LONGITUDINAL SURVEY
of people displaced from Ukraine and those who have returned

Ukrainian Refugees in Germany:

Overview of the situation by the end of 2025

December 2025

IFRC

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Households of Ukrainian respondents in Germany: demography and sample

October 2025

29% Male **71%** Female

gender distribution of adults 18+

2.5

average household size

Sample size, as of Round 34:

498 respondents, representing:

832 *adult household members*
418 *children*

52% Households with children, including **7%** with three or more.

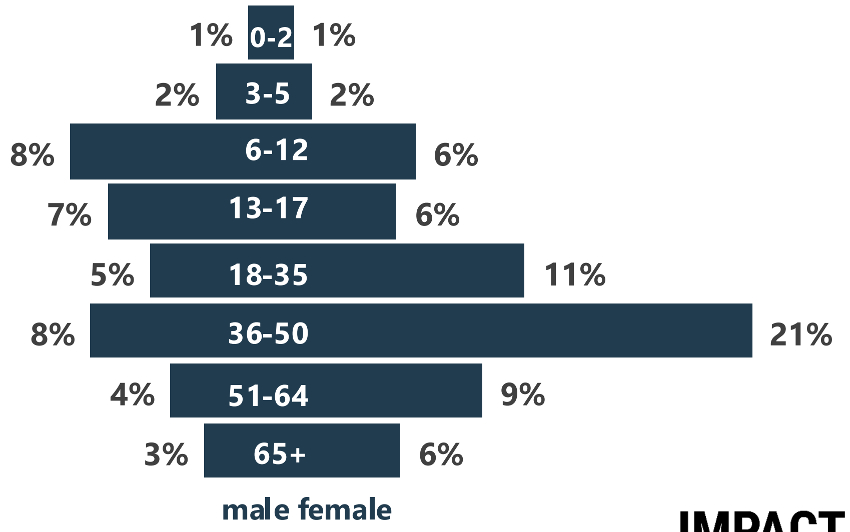
23% Households with children, headed by a single female caregiver.

35% Households with at least one man and woman of working age, including **22%** with children, and **13%** without.

17% Households with older people, including **7%** consisting of only older people.

13% Households with members with disabilities (Washington Group Short Set on functioning).

Age and gender composition of the household members



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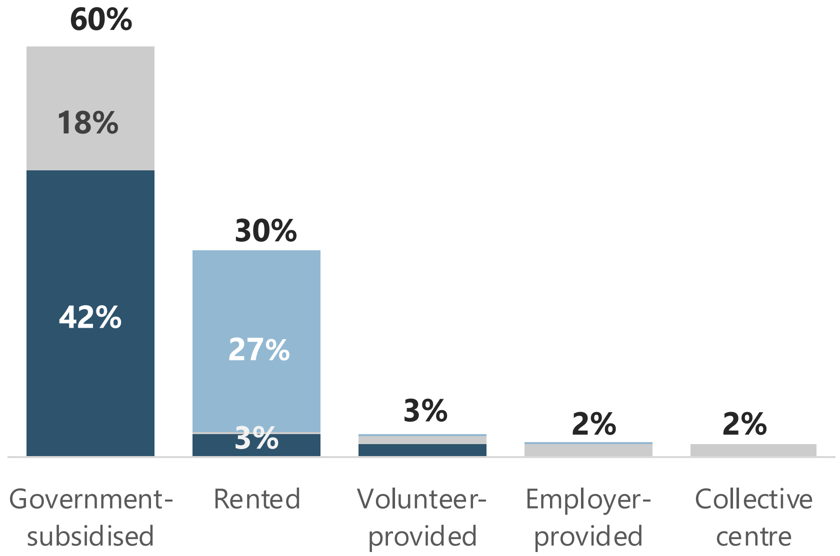
Accommodation arrangements and changes over time

October 2025

Most respondents lived in subsidised housing (60%), and one in three rented. 48% paid for housing partially, and 29% paid the full price.

The top 5 most popular accommodation arrangements of Ukrainian respondents in Germany

n=498

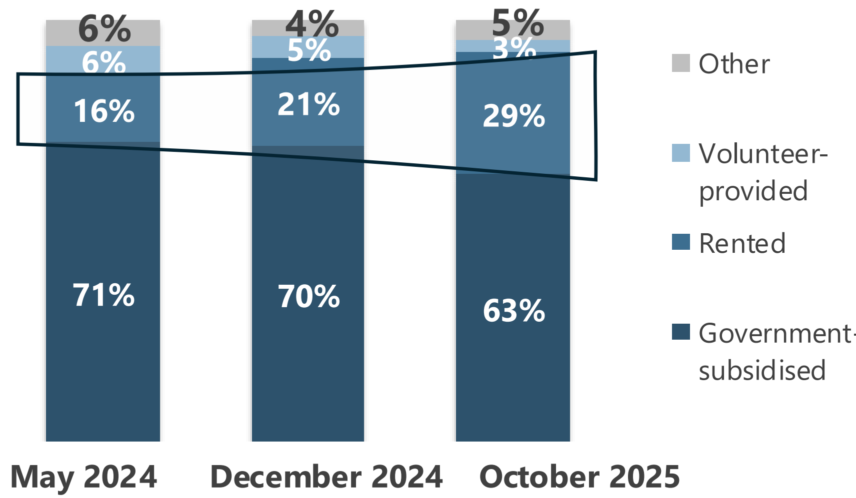


In 1.5 years, more respondents transitioned to more independent housing options:

- Almost a **two times rise** in rented accommodation **(16% → 29%)**
- **12 percentage points decrease** in temporary options (government-supported, collective sites, or volunteer-provided)

Accommodation modalities of the same Ukrainian respondents in Germany, over time

n=311



* **Other** includes all options that do not exceed 2%, such as accommodation provided by an employer, NGO, family or friends, own accommodation, or hotel/hostel.

