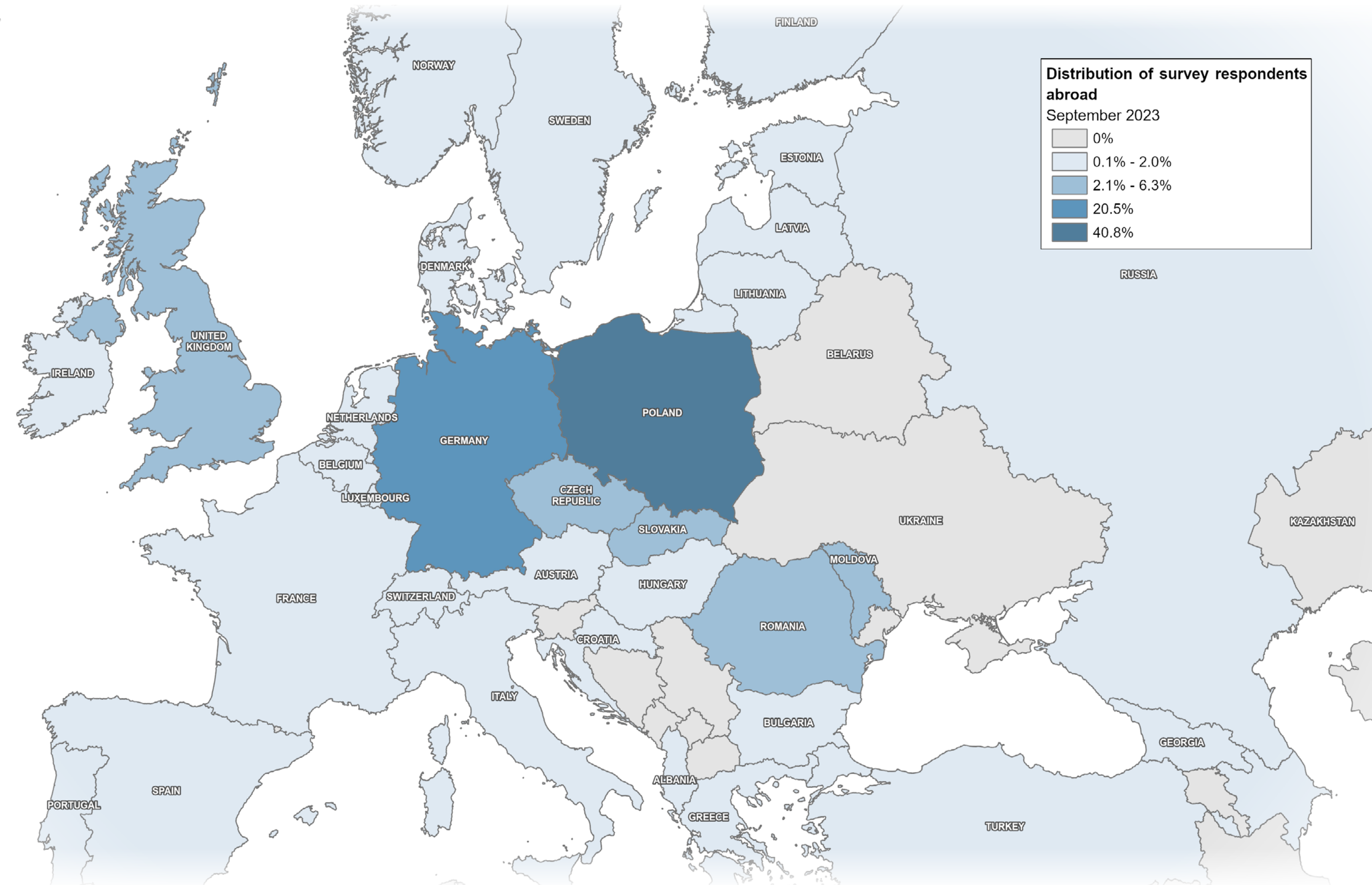
FACTSHEET

Ukraine Longitudinal Survey of Refugees

Round 17 — September 2023



ABOUT

Since March 2022, IMPACT Initiatives has been conducting a monthly survey of people who fled the escalation of hostilities in Ukraine to understand their mobility patterns, needs, integration trajectories, intentions to return, and how these change over time.

Respondents were initially identified through convenience sampling among people who have crossed the border from Ukraine and were interviewed through a data collection initiative since 28 February 2022 in Poland, Slovakia, Hungary, Romania, and Moldova at border crossings, transit sites, and reception centres, in partnership with UNHCR. From October 2022 onwards, we began to diversify sources of consent and have complemented the existing sample through Viber and Facebook dissemination campaigns. Once respondents give consent, they are followed up by IMPACT's team, which conducts monthly phone interviews with the same pool of respondents. While results are not statistically representative, triangulation with other data sources suggests that our sample broadly echoes other available data sources on the population of interest, both in terms of geographic distribution and socio-economic background.

This brief is based on 3,646 phone interviews conducted remotely between 21 September 2023 and 11 October 2023, during Round 17 of the longitudinal survey of people displaced from Ukraine during the full-scale war. The reference point for comparison was Round 16, which took place from 10 August 2023 to 10 September 2023.

In light of the continued war in Ukraine, this factsheet provides a snapshot update on the experiences and situation of those people who have been displaced from Ukraine and remain abroad, and the changes from the previous month.

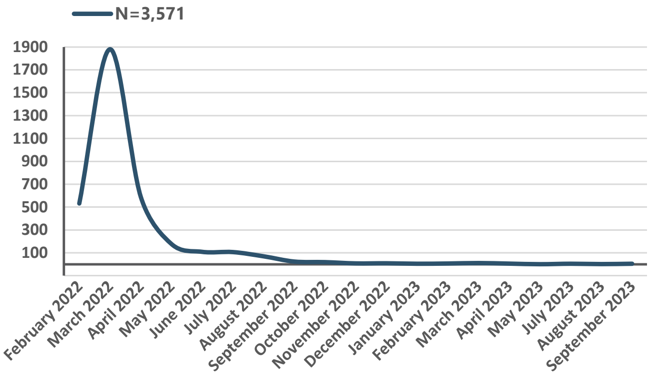
Round 17 of the longitudinal survey has been funded by Belgian Red Cross.

