



UNHCR/R.Kostrzynski

# REFUGEES FROM UKRAINE IN POLAND PROFILING UPDATE NOVEMBER 2022

## INTRODUCTION

More than 7.4 million refugees from Ukraine have been recorded across Europe since the escalation of hostilities in February 2022. More than 1.5 million individuals registered for Temporary Protection in Poland as of 20th December, which represents the highest number among EU countries<sup>1</sup>.

To understand the demographics of the Ukrainian refugee population, their intentions, immediate needs, access to information, and their displacement patterns, UNHCR, in partnership with REACH, launched a region-wide [profiling exercise](#). Interviews were carried out in multiple locations, including border areas, planned sites, bus and train stations, reception centres, information and assistance points. Since the interviews were conducted only in selected voivodeships and in selected locations, the results cannot be extrapolated to the population of all refugees from Ukraine residing in Poland and the findings remain indicative. Variations in the types of locations visited also may impact findings vis-à-vis previous reports. Respondents were randomly selected and asked for their consent to participate in structured interviews using a harmonized regional questionnaire. This update presents results from [3,829 interviews](#) conducted with refugees currently residing in Poland and includes cumulative responses from [1st to 22nd November 2022](#).

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Regional report  
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PROFILES AND  
INTENTIONS OF  
REFUGEES FROM  
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UPDATE**  
[June 2022 - July 2022](#)  
[August 2022 - September 2022](#)  
[October 2022](#)



Operational Data  
Portal - Ukraine  
Refugee Situation:  
POLAND

## KEY HIGHLIGHTS

Most of the refugees interviewed in November were women who have attained higher education. Over half of the respondents (68%) planned to stay in Poland, with **safety** as the main driver for this choice. The majority of interviewed refugees (71%) travelled to Poland accompanied - most often by close or extended family.

■ While 68% of refugees planned to stay in Poland in the near future, 13% intended to return to Ukraine and 7% to move to another country. The main motivation to stay in the host country - indicated by 39% - was **safety** in the area of displacement, followed by family ties (16%). The highest percentage of people planning to stay in Poland was among those arriving from **Chernivetska** (82%) and **Ivano-Frankivska** (77%) oblasts. Return to Ukraine, on the other hand, was planned by 25% of refugees from **Zakarpatska** oblast.

■ Almost a third (30%) of the refugees travelled with **at least one older person**. Those travelling with older persons more often declared **cash**, **material assistance** and **food** as their priority needs.

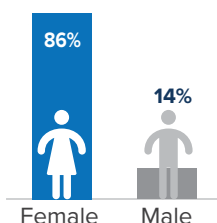
■ **Financial support**, **medical care** and **access to employment** were the most frequently reported immediate needs. Moreover, the most common **information needs** of refugees concerned **financial aid**, **job opportunities** and **medical care**. Respondents most often indicated **social media and messaging apps** (precisely, **Telegram** and **Facebook**) as their preferred means of receiving information.

## DEMOGRAPHY

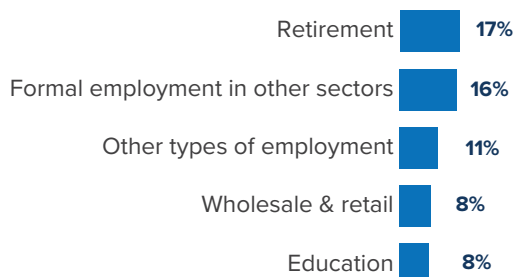
Refugees interviewed in November were mainly women traveling with close relatives, mostly with children and/or other women. Around half of respondents (51%) held university degrees, almost a third (32%) completed technical or vocational education and 16% finished secondary education cycles. Prior to displacement, the majority (71%) of refugees was employed and 17% were retired.

**71%** of respondents were travelling with other people, 93% of whom with close family. Among those, 59% of the respondents were with at least one child or infant and 30% with at least one person aged 60 years old or more. On average, respondents were travelling with two other people.

