

UKRAINE CRISIS RESPONSE | 2022 — 2023 |

# Estonia

# Surveys with Refugees from Ukraine: Needs, Intentions, and Integration Challenges



© IOM 2023

March - April 2023 Country Report & Data Analysis The opinions expressed in this publication are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the views of the International Organization for Migration (IOM). The designations employed and the presentation of material throughout the report do not imply expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of IOM concerning the legal status of any country, territory, city or area, or of its authorities, or concerning its frontiers or boundaries.

IOM is committed to the principle that humane and orderly migration benefits migrants and society. As an intergovernmental organization, IOM acts with its partners in the international community to: assist in meeting the operational challenges of migration; advance understanding of migration issues; encourage social and economic development through migration; and uphold the human dignity and well-being of migrants.

This publication was made possible through the support provided by Council of Europe Development Bank, U.S Department of State Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration (PRM), the German Federal Foreign Office, Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Publisher International Organization for Migration Regional Office for South-Eastern Europe, Eastern Europe and Central Asia Dampfschiffstrasse 4/10-11, 1030 Vienna, Austria +43 1 581 22 22 Website: https://rovienna.iom.int/ Contact: ROViennaDataResearch-Newsletter@ iom.int

International Organization for Migration Country Office Estonia

Parda str. 4, Tallinn, Estonia +372 (6) 11 6 088 Website: https://estonia.iom.int

International Organization for Migration

This report was issued without formal editing by IOM.

Cover photo: IOM' DTM enumerator speaking with refugees from Ukraine in Estonia © IOM 2023

Citation: International Organization for Migration (IOM), May 2023. DTM Estonia "Surveys with refugees from Ukraine: needs, intentions and integration challenges" IOM, Estonia. For more information on terms and conditions of DTM reports and information products, please refer to: https://dtm.iom.int/terms-and-conditions

Release date: May 29, 2023



Some rights reserved. This work is made available under the <u>Creative Commons Attribution-NonCommercial-NoDerivs</u> <u>3.0 IGO License</u> (CC BY-NC-ND 3.0 IGO).\*

For further specifications please see the <u>Copyright and Terms of Use</u>.

This publication should not be used, published or redistributed for purposes primarily intended for or directed towards commercial advantage or monetary compensation, with the exception of educational purposes, e.g. to be included in textbooks. Permissions: Requests for commercial use or further rights and licensing should be submitted to <u>publications@</u> <u>iom.int</u>.

\* https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-nd/3.0/igo/legalcode

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

I. Socio-Demographic Profile	5
Oblast (region) of origin	5
Gender and age	6
Marital status	6
Documents possessed at the time of interview	6
Average time abroad since initial displacement	7
2. Intentions	8
Intention to move elsewhere or stay in current location	8
Intended length of stay in current location	8
Intended oblast of destination in Ukraine and reasons to go back	8
Immediate needs upon crossing back	9
Intended country of destination	10
Reasons for selecting elsewhere in Estonia or other countries as destination	10
3. Education and Employment: Profile and Prospects	п
Main spoken language	11
Other spoken language(s)	11
Estonian language proficiency and courses	11
Education level	11
Employment status and occupation	12
4. Registration and Inclusion Services	14
Current migration status	14
Access to finances	14
Consular services	15
Accommodation	15
5. Immediate Needs and Assistance Received	16
Immediate needs	16
Assistance received in Estonia	16
Areas in which information is needed to receive more assistance	16
6. Challenges in the Country of Displacement	17
Experiences of discrimination	17
Inclusion challenges	17
7. Current Group Composition	18
Travel mode	18
Travelling with persons with health conditions and disabilities	18
8. Methodology	19
Country-level implementation and limitations	19

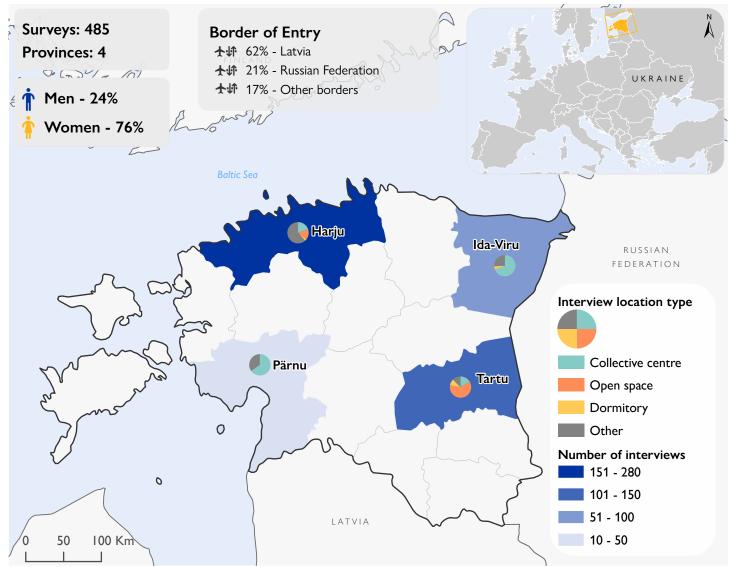
## **KEY FINDINGS**

- Top oblasts of origin: Kharkivska (12%), Donetska (12%), Khersonska (10%), Kyiv city (11%), Zaporizka (8%).
- Intentions to move: no intention to move (90%), move to place of origin in Ukraine (2%), to another country (1%) - to Germany, Finland, Spain and Lithuania.
- Employment status: employed (36%), unemployed and looking for a job (30%), unemployed and not looking for a job (3%), retired (8%).

