

Romania

Protection Profiling

December 2022



Acknowledgements

We would like to thank the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and “Fundatia Consiliul National Roman Pentru Refugiati (CNRR)” teams for technical guidance and support in devising this assessment. Special thanks are extended to the enumerators who dedicated their time and effort to provide support to the survey with their rich experience.

Protection Profiling Was Conducted in the Framework of the:



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About REACH

REACH facilitates the development of information tools and products that enhance the capacity of aid actors to make evidence-based decisions in emergency, recovery, and development contexts. The methodologies used by REACH include primary data collection and in-depth analysis, and all activities are conducted through inter-agency aid coordination mechanisms. REACH is a joint initiative of IMPACT Initiatives, ACTED and the United Nations Institute for Training and Research - Operational Satellite Applications Programme (UNITAR-UNOSAT). For more information please visit [our website](#). You can contact us directly at: geneva@reach-initiative.org and follow us on Twitter @REACH_info.

About UNHCR

UNHCR, the UN Refugee Agency, is a global organisation dedicated to saving lives, protecting rights and building a better future for people forced to flee their homes because of conflict and persecution. We lead international action to protect refugees, forcibly displaced communities and stateless people.

We deliver life-saving assistance, help safeguard fundamental human rights, and develop solutions that ensure people have a safe place called home where they can build a better future. We also work to ensure that stateless people are granted a nationality.

For more information please visit [our website of the UNHCR Operational Data Portal](#). You can contact us directly at: rombu@unhcr.org.

ASSESSMENT SUMMARY

This situation report presents the results from **629 structured interviews** with Ukrainians and third-country nationals completed across Romania between 5 December to 30 December 2022. This assessment aimed to support understanding of refugees' profiles and needs to inform the humanitarian response. The assessment relies on a purposive sample, hence findings are not generalisable with a known level of precision and should be considered **indicative only**.

Key Findings

1 Key Demographics

85%

of all respondents identified as female and 15% as male.

36%

of respondents reported having completed specialization level of higher education.

92%

of respondents spoke Ukrainian and Russian.¹

2 Situation in the host country

76%

of respondents reported that no children in their household were enrolled in a Romanian school.

72%

of respondents who have applied for social protection programmes reported not accessing such programmes.

26%

of respondents who needed healthcare services reported facing difficulties accessing such services.

3 Needs assessment

Material assistance (non-food items, clothes etc.), food, and employment were the most frequently reported needs. Accommodation was the most frequently reported first-priority need. The most reported information need of refugees interviewed in Romania was related to instructions on how to get financial assistance. In terms of sources of information, respondents reported preferring social media.

42%

of respondents reported material assistance among their priority needs.²

84%

of respondents reported that cash was their preferred assistance modality.

52%

of respondents reported needing information about how to receive financial assistance.

¹ Respondents could choose multiple responses

² Ibid

INTRODUCTION

As of 18 January 2023, around 8 million refugees have reportedly fled Ukraine, with 2,648,984 refugees arriving in Romania, around 107,229 of whom have registered for Temporary Protection (TP) or similar national protection schemes (UNHCR).^{3,4} To strengthen and inform the humanitarian response in Romania, REACH, under the guidance of UNHCR and in partnership with Fundatia Consiliul National Roman Pentru Refugiati (CNRR), conducted an assessment to understand the refugees' profiles and needs to inform the humanitarian response. Protection Profiling is a regional assessment led by UNHCR in, Hungary, the Czech Republic, Poland, Slovakia, and the Republic of Moldova.⁵ Interviews in Romania were conducted at collective centres, border crossing points, and transportation points in Romania.

METHODOLOGY

The purpose of this factsheet is to present Ukrainian refugees' intentions currently in a displacement situation in Romania. This situation report is based on interviews completed between 5 December and 30 December 2022 with Ukrainians and third-country nationals displaced from Ukraine following the escalation of the conflict on the 24th of February 2022. Primary data was collected through face-to-face interviews with Ukrainians and third-country nationals at collective sites, border points, and points of interest for the Ukrainian community where relevant respondents could be identified. Interviews were completed independently by REACH enumerators as well as enumerators working with CNRR. Enumerators used a structured questionnaire given to head of households that consented, were 18 or over, and were able to answer questions on behalf of the household.

