

Key findings from the Longitudinal Study of Refugees and Returnees from Ukraine

Conference
April 3, 2024
Kyiv

Current situation of refugees from Ukraine: from emergency response and protection to return and (re)integration



Plan

1. Introduction
2. Who are the respondents?
3. Refugees from Ukraine abroad
4. Reasons and trajectories of return
5. Situation upon return to Ukraine
6. Dashboard and outputs



1. Introduction



The journey of a woman, aged 47, who fled with her son from a currently occupied area and eventually returned to Ukraine



About



Refugees

1. What are the movement trajectories of people displaced from Ukraine by the war? What is the decision-making process to stay vs. move on?
2. What are the specific challenges respondents face in the locations they decide to settle?
3. What are the facilitators and barriers to integration at the local level?



Returnees to Ukraine

1. What is the decision-making process of respondents on returning and settling back in Ukraine? What were the predictors of their return upon their arrival?
2. What are the main differences in the situations of those returnees to Ukraine who came back to the pre-war settlements vs. those who returned elsewhere?
3. What are the intentions and future aspirations of those returned?

Methodology

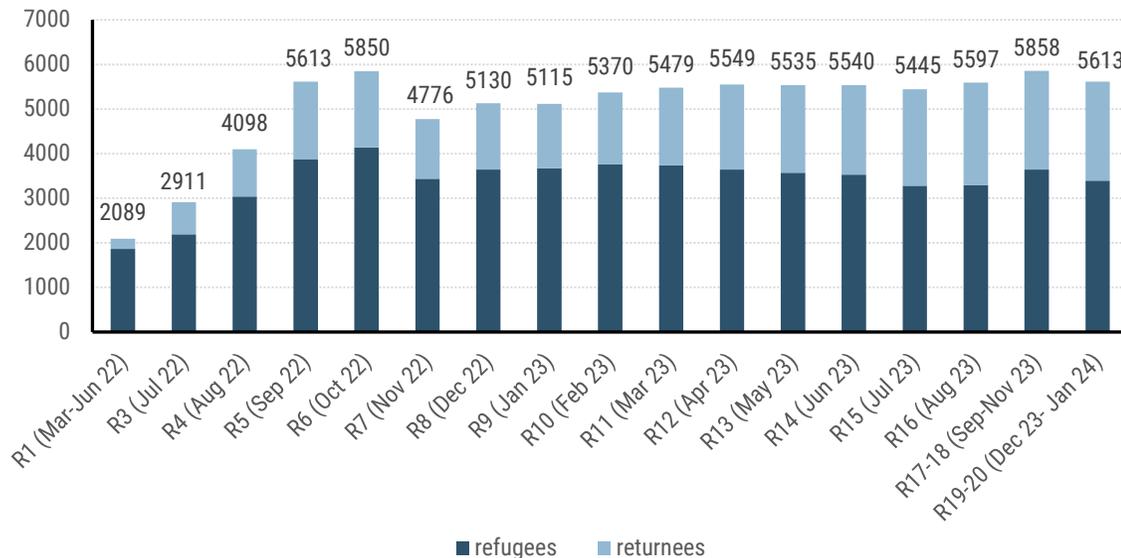
Survey sampling

- Convenience sampling
- Consent collection during border crossing in POL, SVK, HUN, ROM, MDA
- Online campaigns (Viber, Facebook, and Kyivstar)
- Consent collection in train stations

Longitudinal interviews

- Computer Assisted Telephone Interviews (CATI) in UKR/RUS
- 22 Rounds of data collection (including pilots R1 &R2): data up to December 2023 and January 2024
- R23 ongoing
- Multi-sector questionnaire

Total number of respondents per round



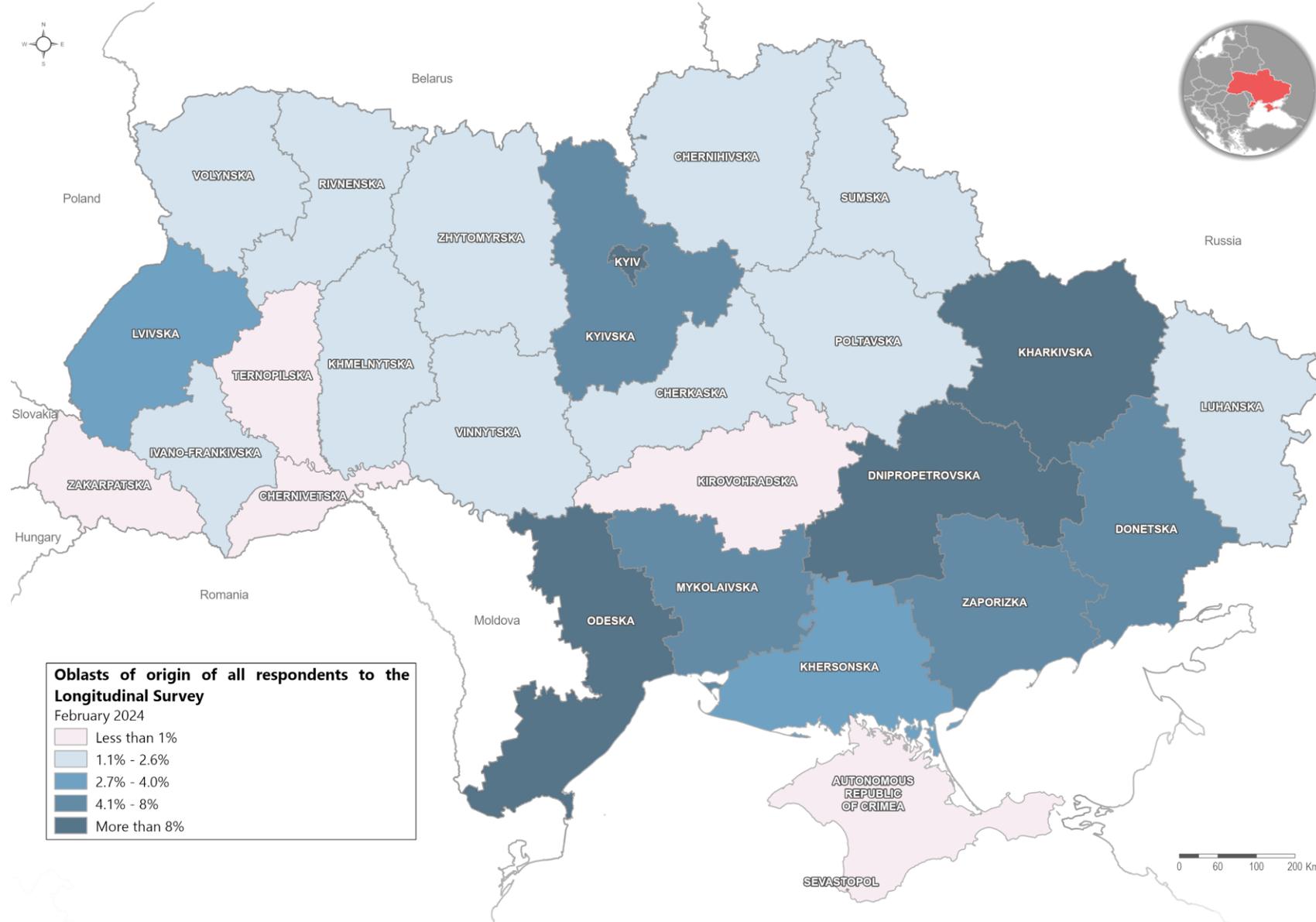
Thematic focus

- Thematic outputs: Reasons for return, refugees in Poland, former refugees in Ukraine
- Specific rounds:
 - Save the Children
 - OECD module on diploma recognition
 - IFRC Debt module of questions

