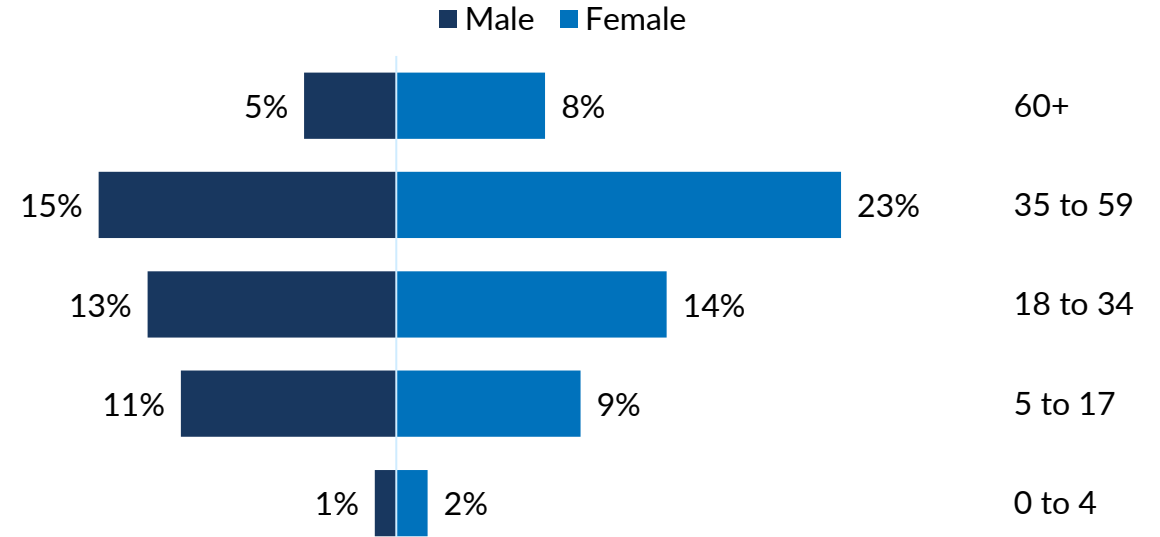
Average HH size
2.3

% of HHs with a
chronically ill member
50%

HHs with children
49%

Average stay
2.4 years

Household Members by Age Group and Gender



% Female Headed
HHs
52%



% HHs with
infants
3%



% children
23%



% of older
refugees
11%



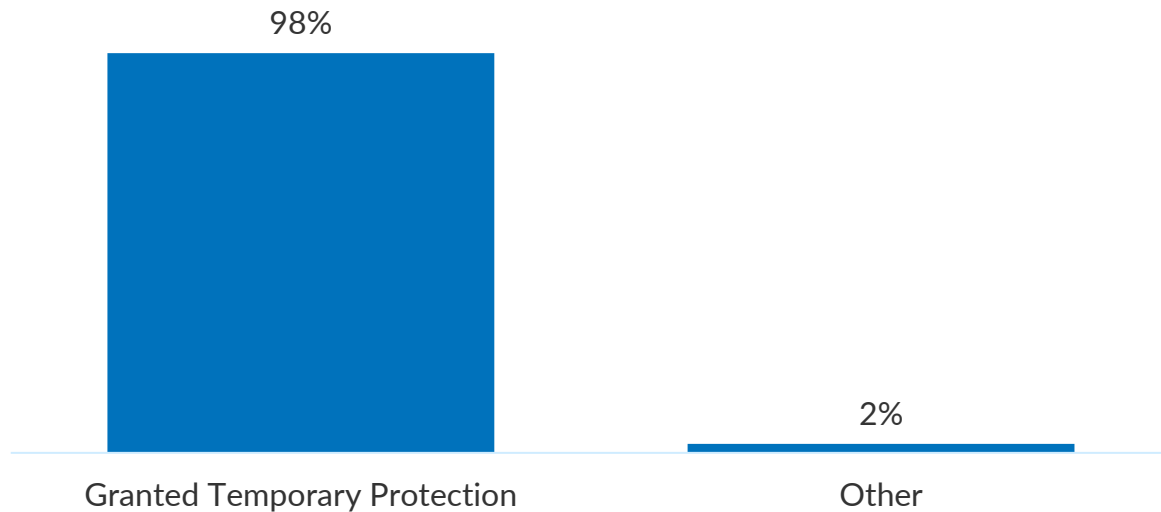
% of individuals with disability
(high support needs)
8%

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PROTECTION

LEGAL STATUS

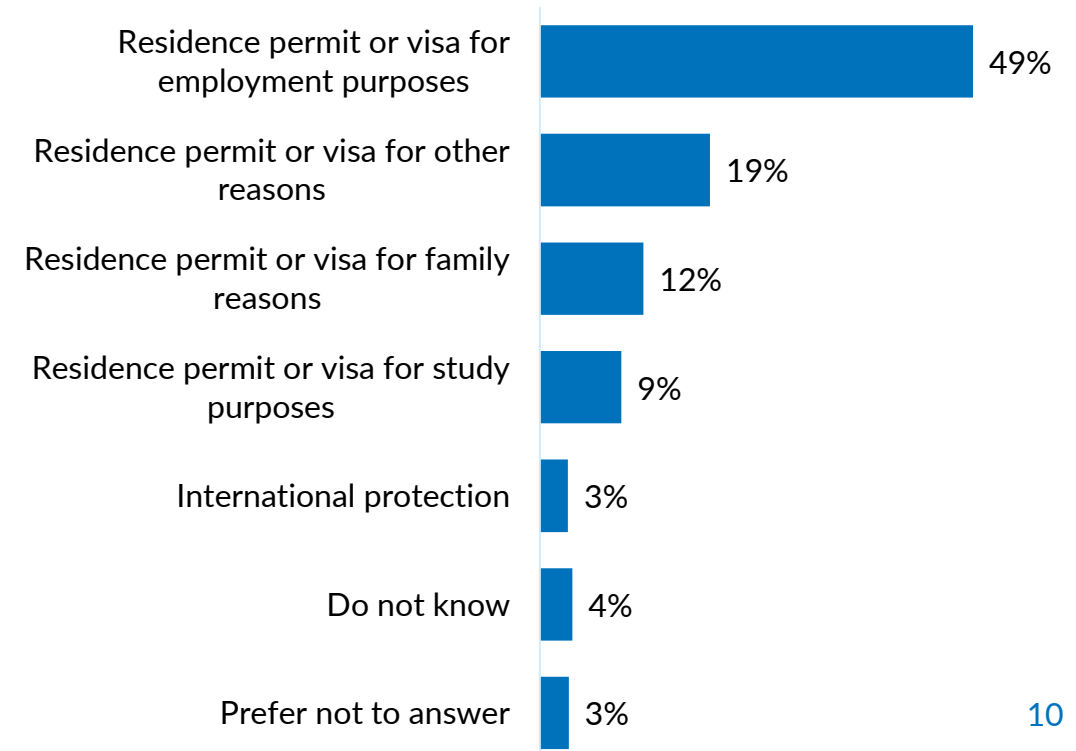
What is your current legal status in the country?
(% of HHs)*



% of HHs who will apply for a different status in the next 12 months

34%

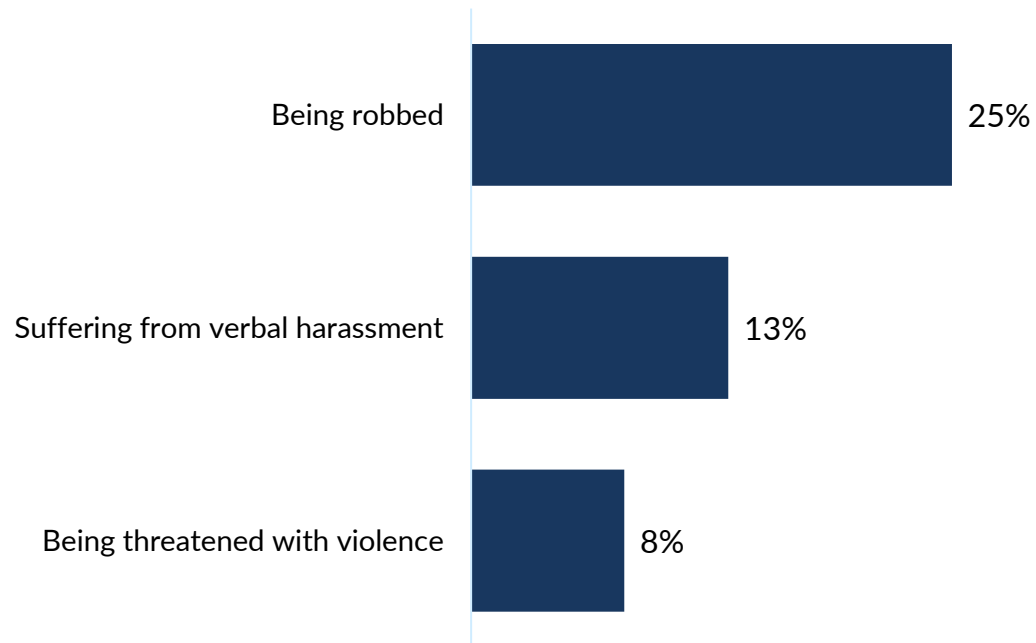
% HHs who will apply for another status in the next 12 months, by type of status (among those who plan to apply (34%))



*Those in “other” category include family members of refugees who have residence in Bulgaria

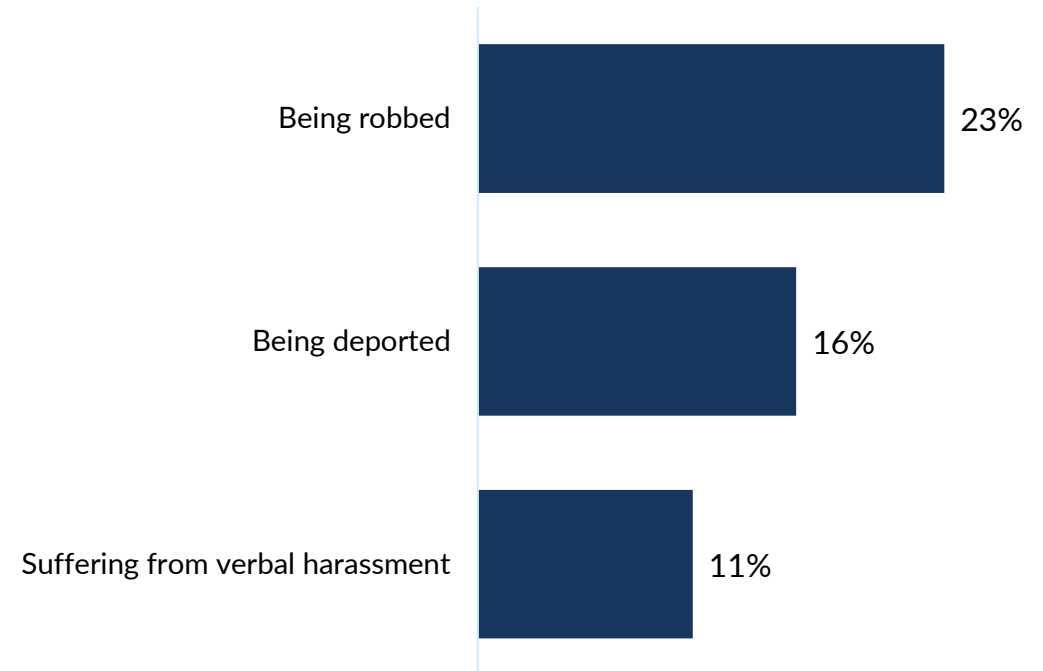
SENSE OF SAFETY AND SECURITY FOR WOMEN AND MEN

What do you think are the top 3 main safety and security concerns for women in the areas of residence, if any?



42% of HHs indicated no safety and security concerns for women (among HHs with at least one woman)

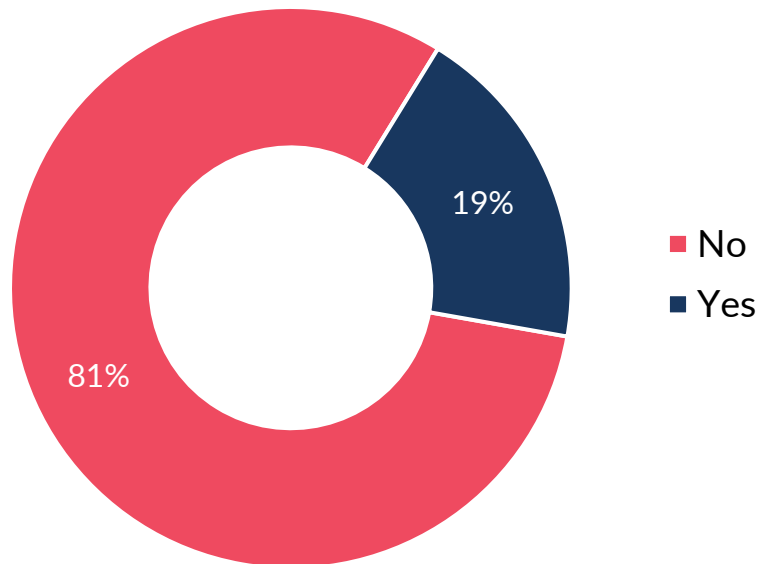
What do you think are the top 3 main safety and security concerns for men in the areas of residence, if any?



