

# IDP PROFILING IN URBAN AREAS: SITUATION OVERVIEW IN CHERVONOHRADSKA HROMADA

MARCH 2024 | Ukraine

## CONTEXT & RATIONALE

The war in Ukraine, which escalated in February 2022, has resulted in large-scale displacement, with an estimated 3.7 million people remaining internally displaced in the country as of December 2023.<sup>1</sup> While 2.3 million IDPs aim to return home despite safety concerns, 665,000 intend to integrate locally.<sup>2</sup> With prolonged displacement, support systems for IDPs' local integration are becoming increasingly important. At the national level, Ukraine's state policies have shifted towards durable solutions and recovery efforts for displaced people. Thus, there is a growing need to profile those in displacement situations and gather information to guide strategic efforts at nationwide and local levels.

As of December 31, 2023, Lvivska Oblast in western Ukraine was ranked among the top five regions in the country hosting displaced people.<sup>3</sup> Since the beginning of the full-scale invasion Chervonohrad has emerged as the second-largest settlement to host IDPs in Lvivska Oblast following the oblast's capital settlement, Lviv.<sup>4</sup> As of 1 January 2023, an estimated 6,455 IDPs (both registered and de facto) were hosted in Chervonohradska hromada.<sup>5</sup> Chervonohrad serves as the primary urban centre of Chervonohradska hromada. This administrative unit encompasses 14 settlements and spans 228 square kilometres in the northern part of Lvivska Oblast. Situated within the Lviv-Volyn coal basin, Chervonohrad has been a prominent mining city for decades, with mining operations extending into the neighbouring town of Sosnivka.

While mining remains a cornerstone of the local economy, there has been a noticeable decline in mining activity over the past decade, necessitating efforts towards local economic diversification and modernization with new technologies.<sup>6</sup> Aside from the mining industry, Chervonohradska hromada's economic profile includes industries such as woodworking, furniture, textiles, and trade.<sup>7</sup> The hromada also offers various community resources, including primary, secondary, and vocational educational institutions, cultural and sports facilities, healthcare services, and centralised utility coverage, primarily concentrated in Chervonohrad, Sosnivka, and the peri-urban settlement of Hirnyk.<sup>8</sup>

With a population of 90,000 as of 2022, the hromada has witnessed significant labour migration over the past decades, both internally towards Lviv and externally to European countries due to its proximity to Ukraine's western border.<sup>9</sup> Due to the escalation of the war in February 2022, Chervonohradska hromada received an influx of those displaced from conflict-affected areas. Given that only 220 IDPs are living in collective sites,<sup>10</sup> the vast majority of IDPs in the hromada have chosen to reside in private accommodations. This underscores the need for a deeper understanding of the experiences and living situations of this demographic for informed and locally tailored programming.

## METHODOLOGY OVERVIEW

To inform the strategic programming of actors at the local level, REACH profiled the situation of displaced populations in Chervonohradska hromada. The assessment focused on two settlements within the hromada, Chervonohrad and Sosnivka. These settlements have the largest population and the highest number of IDPs. The research was carried out through a purposive mixed methods approach in two phases:

**Phase I:** A qualitative, semi-structured questionnaire was administered to six key informants (KIs) from 16-20 October 2023 to understand contextual factors within the hromada. KI profiles included representatives of governmental and non-governmental organisations (NGOs). In this phase, KIs were provided the opportunity to suggest additional indicators for data collection tools in the second phase.

**Phase II:** A quantitative structured household-level survey was conducted with displaced households residing in private accommodation for at least one month at the time of data collection (3-20 November 2023) as the primary population of interest, while members of the host community were interviewed as a control group. In Chervonohradska hromada, 409 displaced households residing in private accommodation were interviewed, as well as 407 households consisting of members of the host community. Due to the difficulties in identifying IDPs residing outside of collective sites for face-to-face interviews, REACH enumerators were purposively interviewing respondents at common locations in Chervonohrad and Sosnivka, including humanitarian aid distribution centres, administrative centres, etc. Non-displaced households were identified through random allocation of GPS points in both Chervonohrad and Sosnivka.

## KEY FINDINGS

- **Displaced people in Chervonohradka hromada were observed to be predominantly female and younger compared to the host community,** with a higher proportion of single-parent households among IDPs.
- Safety, availability of accommodation, and family reunification were cited as primary pull factors for displaced households arriving in Chervonohradka hromada. **Most displaced households (84%) prefer to stay medium-term (3-6 months),** citing access to sustainable accommodation and public services as crucial needs.
- **IDPs were only half as likely to report that they were officially employed compared to host community members** (25% and 48%, respectively), with minimal representation in dominant sectors like mining. Lower incomes and reliance on government social assistance among displaced households highlight the need for comprehensive livelihood support.
- **Most displaced households (76%) rent accommodation, facing long-term affordability concerns.** Over a third of displaced households have recently spent savings to cover rent and utility bills, emphasising the need for affordable housing solutions to facilitate IDPs' local integration.
- While certain social tensions exist, particularly regarding the use of the Russian language, **positive community relations between displaced and non-displaced people were mainly reported.**

## JOINT ANALYSIS SESSION

On December 22, 2023, **REACH conducted an offline Joint Analysis Session of preliminary findings with members of Chervonohrad IDP Council and Chervonohrad City Council in the city.** This session aimed to deepen REACH's understanding of data by integrating the insights of both the hromada's local authorities and representatives of displaced people (i.e. IDP Council) into the analysis. Following the presentation of the initial assessment results, a moderated discussion was organised. This prompted discussions on the following:



- **The high proportion of IDPs (84%) that expressed a desire to remain in Chervonohradka hromada for the next 3-6 months was an unanticipated result** yet underscored the pressing need to intensify local integration efforts for displaced people in the hromada.
- **A primary barrier towards local integration was the shortage of affordable housing options for displaced people in Chervonohradka hromada.** Such shortages raise concerns about IDPs' long-term accommodation prospects, potentially prompting them to consider returning to their unsafe areas of origin.
- Contrary to the local actors' professional experiences shared with concerns regarding community relations, REACH findings suggest that a notable portion of displaced (70%) and non-displaced community members (45%) reported positive social interactions. However, local actors noted that **some members of the host community may have refrained from discussing community relations due to sensitivities or a lack of interactions with IDPs.**

## DEMOGRAPHIC CHARACTERISTICS

In Chervonohradaska hromada, the demographic profile of IDPs shows a higher proportion of females and a noticeably younger population compared to the host community. As shown in Figure 1, among assessed IDPs, 62% were female and 38% were male, indicating a more skewed gender distribution compared to the host community, which had a gender ratio of 55% female and 45% male. The average age among assessed IDPs was 38.4 compared to 45.2 years among host community members. Among adults in assessed households, just over half of both displaced and non-displaced were of working age from 18 to 64 years (55% and 54%, respectively).