Map 1: Estonia, border crossing points, surveys deployed & locations

- Top needs:\* employment (27%), health services (23%), financial support (22%), documentation and registration (11%).
- Top areas of assistance received:\* free transportation (83%), food items (67%), financial support (57%), long-term accommodation (31%).
- Top inclusion challenges:\* employment (27%), language barrier (23%), housing (18%), recognition of professional skills and diplomas (7%).

\* more than one answer possible



This map is for illustration purposes only. The boundaries and names shown, and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by IOM.



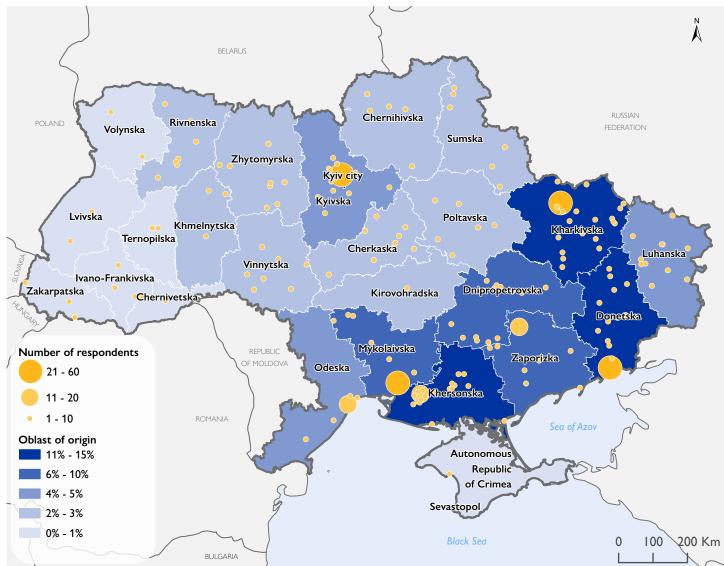
## I. Socio-Demographic Profile

### **Oblast (region) of origin**

The majority came from the eastern and southern parts of the country, with the highest share of respondents coming from Kharkivska (12%), Donetska (12%), Khersonska (10%), the city of Kyiv (11%), and Zaporizka (8%).

The remaining respondents (46%) lived in other 19 regions throughout Ukraine. These included Dnipropetrovska (7%), Mykolaivska (6%), Kyivska and Luhanska (5% each), Odeska (4%), Cherkaska (3%) and other regions (16%).





This map is for illustration purposes only. The boundaries and names shown, and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by IOM.

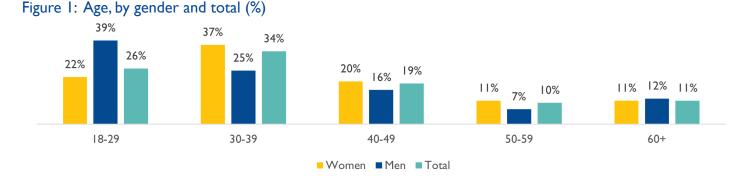
### Gender and age

Seventy-six per cent of the respondents were women, while men represented 24 per cent of the sample. Over one third of interviewees were between 30 and 39 years of age (34%), followed by those between 18 and 29 (26%), and between 40 and 49 (19%).

When looking at data disaggregated by gender, the average age for women (40 years) in the sample was

slightly higher than the men's (36 years). The largest age group for women was of those between 30 and 39 years old (37%), followed by those aged between 18 and 29 (22%).

Among men, the largest group was aged between 18 and 29 years (39%), followed by those aged between 30 and 39 (25%).



### **Marital status**

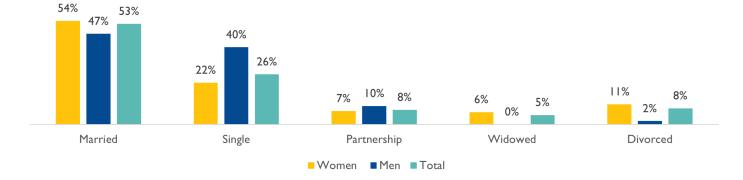
A total of 53 per cent of the respondents were married, while another 26 per cent were single. Sixteen per cent were divorced and, in a partnership, (8% each), the remaining five per cent were widowed.

The share of married persons was slightly higher among

Figure 2: Marital status, by gender and total (%)

women than among men (54% versus 53%), while men were nearly twice as likely to be single than women (40% versus 22%).

In addition, none of the men reported being widowed, in comparison to six per cent of women in the sample.

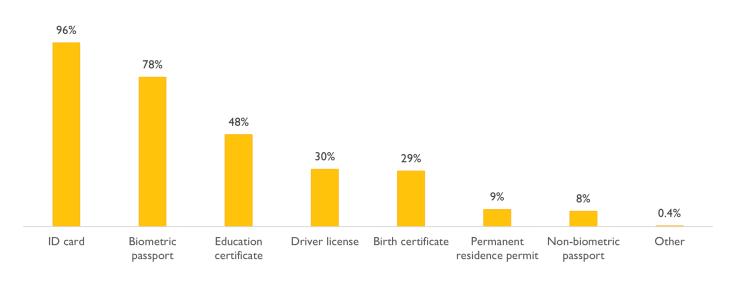


### Documents possessed at the time of interview (more than one answer possible)

The vast majority of the respondents travelled with more than one document. That being said, most respondents (96%) travelled with their ID card, 78 per cent were in possession of their biometric passports, 48 per cent had education certificates. Another 30 per cent travelled with their driver license, and 29 per cent with their birth certificate.

