

9 Counties
3 Border Crossing Points

10,097 INTERVIEWS



80% female



20% male

Starting on 24 February 2022, the war in Ukraine triggered an unprecedented humanitarian crisis and generated large scale displacement both within Ukraine and to the neighbouring countries. As of 9 September 2022, over 6 million persons were internally displaced in Ukraine¹ and over 13 million crossings of refugees and other Third-Country Nationals (TCNs) not in need of international protection from Ukraine into the neighbouring countries were reported.²

This report is based on 10,097 valid surveys collected by IOM's Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM) in Romania with refugees from Ukraine and TCNs between 25 March and 10 October 2022. These were collected as part of the Profiles and Inclusion survey (8,222 responses between 25 March and 1 August 2022) and the Urban Inclusion survey (1,876 responses between 1 August and 10 October 2022). Data was collected in Brasov, Bucharest, Constanta, Galati, Husi, Iasi, Maramures, Suceava and Tulcea. Additional qualitative insights are included based on the work of a network of IOM counsellors who have provided individual assistance and group information sessions throughout this crisis. For further information on the methodology: see page 6.

Please note that this is not a representative sample and results should be interpreted as indicative. The geographic spread of enumerators deployed and locations targeted captures many of the key arrival, transit and destination points in Romania. The internal consistency within the data and the effective triangulation with qualitative data suggests that the findings of the current sampling framework have practical value.

¹ IOM's DTM General Population Survey, Round 9

² UNHCR number of crossings from/to Ukraine to/from neighbouring countries: [Ukraine Refugee Situation \(unhcr.org\)](https://www.unhcr.org/ukraine-refugee-situation/)

HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE OVERVIEW

Figure 1 displays results from the 8,222 interviews conducted between March and August 2022, illustrating that as individuals spend more time in Romania they are more likely to report having received any humanitarian assistance. Figure 2 provides a breakdown of this information for the six main counties where data was collected. According to the results in Figure 2 the largest share of those receiving assistance is reported in Suceava, where Siret crossing border point is located. The humanitarian assistance was provided to 87% of respondents in Suceava from the first week of their arrival.

This report focuses on the evolution of reported needs of Ukrainians and Third-Country Nationals in Romania between March and October 2022. These are structured around health, education, labour and housing.

Fig. 1 Humanitarian assistance received by time in Romania

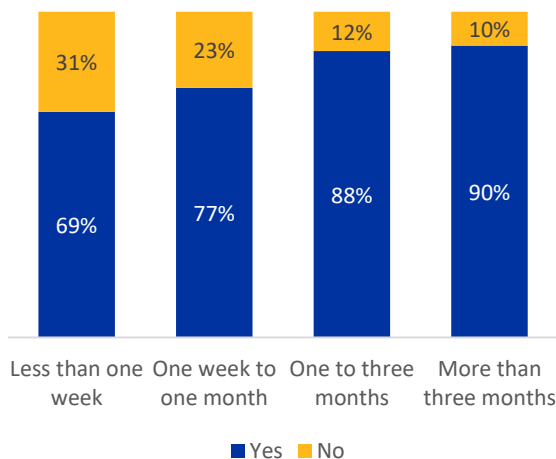
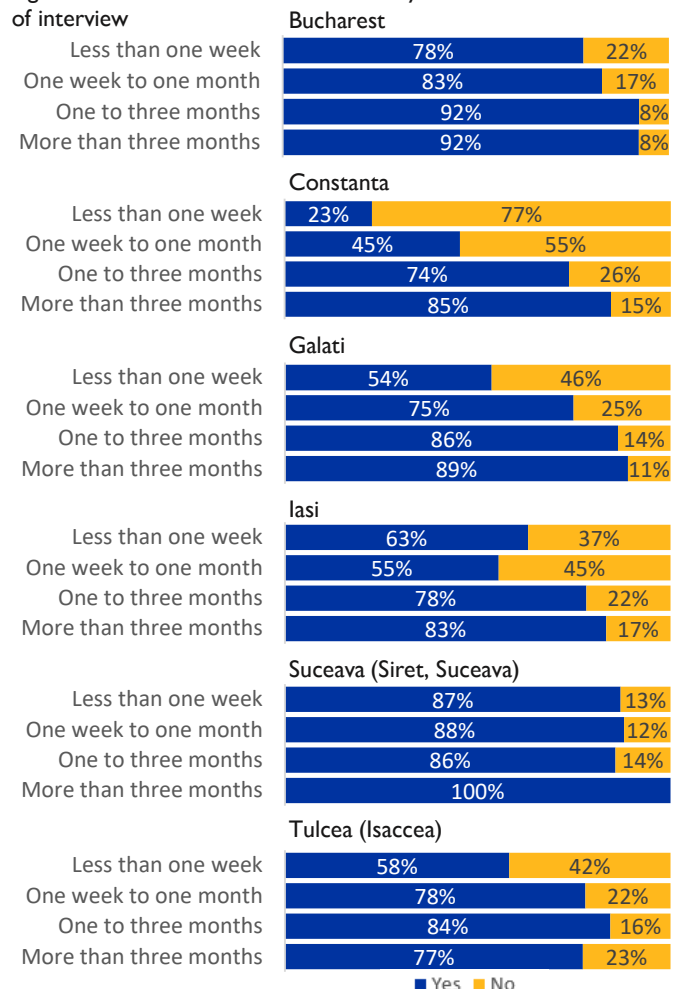


