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VULNERABILITY AND MOBILITY IN FRONT-LINE AREAS OF UKRAINE

February 2026



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1. INTRODUCTION



Four years since the full-scale invasion of Ukraine by the armed forces of the Russian Federation on 24 February 2022, those residing in front-line areas have experienced sustained, or multiple displacement, and acute humanitarian needs. These dynamics have created distinct vulnerability profiles, with urban front-line populations facing challenges related to utilities and services, while rural front-line communities confront mobility constraints, limited outreach, and disrupted agricultural livelihoods.¹

Understanding the situation of populations living in - or displaced from - front-line areas is essential for effective humanitarian response. This report supports two strategic priorities under the [Humanitarian Needs and Response Plan \(HNRP\) 2026](#):

- Strategic Priority 1: Supporting the most vulnerable who remain close to the front line;
- Strategic Priority 2: Responding to vulnerable newly displaced and people evacuated from their places of origin to safer hosting areas.²

To provide an evidence-base for targeted assistance under both priorities, this report analyses vulnerability through two complementary lenses: front-line residents (individuals currently living in a front-line raion, whether IDP, returnee, or non-displaced) and IDPs displaced from front-line raions (IDPs whose area of habitual residence prior to displacement was a front-line raion, regardless of their current location).

Front-line areas are defined as raions designated under the Government of Ukraine's Resolution "On approval of the list of territories on which combat operations are (were) conducted or temporarily occupied by the Russian Federation," as updated on 12 December 2025.³ This includes raions that are bordering, adjacent to, or in proximity to areas with ongoing hostilities or a high likelihood of such activities.⁴

With regard to displacement and evacuations, this analysis uses an operational definition of evacuation experience based on respondents' self-reported circumstances, rather than a strict legal categorisation.⁵ This includes: whether an official evacuation order was issued in the area of origin; whether displacement happened during or prior to such an order; and whether the respondent received external assistance during movement. This approach captures the full range of displacement from front-line areas, incorporating those that received assistance and those that left through self-organised means.

Utilising Round 22 of IOM's General Population Survey (GPS, October-December 2025), this report aims to:

- Profile vulnerability characteristics and mobility patterns of populations in and from front-line areas;
- Understand protection risks, access challenges and priority unmet needs;
- Examine front-line displacement and evacuation experiences;
- Inform targeting for front-line response and evacuation support programming.

The report is structured to present the key findings first and then moves to detailed analyses of mobility, displacement and evacuations, followed by needs and coping strategies, sectoral sections on livelihoods, protection, housing and winter preparedness, and mental health, concluding with methodology and definitions.

¹ UNOCHA, *Ukraine Humanitarian Needs and Response Plan 2026*, January 2026.

² Ibid.

³ Ministry for development of communities and territories of Ukraine Order No. 376 (as amended as of 12 December 2025) "On Approval of the List of Territories Where Hostilities Are (Were) Conducted or Which Are Temporarily Occupied by the Russian Federation". <https://zakon.rada.gov.ua/laws/show/z0380-25#Text>

⁴ This definition differs from the Humanitarian Country Team (HCT) designation of the 0-50 km belt from the front-line, which is used for humanitarian access and programming purposes. <https://reliefweb.int/report/ukraine/ukraine-humanitarian-needs-and-response-plan-2026-january-2026-enuk>

⁵ Ukrainian legislation defines evacuation as organized or forced movement of the population from areas under threat, regulated by the Law of Ukraine "On the Legal Regime of Martial Law," the Civil Protection Code of Ukraine, and CMU Resolutions No. 841 (2013) and No. 854 (2022). The law does not provide a separate normative definition of "evacuated persons" - the term used in this analysis refers to individuals who self-report having experienced evacuation measures, which may not fully coincide with any formal legal status.

2. KEY FINDINGS

Strategic Priority 1 (SP1): Front-line response (0–50km)



1. Power banks, generators and lighting equipment needs are widespread in front-line areas. While energy support is not currently classified as a priority under emergency response, the scale and persistence of this gap suggests it warrants sustained inclusion within front-line assistance programming mitigating the risks of seasonal shocks and assistance scale up.

- Around 55 per cent of respondents in front-line areas reported lacking back-up power items (power banks/generators/lighting), rising to 60 per cent among IDPs in front-line areas, with the highest gaps reported among all front-line residents in Donetsk Oblast (74%).
- Given that energy solutions were the most pressing need for 23 per cent of respondents in front-line areas (and up to 41% of all those residing in Donetsk Oblast), operations under SP1 could routinely include basic energy support (rather than scaling it seasonally), with geographic prioritisation in the worst-affected oblasts and deliberate attention to IDPs in front-line areas as a higher-severity subgroup.⁶



2. Difficulty accessing medicines is a front-line vulnerability marker and should continue to shape SP1 health targeting and delivery modalities.