Data collection locations were selected based on the number of Ukrainian refugees or third-party nationals displaced from Ukraine present at sites, as well as the sites' operational access, from across areas in Romania with registered refugees. **In total 629 refugee head of households were interviewed.**

Selection of locations in the collective sites was done through a 2-stage purposive sampling approach, first by county and then by collective site location. Due to the purposive sampling, findings are not generalizable with a known level of precision and should hence be considered **indicative only**.

Limitations

Sampling frame: Due to the purposive sampling frame, the sample is not representative with a known level of precision and findings are indicative. Findings might not always reflect the experiences, intentions, and needs of Ukrainians/third-country nationals staying in less visible or less accessible locations in Romania.

Interviews: Respondents interviewed at border points or in other public areas of transit were often in a hurry, which might have affected the detailedness and precision of their answers. In addition, respondents interviewed in public places might have been able to hear each other's

³ UNHCR (January 2023), [Situation Ukraine Refugee Situation \(unhcr.org\)](https://www.unhcr.org/situations/ukraine)

⁴ UNHCR (July 2022) Lives on Hold: Profiles and Intentions of Refugees from Ukraine [Document - Lives on Hold: Profiles and Intentions of Refugees from Ukraine #1 \(unhcr.org\)](#)

⁵ *ibid*

responses, which might have influenced their answers.

Respondent bias: Certain indicators may be under-reported or over-reported due to subjectivity and perceptions of respondents (in particular "social desirability bias" - the tendency of people to provide what they perceive to be the "right" answers to certain questions).

Proxy responding: For some questions, respondents were asked to answer on behalf of their household members. In such cases, findings represent the respondent's perceptions and might not always reflect the experiences of the individual.

Table 1: Proportion of protection profiling interviews per type of interview location

Interview locations	% of interviews
Assistance/information points	49%
Private accommodation	18%
Collective accommodation	10%
Community Centre	9%
Reception centre	6%
Registration centre	4%
NGO office	2%
Other	2%

DEMOGRAPHIC PROFILE

Most respondents identified as female (85%). More than half of the respondents were found to be between 35 and 59 years old (53%). The large majority (88%) of the respondents reported travelling with at least one companion. In addition, 13% of respondents travelling with children (n=363) reported having children in their household who were separated from both parents. Almost all respondents (99%) reported having Ukrainian nationality.

