



UNHCR
The UN Refugee Agency



**LIVES
ON HOLD:
INTENTIONS
AND PERSPECTIVES
OF INTERNALLY
DISPLACED PERSONS
IN UKRAINE**

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We are grateful for the extensive involvement and support of UNHCR's partners, local authorities, civil society, international organizations and donors. Most importantly, UNHCR would like to acknowledge the resilience and strength of displaced persons in Ukraine, who continue to share with us their challenges, fears and hopes.

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COVER PHOTOGRAPH:

Housing repairs for homes damaged during the hostilities. ©UNHCR

Executive Summary

Based on 2,900 interviews with Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) in Ukraine, conducted by UNHCR and Right to Protection (R2P) between 5 and 30 December 2022, this report presents the main findings related to the profiles and intentions of IDPs. The objective of the IDP Intentions and Perspectives Surveys is to collect primary data around the profiles, intentions, situation, needs and perspectives of IDPs within Ukraine in order to ensure the centrality of their voices in durable solutions discussions about their future, as well as to inform evidence-based responses in support of the Government of Ukraine. The IDP Intention Surveys will be conducted regularly to monitor and

analyze trends and changes in the situation, and to inform the priorities of the Sectoral Working Group on refugee and IDP returns and reintegration under the National Recovery Plan.



Many Ukrainians who are living abroad are now already returning home. We, Ukrainians displaced in our own country, want to return home too.”

– IDP residing in collective centre in Lviv

Key Findings

1 Despite the harsh winter circumstances, damage to water and energy infrastructure and the ongoing conflict and security threats, **12% of the respondents plan to permanently return home within the next three months.**

Plans to return depend strongly on the security situation and whether an area of origin is under the temporary military control of the Russian Federation. Respondents from oblasts that have territory that remains under the temporary military control of the Russian Federation (Luhanska, Zaporizka, Donetsk and Khersonska) are less likely to return within the next three months.

During the next three months, **return will mostly take place towards northern oblasts**, where returns have been recorded in larger numbers and where the overall security situation is more stable, as well as **to Mykolaivska**, where the security situation has recently improved.

The **majority of respondents who plan to return within the next three months are planning to return to the same place where they lived before 24 February (96%) and with all family members (74%).** Families with children are less likely to return during the next three months than families without children.

2 **Access to adequate housing is the main enabler of and barrier to sustainable and dignified return** to areas of origin that are no longer under the temporary military control of the Russian Federation and where the security situation has improved.

While the main barrier for return are general safety concerns due to the ongoing war, **access to adequate housing is the next main reason why respondents plan to return and the main factor that influences a decision to return to an area of origin.** In all oblasts of origin, lack of access to adequate housing is the most frequently cited barrier to dignified and sustainable return of displaced persons. After housing (80%), the main enablers for return are **access to basic water and electricity infrastructure (76%), health care services (70%) and work (66%).**

Lack of adequate housing in the area of origin (32%) is also the main reason why 7% of the respondents have lost the hope to return one day.

Among the respondents who have no hope to return one day, 38% indicates that their house in the area of origin is completely destroyed, while the national average of respondents citing that their house is destroyed is 10%.

3 While the majority of respondents plan or hope to return one day (79%), the main barriers to return (safety, housing and infrastructure) may not be addressed in the near future. **88% of the respondents who do not plan to return within the next three months plan to stay in their current location of displacement and, among them, 7% indicate that they no longer hope to return to their places of origin,** meaning that a significant number of IDPs will require medium- and long-term solutions in their current areas of displacement.

The majority of respondents with no immediate return plans are planning to stay in their current location. While some respondents indicate that they do not face major challenges to locally integrate, the **main barriers for local integration mentioned are the lack of employment and sources of income (25%), lack of adequate and stable housing in the area of displacement (10%), and lack of community empowerment support (10%)¹.**

The situation in the area of origin has a stronger influence on the decision to return than challenges that IDPs face in their areas of displacement. However, **lack of adequate housing (58%), obstacles to access health facilities (54%) and lack of work opportunities (51%) in areas of displacement** are nonetheless reported by respondents as **significant factors that could influence the decision to return one day.** These challenges are not only barriers to local integration in the areas of displacement, but, if unaddressed, could also become a push factor to return to areas where the conditions for a dignified and sustainable return are not yet established.

1. Community empowerment works through increasing the community's influence over the structures and policies that affect the lived experiences of the community and its members. Increases in influence often occur through partnerships between those in power and other community members. Practically, this can be achieved through community centres, community-led organizations, community facilitators, etc.

Recommendations

1 Supporting **access to housing solutions** for people whose homes have been damaged or destroyed during the war should be a priority for the Government of Ukraine and its partners.

Access to adequate housing is the most significant barrier to dignified and sustainable return of displaced persons after security and whether an area remains under the temporary military control of the Russian Federation. Interventions are required to **expand the pool of support available to people in dire need of assistance to repair, recover and rebuild their homes, including refugees and IDPs who are longing to return home**, but currently cannot as they do not have a physical house or apartment to return to.

An example of such an initiative in Ukraine is Home. Ukraine is Home **will create a new collaborative platform, led by the Government of Ukraine's Ministry of Communities, Territories, and Infrastructure Development in partnership with UNHCR, which aims to facilitate access to housing solutions for people whose homes have been damaged or destroyed during the war**. The platform builds upon the Government's ongoing efforts to develop compensation mechanisms for people whose homes were damaged or destroyed in the war and UNHCR's longstanding leadership of the humanitarian shelter cluster in Ukraine and partnership with a range of local, national, and international stakeholders. Aligned with the overall aims and vision of the Government's National Recovery Plan, Ukraine is Home will provide efficient tools to coordinate and channel support that will help people access vital information and assistance to repair, and recover their homes using new technologies, innovations, and environmentally sustainable methods.

2 While the barriers and enablers to return are relatively similar in different areas of origin, the needs and profiles of displaced persons differ, and the support local authorities and communities will require depends upon the local situation. As such, **durable solution models should be localized and based on the needs of the population and the situation in a given area, requiring a combination of an area-based and a people-centred approach**.

There is no one size fits all approach to durable solutions and a dignified and sustainable return. **Durable solutions programming should be driven by the voice of the people and decentralized, led by capacities available within local authorities responsible for service delivery, civil society, and the private sector**. For decentralization efforts to effectively contribute to durable solutions in a given location, the following points should be considered:

- Displacement-specific needs and data on barriers to return and local integration, including the data and findings presented in this report, need to inform area-based and durable solutions programming.
- The displacement situation in each return or displacement location should be integrated in **local recovery and development plans** and taken into consideration in decentralized programming.
- The capacities of displaced and local communities, businesses and civil society should be leveraged as stakeholders on **community-based approaches** to durable solutions.

Additional area-based initiatives and programming is required to support displaced persons, hosting and displaced communities, and local authorities through:

- The identification of needs and gaps that are barriers and enablers of return and durable solutions at the local level.

- Focusing on programming at local levels based on the needs of the population and the situation and support available in each area and in, parallel, designing the ongoing humanitarian response in a way that it supports the integration of displaced people and returnees into national systems.
- Acting as a catalyst and convener by providing evidence-based analyses of the sectors that need additional support to create enabling conditions for return or integration of IDPs, and highlighting these to the national authorities, development actors, International Financial Institutions (IFIs), bilateral donors, and private sector investors.