On average, displaced households were smaller, with 2.36 members, while non-displaced households were slightly larger, with 2.41 members. Notably, 40% of assessed displaced households were families with children, compared to 30% of assessed non-displaced households. Among these displaced households, nearly half were led by a single parent (42%), contrasting with only 12% of non-displaced households. This indicates a higher need for childcare support among IDP households in the hromada. Additionally, 28% of non-displaced households and 17% of displaced households consisted of an older person (aged 65 years or older) who is the sole member of their household. This underscores the importance of tailored social and healthcare services, as well as social activities, for this demographic.

Concerning vulnerable groups, there was a higher percentage of non-displaced household members who reported having a vulnerability. In particular, host community members were more likely to report having a chronic illness which affects the quality of life compared to those displaced members (38% and 31%, respectively). A lower percentage of households self-reported their disability, including 9% of non-displaced household members and 8% of displaced household members.

Overall, displaced households and host community members were observed to have completed similar education levels, with most having completed technical/ vocational qualifications (Figure 2). Regardless of their displacement status, a lower percentage of household members completed their undergraduate degree or higher.

Figure 1: Hromada’s assessed population, by displacement status

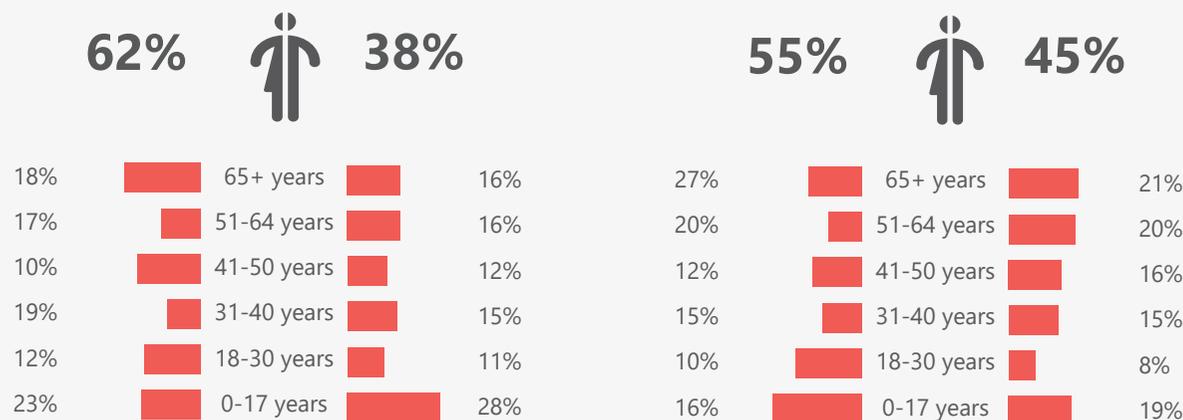
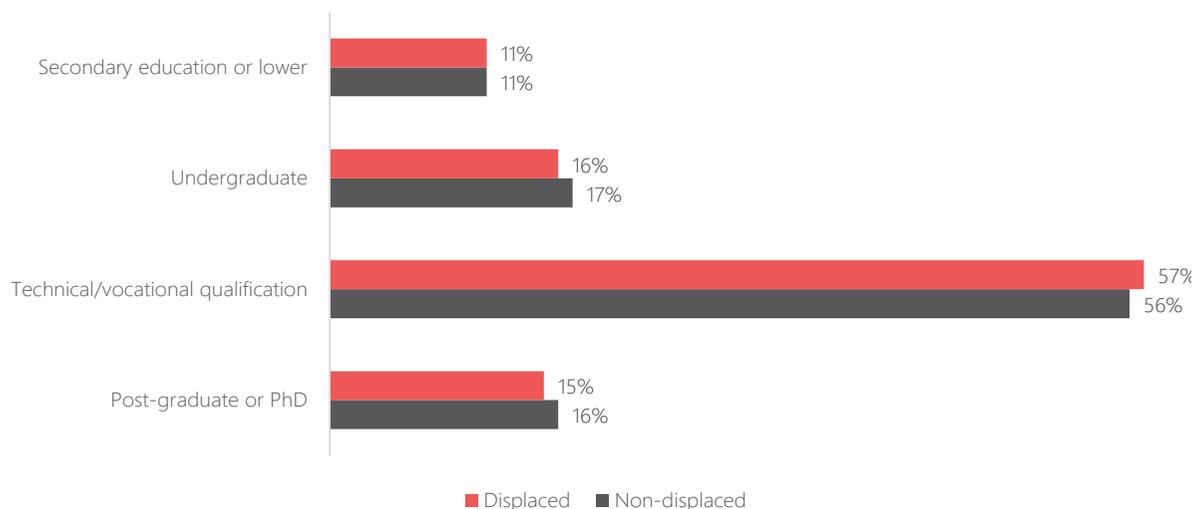


Figure 2: Percent of adult members’ highest level of education completed, by displacement status