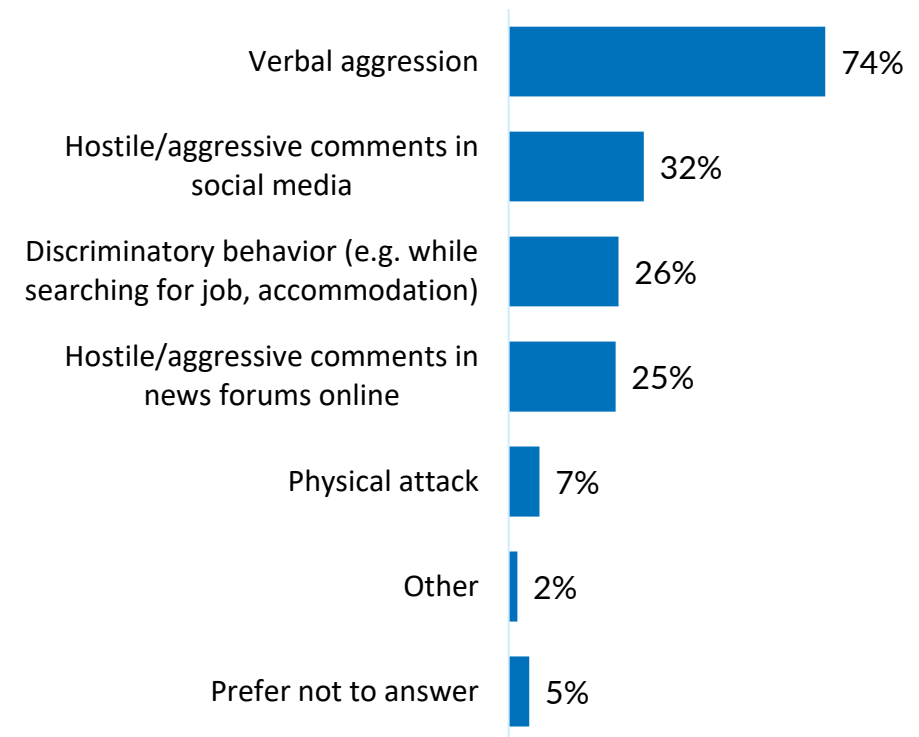
41% of HHs indicated no safety and security concerns for men (among HHs with at least one man)

SENSE OF SAFETY AND SECURITY

Have you or anyone in your household experienced what you felt was hostile behavior or attitudes from the local population in the last 12 months in Bulgaria?



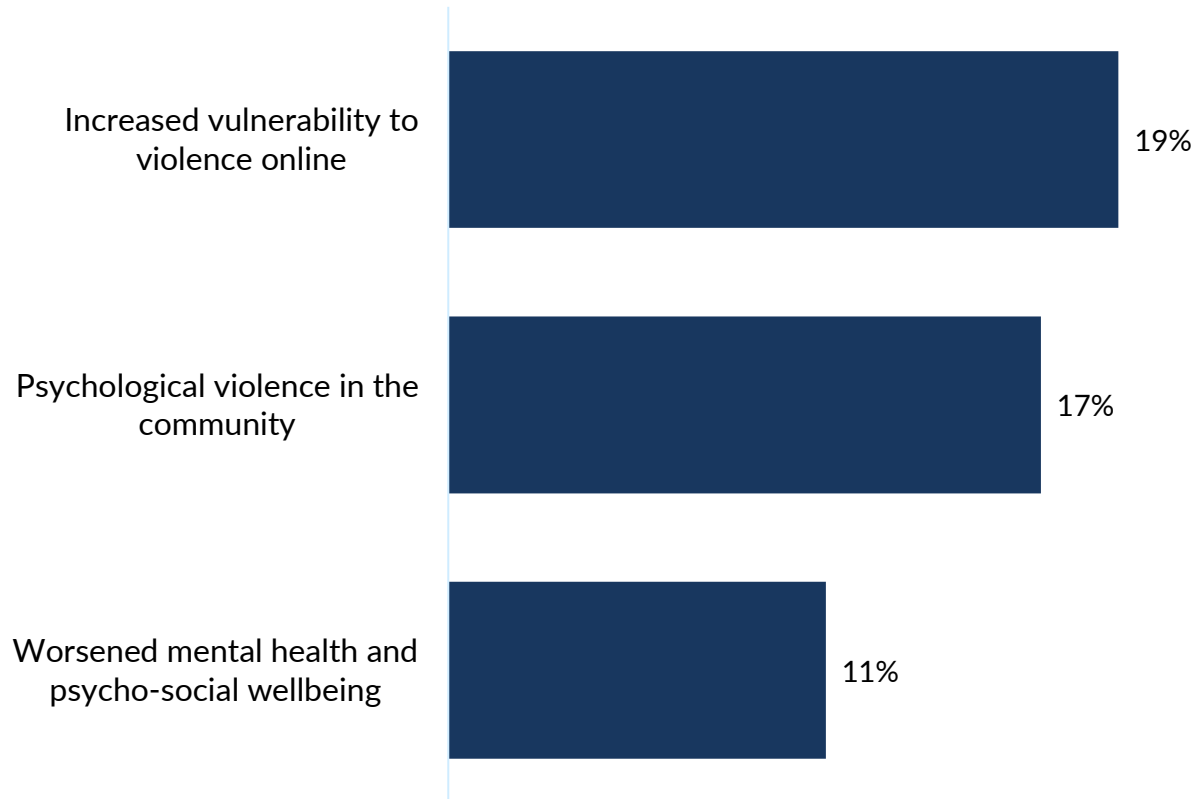
Type of hostile behavior reported (out of the 19% reporting tensions)



CHILD PROTECTION

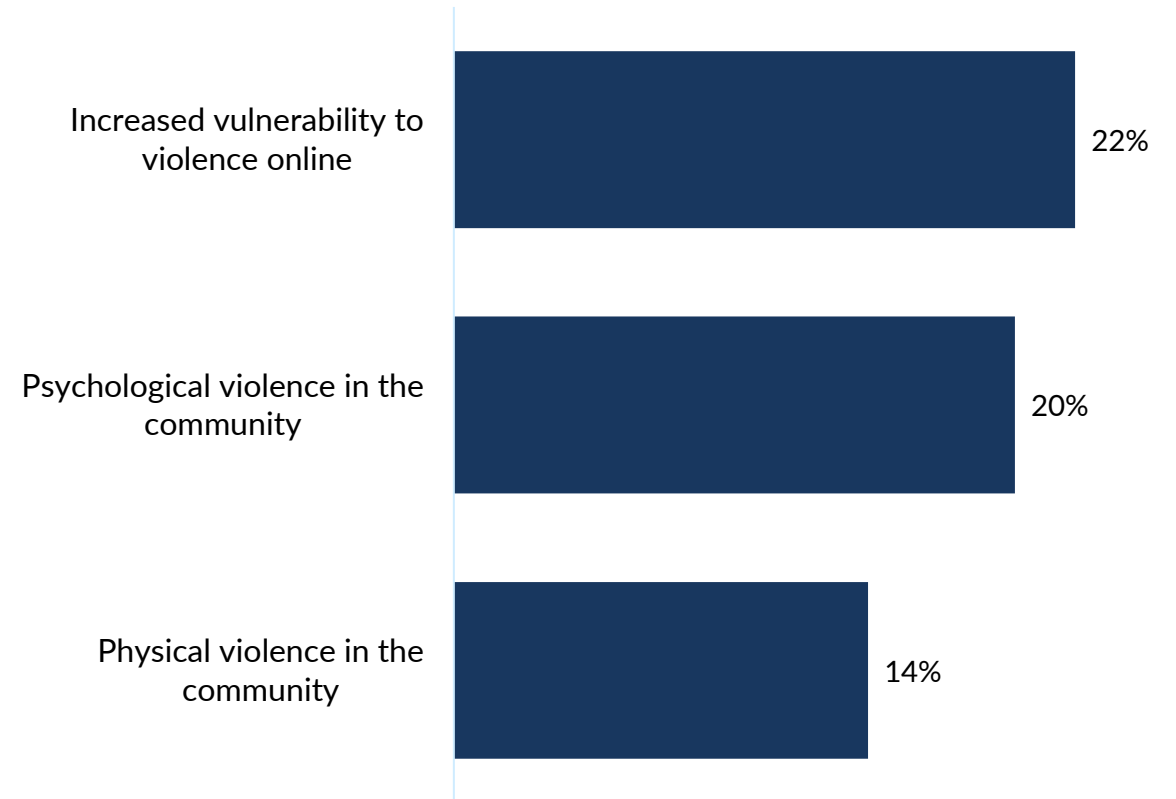
What are the three most serious risks faced by girls under the age of 18 in your neighborhood?

** among HHs with at least one girl (28%)*



What are the three most serious risks faced by boys under the age of 18 in your neighborhood?

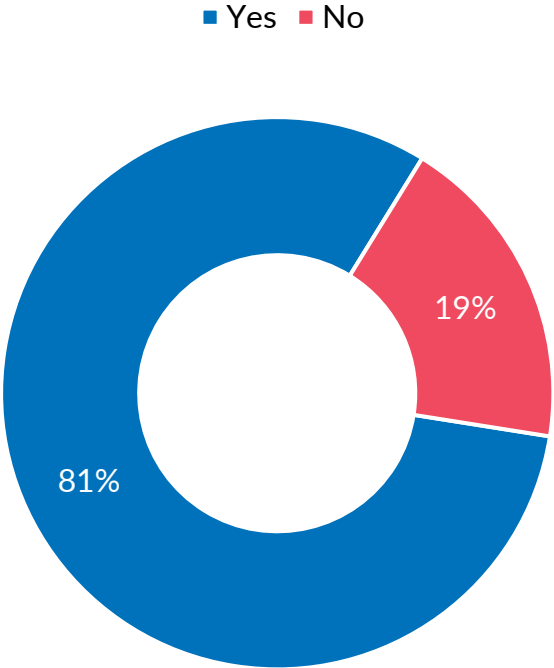
** among HHs with at least one boy (32%)*



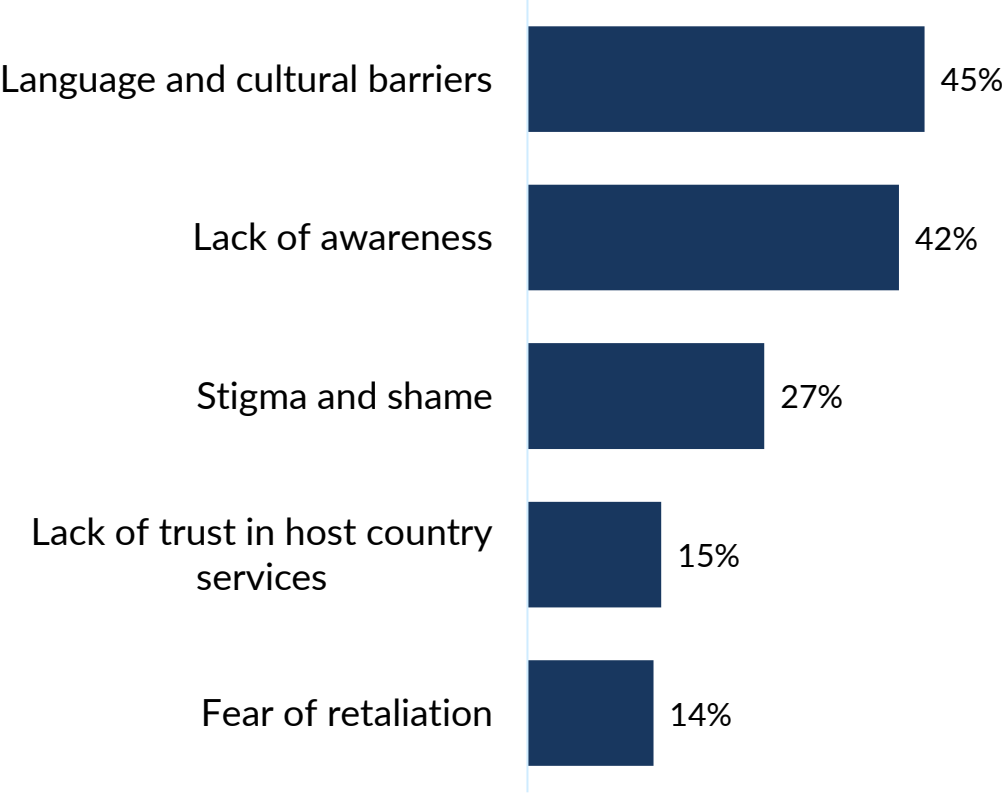
GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE (GBV)

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?

