UNHCR
The UN Refugee Agency

LIVES ON HOLD: INTENTIONS AND PERSPECTIVES OF REFUGEES FROM UKRAINE

REGIONAL INTENTIONS REPORT #3

UNHCR Regional Bureau for Europe FEBRUARY 2023

Contents

Executive summary	3
Introduction	9
Methodology	10
Household profiles	12
Refugees' intentions	15
Drivers of refugees' intentions	19
Enablers and factors influencing return	24
Changes over time	28
Annex 1. Sampling and weighting	30
Annex 2. Regression analysis	35

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We are grateful for the extensive involvement and support of UNHCR's partners, local authorities, civil society, international organizations, refugee volunteers and donors. Most importantly, UNHCR would like to acknowledge the resilience and strength of internally displaced and refugees from Ukraine, who continue to share with us the challenges they face, their fears and hopes and directly contribute to promoting and supporting data collection activities.

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Cover photograph:
Liubov Suhai, 80, fled her village outside Kyiv on 16 March and is now living with her daughter Larysa in Warsaw. © UNHCR/Maciej Moskwa

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Executive summary

Following the first and second regional intentions reports, this third report presents updated findings regarding intentions of refugees from Ukraine across Europe, in-depth analysis of the factors and drivers behind their decisions, and key insights into enabling factors of refugees' intentions, with the goal of informing advocacy, programming and decision-making of all stakeholders.

The analysis is based on a third round of UNHCR intentions surveys, conducted in partnership with Ipsos SA, with around **3,900 interviews undertaken between December 2022 and January 2023** in countries neighbouring Ukraine as well as other host countries in Europe, complemented with findings from focus group discussions. The analysis aims to answer four main questions:

- What are the **household profiles** and current **socio-economic conditions** of refugees which can influence their intentions?
- What are refugee's **intentions or plans** in the short and the long term?
- What are the main **reasons and drivers** influencing refugees' decisions and planning?
- What are the main **enabling factors** that could determine refugees' intentions to return to Ukraine?

Key findings

1 HOUSEHOLD SOCIO-DEMOGRAPHIC CHARACTERISTICS INFLUENCE REFUGEES' INTENTIONS AS THERE ARE GROUPS WITH DIFFERENT CAPACITIES AND VULNERABILITIES.

26%

are composed of **one or more adults (18-59 years) without dependents**. They are more frequently renting accommodation on their own and working (both remotely and in host country) than other typologies, and less frequently reporting social protection / humanitarian assistance as one of their income sources.

29%

are composed of **two or more adults (18-59 years) with dependents (children and/or older persons)**. These households have indicators related to type of accommodation, employment and income sources close to the average, but with higher than-average proportion of persons requiring care due to illness or disability.

38%

are composed of **only one adult (18-59 years) with dependents (children and/or older persons)**. Households in this group also have indicators related to type of accommodation, employment and income sources close to the average, but they are more frequently hosted in countries neighbouring Ukraine and have a higher proportion of spouses and/or children still in Ukraine.

8%

are composed of **one or more older persons (60 years or more)**. Households in this group have significant vulnerabilities, being the ones with the highest proportion of persons requiring care due to illness or disability as well as with the lowest proportion of employment rate and higher dependency on pensions and social protection.

2 MOST REFUGEES SURVEYED STILL HOPE TO EVENTUALLY RETURN TO UKRAINE IN THE FUTURE, BUT FOR THE TIME BEING, THE MAJORITY PLAN TO CONTINUE TO STAY IN THEIR CURRENT HOST COUNTRY.

12%

are planning to return in next three months. The majority report that they would be returning to the same place where they were living before the war (**92%**).

65%

express a desire to eventually return to Ukraine in the future. The large majority does not have a specific timeframe and will hope to do it whenever is possible, although **17%** expressed a desire to return at some point during 2023.

18%

are still undecided about returning in the future.

5%

reported no plans or hope to return.

3 IN ADDITION TO THE ONGOING SECURITY RISKS IN UKRAINE AND THE SPECIFIC CIRCUMSTANCES IN THEIR PLACES OF ORIGIN, REFUGEES' INTENTIONS ARE ALSO INFLUENCED BY THE LEVEL OF ACCESS TO BASIC SERVICES AND RIGHTS IN HOST COUNTRIES, AS WELL AS SPECIFIC HOUSEHOLD VULNERABILITIES.

- **Planning to return in next three months** is more likely among older persons, those with particular circumstances in Ukraine (i.e. with dwellings not yet damaged or destroyed, with spouse and/or children living there and/or originating from the West) as well as those facing challenges to inclusion in host countries (i.e. still hosted by relatives or friends and/or with lower reliance on social protection benefits).
- **Being undecided about return** is more likely among those living alone and those with less proximity to their place of origin (i.e. hosted in countries not sharing a border with Ukraine, not having been back since displacement started and/or without spouse or children still living there).
- **Having no plans or hope to return** is more likely among certain demographic groups (smaller households, males, young adults and/or with vocational or technical education) and those with specific displacement patterns (i.e. left during the first months of the war, originating from the North, hosted in countries not sharing a border with Ukraine and/or without spouse or children still there).

4 WHILE THE MAIN ENABLER FOR RETURN FOR REFUGEES IS AN END TO THE WAR AND THE RELATED SAFETY RISKS, HAVING ADEQUATE ACCESS TO ELECTRICITY AND WATER, HEALTH SERVICES, HOUSING AND LIVELIHOODS IN UKRAINE WILL ALSO SIGNIFICANTLY INFLUENCE THEIR DECISIONS.

93%

of respondents hoping to or undecided regarding return to Ukraine ranked with high importance at least one of the factors related to security and safety situation in their places of origin as determinant of their decision to return. This is particularly the case for refugees originating from Kyiv city and from the East, North and South of Ukraine.

91%

of respondents hoping to or undecided regarding return to Ukraine place high importance on having adequate access to basic services (in particular electricity, water and healthcare), livelihood opportunities and/or housing in their places of origin. Similar to security-related factors, this is particularly the case for refugees originating from Kyiv city and from the East, North and South of Ukraine.

81%

of respondents hoping to or undecided regarding return to Ukraine indicate that having access to information about the situation in their place of origin and having enough resources or support to reintegrate are of high importance when it comes to deciding on return.

69%

of respondents hoping to or undecided regarding return to Ukraine say that having problems accessing basic services (particularly healthcare), or problems finding decent work opportunities and/or problems maintaining their legal status in host countries would also highly impact their decision to return.

5 AMONG THE SUB-SET OF REFUGEES SURVEYED IN BOTH THE SECOND AND THIRD ROUNDS OF THE SURVEY, IMPORTANT CHANGES ARE OBSERVED REGARDING THEIR ACCESS TO ACCOMMODATION AND EMPLOYMENT.

45%

of respondents surveyed in the longitudinal sample were staying in rented accommodation in the third round, compared to **27%** in the second round, even though for an important proportion of them their accommodation is not secured in the long term.

40%

of respondents surveyed in the longitudinal sample were currently employed or self-employed in the third round compared to **30%** in the second round, and an increase is also observed in the proportion engaged in professional training or courses (from **2 to 11%**). Still, a significant proportion are unemployed (**19%**) or engaged as full-time caregiver (**17%**).

46%

of respondents surveyed in the longitudinal sample are now receiving income from employment sources compared to **37%** in the second round, while the proportion relying on social protection and/or cash assistance decreased (from **57 to 50%**).

Main recommendations

1 REFUGEES SHOULD BE CONTINUALLY SUPPORTED TO MAKE FREE AND INFORMED DECISIONS ON THEIR FUTURE.

- As the intentions survey has shown, refugees' intentions are highly influenced by conditions in their places of origin, both with regards to the security and safety situation as well as in terms of access to essential services, status of their properties and work and livelihood opportunities. Refugees themselves attach high importance to having access to adequate information on these issues as one of the key factors influencing their decision on return. This is even more frequently reported among refugees hosted in countries not sharing a border with Ukraine, who are less likely to have travelled back to Ukraine to check on their relatives and the conditions in their places of origin.
- The provision of specific and updated information on the conditions in places of origin, including availability of services and assistance, should continue being a priority. Furthermore, counselling and targeted support for persons with specific needs or vulnerabilities such as older persons and refugees that have been affected by family separation are necessary to enable well-informed decision-making, given these households seem to be more likely to return in the short term.

2 HOST COUNTRIES AND COMMUNITIES REQUIRE CONTINUED SUPPORT TO ENSURE REFUGEES HAVE EFFECTIVE ACCESS TO RIGHTS AND SERVICES.

- Refugees from Ukraine continue to acknowledge the warm reception and support provided by host countries and communities and the opportunity to live in a safe environment. The survey shows some important improvements over time on issues such as access to work and renting accommodation on their own. However, a significant proportion are still unemployed and many of those who have found work are in low-skilled jobs, and for the majority of refugees their income is not enough to cover most of their basic needs.
- As the duration of displacement continues to increase, the specific needs and vulnerabilities observed among an important proportion of refugee households can limit their effective socio-economic inclusion in their host countries. In line with findings from protection monitoring activities, the survey shows how households composed of older persons and those with dependents have lower levels of access to employment, more gaps in finding stable accommodation options and higher dependency on assistance from Governments and humanitarian organizations. This might eventually influence their decisions to return even in sub-optimal conditions regarding security and potential reintegration.
- Refugees highlight access to healthcare and work opportunities in host countries as key factors influencing their intentions. Administrative barriers, difficulty in navigating the health care system, limited health insurance coverage afforded through TPD and high co-payments for medical services in the insurance systems need to be addressed. Barriers in accessing social protection and childcare services, as well as to language

courses and recognition of work skills are also among the main challenges that need to be continuously addressed in this regard.

- Addressing the priority needs of refugees will contribute to their socio-economic inclusion in host countries, mitigate protection risks and potential negative coping mechanisms and contribute to their host communities. Furthermore, targeted programmes and interventions are critical to address different levels of vulnerabilities among refugees. It is also crucial that persons with specific needs are systematically identified and referred to services in a timely manner in order to mitigate protection risks and reduce long-term costs.

3 REFUGEES REQUIRE CONTINUED SUPPORT FOR ACCESSING DECENT WORK OPPORTUNITIES.

- While over a third of refugees from Ukraine are currently working, the majority are employed at a lower level than previously in Ukraine, with a higher prevalence among women than men. Many are working in low-skilled jobs and a small but considerable percentage is working in the informal sector, potentially linked to information gaps on accessing the labour market. Over one fifth of refugees are unemployed and actively looking for work opportunities. Although childcare has been identified as a barrier for accessing employment, limited knowledge of the local language, skills mismatches, together with difficulties in skills recognition and lack of decent work opportunities are more prevalent.
- Continued and holistic support is thus required to better capture the potential of refugees to contribute to host communities, achieve self-reliance, expand their skills and pave the way for eventual solutions. Interventions should include language courses, including at the professional level, simplified skills and diploma recognition, job-matching and upskilling, information provision and access to childcare, including after school. Access to business development services, grants and finance should also be expanded, considering that only 2 per cent of refugees from Ukraine are currently self-employed according to the findings, albeit 11 per cent having had a business in Ukraine as per the previous intentions survey.

4 THE UKRAINIAN GOVERNMENT REQUIRES CONTINUED SUPPORT FOR THE RECONSTRUCTION OF BASIC INFRASTRUCTURE AND TO PROVIDE HOUSING SOLUTIONS IN AREAS MORE AFFECTED.

- Despite the ongoing war and security risks, some refugees have started to return in previous months and others are intending to return in the short term, even to areas severely affected by the war. This is explained by their desire to go back to their country and reunite with relatives combined with their particular conditions or situation.
- Spontaneous returnees should be supported alongside other affected populations through early recovery programming, including the reconstruction of essential infrastructure, such as water, electricity, healthcare and education services as well as access to housing solutions for those whose homes have been damaged or destroyed or for those unable to return to their place of origin.

> ***We cannot think about the future or how the situation in Ukraine is and for how long it will be like that. We can only think about the present."***
>
> – FGD participant, Spain.