Accommodation: profile of respondents living in different types of housing

October 2025

Who lives in government-subsidised housing?

More vulnerable

Subsidised (60%)		Rented (30%)
32%	HHs* with men (18-64)	54%
23%	HHs with people aged 65+	8%
16%	HHs with people with disabilities	7%
28%	Single caregiver woman taking care of child(ren)	13%

Has lower employment

23%	% of employed non-retired adults in the household	74%
34%	Among the employed (18-64) respondents, work full-time (35 hours or more)	74%

But more likely to be in the transition to employment

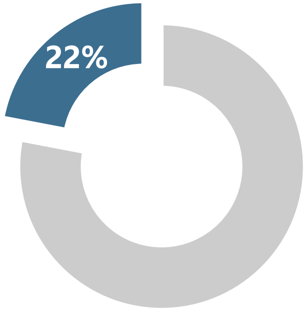
38%	Currently attending language courses	12%

*HHs is shorter for households.

How much respondents' households are spending on housing a month:

Overall

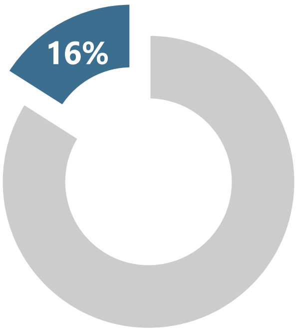
200 EUR
median



of HH* income

Among the inhabitants of subsidised housing

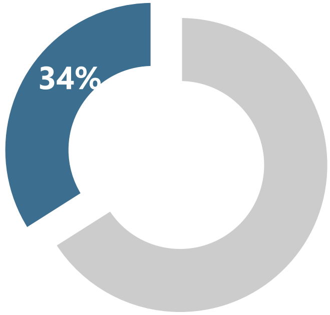
120 EUR
median



of HH income

Among renters

800 EUR
median



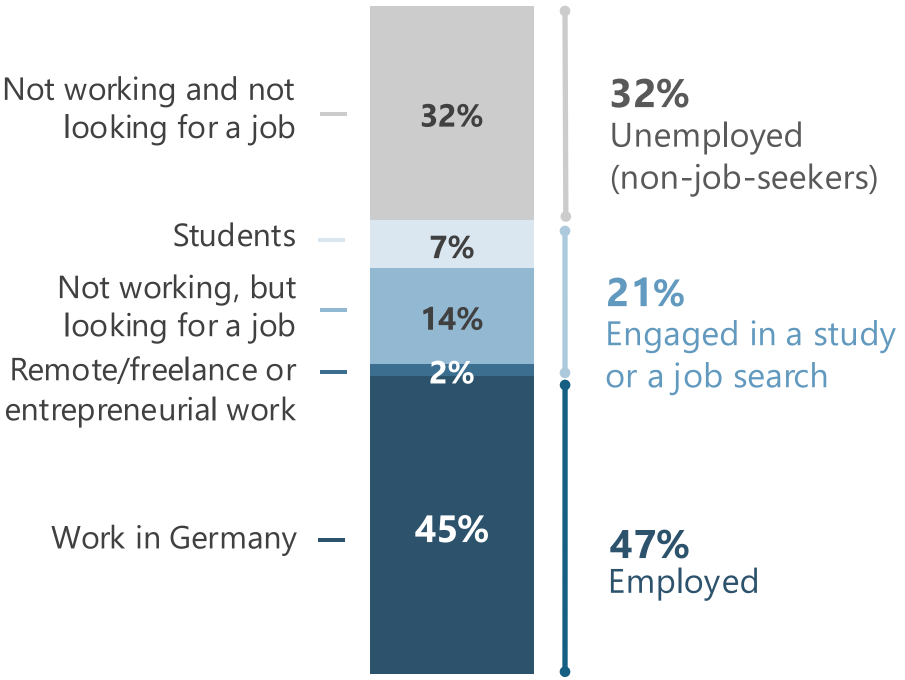
of HH income

Overview of the employment situation

October 2025

Occupation status of non-retired adults in the households of Ukrainian respondents in Germany

n (HH members)=654*; n (respondents)=498



*The household was accounted for only if all adult household members agreed to disclose their work status.