1. SAMPLE DESCRIPTION

During the last four days of February 2022, when the invasion had started, 14.9% of respondents in the sample left Ukraine. By March 2022, more than half of the sample (52.7%) experienced cross-border displacement. Overall, 89.1% of all round 17 surveyed left the country during the first three months of the war. A mere 1.2% of the respondents, which accounted to 42 individuals, were displaced in 2023. Most of the respondents from top-10 oblasts of displacements left from areas directly affected by the war: Kharkivka (13.3%), Kyiv (12.5%), Donetska (8.1%), Zaporizka (7.4%), Mykolaivska (6.0%), Khersonska (6.0%), and Kyivska (5.7%).

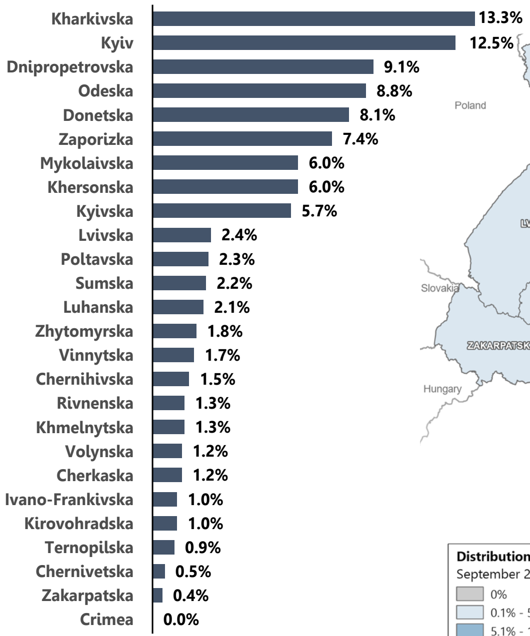
In September, the sample was complemented by new respondents, whose consent to participate was collected through online campaigns. The share of new respondents made up 13.5% of the entire round 17 sample.

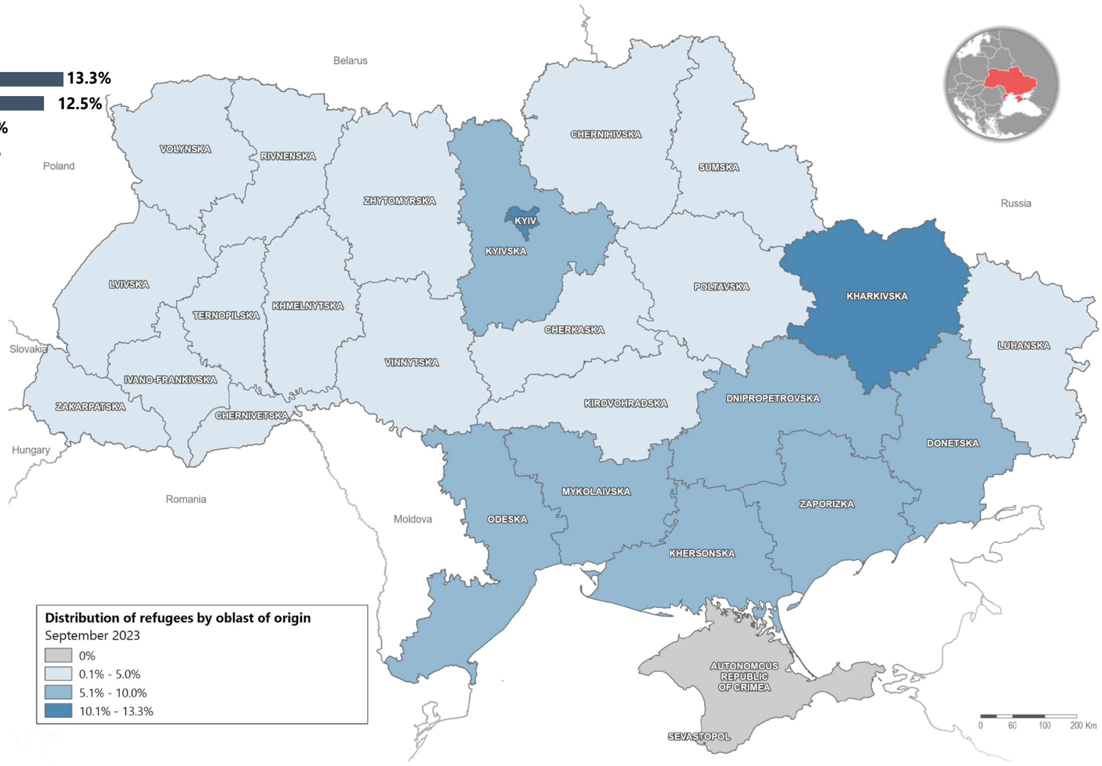
The month of leaving Ukraine



Distribution of refugee respondents by oblast of origin

September 2023 (N=3,646)





2. DEMOGRAPHICS

In round 17, 56.6% of refugee households had 2 or 3 members. Around 67% of all surveyed households included children, compared to 37.8% in Ukraine before the invasion of 2022[1]. Among all household members, 40.6% were children, 53.0% were adults, and 6.3% were older people aged 65 and more. Although the majority of respondents (91.8%) were women, this share reduced to 77.1% when taking into account all household members aged 18 and above. The introduction of new respondents, with the aim of better reflecting the target population groups, led to an increase in the proportion of male respondents from 6.7% in August to 8% in September.