Results at a glance

HOUSEHOLD PROFILES

26% composed of one or more adults (18-59 years) without dependents

29% composed of two or more adults (18-59 years) with dependents (children and/or older persons)

38% composed of only one adult (18-59 years) with dependents (children and/or older persons)

8% composed of one or more older persons (60 years or more)

KEY SOCIO-ECONOMIC INDICATORS

87% have registered for temporary protection or refugee status

43% are renting accommodation on their own

23% can speak well the primary language in their host country

77% of children (3-17 years) are attending school in host country

35% are employed or self-employed (in host country or remotely)

12% are engaged in professional training

47% rely on social protection / cash assistance as income source

39% reported their income was enough to cover most of their basic needs

REFUGEES' INTENTIONS

12% **Plan to return in next 3 months**

More likely among: older persons; from the West of Ukraine; spouse or children still in Ukraine; dwelling in Ukraine not damaged; hosted by relatives or friends; lower reliance on social protection in host country

65% **Hope to return one day**

More likely among: adults with dependents; females, with university degrees; from the South of Ukraine; spouse or children in Ukraine; in countries neighbouring Ukraine

18% **Undecided to return**

More likely among: persons living alone; no spouse or children in Ukraine; in countries not sharing a border with Ukraine

5% **No plan or hope to return**

More likely among: males and young adults, with technical education; from the North; in countries not sharing a border with Ukraine; no spouse or children in Ukraine

ENABLERS OF RETURN

94% give high importance to **security and safety** conditions in places of origin

Ranking of factors:
1. No security concerns
2. No military occupation
3. End / poltical solution to the war
4. Freedom of movement

91% give high importance to **having access to basic services, livelihoods and housing** in places of origin

Ranking of factors:
1. Access to electricity and water services
2. Work / livelihood opportunities
3. Access to health services
4. Access to property or alternative housing
5. Access to education services

81% give high importance to **having access to information** and/or enough **resources or support** to return

Ranking of factors:
1. Information on the situation in place of origin
2. Sufficient resources or support to return
3. When all household members are ready
4. If other relatives cannot leave Ukraine

Introduction

As a result of the war in Ukraine, nearly one-third of the population of Ukraine remain forcibly displaced from their homes, making it one of the largest displacement crises in the world today. Within Ukraine, **over 5 million people remain internally displaced**, according to IOM[1]. As of end of January 2023, UNHCR estimated that there were **over 8 million refugees from Ukraine recorded across Europe and beyond**, out of whom over 4.8 million have registered for temporary protection or similar national protection schemes[2].

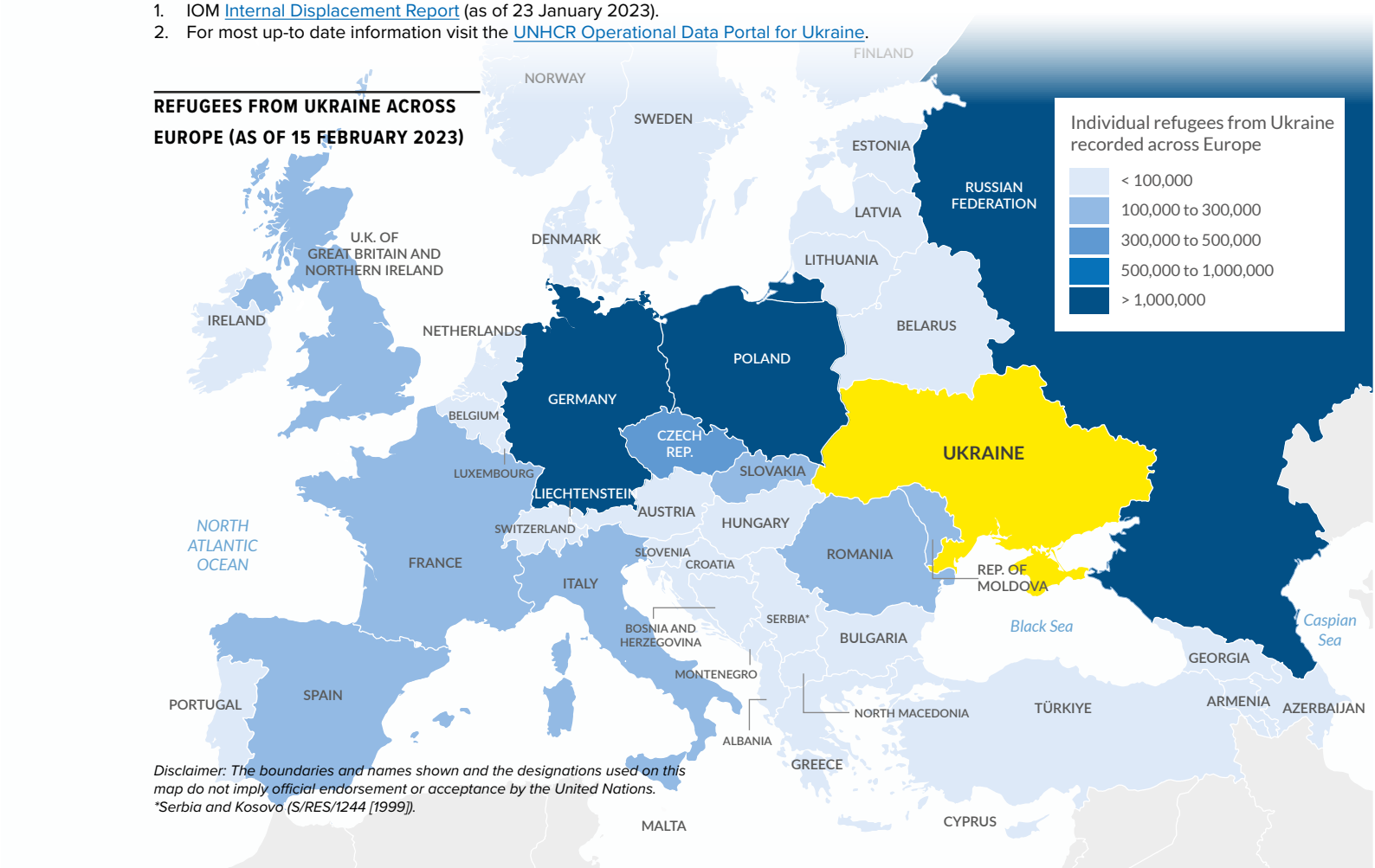
To ensure the centrality of refugees' voices in discussions about their future, as well as to inform evidence-based responses in support of government authorities in host countries and in Ukraine, UNHCR regularly surveys the intentions of refugees from Ukraine, collecting primary data on their profiles, their current situation and intentions, and the factors influencing their decision-making.

Complementing the first and second regional intentions reports published in July and September 2022, this **third report** presents the main findings from the most recent round of data collection with refugees (December to January 2023), covering countries neighbouring Ukraine as well as other host countries in Europe. The report aims to answer four main questions:

- What are the **household profiles** and current **socio-economic conditions** of refugees which can influence their intentions? (Chapter 1)
- What are refugees' **intentions or plans** in the short and the long term? (Chapter 2)
- What are the main **reasons and drivers** influencing refugees' decisions and planning? (Chapter 3)
- What are the main **enabling factors** that could determine refugees' intentions to return to Ukraine? (Chapter 4)

1. IOM Internal Displacement Report (as of 23 January 2023).
2. For most up-to date information visit the UNHCR Operational Data Portal for Ukraine.

REFUGEES FROM UKRAINE ACROSS EUROPE (AS OF 15 FEBRUARY 2023)



Disclaimer: The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations.
**Serbia and Kosovo (S/RES/1244 [1999]).*

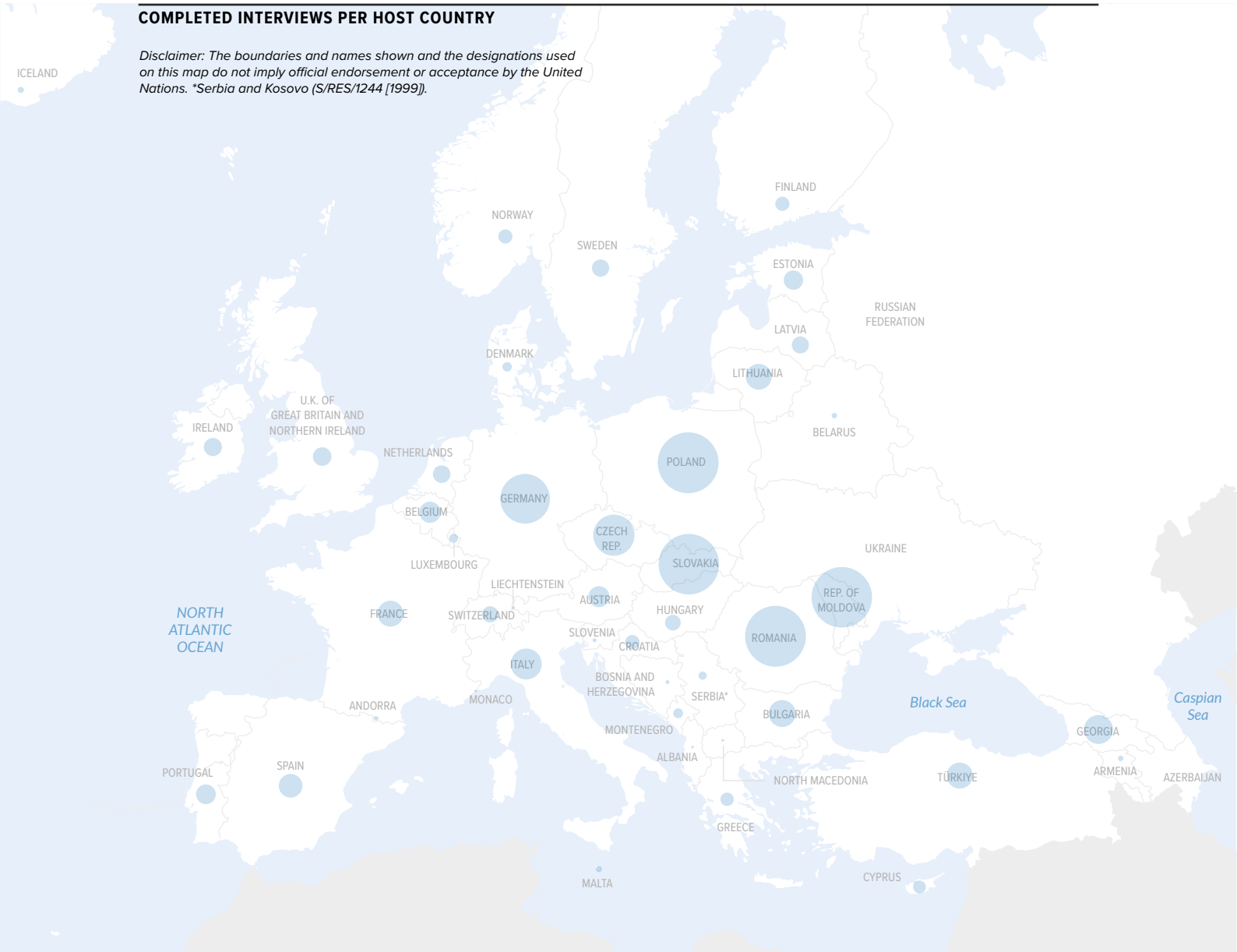
Methodology

The third round of intentions surveys of refugees from Ukraine used a mixed methodological approach, combining different sampling approaches and two main data collection modes: phone- and web-based surveys. Around **3,900 households** completed the survey. In order to understand how intentions and lived experiences in the various host countries have changed since the second round of the survey, respondents who agreed to be recontacted were invited to complete this third round of the research. The final sample of this round includes **887 surveys** who completed both waves of research (referred to as **"longitudinal sample"**) and **3,020 surveys** from a fresh sample, who participated only in the third round. Sampling and data collection was conducted by Ipsos SA.