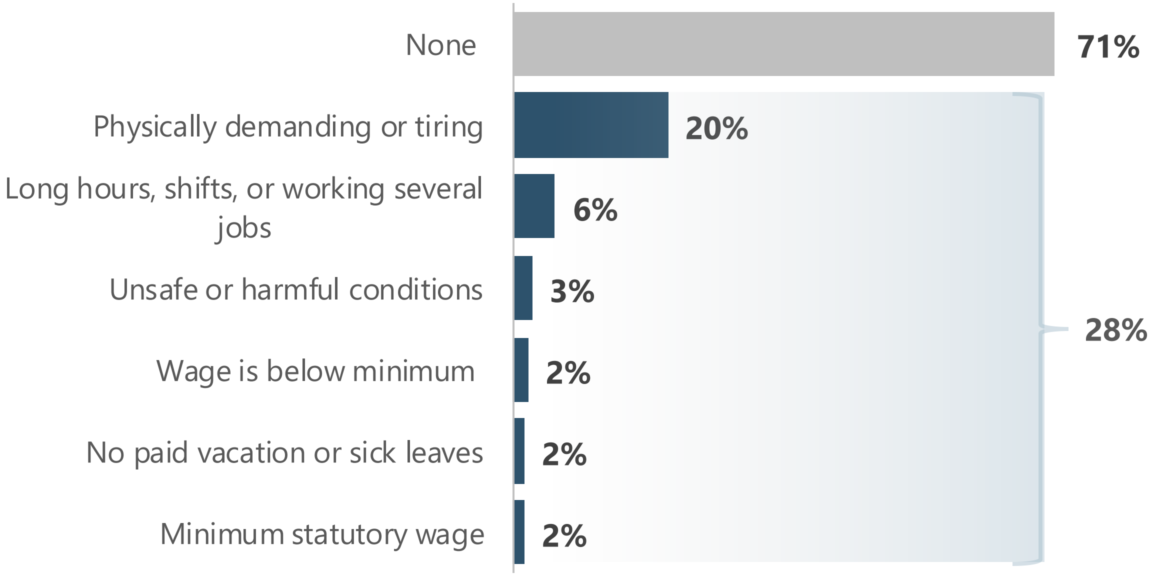
! The unemployed group may include adults providing unpaid care to children or other adults. Respondent-level data shows that **8% of non-retired respondents** who are not working and not seeking a job are caregivers.

GENDER LENS: employment of women

51% vs. 37%
female respondents (18-64) without children were **13 percentage points** more employed than those with children

43% working reduced hours:
35% – 20-34 hours, **8%** – up to 20 hours

Challenges in the workplace of Ukrainian respondents in Germany



n=196; multiple-choice question; less than 2% responses are not shown; 0.5% - preferred not to say

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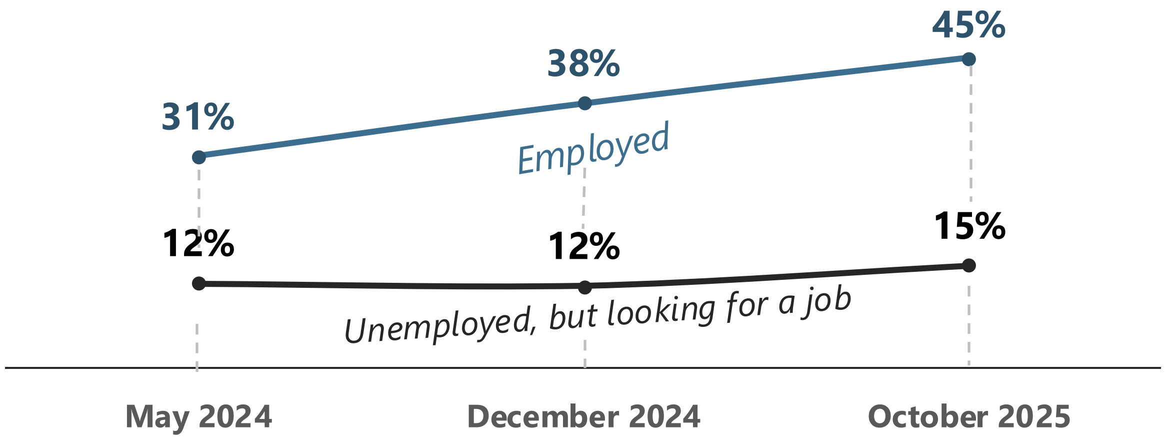
Employment: changes over time

October 2025

Over 1.5 years, the share of economically active adult household members among the same surveyed Ukrainian refugees increased:

- **Employment level** increased **by half (14 percentage points).**
- The share of **job seekers** also increased, but by a smaller amount **(3 percentage points).**

Employment of non-retired adults in the household of the same Ukrainian refugee respondents in Germany*, change over time



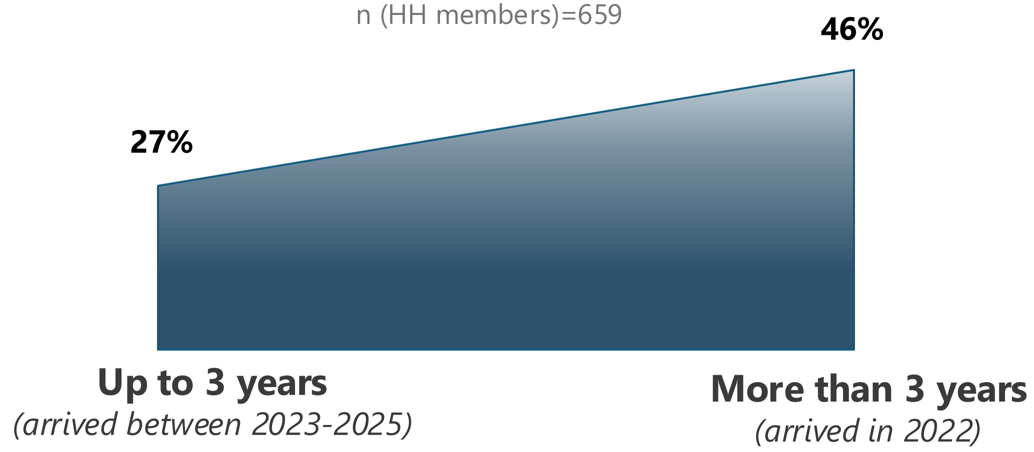
n (HH members)=395 to 406, depending on the round; n (respondents)=311
The household was accounted for only if all adult household members agreed to disclose their work status.