- Difficulty accessing medicines was reported by 43 per cent of respondents in front-line areas and 54 per cent of IDPs in front-line areas. Those in households with a person with disability were even more likely to report these barriers (59%).
- SP1 partners are already adapting front-line health responses through mobile pharmacies and distribution of Over-The-Counter Kits in locations without pharmacies and to vulnerable households. These findings support continued prioritisation of such approaches, with particular attention to disability-affected households and front-line IDPs as higher-severity subgroups. Where the Affordable Medicine Programme (AMP) is operational, partner efforts should focus on addressing remaining gaps in coverage and access; where the AMP does not reach (particularly in hard-to-access front-line locations) mobile and outreach delivery modalities remain essential.



3. Shelter repair and reconstruction-material needs are consistently higher in front-line rural areas and warrant tailored shelter/NFI package design.

- In front-line areas, 38 per cent of respondents reported needing building or reconstruction materials, rising to 53 per cent in rural front-line locations.
- SP1 programming should therefore continue to emphasise light repair, sealing-off kits, and labour to support installation, with package variants tailored to rural contexts where damage-related needs are structurally higher and demographic profiles are older and less mobile.



4. Within front-line areas, IDPs face systematically higher unmet needs than non-displaced residents, indicating the value of “tiering” SP1 prioritisation.

- Compared to non-displaced front-line residents, IDPs in front-line areas were more likely to report unmet needs across essential categories (e.g., medicines 54% compared to 42%, food 40% compared to 30%, hygiene 39% compared to 24%, accommodation 32% compared to 6%).
- Within SP1 responses, displacement status in front-line raions can therefore act as a practical severity differentiator to prioritise multi-sector packages where resources are constrained.



5. Monthly household income per person below the MEB⁷ strongly predicts elevated front-line need and can strengthen vulnerability screening in SP1 targeting.

- Front-line respondents in households with income below the MEB threshold were significantly more likely to report humanitarian needs, compared to those above it (food 37% compared to 9%, medicines 50% compared to 23%, and hygiene - 34% compared to 5%).
- This supports continued integration of MEB-aligned vulnerability screening (or feasible proxies)⁸ within SP1 targeting, particularly for food/cash, medicines support, and hygiene (when blanket coverage is not possible).

⁶ This may include power banks and lighting as baseline items, with generators or higher-capacity solutions as targeted add-ons for households with medical equipment needs or those in areas with prolonged outages

⁷ UAH 8,422

⁸ The MEB threshold (UAH 6,317 per person) is used here as an analytical reference point to demonstrate the association between income status and need severity. For targeting purposes, where direct income measurement is not feasible, proxy indicators may include: displacement status, reliance on humanitarian assistance, unemployment, household composition (single elderly, disability-affected), and housing tenure (informal/unstable arrangements).

6. Single elderly as well as disability-affected households have distinct severity profiles, reinforcing the need for access-sensitive delivery approaches in SP1.

- Single elderly households were more likely to report food needs (41%), while respondents in households with persons with disabilities were more likely to report medicine (59%).
- SP1 responses should continue to prioritise delivery modalities that reduce access burdens for these households, with approaches adapted to proximity to the front-line. In areas closest to active hostilities (0-20 km), where services can be intermittent or absent and security constraints limit the frequency of humanitarian access, mobile outreach, bundled multi-sector packages, and assisted delivery may be necessary to reduce the number of access attempts required by high-risk households. In areas further from the front-line (20-50 km), where basic services are more likely to be available, the focus may shift toward strengthening existing service points, ensuring accessibility for persons with disabilities, and supporting closer distribution arrangements where gaps remain.



7. Reliance on humanitarian aid as a coping strategy is far more common in front-line areas and can be used to identify hotspots of high-persistence need for SP1 continuity planning.

- Reliance on humanitarian assistance as a coping strategy to meet their basic need was reported by 31 per cent of respondents in front-line areas compared to 12 per cent in non-front-line, with particularly high reliance in Khersonska (68%), Donetsk (57%), and Dnipropetrovska (54%).
- SP1 partners can use these reliance patterns as a practical indicator of sustained need, supporting repeat or multi-month assistance, continuity planning, and prioritised service maintenance in oblasts with the highest level of needs. At the same time, whenever feasible, humanitarian partners should apply modalities that reduce the reliance on humanitarian assistance by improving access to services and household resilience, including legal assistance, transportation to enable access to services, social accompaniment, and information provision.



8. Energy and fuel vulnerability in front-line areas varies by context, supporting location-specific winterisation approaches under SP1.

- Rural front-line households were more likely to anticipate lacking fuel or energy (45% vs 15% urban), reflecting dependence on solid fuels and localised heating infrastructure. At the same time, large-scale attacks on energy infrastructure have created acute disruption in urban centres, meaning energy vulnerability is not limited to rural settings.
- SP1 winterisation should be informed by location-specific risk assessments - including the Winter Risk Assessment's "cold spot" identification⁹ - rather than a simple rural/urban distinction. Package design should reflect local heating infrastructure and recent conflict impacts, with particular attention to persons with limited mobility and disability-affected households across both rural and urban contexts.



9. Mobility intentions varied across oblasts and population groups. Continuous monitoring of these patterns could support preparedness and geographical targeting of activities under SP1 and SP2.