(100% responded to the question)



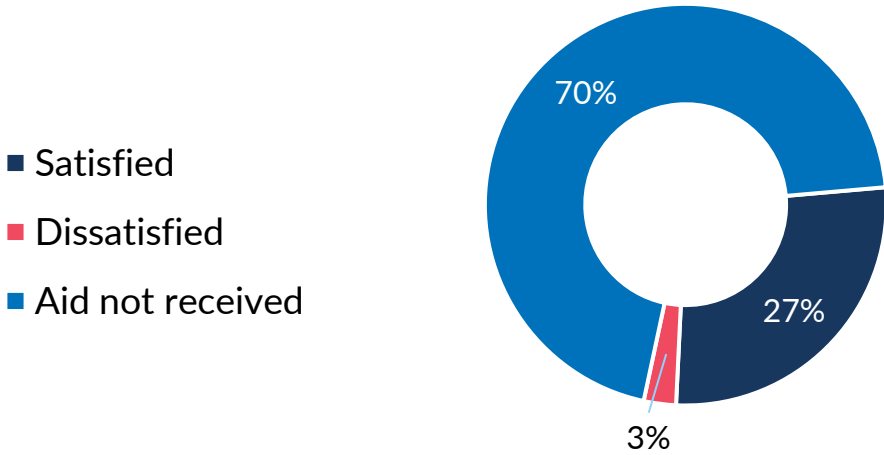
What do you perceive to be the main barriers that survivors could face when trying to access GBV services? (top 5)



ACCOUNTABILITY TO AFFECTED POPULATIONS

SATISFACTION OF AID RECEIVED

% of HHs satisfied/dissatisfied with the aid they received in the last 3 months



% of HHs who received aid in the last 3 months

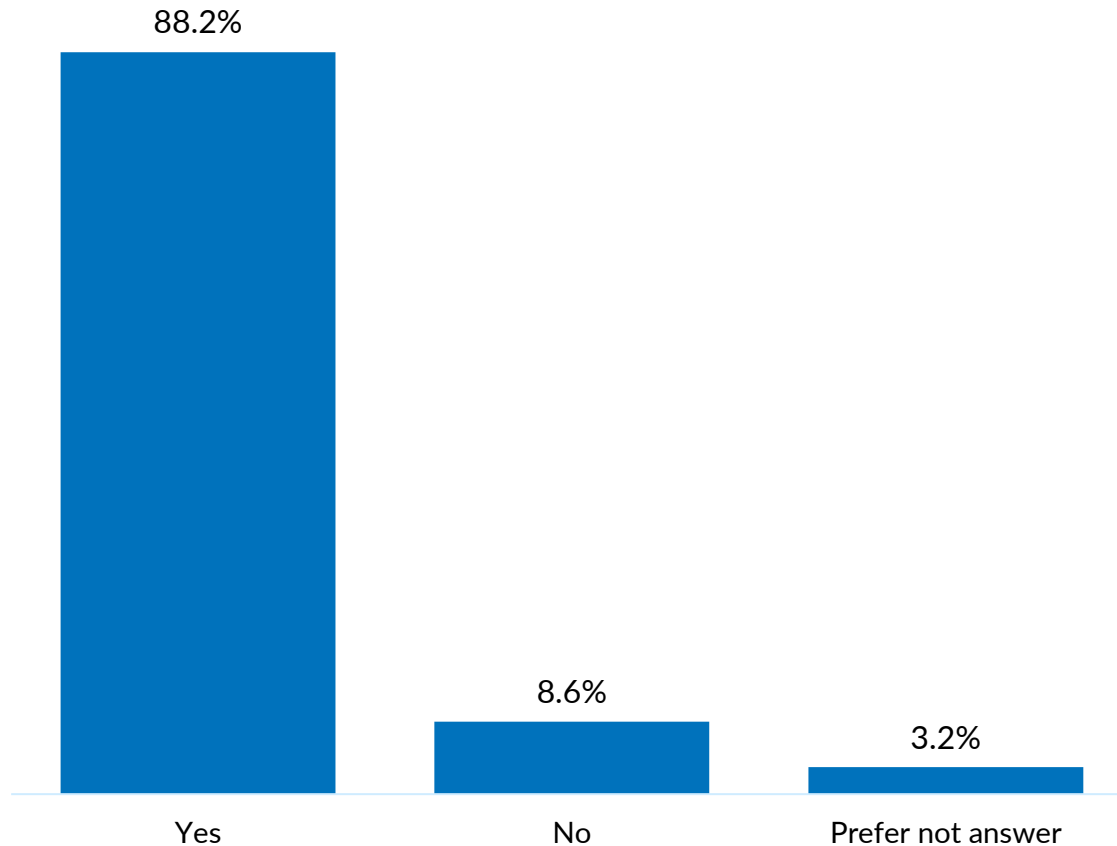
30%

* Aid refers to in-kind support, financial aid, accommodation

ACCOUNTABILITY TO AFFECTED POPULATIONS

CONFIDENTIAL REPORTING CHANNELS

% HHs who feel their protection concerns reported through confidential channels received an appropriate response (among those who have used confidential channels)



% of HHs who did not use confidential channels

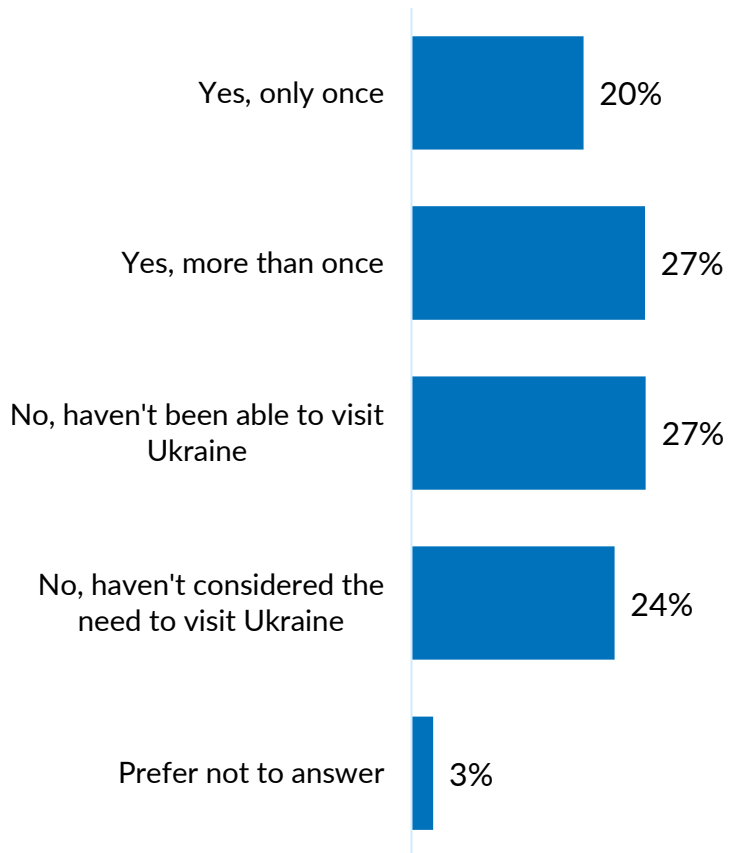
11%

% of HHs who did not know they can report complaints

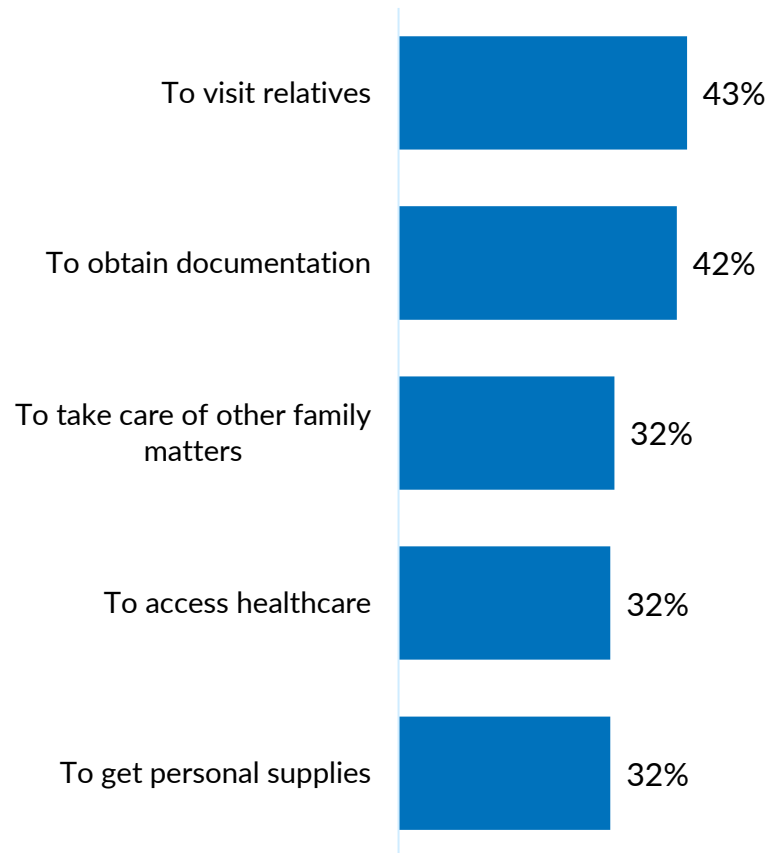
0.3%

RETURNS

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

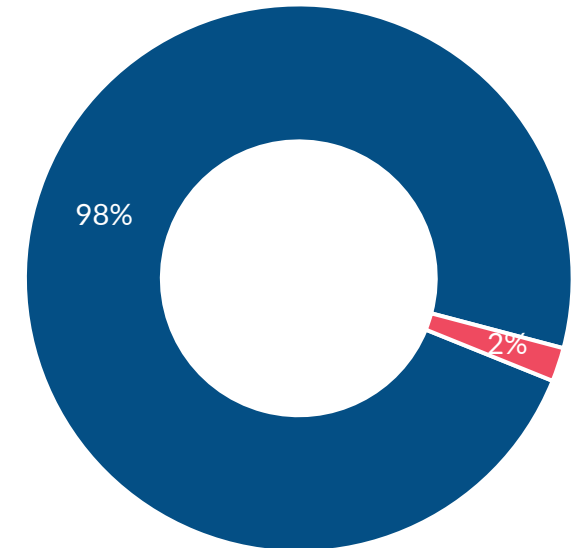


Top 5 reasons for visiting Ukraine (among HH where 1 or more household members have been back to visit Ukraine)



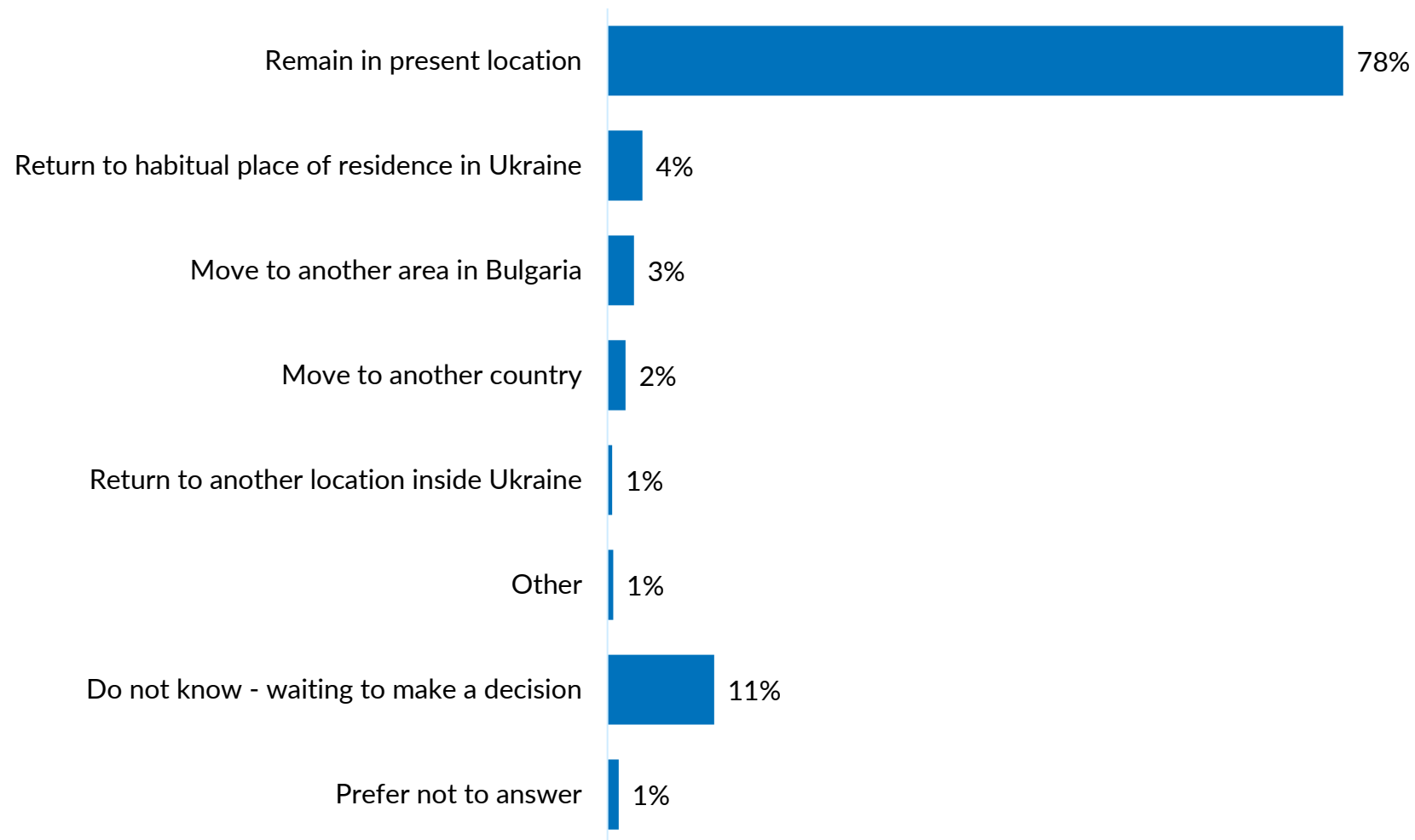
% of HHs experienced difficulties returning from Ukraine