The employment level is notably higher among those who arrived in Germany earlier:

The overall employment level appears lower due to a low but steady inflow of newly arrived refugees*, whose shorter stay in Germany naturally depresses the national average.

Employment of non-retired adults in the households of Ukrainian refugee respondents in Germany by length of stay

n (HH members)=659



*According to Eurostat data, there has been a gradual but steady increase in the number of arrivals in Germany over time.

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Employment: before displacement vs. now

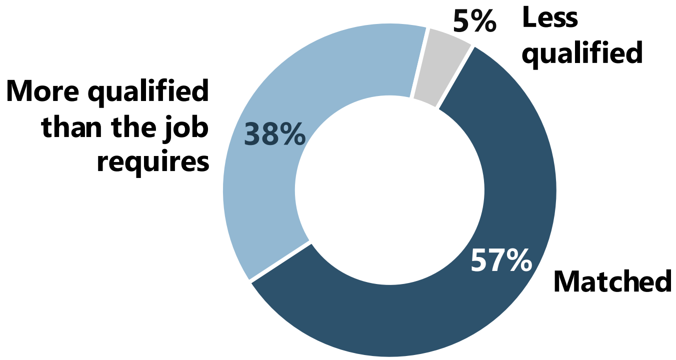
October 2025

Professional levels declined sharply when comparing pre-displacement occupations to current positions, reflected in both held positions and self-assessed skills-to-job alignment:

24% → 58%: rise in elementary, operational or service roles
63% → 28%: decrease in the share of high-skilled professionals or managers

Self-assessed alignment of skills compared to the current position held* by Ukrainian respondents in Germany

n=196



In terms of qualification level, surveyed Ukrainians in Germany were in a somewhat better position than those living in Poland, holding slightly better positions.

Top 6 types of occupation of Ukrainian respondents in Germany, ordered from highest to lowest qualification level

in comparison to Ukrainian refugee respondents in Poland

Level of qualification and professional categories	%
Level 4: Teaching professions (professionals)	8% +4
Level 3-4: Medical workers (professionals and associates, or technicians)	6% +4
Level 2-3: Craft and related trades workers (mostly builders, electricians)	7% +3
Level 2: Personal & care services	13% 0
Level 2: Sales workers	6% 0
Level 1: Elementary workers	36% -10

The small numbers next to each percentage show how much higher **(green)** or lower **(red)** this occupation type is in Germany compared to Poland (in percentage points).

*Employment categories are classified according to the International Standard Classification of Occupations (ISCO-08). For simplicity, managers, professionals, technicians, and associate professionals have been combined into one group of high-skilled professionals and managers; whereas Plant and Machine Operators, and Assemblers, as well as Elementary workers, and Clerical workers have been combined into elementary, operational, and service roles.

Livelihood situation: income, savings, and remittances

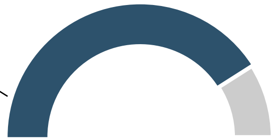
October 2025

Income differs by household composition:

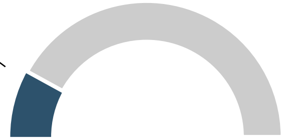
Income is higher in households ***without children*** and with a ***working-age man*** **(both 563 EUR per HH member)**, while the reverse configuration ***(single women with children)*** is associated with the lowest income **(475 EUR)**.

The presence of ***people with disabilities*** or ***older people*** is also associated with lower income **(approx. 500 EUR)**.

82%
saved little or no money monthly
n=306



16%
sent money or in-kind help to Ukraine
as opposed to ***2%*** *who received* ***money transfers from Ukraine***
n=498



Median income of respondents' households, per member, by different household types

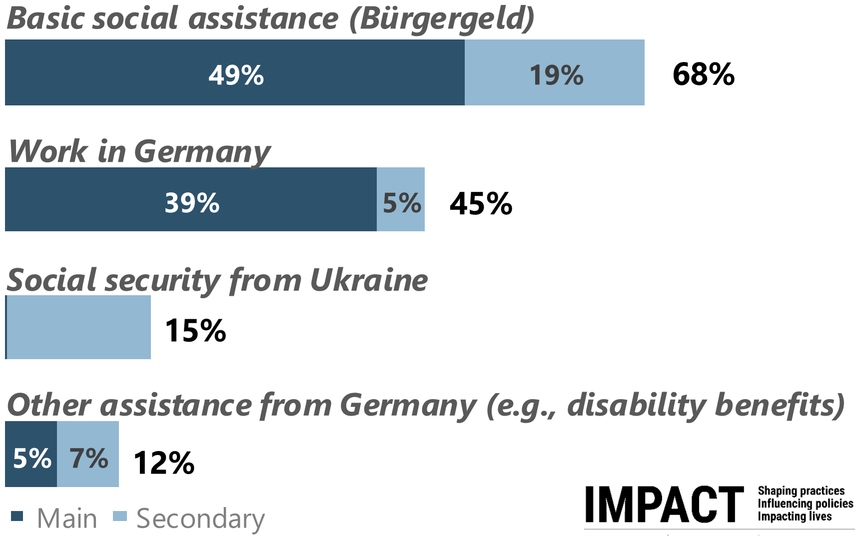
By the presence of household members:

	Child(ren)	Older people	People with disabilities	Man of working age*	Single woman caring for child(ren)	OVERALL
Yes	500	502	500	**563**	**475**	**550**
No	**563**	550	550	526		
n=	*143;147*	*53; 237*	*42; 248*	*98;192*	*69*	***290***

*For the purposes of this analysis, working age is defined as 18-64 years.