- While only 3 per cent nationally reported considering leaving their current area of residence within three months, these rates were substantially higher in Donetsk Oblast (21% considering, 15% uncertain) and Zaporizka Oblast (8% considering, 9% uncertain). IDPs in front-line areas displaced within the last year were also more likely to consider further displacement (13%, compared to 7% among those displaced over one year).
- Mobility intentions change rapidly with conflict dynamics. Regular monitoring of these trends can support flexibility at two levels: partner programming adjustments in response to emerging displacement patterns, and donor flexibility in the use of funds to enable timely reallocation. This aligns with the HNRP's second strategic objective on preparedness and contingency planning.¹⁰



⁹ REACH, Ukraine: Cold Spot Risk Assessment 2025/2026 - Autumn update, Factsheet, November 2025.

¹⁰ UNOCHA, Ukraine Humanitarian Needs and Response Plan 2026, January 2026.

Strategic Priority 2 (SP2): New displacement & evacuations

**10. Most IDPs left through their own means rather than organised evacuation channels, reinforcing the need for arrival-based SP2 support systems.**

- Nationally, 72 per cent of IDPs reported using household resources or transport from friends and family, rather than organised convoys. Only 27 per cent received external assistance during movement, including 18 per cent from volunteers or NGOs.
- This reinforces the need for SP2 assistance models that assume displacement without assistance as the dominant pathway, and prioritise identification and service access in locations of displacement, including proactive outreach, community engagement, information provision and referral mechanisms in receiving locations - rather than overfocusing on transit centers.

**11. Evacuation barriers are shaped primarily by insecurity and transport constraints, supporting accessibility as a protection-sensitive SP2 priority.**

- Among those displaced from areas under mandatory or forced evacuation orders, key barriers included security risks (60%), transport barriers (36%), and humanitarian assistance gaps (23%).
- SP2 responses should continue to strengthen safe and dignified transit and transport support where feasible, with practical evacuation enablers for those with mobility constraints. This includes accessible information provision on evacuation procedures, available transport, transit routes, and services at arrival points, particularly for persons with disabilities and elderly.

**12. Post-arrival support is uneven and housing is the most persistent gap, indicating that shelter/housing should remain central to SP2 stabilisation.**

- The assistance reported upon arrival included NFIs (53%), food/water (44%), cash (41%), and medical support (35%), yet housing remained a key unmet need: temporary housing unmet need was reported by 35 per cent of respondents, while long-term housing unmet need - by 44 per cent.
- SP2 responses should therefore treat housing as a core priority, ensure adequate temporary accommodation capacity and standards (i.e. collective sites), while incorporating assistance to access longer-term accommodation options like rental, hosting or social housing.

**13. Affordability challenges remain substantial among those displaced, including those from front-line areas, supporting the continued relevance of rapid cash modalities in SP2.**

- Among IDPs who were displaced from areas under mandatory or forced evacuation orders, 41 per cent reported receiving financial support upon arrival, yet 43 per cent still reported unmet financial need.
- This supports continued emphasis on rapid cash delivery as a stabilisation input for newly displaced households, especially those displaced using with their own means and those facing housing-related costs.

**14. In receiving areas, IDPs from front-line raions face persistent accommodation needs, supporting the use of “front-line origin” as a vulnerability marker in SP2 targeting.**

- IDPs from front-line raions were more likely to report accommodation needs (38%) than those from non-front-line raions (22%), and even when relocated to non-front-line areas, they were still very likely to report these needs (41%).
- SP2 partners should therefore consider front-line or occupied areas of origin as a practical targeting variable for interventions that support access to affordable and adequate accommodation in areas of displacement

**15. Recently displaced IDPs were more likely to have left under mandatory or forced evacuation orders, indicating greater disruption and supporting prioritisation of recent arrivals.**

- Fifty-nine per cent of IDPs in front-line areas displaced under one year left following the evacuation order (31% mandatory, 27% forced for families with children), compared to 22 per cent among those displaced more than two years ago.
- Recency of displacement (under 12 months)¹¹ can continue to serve as a prioritisation criterion for arrival packages, case management, housing stabilisation, and rapid cash where appropriate - with the most recently displaced (under 6 months) addressed through SP2 arrival support, and those in the 6-12 month period supported through longer-term provisions under SP4.

¹¹ This analysis uses 12 months as the threshold for “recently displaced” based on GPS survey disaggregation. This refers to all IDPs displaced within this period, regardless of whether they received formal evacuation assistance.



16. Family separation remain significant among IDPs from front-line raions, reinforcing the need for protection integration across SP2 reception and settlement support.

- Family separation was reported by 42 per cent of IDPs originated from front-line raions. The rate rose to 70 per cent among single-parent IDP households from front-line raions.
- SP2 responses should continue to embed protection case management, referral pathways for family tracing and reunification where relevant, and strengthened child protection integration, particularly for those arriving outside organised evacuation channels.



17. Potential indicators of labour exploitation are elevated among IDPs from front-line raions, reinforcing the need for specialized protection services for this group within SP2.

- IDPs from front-line raions reported experiencing various forms of potential labour exploitation, including very long hours (43%), contract irregularities (19%), and being underpaid (9%).
- SP2 responses should integrate protection monitoring, case management and referral pathways for labour rights concerns, particularly for those in economically vulnerable households.