Fig. 2 Humanitarian assistance received by time in Romania and county of interview



HEALTHCARE

The IOM counselling and information teams have noted that during their group and one-to-one information sessions in the first two months since February 2022 healthcare related issues were not frequently raised by Ukrainian refugees because they were expecting to return in a short time. It has now become an increasingly important issue as individuals with chronic health conditions need access to medicines and consultations with doctors.

This qualitative information is reinforced by the results from the Profiles and Inclusion survey conducted between March and July 2022. Responses are presented in Figures 3 and 4. Figure 3 shows the reported need for healthcare services by month of interview, whilst Figure 4 shows reported need for support in accessing medicines by month of interview.

Figures 5 and 6 present findings from the Urban Inclusion survey between August and October 2022. This is disaggregated across the four counties with sufficient data collected to report at county level. Whilst IOM counsellors continue to observe healthcare related issues as an important need for Ukrainians in Romania, the access to health clinics and hospitals appears to vary by location of stay.

Fig. 3 Need support accessing healthcare services by month of survey (March-July 2022)

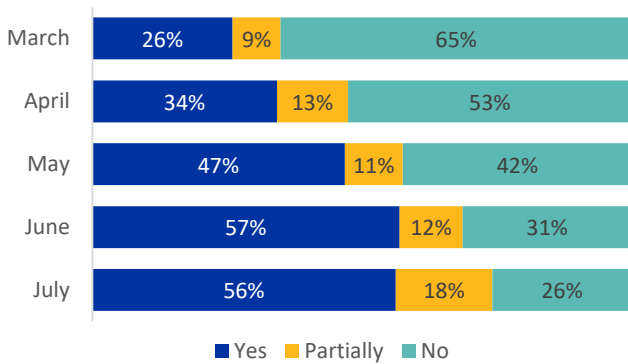
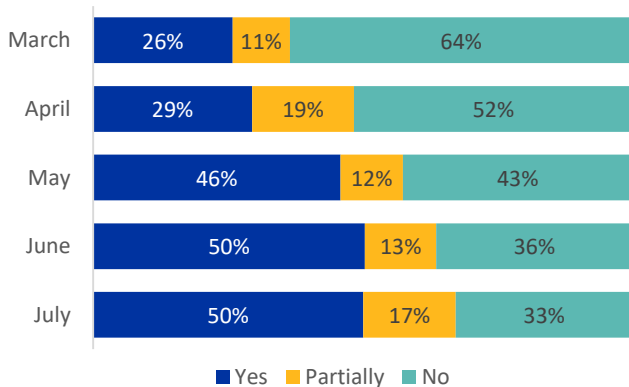


Fig. 4 Need support accessing medicines by month of survey (March-July 2022)



Access to healthcare facilities and medicines remains a priority need for Ukrainian refugees in Romania. Barriers to access include language, with limited numbers of Ukrainian refugees speaking Romanian or English and as a result consulting with a physician is impossible without a translator. There are also regular reports from translators and data collectors at the border crossing points that some Ukrainian refugees are returning to Ukraine for short periods to obtain medical assistance.