Income sources:

n=498; multiple-choice question



Language skills: proficiency, courses, and changes over time

October 2025

40%

rated their language skills as poor or very poor.

***45%** rated them as **fair,** and **15%** as **good or very good**.*

Most have already completed language courses:

n=498

Those who completed language courses report higher proficiency, though differences remain modest.

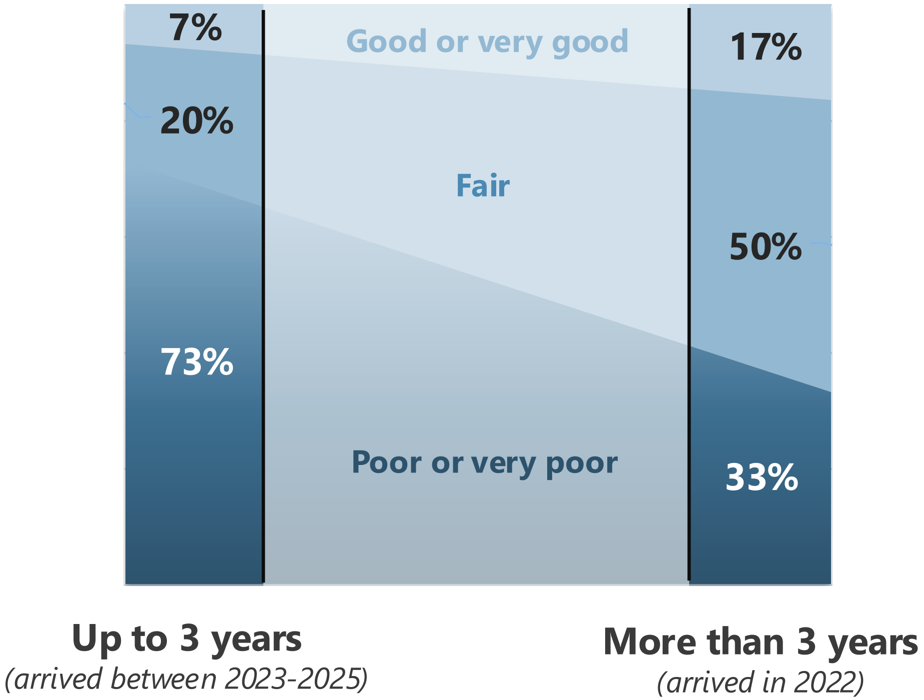
High level: the share rating their German as good is only **7 percentage points higher** among those who completed language courses (**18%**) compared to those still attending **(12%).**

Fair level: in both groups, most respondents continue to report fair proficiency (**55% vs. 38%** still attending)

Longer stays in the country were associated with substantially better language skills:

Self-evaluated level of German proficiency of Ukrainian respondents by length of stay in Germany

n=476



The link between language learning and employment

October 2025

Every third course participant is currently only at a foundational language level.

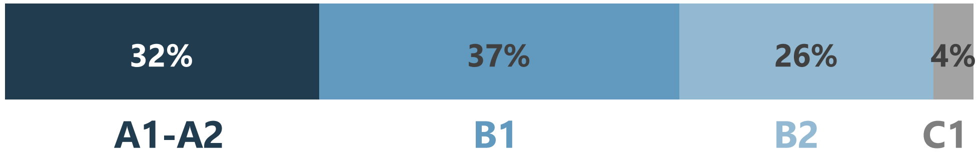
32% (9% of all respondents) are enrolled in **A1–A2** courses, indicating an early stage of language acquisition that is **unlikely to support full participation in the labour market**.

Others are progressing toward language levels compatible with labour market participation.

63% of those currently attending language courses are enrolled in **B1–B2**; 45% expect to complete courses by winter 2025/26.
This suggests this group may be **closer to potential labour market entry in the near term.**