18. Mental health risk is elevated among IDPs from front-line raions and those considering onward movement, supporting systematic inclusion of MHPSS within SP2 service packages.

- High depression risk affected 50 per cent of IDPs from front-line raions,¹² and rose to 77 per cent among those considering leaving within 3 months (compared to 48 per cent among those not considering leaving).
- SP2 responses should continue to integrate MHPSS and psychological first aid, with outreach and referral pathways that prioritise IDPs from front-line raions and those expressing intention to move again from their current area of displacement.

Cross-cutting targeting implications

High vulnerability profiles can strengthen SP1 and SP2 prioritisation when resources are constrained. Across both strategic priorities, severity is consistently higher among specific population groups. Where feasible, these characteristics can be treated as practical vulnerability markers to support tiered targeting and tailored package design:



For SP1 (Front-line Response):

- IDPs residing in front-line areas
- Households in front-line areas with monthly income per person below MEB threshold
- Households in front-line areas with persons with disabilities
- Single elderly households in front-line areas
- Rural front-line households
- Residents of the front-line areas of Donetsk, Kherson, and Dnipropetrovsk Oblasts



For SP2 (Evacuations):

- Recently displaced households with monthly income per person below MEB threshold
- IDPs from partially or fully occupied raions
- Single-parent households
- IDPs with accommodation needs persisting in receiving areas

¹² PHQ-2 score of 3 or above)

3. FRONT-LINE MOBILITY & DISPLACEMENT DYNAMICS



This section informs both SP1 and SP2 programming by identifying demographic profiles, displacement patterns and pathways of those in and displaced from front-line areas. For SP1, understanding who remains in front-line areas and their likelihood of movement supports

targeting and contingency planning. For SP2, data on the profile and circumstances of those recently displaced, as well as gaps in assistance upon arrival can inform not only evacuation support, but also stabilisation and early recovery programming aimed at mitigating the risks of re-displacement or premature return.

3.1 DEMOGRAPHIC PROFILE

This section provides an overview of the two primary populations examined in this report: residents of front-line areas (supporting SP1 analysis) and IDPs displaced from front-line raions (supporting SP2 analysis).

Front-line residents (SP1)

As of December 2025, an estimated 9.1 million people resided in front-line areas, including 6.2 million non-displaced residents (68%), 1.6 million returnees (18%), and 1.3 million IDPs (14%).

IDPs in front-line areas were predominantly intra-oblast displaced (60%), with the majority originating from Kharkivska (29%), Donetsk (18%), and Zaporizka (14%) Oblasts. They are currently concentrated in Kharkivska (32%), Zaporizka (14%), and Dnipropetrovska (12%) Oblasts. Fifty-two per cent have been displaced for more than two years.

Household vulnerability characteristics were elevated among IDPs in front-line areas compared to the overall front-line population. Forty-one per cent live in households with children (compared to 29% among all front-line residents), and 8 per cent are in single-parent households (compared to 5%). Fifty-seven per cent live in households with elderly members aged 60 and above, compared to 60 per cent among the overall front-line population. Forty-one per cent report a household member with a disability (compared to 37% among all front-line residents), and 64 per cent report a chronically ill household member (compared to 60%). Average household size among IDPs in front-line areas is 3 persons, compared to 2 persons among the overall front-line population.

IDPs from front-line raions (SP2)

An estimated 3.3 million IDPs originated from front-line raions, regardless of current location. Of these, approximately 561,000 (17%) were displaced within the 12 months prior to data collection.

Data from IOM's Front-line Flow Monitoring (FFM) provides additional context on recent displacement flows. Between January and

December 2025, an estimated 200,128 individuals were recorded as displaced from front-line areas across assessed locations. This figure should be interpreted with caution, as FFM uses key informant-based methodology, covers only assessed areas, and captures observed flows rather than cumulative displaced populations. It therefore represents a partial picture of displacement dynamics rather than a comprehensive count, and is not directly comparable to the General Population Survey estimates above.

IDPs from front-line raions were predominantly inter-oblast displaced (72%), with the majority originating from Donetsk (33%), Kharkivska (20%), and Zaporizka (12%) Oblasts. They have dispersed across Ukraine, with the highest concentrations recorded in Dnipropetrovska Oblast (16%), Kharkivska Oblast (14%), Kyiv City (9%), Kyivska Oblast (7%), and Odeska Oblast (6%). Sixty per cent have been displaced for more than two years; approximately 25 per cent were displaced within the past year.

Household characteristics among IDPs from front-line raions are similar to those of IDPs in front-line areas. Forty-two per cent live in households with children, and 8 per cent are in single-parent households. Households with elderly members are somewhat less common (53%) compared to IDPs in front-line areas (57%) and the overall front-line population (60%). Thirty-eight per cent report a household member with a disability, and 58 per cent report a chronically ill household member. Average household size is 3 persons.