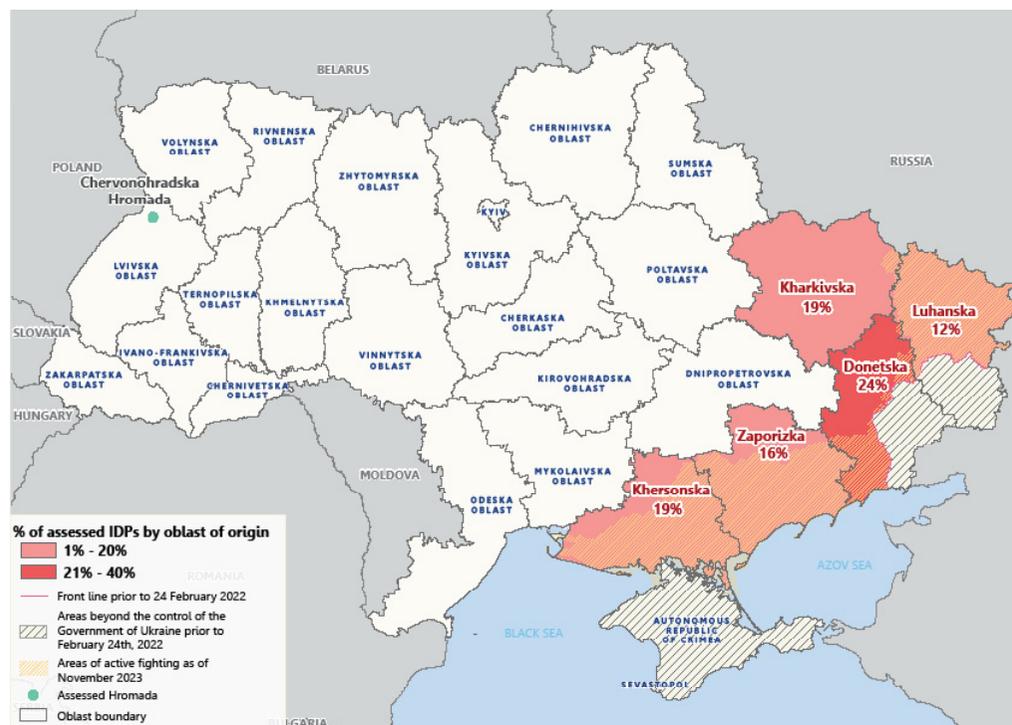


## DISPLACEMENT HISTORY AND PREFERRED MOVEMENT INTENTIONS

IDPs residing in Chervonohradska hromada have experienced protracted displacement, having settled there since the first year of the full-scale war. The vast majority (90%) of assessed households arrived from conflict-affected or occupied areas, including Donetsk, Khersonska, Kharkivska, Zaporizka and Luhanska Oblasts. Most of the assessed displaced households (93%) were initially displaced in 2022 primarily due to security concerns (99%). The majority of IDPs (84%) who arrived in the hromada experienced relocation during their displacement, moving to at least one or more locations before arriving.

Regarding the reasons for relocating to Chervonohradska hromada, safety was the most commonly reported factor (76%), followed by the availability of accommodation (45%) and a general desire to reunify with relatives and friends in the area (31%).

Figure 3: IDPs’ area of origin, by oblast



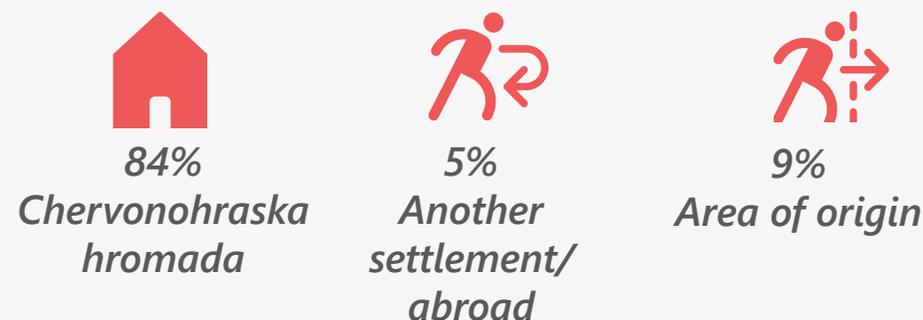
At the time of data collection in November 2023, the majority of assessed displaced households (84%) preferred to stay in Chervonohradska hromada in the medium term (3 to 6 months). As shown in Figure 4, a small percentage of households would prefer to return to their area of origin (9%), while others have the desire to relocate elsewhere, whether within Ukraine or abroad.

Of those households that preferred to stay in Chervonohradska hromada, close to half (40%) emphasized the importance of sustainable housing arrangements for local integration. Additionally, over a third (32%) indicated a need for accessible basic services (education, healthcare, administrative services) in the hromada.

Many KIs have suggested that IDPs may settle and integrate into the hromada. In total, 5 out of 6 KIs indicated the desire for households to remain in the hromada. This is consistent with data reported by the Danish Refugee Council, which indicated that as of November 2023, close to half (44%) of assessed displaced households intended to integrate locally in Lvivska Oblast.<sup>11</sup> In Chervonohradska hromada, the majority of KIs noted that many displaced households cannot return to their areas of origin due to Russian occupation or because their homes are damaged or destroyed, preventing a safe return. Overall, there is a clear need to provide support services for the local integration of IDPs, regardless of their medium-term movement intentions, particularly helping them meet their housing needs.

*“A certain number of people have their homes destroyed, and they have nowhere to return... most IDPs said that they were ready to stay in Chervonohradska hromada.” – Government representative*

Figure 4: IDP households’ preferred location in the medium term (3 to 6 months)



## ACCESS TO EDUCATION

The vast majority of children in both displaced and non-displaced assessed households were enrolled in formal education at the time of data collection. As shown in Figure 5, trends appear similar for formal enrollment in different educational streams of children in both displaced and non-displaced households, with most children between the ages of 6 to 17 years enrolled in school.

Concerning the modality of education, most children of both assessed displaced and non-displaced households reported attending school offline, while 18% of children from displaced households attended school online compared to 1% of assessed non-displaced children. Most of those enrolled online attended school in a facility located in their area of origin (87%). As online enrollment is common in areas closer to the front line, concerns remain for displaced children and their integration in relocated areas.

Figure 6: Percent of children between 3 and 17 years of age in displaced households enrolled in formal education, by teaching modality