- **Phone-surveys:** using the lists of refugees enrolled with UNHCR for cash assistance in **Poland, the Republic of Moldova, Romania** and **Slovakia** as a sampling frame, a stratified random sample of **500** households per country was selected and interviewed over the phone, with a total of **1,983 surveys completed** using this approach (out of whom 581 who were also interviewed in the second round). This allowed for estimates with a margin of error up to ±4.3

COMPLETED INTERVIEWS PER HOST COUNTRY

*Disclaimer: The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations. *Serbia and Kosovo (S/RES/1244 [1999]).*



per cent at a 95 per cent confidence interval per country, and ±2.2 per cent for the combined sample.

- **Web-surveys:** using online panels, individuals from Ukraine who fled their country since 24 February 2022 and were hosted **in countries across Europe** (excluding the ones covered via phone-surveys) were identified and invited to take part in the survey. A total of **1,924 surveys were completed** using this approach (out of whom 306 who were also interviewed in the second round). The online sample covered refugees across **40** European countries, with the highest number of surveys completed in **Germany (330), Czech Republic (227), Italy (128)** and **Georgia (112)**.

For the regional analysis, weights have been applied based on the most recent figures available of the number of individual refugees recorded in each country. A more detailed description of the sampling and weighting approach is included in **Annex 1**.

The quantitative analysis has been complemented with qualitative insights and findings from **focus group discussions (FGDs)** with refugees from Ukraine conducted by UNHCR towards the end of 2022. This includes findings from FGDs conducted in **Germany** and **Spain** specifically focused on intentions, as well as findings from FGDs conducted in several countries in Europe as part of UNHCR's Participatory Assessments.

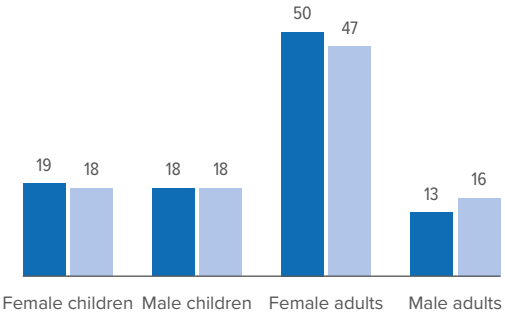
SURVEY SAMPLE DESCRIPTION

INDICATOR	OVERALL SAMPLE	LONGITUDINAL SAMPLE
Surveys completed	**3,907**	**887**
% of respondents are females	**89%**	**89%**
Average age (years)	**43**	**42**
Average household size	**2.8**	**2.7**
% who left Ukraine between February and March 2022	**74%**	**80%**
% hosted in countries neighbouring Ukraine	**36%**	**48%**

Limitations

The results presented in this report must be interpreted according to the scope of the methodology and given the context of ongoing movements. In particular, due to the lack of complete sampling frames (full list of refugees from Ukraine recorded across Europe with contact details), the study used different sampling strategies based on the best available data (see **Annex 1** for complete details). While results cannot necessarily be extrapolated to the population of refugees from Ukraine as a whole, the demographic composition of the household survey sample shows a very similar distribution than that of the overall refugee population. It is also worth noting that results presented in this report reflect refugees' situations and intentions at the time of data collection, which may have subsequently changed depending on a wide range of factors and contextual changes.

DEMOGRAPHIC COMPOSITION: SURVEY* VS. REFUGEE POPULATION (IN PERCENTAGES)*



** Survey results after weighting.*
*** Based on latest official data reported by national authorities when available; otherwise based on statistics published by EUROSTAT.*

Microdata

With the goal of facilitating the further use and analysis of the survey data, the full survey questionnaire and anonymized version of the microdata will be made public to external audiences in UNHCR's Microdata Library.

Household profiles

26% are composed by one or more adults (18-59 years) without dependents

29% are composed by two or more adults (18-59 years) with dependents

38% are composed by one adult (18-59 years) with dependents

8% are composed by one or more older persons (60 years or more)

- Households' composition and their socio-demographic characteristics can influence refugees plans and intentions as they are related to **different capacities and vulnerabilities**.

Since the onset of the large-scale refugee situation, UNHCR and its partners have continually collected and analysed primary and secondary data regarding the profiles, protection risks and needs of refugees from Ukraine. This has included the implementation of a regional protection profiling and monitoring exercise[3] as well as different multi-sector needs assessments[4], particularly covering countries that are part of the regional Refugee Response Plan[5]. Available evidence points to common characteristic of the refugee population, including: the majority are women and children; the adult population has high levels of education; and there is a relatively high proportion of household with at least one person with specific needs (particularly serious medical conditions and persons with disability), among others.

In order to enhance the understanding of different refugee profiles and how key socio-demographic characteristics can influence their plans and intentions (both in terms of refugee' capacities as well as specific vulnerabilities), for this report households have been classified into different typologies based on their demographic composition.

One or more adult persons (18-59 yrs.) without dependents: households in this group, representing **26 per cent** of the sample, are largely composed of females (highest among all groups), with almost three quarters of respondents with university or higher degrees. While the majority were living in the East of Ukraine, more than a fifth came from Kyiv city. Almost three quarters are hosted in countries not sharing a border with Ukraine; while the majority has registered for temporary protection or asylum status, around a fifth have requested a residence permit / visa. Almost half are living in rented accommodation (including renting an hotel room) and 44 per cent of respondents are working (highest among all the groups), and subsequently comprise a lower proportion who report social protection and/or humanitarian assistance as income sources (32 per cent).

3. See UNHCR's Regional Protection Analysis #1 and associated online dashboards published in September 2022 and February 2023.
4. See MSNA's reports from Bulgaria (upcoming), Hungary, Poland, Moldova, Slovakia and Romania.
5. See RRP 2023.

Two or more adults (18 to 59 yrs.) with dependents (children or older persons): with **29 per cent** of the sample, households in this group are composed by a larger proportion of males than other groups (35 per cent). The majority were living in the East of Ukraine, but almost one fifth came from the South. More than two thirds were hosted in countries that do not share a border with Ukraine and the majority has registered for temporary protection or asylum status. While more than 40 per cent are living in rented accommodation, only around a third of respondents are employed, similar to the overall average. While more than half reports social protection or humanitarian assistance as one of their main sources of income, salary or income from employment is also reported by almost half of households.

Only one adult (18-59 yrs.) with dependents (children or older persons): this category accounts for **38 per cent** of the sample. The majority were living in the East of Ukraine, with an almost equal distribution among the other macro-regions. More than 90 per cent left Ukraine in the first three months of the war (highest among all the groups) and half of the respondents report having a spouse or children still living in Ukraine. In contrast to the aforementioned groups, more than half are hosted in countries neighbouring Ukraine. While more than 40 per cent are living in rented accommodation, only around a third of respondents are employed. More than half reports social protection or humanitarian assistance as one their main income sources, while 43 per cent reports having a salary or income from employment.

One or more older persons (60+ yrs.): households in this group represent **8 per cent** of the sample. One fifth have at least one person with care needs due to long-term illness or disability. A lower proportion have university of higher degrees compared to other groups, though a higher proportion has technical or vocational studies. While a slight majority were living in the East of Ukraine, more than 20 per cent came from the South (highest among all groups). Almost half are hosted in countries not sharing a border with Ukraine and majority has registered for temporary protection or asylum status. Only a fourth are living in rented accommodation, with almost one third being hosted by relatives and one fifth still residing in collective sites. Only a small proportion are working, and pensions from Ukraine were one of the main income sources for almost 60 per cent of households, with a high proportion reporting also social protection and/or humanitarian assistance as income source (46 per cent). Only a quarter report having an income enough to cover their needs adequately.

> ***Living in the reception centre is ok but we are exhausted from being here, we would like to have our home, to be able to cook our food, our Ukrainian food. If we had a job everything would be solved."***
>
> – FGD participant, Spain.

REFUGEE'S PROFILES BY HOUSEHOLD TYPE

		Group 1: Adults without dependents	Group 2: Two or more adults with dependents	Group 3: One adult with dependents	Group 4: One or more older persons	Overall sample
	% of the sample	26%	29%	38%	8%	100%
Gender of household members	% Females	76%	65%	72%	67%	69%
	% Males	24%	35%	28%	33%	31%
	% with at least 1 person with care needs due to illness or disability	11%	17%	12%	19%	14%
Education level of respondents	% with university or higher degree	72%	66%	70%	59%	69%
	% vocational or technical degree	16%	21%	18%	29%	19%
Macro-region of origin	East	37%	41%	39%	37%	39%
	Kyiv city	22%	13%	14%	14%	16%
	South	15%	19%	14%	22%	16%
	North	11%	12%	15%	14%	13%
	West	9%	10%	11%	7%	10%
	Centre	6%	6%	6%	7%	6%
	% that left Ukraine between February and April 2022	82%	83%	91%	88%	86%
	% with spouse or children still in Ukraine	29%	27%	51%	39%	37%
	% hosted in countries neighbouring Ukraine	28%	36%	49%	48%	39%
	% registered for TP or asylum	81%	89%	91%	88%	87%
Accommodation in host country	Renting	46%	44%	44%	25%	43%
	Hosted with relatives	13%	7%	9%	29%	11%
	Hosted with others	13%	15%	17%	13%	15%
	Collective / planned site	14%	15%	16%	18%	15%
	Other	14%	18%	14%	15%	15%
	% respondents currently working	44%	34%	35%	12%	35%
Income sources (top 5)	Social protection / cash assistance	32%	54%	54%	46%	47%
	Salary / income	53%	48%	43%	15%	45%
	Savings	18%	16%	17%	9%	17%
	Pension from Ukraine	7%	11%	15%	58%	15%
	Transfers from Ukraine	8%	8%	16%	2%	10%
	% with enough income to cover basic needs	44%	41%	39%	25%	39%

Refugees' intentions

12% are planning to return permanently in the next three months

65% hope to eventually return to Ukraine in the future

18% are undecided about returning to Ukraine

5% have no plan or hope to return to Ukraine

- Most refugees surveyed still **hope to eventually return to Ukraine in the future**, but for the time being, the majority plan to continue to stay in their current host country.
- There are important differences in refugees' intentions by **place of origin**, by **proximity or not of host countries to Ukraine**, by **length of displacement** and by **household composition**.

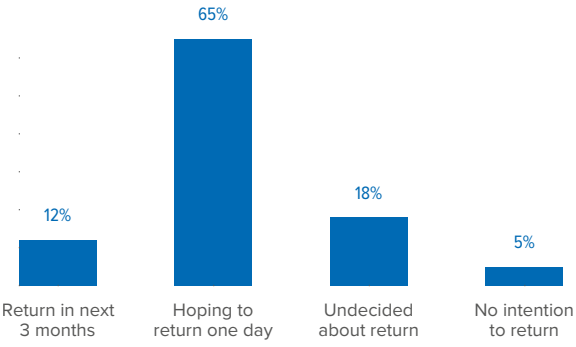
The survey collected information regarding refugees' plans in the short term (next three months, aligned to survey frequency) as well as their intentions or hope to return to Ukraine in the future. For this third round, an additional question was included trying to better understand the timeframe of refugees' intentions for the mid or long-term, fully cognizant that the ongoing war in Ukraine creates a general uncertainty about the future for refugees and their families, as confirmed by participants in group discussions.

Similar to the results from the first and second regional intentions reports, a minority of respondents **reported plans to return permanently in the next three months (12 per cent)**, as most still considered the current situation in their places of origin in Ukraine as not conducive to ensure a sustainable return home for the time being. The **majority continue to express an overall desire to return to Ukraine one day (65 per cent)**, with an important proportion still **undecided about return in the mid or long-term (18 per cent)** and only a small minority reporting **no hope to return (5 per cent).**

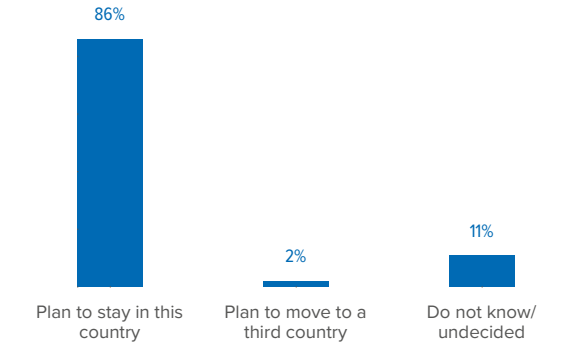
For those not planning to return in the **next three months**, the large majority were **planning to stay in their current host country (86 per cent)**, with only a small proportion **planning to move to another country (2 per cent)** and a minority **undecided about their plans (11 per cent)**.