2. Who are the respondents?

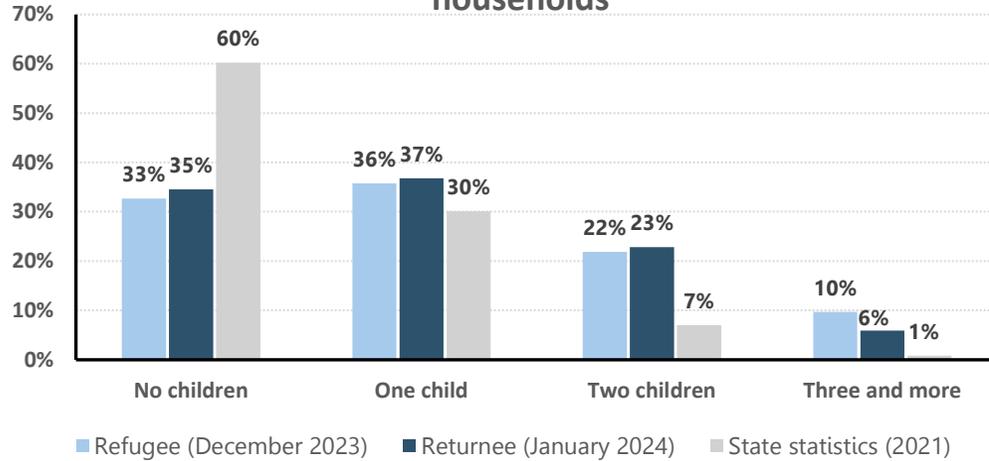


Oblast of origin of respondents



Demographics

Number of children in the households, % of households

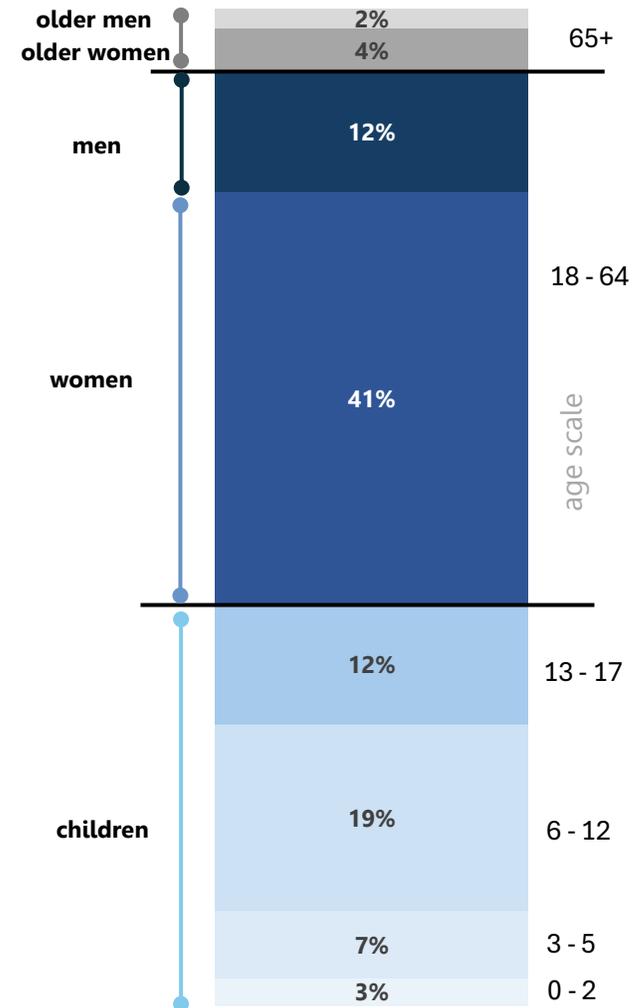


2.6 average household size in Ukraine (2021)

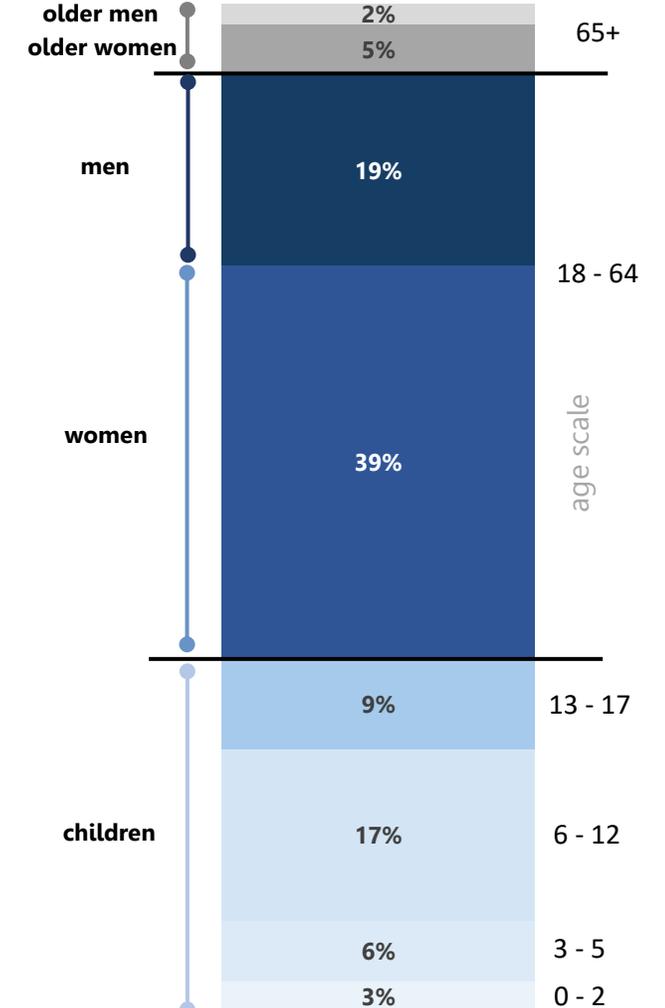
2.8 average household size of refugees (December 2023)

2.9 average household size of returnees to Ukraine (January 2024)