Level of language courses attended by Ukrainian refugee respondents

n=146

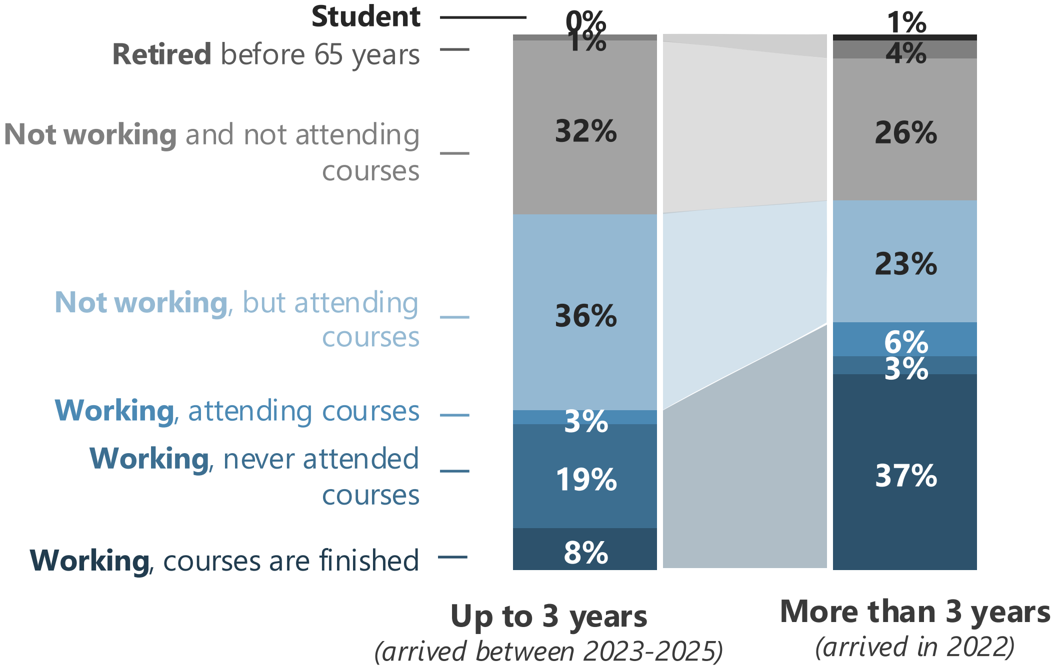


Labour-market integration strengthens with a longer stay :

Finished classes and started to work: 8% → 37%.
Total share of employed: 30% → 46%.
Neither employed nor in language classes: 32% → 26%.

Employment level of working-age refugee respondents in terms of language courses attendance, by length of stay in Germany

n=433



*Since households are predominantly represented by female respondents, respondent-level employment is skewed towards representing the situation of women.

Needs and assistance

October 2025

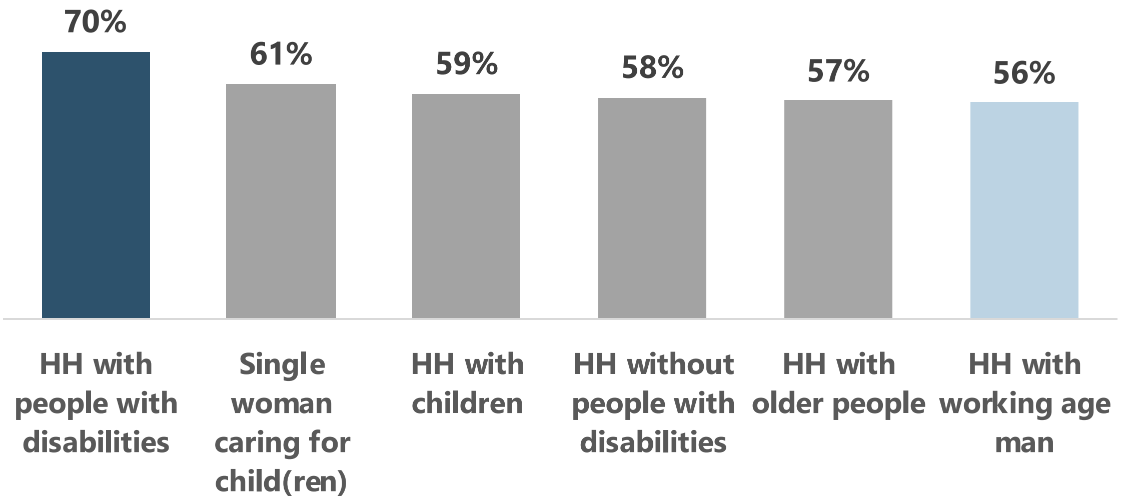
Across all analysed groups, reported assistance needs remain high.

More than half of households of any group still report at least one need for assistance to meet the priority needs, **underscoring the continued relevance of assistance across the entire surveyed refugee population.**

The highest being **households with people with disabilities (70%).**

Households of Ukrainian refugee respondents in Germany reporting at least one preferred form of assistance to meet priority needs, by household type

n=498



Grey shows results within ±2pp of the overall average of surveyed respondents. **Dark blue** indicates higher results, and **light blue** lower.

Most reported groups of required assistance

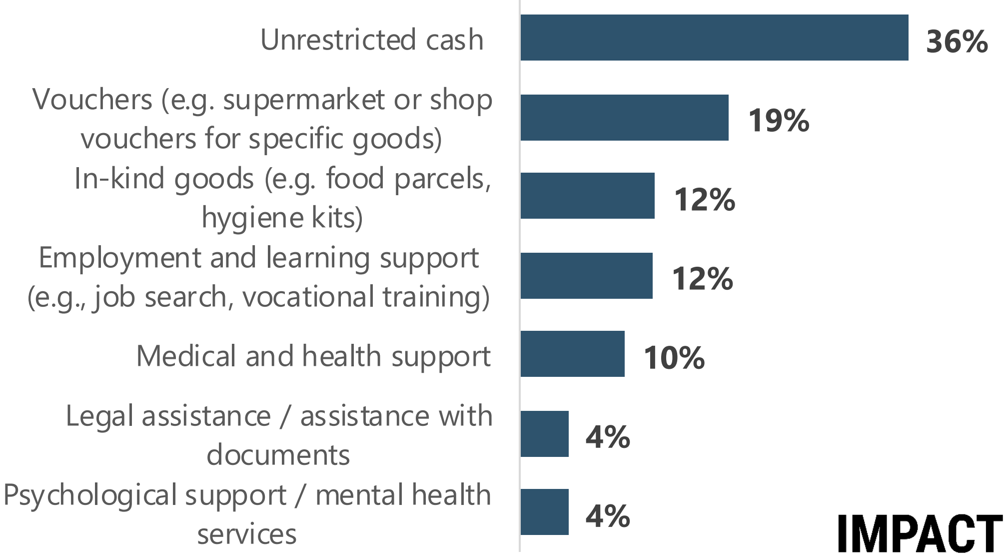
43% – humanitarian assistance: cash (36%), vouchers (19%), or in-kind support (12%).