There are key differences in refugees' intentions according to their demographic profile as well by place of origin, by proximity or not of host countries to Ukraine, by length of displacement and by household composition.

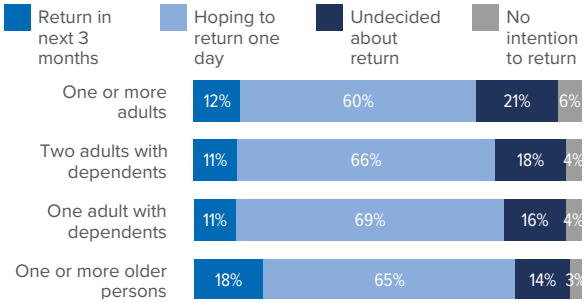
REFUGEES' INTENTIONS



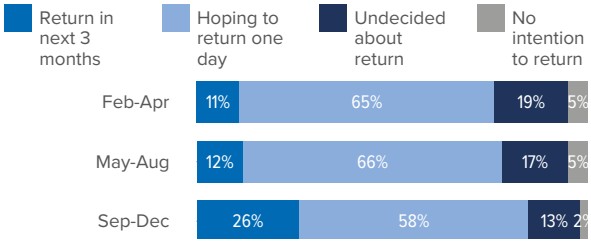
PLANS FOR NEXT 3 MONTHS



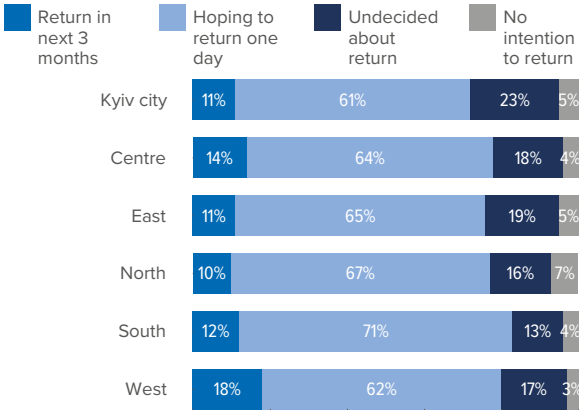
REFUGEES INTENTIONS ACCORDING TO HOUSEHOLD TYPE



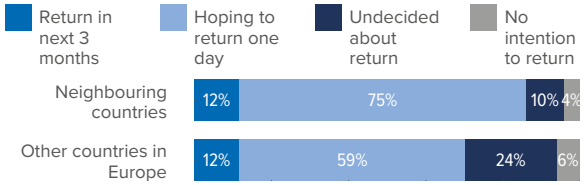
REFUGEES INTENTIONS ACCORDING TO MONTH THEY LEFT UKRAINE



REFUGEES INTENTIONS ACCORDING TO REGION OF ORIGIN



REFUGEES INTENTIONS ACCORDING TO HOST COUNTRY PROXIMITY



We cannot think about the future or how the situation in Ukraine is and for how long it will be like that. We can only think about the present"

– FGD participant, Spain.

Who are the refugees planning to return in the next 3 months?

As the graphs above show, **a higher proportion of refugees were planning to return in the next 3 months** among the following groups:

- Households composed by **one or more older persons (18 per cent)**, likely associated to their vulnerability profile and challenges to sustainable stay in host countries.
- Households who were living in the **West (18 per cent)** of Ukraine, which have been less affected by hostilities.
- Households who left Ukraine **in the last four months of 2022 (26 per cent)**; this could be partly explained by the fact that recent arrivals are still deciding where to stay, as this group also has the highest proportion of those undecided what to do in the next 3 months (18 per cent).

Among those planning to return in the coming three months, the majority report that they would be returning with all their household members (**82 per cent**), and to the same place (settlement or municipality) where they were living before the war (**92 per cent**). Respondents who were living in the **East** of Ukraine, a region significantly affected by ongoing hostilities and destruction, reported a slightly lower proportion of returning to the same place (**87 per cent**) compared to those from other regions.

Who are the refugees hoping to eventually return to Ukraine in the future?

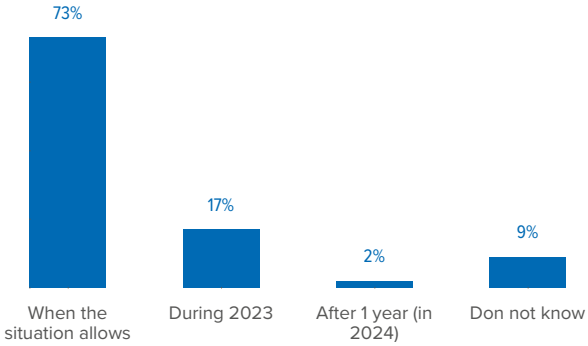
Among those hoping to eventually return, the large majority does not have a specific timeframe and will hope to do it whenever is possible, although **17 per cent** expressed a desire to return at some point during 2023.

As is the case with those having plans to return in the near term, the intentions to return among this group varies according to their region of origin, host country and household composition. In particularly, **a higher proportion of refugees hoping to return was found** among the following groups:

- Households composed only by **one adult with dependents** (69 per cent), compared to those only composed by adults without dependents.
- Households who were living in **the South (71 per cent)** of Ukraine compared to those from the West and Kyiv city (61 to 62 per cent).
- Households hosted in **countries neighbouring Ukraine (75 per cent)** compared to those in other countries in Europe (59 per cent), which could explain in large part their decision to stay close to Ukraine.

Among refugees planning to eventually return in the future, only **19 per cent were able to indicate a specific timeframe,** most of them at some point during 2023 and a smaller proportion after one year, while the vast majority indicated their return would happen "when the situation allows". Several participants in FGDs highlighted the difficulties in thinking of a possible timeframe to return to Ukraine when many of their places of origin are still being bombed, contaminated by landmines or in cases where their houses have been destroyed.

WHEN DO REFUGEES HOPE TO RETURN (AMONG THOSE HOPING TO RETURN ONE DAY)



Who are the refugees undecided about returning to Ukraine one day?

While all refugees are affected by an overall uncertainty about the future due to the fact the war is still ongoing, data shows that **a higher proportion of refugees are undecided about returning to Ukraine** among the following groups:

- Households composed only of **adults without dependents (21 per cent)**.
- Households who were living in **Kyiv city (23 per cent)** of Ukraine, which is an area with higher-than-average proportion of households composed of adults without dependents.
- Households hosted in **countries not sharing a border with Ukraine (24 per cent)** compared to those in neighbouring countries (10 per cent), which could explain in large part their decision to move onwards but also partly by the distance to their places of origin.

Who are the refugees who do not plan to return to Ukraine?

While this group comprises a small minority of the overall sample, data shows that **a higher proportion of refugees with no plans to return to Ukraine** among the following groups:

- Households composed only by **adults without dependents (6 per cent)**.
- Households who were living in the **North (7 per cent)** of Ukraine, which -as mentioned above- is an area with higher-than-average proportion of households composed of adults without dependents.

Drivers of refugees' intentions

Planning to return in next three months is more likely among:
- Older persons
- Hosted by relatives or friends
- From the West of Ukraine
- Dwelling in Ukraine not damaged
- Spouse or children still in Ukraine
- Lower reliance on social protection benefits in host country

Being undecided about returning is more likely among:
- Persons living alone
- In countries not sharing a border with Ukraine
- No spouse or children in Ukraine

Having no plan to return is more likely among:
- Smaller households
- In countries not sharing a border with Ukraine
- From the North of Ukraine
- Males and young adults
- No spouse or children in Ukraine
- With technical education

■ In addition to the ongoing security risks in Ukraine and the **specific circumstances in their places of origin**, refugees' intentions are also driven by **level of access to basic needs and rights in host countries** and **specific household vulnerabilities**.

While the previous chapter focused on whether and when refugees are planning to return to Ukraine and analysed the differences in refugees' intentions in accordance with key demographic, geographic and temporal dimensions, this chapter focuses on understanding why some refugees are planning to return in the short term versus those hoping to eventually return and those with no stated intentions or hope of return.

Refugees' intentions and decision-making process are driven by a combination of their perceptions or actual knowledge about the conditions in their places of origin as well as their situation and condition in their current host country, and vary depending on their demographic characteristics, household composition and length of displacement. In order to assess the relative importance of all these different factors and identify the key predictors of refugees' intentions, a multivariate analysis was conducted using a multinomial logistic regression. This was complemented by an analysis of at the specific reasons reported by refugees in the survey as well as in focus group discussions.

The model considered those hoping to return one day to Ukraine (**65 per cent** of the overall sample) and compared them to those already planning to return in the next three months (**12 per cent**), those undecided about returning one day (**18 per cent**) and those who expressed no hope to return (**5 per cent**). Multiple explanatory variables were included, choosing at the end only those with statistically significant results. A detailed explanation of the model specifications, variables considered and results can be found in **Annex 2**.

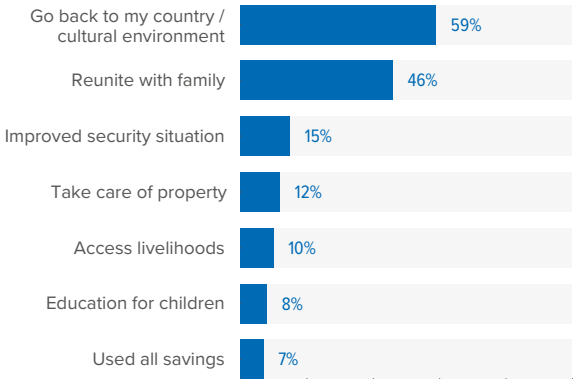
The sections below summarize the main findings from this analysis, looking at the key drivers and reasons for refugees' intentions, **comparing those who express a desire to return one day to Ukraine against the other groups**.

Why are some refugees planning to return in the next 3 months?

The quantitative analysis shows that the **most important drivers or predictors** of refugees planning to return in the short term are:

- To be of **older age** (60 years or more), which is likely due to the heightened vulnerability older persons face to sustain themselves in host countries, and their high dependency on pensions from Ukraine as main source of income.
- To be **hosted by relatives or friends**, which can be related to the difficulties some refugees are facing on finding more stable accommodation option they can afford on their own several months into displacement.
- To have been **living in the West of Ukraine before the war,** which confirms the descriptive analysis shown in the previous chapter and is likely due to a lesser impact of the war in terms of damages to housing and basic infrastructure in this region compared to others.
- Having their **dwelling in Ukraine intact**, which is an expected result as refugees more affected by destruction or damages to their dwellings will face obvious challenges if deciding to return.
- To a lesser extent, other drivers of intentions to return in the short-term are to be **living in accommodation centres or collectively with other refugees** or **being hosted by local families** (as opposed to renting on their own), **having a spouse or partner still living in Ukraine**, and with lower reliance on **government social protection programmes** in their host country as a source of income.

MAIN REASONS FOR PLANNING TO RETURN *



** Multiple responses were possible, so percentages can exceed over 100%.*

Complementing this analysis, the most frequently self-reported reasons among refugees planning to return in the next three months relate to more **personal longings and desire to return to a familiar context**.

Nearly a year since the start of displacement for most refugees, more than half of respondents reported that they were planning to return permanently because of a desire to go back to their home country and familiar cultural environment (**59 per cent**), and close to half of respondents are motivated by a desire to reunite with their family in Ukraine (**46 per cent**). To a lesser extent, other reasons reported by refugees include the perception of improvement in the security situation in their place of origin or in the country in general (**15 per cent**), taking care of their property (**12 per cent**) and to access work and livelihood opportunities (**10 per cent**).

Respondents originally from Kyiv city and the South of Ukraine report more frequently the **perceived improvement in the security situation** in the area they were living before as reasons for return (17 per cent and 14 per cent), in contrast to those in West (only 2 per cent). On the other side, respondents from the Centre, East, and South of the country are significantly more likely to state they are going back to **take care of a property or housing** (between 15 per cent to 18 per cent), in contrast to those from Kyiv city (3 per cent).