■ No ■ Yes



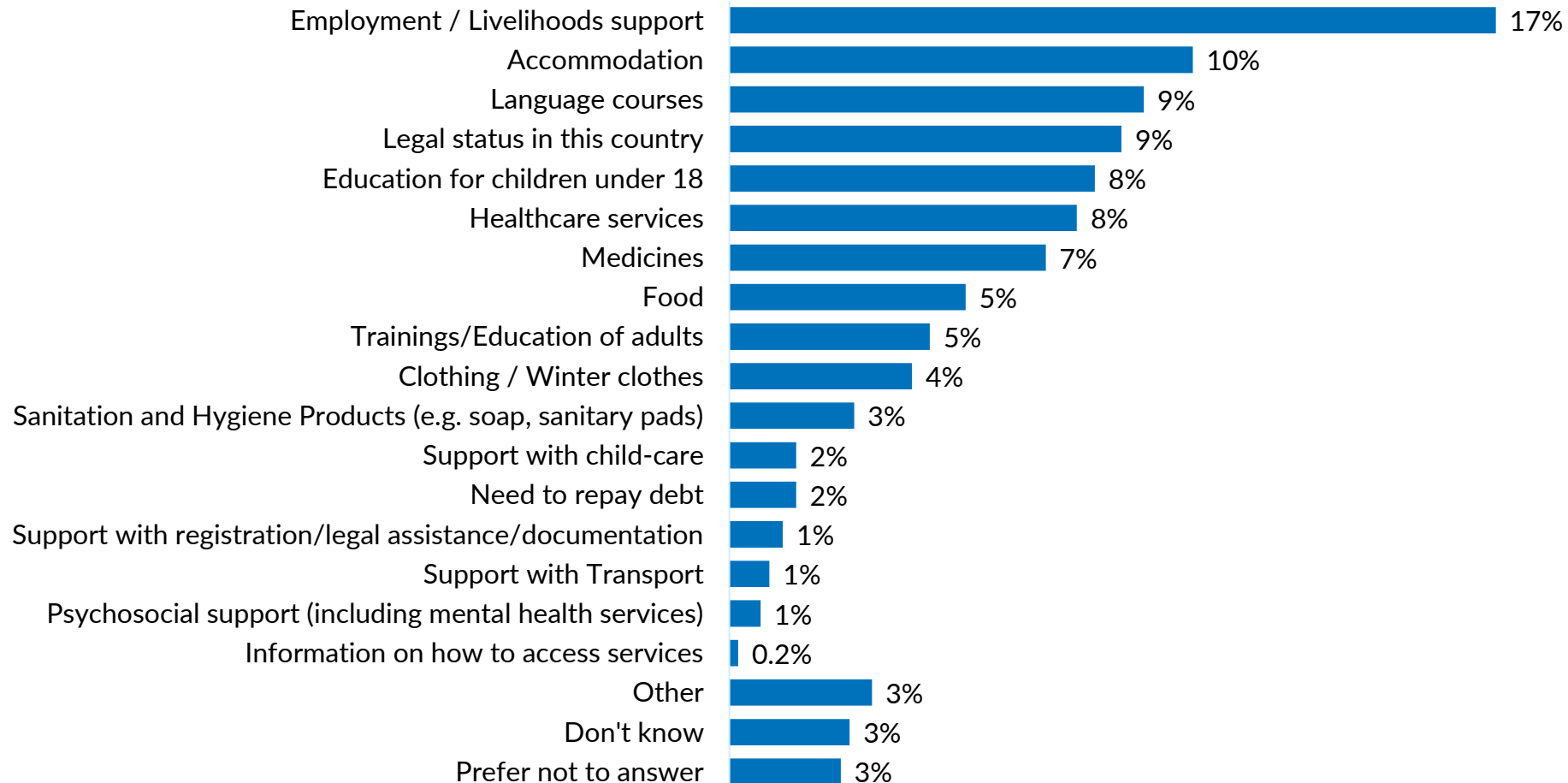
INTENTIONS

What are your HH's intentions regarding your location within the next 12 months?



PRIORITY NEEDS

% of HHs by top priority need reported (among HHs who reported any need (90%))

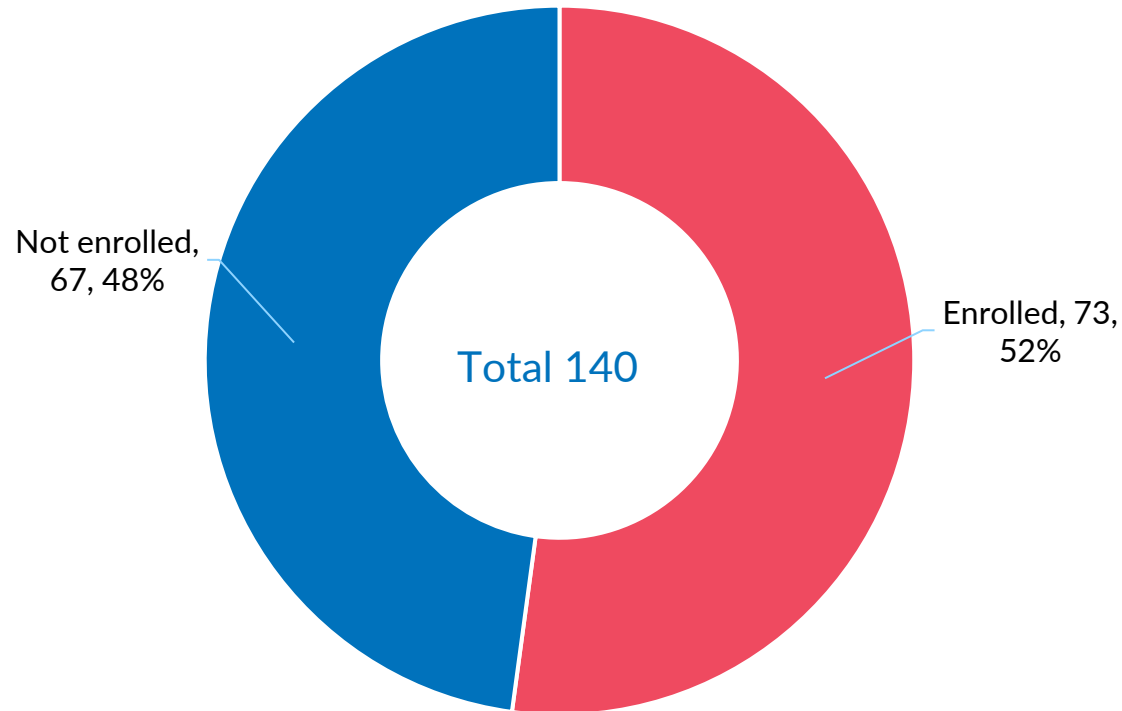


EDUCATION

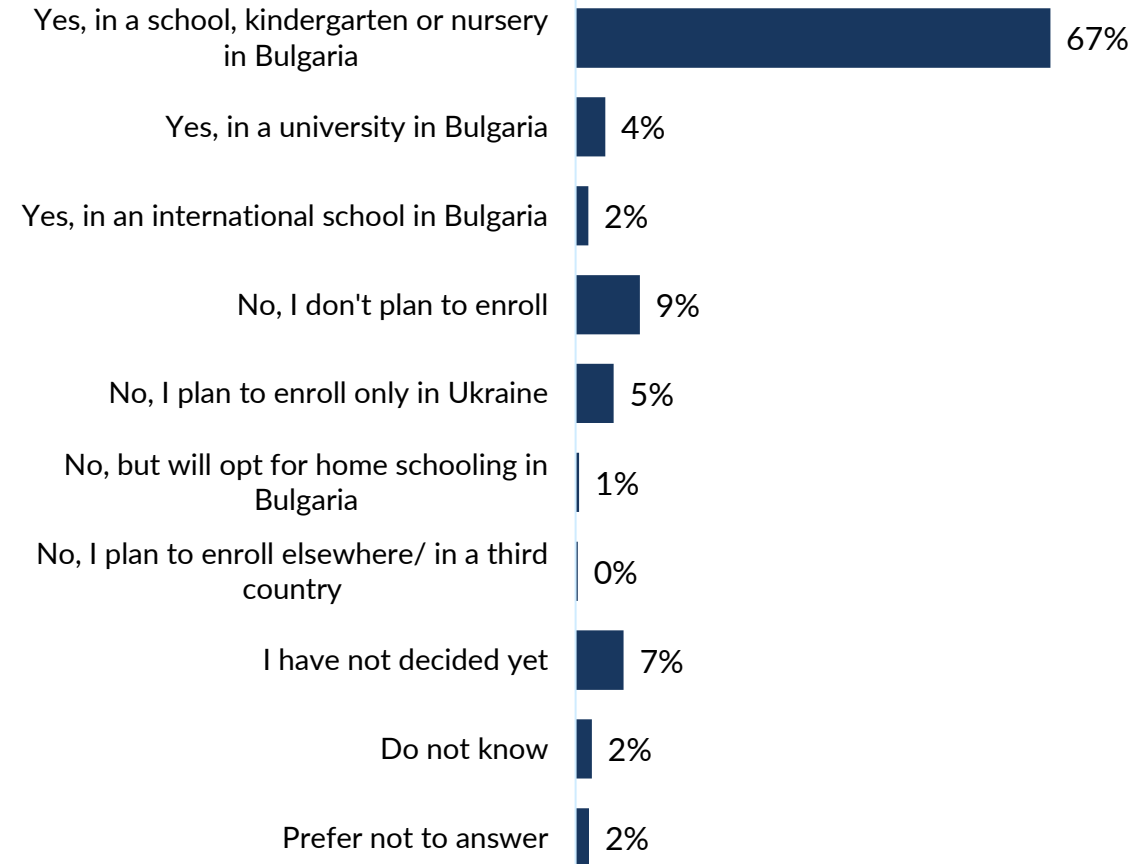
SCHOOL ENROLMENT

% of school-aged children enrolled in formal education for the 2024/2025 school year

Sample: 35% answered the question

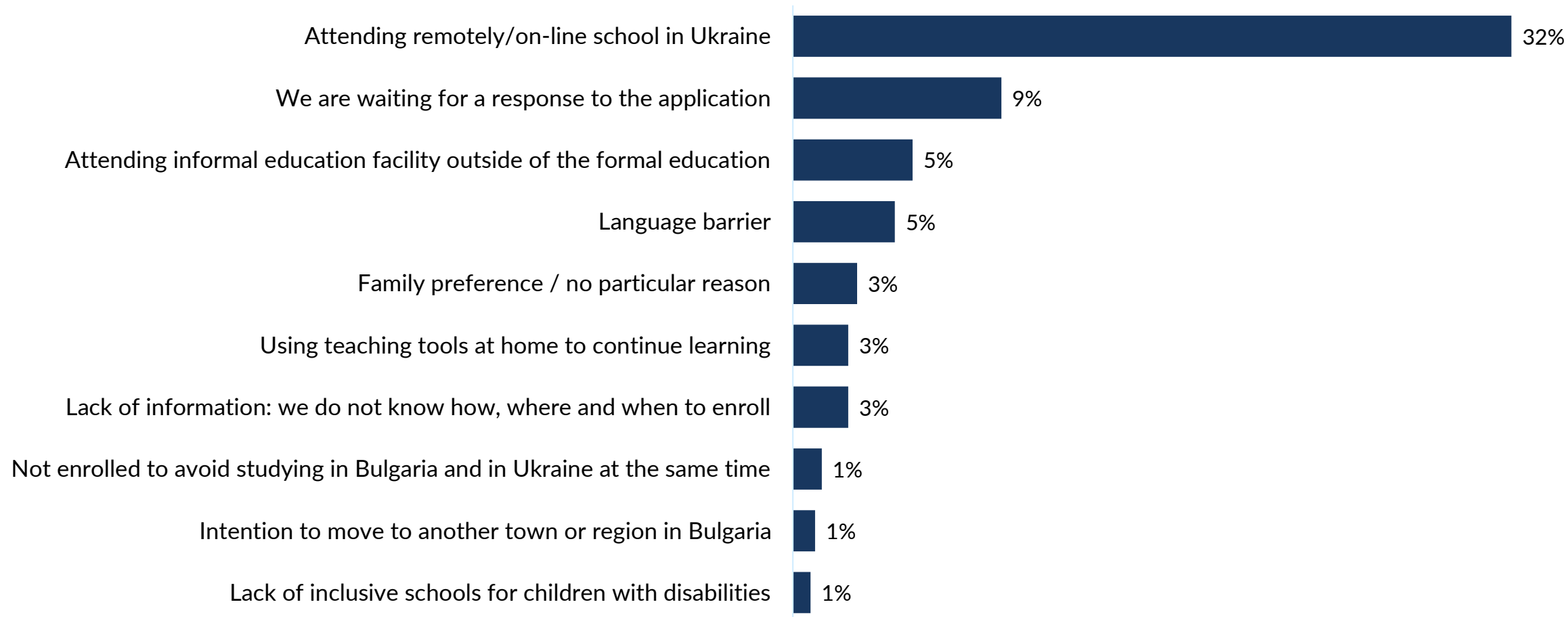


% of HHs intended to enroll children into Bulgarian education system for the next school year (2025/2026)