3 While most IDPs intend and hope to return home one day, when critical barriers to return have been addressed, this option is currently not feasible for many due to ongoing hostilities in areas of origin and the scale of destruction of housing and basic infrastructure. **Additional support to IDPs and to municipalities and communities that host significant numbers of displaced persons is thus required to facilitate the temporary or longer-term local integration of IDPs.**

The majority of displaced respondents indicate that they face some challenges to locally integrate where they currently reside. As the majority of IDPs consulted state that they are currently not planning to return, additional programming is needed to **address the challenges IDPs face to become self-sufficient and locally integrate in their place of displacement, and to avoid that these challenges become a push factor for return** to unsafe and

undignified conditions, or for onward movement across borders to seek international protection abroad.

The **main barriers to be addressed are the lack of employment and sources of income (25%), adequate and stable housing (10%), and community support (10%)**. Only 29% of respondents of working age are currently employed in their area of displacement, and 47% of the respondents describe their current housing condition as worse or much worse than in their area of origin. While maintaining humanitarian assistance for the most vulnerable IDPs, support should be prioritized to hosting municipalities and local communities to facilitate self-sufficiency and local integration, by developing and implementing:

- Employment support initiatives, catered to the specific needs and profiles of displaced persons and matched to the labor market demand, to complement and increase the capacity of services provided by local authorities and the private sector.
- Additional childcare solutions because the lack of childcare options is one of the main barriers to accessing work (38%), according to the IDPs consulted.
- Temporary and longer-term housing solutions, including increasing the affordable housing stock, modular housing solutions, targeted cash programming (for rent, deposit, tenure, realtor costs), financial support to hosting families (such as Prykhystok) and catalytic and convener support with financial institutions, investors and bilateral donors.
- Community empowerment and participation projects, including integration hubs, and multi-functional community spaces and centres.

IDP Intentions and Perspectives Survey

Introduction

Since the Russian Federation's invasion of Ukraine in February 2022, nearly one-third of the population that was residing in Ukraine remain forcibly displaced from their homes. Deadly shelling and missile attacks continue, causing destruction, civilian injuries and deaths in different areas of Ukraine. Hostilities continue to destroy critical infrastructure, leaving millions without access to basic lifelines such as health services, water, electricity, and gas supplies.

While the majority of refugees and large numbers of IDPs are still displaced, persons displaced abroad and within Ukraine have continued to return to their areas of origin during the war or have expressed a clear intent or hope to return home. In order to obtain information on the main challenges and enabling factors influencing the intentions of Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) within Ukraine, UNHCR and the World Bank jointly initiated a series of IDP Intention and Perspective Surveys. The objective of the surveys is to collect primary data

around the profiles, intentions, situation, needs and perspectives of IDPs within Ukraine in order to ensure the centrality of their voices in durable solutions discussions about their future, as well as to inform evidence-based programming and priorities of the Sectoral Working Group on refugee and IDP returns and reintegration under the National Plan.

This report presents the main findings from the first round of data collection relating to return intentions of IDPs within Ukraine and complements UNHCR's Regional Refugee Intentions and Perspective Surveys. The report aims to establish a baseline on the current profiles and perspectives of displaced people inside Ukraine. The IDP Intention Surveys will be conducted on a regular basis, in coordination with and complementary to other refugee and IDP durable solutions data collection and analysis exercises, in order to monitor and analyse trends and changes in the situation in a timely manner and to adjust response plans accordingly.

Methodology

2,900

respondents

77%

of respondents are female

2.6

average household size

Between 5 and 30 December 2022, UNHCR and Right to Protection (R2P) conducted a total of 2,900 phone interviews with IDPs who are, and who were residing in Ukraine before the start of the international armed conflict in February 2022. Respondents were selected based on a stratified sample from the UNHCR IDP cash enrollment database and were asked for consent to participate in structured interviews to better understand their situation, future plans and expectations. The stratification is done at oblast of origin level (based upon the twelve most war-affected oblasts in Northern, Southern and Eastern macro-regions and Kyiv city) to ensure that the results are representative of the target population at oblast level.

Most heads of household registered in UNHCR's enrollment database are female. The respondent sample is, therefore, largely composed of women, with 77% of the respondents being female. 50% of the households represented in the sample have children among their dependents. The average household, at the time of their displacement, was composed of 2.63 individuals, of which 31% were children and 20% older persons above 60 years old.

The findings of the survey are complemented with qualitative data from focus group discussions that took place in five oblasts in order capture participants' experiences in displacement and understand the factors influencing their plans, which

helped interpret some of the quantitative results. The margin of error at oblast level does not exceed 7%, except for Zhytomyrska oblast (38 respondents, margin of error 16%) and Kyiv (105 respondents, margin of error 10%) where the target number of respondents was not reached due to a high number of returnees. The margin of error for the entire sample is 2%. The overall response rate is 40 percent.

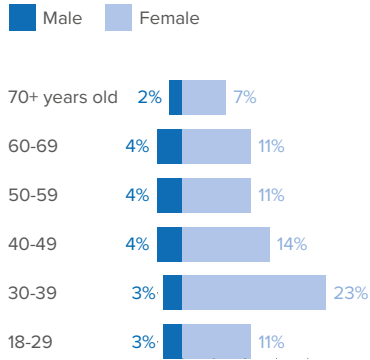
The results presented in this report must be interpreted according to the limitations of the methodology and continuous movements of displaced persons within Ukraine:

- The sampling for the survey is based on UNHCR's enrollment for cash assistance. An IDP must meet one or more vulnerability criteria² to be enrolled in the database, and enrollment centres do not cover the entire country, meaning that the sample used for the survey cannot necessarily be extrapolated to the population of IDPs in Ukraine as a whole.
- The results reflect the situation and intentions of IDPs at the time of the data collection, which may subsequently change depending on a wide range of factors.

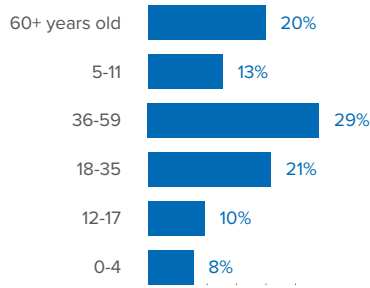
With the goal of facilitating the further use and analysis of the survey data, the full survey questionnaire and anonymized version of the microdata will be made public to external audiences in [UNHCR's Microdata Library](#).

2. To receive cash assistance, an individual must be an IDP in addition to meeting one or more of the following vulnerability criteria: a) single-headed households with at least two minor children or family members above the age of 60; b) older persons (over 60 years of age) heading households; c) households with one or more persons with specific needs; and/or d) foster families caring for unaccompanied and separated children.