Refugees household composition



Returnees to Ukraine household composition



3. Refugees from Ukraine in host countries



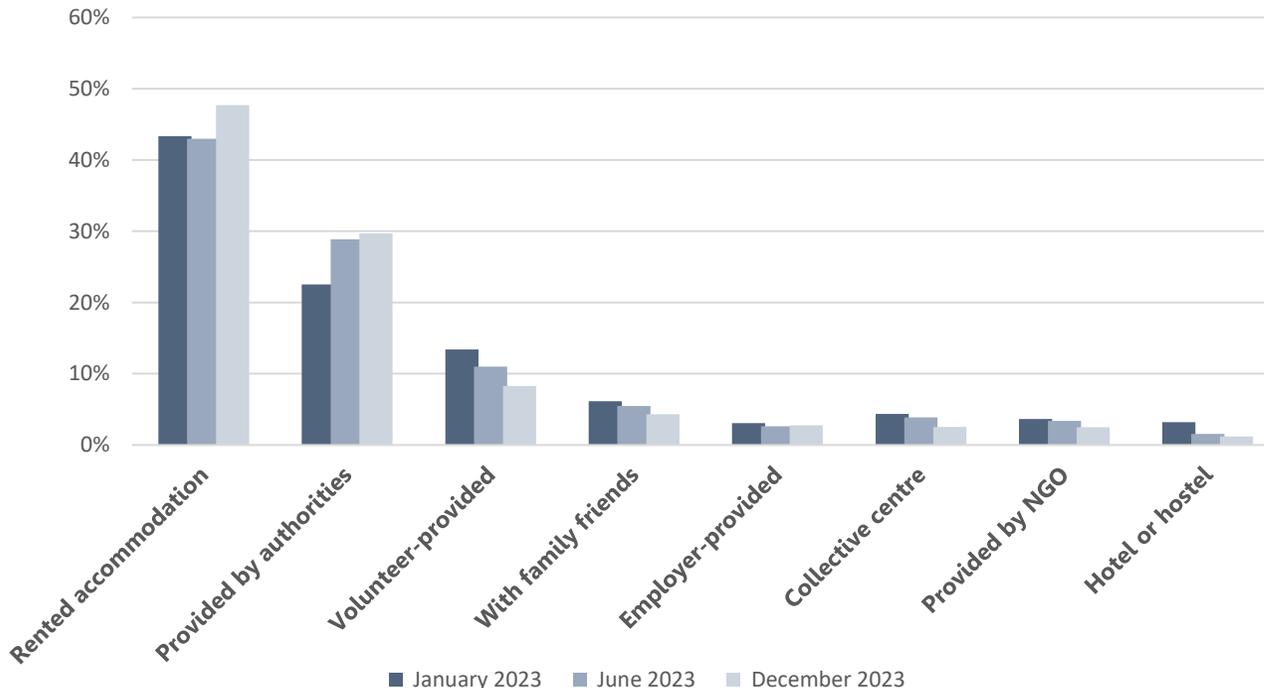
Refugee employment and rented accommodation increases over time



Over time, respondents increasingly tend to **rent (Poland)** and **stay in housing provided by authorities (Germany)**

Living arrangements of Ukrainian refugees over time

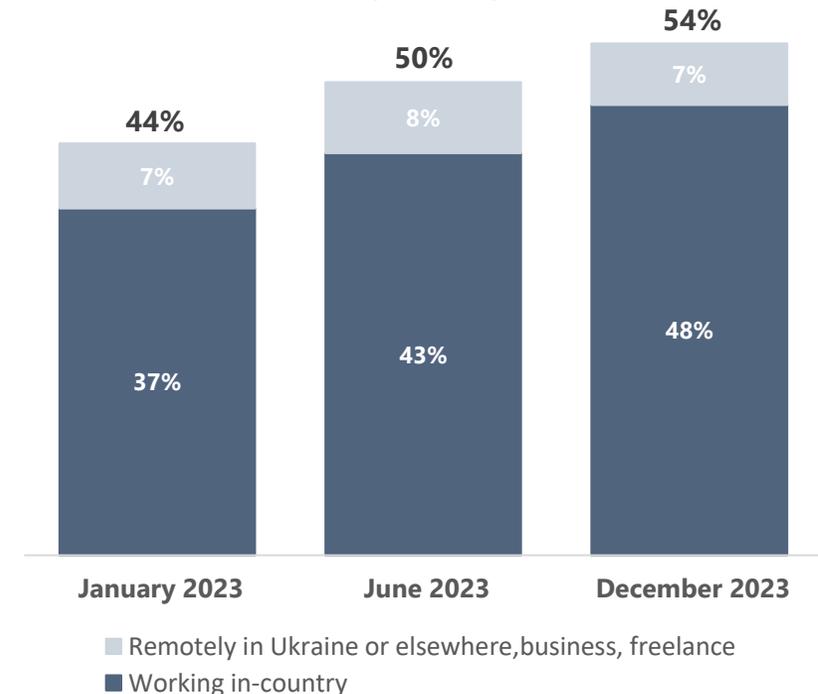
(n = 1,535)



Working-age refugees report **higher rates of employment over time**

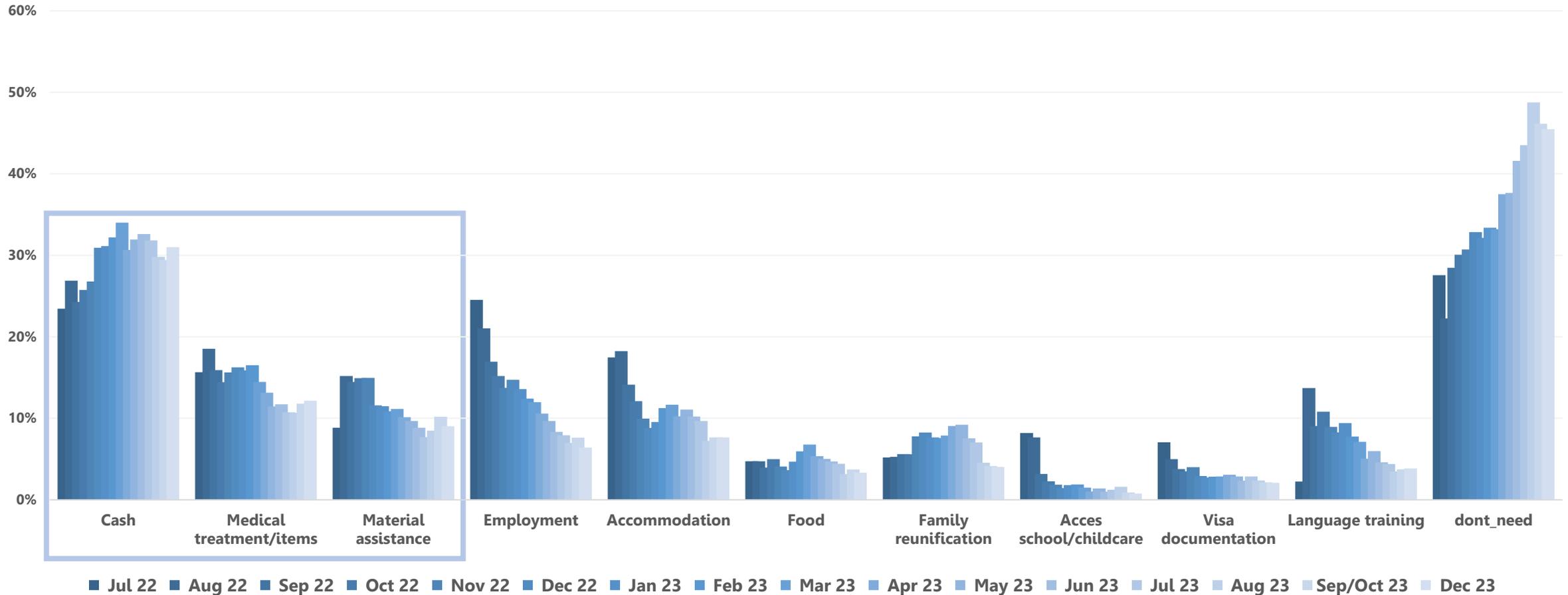
Employment-to-population ratio of Ukrainian refugees of working age (18-64) over time

(n = 1,433)