Figure 1: Reported gender of respondents

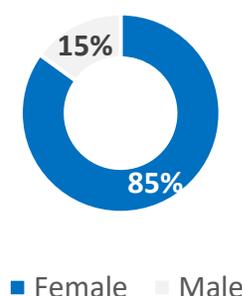


Figure 2. Proportion of survey respondents per age category

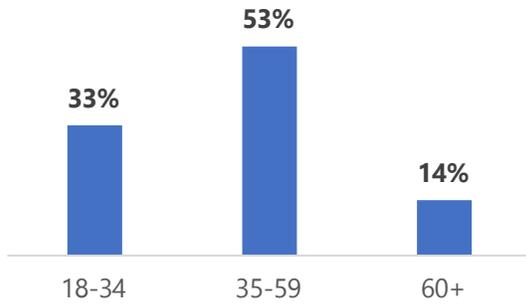


Figure 3: Household composition as reported by respondents⁶

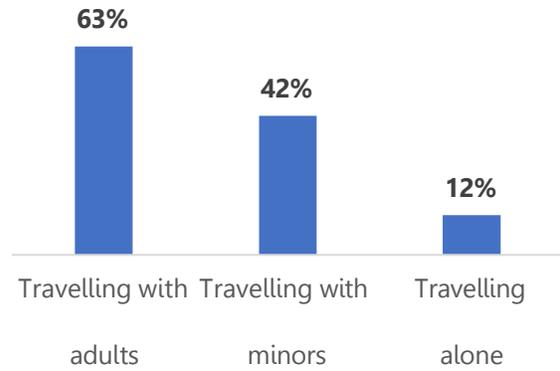
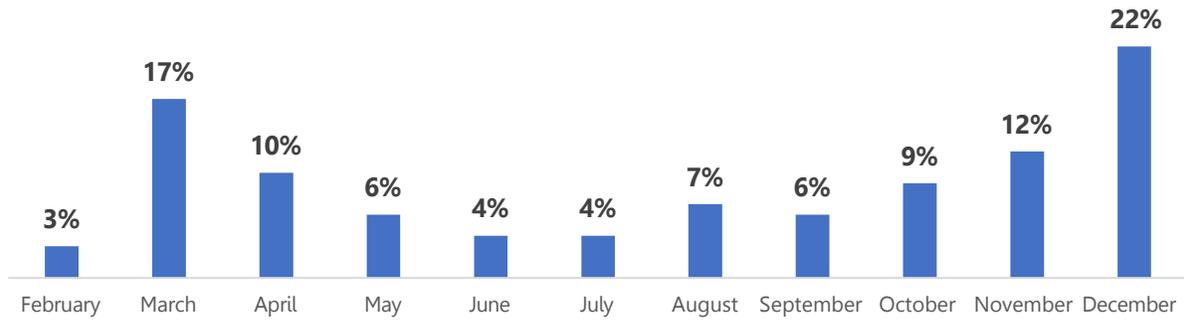


Figure 4: Month of departure of HHs from their residence in Ukraine, as reported by respondents



⁶ Respondents could choose multiple answers

Figure 5: Reported oblast of origin as reported by respondents

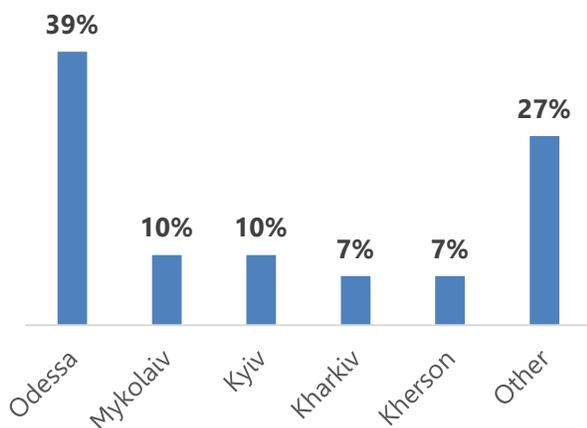


Figure 6: Top 5 reported languages spoken by respondents

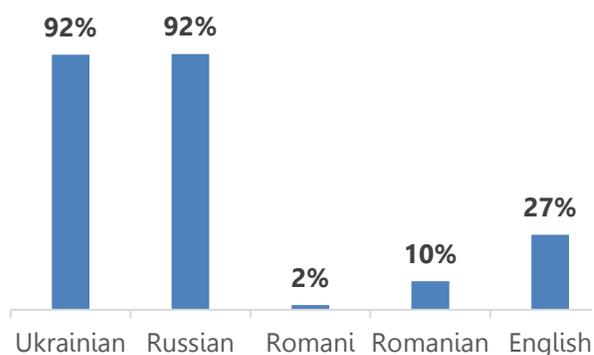


Table 2: Proportion of respondents by reported oblast of origin and month of departure

Oblast	Odessa	Kyiv	Mykolaiv	Kharkiv	Kherson	Other oblasts
February	43%	20%	14%	5%	5%	13%
March	50%	11%	10%	9%	4%	16%
April	29%	13%	18%	5%	15%	20%
May	37%	7%	8%	16%	8%	24%
June	29%	13%	37%	4%	4%	13%
July	19%	12%	15%	12%	15%	27%
August	35%	0%	13%	7%	7%	38%
September	26%	6%	5%	5%	5%	53%
October	32%	9%	9%	9%	7%	34%
November	53%	10%	7%	8%	6%	16%
December	40%	13%	5%	2%	7%	33%

Most head of households reported having left Ukraine in December (22%) and the oblast of origin that was reported most frequently reported was Odessa oblast (39%). One in five (21%) household members had some difficulty walking, seeing, hearing, remembering, communicating, or with self-care as reported by the head of household. In addition, 17% noted that at least one member of their household had a serious medical condition.