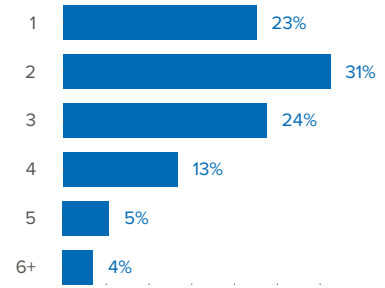
RESPONDENTS' AGE AND GENDER



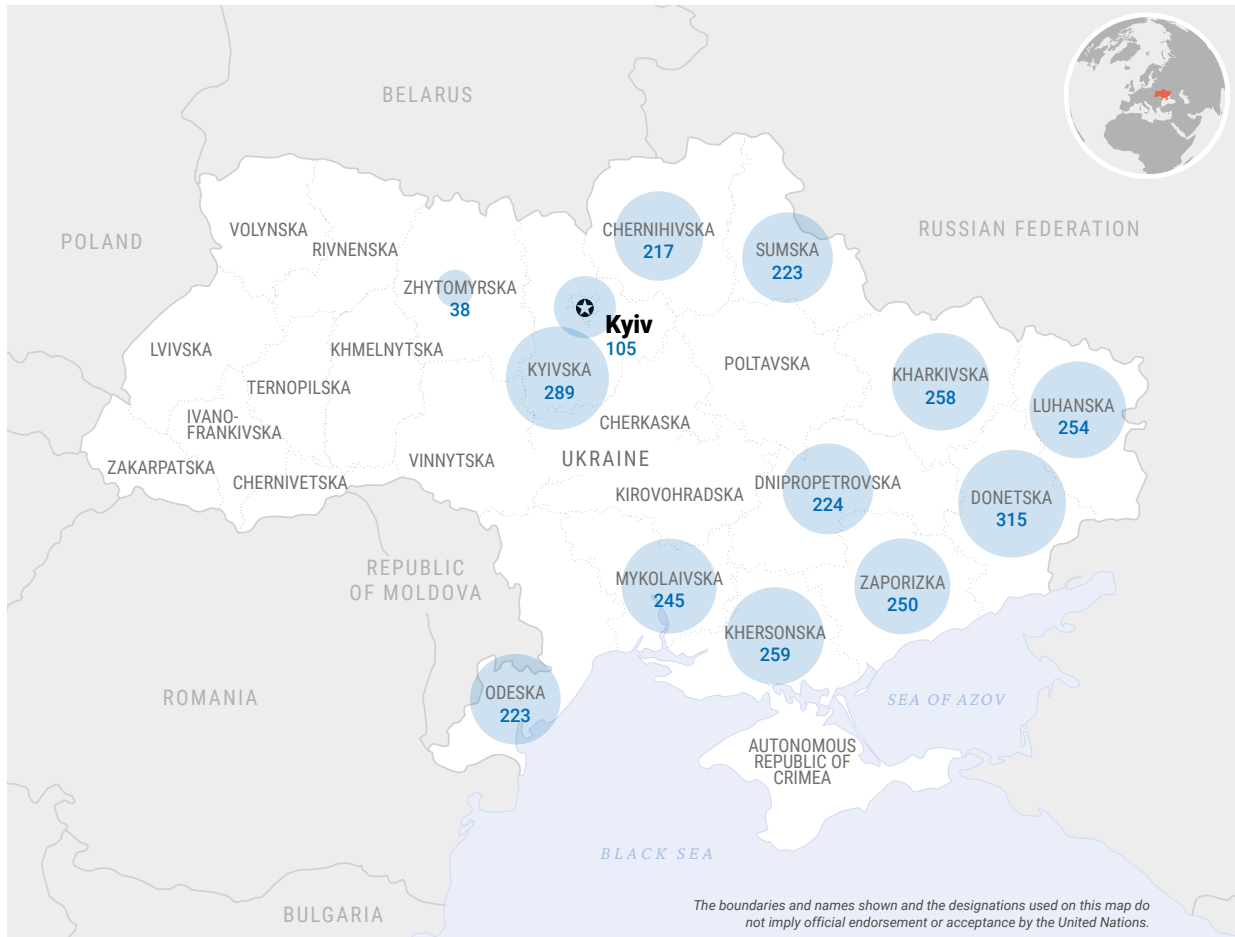
HOUSEHOLD COMPOSITION BY AGE



HOUSEHOLD SIZE DISTRIBUTION



NUMBER OF RESPONDENTS PER OBLAST OF ORIGIN



Key Research Questions

- What are the return intentions or plans of IDPs in the short/medium/long term and how are they changing over time?
- What are the differences in the profiles and current situation of individuals intending to return in the short/medium/long term and those not intending to return?
- What are the main enabling factors influencing intentions of IDPs to return? What differences exist based upon area of origin?
- What are the main challenges to local integration for IDPs? Is there a risk that these challenges become a push factor for return?

Return Intentions

The majority of the respondents are able to make a well-informed decision to return, with 75% stating that they have sufficient information to make their decision to return. Of the 2,900 respondents, **12% plan to return to their place of origin within the next three months, 67% hope to return one day, 9% are still undecided, 7% have no hope to ever return home, and 5% preferred not to answer the question.**

12%

plan to return in the next three months³

The majority of respondents who plan to return within the next three months are planning to return to the same place where they lived before **24 February (96%) and with all family members (74%)**. Families with children are less likely to return during the next three months than families without children. **The plan to return depends strongly on the security situation and whether the area of origin remains under the temporary military control of the Russian Federation.** Respondents from oblasts with territory that remains under the temporary military control of the Russian Federation

(Luhanska, Zaporizka, Donetsk and Khersonska) are less likely to return within the next three months. Within the coming months, **return will mostly take place in northern oblasts**, where return movements have already taken place in larger numbers and where the overall security situation is more stable, **and to Mykolaivska**, where the security situation recently improved.

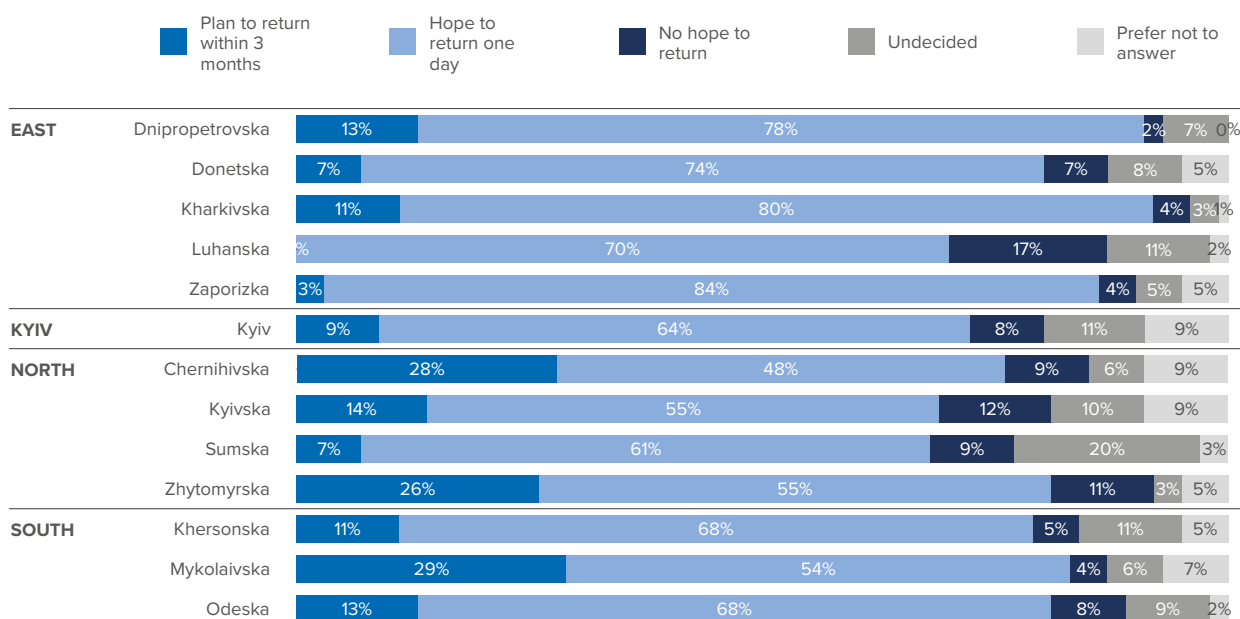
“

We are feeling a lot of uncertainty about a potential return. On the one hand we really would like to return as soon as possible, but on the other hand we really do not know when the situation will allow us to return. We are not planning for the short or medium to long term return, but we are living from day to day.”