91.8% of respondents are women

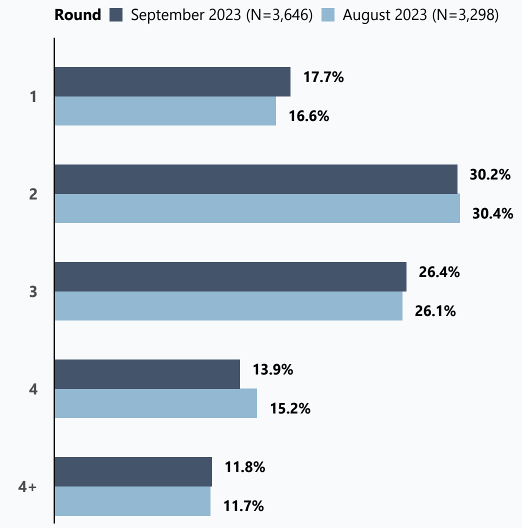
21.3% of households include members with disabilities[2]

2.8 is the average household size

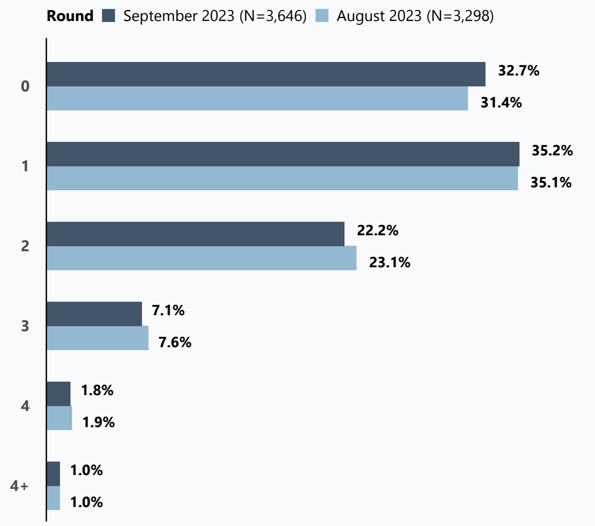
1.1 is the average number of children

Canada
Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft
Confédération suisse
Confederazione Svizzera
Confederaziun svizra
Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation SDC
Save the Children
UNHCR The UN Refugee Agency
IMPACT Shaping practices Influencing policies Impacting lives

Refugee respondents' household size



Refugee households' number of children

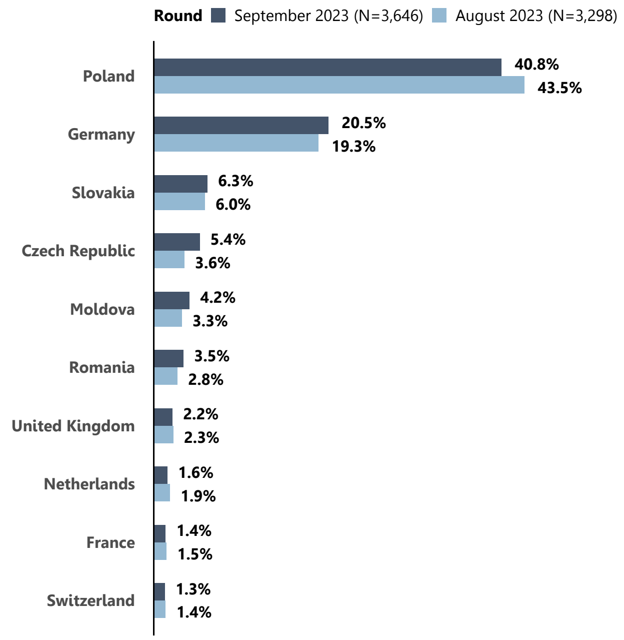


3. GEOGRAPHICAL DISTRIBUTION

In September, Poland and Germany continued as the primary host countries, accommodating 40.8% and 20.5% of the respondents, respectively. Around 56% of all respondents in host countries were located in bordering states, almost 97% were situated in Europe and 88.2% were living in the member states of the European Union.

During round 17, the sample was complemented by new respondents, which led to a shift in the distribution of respondents in the host countries. These changes underlined the ongoing trend of people leaving Poland and the gradual increase in the number of refugees granted temporary protection status in Germany[3]. Additionally, a minor rise was seen in the percentage of respondents in the Czech Republic, Moldova, and Romania.

Refugee respondents' host country (top 10)

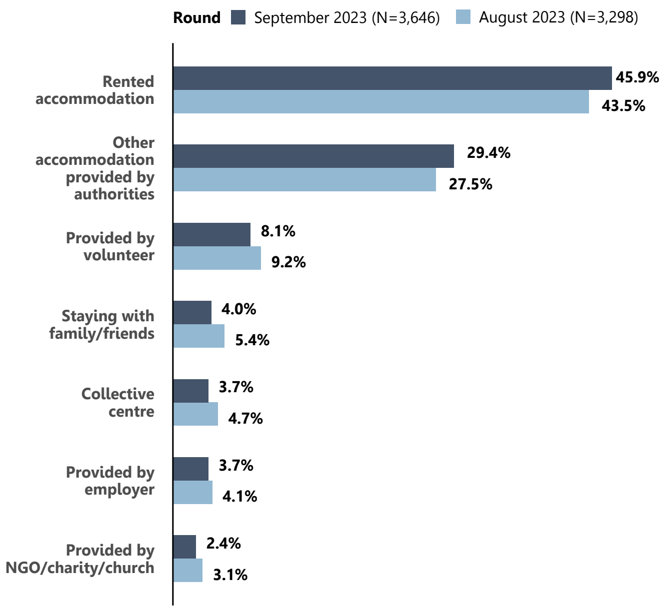


4. ACCOMMODATION

The rise in the proportion of households renting housing abroad continues to occur. As of September 2023, 45.9% of households were in rented homes and 97.5% of them were paying the full cost of rent. Government-provided type of housing increased to 29.4% in September. Among households that lived there, 53% didn't have to pay anything, nearly 24% contributed towards utilities or paid a subsidized rate, and 21.8% benefited from public housing assistance. There was 8.1% of households reported staying in accommodation provided by volunteers. About 62.2% stayed there for free, 28.9% paid a reduced rate or only for utilities, and 7.8% received public housing support. The share of people who stayed with family/friends, collective centres, and housing provided by an employer accounted for around 4% each, experiencing a slight decrease compared to August.