It should be also noted, that a significant proportion of IDPs from front-line raions originate from areas currently under temporary occupation by the armed forces of the Russian Federation, including much of Donetsk, Luhanska, Khersonska, and Zaporizka Oblasts. For these populations, the choices available differ fundamentally from those displaced from non-occupied areas. Patterns observed among this population, including lower return attempt rates, higher rates of multiple displacement, and greater uncertainty about future intentions, therefore reflect these constrained circumstances rather than preferences alone.

3.2 DISPLACEMENT STATUS AND HISTORY

This sub-section examines displacement patterns among IDPs and returnees across two indicators: experience of multiple

displacement, and the proportion of IDPs who have attempted return to their primary residence at some point.

Multiple displacement patterns

Multiple displacement experience can be treated as a vulnerability proxy, and may be associated with worse outcomes. Early stabilisation programming may mitigate the risks of redisplacement and compounding vulnerability.

The majority of IDPs have not experienced multiple displacement. Nationally, 59 per cent remained in only one settlement since

initial displacement, while 41 per cent experienced multiple displacements: 24 per cent through two settlements, 11 per cent through three, and 6 per cent in four or more settlements.

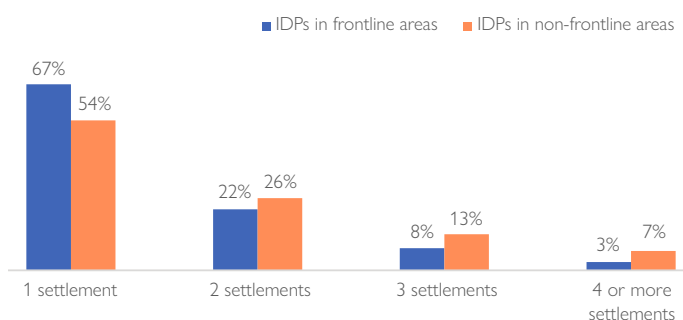
IDPs in front-line areas were more likely to remain in their initial location of displacement: 67 per cent of remained in a single settlement, compared to 54 per cent of IDPs in non-front-line

areas. Among IDPs in front-line areas who displaced within their oblast, 74 per cent remained in one settlement, compared to 57 per cent of those who crossed oblast boundaries. IDPs from front-line raions reported similar patterns: 74 per cent of those in intra-oblast displacement remained in one settlement, compared to 52 per cent among those in inter-oblast displacement.

Oblast of origin strongly differentiated multiple displacement rates among IDPs from front-line raions. IDPs from Luhanska reported the highest instability in this regard, as only 40 per cent remained in a single settlement, while 22 per cent stayed in three settlements and 16 per cent in four or more, reflecting their longer duration of displacement. At the same time, 69 per cent of IDPs from Sumyska remained in a single settlement.

Displacement duration was associated with multiple displacement: among IDPs in front-line areas displaced under one year, 85 per cent remained in one settlement, dropping to 63 per cent

Figure 1: Proportion of IDPs by number of settlements stayed in since initial displacement, by current location



for those displaced for over one year. Finally, among respondents in households with elderly members, 76 per cent reported remaining in one settlement, compared to 55 per cent in households without such a member.

SP1/SP2 implication: Overall, IDPs in front-line areas are less likely to have been displaced multiple times, reflecting the most common pathway of front-line displacement from rural or smaller locations that are heavily conflict affected to urban centres (often those nearest). However, multiple displacement is more prevalent among front-line IDPs displaced for more than one year (37%, compared with 15% of IDPs displaced for less than one year). This reflects challenges in establishing livelihoods or securing adequate and affordable accommodation for IDPs in increasingly protracted displacement. Connecting interventions under SP1 and 2 with early housing and livelihoods stabilisation programming may help mitigate the risks of re-displacement.

Return attempts

Front-line areas, more so than elsewhere in Ukraine, have witnessed cyclical return and re-displacement patterns driven by conflict dynamics, seasonal livelihoods and the financial burden of remaining in displacement for many vulnerable households.

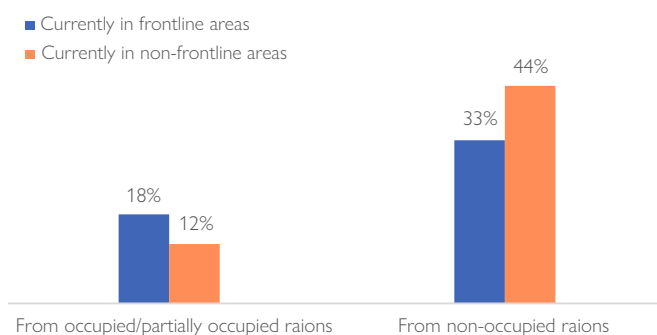
Nearly one quarter of IDPs (23%) had returned to their primary residence at some point since initial displacement. IDPs from front-line raions were less likely to report return attempts (21%) than IDPs from non-front-line raions (48%).

Reported return attempts among IDPs from front-line raions varied based on the area of origin - those from Kharkivska and Sumyska were the most likely to report attempting (36% and 33%, respectively).

Intra-oblast displacement was also associated with higher attempted rates, as 26 per cent of IDPs from front-line raions who remained within their oblast of origin reported returning, compared to 19 per cent among those who displaced to other oblasts.