– IDP family in Ivano-Frankivsk

3. The plan to return within the next three months refers to the period between January and March 2023 as the survey was conducted in December 2022.

RETURN INTENTIONS



67%

hope to return one day

9%

are undecided about return

While only 13% of the respondents plan to return within the next three months, **67% still hope to return to their place of origin one day** if the situation allows. **The security situation and whether the area of origin remains under the temporary military control of the Russian Federation has little negative impact on the hope to return one day** as these factors are still fluid and dynamic. Consequently, the hope to return is relatively high among respondents from areas that are currently still temporarily under control of the Russian Federation.

The **housing condition in the area of origin**, however, **has a strong effect on the hope to return one day**. This explains why the hope to return one day is still relatively low among respondents from areas that no longer experience active fighting or that were retaken by the Government of Ukraine several months ago, such as Kyivska, Chernihivska, and Zhytomyrska oblasts and Kyiv city. On average, 37% of the respondents who have no hope to return to these oblasts indicate that their houses have been completely destroyed, while the overall average in this survey is 10%.

9% of the respondents are still undecided about their intention to return. **Respondents whose areas of origin are close to the current frontline or border the Russian Federation are more likely to be indecisive about return** due to the unpredictability of the situation and consequent feeling of insecurity. Respondents from Sumska, for example, are relatively indecisive about return in comparison to IDPs from oblasts experiencing active fighting and constant attacks, where the respondents more clearly express an intention not to return in the near future. While Sumska was retaken by the Government of Ukraine in April, the closeness to the border with the Russian Federation exacerbates the already existing levels of unpredictability and uncertainty of the conflict.

7%

have no hope to return

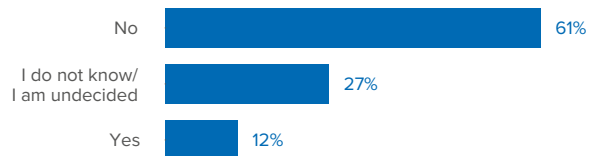
7% of the respondents no longer have the hope to return one day. The main reason why these respondents have lost the hope to return one day is the lack of adequate housing in the area of origin (32%). Among the respondents who have no hope to return one day, 38% indicates that their house in the area of origin is completely destroyed, while the national average of respondents citing that their house is destroyed is 10%. This percentage is particularly high for the Eastern macro-region, where there are high levels of destruction. For example, 17% of the respondents from Luhanska oblast have no longer hope to return and 29% indicate that their house in the area of origin is completely destroyed, both significantly higher than the averages. Similar trends are visible for northern oblasts, where houses and properties got damaged and destroyed during the first months of the war.

12%

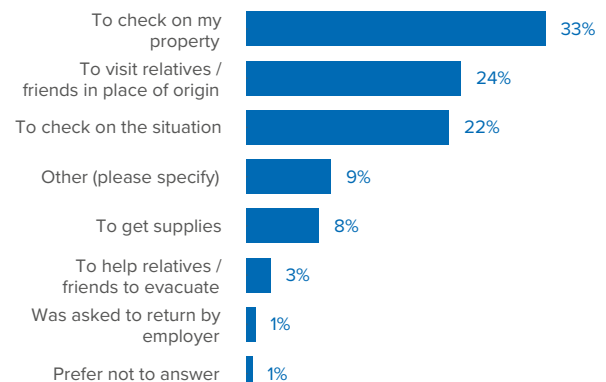
plan to temporarily visit the place of origin

Most respondents (61%) have never visited their place of origin since being displaced after February 2022. Respondents from oblasts which remain under the temporary military occupation of the Russian Federation are less likely to have visited their place of origin since their displacement after February 2022: Luhanska (98%), Khersonska (88%), Zaporizka (87%) and Donetska (79%). Respondents from northern oblasts indicate, on average, that they have visited their places of origin more often than respondents from other areas. The main reasons why respondents have visited their homes are to get supplies and to check on property or the overall situation in their areas of origin. **Checking on property and the overall situation, together with family visits are also the main reasons why respondents are planning to conduct a short visit to their areas of origin during the coming months.** However, **only 12% of the respondents indicated that they plan to conduct a short visit within the next three months.**

ARE YOU PLANNING TO VISIT YOUR AREA OF ORIGIN TEMPORARILY AS A VISIT IN THE NEXT 3 MONTHS?



IF YES, WHAT IS THE MAIN REASON WHY YOU WANT TO VISIT TO YOUR PLACE OF ORIGIN? (N=302)

