



7 locations covered

101 people surveyed
 (90 female 11 male)
7 Key Informants Interviews conducted
 (6 female 1 male)

From 24 February to 31 December 2022, nearly 32,000 Ukrainians entered Albania, of which nearly 29,000 left the country. As of end December 2022, about 2,500 Ukrainians who have fled the war in Ukraine were estimated to be present in Albania.¹ Between 7 November and 31 December 2022, IOM conducted a Rapid Displacement and Needs assessment in Albania interviewing respondents in seven locations: Durres, Saranda, Tirana, Vlora, Kavaja, Vora and Shkodra to gather more in-depth information on the profiles, intentions and needs of Ukrainians present in Albania. This report presents the findings of a survey administered to 101 Ukrainian refugees between 22 November and 31 December 2022. Additionally, IOM conducted interviews with seven Key Informants (KIs) from the Albanian Red Cross, the Ministry of Interior, Caritas, and two Ukrainian nationals residing in Albania, on the 7th and 8th of November 2022.

KEY FINDINGS

- Almost 90 per cent of the Ukrainian refugees interviewed were women, half of them in the age group of 30 to 39 years old.
- The majority traveled in groups consisting of household members, usually groups of up to three persons.
- Eighty per cent were either employed or self-employed before fleeing Ukraine and arriving in Albania, with 40 per cent still employed at the time of the interview. Nonetheless, almost two-thirds of the interviewees stated that they were planning to search for work in Albania.
- The level of education among the interviewees was high, two-thirds declaring that they had a Master's degree or PhD.
- The top five regions of origin were Kyiv city and region, Kharkiv, Dnipropetrovsk, Mykolaiv, and Zaporizhzhia, accounting for over 80 per cent of the respondents.
- The Albanian Government has granted the right to reside in Albania to Ukrainian citizens for up to one year without the need for a residence permit. This has led to only a small fraction of them applying for temporary protection.
- In terms of accommodation, two-thirds were accommodated in apartments/houses for rent. The reported main challenges related to accommodation were having insufficient waste disposal facilities and insufficient heating.
- Language courses, communication with family and friends in Ukraine, and information and assistance with documentation and legal consular services were cited as the most important needs of the interviewed. The majority stated that they would like to have an Ukrainian center where they could meet, exchange information, organize events, and get to know the local culture.
- Over 80 per cent of those who have children stated their children were attending school, with the majority receiving online education from Ukraine.

BASELINE PROFILE

Sex and age disaggregated data shows the most Ukrainian refugees interviewed were females (89%), with the mean age of 39, where youngest person interviewed was 23 years old, and the oldest 66 years old. Out of the total, the largest age group was from 30 to 39 years old (49.5%).

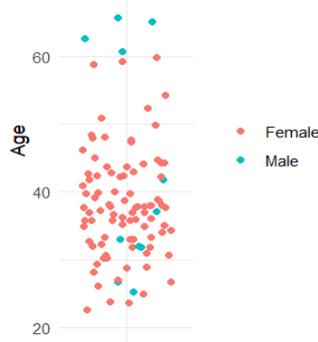


Figure 1. Sex and age distribution of Ukrainian refugees interviewed

The respondents were mostly traveling in groups (85%) that usually consisted of household members. Seventy per cent were groupings of up to three persons. The largest consisted of 10 persons. Sixty per cent were traveling with children. More than one fifth of the children were infants. Almost one fourth stated they were traveling with person/persons in serious health conditions and with specific needs. Amongst these were mostly people with chronic diseases, suffering from depression and anxiety, people with difficulties seeing, and people with difficulties walking.

Regarding the most recent employment status in Ukraine, 82% had been either employed or self-employed, mostly in the Information Communication Technology (IT), health, and educational and academic sectors. At the moment of the interviews, 40% of respondents were either employed or self-employed, working in IT, health, or education. On the other hand, 12% stated they were unemployed.

¹ IOM regularly collects information on the number of entries and exits of Ukrainian nationals in Albania. This information is shared by the Ministry of Interior.

Profile, intentions and needs

22 November – 31 December 2022

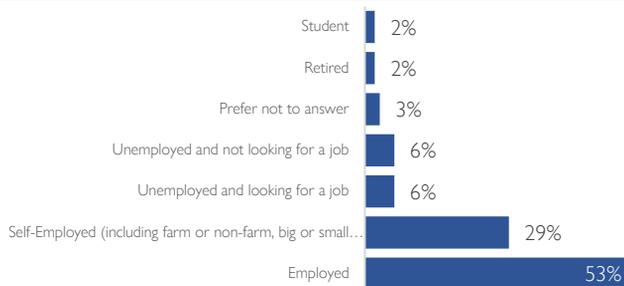


Figure 2. Most recent employment status in Ukraine of interviewed respondents

The level of education amongst the interviewed was particularly high. Two thirds of the Ukrainian refugees declared they had Masters' degree or PhD.