Comparing between respondents hosted in countries neighbouring Ukraine and those in other European countries, data shows that the latter are also more likely to report the **perceived improvement in the security situation in the area they were living before** (14 vs. 3 per cent), suggesting that proximity to Ukraine impacts risks perceptions and/or access to information about situation in their place of origin. They are also more likely to report a desire to **go back to their cultural environment** (65 vs. 49 per cent); wanting to **take care of their property** (14 vs. 9 per cent) and because they have **used all their savings** (10 vs. 2 per cent).

Finally, households with two or more adults without dependents and households composed by one or more older person are less likely to want to return **to reunite with their family** (38 and 34 per cent) compared to other or to **access work and livelihoods** (8 and 2 per cent), clearly related to their demographic composition.

Why are some refugees undecided about returning one day to Ukraine?

In the case of refugees who are undecided about returning to Ukraine in the mid or long-term, the **most important drivers or predictors** found in the multivariate quantitative analysis are:

- To be living in **countries that do not share any border with Ukraine**, which could be related partly to having less information about the situation in their places or origin.
- To have been living in other regions different from the **South** of Ukraine before the war, in line with the result described in the previous chapter regarding the higher-than-average proportion of refugees from this region expressing a desire to return to Ukraine.
- To a lesser extent, those who have **travelled back to Ukraine** at least once since they left, those who have a **larger household** (3 persons or more, as opposed to those who live alone), those who have any **children or spouse living in Ukraine**, and those who rely on **transfers as a source of income** are **less likely** to be undecided about their return intentions.
- Some participants of FGDs highlighted that their current thinking is influenced by perceived challenges in accessing basic services in Ukraine that are being currently addressed in their host countries, particularly regarding education for children or healthcare for persons with specific needs.

> ***Speaking as a mother, all I want is to stay [here] so my two teenage daughters can have a good education. Education is very important for us Ukrainians. But currently, there is no perspective to have a reasonable education in the middle of the war in Ukraine".***
>
> – FGD participant, Germany.

Why are some refugees not planning to return one day to Ukraine?

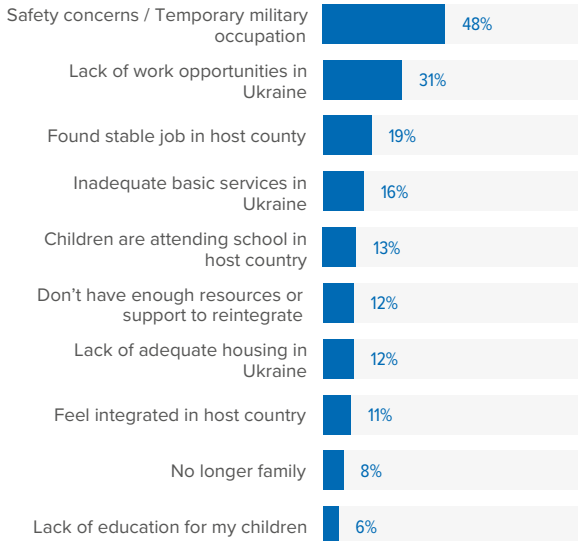
Finally, looking at the small minority of refugees who indicated no plans or hopes to return to Ukraine in the future, the **most important drivers or predictors** found in the multivariate quantitative analysis are:

- Having **left Ukraine in the first months** since the start of the war, as for some displacement has lasted almost for one year.
- To be living in **smaller households**, which is obviously more the case for households without dependents which report better indicators in relation to socio-economic inclusion in host countries.
- To be **living in countries not sharing a border with Ukraine**, pointing again to the impact that proximity or not to Ukraine might have in terms of access to information about situation in places of origin, as well as to the different level of socio-economic inclusion of refugees.
- Other characteristics correlated with not having an intention to return are being original from the **North** of Ukraine (as opposed to the West), being **male** and being a **young adult (18 to 34 years)**, **not having a spouse or partner still living in Ukraine**, and **having a technical or vocational education level** (as opposed to having a university degree). On the contrary, those who have no intentions to return are **less likely** to **rely on transfers as a source of income**.

Complementing this analysis, the more frequently self-reported reasons by refugees without plans or hopes to return to Ukraine are a combination of factors related to the situation in their place of origin as well as factors linked to their living condition in host countries. Understandably, the main reason is **concerns about safety and security** (including exposure to violence and/or due to temporary military occupation), cited by **nearly half** of respondents. Alongside this, respondents indicated **lack of work or livelihood opportunities, lack of basic services in Ukraine** and/or **lack of adequate housing,** among main factors related to conditions in place of origin (31, 16 and 12 per cent).

At the same time, a minority report reasons related to their conditions in host country, such as **having found a stable job**, having **children attending school** and/or **feeling integrated** in their host country (19, 13 and 11 per cent).

MAIN REASONS FOR NOT HOPING TO RETURN ONE DAY

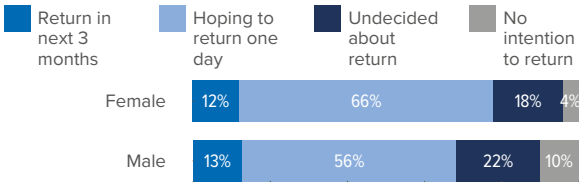


** Multiple responses were possible, so percentages can exceed over 100%.*

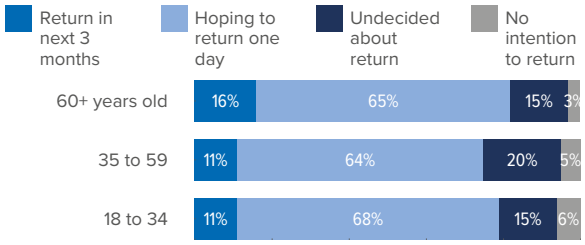
REFUGEES' INTENTIONS: DIFFERENCES ACCORDING TO SELECTED FACTORS

Socio-demographic characteristics

INTENTIONS TO RETURN BY GENDER OF RESPONDENT

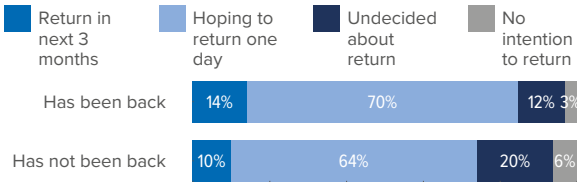


INTENTIONS TO RETURN BY AGE OF RESPONDENT

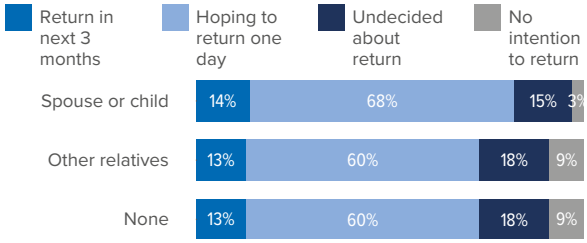


Conditions in place of origin

INTENTIONS TO RETURN BY TEMPORARY VISIT TO UKRAINE

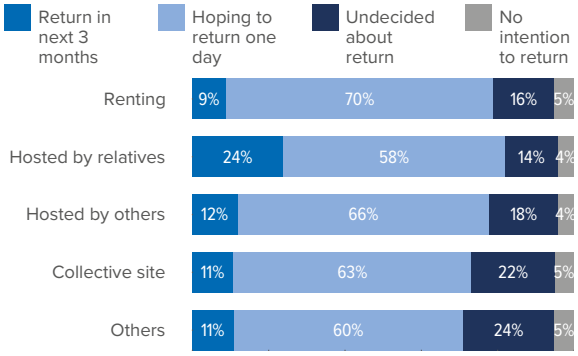


INTENTIONS TO RETURN BY RELATIVES IN UKRAINE

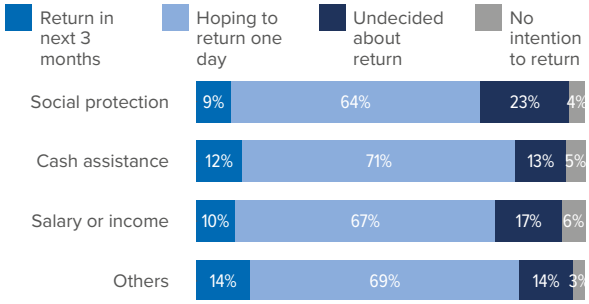


Conditions in host country

INTENTIONS TO RETURN BY ACCOMMODATION IN HOST COUNTRY



INTENTIONS TO RETURN BY INCOME SOURCES



Enablers and factors influencing return

94% gave high importance to security and safety in places of origin

91% gave high importance to having access to basic services, livelihoods and housing in places of origin

81% gave high importance to having access to information and/or enough resources or support to return

69% gave high importance to having access to basic services and livelihoods in host country

- While the main enabler for return for refugees will be an end to the war and the related safety risks, **having adequate access to electricity and water, health services, housing and livelihoods** in Ukraine will largely influence their decisions.
- Equally, having **access to information about the situation in their place of origin** is of high importance when it comes to deciding on return.

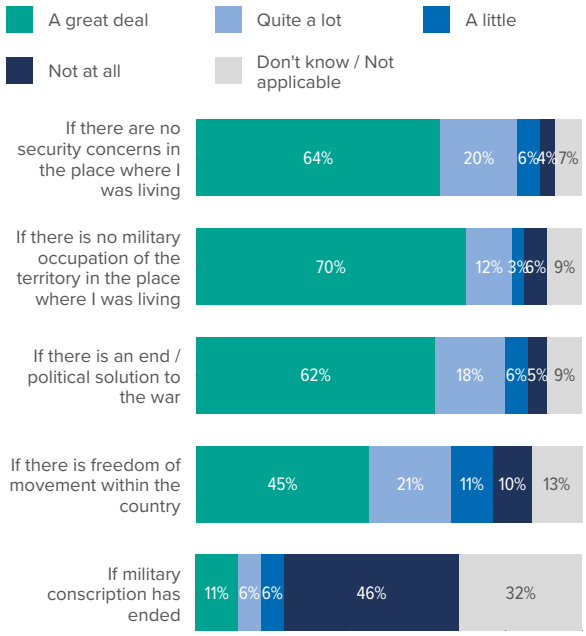
The previous round of the intentions survey asked respondents who expressed having hopes to return to Ukraine one day or were undecided about it to indicate the three main factors that would help them decide on returning to Ukraine whenever this is possible. To deepen the analysis and identify more concretely refugees' priorities, the third round of the survey expanded the list of enablers and factors influencing return and asked respondents to rate how important (a great deal, quite a lot, a little, not at all) each one was in influencing their decision to return to Ukraine one day. The list included specific factors related to the security situation and the availability of basic services and access to rights in their places of origin as well those related to their situation in host countries regarding access to rights and socio-economic circumstances.

Conditions in Ukraine (pull factors)

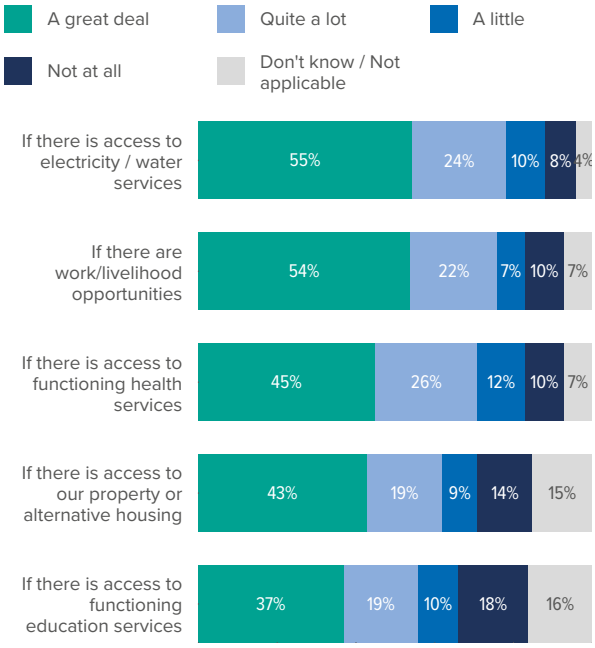
Improvement of the security situation

Considering the war is still ongoing, it is understandable that refugees place high importance on factors related to security and safety risks in their places of origin and in the country in general. Most of the factors were highly ranked by respondents (adding those that indicated a great deal or quite a lot of importance) as enablers for return, in order: **if there are no security concerns** (84 per cent), **if there is no military occupation in their region of origin** (82 per cent), **if there is an end or solution to the political situation** (80 per cent) and **if there is freedom of movement in the country** (66 per cent). On the other hand, respondents place lower importance on the **end of military conscription** (17 per cent), which does not affect most refugees given their demographic characteristics.