Fig. 5 Do you have access to a health clinic in your location of stay in Romania? (August-October 2022)

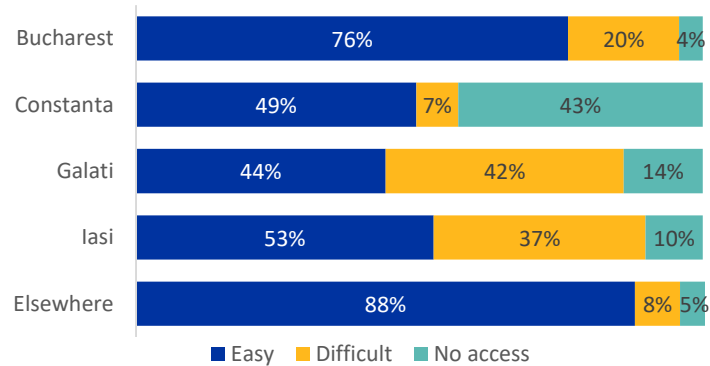
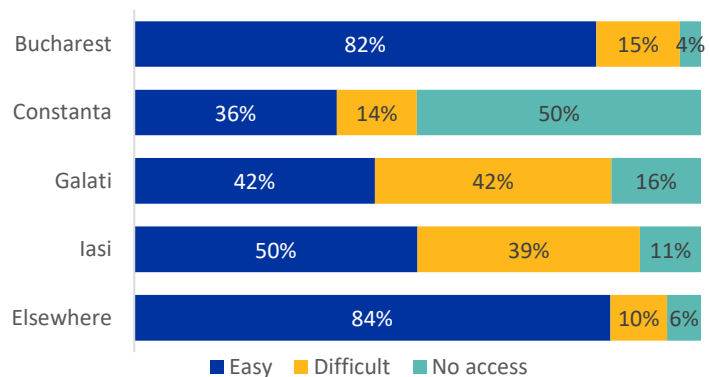


Fig. 6 Do you have access to a hospital in your location of stay in Romania? (August-October 2022)



There is a high variability of the access to health clinics and hospitals depending on the county. The majority of those residing in Bucharest do not encounter difficulties in accessing healthcare in Romania, while an important share of those from the counties near the Ukrainian border, such as Constanta, Galati, and Iasi, meet difficulties in getting healthcare. According to the information collected from qualitative interviews the Ukrainians in these counties cope with these difficulties by crossing the border from time to time to see their doctor and keep continuity in looking after their health. The limited access to healthcare services in Constanta, as shown in Figure 5 and Figure 6, was addressed by the establishment in September 2022 of an integrated community centre hosting also General Practitioners and translators.

EDUCATION

Education has also been increasingly mentioned by Ukrainian refugees since the beginning of the crisis. Figures 7 and 8 suggest that over time Ukrainian refugees more frequently point to school enrolment support and support accessing free or subsidised kindergartens as needs. Access to childcare is relevant for two reasons, one dealing with the prevention of exclusion from education, while the second connects with the ease of adults' access to the labour market.

Fig. 7 Support accessing free or subsidised kindergarten by month of survey (March-July 2022)

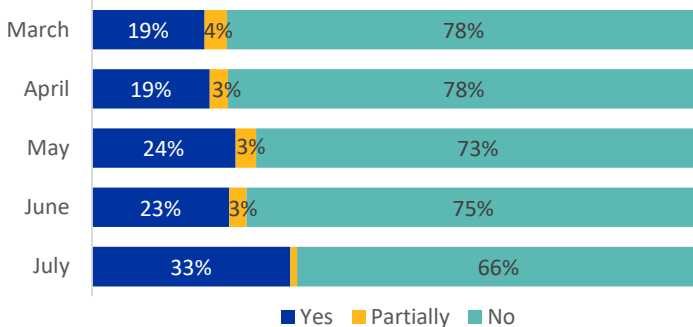


Fig. 8 Support accessing school enrollment by month of survey (March-July 2022)

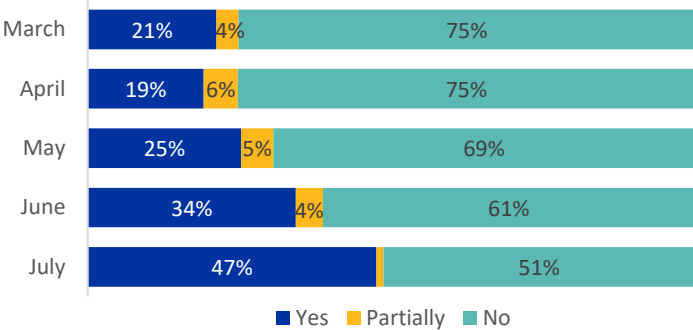


Figure 9 presents the reported access of Ukrainian refugees to primary and secondary schools when interviewed between August and October 2022.