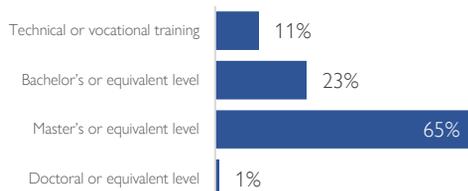


Figure 3. Highest level of completed education of interviewed respondents

On 18 March 2022, the Albanian Government has adopted two decisions related to the legal status of the Ukrainians in Albania. The first decision granted a right of residence in Albania for a period of up to one year without the need of obtaining residence permit. With the second decision, the temporary protection provision entered into force, and Ukrainians could express an intention to apply and obtain this type of protection.

Only four per cent of the interviewed sample applied for temporary protection. The largest part of the respondents who did not apply for such were aware of the government's decision which granted the right of residence in Albania for a period up to one year. On the other hand, around twenty per cent stated they did not know how to apply for temporary protection.

ANECDOTAL INFORMATION

The KIs (Ukrainian nationals) outlined three groups of Ukrainians residing in Albania:

- 1) Ukrainians with sufficient funds to rent good quality apartments for a longer period of time or buy a real estate property, and able to cover private schools' expenses for their children;
- 2) Ukrainians who worked online or who were receiving money from relatives or friends in Ukraine or other countries. They were able to sustain themselves in Albania at the time of interviews, but it was already becoming difficult as they were running out of their savings;
- 3) Ukrainians who lived with friends. This group was more likely than the others to be actively looking for jobs and were more likely to request help to find work. This was also the group of people that were more likely to need sustainable solutions to accommodation.

INTENTIONS

When asked if they intended to stay, move elsewhere in Albania or in Europe or return to Ukraine, 60% said they were planning to return to Ukraine and almost 40% stated they did not intend to move elsewhere. Only two per cent planned to move to another country. The illustration below shows the reasons for going back to Ukraine:



Figure 4. Reasons for going back to Ukraine

When asked if they were planning to search for work/job while staying in Albania, regardless of their current employment status, almost two thirds (63.4%) responded positively, pointing at sectors of health, services, education, and tourism.

ACCOMODATION

The majority (68.3%) were accommodated in apartments/houses for rent, 13% were staying with friends or family, and ten per cent were accommodated in offered apartments/houses by local residents. Based on the reduced sample of those who agreed to disclose the price of their accommodation, the average price of rent was 300 euros with the highest prices in Tirana, and lowest in Kavaja and Vora. Eight per cent said their monthly rent increased since their arrival in Albania. However, ten percent stated the monthly rent decreased compared to the prices during the summer season. When asked about the main challenges, the vast majority (71%) stated insufficient waste disposal facilities. This was followed by insufficient heating (44%), Insufficient lighting (9%) and five per cent mentioned difficulties to access for persons with disabilities. Eighteen per cent stated they did not face any problems. For details on challenges with accommodation faced by Ukrainians, please see the illustration below:

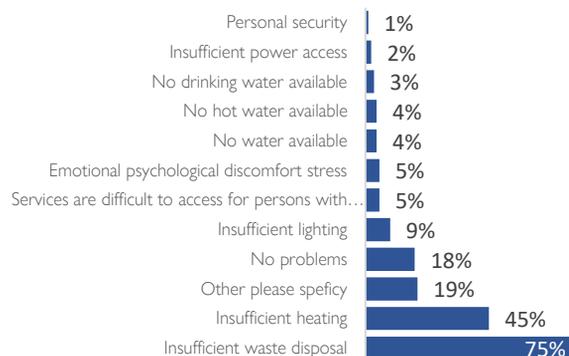


Figure 5. Main challenges Ukrainian refugees face regarding their accommodation

Profile, intentions and needs

22 November – 31 December 2022

NEEDS

Language courses were the most important need of Ukrainians residing in Albania (98% of the sample), together with communications with others in Ukraine and documentation legal consular services information and assistance.

One quarter of the respondents (25.7%) stated they had received some kind of humanitarian assistance while residing in Albania. When asked what kind of services they had received, respondents stated food products, and personal hygiene and sanitary supplies.

Results suggest that only a small fraction were consulted about their urgent needs by aid organizations (5.6%), and by government institutions (6.9%).

Most of the Ukrainians interviewed expressed the need for an Ukrainian center premises where they could meet, collect and exchange information, organize various events for Ukrainians, language courses and get to know the local culture.

SCHOOLING

More than eighty per cent of interviewed Ukrainians who have children stated that their children were attending school. Twenty-eight per cent attended private educational institutions, while the rest were going to public schools. As for the modality of school attendance, almost all stated online education from Ukraine. In addition to this, twenty per cent attended school in presence.

When respondents were asked what kind of support they needed in terms of the educational help, all referred to language courses, 78 per cent stated that they needed funds to cover expenses for textbooks and transport. Only 14 per cent of interviewed whose children were attending school, stated they have received support to integrate their children into the local school/educational system mostly from the teachers.