IMPORTANCE OF FACTORS RELATED TO SECURITY SITUATION WHEN DECIDING TO RETURN TO UKRAINE



IMPORTANCE OF FACTORS RELATED TO BASIC SERVICES, HOUSING AND LIVELIHOODS WHEN DECIDING TO RETURN TO UKRAINE



There are some differences in the importance given to security factors when comparing across regions of origin of refugees. Respondents originally from **Kyiv city, and from the North, South, and East regions of Ukraine** place more importance on **having no security concerns** and on the **end of temporary military occupation** (between 82 and 86 per cent)**,** than those from the **Centre and West** regions of the country (between 73 and 76 per cent).

Factors relating to security are also significantly more important to respondents with dependents than those without, though these are still the highest ranked enablers.

Access to basic services and livelihoods

Access to basic services, infrastructure, livelihood opportunities and housing have been greatly affected by the war impacting the lives of those that are still in the country and remains an important consideration for refugees when making decisions about return. All of the factors considered were highly ranked ("a great deal" or "quite a lot") as enablers for return by more than half of respondents, with the highest being **having access to electricity and water services** (79 per cent), which have been greatly disrupted by targeted attacks in recent months. Refugees also place high importance on **having livelihood opportunities** (76 per cent) and **having functioning health services** (71 per cent), and slightly lower importance on **having access to their properties or alternative housing** (62 per cent) and **having access to functioning education services** (56 per cent)**.**

As with concerns about improvements in security, respondents from **Kyiv city and from the North, South, and East regions of Ukraine** consider **access to basic services, to housing and livelihoods** more important as enablers for return. Particularly, while 60 to 69 per cent of respondents from those regions place high importance on access to their property or alternative housing, around 47 per cent of those originally from the Centre and the West consider it of high importance. In a similar manner, **access to water and electricity services** is ranked with high importance by over 80 per cent of respondents from Kyiv city and the East compared to 75 per cent or lower in other regions.

Respondents who have dependents rate factors relating to **access to basic services and to education** as more influential than those consisting of adults without dependents. It is also more frequently reported with high importance among refugees from the West of Ukraine compared to other regions. On the other hand, households with no dependents are more likely than their counterparts to base their decision on **opportunities for work and livelihood**.

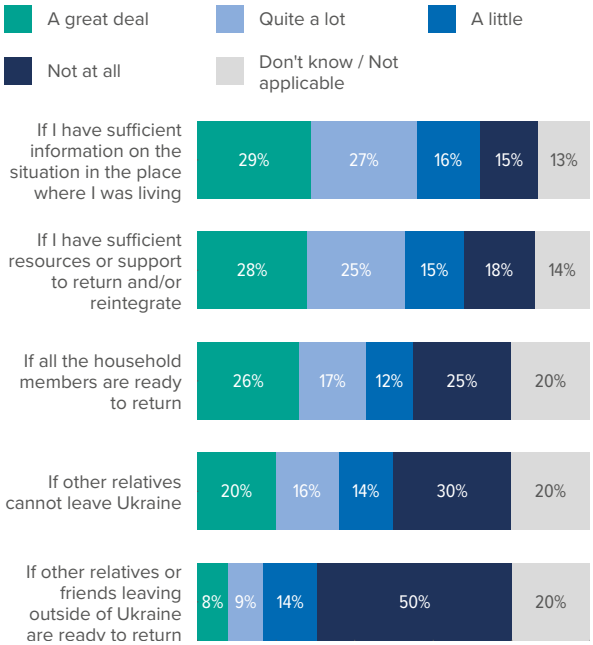
> ***We only want to ask our government for rebuilding and access to work. Ukraine is great and Ukrainians are very hard working, and we want to rebuild it"***
>
> – FGD participant, Spain.

Personal circumstances and access to information on place of origin

Respondents access to information and support for reintegration as well as their personal circumstances also influence their decisions to return, though to a lower degree as compared to security and access to basic needs. More than half indicate that their decision to return will be highly determined ("a great deal" or "quite a lot") by **having sufficient information about the situation in their place of origin** as well as by **having sufficient resources or support to return to Ukraine.**

Access to information is particularly important for respondents from **Kyiv city and from the North, South, and East regions of Ukraine** than those from the **Centre and West regions.** Likewise, it is more important for those currently living in countries not sharing a border with Ukraine (58 per cent), compared to those who are living in neighbouring countries (42 per cent).

IMPORTANCE OF FACTORS RELATED TO INFORMATION AND PERSONAL CIRCUMSTANCES WHEN DECIDING TO RETURN



Participants in FGDs reported that their main source of information is through family and social ties to people who remained in the places of origin and provide reports through social media or communications applications. Ukrainian media outlets available online are also consulted as well as the public administration application which serves as a source of information on infrastructure and available services. Electricity outages in Ukraine were often mentioned as limiting contacts with their relatives and access to information.

> ***We can all find general information in the newspapers, but the real information is provided by the people who are still in Ukraine"***
>
> – FGD participant, Spain.

Conditions in host countries (push factors)

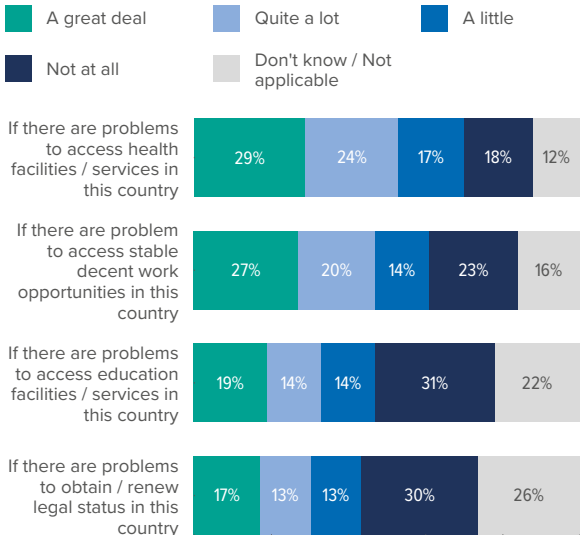
As described in the previous chapter, refugees' intentions are affected by a combination of factors related to conditions in place of origin as well as their situation in host countries. Findings shows that although these factors are ranked lower in importance than those related to conditions in place of origin, they still represent a considerable influence on respondents' decision to return.

The two main factors given a high importance ("a great deal" or "quite a lot") as influencing their intentions for return by around half of respondents are **if they face problems accessing health services in their host country** (53 per cent) and **if they face problems finding stable decent work opportunities** (47 per cent). Concerns about these factors are more prominent among respondents currently living countries not sharing a border with Ukraine (54 per cent), compared to those living in neighbouring countries (34 per cent).

In general access to education for children in host countries is not ranked with high priority when it comes to influencing their intentions to return by most refugees, which could be partly explained by the foreseen possibility of continuing education through online methods. It is however an important factor ("a great deal" or "quite a lot") among households with dependents (**46 per cent**).

Nearly one third of respondents (30 per cent) rank with high importance ("a great deal" or "quite a lot") **facing difficulties with renewing their legal status** in their host country as determinant for return.

IMPORTANCE OF FACTORS RELATED TO SITUATION IN HOST COUNTRY WHEN DECIDING TO RETURN



I am a doctor, I consider that an ability I have to integrate, but I need help to find a job. I would not mind cleaning hospitals".

– FGD participant, Spain.

Changes over time

Findings from the longitudinal sample

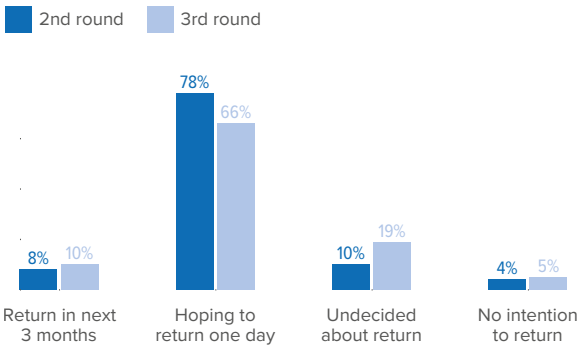
In total, **974 households** who participated in the second round (mid-August to mid-September) were recontacted and agreed to participate in the third round (mid-December to mid-January). Among them, **87 households (9 per cent)** were back in Ukraine at the moment of the third round, with the majority indicating they were planning to stay permanently, assuming the situation remained stable. Almost all of these returnees had reported plans to return in the short-term or hope to return one day in the previous round.

The final sample of households who were still displaced abroad and were surveyed under both rounds was therefore **887 households**. The findings below highlight some changes to respondents' intentions as well as changes in their conditions in host country since the previous wave of research.

Intentions

Results show some slight changes in the intentions reported by respondents across both rounds. In the second round, **8 per cent** of respondents had reported plans to return within the next three months, which didn't materialize at the end, pointing to the challenges in refugees' decision-making in the current context. Around three months later, a similar proportion of respondents reported plans to return within the following three months (**10 per cent**). Among the rest, **the proportion expressing a desire to return one day decreased (from 78 to 66 per cent) while the proportion of those undecided about returning increased (from 10 to 19 per cent).**

CHANGES IN REFUGEES' INTENTIONS ACROSS DATA COLLECTION ROUNDS



Reasons for planning to return to Ukraine in the next three months have remained largely stable since the previous wave of intentions survey, although there are some differences in the way that respondents rank these. While reuniting with family and wanting to return to their cultural environment are still the most frequently cited reasons, the **perception of improved security conditions** and **depletion of savings** are more frequently reported in the third round than they did in the second one.

Situation in host country[6]

Regarding access to education for school-age children, while results are not entirely comparable due to changes in the questionnaire between rounds, the proportion of school-age children attending school in the host country (**76 per cent** in the third round, including those who reported attending remote learning in Ukrainian curriculum at the same time) appears to be similar to findings from the previous round.

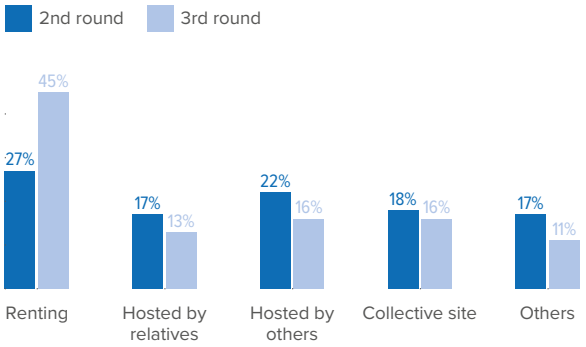
6. Due to slight changes in the questions around education attendance and in the answers' categories for questions related to current accommodation and main activity in host country between second and third round, comparability of results should be taken as indicative.

On the other hand, accommodation status among respondents has significantly shifted in recent months, with **a greater proportion now staying in rented accommodation compared to the previous round (from 27 to 45 per cent)**, and fewer being hosted, in collective sites or in other arrangements.

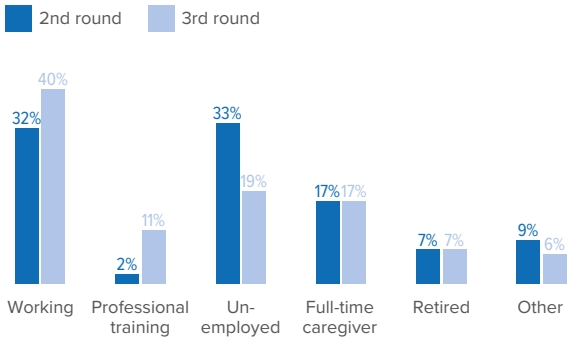
In a similar trend, **the proportion of respondents currently working significantly increased between rounds (from 32 to 40 per cent)**, as well as **the proportion engaged in professional training or courses (from 2 to 11 per cent)**, with a consequential decrease in those unemployed. Worth noting that the proportion of respondents engaged as **full-time caregiver did not change across rounds** (**17 per cent**).