Fig. 9 Do you have access to primary or secondary schooling? (August-October 2022)

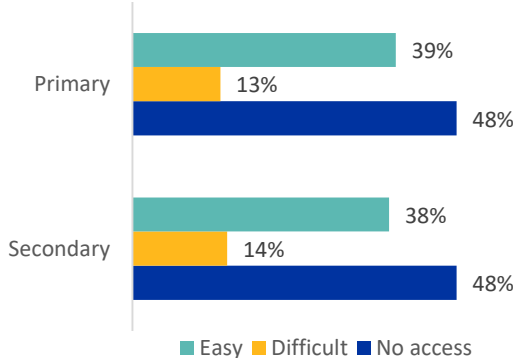


Figure 10 presents the four main difficulties in accessing education. Language barriers represent the main one, and this corroborates qualitative findings from IOM counsellors that children drop out of school because they do not understand the language.

Fig. 10 What difficulties do you face in accessing education for your children? (August-October 2022)

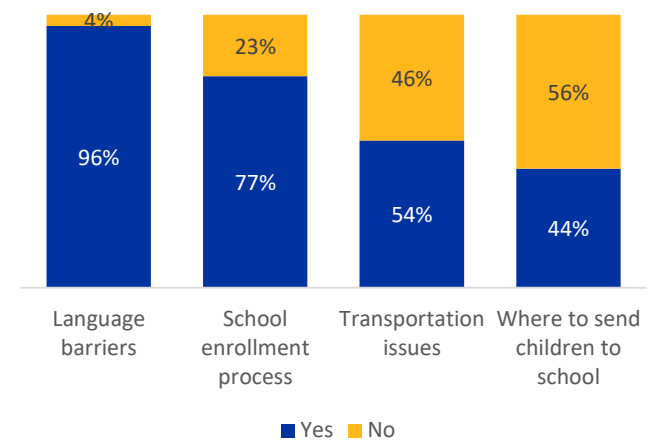
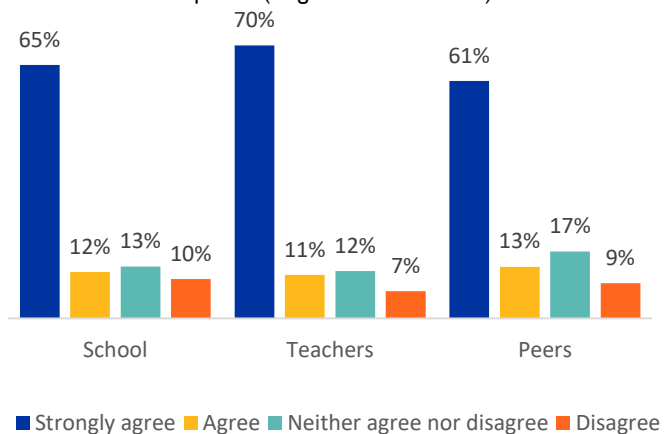


Figure 11 illustrates that for those who are in school, it appears that children overall feel considerably more welcomed than unwelcomed by their school, their teachers and their peers (as reported by their parents).

Fig. 11 Do your children feel welcomed by their school, their teachers and their peers? (August-October 2022)



Access to education is also addressed by alternative channels to the Romanian school system, such as setting up Ukrainian schools as was done in Galati and Sibiu and attending school online from their home region in Ukraine.