Most head of households (53%) reported being employed before leaving Ukraine. Other reported employment types included handling family responsibilities (16%), being retired (12%), and being self-employed (7%).

DOCUMENTATION

Few (4%) respondents reported that some members of their household did not hold any identity document. However, 41% reported missing one or more civil documents such as international non-biometric passports (26%), international biometric passports (22%), or refugee certificates issued by the Ukrainian authorities (4%). Most (94%) head of households had already applied for TP in Romania at the time of data collection. Only 1% reported not planning to apply and the remaining 5% intended to apply.

Figure 7: Percentage of respondents who reported to have experienced difficulties in the TP application process

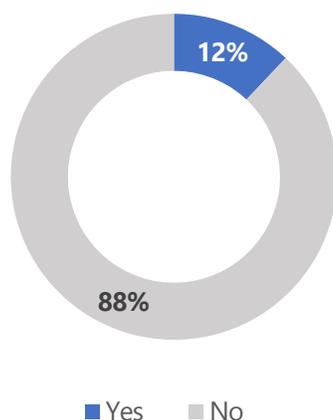
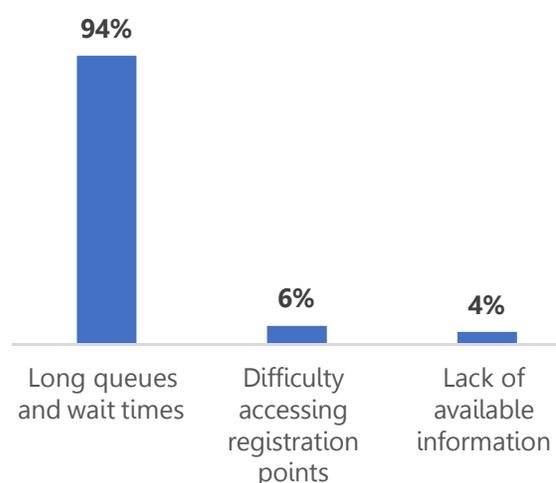


Figure 8: Most reported difficulties experienced by respondents in the TP application process among those who reported difficulties⁷



Of the respondents who reported having applied for TP, 87% had already received a positive decision on their application, 12% were still waiting and 1% preferred not to answer or answered that they had received a negative outcome to their application.

Out of the nine respondents who did not plan to apply for TP, five reported that they chose to do so because they intended to move to another country, two because they had already applied for asylum, one because they had already applied for a different type of residency and 1 was waiting to see if the situation in Ukraine would improve.