Linked to the higher employment rates observed, **a higher proportion of respondents are now receiving income from employment sources (from 37 to 46 per cent)** and a **lower fraction are relaying on social protection and/or cash assistance (from 57 to 50 per cent)**. There are slight changes in the proportion of refuges relying on savings (lower in the third round) or on pensions from Ukraine (higher in the third round).

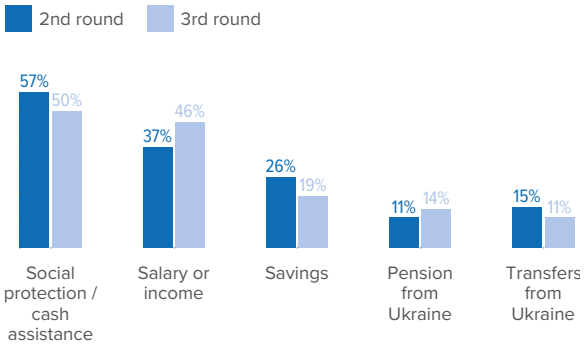
CHANGES IN REFUGEES' ACCOMODATION ACROSS DATA COLLECTION ROUNDS



CHANGES IN REFUGEES' ECONOMIC ACTIVITY ACROSS DATA COLLECTION ROUNDS



CHANGES IN REFUGEES' INCOME SOURCES ACROSS DATA COLLECTION ROUNDS



Annex 1. Sampling and weighting

Longitudinal and fresh sample

The second wave of research consisted of two subsamples:

- **Longitudinal sample**: all respondents from the previous wave of research who had given consent to be re-contacted were invited to participate in this round through the same mode of data collection they had initially participated with (phone- or web-based).
- **Fresh sample**: to amend the sample of longitudinal participants to reach the sample size targets, an additional sample was selected from the list of all units in the universe.

Phone-based surveys

- **Sampling universe:** the sample-universe was composed by focal points of all "registration groups" (proxy for households) that have enrolled with UNHCR for multi-purpose cash assistance in Moldova, Poland, Romania, and Slovakia. The operational sample universe was the list of recipients as of mid-November 2022, comprising of 205,560 groups. The samples were drawn from this list separately in each country.

PHONE-BASED SURVEY: SAMPLING SCHEME

Time of arrival: 2022 FEB-AUG

COUNTRY	UNIVERSE	AVAILABLE UNITS (NOT PREVIOUSLY SAMPLED, REFUSED, ETC.)	TARGET SAMPLE	OVER-SAMPLING FACTOR	GROSS SAMPLE SIZE	LONGITUDINAL PARTICIPANTS SAMPLED	FRESH SAMPLE
Moldova	21,897	21,564	384	6	2,304	314	1990
Poland	136,487	136,245	400	6	2,400	345	2055
Romania	9,102	8,947	335	6	2,010	362	1648
Slovakia	24,686	24,482	464	6	2,784	324	2460

Time of arrival: 2022 SEP-NOV

COUNTRY	UNIVERSE	AVAILABLE UNITS (NOT PREVIOUSLY SAMPLED, REFUSED, ETC.)	TARGET SAMPLE	OVER-SAMPLING FACTOR	GROSS SAMPLE SIZE	LONGITUDINAL PARTICIPANTS SAMPLED	FRESH SAMPLE
Moldova	6,580	6,575	116	6	696	0	696
Poland	409	409	0	6	0	0	0
Romania	4,499	4,499	165	6	990	0	990
Slovakia	1,900	1,900	36	6	216	0	216

- **Sampling size:** the target number of respondents per country is 500 individuals, representing one household unit/registration group per interview. The study is designed so that only one member of each household/ registration group is interviewed. Indeed, only one member of each household was selected from UNHCR database. To compensate for nonresponse, an oversampling factor of 6 was applied, i.e. 3,000 contacts were provided for reaching the targeted 500 respondents, in each country. Longitudinal participants, who in the previous wave agreed to be reinterviewed (1,345 respondents overall, see table above), were sampled by certainty in the current wave. They were amended with fresh sample from the total universe, discounting units that in the previous wave were refusing to participate or declined the request to be recontacted. All other units were part of the eligible universe the "fresh" sample was selected from.
- **Sampling stratification:** The sample was implicitly stratified based on two variables: registration group structure and time of arrival to the host country. The group structure dimension considers the following three categories: single adults, adults with children, and multiple adults without children. The table in the following page identifies the proportion of focal points (each representing a registration group) that fall under these criteria. Time of arrival segments were retained from previous wave (those arrived in Feb-Mar 2022 and those arrived Apr-Aug 2022), adding a third segment for those who arrived since the previous wave survey, in the September- November period.
- After stratification of the sample, a random selection of focal points was made. The selection of the sampled units was performed on a list of the total sampling frame in each country separately. Panel members were sampled with certainty (all persons who agreed were selected to be reinterviewed). As all these units belonged to the first two time-of-arrival strata, separate selection in this regard also became necessary (see Table above), by splitting the sample to a segment for arrivals in August 2022 and before, and one in September or after. The selection within these lists used a fixed interval sampling method (sampling every Nth item from the list). Sampling frames were sorted for the implicit stratification criteria and then by a random number, so that the order of entries within the same strata were also randomised. The sampling interval was defined as the total units in the sampling frame divided by the target sample list size, rounded to the next integer.

PHONE-BASED SURVEY: STRATIFICATION OF SAMPLING UNIVERSE

TIME OF ARRIVAL	MOLDOVA	POLAND	ROMANIA	SLOVAKIA	TOTAL
Apr-Aug 2022	11,288	18,606	5,962	10,522	46,378
Feb-Mar 2022	10,609	117,881	3,140	14,164	145,794
Sep-Nov 2022	6,580	409	4,499	1,900	13,388
Total	**28,477**	**136,896**	**13,601**	**26,586**	**205,560**

GROUP COMPOSITION	MOLDOVA	POLAND	ROMANIA	SLOVAKIA	TOTAL
1 – single adults	10,060	43,529	4,146	11,183	68,918
2 – adult(s) with children <18	13,056	86,158	8,404	13,186	120,804
3 – multiple adults, no children	5,361	7,209	1,051	2,217	15,838
Total	**28,477**	**136,896**	**13,601**	**26,586**	**205,560**

- **Data collection:** data was collected via phone calls performed by Ipsos Ukraine between 21st December 2022 and 13th January 2023. To reach the longitudinal sample four call attempts were made, while for the fresh sample three call attempts were made. The first two call attempts were done using either Viber or Telegram - whenever the registered phone number is associated with one of these platforms - or using the phone network if it is not. The third attempt always used the phone network. In case the respondent picked up the phone but was not available at that moment, a new call was be scheduled at an agreed time. At the end, 8,867 numbers were dialled (1346 numbers from the longitudinal sample and 7521 from the fresh sample), to obtain the target sample of 2,000 completed interviews in the four selected countries (598 longitudinal respondents and 1402 fresh respondents). Out of them, 17 respondents from the longitudinal sample indicated having returned to Ukraine since September and replied to a shorter version of the questionnaire. The final total sample of the phone-based survey for this round of research was of 1983 respondents (581 longitudinal and 1402 fresh respondents).
- **Precision**: The margin of error associated with the sample size of 500 is up to ±4.3% at a 95% confidence interval. The maximum margin of error is assessed for a 50% estimate of a binary distribution. One needs to note that for any estimate that is based on less than the full sample (for example those that concern schooling needs), the precision will be lower by the factor corresponding the prevalence of the criterion (in this case, having school-aged children) within respondents. The combined sample of the four countries, amounting to 2,000 respondents, have a nominal maximum margin of error of about ±2.2%, although the weights that correct for the disproportional sampling rate across countries will drive this margin up due to design effect and correspondingly decreasing effective sample size
- **Weighting:** Weights were calculated for each country, to control for any biases in the realization rates across the quotas. Simple intercellular weighting within county was performed in each intersection of the time-of-arrival and group-composition quota segments. Longitudinal participants carried over their post-stratification weights form the previous wave, which were used as initial weights for the post-stratification in this wave (fresh sample had a constant '1' as initial weight in this preliminary stage)

Web-based surveys

- **Sampling universe:** The sampling universe was composed by Ukraine online panels, focusing on panellists satisfying the criteria of having left Ukraine since 24 February 2022, not currently residing in Ukraine, and being at least 18 years of age. In addition, for this round of research, the web-based surveys were limited to panellist living in any European country different from Poland, Moldova, Romania, and Slovakia (the four countries in which the phone-based survey was conducted).
- The online panel from Ukraine is a market research panel composed of 450,000 individuals from that country. It is not based on random sample, so it is not representative for a general population in strictly theoretical terms. However, the panel is big enough and has similar characteristics as the general population, so that it provides good estimates of population attitudes and behaviour. Panellists are generally younger and more urban than the general Ukrainian population. The online panel is subject to a number of quality assurance checks to ensure the quality of the sample.

ONLINE PANEL DEMOGRAPHIC STRUCTURE COMPARED TO GENERAL POPULATION

		AGE GROUP						
	GENDER	15-17	18-21	22-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55+
Ukraine general population	Male	2%	2%	2%	8%	10%	9%	23%
	Female	2%	2%	2%	8%	10%	8%	14%
PANEL STRUCTURE	Male	1%	4%	4%	18%	11%	4%	2%
	Female	2%	6%	5%	25%	14%	4%	1%

- Having been built prior to the war, many of the panellists have left Ukraine since February 2022 but are nevertheless reachable through the panel. Also, in this round invitations were posted on social media for refugees to participate.
- **Data collection:** Invitations to take part in the survey were then sent out to selected participants by email, or on the panel application and Viber bot if these had been installed by panellists. In the case of any difficulties with reaching targets for this wave, SMS reminders were sent or follow up calls to direct panellists to the online survey. Panellists who were invited to participate in the previous wave, but did not take part in it, could be invited to the current wave as fresh respondents.
- Fieldwork ran from 27th December 2022 to 6th January 2023. The survey link received a total of 10,084 clicks. Of these, 64% (n= 6463) were excluded from the final dataset because they did not pass the selection criteria in the questionnaire, and 16% (n = 1621) did not complete the questionnaire. Only those who met the selection criteria and completed the survey were included in the final sample (2000 respondents). In addition, 6 cases were removed from the sample for data quality purposes. Moreover, among the longitudinal respondents, 70 participants indicated being back to Ukraine and replied therefore to a shorten version of the questionnaire. The final total sample of the web-based survey for this round of research was of 1924 respondents (306 longitudinal and 1618 fresh respondents).

Combined sample

- **Population weighting:** After the combination of the cases collected with the two survey modes, a cross-national population-relative weight was developed to all completed interviews from phone and web modes of data collection, reflecting the assumed true sizes of the total number of refugees from Ukraine in the various countries as per the current knowledge of UNHCR (https://data.unhcr.org/en/situations/ukraine). This retained the weights computed for the phone-survey component's original weights. This population-relative weight was computed on the basis of the reported location of the respondents during the interview, hence some of the individuals sampled over the phone in Moldova, Poland, Romania or Slovakia were also reclassified to the country of their current residence. However, respondents who in the meantime reported to moved back to Ukraine, were classified to belong in the country where they initially registered for assistance. This stage of weighting calibrated the sample at country level where the largest refugee groups existed, and consequently, where there were also the highest number of respondents, and combined the rest of the countries into a single "other" category with its own weight. This weight was eventually scaled so that it totals the nominal sample size.