LABOUR

Fig. 12 Labour market integration intentions March - October 2022

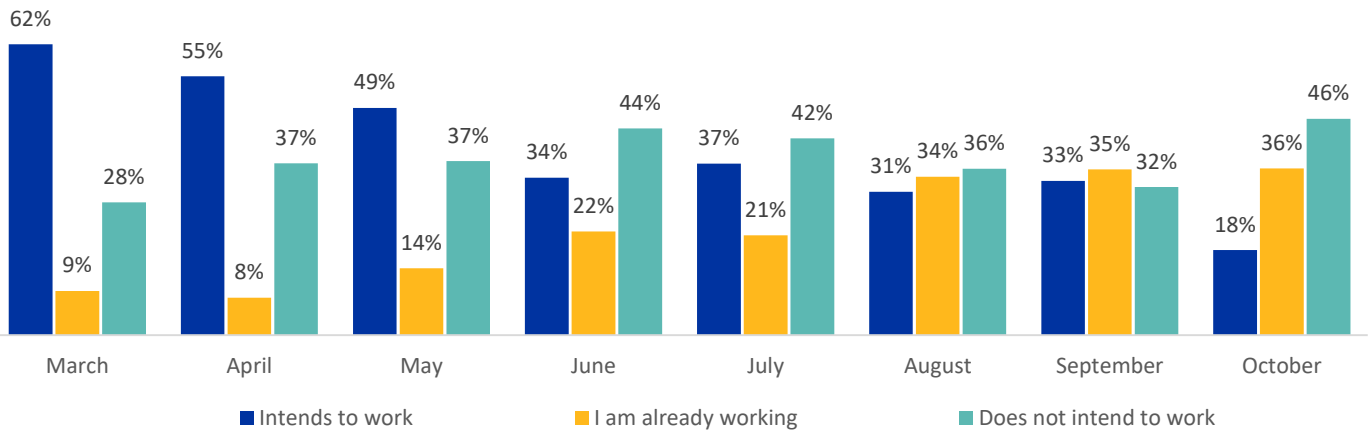


Figure 12 illustrates the evolution of intentions to join the labour market between March and October 2022. There is a steady, increasing trend of respondents who have entered the labour market whilst the proportion of respondents intending to work has decreased. The drop in interest for paid employment goes hand in hand with the growth of share of those already having a job, whilst the share of those willing to stay out of the labour market grew from 28% in March to 46% in October.

The most commonly cited reasons for not intending to work include childcare and other caring duties. However, the qualitative interviews informed about other reasons for remaining outside paid employment, such as overqualification for the jobs available.

Another barrier to engaging in the labour market that has been observed qualitatively is recognition of education and professional qualifications. Figure 13 illustrates the general increase in Ukrainian refugees citing diploma recognition support as a need between March and July.

Fig. 13 Diploma recognition support (March-July 2022)

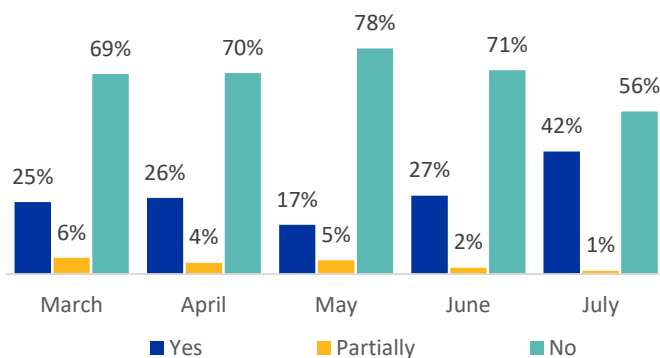
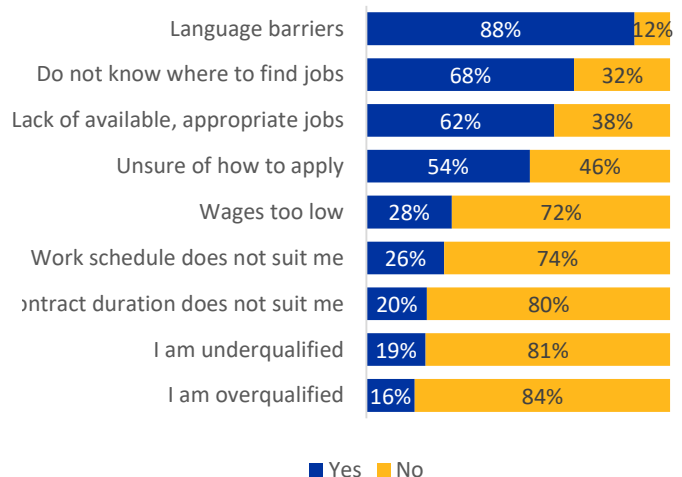


Figure 14 presents the barriers that respondents intending to work report being faced with. The most commonly mentioned barrier is language, but knowledge of where to find jobs and a lack of appropriate jobs are also commonly cited.