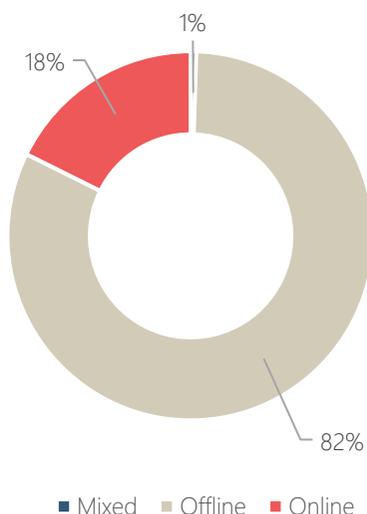
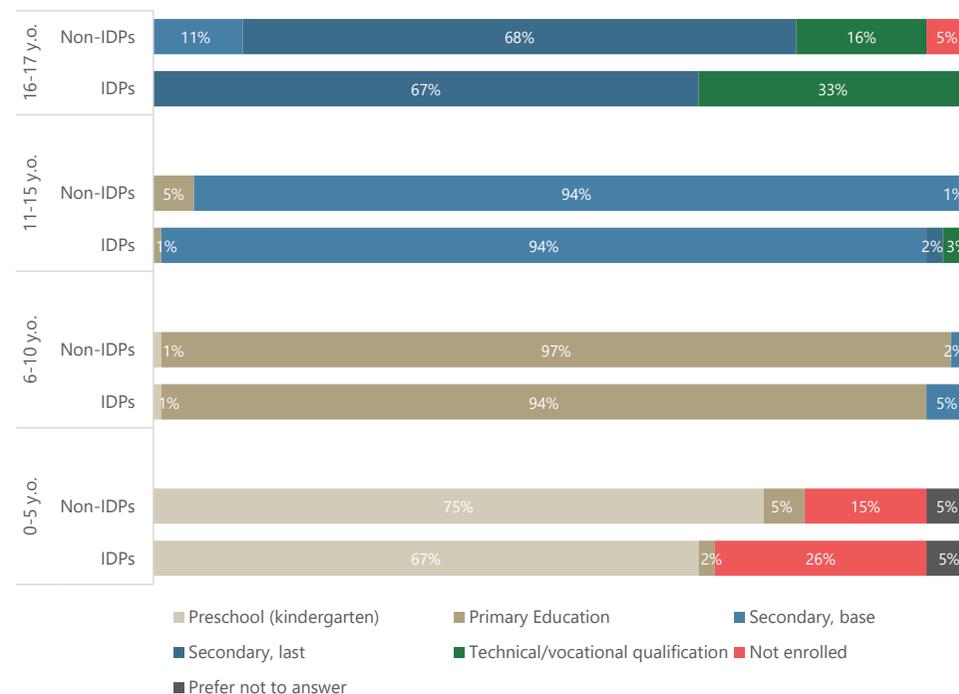


Figure 5: Percent of children (3-17 years) enrolled in formal education, by age and displacement status



## EMPLOYMENT STATUS

Employment opportunities and livelihood resilience are often considered key factors that can support the achievement of durable solutions by displaced people. In Lvivska oblast, this is also evidenced in the report on social cohesion released by the Danish Refugee Council in August 2023, which highlighted that 71% of assessed displaced households identified access to employment as pivotal for their local integration,<sup>12</sup> signalling the desire to become employed within the area of relocation.

However, **IDP Profiling findings show a notable difference in official employment status between displaced and non-displaced household members of working age (18-64 years) in Chervonohradska hromada.** Figure 7 shows that only 25% of displaced household members reported official employment status, whereas a notably higher proportion of non-displaced household members reported their employment status (48%). Moreover, a larger percentage of IDPs reported unemployment status compared to non-IDPs (18% and 9%, respectively). This indicates the substantial employment challenges faced by displaced people in the hromada. Such a disparity underscores the necessity for targeted support to address employment discrepancies between displaced and non-displaced households, especially considering the pre-existing diminishing economic opportunities in Chervonohradska hromada before the full-scale invasion, as documented in the 2021 Profile of the Chervonohradska Territorial Hromada.<sup>13</sup>

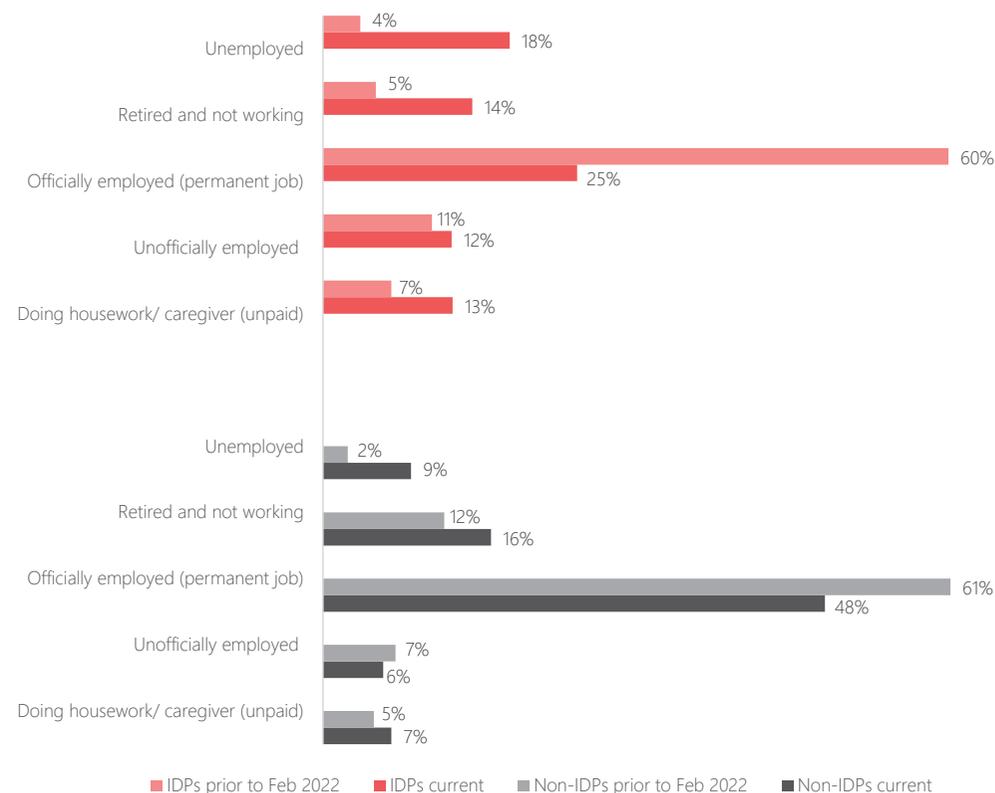
Further analysis of IDP Profiling findings reveals that **the majority of assessed unemployed household members were female (81%).** This pattern aligns with State Statistics from 2023, which indicated that women comprised 74% of Lvivska Oblast's officially unemployed population.<sup>14</sup> **In Chervonohradska hromada, caregiving responsibilities (42%) and a lack of job opportunities (32%) were cited as the primary reasons for unemployment among displaced women.** This suggests that additional support to displaced and unemployed women is required, such as requalification in certain sectors or caregiving support to be able to access employment opportunities in the hromada.

**Despite additional support required, access to employment services remains limited.** IDP profiling data reveals that 81% of unemployed working-age IDPs were not registered with the employment centre at the time of data collection. Among the factors contributing to this low registration rate, the lack of requalification opportunities provided by the hromada's employment centre branch is suggested to be important. Specifically, professional retraining programmes, which are run over a six-month period, require relocation from Chervonohradska hromada to Lviv, the oblast capital located approximately 72 km away. According to one KI, this presents significant barriers to accessing requalification opportunities, particularly for women with caregiving responsibilities.