COMBINED SAMPLE: POPULATION-RELATIVE WEIGHTS

COUNTRY OF ASYLUM	INDIVIDUAL REFUGEES FROM UKRAINE RECORDED ACROSS EUROPE	POPULATION %	SAMPLE COLLECTED ACROSS ALL INTERVIEWING MODES	SAMPLE %	ADJUSTMENT FACTOR
TOTAL	**5,116,115**	**100%**	**3,994**	**100%**	
Bulgaria	50,601	1,0%	98	2%	0,40
Czech Republic	478,614	9,4%	234	6%	1,60
France (incl. Monaco)	118,994	2,3%	93	2%	1,00
Georgia	25,101	0,5%	114	3%	0,17
Germany	1,021,667	20,0%	351	9%	2,28
Italy	167,925	3,3%	132	3%	0,99
Lithuania	72,773	1,4%	90	2%	0,63
Poland	1,563,386	30,6%	497	12%	2,46
Republic of Moldova	102,016	2,0%	495	12%	0,16
Romania	106,987	2,1%	498	12%	0,17
Slovakia	105,732	2,1%	495	12%	0,17
Spain (incl. Andorra)	161,012	3,1%	81	2%	1,55
Türkiye	86,545	1,7%	93	2%	0,73
Other Europe	1,054,762	20,6%	724	18%	1,14

Annex 2. Regression analysis

A multinomial logistic regression analysis was run in the IBM SPSS Statistical software.

- **Dependent variable:** The dependent variable was return intentions, split into four categories: planning to return within the next 3 months (12 per cent of the sample), hoping to return one day to Ukraine (65 per cent), undecided about returning one day to Ukraine (18 per cent), and no hope to return (5 per cent). The category of hoping to return one day was used as reference category in the model. Due to missing data in the dependent variable, the model was run on 3804 cases.
- **Independent variables:** the final model analysed 16 independent variables as predictors of return intentions. These predictors included demographic characteristics (age, gender, household size, education level), variables about the situation in their place of origin (region of origin, the status of their property, relatives living in Ukraine, prior visit to Ukraine), and variables about the situation in the host country (host country regrouping, displacement length, accommodation type, income sources, schooling of children). All were analysed as categorical variables. The table below present the list of variables included and their distribution.

CASE PROCESSING SUMMARY

		N	MARGINAL PERCENTAGE
Return Intentions	Planning to return permanently to Ukraine in the next 3 months	448	11.8%
	Hoping to return permanently to Ukraine one day	2,478	65.1%
	Undecided to return permanently to Ukraine	693	18.2%
	Does not hope to return permanently to Ukraine	185	4.9%
Age Groups	18-34 years old	1,023	26.9%
	35-59 years old	2,307	60.7%
	60+ years old	474	12.5%
Gender: Female	Yes	3,373	88.7%
	No/Missing/Prefer not to answer	431	11.3%
Household Size	Prefer not to answer	97	2.5%
	More than 2 people	1,907	50.1%
	2 people	1,095	28.8%
	1 person	705	18.5%

		N	MARGINAL PERCENTAGE
Educational Level	Prefer not to answer	13	0.3%
	Secondary or lower	450	11.8%
	Technical/vocational	725	19.1%
	University or above	2,617	68.8%
Region of origin in Ukraine	Centre	233	6.1%
	East	1,458	38.3%
	Kyiv city	614	16.1%
	North	500	13.1%
	South	618	16.2%
	West	381	10.0%
Property status in Ukraine	No dwelling owned	838	22.0%
	Intact	2,335	61.4%
	Damaged	631	16.6%
Relatives living in Ukraine: Spouse / Partner	Yes	937	24.6%
	No/Missing/Prefer not to answer	2,867	75.4%
Relatives living in Ukraine: son(s)/daughter(s)	Yes	642	16.9%
	No/Missing/Prefer not to answer	3,162	83.1%
Prior visit to Ukraine	Yes	1,035	27.2%
	No/Missing/Prefer not to answer	2,769	72.8%
Host Country	Other countries in the EU	2,095	55.1%
	Other countries non-EU	248	6.5%
	Neighbouring countries	1,461	38.4%
Time Of Arrival	Winter 2022	391	10.3%
	Spring 2022	2,824	74.2%
	Summer 2022	349	9.2%
	Autumn 2022+Winter 2022/2023	240	6.3%
Accommodation Type	Prefer not to answer	48	1.3%
	Hotel/hostel	633	16.6%
	Hosted by a local family	567	14.9%
	Hosted by relatives/friends	422	11.1%
	Accommodation centre/Sharing accommodation with other refugees	357	9.4%
	Other	310	8.1%
	Renting on their own	1,469	38.6%

		N	MARGINAL PERCENTAGE
Income Source: Transfers	Yes	469	12.3%
	No/Missing/Prefer not to answer	3,335	87.7%
Income Source: Government Social Protection Programmes/ Benefits	Yes	1,218	32.0%
	No/Missing/Prefer not to answer	2,586	68.0%
Any children in household going to school in host country	Yes	1,700	44.7%
	No/Missing/Prefer not to answer	2,104	55.3%
Any children in household not attending school	Yes	291	7.6%
	No/Missing/Prefer not to answer	3,513	92.4%
Valid		3,804	100.0%
Missing		0	
Total		3,804	
Subpopulation		3615a	

a. The dependent variable has only one value observed in 3531 (97.7%) subpopulations.

- **Model fit:** The model fitting information is displayed in the table below. It is significant, which indicates the full model predicts significantly better, or more accurately, than the null model. Moreover, Likelihood Ratio Tests were conducted to evaluate if all variables were contributing in a meaningful way to the full effect, or if by removing any of the predictor variables the model fit would increase.

MODEL FITTING INFORMATION

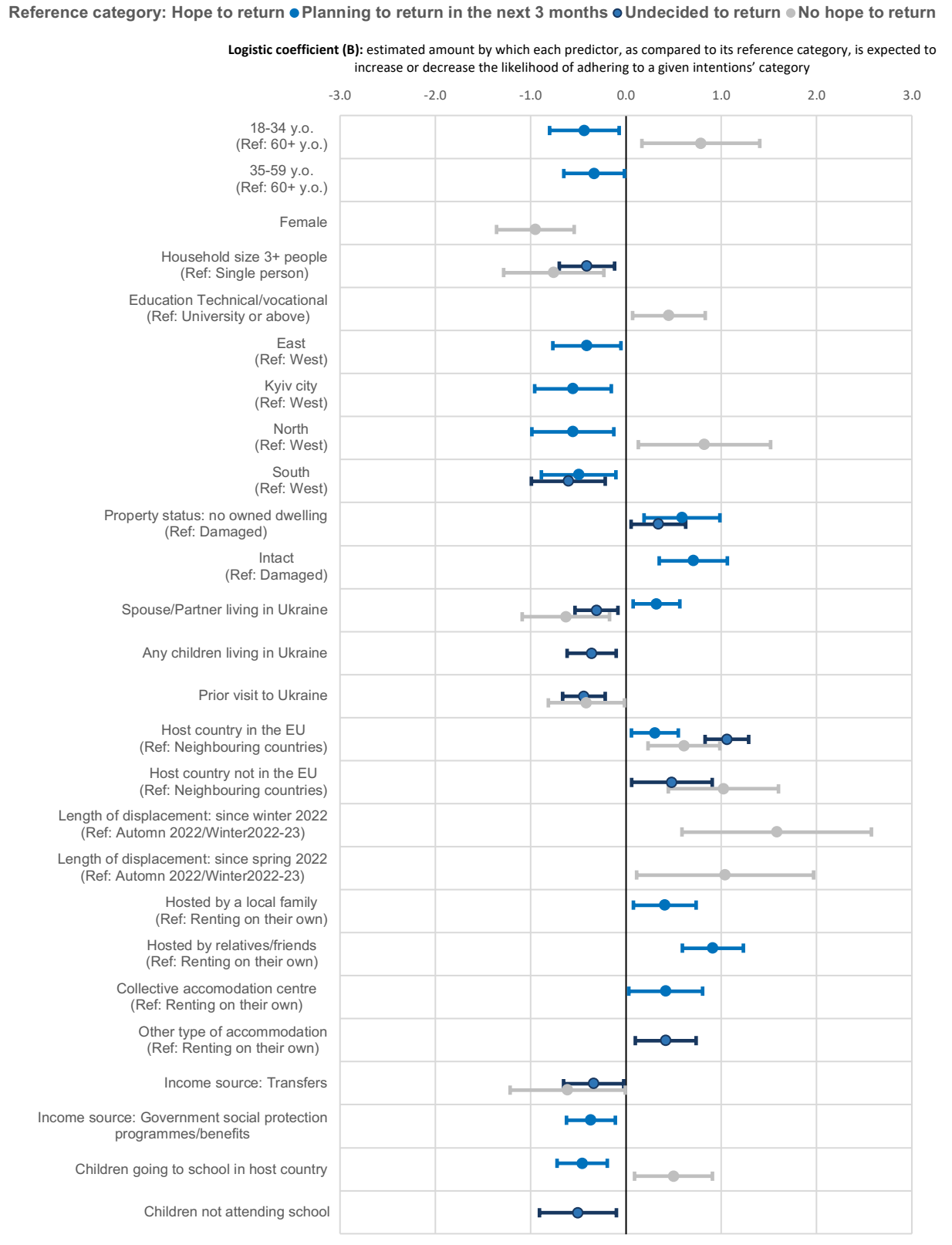
MODEL	MODEL FITTING CRITERIA			LIKELIHOOD RATIO TESTS		
	AIC	BIC	-2 LOG LIKELIHOOD	CHI-SQUARE	DF	SIG.
Intercept Only	7383.303	7402.034	7377.303			
Final	7045.439	7701.035	6835.439	541.864	102	0.000

- **Excluded variables:** The following variables were excluded from the model, as they were not found to significantly contribute to it: Any household member requiring long-term care, knowledge of local language spoken in host country (very well/well vs. rest), any children in household attending only online school, employment status, having other relatives (different from spouse/partner and children) living in Ukraine, having no relatives living in Ukraine, perception of income as being enough to cover basic needs, having income from employment, receiving cash assistance from humanitarian organizations, receiving other type of income source, household composition, any child living in household, any older person (60+) in household, and longitudinal vs. non-longitudinal respondents.

- **Model prediction:** the model was found to accurately predict **66** per cent of the data.
- **Parameter estimates**: the logistic coefficient (B) for each of the predictors considered in the model, as well as its standard error, Wald statistic, degrees of freedom, p-value, the Exp(B) (odds ration), and the 95 per cent confidence interval for both B and Exp(B) were calculated. The logistic coefficient (B) represents the amount by which each predictor, as compared to its reference category, is expected to increase, or decrease the logit, i.e. the odds of adhering to a given intentions' category (planning to return in the short term, undecided about returning one day and not hoping to return one day) as opposed to adhering to the predominant return intention category of hoping to return one day to Ukraine. The closer a logistic coefficient is to zero, the less influence the predictor has in predicting the logit. The Wald test (and associated p-value) indicates whether the logistic coefficient is different than zero. The Exp(B) is the odds ratio associated with each predictor. Predictors which increase the odds of membership to a given return intention category are expected to present Exp(B) values greater than 1.0, while those which decrease these odds are expected to display Exp(B) values smaller than 1.0. The closer the Exp(B) to 1, the smaller the effect of the predictor on the given return intention.

The graph below shows the estimated parameters for each of the drivers or predictors considered and its 95 per cent confidence interval. **The values represent the amount by which each predictor, as compared to its reference category, is expected to increase or decrease the likelihood of adhering to a given intentions' category** (planning to return in the short term, undecided about returning one day and not hoping to return one day) as opposed to adhering to the predominant return intention category of hoping to return one day to Ukraine. For example, by looking at the graph, it can be interpreted that having children who go to school in the host country decreases the likelihood of planning to return in the short term and increases the chances of not hoping to return to Ukraine.

DRIVERS OF INTENTIONS: RESULTS FROM MULTIVARIATE REGRESSION



LIVES ON HOLD: INTENTIONS AND PERSPECTIVES OF REFUGEES FROM UKRAINE

REGIONAL INTENTIONS REPORT #3

FEBRUARY 2023

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The UN Refugee Agency

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www.unhcr.org/europe

For further information visit the UNHCR Operational Data Portal for Ukraine:
https://data.unhcr.org/en/situations/ukraine