Households with children reported higher rates of attempted return: 27 per cent among IDPs from front-line raions with children

Figure 2: Proportion of IDPs from front-line raions reporting return attempts, by occupation status of raion of origin



compared to 17 per cent without, and 34 per cent among IDPs in front-line areas with children, compared to 18 per cent without.

SP2 implication: The fact that return remains either impossible or profoundly unsafe for an estimated 2.1 million IDPs from partially or fully occupied raions highlights the need for coherent and complementary approaches that bridge life-saving assistance with longer-term support. For IDPs from occupied raions, who are unable to return in the short-to-medium term regardless of stated intentions, programming should address the distinct needs profile of those in protracted displacement, building household resilience to shocks (such as harsh winter conditions), and preventing household coping strategies that may result in increased humanitarian needs (re)emerging over time.

3.3 MOVEMENT INTENTIONS

This sub-section examines movement intentions among displaced and conflict-affected populations across four indicators: short-term mobility intent (considering leaving current location within three months), long-term intentions among IDPs (integration, return, or resettlement), intended destinations among those planning to move, and expected timing of return among IDPs considering returning.

Analysis of movement intentions provides an anticipatory lens for preparedness planning, and our analysis shows how an inability to meet basic needs can contribute to mobility intentions. Which needs are associated with higher intention to leave might inform SP1 activities (to provide assistance in situ), and SP2 as these needs are likely to be maintained even after displacement (e.g., an inability to afford NFIs like power banks, clothes or hygiene kits in front-line areas that this need will also be present in the area of displacement).

Short-term movement intentions

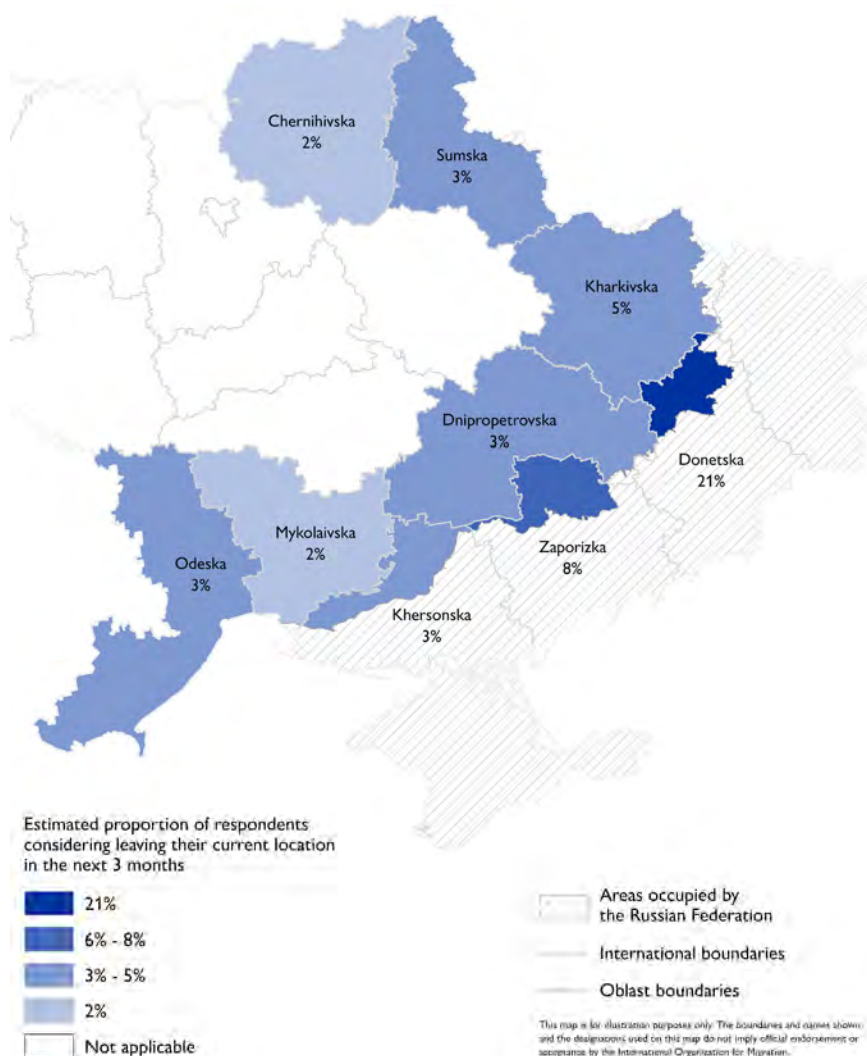
Short-term propensity to move remained low overall, with 3 per cent nationally considering leaving within three months and 95 per cent not considering departure. However, rates varied by displacement status and location. Seven per cent of returnees reported considering departure, followed by 6 per cent of IDPs and 2 per cent among the non-displaced.

Geographic patterns tracked war intensity. Respondents in Donetsk reported substantially higher propensity to move, as 21 per cent reported considering leaving (with an additional 15% uncertain). Those in Zaporizka followed, with 8 per cent considering leaving and 9 per cent uncertain.