*“Those courses and re-training offered by the employment centre must meet certain requirements according to state legislation. First of all, it's in Lviv, it's 70 kilometres away from Chervonohrad. For an adult, especially a mother with a child, this may mean moving to Lviv for 6-8-months long training based on an educational facility.”*

*– NGO representative*

Figure 7: Most commonly reported employment situation of working-age household members prior to February 2022 and current, by displacement status



## EMPLOYMENT SECTORS

This section explores differences in employment sectors between IDPs and host community members in Chervonohradska hromada, as well as changes in employment for both groups over time. Identification of the sectors where IDPs and host community members find employment provides insights into the level of integration of displaced households into the hromada's labour force, thereby informing targeted interventions to support their livelihoods.

**Employed IDP and non-IDP household members in Chervonohradska hromada appeared to have differing employment profiles based on the analysis of sectors.** The most commonly reported sectors employing assessed IDPs were the service sector (27%), wholesale and retail (14%), and construction (11%). Over half of the displaced household members who reported to be officially or unofficially employed mentioned finding a job in these sectors (52%). This aligns with official statistics from the Ministry of Reintegration, highlighting that displaced people in Lvivska Oblast are most commonly employed in the service sector and wholesale and retail.<sup>15</sup> Conversely, the top three current sectors of employment as reported by host community members were the service sector (19%), mining and quarrying (16%), and education (11%). Altogether, almost half of assessed host community members who reported official or unofficial employment were employed in these sectors (46%).

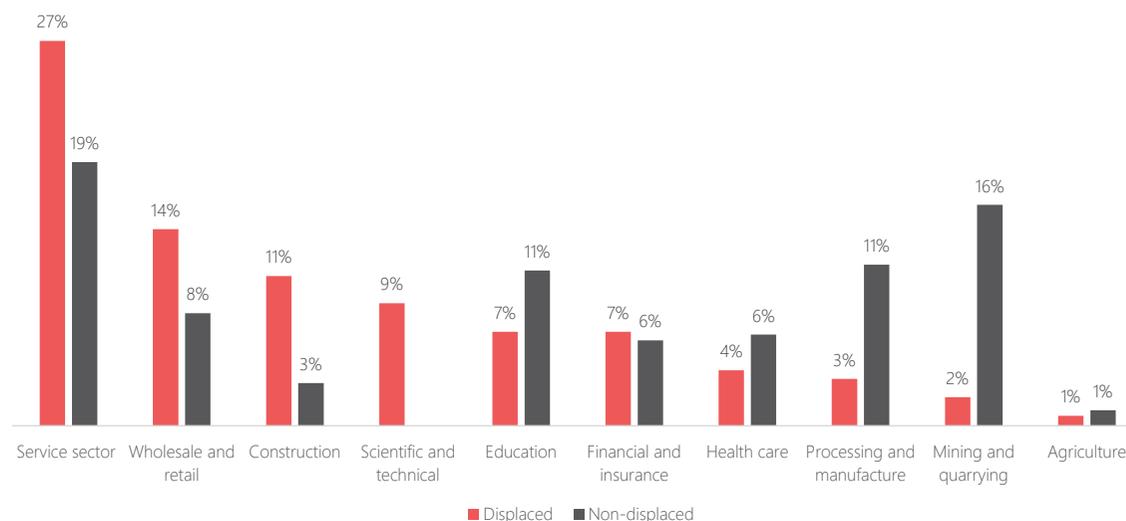
The dominant industry in Chervonohradska hromada historically has been mining, followed by consumer goods processing, according to the 2021 Profile of the Chervonohradska Territorial Hromada.<sup>16</sup> However, IDP Profiling findings observed a minimal representation of IDPs in these sectors, with only 2% employed in mining and 3% in processing and manufacturing, suggesting a potential lack of qualifications or skill. As the above sectors are primarily male-dominated, the low proportion of IDPs employed in these areas could be explained by the low percentage of assessed displaced members of working age who are men. Overall, the majority of assessed displaced household members of working age were female, with only 34% of displaced members identified as male. Despite this, one KI suggested that the lack of IDPs employed in these sectors in the hromada is due to the lack of qualifications required for such roles.

*“There are many vacancies in the mining industry, but they require highly specialized workers.”*

*– Government representative*

**Findings also revealed changes in employment sectors among assessed IDPs in the hromada post-February 2022.** Displaced household members reported a 10-percentage point higher service sector employment in Chervonohradska hromada, possibly indicating challenges in securing employment in their professional fields. Additionally, IDPs reported a decrease of 6 percentage points in agriculture employment. Notably, a considerable proportion of assessed IDPs (35%) originated from the Khersonska and Zaporizka Oblasts, known for extensive agricultural activities according to the Ministry of Agrarian Policy and Food of Ukraine.<sup>17</sup> This suggests a potential discrepancy between the agricultural skills of some IDPs and the more urbanized economy of Chervonohradska hromada, which primarily focuses on mining activities.

Figure 8: % of employed household members by current sector and displacement status



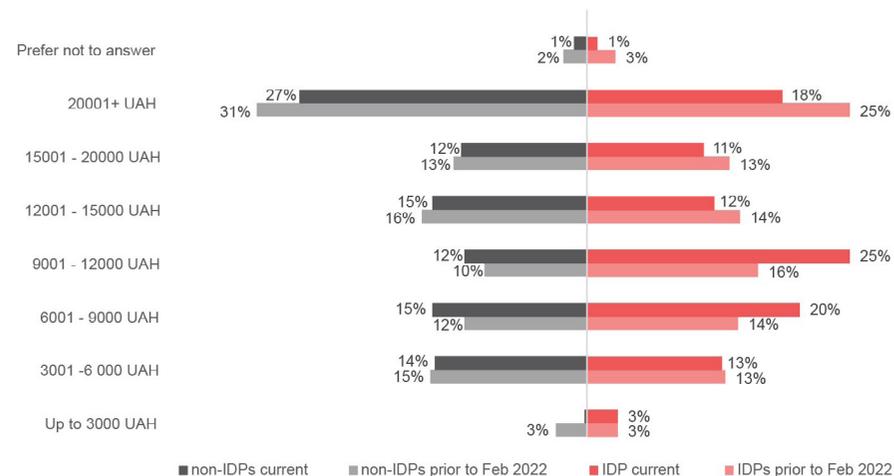
## INCOME

IDP Profiling findings in Chervonohradka hromada show that while income levels are generally lower for displaced households compared to those non-displaced, **displaced households reported a decrease in their overall income since the start of the full-scale war.** In 2022, the Department of Economic Policy of the Chervonohrad City Council estimated that a financially comfortable income level would be 15,000 UAH in the hromada.<sup>18</sup> Figure 9 illustrates that the majority of assessed displaced households in Chervonohradka hromada (70%) reported earning less than 15,000 UAH in the month before data collection, compared to 60% before their displacement due to the escalation of the war. In contrast, the proportion of non-displaced households in the hromada receiving less than 15,000 UAH post-invasion (59%) remained stable from the month before the invasion (56%).