18% – integration support: employment and adult learning (12%), help with documentation (4%), support with children's education (2%), and others.

14% – health-related needs: physical (10%) or mental health (4%).

Top 7 preferred forms of assistance to meet the priority needs of the households, reported by Ukrainian refugee respondents in Germany

n=498; multiple-choice question; max of 3 options can be chosen



Needs and assistance: by different households

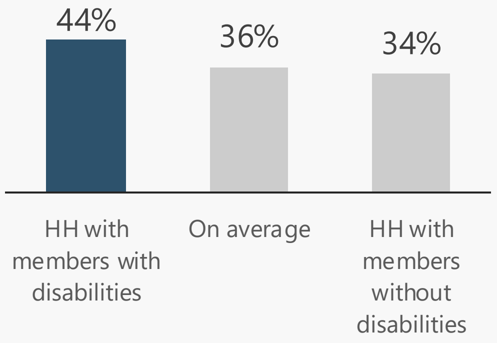
October 2025

Preferred assistance types to meet basic needs, by household types with the highest deviations from the overall average

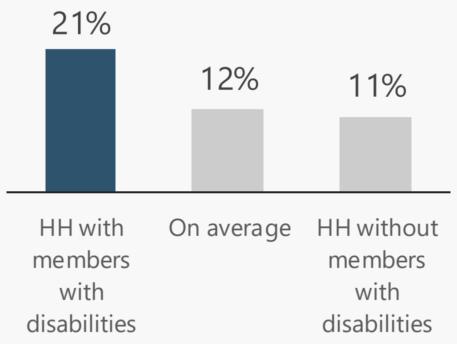
n=498

Households with people with disabilities consistently report higher prioritisation of essential assistance types, including cash, in-kind goods, and health support.

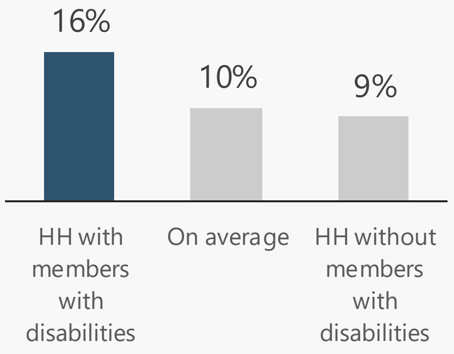
Unrestricted cash



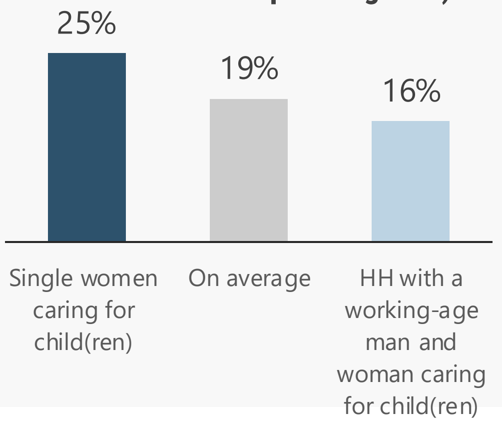
In-kind goods (e.g., food parcels, hygiene kits)



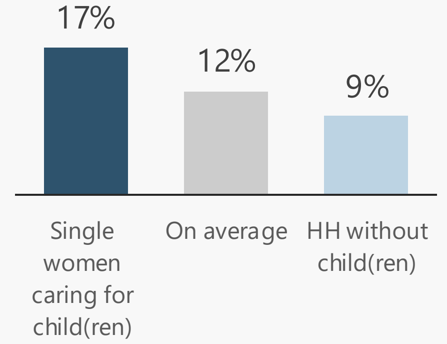
Medical and health support



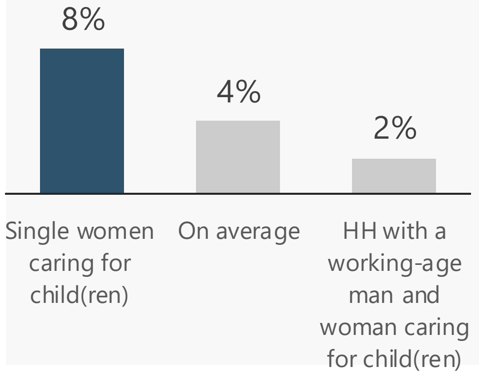
Vouchers (e.g. supermarket or shop vouchers for specific goods)



Employment and learning support (e.g., job search, vocational training)



Psychological support and mental health services



Single caregiver women more often prioritise vouchers for specific goods, employment, and psychological support. These patterns reflect the combined effect of having no second income earner and full caregiving responsibilities, which intensify **financial constraints, the need for employment-related support**, and higher **psychological pressure.**