Qualitative interviews highlight additional factors impeding access to paid employment, such as lack of childcare facilities and difficulties to find part time employment.

Fig. 14 Difficulties in finding jobs (August-October 2022)



In the crossings back to Ukraine survey³, 6 per cent of respondents who were returning to Ukraine long-term cited a lack of labour opportunities abroad (in Romania and other countries) as their main reason for returning.

³ IOM DTM Romania - Crossings to Ukraine Survey May-September 2022

HOUSING

Figures 15, 16 and 17 present shorter- and longer-term housing needs as stated by respondents between March and July 2022. Figure 15 focuses specifically on people who had only been in Romania for less than one week, and there appears to be a general trend towards reduced needs for short term housing. Figures 16 and 17 focus on interviewees who have been in Romania for one week or longer, with Figure 16 demonstrating that short term housing remains a need for a small proportion of Ukrainian refugees beyond their initial arrival.

Fig. 15 Need for immediate (48h) accommodation support within first week of arriving, by month:

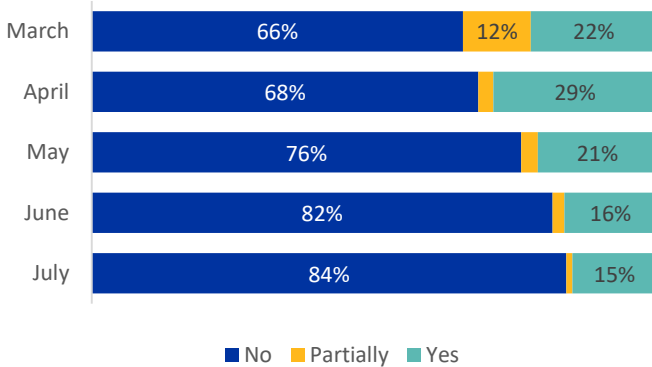


Fig. 16 Need for immediate (48h) accommodation support at least one week after arrival, by month:

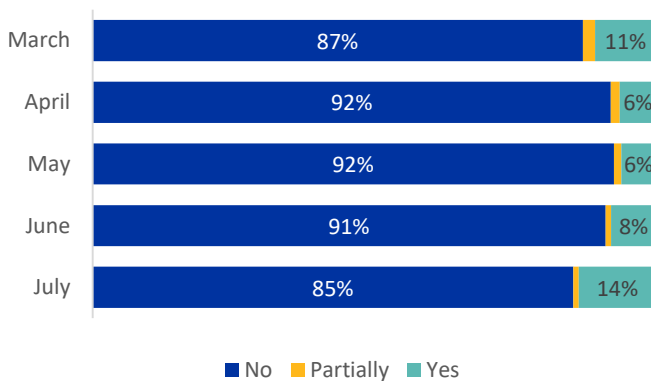
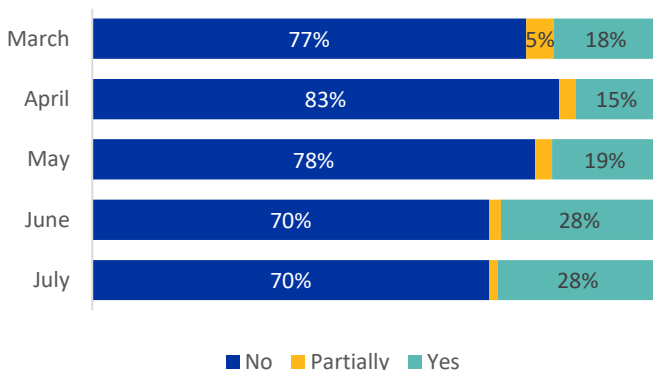


Fig. 17 Need for longer term accommodation support at least one week after arrival, by month



Figures 15-17 point out to the good access to accommodation for short and long term. The access to short term accommodation was more problematic in March (Figure 15), but improved afterwards. According to the qualitative interviews and the records of the places available in the collective centres, most of them are how accommodating people in transit, but they are prepared to receive new arrivals any time in case they need short term accommodation.