Even as employment rises, refugees abroad continue reporting urgent needs

Unmet urgent needs (top 10) over time

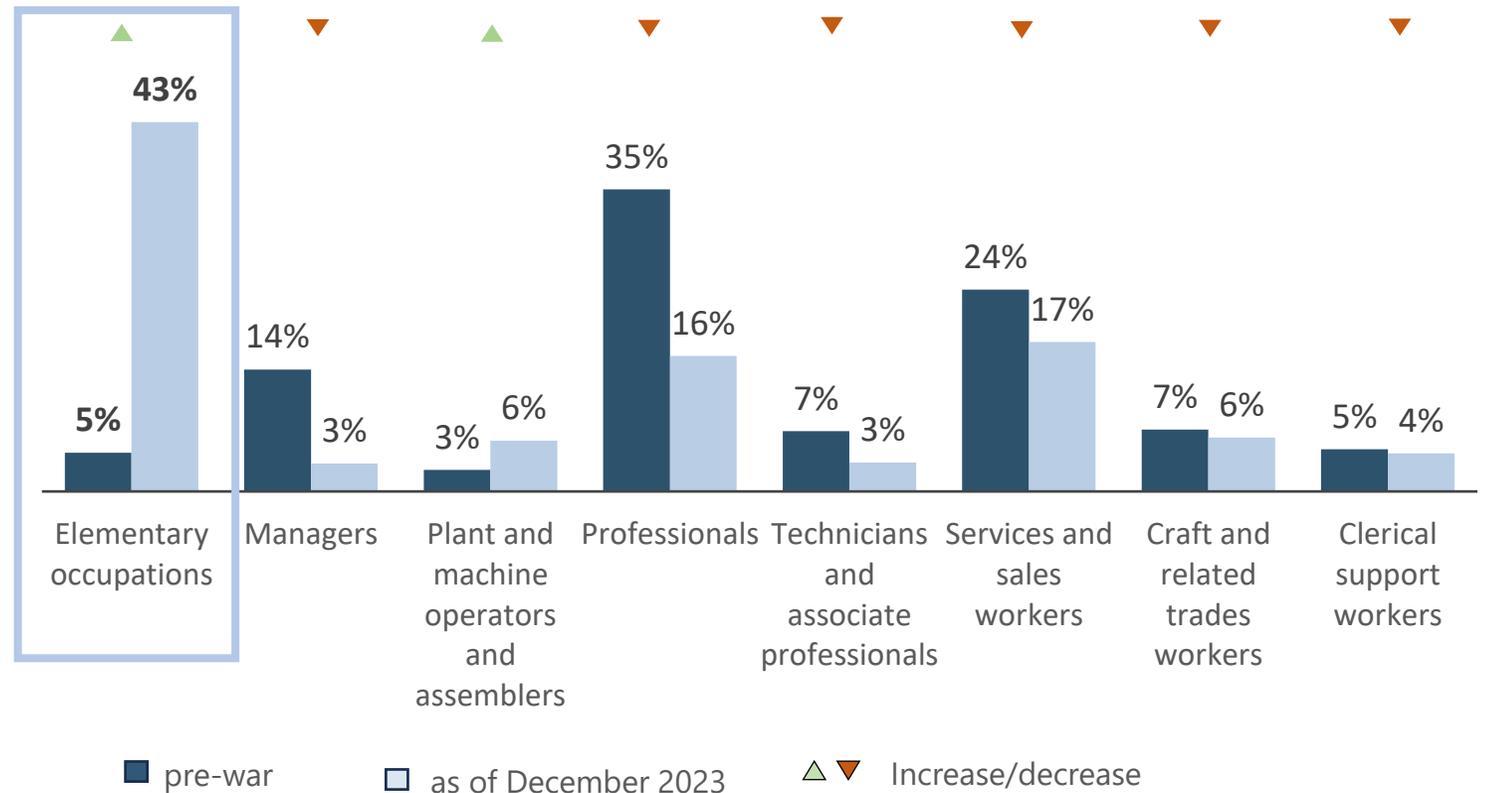


Poland zoom-in: employment increases, but occupations are mismatched

Ukrainian refugees find themselves in roles **below their qualifications**

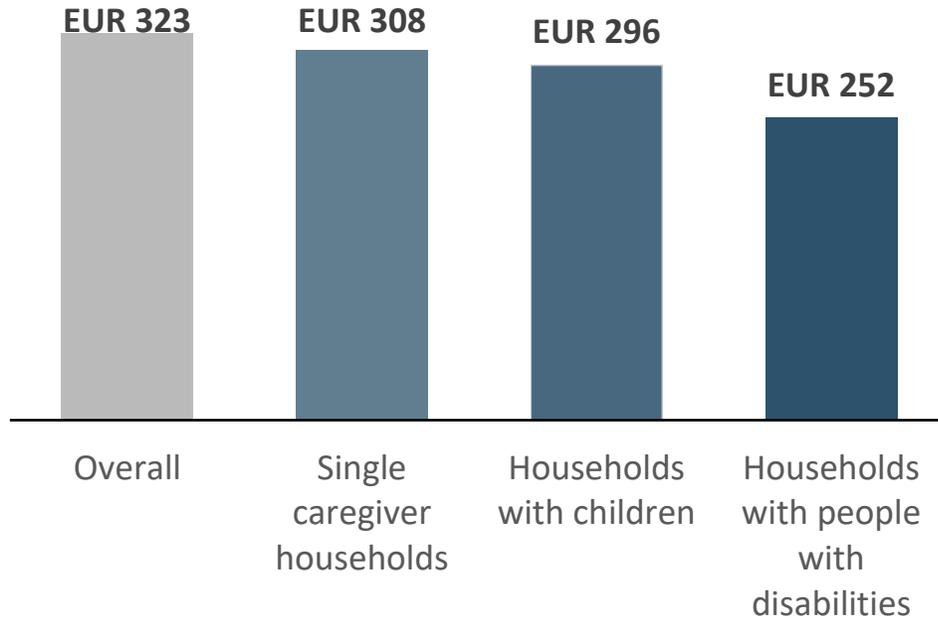
The proportion of Ukrainian refugees employed in **elementary occupations** increased almost **tenfold**

Pre-war and current occupation categories of refugees in Poland



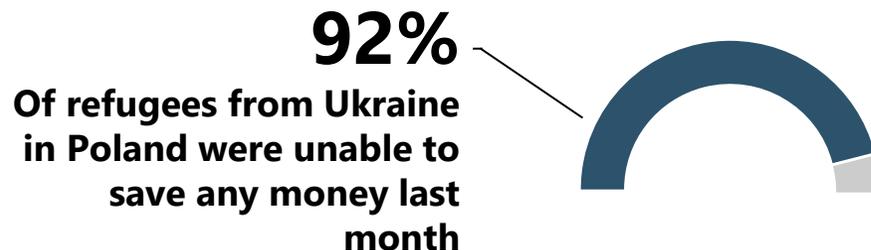
Poland zoom-in: low income levels bring financial challenges, particularly for single caregivers and households with people with disabilities