In total, 47.9% of households covered the entire rental price, marking a 2.2 percentage points increase compared to August. Conversely, the share of households paying no fees decreased to 30.3%.

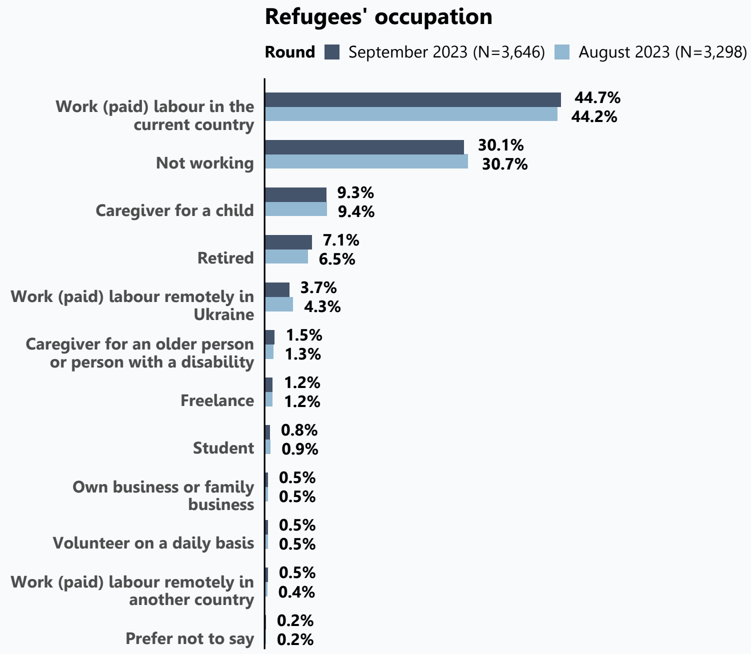
Refugees' accommodation (top 7)

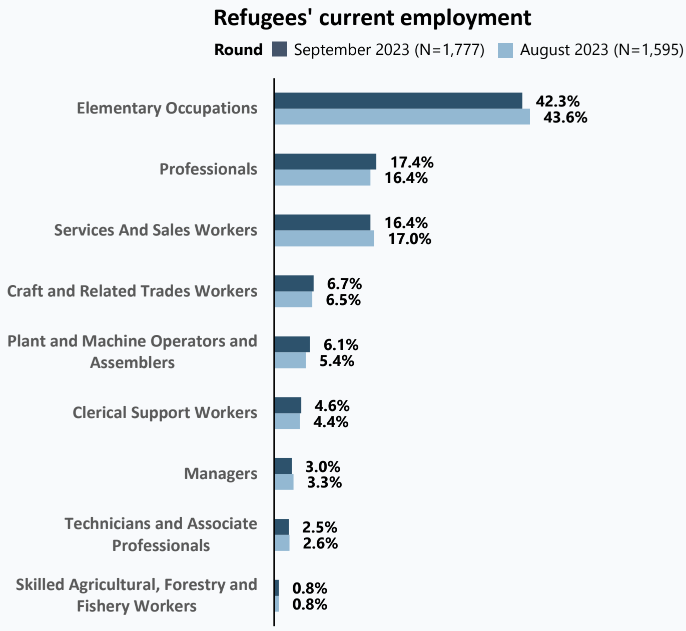


5. OCCUPATION

The proportion of refugees engaged in paid daily labour in their host country continues to rise. This trend has remained consistent in the latest rounds, with almost 45% of respondents employed in the host country as of September. At the same time, the number of respondents without any occupation dropped down to 30.1% in September. The role of being a caregiver for a child remained steady at around 9% for both rounds of data collection. Other types of daytime work, including remote jobs, entrepreneurship, and freelancing, constituted 5.9% of employment in September. Additionally, 7.1% of respondents reported being retired, and 0.8% identified as students.

Based on the International Standard Classification of Occupations (ISCO-08)[4], the most significant employment group, by a substantial margin, was comprised of individuals in *Elementary Occupations* (42.3%). *Professionals* and *Service And Sales Workers* made up the second-largest categories at 17.4% and 16.4%, respectively. Notably, these categories differed from *Elementary Occupations* by a factor of around 2.5 times. The least represented employment groups were *Skilled Agricultural, Forestry, and Fishery Workers* at 0.8%, *Technicians and Associate Professionals* at 2.5%, and *Managers* at 3.0%.