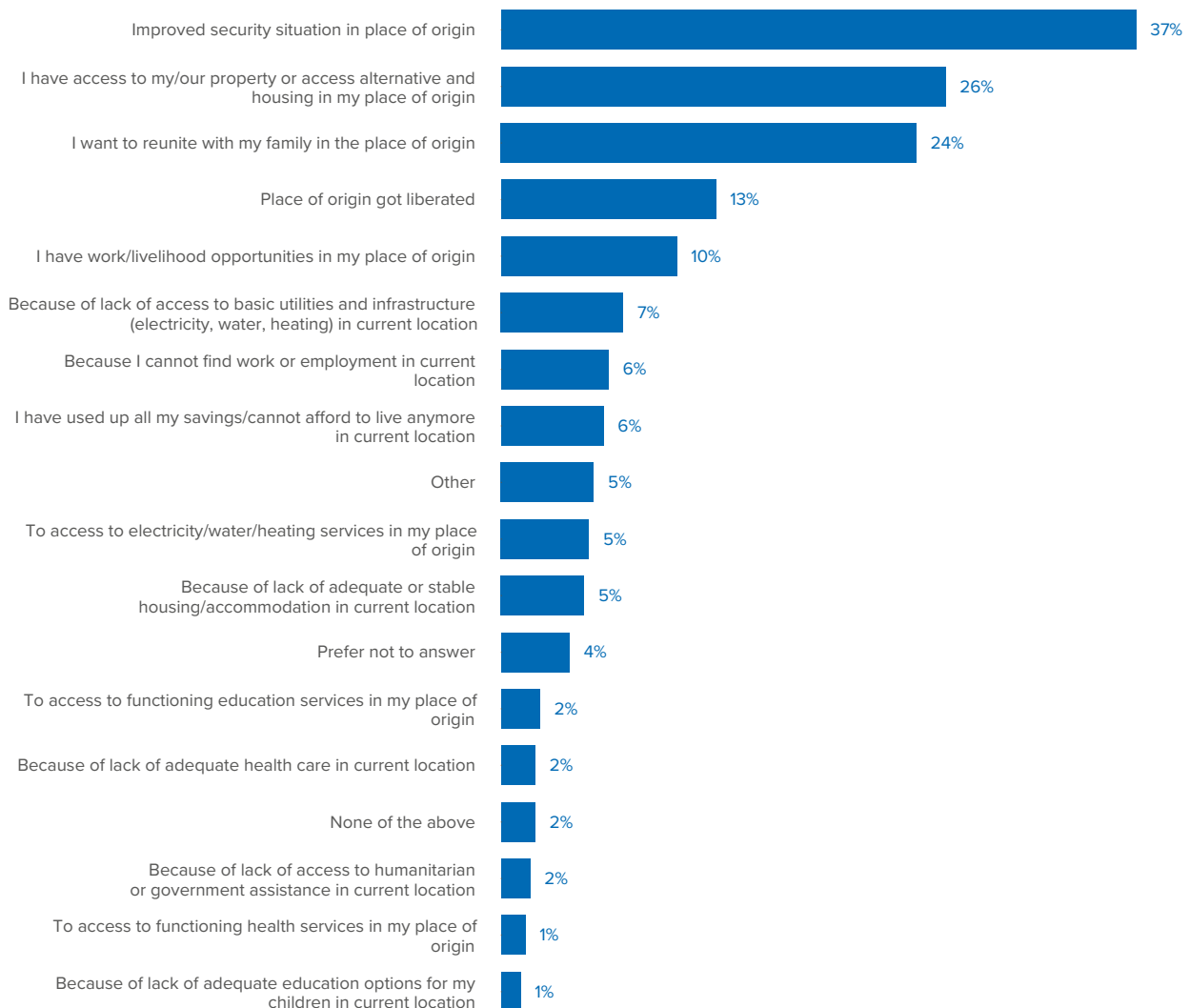


Reasons for Return

The **improved security situation in the area of origin (37%)** is the main reason why respondents plan to return, especially in areas where the **Ukrainian government has regained control over the area of origin (13%)**.

After general safety concerns, **access to adequate housing (26%)** is in all oblasts the main reason why respondents plan to return, followed by family reunification (24%) and access to employment (10%).

WHAT ARE THE MAIN REASONS WHY YOU INTEND TO RETURN PERMANENTLY TO YOUR PLACE OF ORIGIN WITHIN THE NEXT 3 MONTHS?



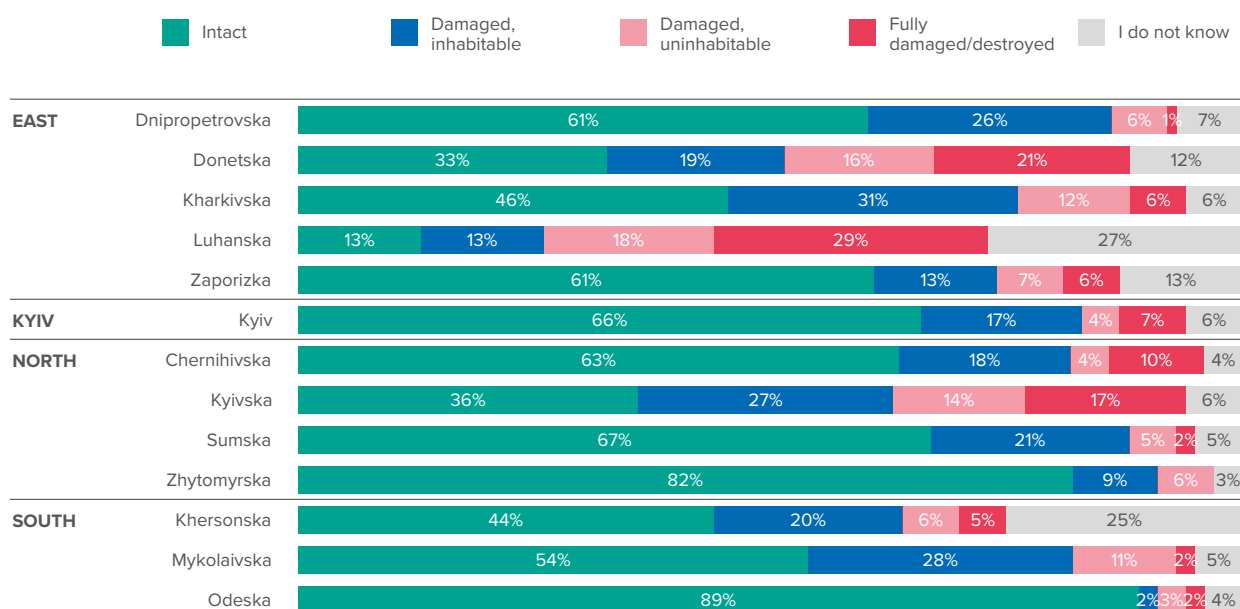
The majority (84%) of respondents indicate that they own a home in their areas of origin and, of the homeowners, at least 40% mention some level of damage to their house: damaged and inhabitable (20%), damaged and uninhabitable (10%) or completely destroyed (10%).



The Severodonetsk area sustained significant damage due to the conflict. Our house is destroyed. We have no place to return to.”

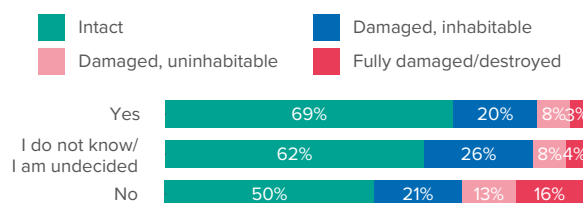
– Female IDP in Ivano-Frankivsk

HOUSING CONDITION BY OBLAST



There is a **strong correlation between the housing condition in the area of origin and the intention to return**. Respondents whose house is still intact are more likely to return during the next three months in comparison to respondents whose house is partly damaged or fully destroyed: 69% of the respondents who plan to return in the next three months state that their house is intact, while only 50% of the respondents who do not plan to return in the coming months report that their house is intact.

PLAN TO RETURN VS HOUSING CONDITION



Enablers for Return

The **main enablers for return one day** are an **improved security situation, an end to the international armed conflict and the retaking of territory by the Government of Ukraine** in the area of origin. These three factors are the main enablers for all oblasts of origin.



The security situation in areas close to the frontline is too unpredictable. Kramatorsk is under constant shelling. It is too dangerous to live there.”

– Male IDP from Kramatorsk

In addition to these three factors, **access to property and housing (80%) is the main enabler for return to areas of origin**. In all oblasts of origin, lack of access to adequate housing is the most crucial barrier to dignified and sustainable return according to the responses by displaced people consulted in this survey. After housing, the main enablers of return are **access to basic water and electricity infrastructure (76%), access to health care services (70%) and access to work (66%)**.



We will need construction materials to rebuild our homes, and legal assistance to receive compensation for our destroyed and damaged homes.”

– IDP residing in Vinnytsia

Similar barriers and enablers to return were confirmed during focus group discussions with IDP respondents across the country. However, **concerns about the lack of (information on) legal compensation mechanisms for destroyed and damaged housing and mine contamination in the areas of return** were frequently mentioned as factors that would influence a decision on return.



We remember the situation in 2014, and the mined forests near Severodonetsk. If we want to stay in Ukraine and return home, does this imply that we will never be able to go for a walk in the neighboring forests again with our children?”

– IDP from Severodonetsk

While the degree of destruction and the security situation may differ from oblast to oblast, **enablers for return do not differ significantly between the different [oblasts of origin](#)**⁴.