The remaining 17 per cent declared to have a permanent residence permit (9%) and a non-biometric passport (8%).





## Figure 3: Documents in possession of respondents at the time of interview (%) (more than one answer possible)

### Average time abroad since initial displacement

The approximate duration of displacement can be assessed looking at the difference between respondents' initial date of displacement from Ukraine, and the date of interview.

Most respondents were initially displaced in the first half of 2022, when the war started. For example, 32 per cent of respondents were initially displaced in March of 2022. This means that by the time the interview was conducted (March-April 2023), they had spent about one year in displacement. Another nine per cent of respondents were displaced in April 2022, giving them 11-12 months since their initial date of displacement and the date of assessment.

Between May and December 2022, the rate of displacement fluctuated between one to five per cent, except in August when the percentage of people leaving the country reached nine per cent. This means that 33 per cent of respondents had spent 3-11 months in displacement at the time of assessment.

Lastly, II per cent of respondents who were initially displaced in 2023 spent only a few months in displacement.

Date since initial displacement	Approximate time spent until date of interview	% Of respondents
Before 2022	I-8 years	6%
Jan-Mar 2022	11 -15 months	39%
Apr-Jun 2022	7 - 10 months	18%
Jul-Sep 2022	4 - 6 months	18%
Oct-Dec 2022	I- 3 months	8%
Jan-2023	I-2 months	3%
Feb-2023	Around one month or less	5%
Mar-2023	Less than a month	3%

### Table I: Approximate time in displacement until the date of interview (%)



### 2. Intentions

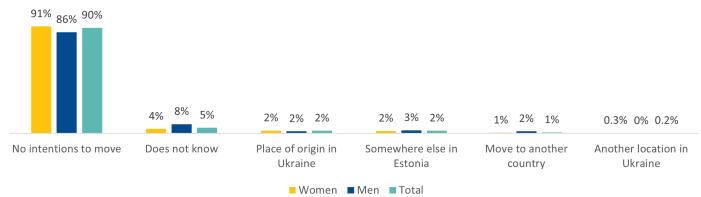
#### Intention to move elsewhere or stay in current location

Ninety-two per cent of respondents interviewed declared their intention to remain in Estonia either in their current location (90%) or a different location in Estonia (2%). Two per cent planned to return to their place of origin in Ukraine, whereas less than one per cent had intentions to relocate within Ukraine.

Another one per cent intended to move to another country and the remaining respondents did not know (5%).

When looking at the data disaggregated by gender, women were slightly more likely to stay in their current location than men (91% versus 86%). In addition, the probability of men relocating to a foreign country was higher than that of women (2% versus 1%). Otherwise, the percentages remained relatively similar or the same. For example, women and men were as likely to aim to move back to their place of origin in Ukraine (2% each).

Figure 4: Respondents' intention to move from current location, by gender and total (%)



#### Intended length of stay in current location

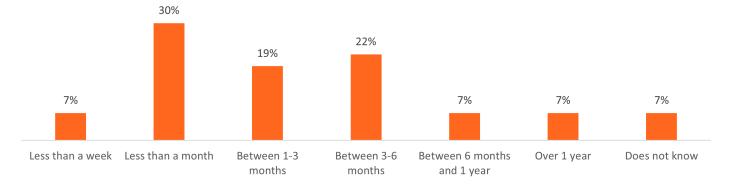
Out of those intending to move within Estonia, Ukraine or elsewhere (N=27), thirty per cent intended to stay less than one month in their current location before moving.

Another 22 per cent of respondents planned to stay between three to six months, 19 per cent between one

to three months, 14 per cent between six months to one year and over one year (7% each).

Lastly, seven per cent of respondents intended to stay less than a week and another seven per cent did not know for how long they were planning to stay in their current location before moving.

Figure 5: Intended length of stay in current location before moving elsewhere (%) N=27





### Intended oblast of destination in Ukraine and reasons to go back

Out of those set on returning to Ukraine (N=12), 92 The remaining eight per cent (one individual) aimed to per cent planned to go back to the same oblast of origin. relocate to a different oblast, specifically Kharkivska.

Table 2: Reasons for choosing Ukraine as intended destination, by gender and total (%) (N=12) (more than one answer possible)

Listed Reasons	Women (%)	Men (%)	Total (%)
Reunite with family	40%	0%	33%
Could not find shelter/accommodation	10%	100%	25%
Lack of job	10%	50%	17%
Lack of resources	20%	0%	17%
Found work in Ukraine	10%	50%	17%
Help family members to get to the border	20%	0%	17%
Improved situation in place of origin	10%	0%	8%
Improved situation in Ukraine	10%	0%	8%
Bring family to safety	10%	0%	8%
Help family	10%	0%	8%
Other	20%	50%	25%

Out of those intending to go back to Ukraine, either to the same oblast of origin (N=11), or to an alternative oblast (N=1), 33 per cent indicated that they selected Ukraine as their intended destination with the purpose of reuniting with their family. An additional 25 per cent planned to return as they were unable to find housing in their current place of displacement.