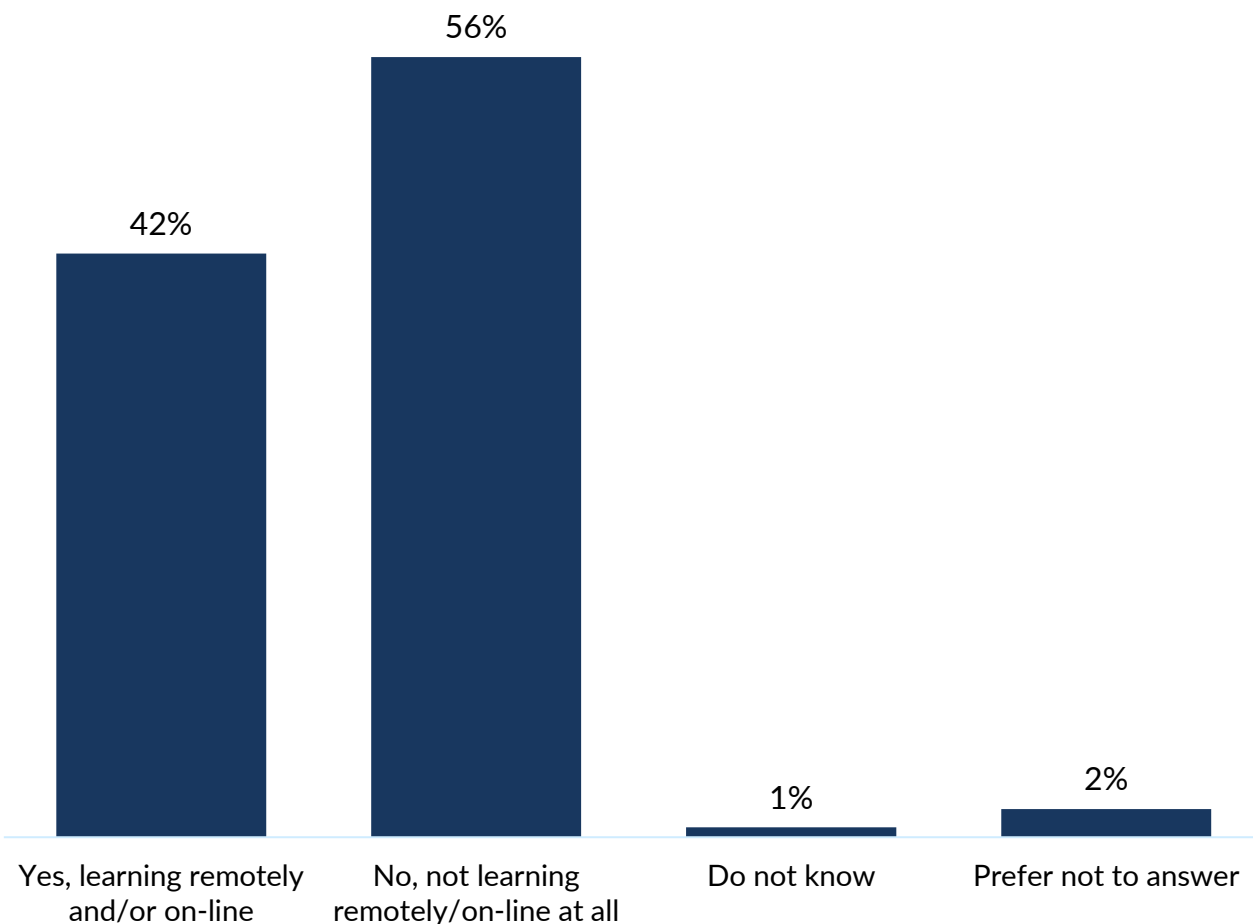
Primary barriers for enrolling children in school in Bulgaria (top 10)

For those respondents who have not enrolled their children (48%)

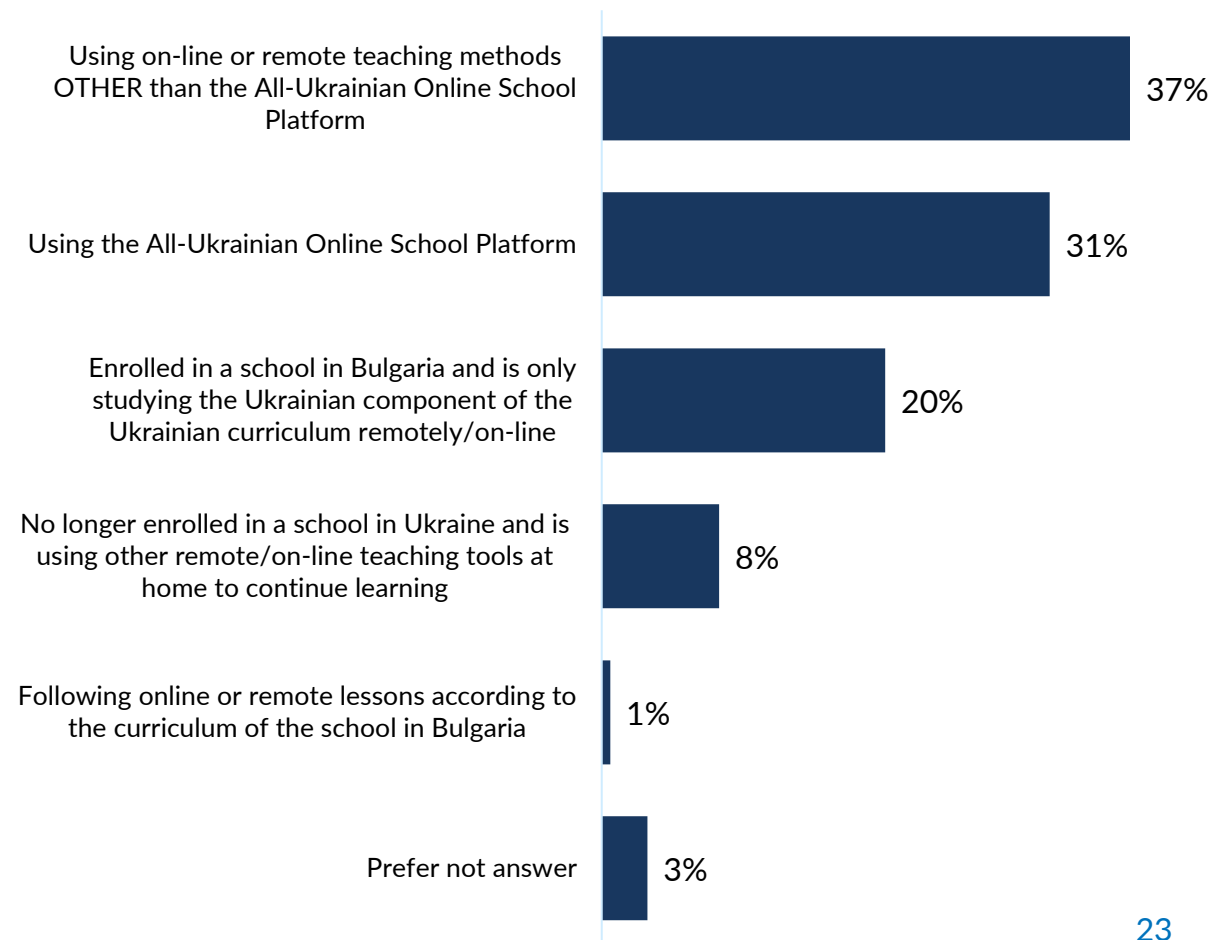


DISTANCE LEARNING

% of school-aged children/young persons attending remote or online learning in 2024/2025



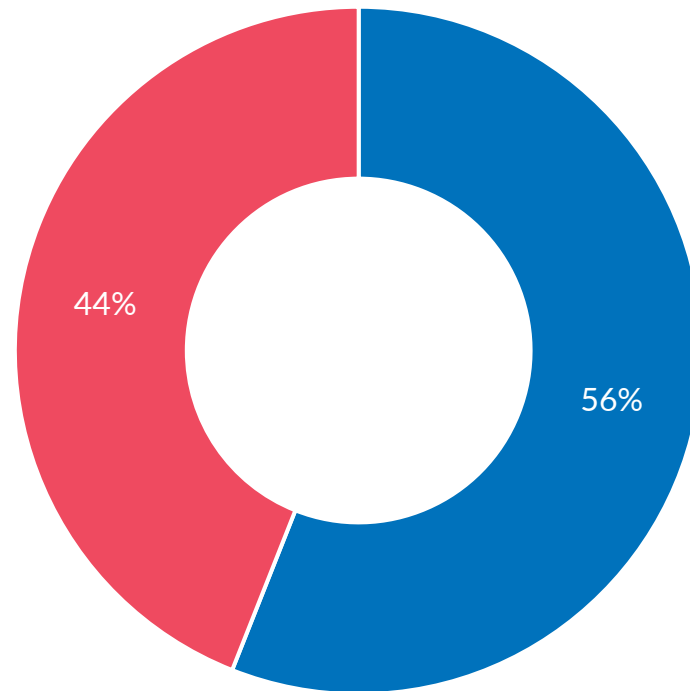
% of school-aged children by type of on-line learning (among those who attended online or remote learning)



LOCAL LANGUAGE KNOWLEDGE

% of HH members (aged 12 to 64) who are able to communicate effectively in local language

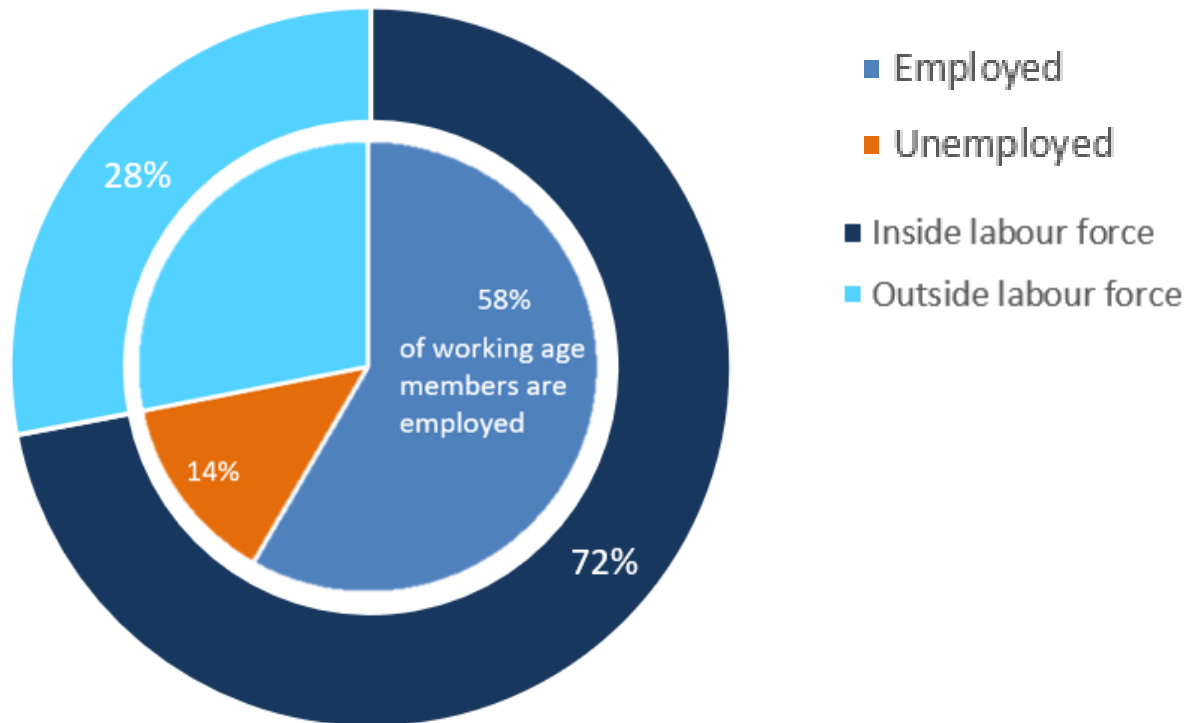
■ Able to communicate effectively in local language ■ Unable to communicate effectively in local language



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SOCIO-ECONOMIC INCLUSION & LIVELIHOOD

Labour force participation (out of working age population 16-64)



% of youth (15 to 24) who are not in Education, Training or Employment: **13%**

Working-age population: the population above the legal working age, but for statistical purposes it comprises all persons above a specified minimum age threshold for which an inquiry on economic activity is made. To promote international comparability, the working-age population is often defined as all persons aged 15 and older, but this may vary from country to country based on national laws and practices (some countries also apply an upper age limit).

Employment: Employment includes individuals of working age who have engaged in income-generating activities in the past week. This encompasses formal employment, self-employment, agricultural/fishing work, diverse income generation, temporary absence from paid roles, and unpaid contributions to family businesses.