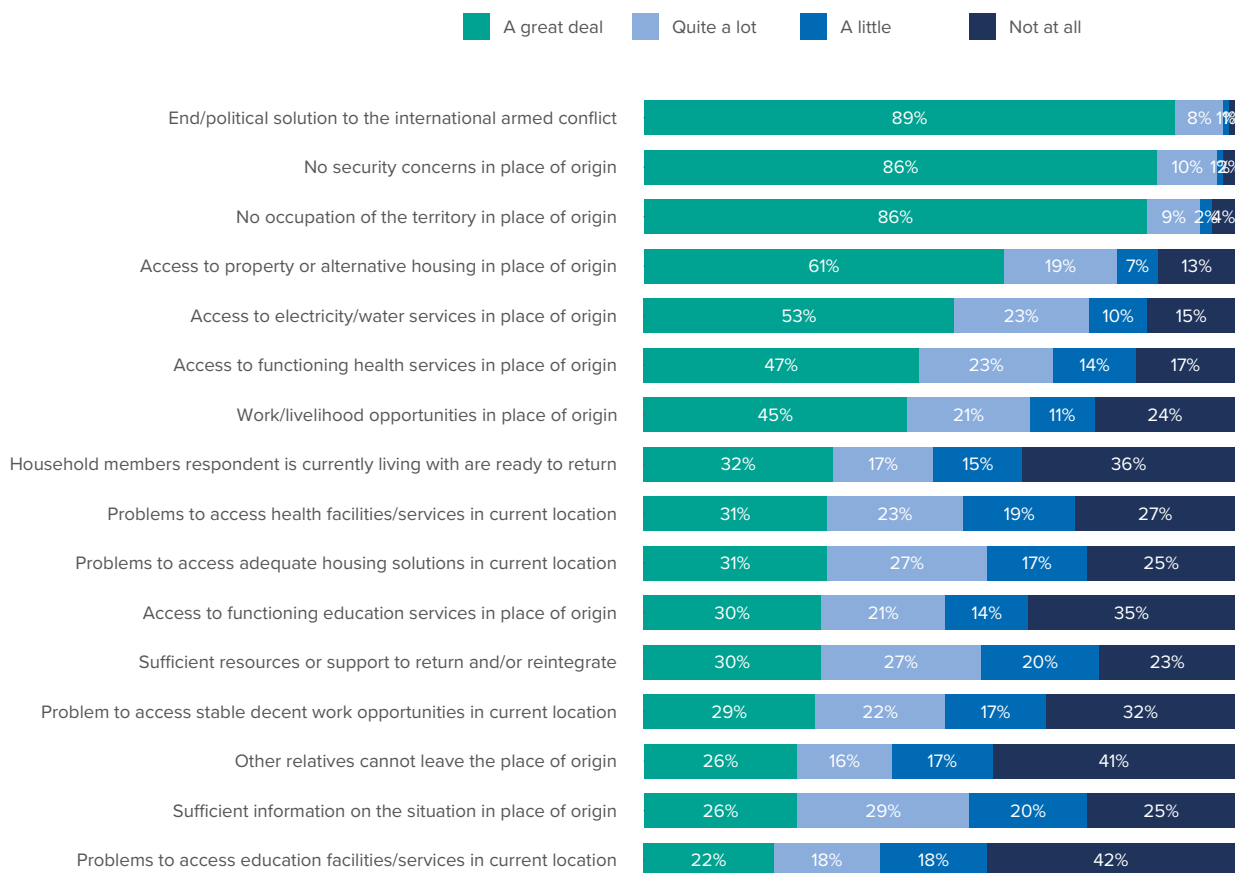


The living conditions and the problems we face here do not affect our intention to return. Our desire is to return home. Once the issues in our area of origin are solved, we will return.”

– IDP family in Chernivtsi

4. Oblast profiles were developed to highlight differences in barriers and enablers to return per oblast of origin. Findings presented in the oblast profiles might not be representative due to the lower number of respondents for the selected indicators in the profiles. Indicators with less than 25 respondents (less than 20% margin of error) are omitted from the oblast profiles..

DECISION ON WHETHER TO RETURN DEPENDS ON THE FOLLOWING FACTORS

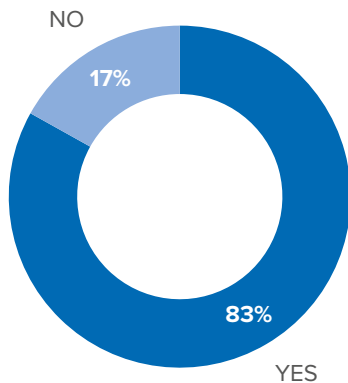


Factors in the area of origin are a stronger influence on the decision to return than challenges in the areas of displacement. However, the majority of respondents who hope to return one day indicate that **lack of adequate housing (58%), obstacles to access health facilities (54%) and lack of work opportunities (51%) in the areas of**

displacement would significantly (quite a lot or a great deal) impact their decision on whether to return one day. These challenges are not just barriers to local integration, but could also become push factors for return, if they remain unaddressed.

Challenges for Local Integration

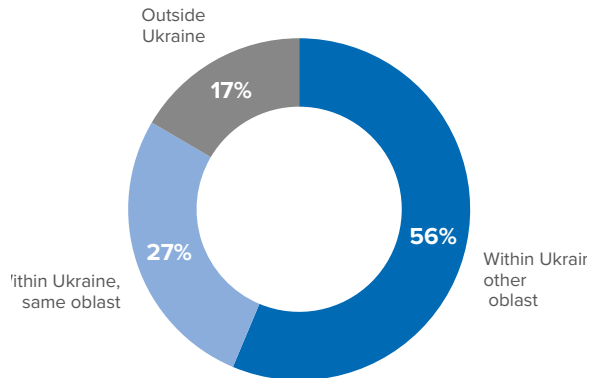
IS YOUR CURRENT PLACE OF RESIDENCE YOUR FIRST PLACE OF DISPLACEMENT SINCE THE WAR STARTED?



Most respondents (62%) consulted in the survey were displaced before May 2022, while 5% of the respondents were displaced in the three months immediately before the survey was conducted. The vast majority of respondents (83%) indicate that their current place of residence is their first place of displacement, which indicates that **secondary displacement is limited among the survey respondents**.

Of those respondents who had previously been displaced in a location other than their current location, the majority were displaced within Ukraine, while **only 17% had been displaced as refugees abroad**. This confirms, however, that **a proportion of Ukrainian refugees who return to the country, return to internal displacement rather than to their places of origin inside Ukraine**. The third round of UNHCR's regional survey on the intentions of Ukrainian refugees similarly finds that 8% of the refugee respondents who plan to return within the next three months, plan to relocate to a location inside Ukraine different from their area of origin. For respondents from the eastern macro-region, this percentage was even higher (13%).

IF YOU WERE DISPLACED ELSEWHERE BEFORE, WHERE WAS YOUR PREVIOUS/LAST PLACE OF DISPLACEMENT BEFORE YOUR CURRENT PLACE OF RESIDENCE?