This difference is indicative of heightened livelihoods vulnerabilities, resulting in a loss of income, experienced by displaced populations across Ukraine due to the full-scale war. According to the United Nations Development Programme’s (UNDP) Human Impact Assessment, displaced households most commonly reported decreased incomes (74%) and disruption or loss of access to paid work (73%) in early 2023.<sup>19</sup> Additionally, the Ukrainian think-tank Society and Environment observed that in 2022, financial support was the most pressing need for close to half of the assessed IDPs (49%) in Lvivska oblast.<sup>20</sup>

Lower incomes, compounded with a lower prevalence of official employment status, indicates that **assessed displaced households are more likely to be in an unviable livelihood situation than assessed non-displaced households in the hromada.**

Figure 9: Households monthly income prior to February 2022 and current, by displacement status

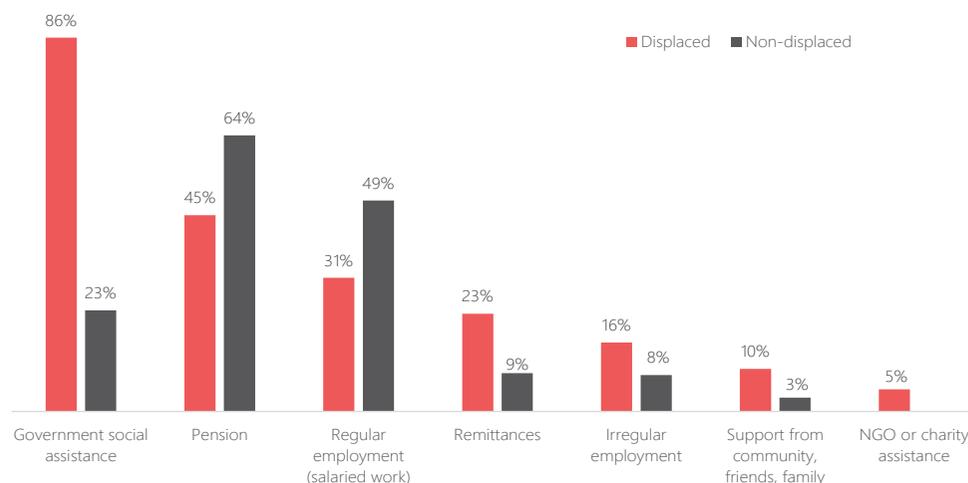


Overall, **displaced households mostly relied on government social assistance for their income (86%)**, a stark contrast to the quarter of non-displaced households (23%) who depended on such support. In 2023, governmental IDP payments amounted to 2,000 UAH per person and 3,000 UAH for people with disabilities and one child according to the Ministry of Social Policy.<sup>21</sup>

Notably, with an ageing population of non-displaced households in Chervonohradka hromada, pension payments were reported as the prevalent income source of host community members (64%), constituting a common income source for nearly half of the displaced households (45%). However, while pensions formed a significant portion of income for non-displaced households, they also reported a higher reliance on salaries from employment (49%), underscoring a level of economic stability not observed among displaced people, of whom only a third (31%) reported deriving income from salaried work.

Furthermore, a higher proportion of displaced households than non-displaced ones received income from irregular employment (16% and 8%, respectively), involving temporary or daily wage earning. This difference suggests that IDPs in the hromada experienced difficulties securing stable employment. Additionally, a notable reliance on external financial support among displaced households was observed, with almost a quarter (23%) reporting remittances as an income source in the month preceding data collection. This reliance further highlights the need for comprehensive livelihood support aimed at increasing self-sufficiency and economic resilience among displaced people in the hromada.

Figure 10: Most commonly reported households’ current sources of income, by displacement status



## ACCESS TO ACCOMMODATION

The majority of assessed displaced households (76%) reported renting accommodation, whilst the vast majority of assessed non-displaced households (96%) reported owning their accommodation. In total, almost a quarter of assessed displaced households (22%) reported living in a house or apartment at no cost. As shown in Figure 11, such accommodation was provided by either relatives or friends, as well as hosts found through social media or volunteers within the hromada.