Median income levels per capita



19% of the households reported income lower than EUR 200 per person

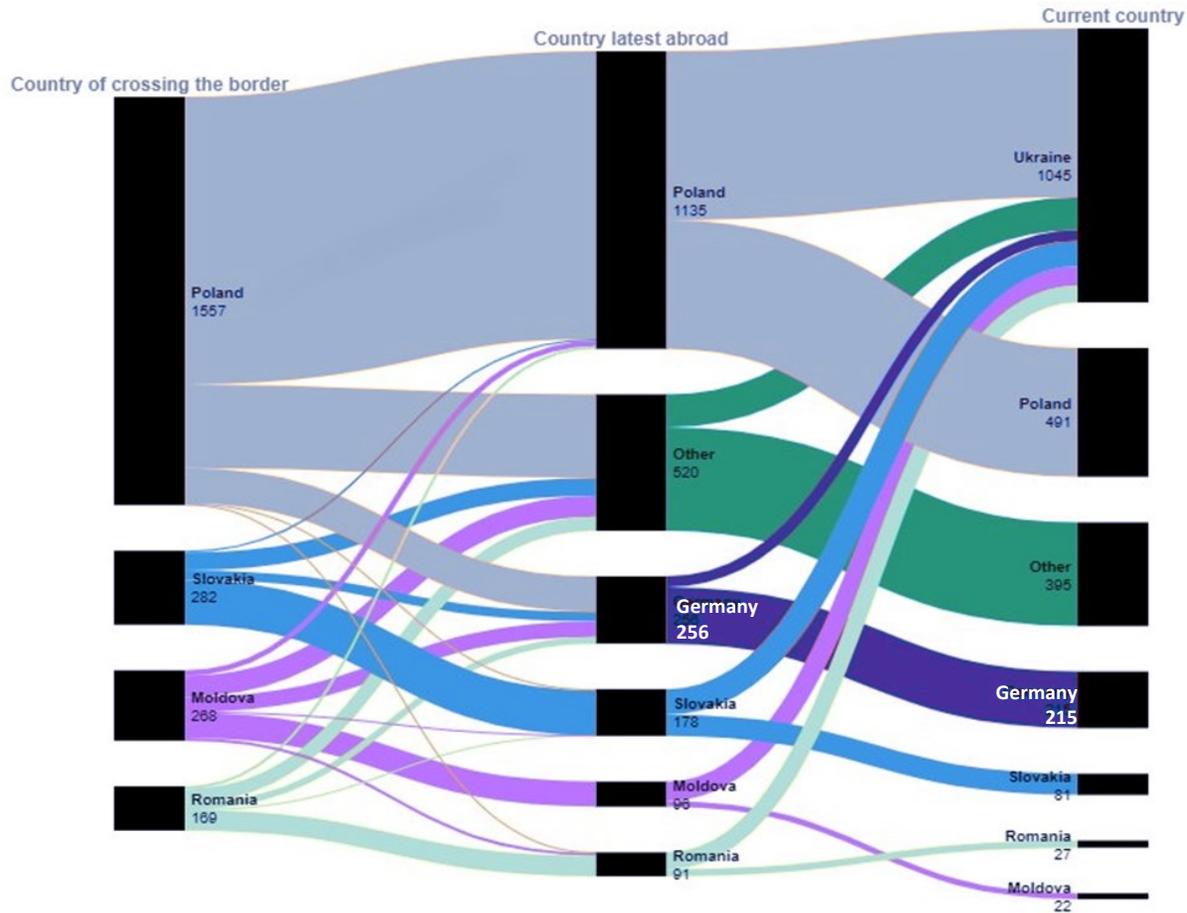
12% of households reported **receiving financial assistance from family or friends in Ukraine**. **5%** rely on it as **their main source of income**, particularly single caregivers of children.



4. Reasons and trajectories of return



Returning to Ukraine, where and why?



The choice of host country abroad is statistically related to the decision to return to Ukraine

Lower probability of return:

- *Germany*
- *Czechia*

Higher probability of return:

- *Poland*
- *Romania*
- *Moldova*
- *Slovakia*



The refugee's oblast of origin is statistically related to their decision to return to Ukraine

Lower probability of return:

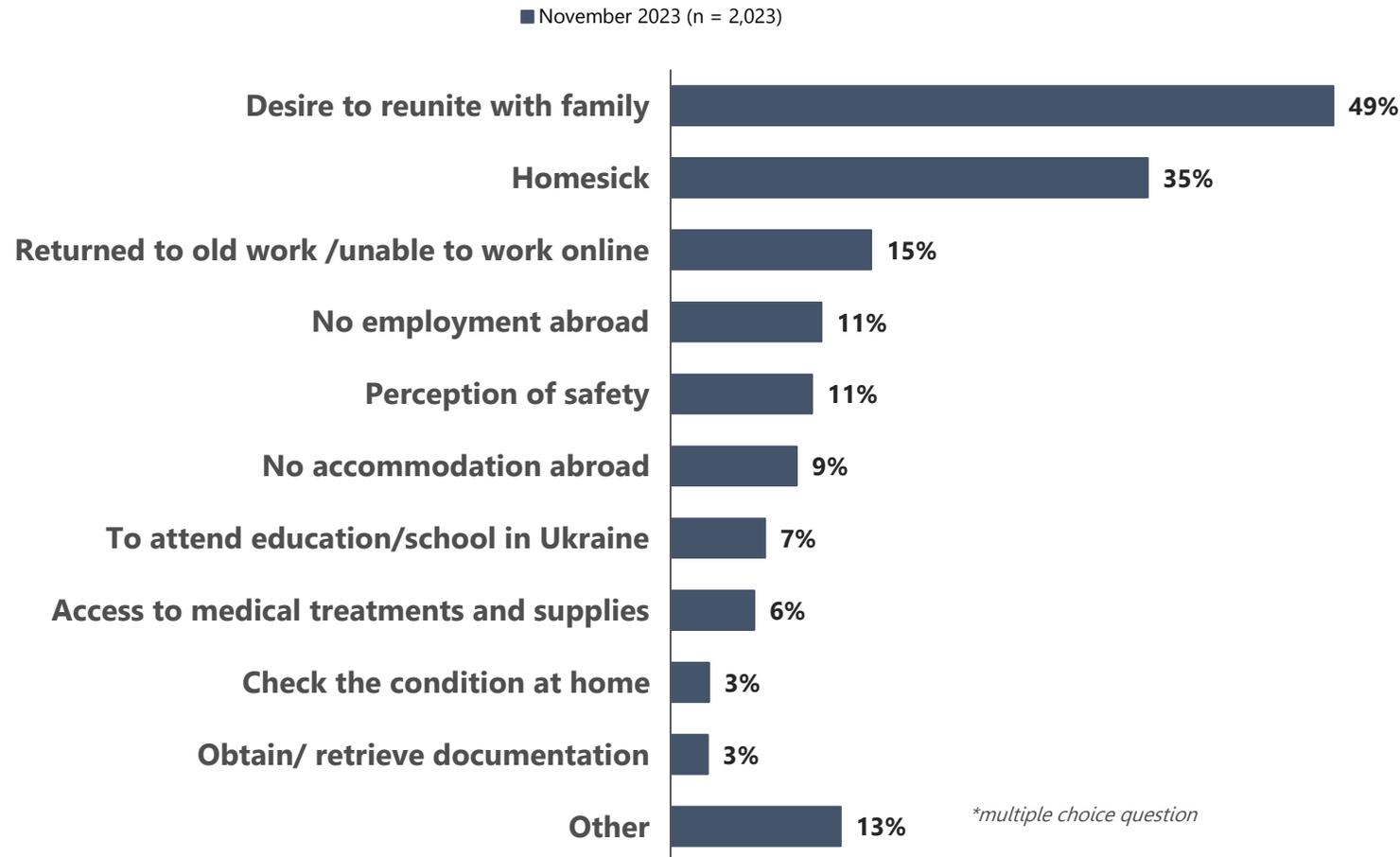
- *Khersonska oblast*
- *Luhanska oblast*
- *Zaporizka oblast*
- *Kharkivska oblast*
- *Donetska oblast*

Higher probability of return:

- *Mykolaivska oblast*
- *Volynska oblast*
- *Zhytomyrska oblast*
- *Lvivska oblast*
- *Dnipropetrovska oblast*

Personal and emotional reasons for returning are most often reported...