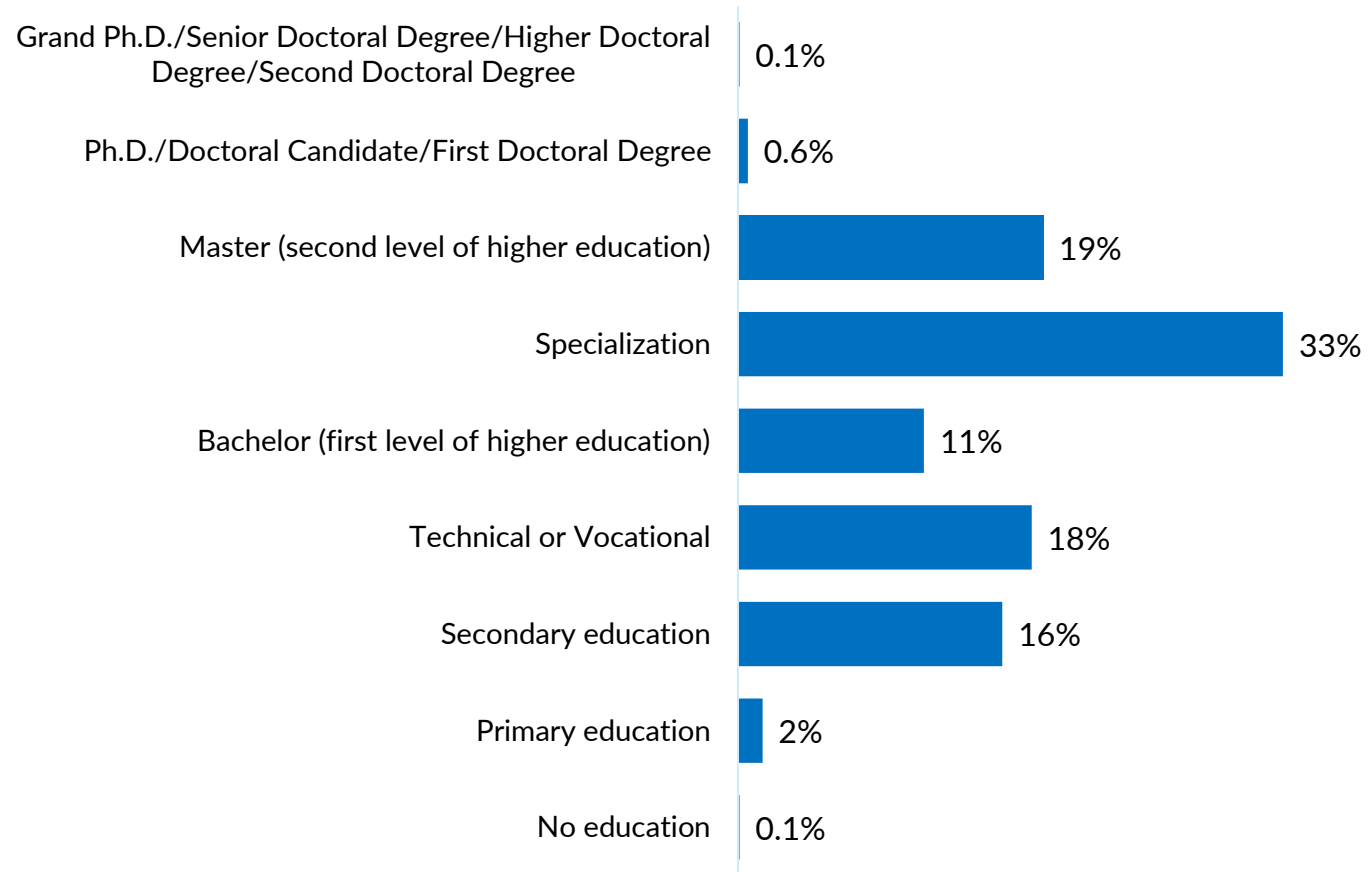
Unemployment: # of working-age who were not employed during the past week (as per the definition above), who looked for a paid job or tried to start a business in the past 4 weeks, and who are available to start working within the next 2 weeks if ever a job or business opportunity becomes available.

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

Inside labor force: Employed and Unemployed

EDUCATION LEVEL

% of HH members by highest education level achieved



SOCIO-ECONOMIC INCLUSION & LIVELIHOOD

% of HHs not receiving social protection benefits in Bulgaria

95%

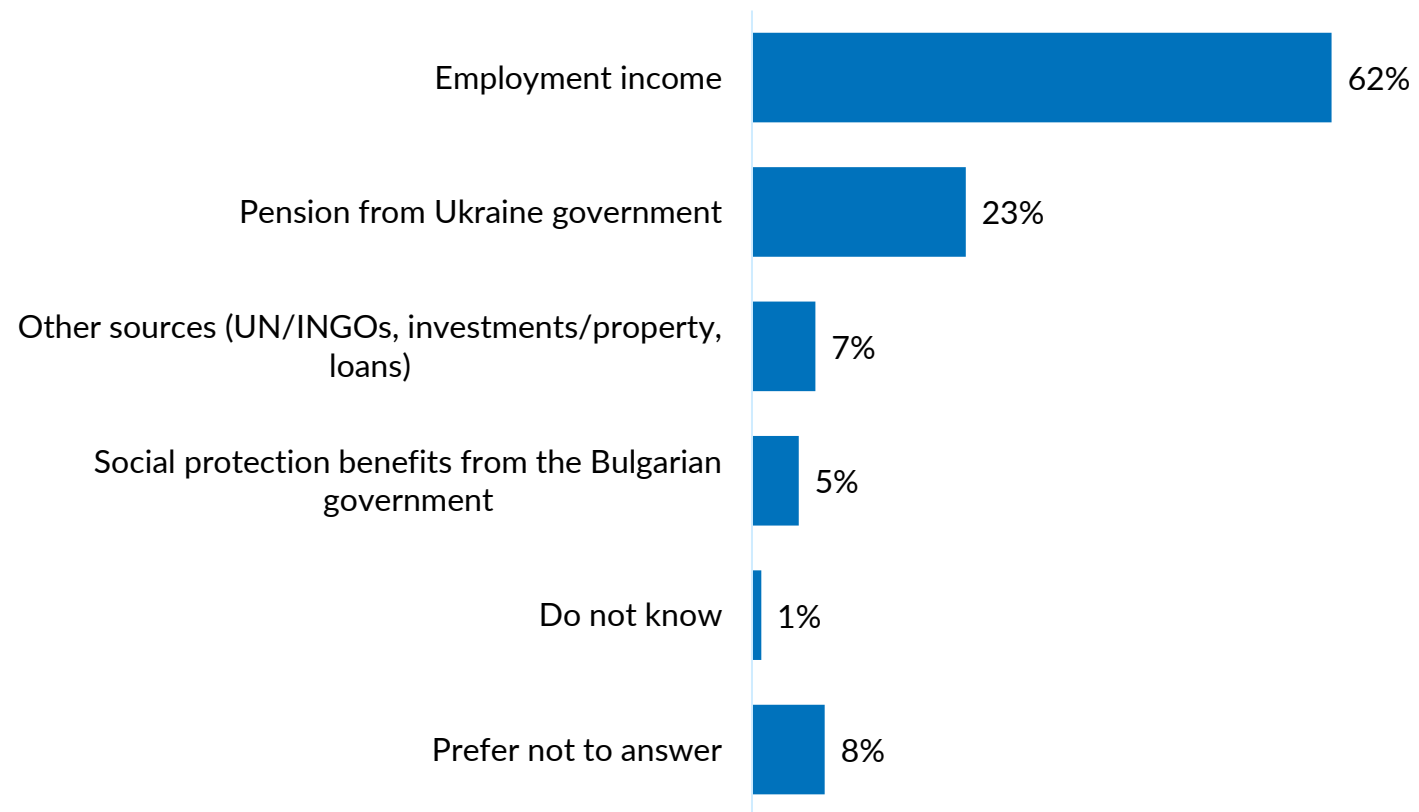
% of HHs with income source

90%

% of HHs satisfied with their overall income level

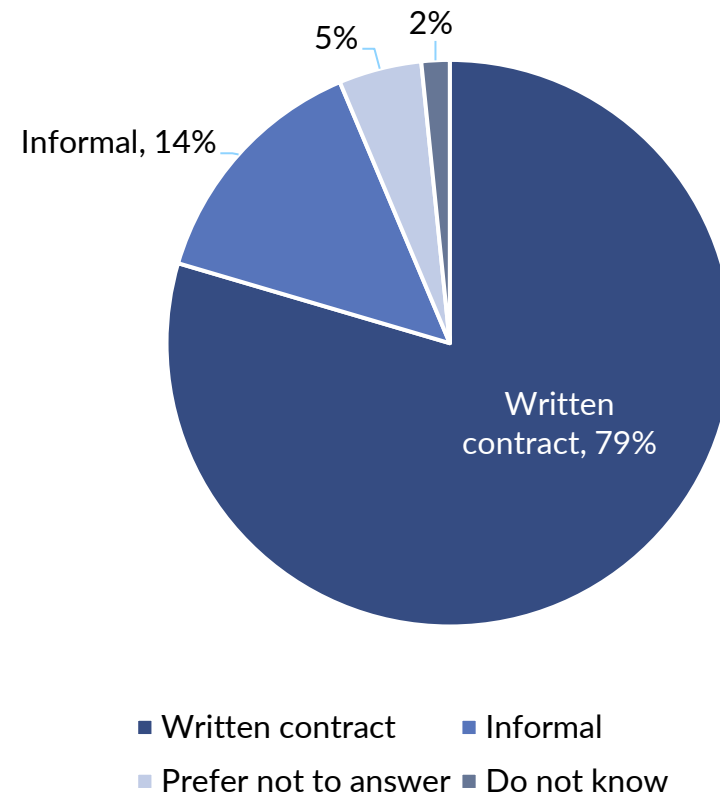
13%

% of HHs by income source in the last 30 days (among those who have an income source (90%))



Does this person have a formal contract or informal work arrangement at their main job? *

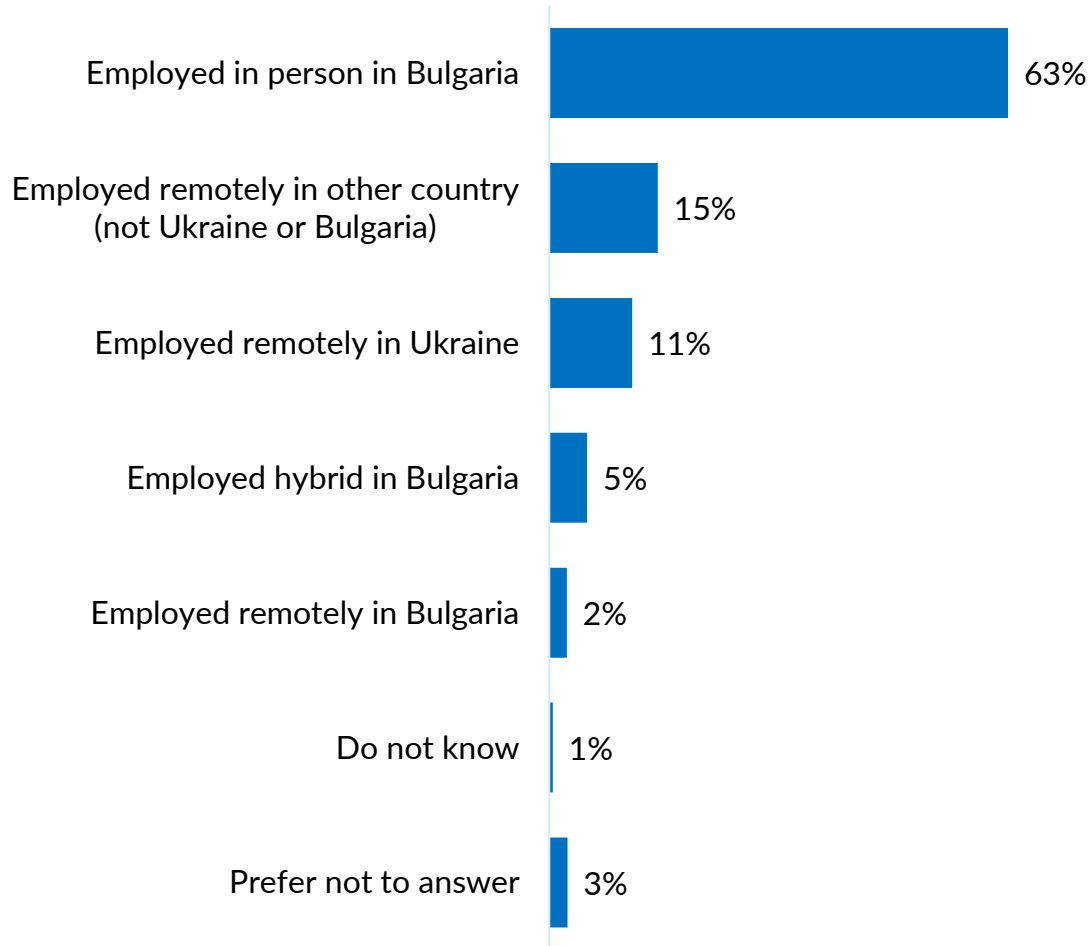
Sample: 32% answered the question



* Sample includes those who worked for someone else for pay in the past 7 days, ran a business, farming, or any other activity to generate income