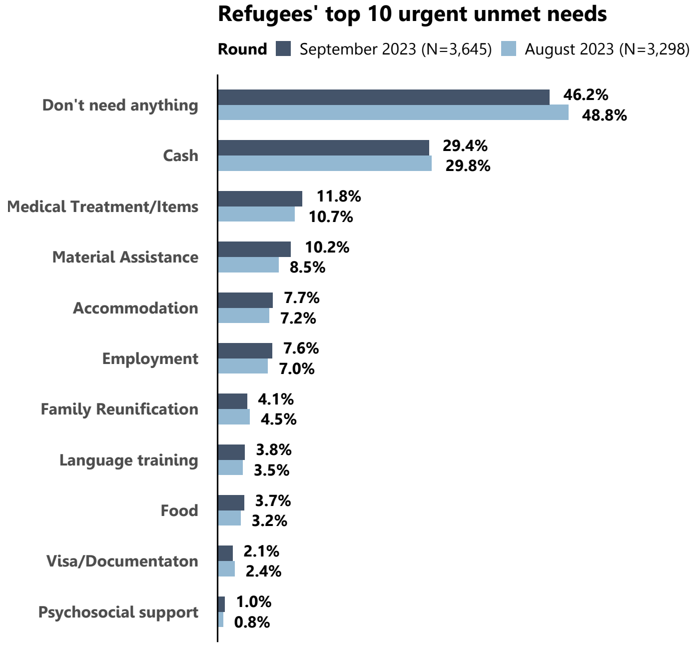


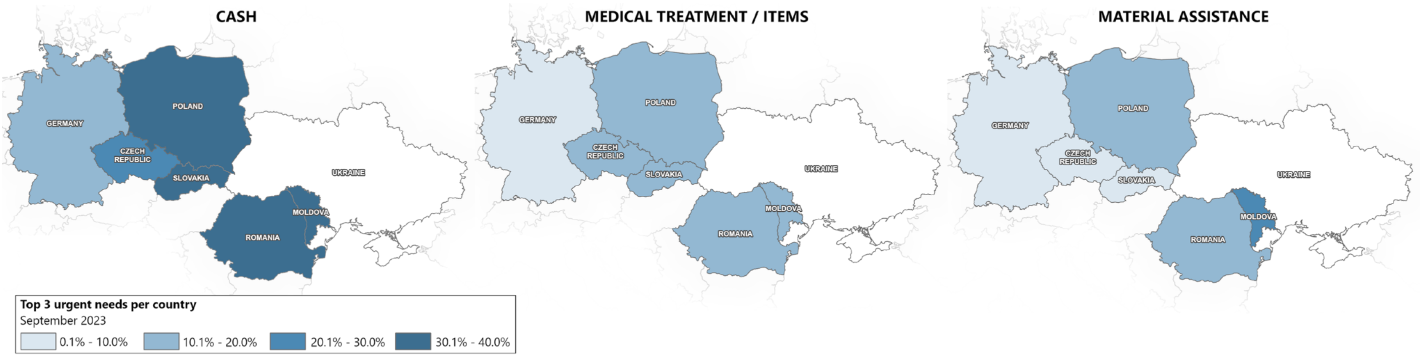
2.5. NEEDS AND ASSISTANCE

As of August, just under half (48.8%) of surveyed reported they had no urgent unmet needs. The evolution of this indicator has been negative, showing a decrease of 2.6 percentage points in September, reaching 46.2%. The three most reported needs were cash (remained steady at 29.4%), medical treatment/items (rose to 11.8%), and material assistance (increased to 11.8%).

Households with pregnant or breastfeeding women, as well as those with individuals with disabilities reported higher levels of unmet needs compared to the overall refugee average (53.8%), amounting to 72.5% and 66.8%, respectively. Compared to the overall average, this figure showed no significant variance for households with children or respondents older than 65 years.

Almost every second person (48.1%) indicated having received humanitarian assistance in the last 30 days. Among those who received assistance, the majority reported receiving cash aid (81.9%). The second most commonly received assistance was food (25.9%), followed by shelter (12%). The government of the host country was the largest aid provider (80.8%), while support from all NGOs accounted for 32.5%, with church/religious organisations (5.8%) and UNHCR (4.2%) being the most frequently mentioned.



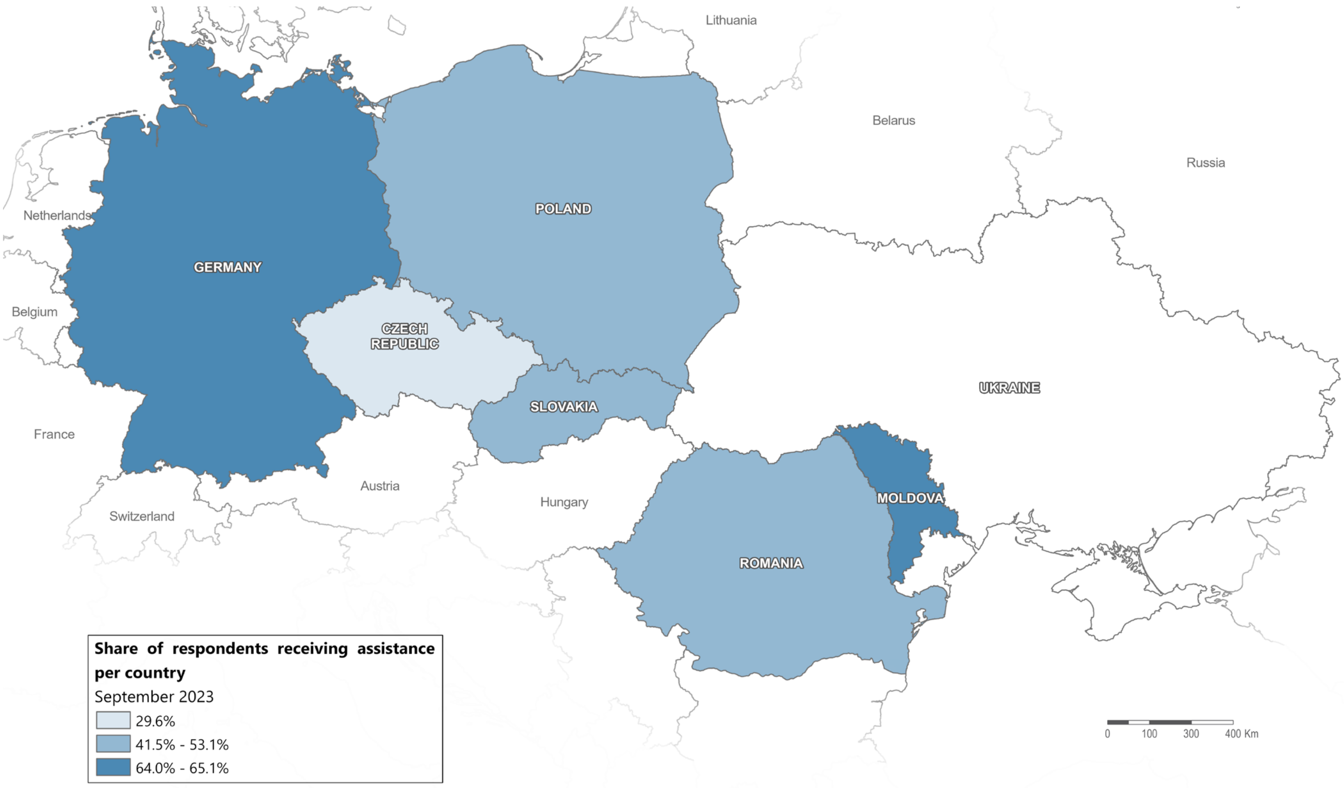


Ten most urgent needs of refugees by different population groups (Round 17: September 2023)