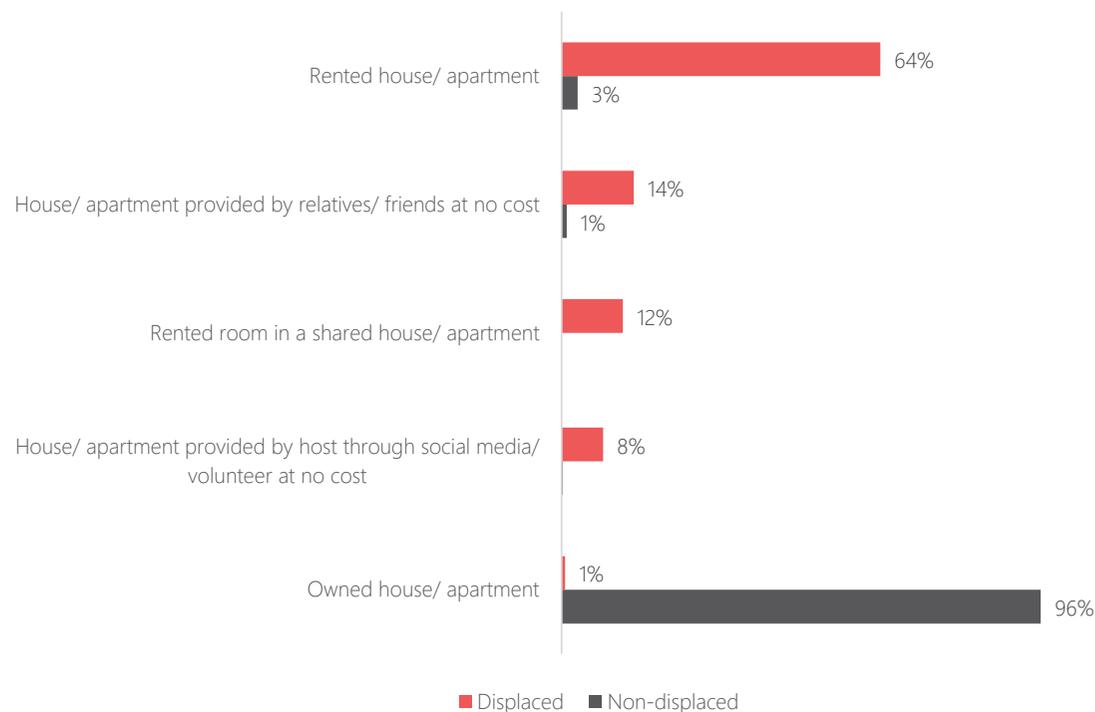
Of those displaced households reported living in rented accommodation (76%), 39% reported rent and utility bills costing an estimated 3,000-5,000 UAH per month, and a third (31%) reported paying more than 5,000 UAH per month for rent and utilities. According to the State Statistics Service of Ukraine, the average rent cost for a one-bedroom apartment in Lvivska Oblast rose significantly in the past two years, amounting to an estimated 11,919 UAH per month in October 2023, compared to 5,191 UAH in October 2021.<sup>22</sup> Only 2% of assessed displaced households in Chervonohradska hromada reported paying more than 9,000 UAH per month for rent and utilities, suggesting lower housing expenses in the hromada compared to average housing costs in the oblast. Yet, **37% of assessed displaced households renting accommodation utilized coping mechanisms, such as spending their savings to pay for rent and utility bills.** As such, high rent costs place a burden on the displaced households' budget, which can affect their ability to save and afford property in the long term.

To access rented accommodation in Chervonohradska hromada, just over half (55%) of assessed displaced households used the services of a real estate agent. Utilizing such a service can be costly, as extra housing fees are imposed on households creating additional barriers to accessing private housing in the hromada. As reported in the policy brief by Society and Environment in 2022, IDPs in Lvivska oblast cited the high cost of services of a real estate agent as a hindrance to seeking private housing.<sup>23</sup>

*“The thing is that without a realtor, almost no one wants to rent out housing to displaced people. This is plus 100% [of the cost] per [the first] month.”*  
– NGO representative

The majority of assessed displaced having rented accommodation in Chervonohradska hromada have a rental agreement with their landlord (70%). However, of those, only 7% (n=15) have a notarized rental agreement which provides the most legally robust tenure security on the private market.<sup>24</sup>

Figure 11: Most commonly reported types of accommodation households currently reside in, by displacement status



## ACCESS TO PUBLIC SERVICES

In the month prior to data collection, assessed households, regardless of displacement status, most often accessed or attempted to access general healthcare services compared to other public services including administrative, and social services (Figure 12). Just over half of assessed displaced (56%) and non-displaced (52%) households sought healthcare services in the past month prior to data collection. Of those households, 52% of those displaced and 44% of non-displaced households reported no barriers to accessing healthcare services. Still, **both displaced (39%) and non-displaced households (44%) reported the high cost of services and medical products as the main barrier to accessing healthcare in the hromada.** Similarly, according to the World Bank's Ukraine Human Development Update, unaffordability of medicines or treatments was one of the main barriers to healthcare in 2023.<sup>25</sup>

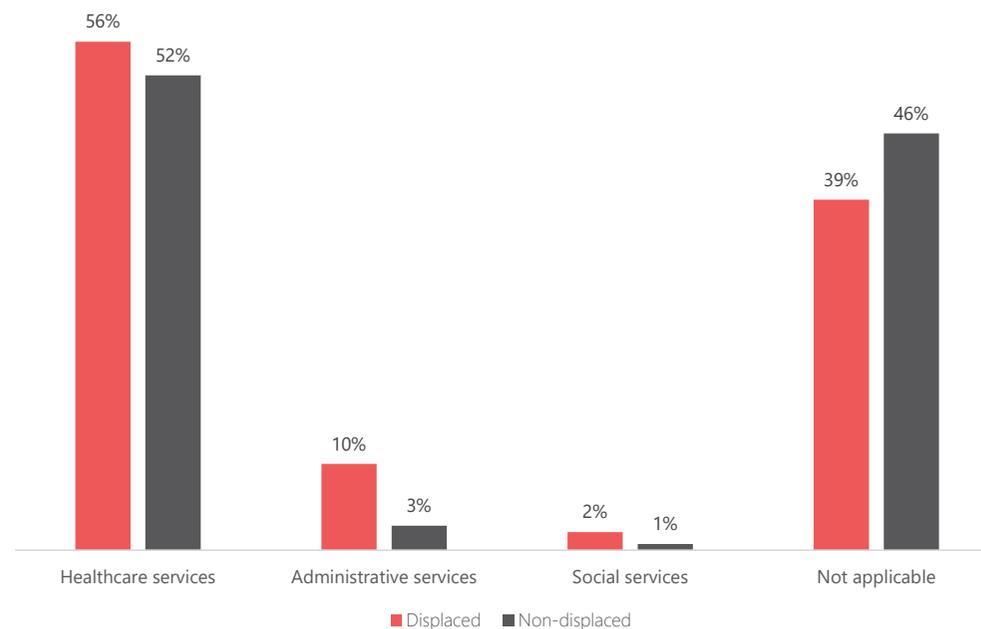
Concerning other public services, assessed displaced households (10%) reported attempting to access administrative services slightly more than non-displaced households (3%). Indeed, displaced households are often faced with displacement-related administrative and documentation issues. Despite this, the majority of those displaced households (64%) that have accessed administrative services in the hromada reported no barriers.

Lastly, a very small proportion of assessed displaced (2%) and non-displaced households (1%) reported accessing social services in the month preceding data collection. One KI indicated the general lack of awareness of available social services in the hromada, particularly for IDPs. Such is a concern, considering that caregiving was the most reported reason for unemployment by assessed displaced women.

*"Many IDPs are unaware of what social services are available for them in the Chervonohradska hromada."*

– NGO Representative

Figure 12: Types of services that households accessed, or attempted to access in the month prior to data collection



## MODES OF COMMUNICATION

As a common mode of communication across the country, electronic dissemination of information is heavily relied on. The majority of assessed displaced households (81%) prefer to use messengers and social media (Telegram, Viber, Facebook etc.) to stay informed about services and assistance available for IDPs in the hromada. Nearly half (44%) of such households rely on word of mouth to receive updates on services and assistance, highlighting the importance of informal communication channels among IDPs in the hromada. Just 13% of displaced households prefer using the official websites of local authorities for this purpose.