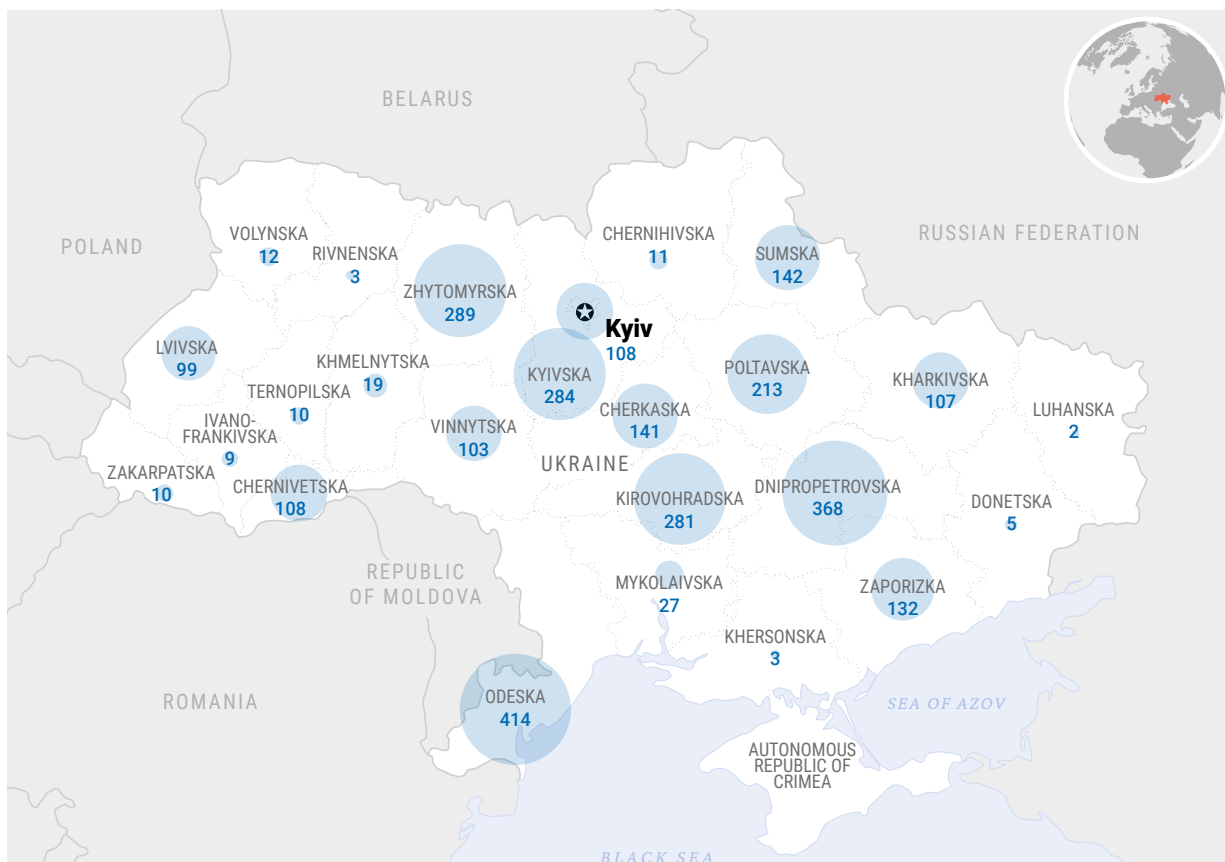
The majority of respondents are displaced within the macro-region of their place of origin. Having family or friends and being close to home are the top two reasons why respondents decided to reside in their current place of displacement. **The majority of respondents (88%) with no immediate plans to return are planning to stay in the current location of their displacement.** Some of these respondents have no hope or intention to return one day and are planning to locally integrate in their current place of residence.



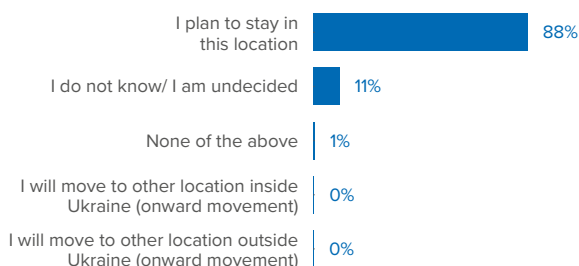
My family and my children are happy here and want to stay. We see our future here."

– IDP residing in host community in Lviv

RESPONDENTS PER OBLAST OF CURRENT DISPLACEMENT

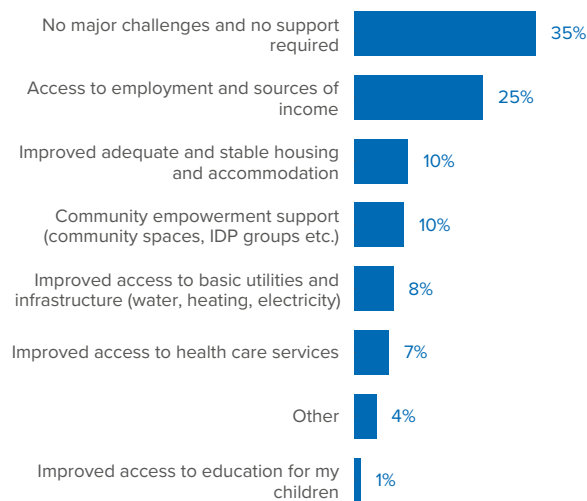


WHAT ARE YOUR MOVEMENT INTENTIONS SINCE YOU DO NOT PLAN TO RETURN PERMANENTLY TO PLACE OF ORIGIN WITHIN THE NEXT 3 MONTHS?



While some respondents indicated that they do not face major challenges to locally integrate, the **main barriers for local integration mentioned are the lack of employment and sources of income (25%), lack of adequate and stable housing (10%), and lack of community participation and empowerment support (10%)**. While peaceful coexistence between hosting and displaced communities is, in general, not a major challenge, focus group participants do mention instances of discrimination and verbal abuse, especially towards Russian speakers.

AS YOU ARE PLANNING TO STAY IN THE SAME LOCATION, WHAT IS THE MAIN CHALLENGE YOU FACE TO LOCALLY INTEGRATE FOR WHICH YOU MIGHT REQUIRE SUPPORT?



People tell us that we, the people from the East, started this war and our children get bullied because they do not speak Ukrainian well.”

– Female IDP from Luhansk

Integration challenges are relatively similar in the oblasts of displacement, and in all oblasts, **access to employment is the main challenge reported by respondents**. However, some differences between the oblasts of displacement are noticeable. Respondents who currently live in Cherkaska, Dnipropetrovska, Kirovohradska and Kyivska oblast face more challenges to seek employment and sources of income than respondents from other oblasts. Lack of stable and adequate housing is a challenge mainly in Cherkaska and Poltavaska oblasts. Respondents residing in Kyivska oblast face the most local integration challenges. Other than employment, the lack of access to community empowerment support (such as community spaces) is reported as a challenge to integration. Access to basic utilities and infrastructure is a bigger challenge in Odesa in comparison to other oblasts. Lastly, access to health care is a bigger challenge in Poltavaska, Sumska and Zaporizka, in comparison to other oblasts.

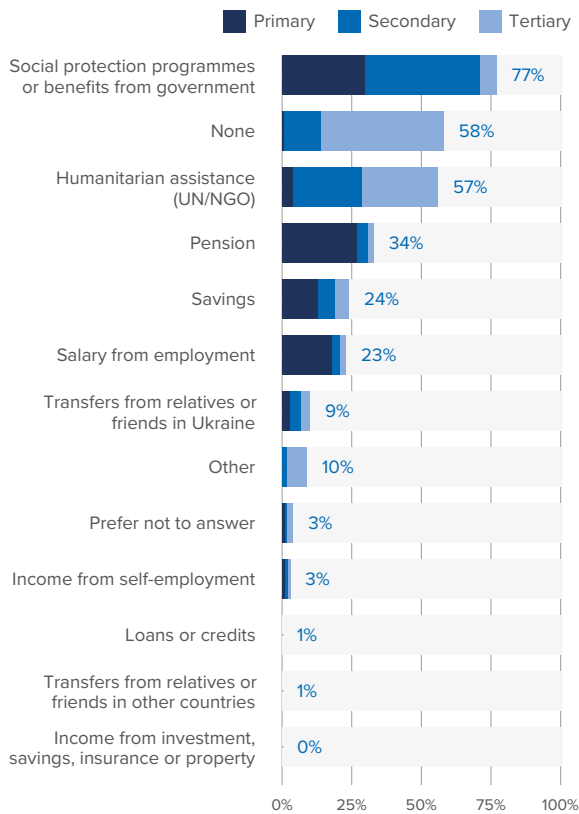
AS YOU ARE PLANNING TO STAY IN THE SAME LOCATION, WHAT IS THE MAIN CHALLENGE YOU FACE TO LOCALLY INTEGRATE FOR WHICH YOU MIGHT REQUIRE SUPPORT?

