To strengthen and promote an evidence-based protection response to the Ukraine refugee situation, UNHCR and its partners in Belarus are implementing a Protection Profiling exercise to regularly collect and analyze data about the profiles, needs and intentions of refugees from Ukraine and monitor developments over time. This dashboard presents the main results based on 1,409 interviews (covering 3,132 individuals in respondent families) conducted between July and end-September 2022.

Methodology

Refugees from Ukraine are accommodated within the host community in Belarus and do not reside in collective sites. 98% of interviews have therefore been conducted in assistance points, 2% in private accommodations. Most interviews have been conducted in the regions bordering Ukraine: Brest and Gomel.

Trained enumerators from the Belarusian Red Cross Society (BRCS) digitally collected the data through Kobo Toolbox, which is safely stored in UNHCR server.

While respondents are randomly selected to reduce bias, non-probability sampling is used and results cannot necessarily be extrapolated to the population of refugees from Ukraine as a whole. The results reflect refugees’ situation and intentions at the time of data collection.

RESPONDENT PROFILE

100% of respondents are citizens of Ukraine and 75% were females. The majority of respondents have higher levels of education (43% are holding a university or higher degree and 44% have completed vocational training) and with diverse professional experiences, particularly in healthcare and entrepreneurship.

Nationality

100% of respondents were Ukrainian nationals

Gender

73% of respondents were females

Acknowledgements

We are grateful for the extensive involvement and support of UNHCR’s implementing partner on data collection, the Belarusian Red Cross Society (BRCS), and inter-agency partners: UNDP, UNFPA and UNICEF.

We are also grateful for the support of local authorities, civil society, international organizations and donors. Most importantly, UNHCR would like to acknowledge the resilience and strength of refugees from Ukraine, who continue to share with us their challenges, fears and hopes.

Top occupational sectors*

- Other sectors: 57%
- Healthcare: 8%
- Entrepreneur: 7%
- Construction: 7%
- IT: 3%
- Public administration: 1%
- UN/NGOs staff: 0%

Employment status before leaving Ukraine**

- Employed: 65%
- Retired: 30%
- Housekeeping: 3%
- Unemployed: 2%
- Student: 1%

* Multiple responses were possible, so percentages can go over 100% when added.
** Due to rounding some percent totals do not add up to 100%.
Women and children represent 74% of all family members that left Ukraine together. Compared with other countries neighboring Ukraine, the percentage of adult men (28%) and of elderly people (22%) is higher in Belarus. Less respondents have been separated from some of their immediate family members (21%) than in other neighboring countries. The primary reasons for family separation are the wish to remain in Ukraine and the inability to move or travel.

The top 3 places of origin are Donetska, Luhanska and Kharkivska. Since the 2nd half of April 2022, border crossings from Ukraine to Belarus remain very low. The main countries of transit are Poland and Russia. In contrast to other countries neighboring Ukraine, 91% of respondents in Belarus carried national passports and only 44% international passports, out of which most are non-biometric (42%). This may be related to bilateral agreements between Ukraine and Belarus, including an agreement on visa-free travel for citizens of both countries which has been enforced since 2010.

**Family separation**

21% separated from other family members

**Separation reasons***

Unable to move/travel: 62%

Did not want to leave: 43%

Military conscription: 11%

Other: 17%

* Multiple responses were possible, so percentages can go over 100% when added. ** Due to rounding some percent totals do not add up to 100%.

**Travelling with***

59% of respondents travelled accompanied

Among those who travelled accompanied, 96% were displaced with their immediate family.

- Close family: 96%
- Extended family: 7%
- Pet: 2%
- Friends: 1%

**Immediate family age group and gender**

- Female
  - 60+: 15% (7%)
  - 18-59: 33% (21%)
  - 5-17: 9% (11%)
  - 0-4: 2% (4%)

- Male
  - 60+: 15% (7%)
  - 18-59: 33% (21%)
  - 5-17: 9% (11%)
  - 0-4: 2% (4%)

**Documents carried during travel***

- National passport: 91%
- Birth certificate: 48%
- International passport: 44%
- Residence permit: 34%
- Id Card: 20%
- Protection certificate: 7%
- Other: 3%
- Refugee card: 2%
- Asylum certificate: 1%
- No document: 0%