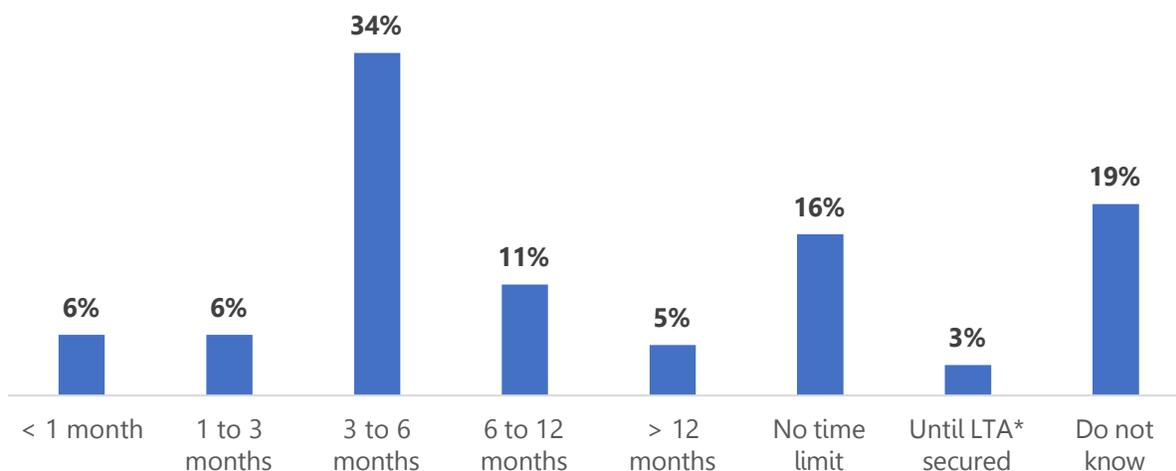
SITUATION IN HOST COUNTRY

Respondents gave a variety of reasons regarding why they chose to move to Romania. The most frequently mentioned were the availability of accommodation (45%), the proximity to Ukraine (34%), the presence of friends and family (27%), the availability of benefits and support (19%), and the availability of work opportunities (15%).

⁷ Respondents could choose multiple answers

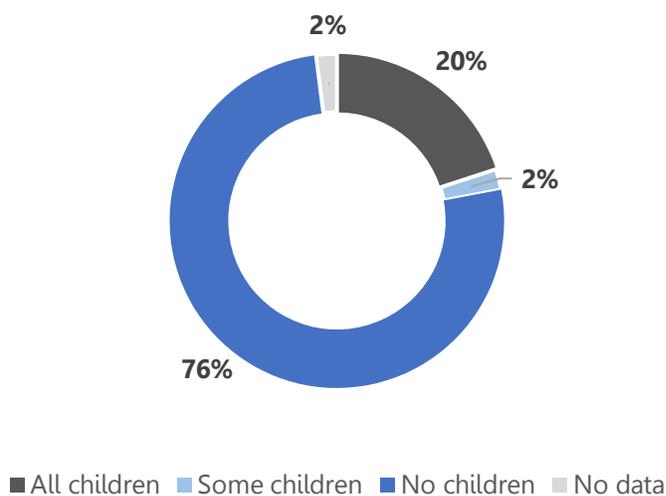
Most respondents were found to reside in hosted accommodation through a family enrolled in the 50/20 state programme (61%), a collective centre (16%), or a hotel provided by the government (8%).

Figure 9: Perceived possible length of stay in the current accommodation, by % of respondents



*LTA: Long-term accommodation

Figure 10: Of those households with children aged 5-17, the proportion that were enrolled at a school in Romania



Of the 77 respondents who reported having to leave their accommodation in the three months following data collection, 31% stated that they had to go because their TP was coming to an end, 17% because the free accommodation programme would end and 17% were choosing to move to another accommodation in Romania.⁸

The large majority of households with school-age children reported that none (76%) or some (2%) of their children were enrolled in school in Romania at the time of the data collection. Among those households (n=254), the main reported reasons for not enrolling in Romania was a preference for Ukrainian distance

learning (87%) or the language barrier (27%). In addition, of the 107 households with infants (children below 5 years), 50% of them reported having been able to access childcare services,

⁸ There have not been any announcements by the Romanian government that the 50/20 programme would be discontinued, this could refer to the hosts not making their accommodation available anymore.

26% had not been able and the remainder did not know or did not wish to answer.

Regarding health services, 41% of head of households had not needed to use healthcare services at the time of data collection, 43% did not have trouble access care and consequently were not asked the questions on access to such services. Of the 15% of respondents that did face difficulties in access (n=95), the most frequently cited difficulties were the language barrier (67%), the fees associated with care, medication, or transportation (48%), the long waiting times (38%), and the lack of information on the health system (28%).

Regarding access to social protection, 24% of respondents did not apply for any social programme or benefit, did not wish to answer, or have not answered the questions on access to such programmes. Of the 478 remaining respondents, only 5% reported facing difficulties to access social protection programmes. Among those (n=25), the most frequently cited difficulties were the lack of information on which programmes were available and where to access them (68%), as well as the language barrier (60%).