Meanwhile, 68 per cent intended to return to Ukraine for other various reasons. Motivations included assisting family members in reaching the border, seeking employment opportunities, and dealing with resource and employment-related difficulties (17% each).

Lastly, respondents intended to move back in order to help their family members, ensure their family's safety

### Immediate needs upon crossing back

Out of those intending to go back (N=12), 75 per cent of respondents indicated that their top needs upon crossing back would be cash support, housing, and job placement (25% each).

This was followed by information (17%), medical needs

or due to the improved situation in both Ukraine and their original place of residence (8% each). The remaining 25 per cent of respondents indicated other reasons, such as longing to go back home, visit relatives. When looking at the data disaggregated by gender, women selected reuniting with family (40%), lack of resources in current location (20%), and helping family members to get to the border (20%) as the top reasons to travel to Ukraine as their intended destination.

On the contrary, men intended to go back to Ukraine as their final destination as they had been unable to find shelter/accommodation in their current location (100%). This was followed lack of employment (50%), and having found a job in Ukraine (50%).

(8%), and children's education (8%).

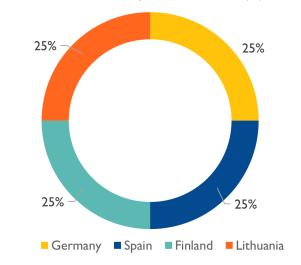
Moreover, 17 per cent of interviewees indicated uncertainty about their needs at the time of the assessment. Half or respondents (50%) reported having no specific needs upon their return.



### Intended country of destination

Among those individuals who expressed their intention to go to another country as their final destination (N=4), each destination was chosen by 25 per cent of respondents. Specifically, 25 per cent planned to go to Germany, 25 per cent to Spain, 25 percent to Finland, and 25 per cent to Lithuania.

When examining the data by gender, male respondents showed a preference for Germany and Spain, with 50 per cent choosing each as their intended destinations, while female respondents had an equal split with 50 per cent expressing their intention to go to Finland and 50 per cent to Lithuania.



#### Figure 6: Intended country of destination (%) N=4

#### Reasons for selecting elsewhere in Estonia or other countries as destination

Among those who intended to relocate either within Estonia (N=11) or to another country (N=4), 40 per cent chose their destination based on job opportunities, while another 40 per cent considered family or friends in the area as a significant factor.

Additionally, 26 per cent were influenced by the proximity to their home or because they already resided there (13% each).

Another 28 per cent of respondents selected their final destination due to various reasons such as a job offer, accommodation options, authorities, or suitable schools for their children (7% each). Only one individual, representing seven per cent, reported

affordable housing prices as the primary reason for choosing their destination.

When looking at the data through a gender lens, both women and men were as likely to have selected job opportunities, and family/relatives living in the area as top reasons for selecting their intended destination (40% each reason for both male and female respondents).

On the contrary, only women selected their destination based on proximity to their home (20%), being accommodated by national/local authorities (10%), and school for children (10%), while only men selected having found accommodation there (20%) as a driving reason for selecting their intended destination.

Table 3: Reasons for choosing elsewhere in Estonia or another country as intended destination, by gender and total (%) (N=15)

(more than one answer possible)

Listed reasons	Women (%)	Men (%)	Total (%)
Job opportunities	40%	40%	40%
Family/relatives in the area	40%	40%	40%
Close to home	20%	0%	13%
Lived there	10%	20%	13%
Accommodation there	0%	20%	7%
Job offer	10%	0%	7%
Authorities	10%	0%	7%
School for children	10%	0%	7%
Other	10%	0%	7%



### **3. Education and Employment: Profile and Prospects**

### Main spoken language

The survey found that a majority of respondents (51%) speak Ukrainian as their main language at home. The second most common language used in this round of surveying was Russian (49%). Azeri was distant third, with less than one per cent of respondents indicating it as their main spoken language.

### Other spoken language(s)

A large part of respondents speak Ukrainian (69%) and Russian (66%) as a second language. This was followed by English (46%), Estonian (28%), German (3%) and Polish (2%). Other languages stated were Chinese, Hebrew and Farsi (1%).

### Estonian language proficiency and courses

Out of 258 respondents who provided their answers, 59 per cent had taken Estonian language courses, while 41 per cent had not. The majority of those who participated in the courses (89%), had reached an A1 level, while 11 per cent had achieved an A2 level and less than one percent a B1 level. Ninety-nine per cent indicated that the Estonian language courses were provided free of charge, while only one per cent had to pay for their language courses. In addition, 62 per cent

### **Education level**

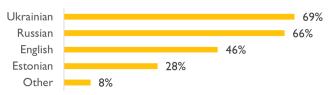
More than half of refugees from Ukraine (53%) had completed a tertiary education. Twenty-four per cent had an upper secondary/vocational (24%) or lower secondary (12%) level of education. Nine per cent claimed to have a post-secondary non-tertiary level of education, and one per cent had postgraduate as their highest level of education. Female respondents