### Gender breakdown



### Top 5 pre-displacement employment status (n=3,641)



### Age structure in employment:

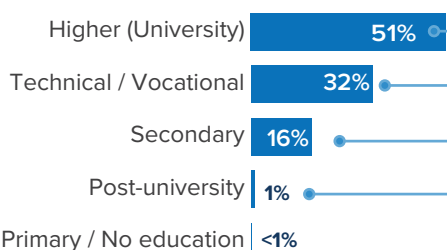
The rate of unemployment prior to the escalation of hostilities in February 2022 was overall very low (3%).

The vast majority of respondents above 60 years old (78%) declared to have retired prior to 24th of February 2022.

### Nationality



### Highest level of education (n=3,787)\*



### By age group

	18-24	25-39	40-59	60+
Higher (University)	30%	64%	48%	43%
Technical / Vocational	28%	24%	37%	42%
Secondary	41%	12%	14%	13%
Post-university	0%	1%	1%	1%

\*NA excluded.

\*\*November's interviews were collected by UNHCR and REACH, with the former interviewing minors as well.

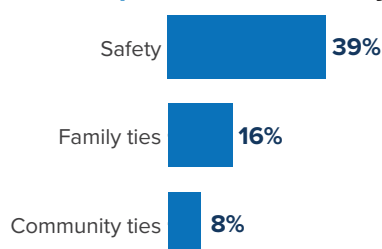
## FUTURE PLANS

The majority of respondents planned to stay in Poland (68%), most often due to the safety reasons. The intention to stay was slightly higher among refugees travelling with at least one person with special needs (70%), in particular persons with a medical condition or disability. Overall, 13% of refugees intended to return to Ukraine, whereas another 13% were uncertain about future plans. 7% planned to move to another country, with Germany, Canada and Norway being the most popular destinations. The wish to stay in Poland was more frequent among those who arrived between February and June (75%) than those who arrived in the past five months (58%). The latter were more likely to move to another country (11%, against 3% among those who arrived between February and June).

### Intentions: Staying in Poland

**68%** of respondents planned to stay in Poland

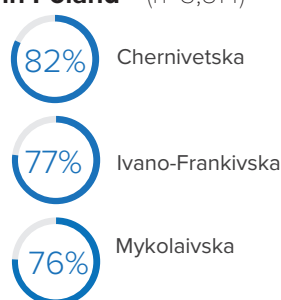
**Top 3 reasons for staying** (n=2,551)\*



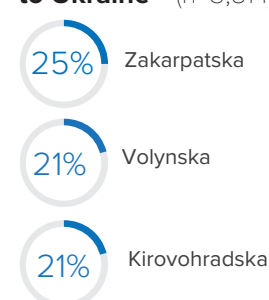
\*"Other", chosen by 10%, was excluded from this graph.

\*\*% shows the proportion of respondents from an oblast intending to stay in Poland or to return to Ukraine.

**Top 3 oblasts of origin by intention to remain in Poland\*\*** (n=3,814)



**Top 3 oblasts of origin by intention to return to Ukraine\*\*** (n=3,814)



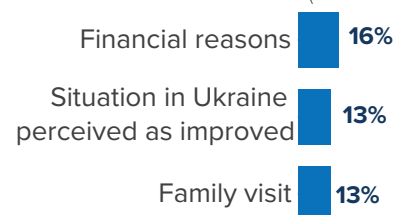
### Intentions: Returning to Ukraine

The share of respondents planning to return to Ukraine reached 13% in November. This decision was often motivated by financial reasons, a perceived improvement of the situation in Ukraine or family visit\*. The highest proportion of those planning to return was among respondents from Zakarpatska, Volynska and Kirovohradska oblasts.

\*For this question, 25% indicated "Other" reason, not on the list.

**13%** of respondents planned to return to Ukraine, 94% of whom to their oblast of origin. 61% had concerns about returning.

**Main reasons for return** (n=307)\*

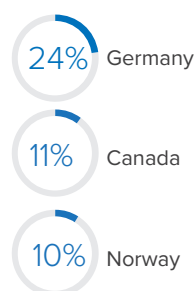


### Intentions: Moving onward

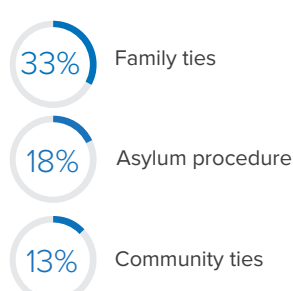
The intention to move to another country was expressed by 7% of respondents. Family ties were the most commonly indicated motivation to move onwards, followed by the asylum procedures and community ties.