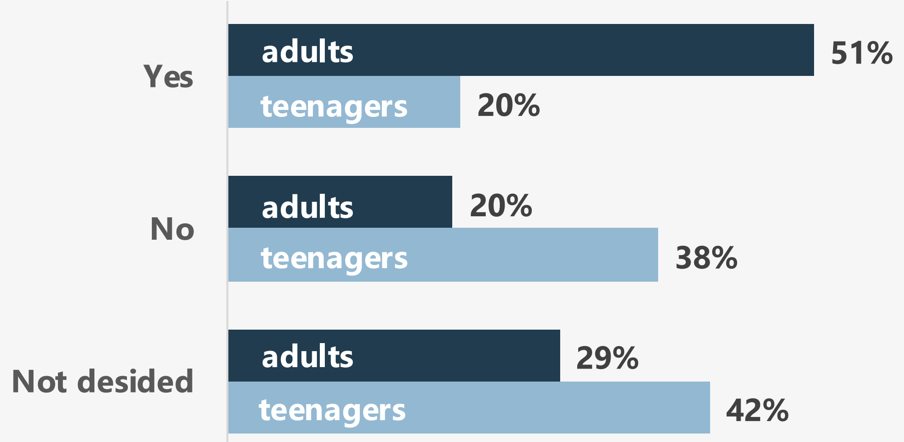
Grey shows results within ±2pp of the overall average of surveyed respondents. **Dark blue** indicates higher results, and **light blue** lower.

Return intentions: long-term plans and short-term mobility

October 2025

Return intentions differ across generations within the same household, potentially leading to families being split across countries again:

Intention to return to Ukraine in the future of respondents and adolescent household members (13-17 years)
Teenagers' plans were reported by the respondent



n=497 – adult respondents;
n=157 – 13-17 years old household members

- **Generational gap**: adults are more than twice as likely as adolescents to plan a return to Ukraine **(51% vs. 20%).**
- **High uncertainty:** 42% of surveyed Ukrainian adolescents in Germany are undecided where they will live in the future.

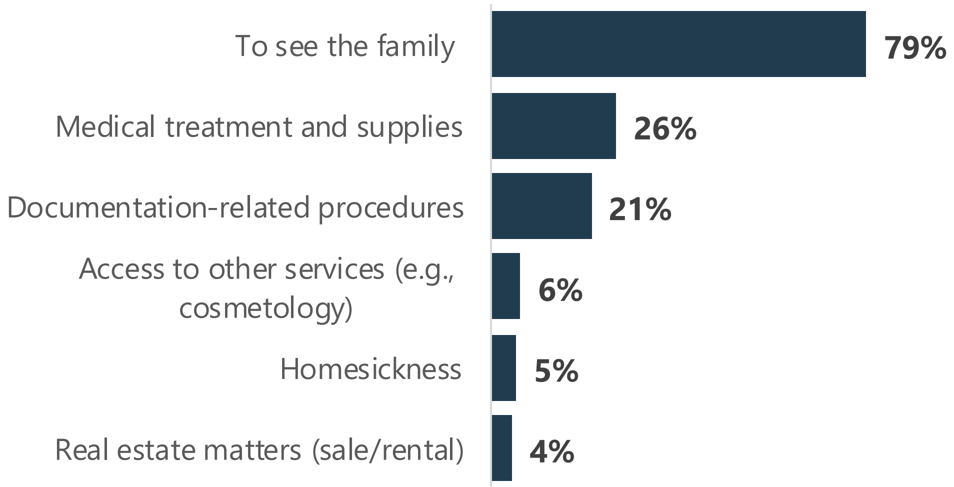
95% **plan to remain living in the current location over the next 6 months (end of winter 2025/26).**
Most of the remainder were unsure.

SHORT-TERM VISITS TO UKRAINE

8% considered visiting Ukraine during the next month (November 2025), *mostly to visit family.*

23% have visited Ukraine at least once in 2025.

Top 6 reasons for visiting Ukraine in 2025



n=114; multiple-choice question

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Methodology and limitations

SAMPLING:

- Purposive
- The surveys were collected from a pool of respondents who had left Ukraine since February 24, 2022, and participated in previous rounds of the Longitudinal Study (Rounds 1-33; 2022-2025).
- Round 34 was conducted from September 25 to October 22, 2025 via phone interviews only.
- Interviews collected through the Kobo tool.

CONSENT COLLECTION CAMPAIGNS

- Consent collection on border crossing in Poland, Slovakia, Hungary, Romania, and Moldova (Feb 2022 – Sep 2022).
- Online campaigns in Viber, Facebook, and Kyivstar (Oct 2022 - Dec 2023).
- Consent collection in train stations in Ukraine (Jan 2024 – Aug 2024).

LIMITATIONS:

- **Non-random sampling:** findings are indicative, not statistically representative of all Ukrainian refugees.
- **Attrition risk:** some respondents were lost to follow-up due to changing phone numbers or relocation.
- **Phone-only data collection** may exclude the most vulnerable groups with unstable connectivity.
- **Contextual fluctuations** (security shifts, policy changes) may affect comparability across rounds.

Thank you for your attention!

For any questions on the Longitudinal Study, please contact:

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impact-initiatives.org

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LINKS:

Dashboard

- Returnees– Rounds 24-33 (ENG/UKR)
- Refugees – Rounds 27-34 (ENG/UKR)

Latest Outputs

- Getting by, not moving up: Labour Market Integration of Ukrainian Women Refugees in Poland (In Ukrainian)
- Story map: Stories of refugees returning to unsafe areas in Ukraine (In Ukrainian)
- Report: Unsafe returns: what makes refugees return to Ukraine and settle in the frontline areas of the country? (In Ukrainian)
- Are refugees from Ukraine finding stability in Germany? (In Ukrainian)
- Back to Ukraine, but not home (In Ukrainian)
- Economic integration of Ukrainians in Poland by 2023 (In Ukrainian)
- Predictors of return to Ukraine (In Ukrainian)