The findings on livelihoods show that of the households that reported being employed, 18% were employed either remotely or in Romania (16%) at the time of data collection. Other main activities reported by respondents include, currently taking charge of family responsibilities (23%), being unemployed (19%), or being retired (13%) were the . Of the 140 respondents surveyed on the difficulties they have encountered finding work in this country, the language barrier was the main issue they faced (43%).

MOVEMENT INTENTIONS

At the time of the interview, 13% of respondents reported planning to go back to Ukraine in the three months following the data collection, while 69% did not and 18% were undecided. Of those who intended to go back to Ukraine, 49% planned to stay permanently, while 36% intended to go back only temporarily or for a short visit. Among the reasons for returning permanently to Ukraine (n=39), 85% needed to take care of their housing/property, 18% wanted to reunite with family in Ukraine, and 13% believed the security situation had improved.

Since their first time leaving Ukraine, 72% of respondents reported having never returned to the country, 17% returned once, 8% occasionally (two to four times) and 3% frequently (five times or more). The main reported reasons for going back among those who did were to check their property (56%), to visit relatives or friends (44%) or to check the situation (38%).

Among respondents who did not plan to return to Ukraine in the three months following the data collection or wanted to go but only temporarily or for an undecided period (n=474), 86% intended to stay in Romania, while 3% planned to move to a third country. The intended destination countries included Canada 44%, Germany 19%, and other options making up the remaining percentages (n=16).

Figure 11. Proportion of respondents who intended to return to Ukraine in the three months following the interview

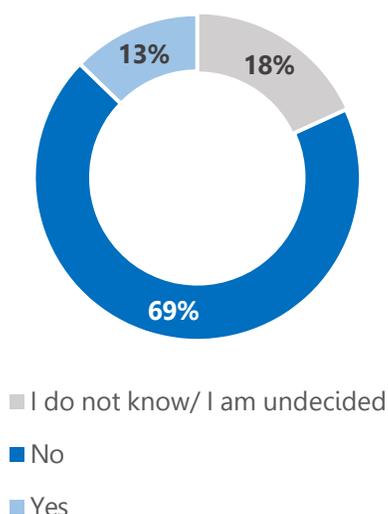
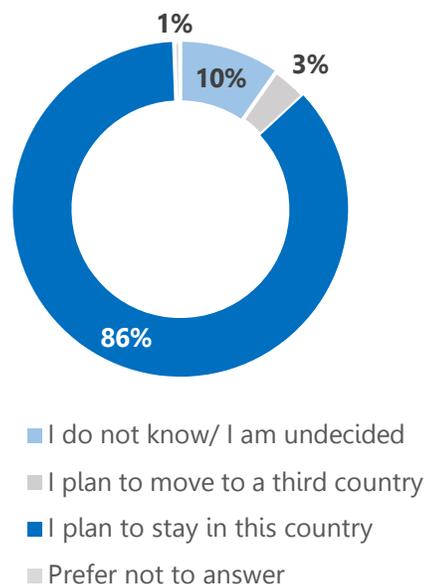


Figure 12. Proportion of respondents who intended to stay in Romania in the three months following the interview (n=474)⁹



NEEDS ASSESSMENT

Table 3: The ten most reported first, second, and third priority needs at the time of data collection, by proportion of respondents^{10,11}

Type of need	First priority need	Second priority need	Third priority need	Total
Material assistance	16%	11%	15%	42%
Food	9%	20%	12%	41%
Employment	15%	14%	8%	37%
Accommodation	19%	4%	3%	26%
Education for children	10%	8%	4%	22%
Medical support	6%	6%	8%	20%
Information about services	1%	5%	7%	13%
Education for adults	4%	3%	2%	9%
Childcare	6%	2%	1%	9%
Psychosocial support	1%	1%	3%	5%

⁹ Among respondents who did not plan to return to Ukraine in the three months following the data collection or wanted to go but only temporarily or for an undecided period.

¹⁰ This question listed 18 options that the respondent could choose for priority needs, this table includes the top ten. The percentages, therefore, do not add up to 100%.

¹¹ First, second and third priority need percentages were calculated on the total sample, including respondents who reported they did not have needs.