**7%** of respondents planned to move to another country

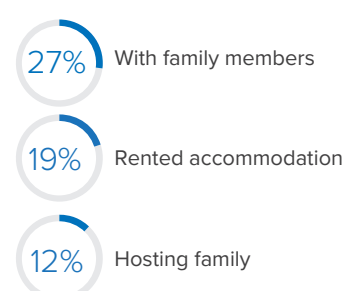
**Top final destinations** (n=241)



**Top reasons for moving onward** (n=259)



**Top accommodation arrangements for those moving onward** (n=259)





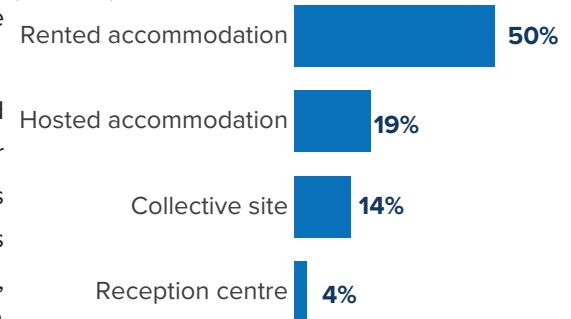
## ACCOMMODATION

Respondents were most often staying in rented accommodation (50%). Renting was slightly more frequent among those who left Ukraine between February and June (55%) than among those who departed later (44%). Overall, 19% of respondents were staying with hosts, while 14% in collective sites.

There was a slightly higher proportion of respondents staying in hosted accommodation among those who travelled with at least one older person (26%), compared to those who travelled without older persons (16%). Additionally, families travelling with older persons were less likely to rent accommodation (41% versus 54%). On the other hand, families travelling with children or infants were more likely to rent accommodation (58%).

### Top current/planned accommodation types

(n=3,787)

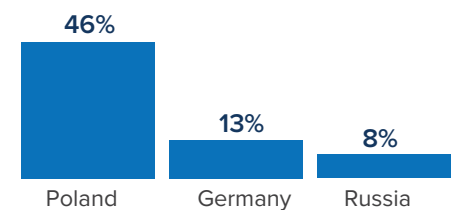


## SUPPORT NETWORKS

Location of relatives influenced future plans of the refugees, as those who had relatives in Poland were more likely to stay (78% versus 68%), whereas those who had relatives outside of Ukraine (and no relatives in Poland) were more inclined to move onwards (10% versus 7%).

### 30% of respondents had relatives residing outside of Ukraine

Top 3 countries of relatives (n=1,124)



## PRIORITY NEEDS

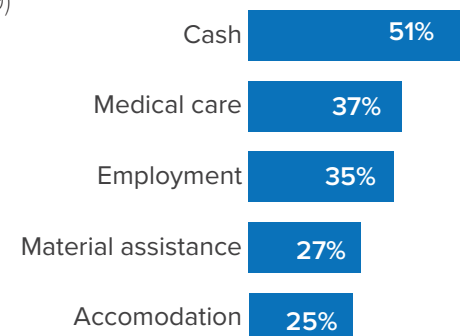
Financial support (51%), medical care (37%) and employment (35%) were among the most often mentioned priority needs, followed by material assistance (27%), access to accommodation (25%) and food (16%).

■ Cash was more often a priority need among those travelling with older persons (62% compared to 47% among those travelling without older persons), who also more often needed material assistance (34% compared to 24%) and food (20% compared to 14%).

■ Respondents accompanied by children or infants more frequently needed cash assistance (56% compared to 49% within households without children or infants), they also more often indicated the need for material assistance (36% compared with 24%). Among families travelling with children, 15% reported access to education services as their priority need, as opposed as 9% among families without children.