Self-reported reasons for returning to Ukraine*



Expressed need for **family reunification** statistically related to the decision to return to Ukraine

...but socio-economic reasons push towards the decision to return



Refugees who stayed in **collective sites or other temporary housing options** are more inclined to return than those who stayed in rented flats or apartments supported by governments



Refugees with **lower incomes (on average 200 Euro)** are more inclined to return than those having slightly higher incomes (330 Euro)



Refugees **employed remotely in Ukraine or being caregivers to children** are more inclined to return than those who are employed in their host country



Lack of language proficiency statistically related to the decision to return to Ukraine

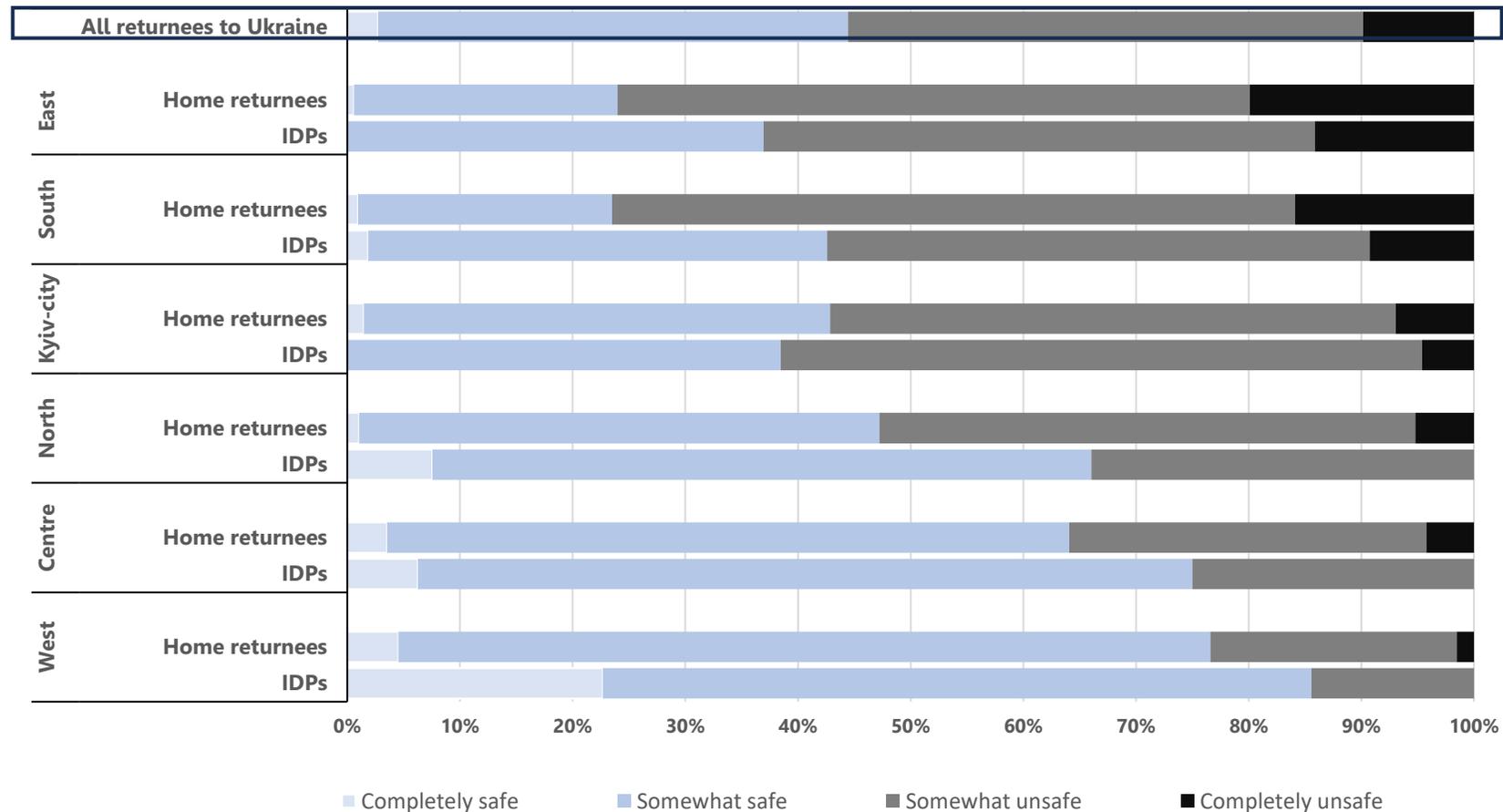
5. Former refugees returned to Ukraine



Many former refugees go back to places where they do not feel safe

Safety perception of IDPs (former refugees) and home returnees (former refugees) in the current place of residence, by macro-region of return

Round 20, Dec 23 / Jan 24 (n= 2,208)



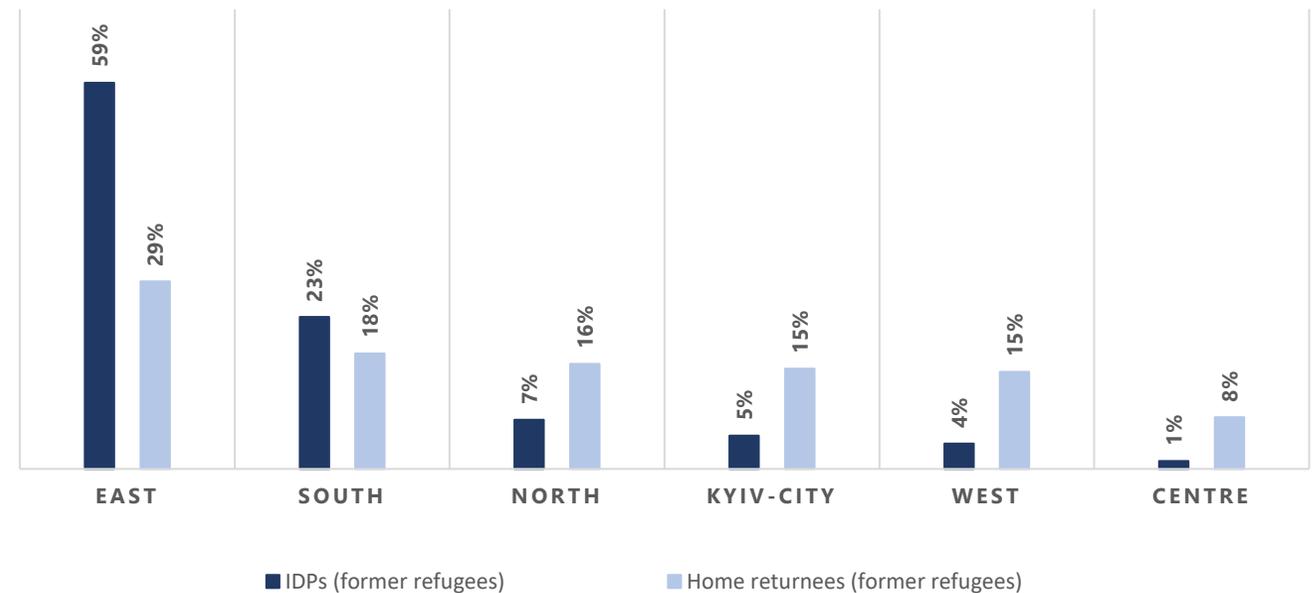
Returnees to Ukraine are coming back directly to their home settlements or the same macro-region of their home settlement. Those are predominantly the most war-affected regions of Ukraine (Eastern and Southern)