The most frequently mentioned urgent needs by respondents were material assistance (non-food items and clothes - 42%), food (41%), and employment (37%). The needs most frequently cited as number one priority were accommodation (19%), material assistance (16%), and employment (15%). It should also be noted that 10% of respondents did not report having a first-priority need, 22% did not report any second-priority need and 32% did not report any third-priority need.

The preferred modality to receive assistance was cash, as mentioned by 84% of the respondents. The other modalities such as service delivery (6%), in-kind (5%), or vouchers (4%) were less popular.

Figure 13: Reported information needs at the time of data collection, by % of respondents¹²

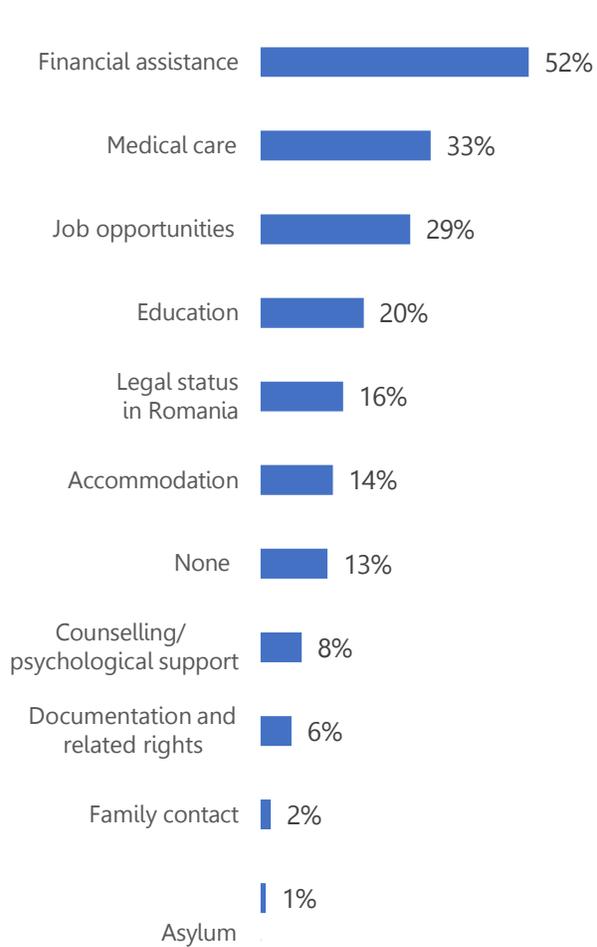
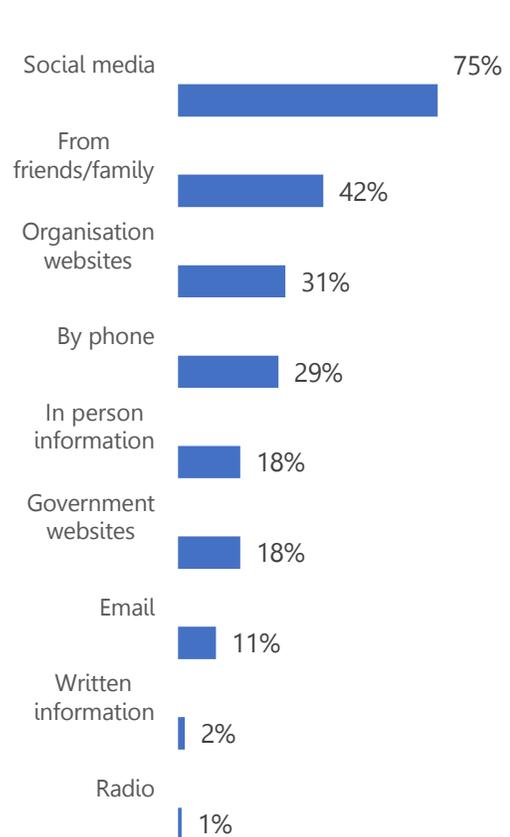


Figure 14: Reported preferred channels of receiving information, by % of respondents¹³



¹² Respondents could choose multiple answers

¹³ Respondents could choose multiple answers