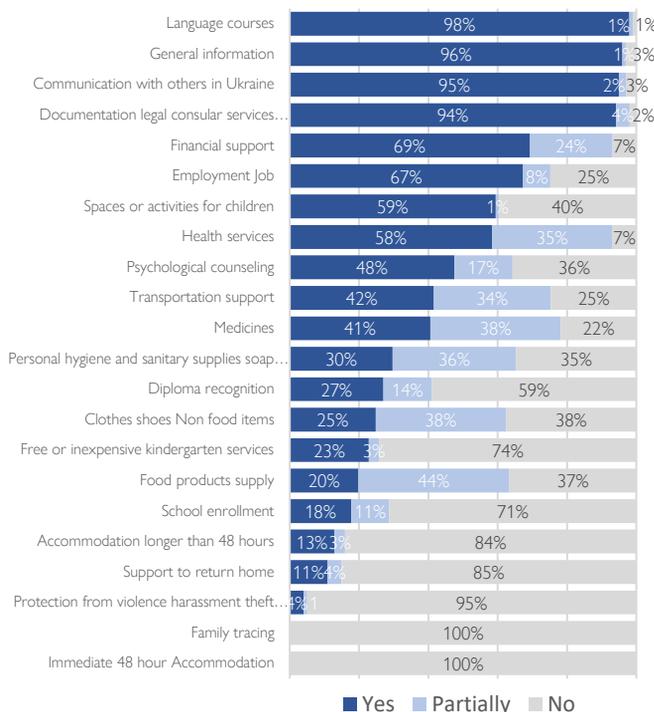


Figure 6. Most frequently cited needs by Ukrainian refugees

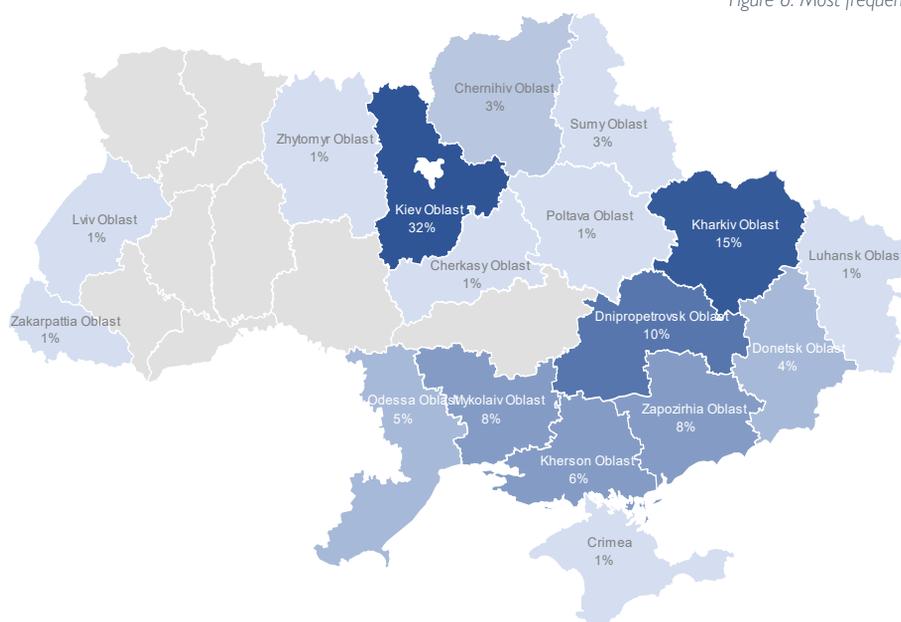


Figure 7. Main regions of origin of Ukrainian refugees residing in Montenegro (Crimea refers to Autonomous Republic of Crimea and the city of Sevastopol, Ukraine, temporarily occupied by the Russian Federation)

METHODOLOGY

Design of the data collection

The exercise aimed to provide more in-depth information on Ukrainian refugees residing in Albania in terms of profile, intentions and needs to provide additional information to first line responders, national authorities and the donor community, as well as to support a better and tailored-specific response to those in need.

Data collection methods

The rapid displacement and needs assessment used a multi-source and multi-method approach to obtain qualitative and quantitative data from a wide range of stakeholders. IOM enumerators conducted focus group discussions and interviews with KIs: officials from the Ministry of Interior, Caritas, representatives of the Albanian Red Cross, and two Ukrainian nationals who are well connected to and informed about the Ukrainian nationals residing in Albania. In addition to this, a short survey was administered directly to the refugee population of Ukraine residing in Albania. The questionnaire consisted of three main sections: baseline profile, intentions and needs. This survey was conducted by Ukrainians who were trained as enumerators for the purpose of this exercise.

Data collection period

The data collection exercise was conducted from 07 November to 31 December 2022.

Geographical coverage

Geographical coverage is limited to a selected number of locations in Albania, chosen by IOM for their known high presence of Ukrainian refugees. The information was collected in seven locations: Durrës, Saranda, Tirana, Vlora, Kavaja, Vora and Shkodra .

Target population

Ukrainian refugees departing from Ukraine starting from February 24, 2022.

Limitations and constraints

The data collection exercise was conducted in a select number of locations, not covering the whole country. The sample was convenience sample, which is not representative of the targeted population.

Ethics and consent

No personal information was collected during the data collection exercise. All respondents were informed of the voluntary nature and anonymity of the information collected. Respondents were verbally asked to give their consent to IOM's use of the information.

SUPPORTED BY :



Norwegian Ministry
of Foreign Affairs