### Most frequently reported basic needs\*

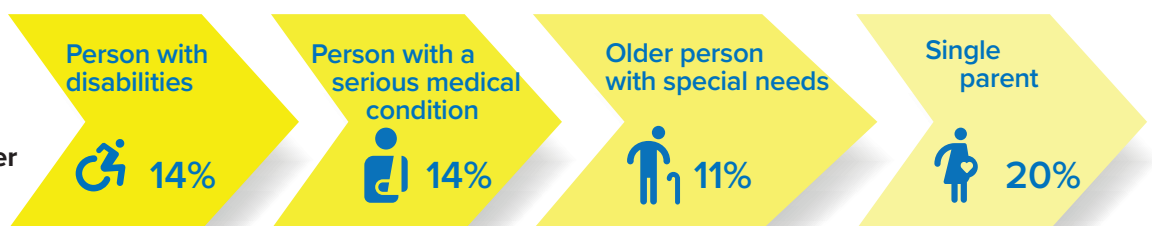
(n=3,539)



\*Multiple responses permitted. The sum might exceed 100%.

37%

of households had at least one member with special needs



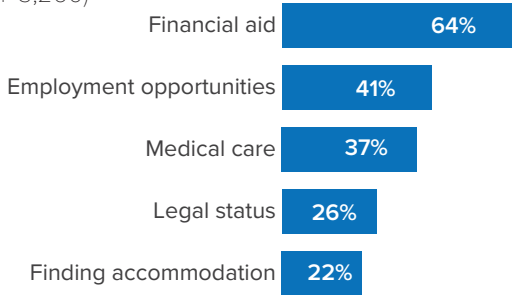
\* While cash is the priority basic need reported by refugees, it covers several underlying needs, which will be explored in the future reports.

## INFORMATION NEEDS

Over half of refugees interviewed in November indicated the need to receive information about financial aid (64%). Other frequently declared information needs concerned job opportunities, accessing medical care, legal status and finding accommodation. Social media and messaging apps were the preferred methods of communication (57%), with Telegram, Facebook and Viber being favored by the highest share of respondents.

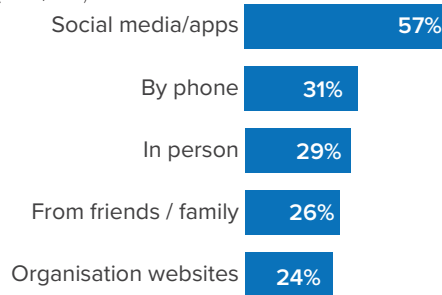
### Top 5 reported information needs\*

(n=3,260)



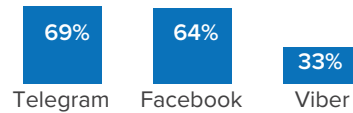
### Preferred methods of receiving information\*

(n=3,519)



### Top 3 preferred social media channels\* \*\*

(n=1,491)



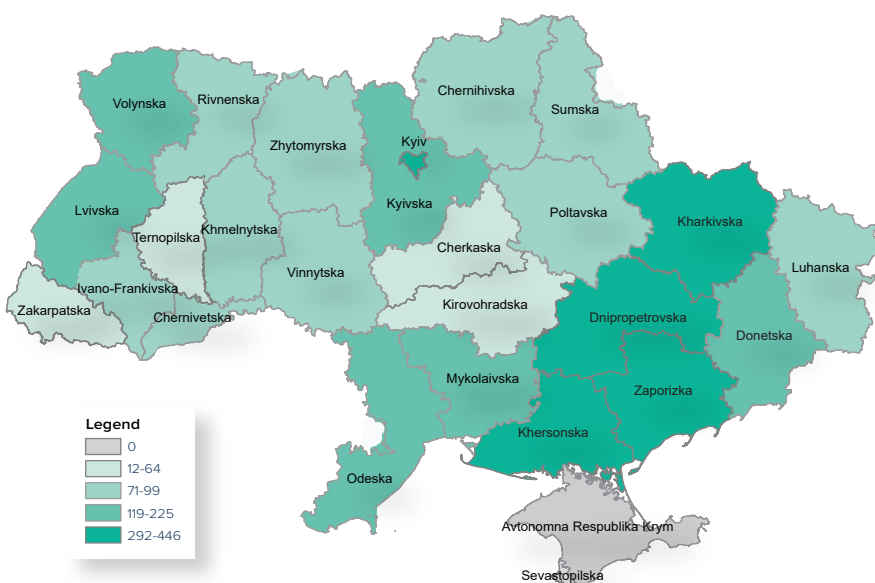
\*Multiple responses permitted. The sum might exceed 100%.