Recent displacement was generally associated with higher mobility intent. Thirteen per cent of IDPs in front-line areas displaced under one year reported considering leaving, compared to 7 per cent among those displaced over one year.

Economic vulnerability was also associated with mobility intent, as 11 per cent of unemployed respondents in front-line areas reported considering leaving, compared to 5 per cent among employed respondents. Moreover, among IDPs from front-line raions, 10 per cent of those with high depression risk (PHQ-2 score of 3+) reported considering leaving, compared to 3 per cent among those with lower scores.

Map 1: Estimated proportion of respondents in front-line oblasts reporting considering leaving their current location in the three months following data collection



SP1/SP2 implication: At the time of data collection, propensity to move was highest in Donetsk Oblast (21% considering, 15% uncertain) and among recently displaced IDPs in front-line areas (13%). However, mobility intentions are subject to rapid change with evolving conflict dynamics, and geographic hotspots observed in this round may shift in future rounds depending on front-line developments. Continuous monitoring of mobility intentions can support geographic targeting of contingency planning under SP1 and anticipatory positioning under SP2, and should be maintained as a core component of displacement tracking.

Long-term intentions

Beyond the short-term intentions, 39 per cent of IDPs reported that they intended to integrate in their current area of displacement, 44 per cent planned or hoped to return, 7 per cent intended to resettle, and 8 per cent remained uncertain. IDPs in front-line areas expressed similar intentions, as 41 per cent mentioned integration and 45 per cent - return.

Oblast of origin strongly differentiated intentions among IDPs from front-line raions. Fifty-three per cent of IDPs from Luhanska reported integration intentions, with only 27 per cent reporting return intentions. This pattern reflects the constrained choices available, as Luhanska Oblast is under Russian military control, meaning return is not currently a viable option regardless of

stated preferences. IDPs from Khersonska reported the opposite pattern, as 63 per cent reported return intentions and 27 per cent integration.

Household composition was associated with intentions. Among IDPs in front-line areas, 51 per cent of households with children reported integration intentions, compared to 34 per cent among those without children. Conversely, 53 per cent of individuals in households without children hoped to return, compared to 33 per cent among those with children. Those in households with elderly members reported opposite patterns, as 49 per cent of those with elderly hoped to return, compared to 39 per cent among those without.

SP2 implication: The majority of IDPs from front-line raions will require support extending beyond immediate arrival assistance. This includes both those intending to integrate (39% nationally, 38% of IDP originated from front-line areas) and those whose return intentions were conditional on hostilities ending (75% of those intending return, rising to 82% among those from areas that were partially or completely occupied. Only a small proportion have concrete short-term return plans. SP2 package design should account for this, with linkages to longer-term programming for those in protracted displacement.

Intended destinations among those considering leaving

Among all IDPs considering departure within the next three months 52 per cent intended to move to another oblast, 26 per cent within their current oblast, and only 15 per cent abroad. IDPs from front-

line raions reported even stronger domestic orientation, with 54 per cent intending another oblast, 28 per cent within their current oblast, and only 9 per cent abroad.

Intended timing for return

Among IDPs considering return, timing was overwhelmingly conditional on conflict resolution. Nationally, 75 per cent reported they would return only if active hostilities end, with only 15 per cent indicating concrete timeframes. Among IDPs from front-line raions originating from occupied raions, 82 per cent reported being conditional on hostilities ending, with only 8 per cent having timeframes. This reflects the reality that return is not currently viable while occupation continues - stated return intentions among this group represent aspirations rather than actionable plans. At the

same time, those from non-occupied raions reported 66 per cent conditional on hostilities, with 23 per cent indicating concrete plans.

Oblast of origin differentiated return timing among IDPs from front-line raions. Eighty-five per cent of IDPs from Donetska reported being conditional on hostilities ending, with no respondents planning return within 3-6 months, while 66% of IDPs from Kharkivska reported the return being conditional, with 8 per cent planning return within 3-6 months.

SP2 implication: The overwhelming conditionality on conflict resolution (75% nationally, 82% among those from fully or partially occupied raions) confirms that the need for close integration between SP1, SP2 and SP4 programming, to ensure vulnerable IDPs are afforded protection, services and support from area of origin to their area of (protracted) displacement.