	Access to employment and sources of income	Community empowerment support (community spaces, IDP groups etc.)	Improved access to basic utilities and infrastructure (water, heating, electricity)	Improved access to education for my children	Improved access to health care services	Improved adequate and stable housing and accommodation	No major challenges and no support required	Other
Cherkaska	30%	5%	9%	2%	5%	15%	30%	5%
Dnipropetrovska	27%	11%	6%	1%	6%	12%	34%	4%
Kirovohradska	27%	11%	9%	1%	5%	8%	33%	5%
Kyivska	30%	16%	6%	1%	7%	11%	26%	3%
Odeska	24%	5%	14%	2%	6%	12%	35%	4%
Poltavska	20%	8%	8%	2%	11%	15%	32%	3%
Sumska	15%	13%	10%	2%	10%	4%	37%	8%
Zaporizka	22%	11%	5%		11%	5%	40%	7%
Zhytomyrska	25%	8%	7%	1%	6%	6%	42%	6%

Income

Access to a source of income is problematic for the majority of displaced persons and the dependency on social benefits, pensions and humanitarian assistance is high: **70% of the respondents indicated that during the last three months their income was insufficient to meet basic needs**, while social protection programmes, humanitarian assistance, pension or savings were highlighted as the three main sources of income.

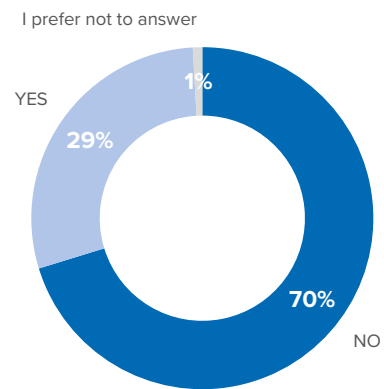
THE TOP THREE SOURCES OF YOUR HOUSEHOLD'S INCOME LAST MONTH



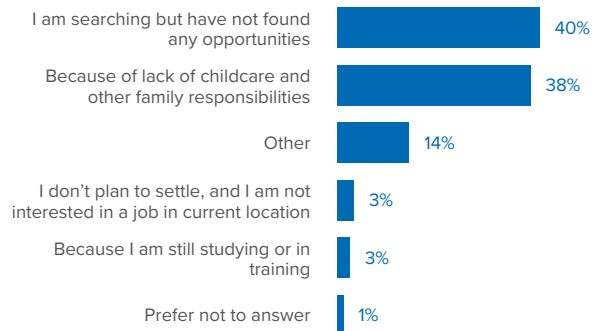
Employment

Only 29% of respondents of working age are currently employed in their area of displacement, and only 18% indicate that a salary from employment is the primary source of income. Lack of decent employment opportunities and childcare arrangements are the main barriers to seeking employment.

ARE YOU CURRENTLY WORKING?



WHY ARE YOU CURRENTLY NOT WORKING?





It is very challenging to become employed in Vinnytsia region. When employers hear that you are a displaced person, they won't consider hiring you. They think we will return home soon and will have to look again for another person. They are not giving me a chance."

– Male IDP in Vinnytsia



The main challenge is the price of a rented accommodation. For instance, I live in apartment with my two children because we do not want to stay in collective centre. All my savings are gone. Without government support, I would not be able to afford renting an apartment with my children."

– single mother in Lviv

Housing

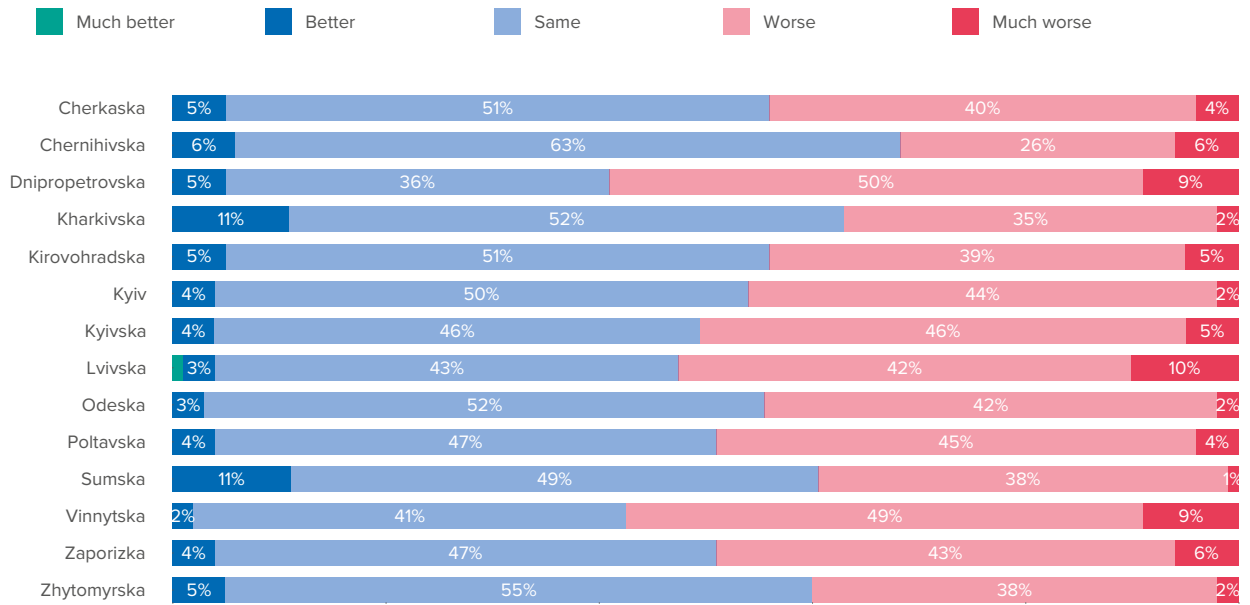
The majority of respondents are renting (46%) or hosted by family, host families or other IDPs (47%) in their current location. Only 5% of survey respondents are living in collective centres. Participants in focus group discussions mention that the majority of IDPs prefer to live in a privately rented accommodation but that the **lack of affordable housing in areas of displacement is a major issue**. Prices on the private rental market are high and unpredictable, which negatively affect the feeling of stability and chances to locally integrate. Several participants mentioned that they fear eviction on daily basis.

47% of the respondents describe their current housing condition as worse or much worse than in their area of origin.

The main reasons why the current housing conditions are considered to be worse are lack of privacy and space, or worse quality of overall construction. Residents of collective centres consider, on average, their current housing conditions (much) worse than before, while respondents hosted by families are more likely to indicate that their housing conditions improved in comparison to back home.

In Dnipropetrovska (59%), Vinnytska (58%), Lvivska (52%) and Kyivska (51%) oblasts, more than half of the respondents indicate that their living conditions are worse or much worse than in their area of origin. While in Sumska and Kharkivska, the highest number of respondents (11%) indicate that their current housing conditions are better than in their areas of origin.

ARE YOUR HOUSING CONDITIONS BETTER/SAME/WORSE THAN YOUR HOUSING CONDITIONS IN YOUR PLACE OF ORIGIN?



LIVES ON HOLD: INTENTIONS AND PERSPECTIVES OF INTERNALLY DISPLACED PERSONS IN UKRAINE

February 2023



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