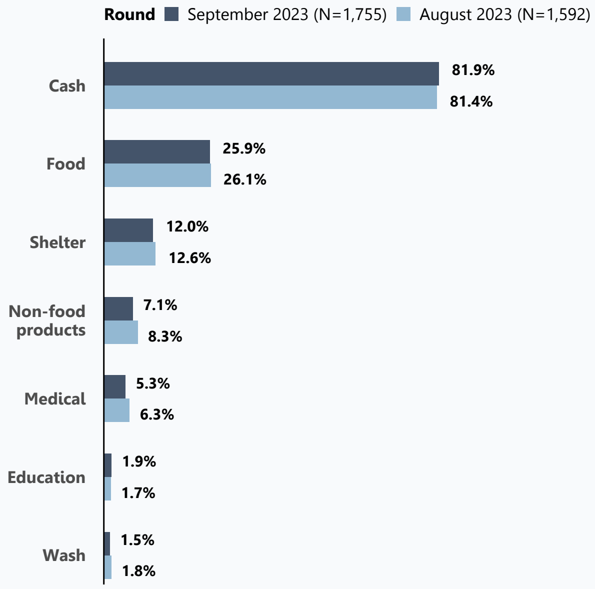
URGENT NEEDS	HOUSEHOLDS WITH CHILDREN	HOUSEHOLDS WITH PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES	PERSONS 65 YEARS AND OLDER	HOUSEHOLDS WITH PREGNANT OR BREASTFEEDING WOMEN
DON'T NEED ANYTHING	45.5%	33.2%	47.4%	27.5%
CASH	30.3%	34.6%	27.6%	47.5%
MEDICAL TREATMENT/ITEMS	10.4%	26.6%	22.9%	16.2%
MATERIAL ASSISTANCE	12.0%	16.0%	9.9%	25.0%
ACCOMMODATION	8.2%	7.6%	4.2%	5.0%
FOOD	3.9%	5.0%	6.2%	8.8%
EMPLOYMENT	7.7%	8.0%	2.1%	2.5%
FAMILY REUNIFICATION	4.0%	2.3%	3.1%	2.5%
LANGUAGE TRAINING	3.7%	4.0%	2.6%	1.2%
VISA/DOCUMENTATION	2.2%	1.9%	2.6%	1.2%
ACCESS TO SCHOOL/CHILDCARE	1.3%	0.8%	0.0%	3.8%
SAMPLE SIZE	N=2,454	N=777	N=192	N=80

Ten most urgent needs of refugees by top 6 countries of staying (Round 17: September 2023)

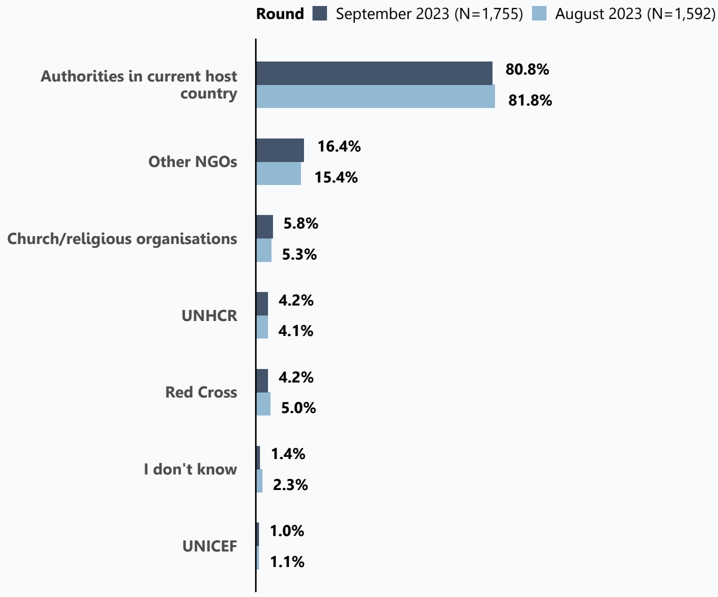
URGENT NEEDS	POLAND	GERMANY	SLOVAKIA	CZECH REPUBLIC	MOLDOVA	ROMANIA
DON'T NEED ANYTHING	41.9%	55.1%	47.2%	38.3%	34.9%	35.9%
CASH	37.3%	16.2%	31.4%	29.6%	39.5%	38.3%
MEDICAL TREATMENT/ITEMS	12.7%	8.7%	14.4%	10.2%	17.8%	19.5%
MATERIAL ASSISTANCE	12.2%	6.0%	8.3%	9.2%	23.7%	15.6%
EMPLOYMENT	7.5%	4.8%	6.6%	13.3%	3.9%	10.2%
ACCOMMODATION	8.1%	7.9%	7.0%	9.7%	2.0%	6.2%
FOOD	4.7%	1.2%	3.5%	4.6%	7.2%	7.8%
FAMILY REUNIFICATION	4.8%	3.7%	1.3%	5.1%	4.6%	2.3%
LANGUAGE TRAINING	2.6%	6.1%	3.5%	5.1%	1.3%	1.6%
VISA/DOCUMENTATION	1.3%	3.6%	0.9%	3.1%	0.7%	1.6%
PSYCHOSOCIAL SUPPORT	1.2%	1.2%	0.9%	1.0%	0.0%	0.8%
SAMPLE SIZE	N=1,486	N=749	N=229	N=196	N=152	N=128



Refugees' type of received assistance (top 7)



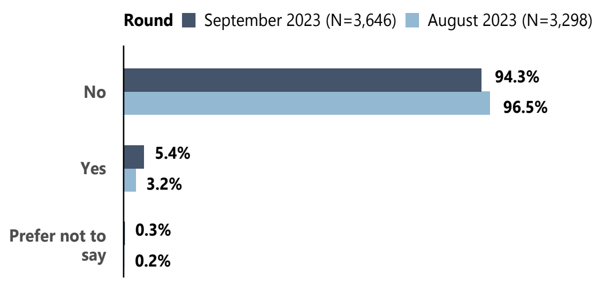
Refugees' assistance actors (top 7)



6. INTEGRATION

In Round 17, 5.4% of the respondents reported feeling discriminated against, compared to 3.2% in the previous round, indicating a 1.7 times increase. This rise can be caused by a combination of factors, including the introduction of new respondents who are more inclined to report discrimination, as well as a broader representation of men in the sample starting from September. Specifically, 'having left Ukraine' discrimination reason underwent the most substantial change, with a nearly threefold increase, influenced by a higher proportion of male respondents.