81%

of assessed displaced households prefer using messengers and social media to stay informed about services and assistance available in the hromada.

## SOCIAL COHESION

### PARTICIPATION IN PUBLIC AFFAIRS

IDP Profiling findings suggest that overall, **the engagement of displaced populations in public affairs within Chervonohradaska hromada remains low.** Only 7% of assessed displaced households reported having actively participated in social/ political groups or activities within the community. IOM findings show a lack of participation amongst the general population, while IDPs report greater difficulties in participating in public affairs.<sup>26</sup> In Chervonohradaska hromada, 3 out of 6 KIs reiterated the lack of IDP engagement in local affairs, with one KI indicating that this is not only a concern for IDPs, but also a general lack of desire for the host community to participate.

*"...there are no people who would like to participate in public life. There is only 1% of those who do. Our people are passive. In general, this applies not only to IDPs, but also to ordinary residents."*

– Government representative

*"The activity of IDPs on social issues is low. It's work, it's responsibility, you need to do something. Most are focused on rallies, demands, and many do not understand that it is necessary to do something themselves, and not just demand. When you write that you need to do something, there is very little activity. This year, the Council of IDPs under the mayor was established. When we posted this information in the chat, we knew that there might not be any people taking part in this Council at all."*

– NGO Representative

For IDPs participating in local affairs, a small portion reported activities/ events included engagement with a local charity organisation within their community (4%). Others reported difficulties in participating in such events. Of those assessed displaced households, 22% reported facing an obstacle in participating in social/ political groups or activities within the community. The most commonly reported challenges preventing their participation included a lack of time (8%), health issues (7%), and caregiving responsibilities (6%). One KI noted that displaced households generally are aware of the changes needed to be made regarding social issues, yet there is a lack of engagement to partake in such initiatives.



22%

of assessed displaced households reported having faced obstacles participating in social/ political groups or activities within the community



7%

of assessed displaced households reported having actively participated in social/ political groups or activities within the community

## SOCIAL COHESION

### COMMUNITY RELATIONS

IDP Profiling findings show that self-perceived relations between displaced populations and the host community in Chervonohradaska hromada are suggested to be rather positive. As shown in Figure 13, the majority of IDP households (70%) reported ‘relatively good’ or ‘very good’ relations amongst displaced and non-displaced households, while just under half of all assessed non-displaced households (45%) also perceived relations as ‘relatively good’ or ‘very good’.

Yet understanding social cohesion and community relations can be difficult to measure. Varying sources have strived to understand the perceived relations between IDPs and host communities in Ukraine. According to SHARP 2023 national findings, 14% of respondents have experienced or witnessed tensions amongst IDPs and host communities.<sup>27</sup> However, regional differences in the feeling of social tensions remain. When asking respondents to rate tensions amongst IDPs and host communities from 1 to 10 on tensions, SHARP 2023 scores in Lvivska oblast were the highest across the country (3.7).<sup>28</sup> Additionally, recent IOM findings from 2023 suggest that displacement status may lead to discriminatory attitudes towards displaced populations.<sup>29</sup> In Chervonohradaska hromada, roughly a quarter of assessed displaced households and host community households referred to the relationship as ‘neutral’ (23% and 31%, respectively). In addition, 18% of host community members indicated that they did not know or preferred not to say. This suggests that households may not have interacted with displaced populations, or their discomfort with disclosing such information.

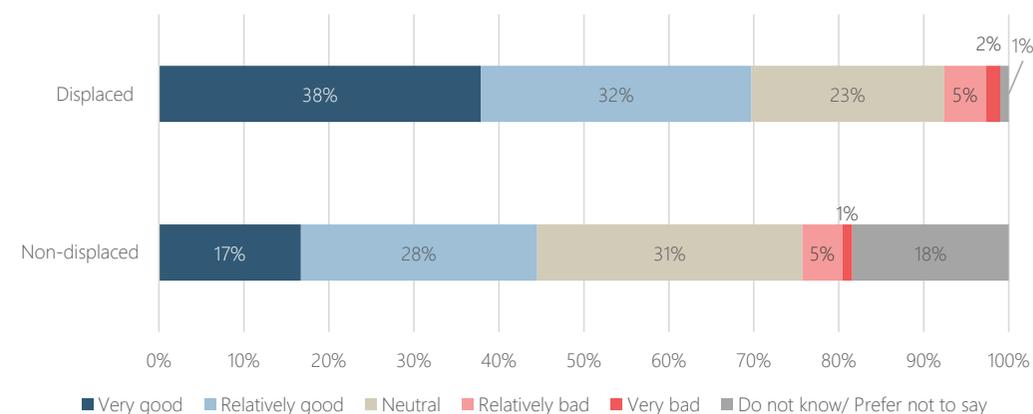
When asked what factors positively influence community cohesion in Chervonohradaska hromada, both assessed displaced households and host communities had similar views. A sense of trust amongst community members, regardless of displacement status, was highlighted as a prominent factor by both IDPs (61%) and non-displaced (45%). In addition, a willingness from both groups to interact was also indicated as a primary factor for positive community cohesion by IDPs (38%) and non-displaced households (45%).

Conversely, both population groups highlighted varying factors that negatively influence community cohesion. For example, displaced households indicated that a lack of a sense of trust and solidarity amongst IDPs and non-IDPs contributed to worsening relations (18%), as well as the different languages spoken by IDPs and non-IDPs (17%), suggesting having perceived the use of the Russian language within the hromada as a leading to tensions. Alternatively, assessed households in the host community indicated a lack of proactivity to seek employment (20%), and a lack of sense of trust and solidarity (19%) as negatively impacting community relations.

*“...of course, there are conflicts, especially concerning the Russian language. This is unacceptable on the part of the host community.”*  
 – Government representative

As emphasized by local stakeholders during a joint analysis session, hosting shared cultural and social events and activities for both displaced and non-displaced people in the hromada could strengthen trust between the groups and facilitate community-building experiences.

Figure 13: Percent of households’ perceived relations amongst displaced and host community, by displacement status



15%

of IDP households felt discriminated against due to their IDP status

## ENDNOTES

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## ABOUT REACH

REACH Initiative 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).