Macro-region of origin of IDPs (former refugees) and home returnees (former refugees)

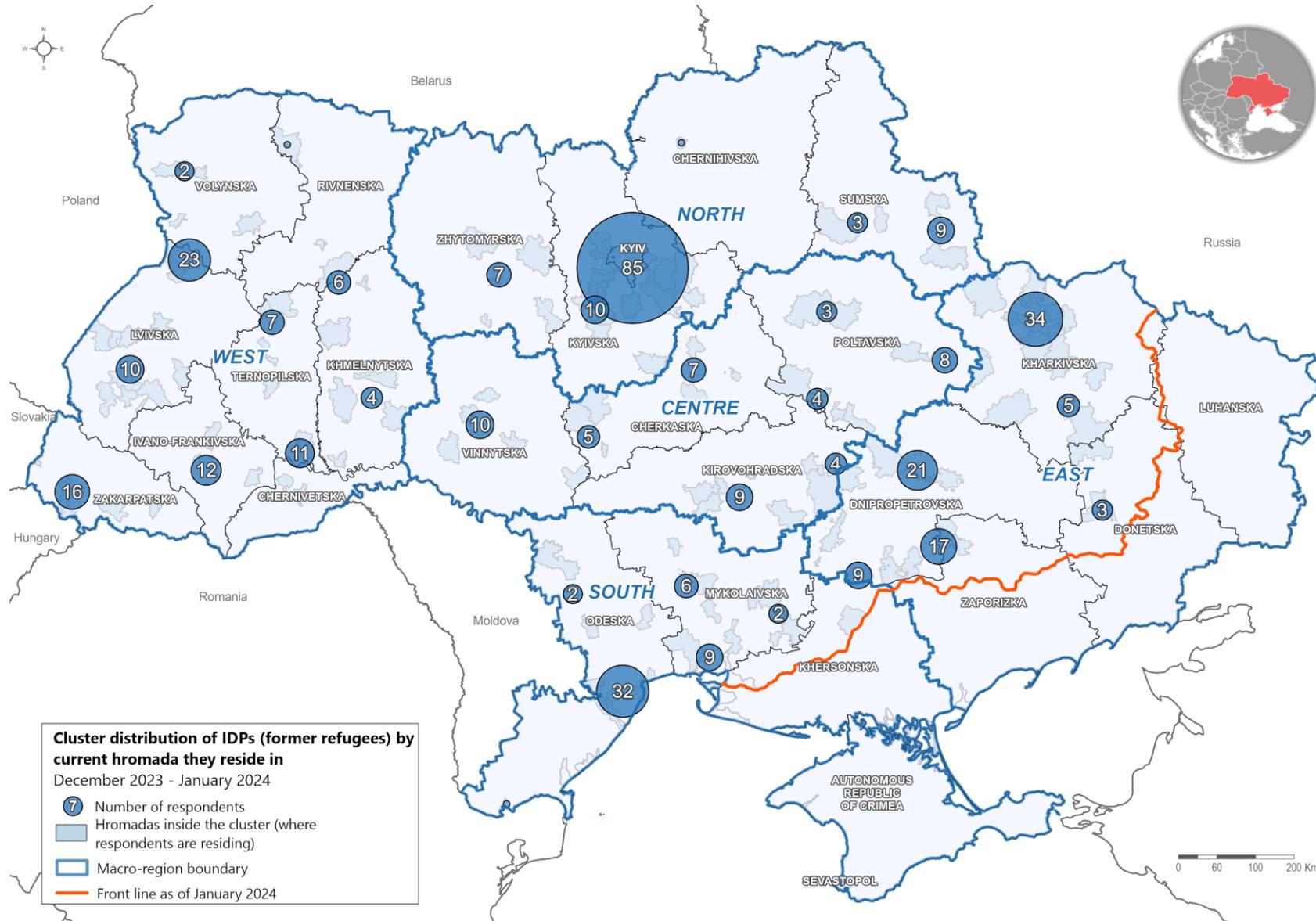
Round 20, Dec 23 / Jan 24 (n= 2,217)

81% 
of returnees to Ukraine
returned to their home settlements

19% 
of returnees to Ukraine
returned elsewhere in the country



Former refugees who become IDPs also return to frontline oblasts



IDPs (former refugees) have lower income levels and tend to reside in rented accommodation

5,502 UAH

median income per capita for **home returnees** (former refugees)

5,292 UAH

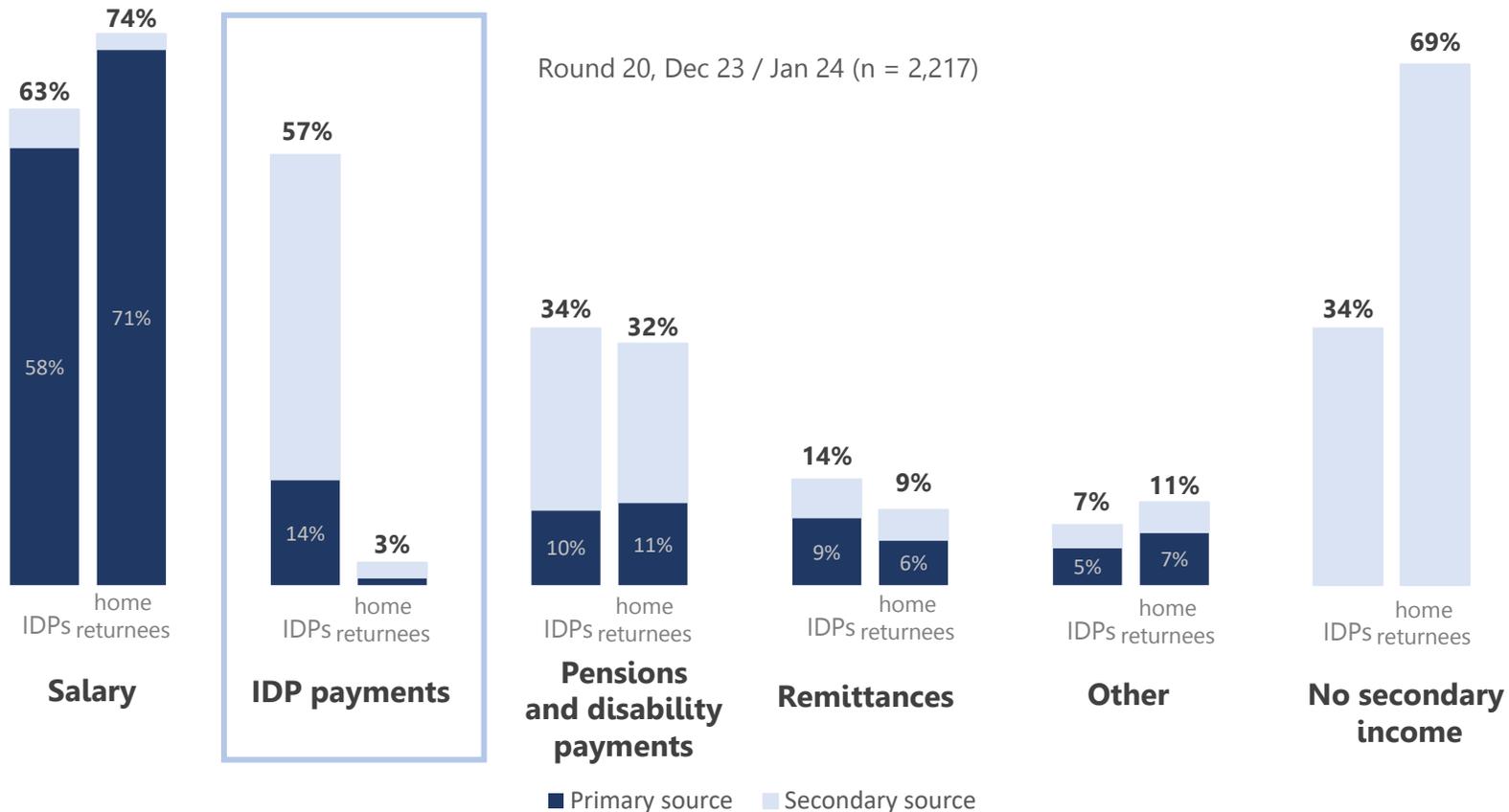
median income per capita for **IDPs** (former refugees)