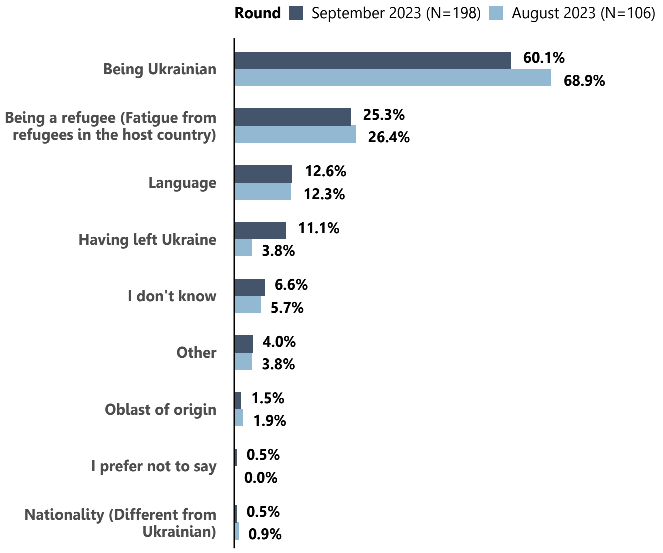
Refugees' discrimination



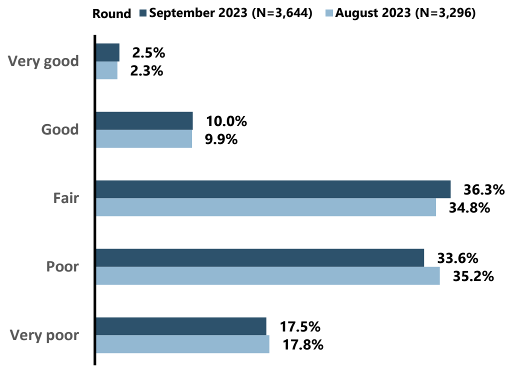
Save the Children
UNHCR The UN Refugee Agency
IFRC
Canada
Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft
Confédération suisse
Confederazione Svizzera
Confederaziun svizra
Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation SDC
IMPACT Shaping practices Influencing policies Impacting lives

Throughout all the rounds, there has been a gradual yet consistent improvement in the language proficiency of the host country. By round 17, the most reported level of language command was *fair* (36.3%), followed closely by *poor* with a slight varience (33.6%). Only 12.5% achieved *good* or *very good* language proficiency in the host country's language. Around 32.7% of respondents were enrolled in language classes. Among these, respondents in Germany exhibited the highest participation rate at 62.6%, while Moldova had the lowest participation rate at 8.6%

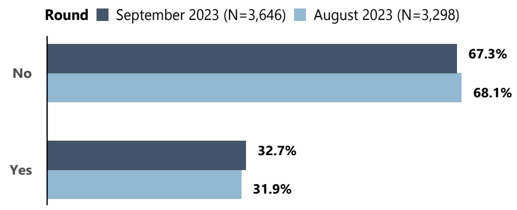
Refugees' perceived reasons for being discriminated



Refugees' language skills



Refugees' language course attendance at the time of the survey



Language skills in the top 6 host countries (Round 17: September 2023)

LANGUAGE SKILLS	POLAND	GERMANY	SLOVAKIA	CZECH REPUBLIC	MOLDOVA	ROMANIA
VERY POOR	8.7%	22.6%	8.3%	18.9%	40.4%	38.3%
POOR	31.0%	37.2%	32.8%	36.2%	28.5%	40.6%
FAIR	44.3%	33.1%	42.8%	39.3%	11.9%	14.1%
GOOD	13.3%	5.5%	14.8%	4.6%	11.9%	3.1%
VERY GOOD	2.6%	1.6%	1.3%	1.0%	7.3%	3.9%
SAMPLE SIZE	N=1,486	N=749	N=229	N=196	N=151	N=128

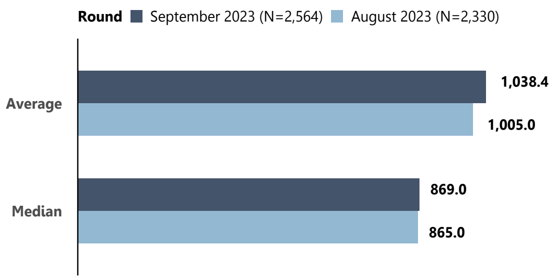
Language courses attendance in the top 6 host countries at the time of data collection (Round 17: September 2023)

LANGUAGE COURSES	POLAND	GERMANY	SLOVAKIA	CZECH REPUBLIC	MOLDOVA	ROMANIA
ATTENDANCE	19.0%	62.6%	19.7%	22.4%	8.6%	21.9%
SAMPLE SIZE	N=1,487	N=749	N=229	N=196	N=152	N=128

7. INCOME

In September 2023, the median income for a typical refugee household, comprising 2.8 individuals, was 869 euros, with an average income of 1,038.4 euros. Among the top six host countries, Germany stood out with the highest average and median incomes, recording 1,278 and 1,000 euros respectively. Following, respondents in the Czech Republic reported an average income of 977 euros and a median income of 819 euros. On the contrary, households in Moldova and Romania had the lowest income levels. Households in Romania earned 604 euros based on the median income in September, while households in Moldova earned 382 euros.