### Figure 9: Education level, by gender and total (%)

## Figure 7: Main spoken language (%) (more than one answer possible)

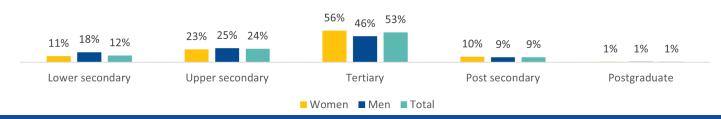


# Figure 8: Other spoken languages (%) (more than one answer possible)



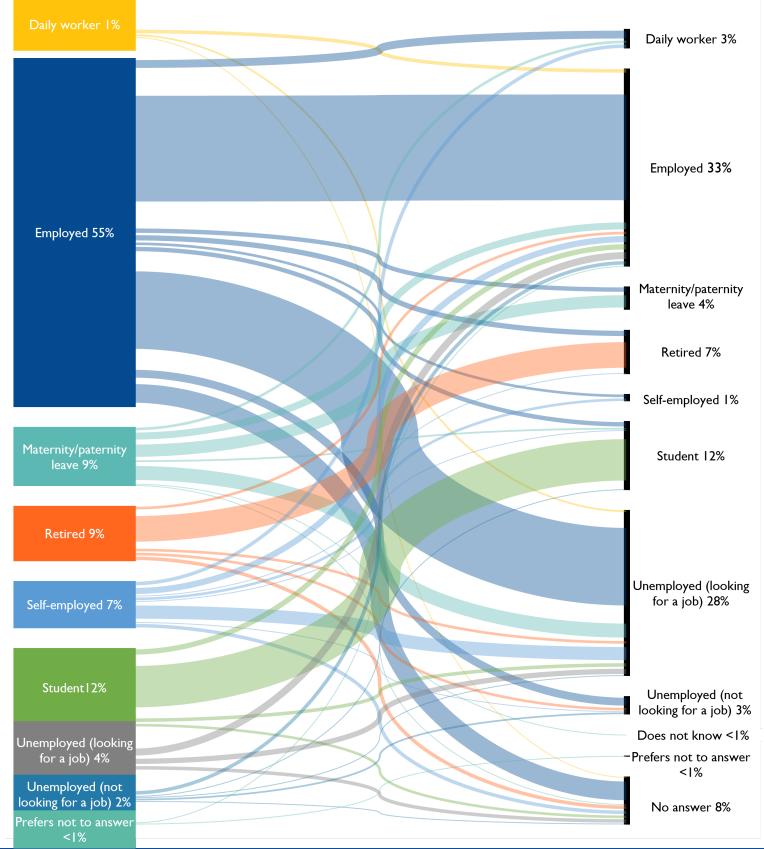
reported that the language courses were offered by Estonian migration authorities, while 21 per cent told that the courses were provided by the Unemployment Insurance Fund. Ten per cent mentioned that they pursued language learning independently, while two percent received language courses from their employers. The remaining five percent mentioned other sources, such as universities or volunteers, as providers of Estonian language courses.

were more likely than their male counterparts to have reached tertiary education as their highest education level (56% versus 46%), while male respondents were more likely than women to have reached a lower secondary education as their highest education level (18% versus 11%). Both men and women were as likely to have achieved a postgraduate degree (1% each).



### **Employment status and occupation**

Figure 10: Employment status before leaving Ukraine and current employment status



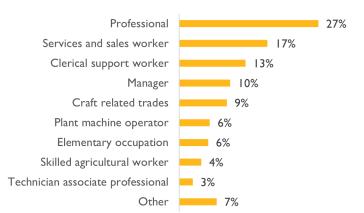


Over half (55%) of all respondents were employed before leaving Ukraine. Twelve per cent were pursuing their studies, 18 per cent were retired or on maternity/ paternity leave (9% each), seven per cent were self-employed, four per cent were unemployed and looking for a job and two per cent were unemployed and not looking for a job. The remaining one per cent were daily workers.

Women were more likely than the men of the sample to be employed before leaving Ukraine (56% versus 51%). In addition, they were slightly more likely than their male counterparts to be retired (9% versus 7%).

On the contrary, men were twice as likely than female respondents to be unemployed and looking for a job before leaving Ukraine (6% versus 3%). Only female respondents were on maternity leave during this period (12% out of the share of female respondents)

# Figure 11: Top 5 occupations before leaving Ukraine (%) N=309



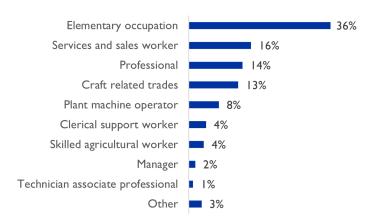
Out of those employed before leaving Ukraine (employed, self-employed or daily workers), 27 per cent were working in professional occupations (e.g. doctors, teachers, programmers), 17 per cent employed in services and sales positions, and 13 per cent as clerical support workers. Another 10 per cent were in managerial positions, nine per cent in craft related trades, six per cent in plant machine operation positions, and six per cent in elementary occupations (e.g. cleaners, street vendors). The remaining sample were employed in other positions such as skilled agricultural workers, technical associate professionals and other areas of employment.

However, these numbers were noticeably different when asked about their current employment in Estonia. Thirty per cent declared being unemployed and looking for a job, while the share of employed and self-employed decreased to 36 per cent and one per cent respectively. The share of those declaring to be unemployed and looking for a job increased from four per cent before the journey to 30 per cent while in Estonia.

Contrary to the situation in Ukraine, Women interviewed in Estonia were less likely than men to be employed at the time of interview (34% versus 42%). Moreover, they were nearly twice as likely than men to be unemployed and looking for a job at the time of the assessment (34% versus 19%).