62% 

of IDPs (former refugees) were residing in rented accommodation, with 99% of them paying both rent and utility bills.

IDPs (former refugees) rely more on social support, especially IDP payments

Sources of income for returnees to Ukraine



6. Dashboard and outputs



Outputs and Data

Dashboard

[Longitudinal survey results dashboard – Rounds 21-22](#)

Dataset extracts

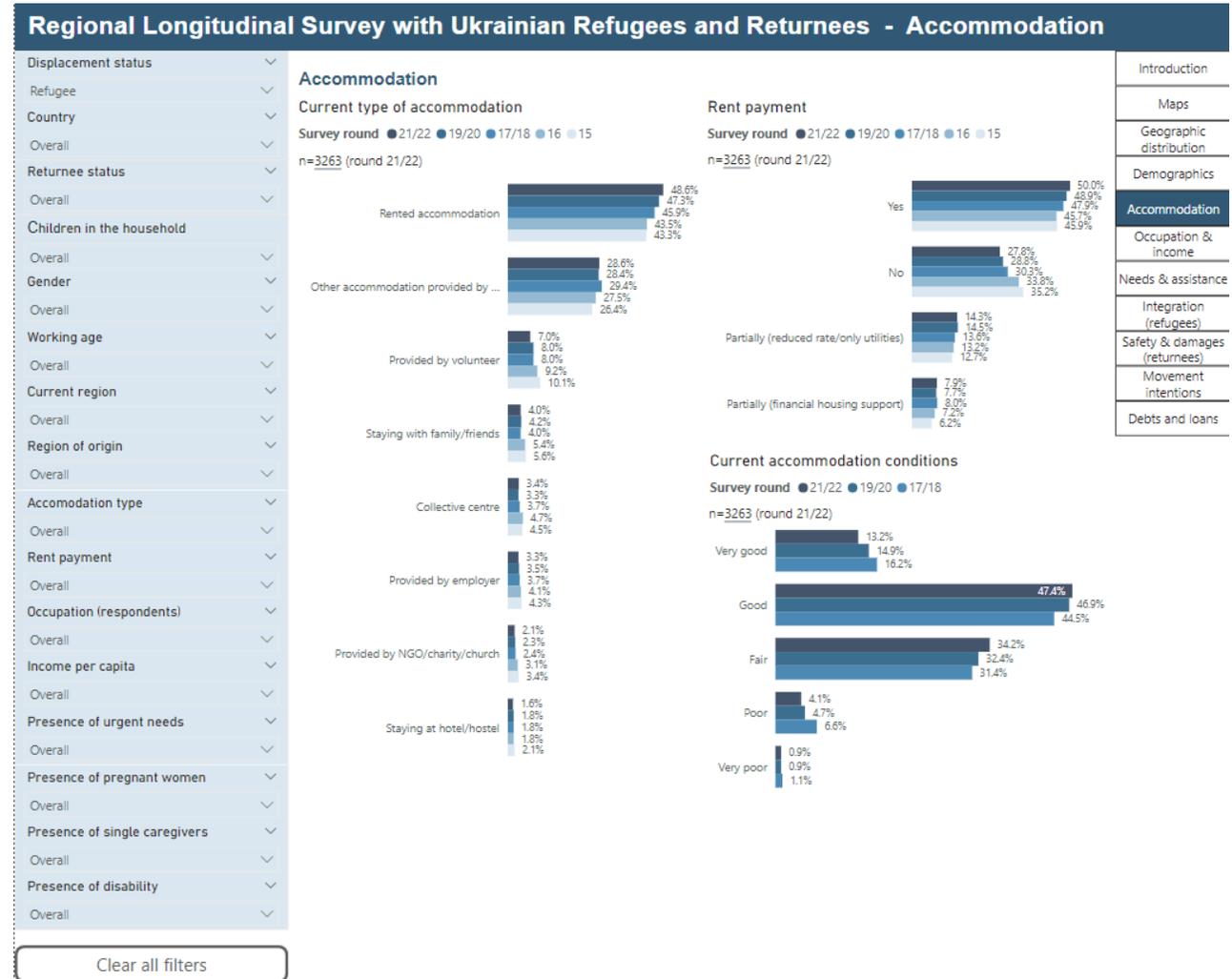
- [Longitudinal frequency tables](#)
- [Refugee and returnee data](#)

Outputs

- [Longitudinal Factsheet: Round 13 \(Ukrainian version\)](#)
- [Longitudinal Factsheet: Round 14 \(Ukrainian version\)](#)
- [Longitudinal Factsheet: Round 15 \(Ukrainian version\)](#)
- [Longitudinal Factsheet: Round 16 \(Ukrainian version\)](#)
- [Longitudinal Factsheet: Round 17 \(Ukrainian version\)](#)

Thematic Outputs:

- [Longitudinal Brief: Round 18 – Predictors of return to Ukraine \(Ukrainian version\)](#)
- [Longitudinal Brief: Round 19 – Poland zoom-in: Ukrainian Refugees \(Ukrainian version\)](#)
- [Longitudinal Brief: Round 20 – Back to Ukraine, but not home \(Ukrainian version\)](#)

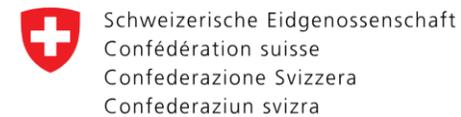


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For any questions on the
Longitudinal Study please contact



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