SOCIO-ECONOMIC INCLUSION & LIVELIHOOD

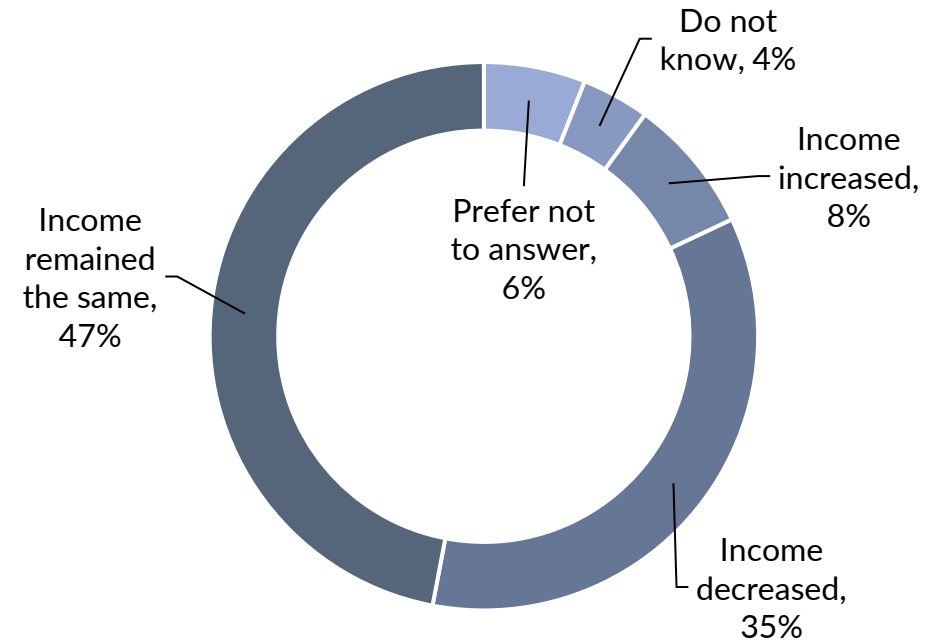
% of HH members by main employment arrangement (among those who are employed)



Average number of hours worked per week

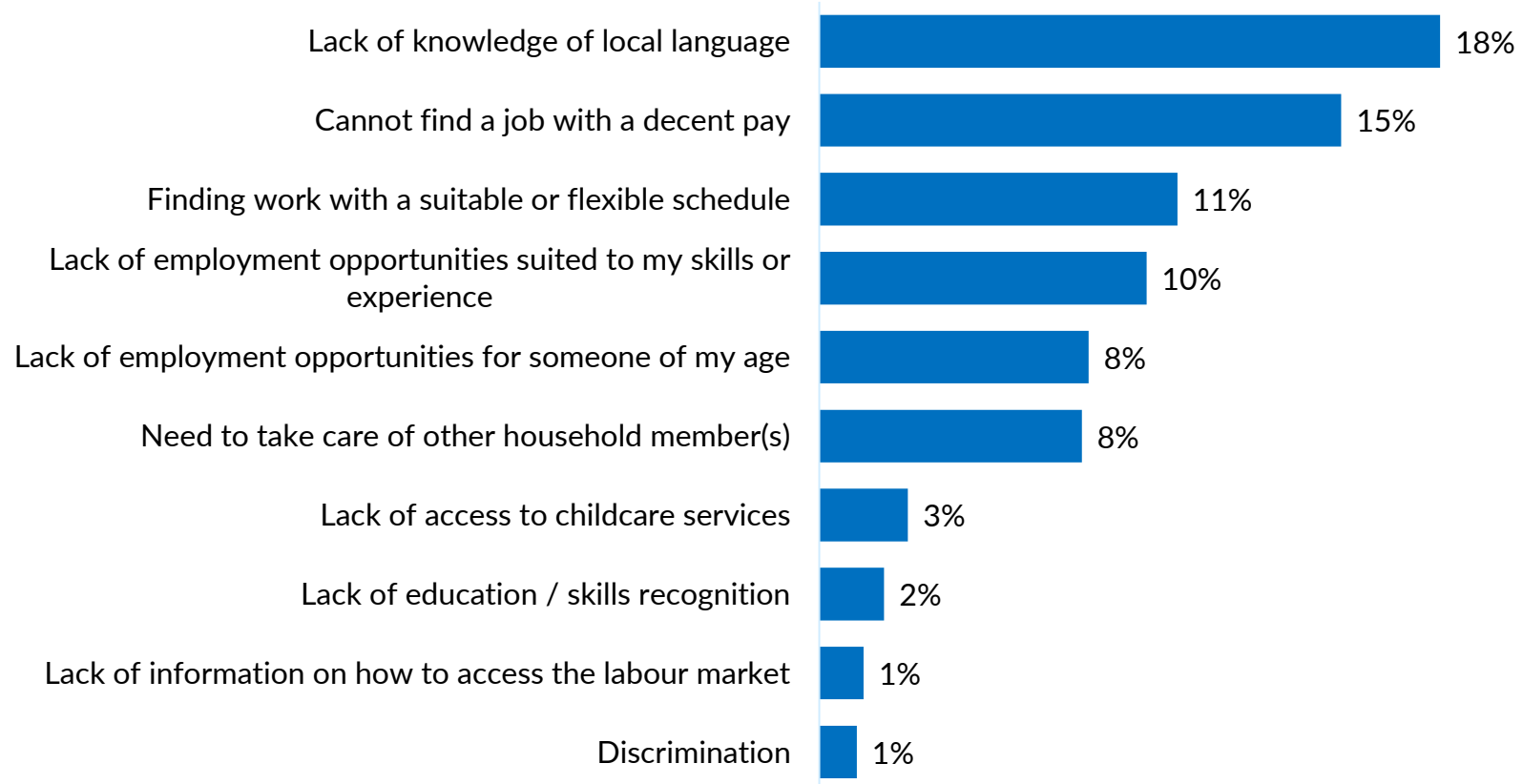
36 hours

% of HHs reporting a change in household income in the past 12 months



SOCIO-ECONOMIC INCLUSION & LIVELIHOOD

% of HH members by main difficulty finding work in Bulgaria (top 10)



% of HH members not looking for work

13%

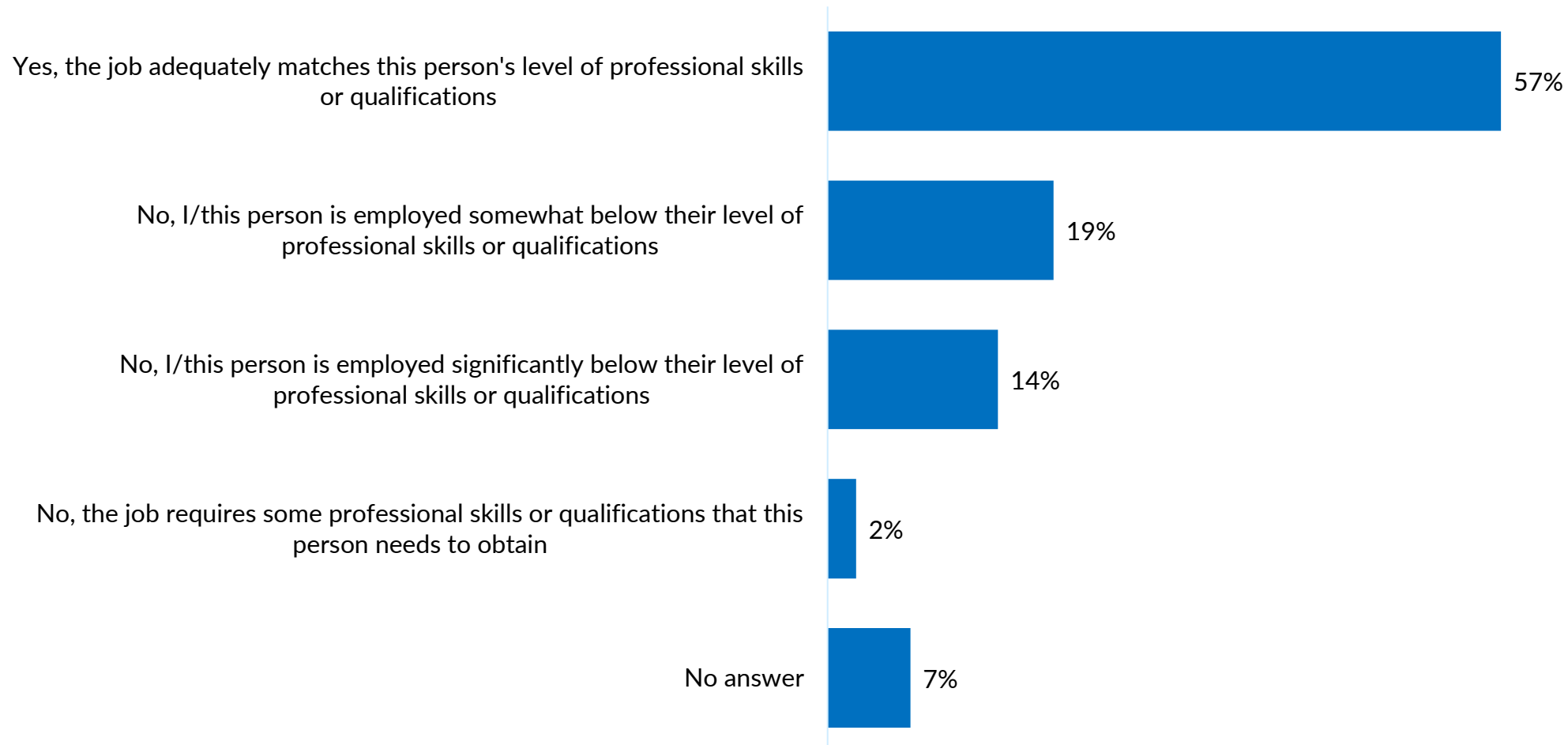
% of HH members with barriers finding work

84%

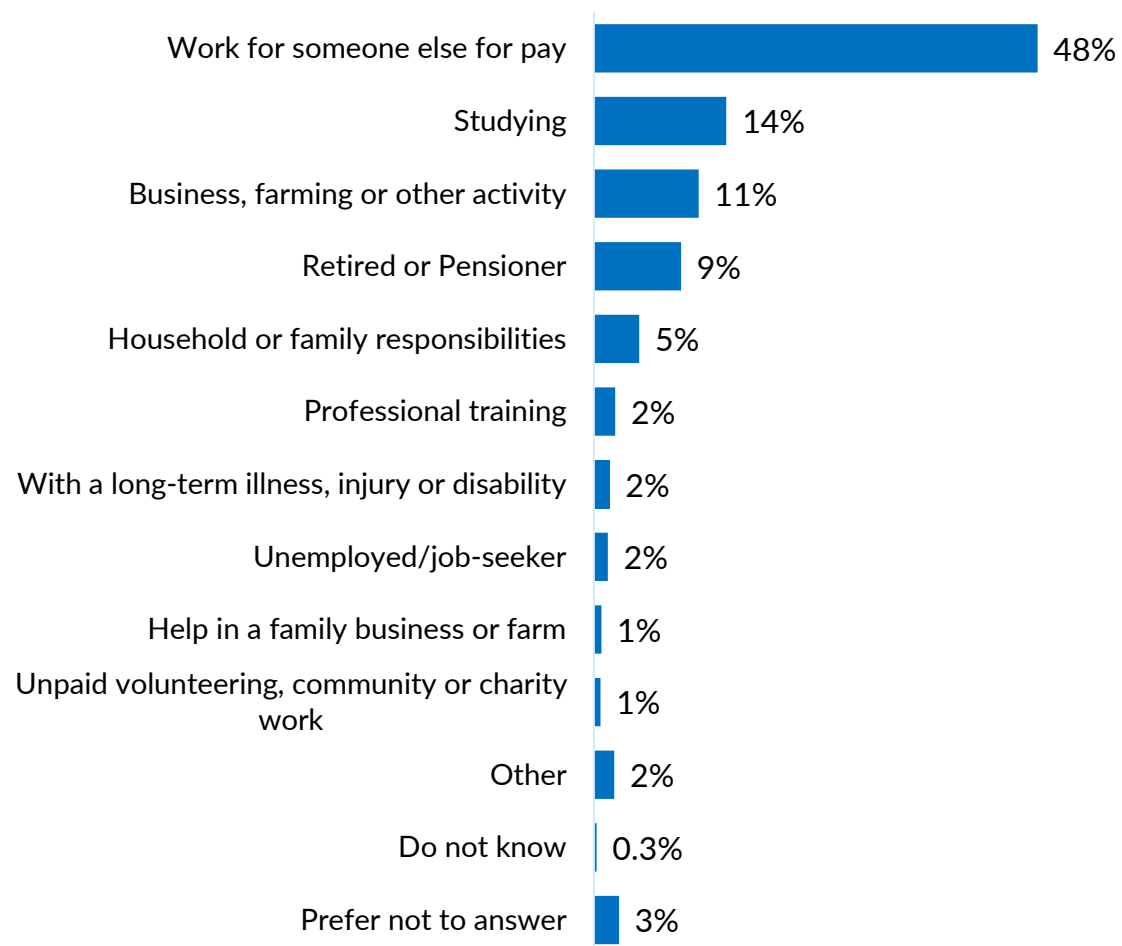
Average expenditure for debt repayment in the last 6 months