**Passport type***

- Biometric: 58%
- Non-biometric: 42%

**Top transit countries***

- Poland: 61%
- Russia: 39%
- Lithuania: 1%
- Romania: 1%
- Hungary: 1%

**Top 10 places of origin***

- Donetska: 42%
- Luhanska: 14%
- Kharkivska: 12%
- Chernihivska: 6%
- Kyivska: 5%
- Mykolaivska: 4%
- Dnipropetrovska: 3%
- Odeska: 2%
- Lvivska: 2%
- Zaporizka: 2%

* Note: including the respondent
Most respondents are staying in hosted or rented accommodation. The percentage of respondents who have relatives in the host country is higher in Belarus (29%) than in other neighboring countries. Almost half of the respondents are registered for 90 days temporary stay for Ukrainians and 25% have obtained a residence permit. 13% have applied for asylum and 11% have been granted a protection status. 58% of school-aged children were enrolled in the Belarusian public school system and 10% were continuing their education through remote learning. A large share of children not accessing education may be related to the summer holidays period.

**Status in Belarus**

- 90 days temp stay: 49%
- 1-year residence permit: 25%
- Asylum-seeker: 13%
- Protection status*: 11%
- Permanent residence: 2%  

*Note: Refugee status / complementary protection*

**Current accommodation**

- Hosting accommodation: 54%
- Rented accommodation: 40%
- Other: 5%
- Reception centre: 1%
- I do not have anywhere to stay: 0%

**Information needs**

- Financial aid: 75%
- Legal status: 47%
- Job opportunities: 18%
- Medical care: 12%
- Accommodation: 10%
- Education: 7%
- How to claim asylum: 5%
- Documentation: 4%
- Other: 3%

**Preferred information channel**

- In person information: 53%
- By phone: 41%
- Organisation websites: 22%
- Social media: 19%
- From friends/family: 17%
- Written information: 2%
- Government websites: 1%
- Radio: 1%

**Preferred social media channel**

- Viber: 50%
- Telegram: 18%
- Whatsapp: 16%
- Facebook: 9%
- Instagram: 4%
- Youtube: 3%
Almost half of the respondents plan to stay in Belarus in the near future, with safety and family ties cited as the main reasons. 27% are uncertain about their plans. 16% intend to move to another host country. The preferred country of destination is Russia, while 16% consider moving to EU countries. The main reason for wanting to move to these countries are family ties followed by safety. The majority intend to move onwards within the same month, but 36% are uncertain as to when they will be able to leave.

Near future intentions**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Stay in host country</th>
<th>Don’t know</th>
<th>Move to another host country</th>
<th>Return to Ukraine</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
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Why: Main reasons to move**

<table>
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<th>Family ties</th>
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<th>Employment</th>
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</table>

Why: Reasons to stay

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Safety</th>
<th>Family ties</th>
<th>Employment</th>
<th>Advised</th>
<th>Other</th>
<th>Asylum procedure</th>
<th>Language</th>
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<td>55%</td>
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Why: Main reasons to return**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Improved situation</th>
<th>Other</th>
<th>Reunite with family</th>
<th>Family visit</th>
<th>Advised by family</th>
<th>Family evacuation</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>88%</td>
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When

Among those who are planning to return to Ukraine, only 8% had a date planned for their departure.

<table>
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<th>After a month</th>
<th>This month</th>
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<td>95%</td>
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<td>2%</td>
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Returning to Ukraine is currently an option only for 12% of the respondents, showing concerns about the situation in their home country. 95% are uncertain as to when returning will be possible, preventing them from making secure, long-term plans.

The main motivation for respondents to return is their perception or hope that the situation in Ukraine has improved (83%), followed by their desire to go back home and reunite with the family (4%).

Almost half of the respondents plan to stay in Belarus in the near future, with safety and family ties cited as the main reasons. 27% are uncertain about their plans. 16% intend to move to another host country. The preferred country of destination is Russia, while 16% consider moving to EU countries. The main reason for wanting to move to these countries are family ties followed by safety. The majority intend to move onwards within the same month, but 36% are uncertain as to when they will be able to leave.

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Note: the analysis in this section excludes respondents interviewed on the same day they were departing from their current host country.