However, women and men were as likely to be retired at the time of interview (8% each).

# Figure 12:Top 5 current occupations (%) N=183



Among those currently in employment (employed, selfemployed or daily workers), 36 per cent were working in elementary occupations, 16 per cent employed in services and sales positions, 14 per cent classified as professional workers, 13 per cent craft and trade workers, eight per cent plant machine operators/ assemblers, eight per cent were employed as clerical support workers and skilled agricultural workers (4% each), two per cent managers and one per cent worked as technician and associate professionals. The remaining sample were employed in various other sectors, such as finance, insurance, art, entertainment, recreation, and other areas of employment.

## 4. Registration and Inclusion Services

### **Current migration status**

Out of the 485 respondents, 92 per cent applied for asylum or temporary protection, while eight per cent declared not having registered for protection in Estonia. The percentage of men who had not applied for temporary protection status was higher than that of women (16% versus 5%). Among those who answered "No" (N=38), 66 per cent claimed to be ineligible for temporary protection status, 18 per cent declared wanting to register in the future, while another five per cent were planning to leave Estonia soon. Three per cent answered that they did not know how to apply for either temporary protection or asylum.

### Access to finances

Out of 260 respondents who provided an answer, 53 per cent had been able to withdraw cash from ATM or make payments using their own debit/credit, while 45 per cent had not. Two per cent preferred not to answer.

# Figure 14: Has opened a personal bank account in Estonia N=244

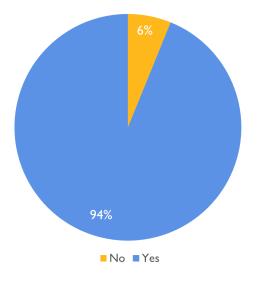
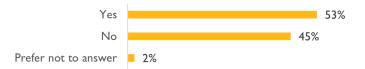


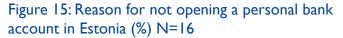
Table 4: Migrati	on status, by	/ gender and	d total (%)

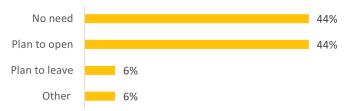
Status	Women (%)	Men (%)	Total (%)
Registered for Temporary Protection	92%	66%	87%
Work visa	2%	6%	3%
Refugee status	۱%	<b>9</b> %	2%
Irregular status	۱%	2%	1%
Short-term visa	0.5%	0%	0.4%
Student	0.5%	0%	0.4%
Other	3%	17%	5%

# Figure 13: Ability to withdraw money with a foreign debit/credit card (%)



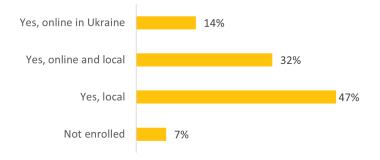
Ninety-four per cent of respondents had a personal bank account in Estonia at the time of the interview, while six per cent did not. Out of those who indicated that they had not opened a personal bank account in Estonia, 88 per cent had no need to do so, or were planning to open it (44% each). Another six per cent were planning to leave the country The remaining six per cent had other reasons.







# Figure 16: Has enrolled children in an education facility (%) N=107



Out of those that indicated in the previous question that they had been unable to enrol their children in an education facility (N=8), 63 per cent were planning to enrol and 38 per cent had other non-specified reasons.

Out of the respondents who had children, 107 specified if they were enrolled or not in schools or kindergarten. 47 per cent indicated that they were able to enrol their children in local schools, while 32 per cent had children enrolled and attending both online and local schools. Moreover, 14 per cent indicated that they had been able to enrol their children in online education in Ukraine. The remaining seven per cent had not been able to enrol their children in any education facility at the time of the interview.

# Figure 17: Reasons why they have not been able to enrol children in education facility (%) N=8



### **Consular services**

Thirty-six per cent of respondents indicated that they knew how to contact a consular representative, while eighteen per cent did not. The remaining 46 per cent did not provide an answer to this question.

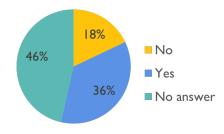
Out of those who responded to the previous question (N=260), 84 per cent indicated that they had not reached out for consular support at the time of the assessment, while another 15 per cent had. Less than one per cent preferred not to answer.

### Accommodation

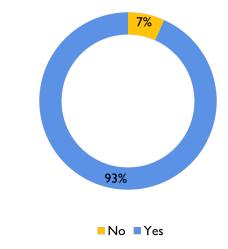
Many of the interviewees (63%) were living in rented apartments/houses in the open market. Other frequently cited types of accommodation were hotels/ hostels respondents were not liable for paying (13%), hotels/hostels that they paid for themselves (12%), staying with family or friends without any payment (5%), or renting an apartment or house from friends or family (4%). The remaining three percent included apartments where the residents were not responsible for paying rent, collective shelters, and other types of accommodation (1% each).

Additionally, out of the sample, 93 per cent of the respondents registered their stay with Estonian authorities, while seven per cent did not.

Figure 18: Do you know how to contact a consular representative?







### 5. Immediate Needs and Assistance Received

#### **Immediate needs**

The three primary needs expressed by the respondents were employment (27%), health services (23%), and financial support (22%). This was followed by the need for support for documentation and registration, long-term accommodation, and food products (11% each). Also, others reported to be in need of support with language courses (10%), medicines (9%) and education/ training for adults (6%).