Refugees' monthly household income (Euro)

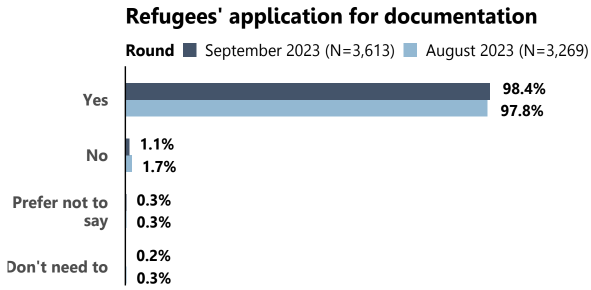


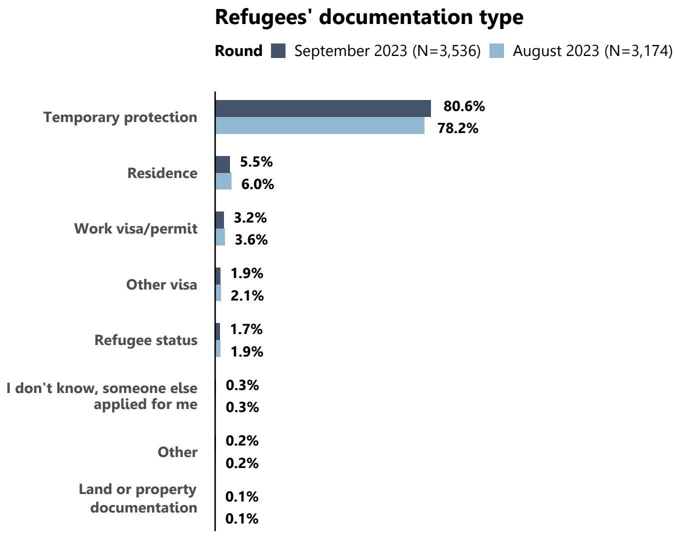
Household monthly income in the top 6 host countries, euro (Round 17: September 2023)

MONTHLY INCOME BY HOUSEHOLD	GERMANY	CZECH REPUBLIC	POLAND	SLOVAKIA	ROMANIA	MOLDOVA
AVERAGE	1278	977	847	854	731	469
MEDIAN	1000	819	804	800	604	382
SAMPLE SIZE	N=632	N=122	N=1,079	N=127	N=46	N=96

8. DOCUMENTATION

Nearly all refugees (98.4%) have obtained additional documents to prolong their stay abroad. The vast majority received temporary protection, amounting to 80.6% in September 2023, indicating a 2.4 percentage points increase compared to August. A smaller share, 5.5%, held various types of residence permits, while 3.2% possessed work visas/permits.

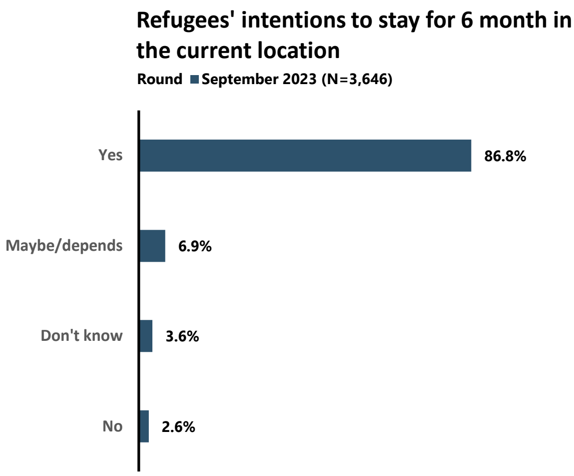


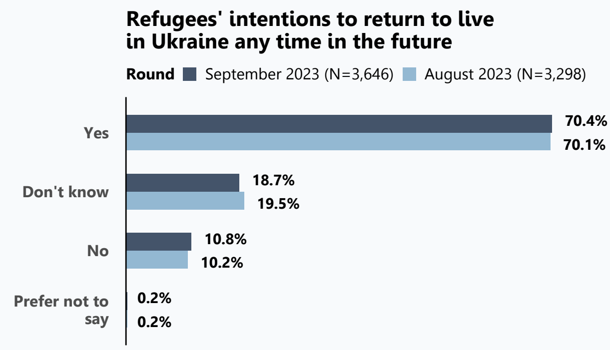


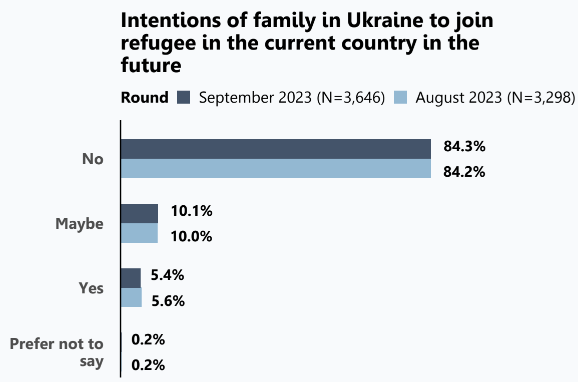
9. INTENTIONS

Regarding future intentions, the majority of respondents (86.8%) intended to stay in their current location for at least the next six months, extending through the winter season. Around 10.5% of respondents remained uncertain about their future plans, responding with 'Maybe/depends' or 'I don't know.' In terms of long-term plans, a substantial 70.4% expressed a desire to return to Ukraine at some point in the future. Conversely, 18.7% were undecided about their return, and 10.8% had firmly decided not to return. There were no significant changes in the movement's intentions over the last two rounds. However, when comparing the intentions to return to Ukraine in the future to earlier rounds, this indicator declined along with time.

The large majority of respondents (84.3%) indicated that they did not anticipate other family members or close relatives joining them abroad, 10.1% were considering this option, and 5.4% already had plans in place for family reunification abroad.







ENDNOTES

1. Social and Demographic Characteristics of Households of Ukraine 2021, State Statistics Service of Ukraine, Kyiv, 2021. The data is available here.
2. The self-reported disability was measured using the Washington Group short set of questions. This data is available here.
3. Beneficiaries of temporary protection at the end of the month – monthly data, Eurostat. This data is available here.
4. ISCO-08: International Standard Classification of Occupations. This data is available here.