\*\*Among those who indicated social media/apps as a preferred method of communication.

## ORIGIN & ARRIVAL

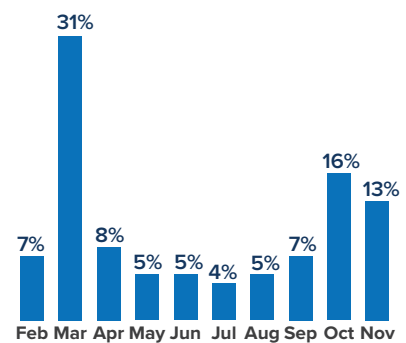
The largest share of respondents arrived from Kharkivska and Zaporizka oblasts and the city of Kyiv, followed by Dnipropetrovska and Khersonska oblasts. Half of the interviewed refugees (50%) left their place of origin between late February and May, whereas 27% departed in October and November. Roughly 100% of respondents had national passport or national ID with them. 13% had been internally displaced within Ukraine prior to leaving the country.

### Most frequent oblast of origin

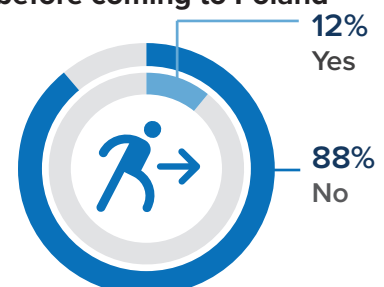


### Month of departure, 2022

(n=3,814)



### Were internally displaced before coming to Poland





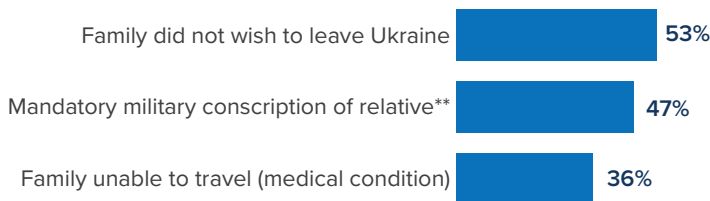
## FAMILY SEPARATION

Most respondents (80%) were separated from immediate family members since the escalation of hostilities in February 2022. In more than half of the cases (53%) family members did not want to leave Ukraine. Separation was also often caused by the martial law preventing men aged 18-60 to leave the country (47%) or by the fact that family members could not leave Ukraine due to medical conditions (36%).

## 80% of respondents were separated from immediate family members

### Top 3 reasons for separation

(n=3,059)\*



\*Multiple responses permitted. The sum might exceed 100%.

\*\*Military conscription applies to martial law in place in Ukraine which prevents men between 18-60 years old from leaving the country, however it does not imply that those who remained are in active military service.

### Limitation of Findings

- Non-probability sampling was applied and therefore the results cannot be extrapolated to the population of all refugees from Ukraine residing in Poland.
- The conflict is ongoing and rapidly changing, and population movements continue, therefore results might differ significantly in the next round of data collection.
- Data was collected only in certain regions, including border areas in Podkarpackie and Lubelskie voivodeships, as well as major cities, such as Warszawa, Kraków, Wrocław, Lublin and Poznań - the situation might differ in other regions and smaller cities.
- The factsheet is based on interviews conducted mostly in planned sites, train or bus stations, and NGO offices, therefore presented results cannot be extrapolated for the entire population and cannot be used for the purpose of comparison.
- While the default sample was 3,829, questions were not mandatory, as such a few percent of responses were not provided. In contrast with the October iteration, where blanks and "NA" answers were included in the overall percentages, here it was decided to exclude "NA" answers from calculations. As such, for data and percentages computed on a sample differing from the default, the sample size has been specified.

## Endnotes

1. [UNHCR Operational Data Portal for Poland](#)
2. Such findings are in line with earlier regional studies, according to which the majority of refugees from Ukraine in Poland and other countries planned to return home as soon as possible, and expected to stay in host countries until hostilities subside and the security situation improves: [UNHCR survey finds refugees from Ukraine hope to go home](#)

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