#### Assistance received in Estonia

Eighty-one per cent of all refugees in the sample reported having received some kind of support or humanitarian assistance, while 19 per cent did not receive any support before the interview. Eightytree per cent indicated that they had received free transportation as the main support, followed by help with food (67%), financial support (57%), long-

## Figure 20: Needs at the moment (%) (more than one answer possible)



term accommodation (31%), language courses (21%), clothes and shoes (17%), personal hygiene and sanitary supplies (16%), toys (7%), psychological counselling (5%), employment support (4%) and vouchers (2%).

In addition, a considerable majority of the respondents (77%) indicated that they had completed the national adaptation program, while 23 per cent had not.

were health services (23%), documentation and

registration (16%), food products (14%), education/

Furthermore, eight percent of the respondents (out of N=260) reported facing challenges in accessing the

Women were more likely to encounter such difficulties

training for adults (11%).

support they needed.

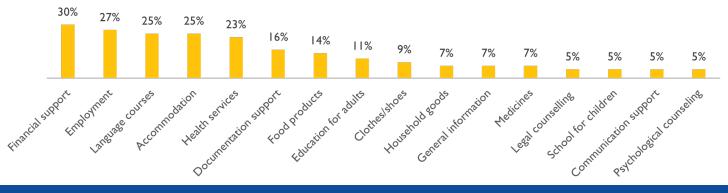
than men (9% versus 6%).

#### Areas in which information is needed to receive more assistance

Out of those who indicated that they did not know where to find assistance (9 per cent out of the total sample), 30 per cent indicated that they needed more information on how to get financial support, 27 per cent needed more information on employment opportunities, 50 per cent on language courses and long-term accommodation (25% each).

Other relevant areas where information was needed

Figure 21: Areas where more information for assistance is needed (%) N=44 (more than one answer possible)





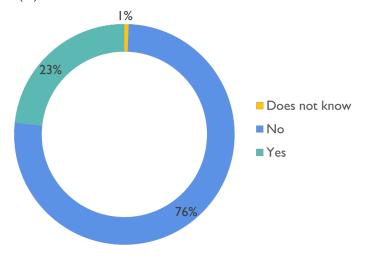
### 6. Challenges in the Country of Displacement

### **Experiences of discrimination**

Twenty-three per cent of respondents indicated having experienced discrimination in their country of displacement.

In contrast, 76 per cent indicated having no such experience. The remaining one per cent did not know. When observing the data through a disaggregated gender lens, female respondents were more likely to have experienced discrimination than their male counterparts (26% versus 15%).

Figure 22: Reported experiences of discrimination (%)

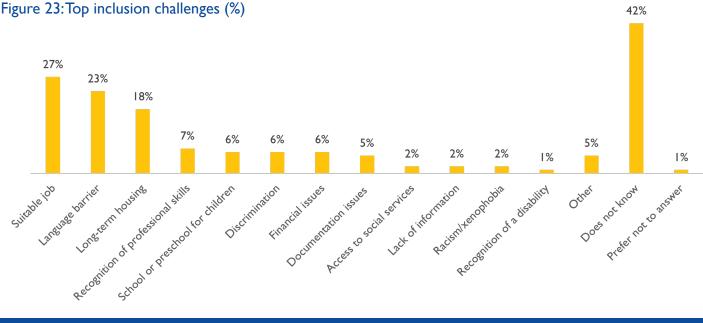


### **Inclusion challenges**

When asked about the challenges they had encountered in Estonia, respondents indicted finding a suitable job (27%) and facing language barriers (23%) as the most prevalent difficulties. Other difficulties included finding long-term housing (18%), getting recognition of professional skills, diplomas, and university experience (7%), as well as finding school, kindergarten and preschool for children.

Additionally, issues such as discrimination and financial constraints were reported by 12 per cent of respondents (6% each), while five per cent indicated facing documentation as another issue.

Other challenges included access to social services/ administration, lack of information, racism (2% each), and recognition of disability (1%). The remaining one per cent of respondents preferred not to answer.







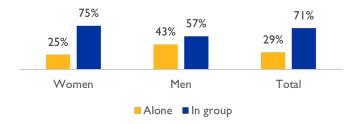
## 7. Current Group Composition

### **Travel mode**

Seventy-one per cent of the sample declared to be travelling in a group, in comparison to the other 29 per cent who were travelling alone. Female respondents were less likely to be travelling alone in comparison to their male counterparts (25% versus 43%).

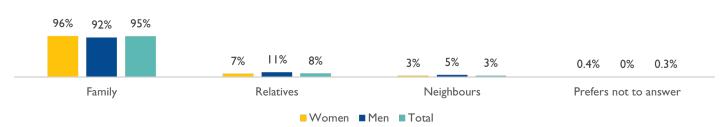
Out of the 71 per cent travelling in a group, 95 per cent were travelling with immediate family/household members, eight per cent with other relatives and three per cent with friends and neighbours. Moreover, 21 per

#### Figure 24: Travel mode by gender and total (%)



cent were travelling with at least one elderly person while 74 per cent were travelling with at least one child. Overall, the average group size, including the respondent, was made off about three persons

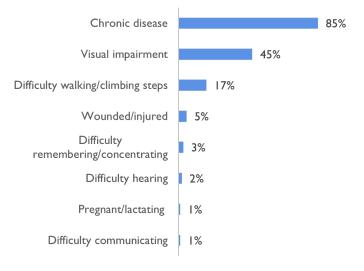
## Figure 25: Travelling groups (%) N=343 (more than one answer possible)



### Travelling with persons with health conditions and disabilities

A considerable fraction of respondents (21%, N=103) indicated that their group/household included persons with serious health conditions or specific needs, while 78 per cent did not reply to be in a group with at least one person with a serious health condition. The remaining one per cent claimed not knowing.