48 BGN

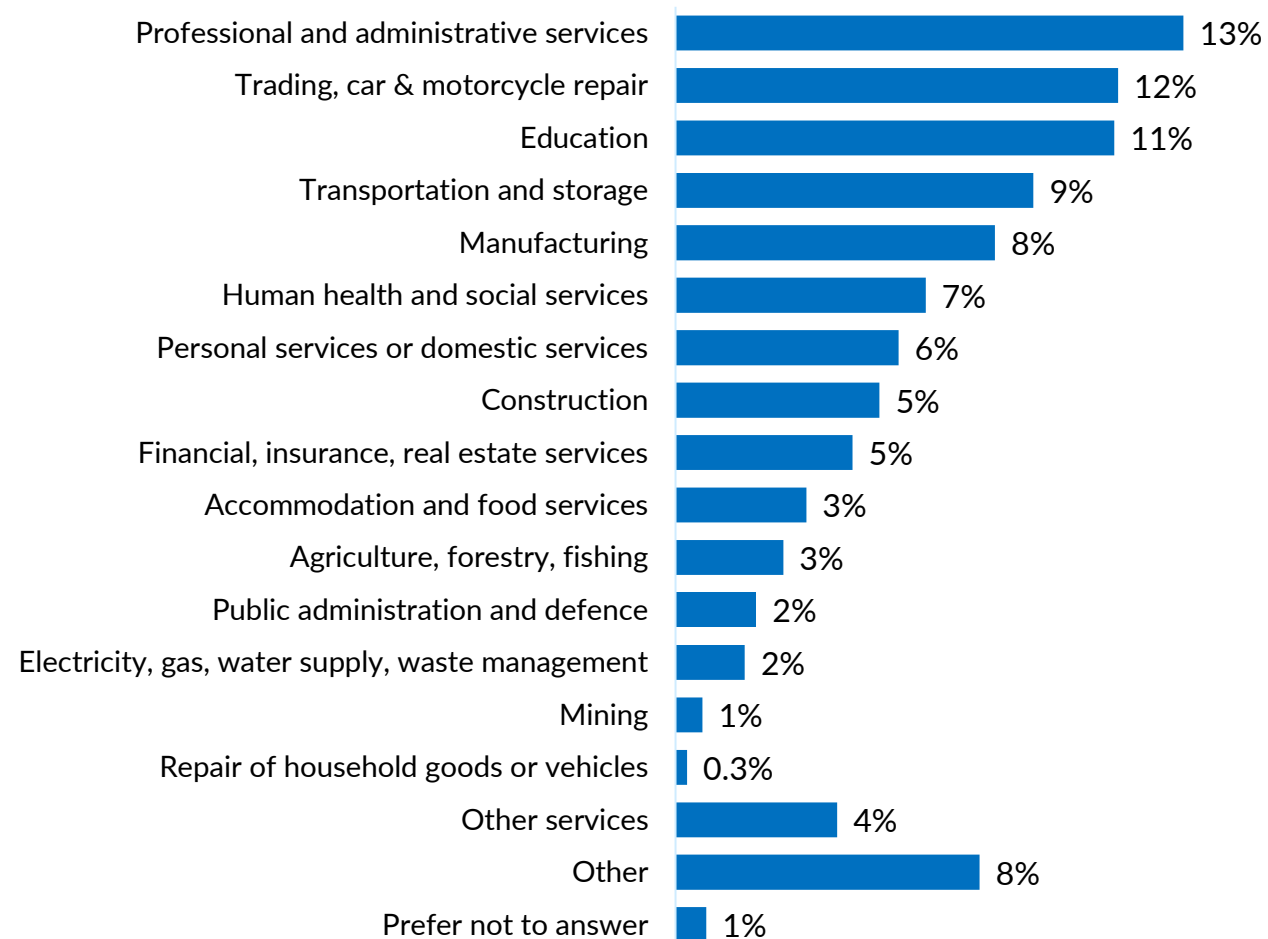
% of HH members based on main employment matching their professional level of skill, or qualification



% of HH members by main activity before leaving Ukraine



% of HH members by sector(s) of work experience or training before leaving Ukraine



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HEALTH

HEALTH

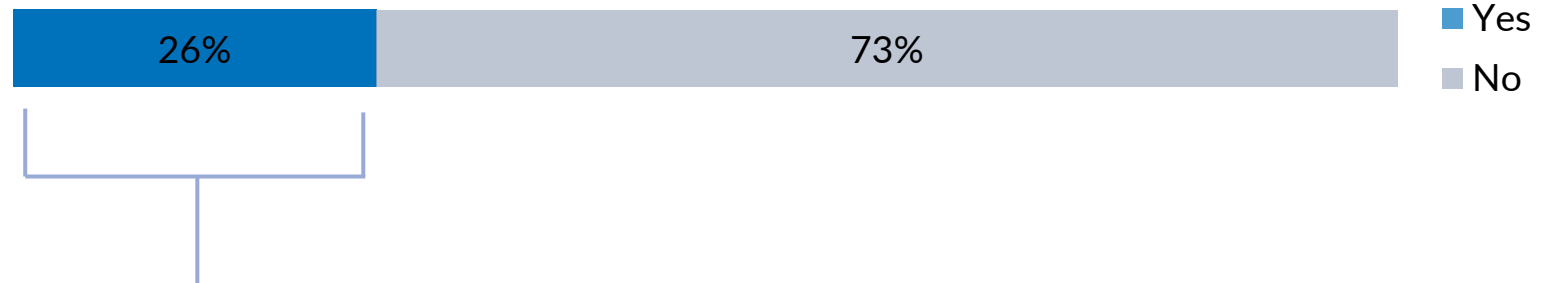
ACCESS



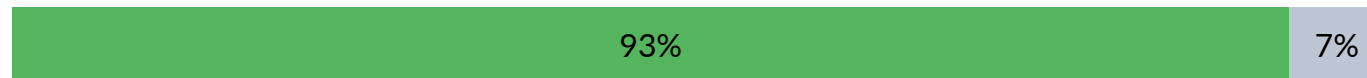
% of HHs with a
chronically ill
member

50%

% of HH members with a health problem and needed to access
healthcare in the last 30 days

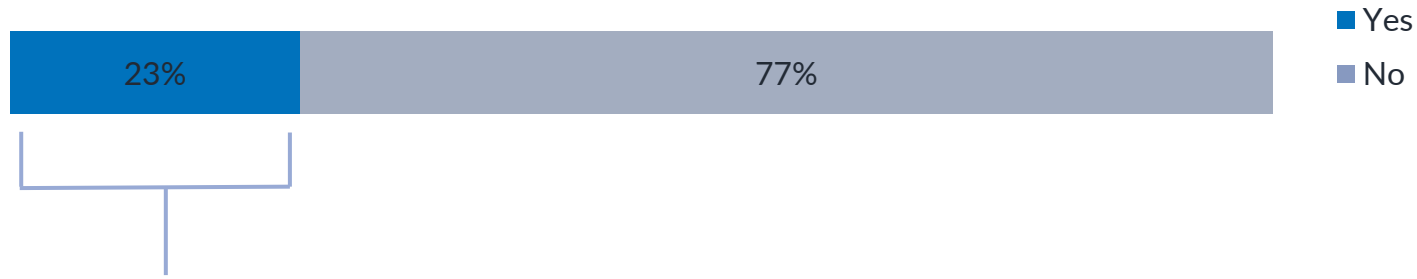


% of HH members who received access to healthcare in the last 30 days



■ Received access ■ Did not receive access

% of HH members (age 5+) experiencing mental health or psychosocial problems



% of HH members who tried to access MHPSS support



Received the required MHPSS support



Support received by type (top 3)

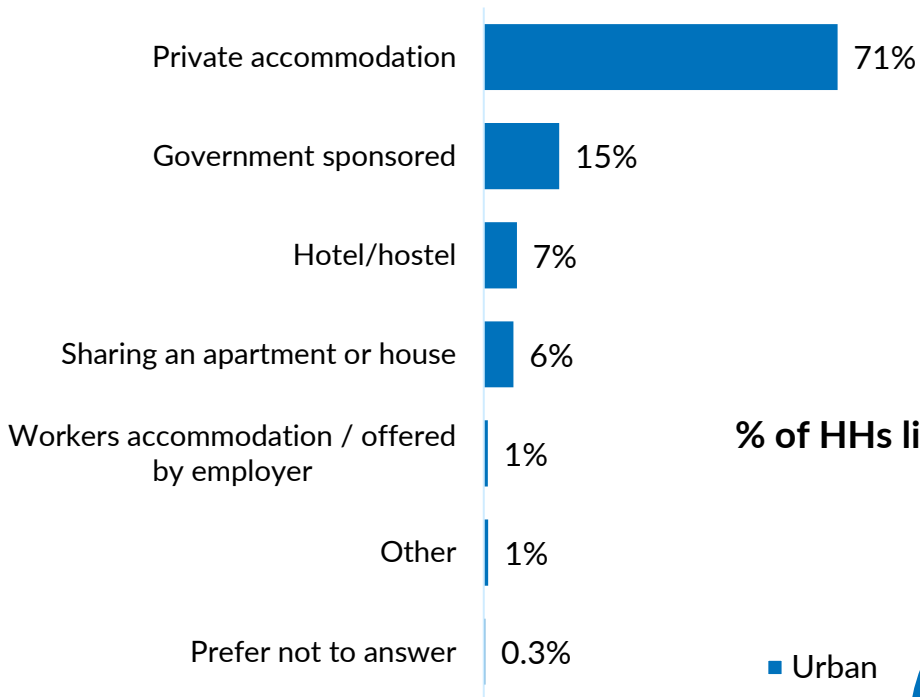


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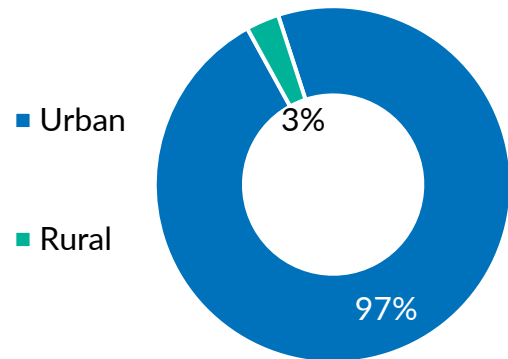
ACCOMMODATION

SHELTER/ACCOMMODATION

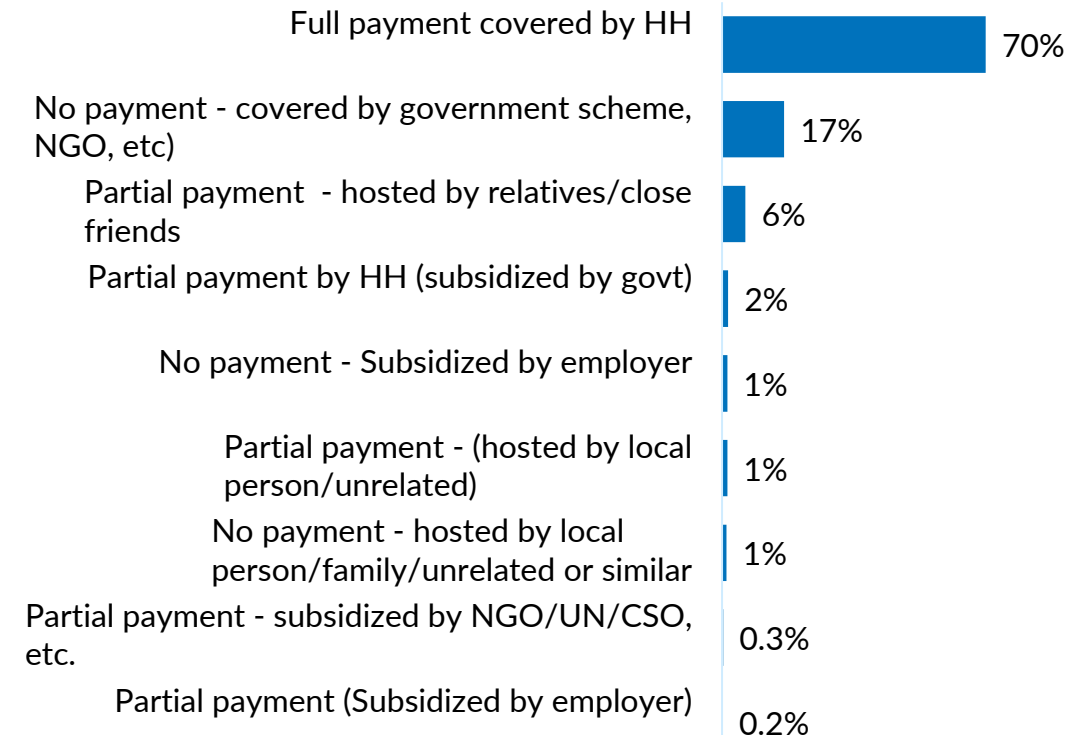
% of HHs by accommodation arrangement



% of HHs living in rural and urban areas



% of HHs by accommodation payment arrangement



SHELTER/ACCOMMODATION

% of HHs by types of living condition issues in current accommodation (among HH with living condition issues)

% of HHs with living condition issues

26%

% of HHs in overcrowding conditions

■ Overcrowded ■ Not Overcrowded