Long term accommodation was always available to most of the respondents, but varied from 77% in March to 83% in April and then back to 70% in June and July. While short term has been organized by the government and centrally coordinated, long term accommodation depends also on the stock of houses available on the real estate market, which goes beyond the control of the organizations coordinating the humanitarian response. Thus, as more Ukrainian refugees found long term accommodation, the stock available went down.

Fig. 18 Difficulty accessing housing (August-October 2022)

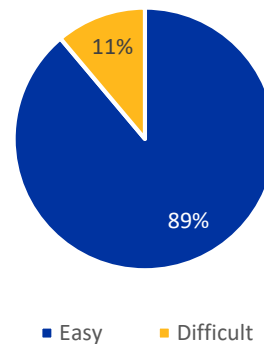


Figure 18 illustrates the difficulty respondents reported in accessing housing. The overall opinion indicates easier access to housing, as reported in the interviews conducted in August – October 2022. This finding is supported by the qualitative data, the enumerators, as well as the translators and the staff involved in humanitarian assistance reporting good access to housing based on the support provided by the government, by covering the costs of hosting Ukrainian citizens.

Summary

The likelihood of having received humanitarian assistance has grown with the time spent in Romania. Basic needs such as short term accommodation have been met since the arrival in Romania, for the vast majority of the Ukrainian citizens, whilst access to long term accommodation is accessible to most of those interviewed by the enumerators. Meeting needs connected to medium term inclusion, like access to healthcare (especially for those with chronic conditions), and education is hindered by the language barrier, as is access to employment. Solutions adapted to the local context have been employed in different places to address these needs.

METHODOLOGY

The 10,097 interviews used in this report were collected by a team of 24 enumerators deployed across nine counties in Romania between March and October 2022: Brasov, Bucharest, Constanta, Galati, Iasi, Maramures, Suceava, Tulcea and Vaslui. Enumerators included a mix of Ukrainian (12), Romanian (7), Moldovan (3) and other nationalities (2). Of the enumerators, 16 spoke Russian and/or Ukrainian. Enumerators mainly worked in pairs, with at least one Ukrainian/Russian speaker present. All enumerators were trained on the ethics of data collection and provision of information. All of the active enumerators have received training in protection, concerns and safer referrals as well as prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse, with further trainings scheduled. The questionnaire was available in English, Russian and Ukrainian, and the preferred language of questioning was determined by the respondent.

Tab. 1 County in which the interview was conducted

County	Number
Bucharest	3,879
Tulcea (Isaccea)	2,127
Constanța	1,179
Suceava (Radauți, Siret, Suceava)	1,149
Galați	797
Iasi	750
Other	216

Tab. 2 Type of location in which the interview was conducted

Location type	Number
Collective centre	3,192
Border crossing point	2,737
Train station	1,635
Transit centre	1,062
Other	1,471

The types of locations targeted for interviews included border crossing points (BCPs), transit points (bus stations, train stations, airports), accommodation (collective centres, private accommodation), and other locations such as the Ukrainian embassy. Other location types varied from Romanian language classes to the park to an ice-skating rink.

LIMITATIONS

The sampling framework was not based on verified figures of Ukrainian refugees and Third-Country Nationals entering through the various BCPs or staying in various counties or sub-counties across Romania. This was due to the limited availability of baseline information. The geographic spread of enumerators deployed and locations targeted captures most of the key arrival, transit and destination points in Romania. Whilst results cannot be deemed representative, the internal consistency within the data suggests that the findings of the current sampling framework have practical value.

Whilst every attempt was made to capture all types of arrivals at the BCPs, the operational reality of identifying individuals who could comfortably spend 10-20 minutes responding to the questionnaire meant that mainly those arriving in buses or other types of group transportation, were interviewed. Those arriving in private vehicles tended to drive on to their destination without an opportunity to conduct an interview.

Not all enumerators spoke the language of the individual they were interviewing. The questionnaire was available in Ukrainian and Russian, and respondents were able to read and answer questions themselves if they wanted to. All responses were checked for any systematic issues by enumerator, and this process did not identify any problems.

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