More specifically, 85 per cent of the sample reported having in their group (including themselves) at least one person with a chronic disease or a serious medical condition. Forty-five per cent were travelling with a person with visual impairment. This was followed by those travelling with persons with difficulty walking/ climbing steps (17%), wounded/injured persons (5%), difficulty remembering/concentrating (3%), difficulty hearing (2%), difficulty communicating and pregnant/ lactating women (1% each). Figure 26: Respondents travelling with at least one person with a serious health conditions (%) N=103 (more than one answer possible)





### 8. Methodology

This report is based on a survey of displacement patterns, needs and intentions conducted by IOM's Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM) in the 11 countries included in the Regional Response Plan for Ukraine in 2023: 6 countries neighbouring Ukraine – Belarus, Hungary, Poland, Republic of Moldova, Romania and Slovakia – and other 5 countries particularly impacted by the arrivals of refugees from Ukraine since the start of the war in February 2022 – Bulgaria, Czechia, Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania.

The analysis presented in this report is based on data collected between January and March 2023 through a network of more than 150 enumerators, with various time-lines and specific survey tools -depending on the country context. Nevertheless, the sampling approach, main definitions and features of the survey tool make country-level datasets comparable.

Face-to-face surveys were conducted by trained enumerators with adult refugees from Ukraine (18 years of age and above). Prior to the start of the survey, all enumerators were trained by IOM on DTM standards, the use of Kobo application, IOM approach to migrants' protection and assistance, the ethics of data collection and the provision of information and referral mechanisms in place.

Respondents were approached in a simple random sample by enumerators at selected entry, exit, transit points and accommodation centres. In border crossing point areas, both persons entering/exiting by car, by bus, by foot and by train were interviewed. The survey was anonymous and voluntary. Surveys were administered only if consent from the respondent was given. The respondent could stop the survey at any time.

The questionnaire was available in Ukrainian, Russian, English language. The preferred language was determined by the interviewee. All responses were checked for any systematic issues by enumerator and this process did not identify any problems. Only fully completed surveys were taken in account for this report.

#### **Country-level implementation and limitations**

The sampling framework was not based on verified figures of refugees from Ukraine and TCNs entering through the various BCPs or staying in the various regions (counties, districts, rayons) across each of the country where surveys were conducted. This is due to the limited availability of comparable baseline information across countries. The geographic spread of enumerators deployed and locations targeted captures most of the key arrival, transit and destination points. Whilst results cannot be deemed representative, the internal consistency within the data within each country and at the regional level suggests that the findings of the current sampling framework have practical value.

The survey respondents were chosen at random from locations within four primary transit and reception locations that receive high volumes of individuals entering Estonia either via public or private transport. Whilst every attempt was made to capture all types of arrivals, the operational reality of fieldwork was confronted with different levels of accessibility of transit and stay locations and the different availability of possible target individuals to comfortably spend 10-20 minutes responding to the questionnaire depending on a mix of personal conditions.

For March report. In Estonia, DTM was activated in March 2023. The data for this report was collected between 15 March and 31 March 2023. Overall, 247 valid surveys were collected by a team of 5 enumerators (2 female and 3 male) deployed in 3 different provinces.

Sixty-six per cent of surveys were collected in Harju, 27 per cent in Tartu, 6 per cent in Ida-Viru, one per cent in Hiiu region. Enumerators were approaching respondents in collective centers, open spaces, dormitories, humanitarian aid distribution centers. The interviews have been conducted in Russian and Ukrainian languages.

For March-April report. In Estonia, DTM was activated in March 2023. The data for this report was collected between 14 March and 20 April 2023. Overall, 485 valid surveys were collected by a team of 5 enumerators (2 female and 3 male) deployed in 4 different provinces.

Fifty-six per cent of surveys were collected in Harju, 26 per cent in Tartu, 13 per cent in Ida-Viru, four per cent in Pärnu region. Enumerators were approaching respondents in collective centers, open spaces, dormitories, humanitarian aid distribution centers. The interviews have been conducted in Russian and Ukrainian languages.



### DTM

Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM) is a system to track and monitor displacement and population mobility. The survey form was designed to capture the main displacement patterns – origin country and region – for refugees of any nationality fleeing from Ukraine because of the war. It captures the demographic profiles of respondents and of the group they are travelling with, if any; it asks about intentions relative to the intended final destination and prospects of permanence in the country of the survey/first reception; it gathers information regarding a set of main needs that the respondents expressed as more pressing at the moment of the interview.

Since the onset of the war in Ukraine, several IOM's DTM tools were deployed in countries neighbouring Ukraine and in other countries particularly impacted by the new arrivals of migrants and refugees from Ukraine.

For more information, please consult: https://dtm.iom.int/responses/ukraine-response

DTM is part of IOM's Global Data Institute.