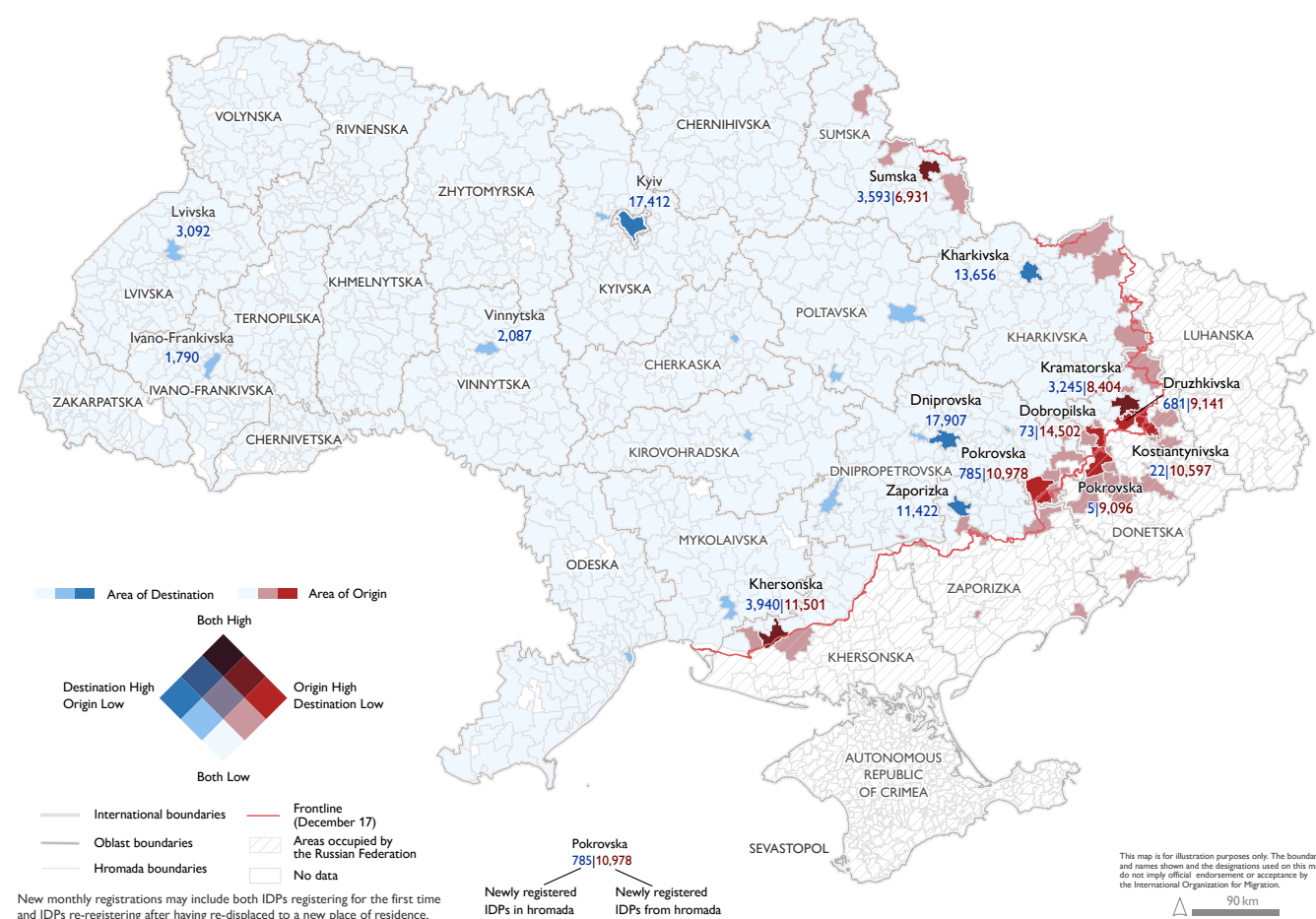
Displacement destinations among those recently displaced from front-line areas

Understanding where IDPs displaced from front-line areas have arrived can support SP2 targeting and resource allocation to prominent receiving areas.

Data from the Ministry of Social Policy, Family and Unity's Unified IDP Registry can be utilised to identify hromadas in which IDPs originating from hromadas within 20 kilometers of the current front-line or from temporarily occupied hromadas were registered. Between July and December 2025, approximately 79 per cent of all new IDP registrations in Ukraine originated from front-line or temporarily occupied hromadas.

Map 2, below, highlights prominent receiving areas (in blue) as well as hromadas of origin (in red). Key challenges for SP2 programming include the proximity of prominent receiving areas to the front-line, the geographical dispersion of receiving areas, as well as identifying and contacting the vast majority of those displaced from front-line areas who do not receive or register for humanitarian assistance at transit sites or upon arrival.

Map 2: Primary hromadas of destination for IDPs registered from front-line and occupied areas, July-December 2025



3.4 FRONT-LINE DISPLACEMENT

This sub-section examines evacuation experiences among IDPs currently residing in or being displaced from front-line raions, regardless of whether they left under a formal evacuation order. The *de facto* or *de jure* definition and timeframe for “evacuee” status is

insufficiently clear or established for analytical purposes. Therefore, the analysis explores the range of experiences among IDPs displaced from front-line areas, including evacuation circumstances, difficulties encountered during evacuation, and assistance received upon arrival.

Evacuation orders and departure circumstances

Most front-line settlements, particularly those within 50 kilometers of the front-line, excluding larger cities such as Sumy, Zaporizhzhia, and Kharkiv, are under mandatory evacuation orders, or evacuations in a forced manner for families with children. Among IDPs in front-line areas, those in Donetska

Oblast were the most likely to report evacuation order being issued for their settlement (36%), followed by Khersonska (28%), Sumska (23%), and Kharkivska Oblasts (19%). Oblast of origin strongly differentiated exposure among IDPs from front-line raions. Fifty-four per cent of IDPs from Sumska reported

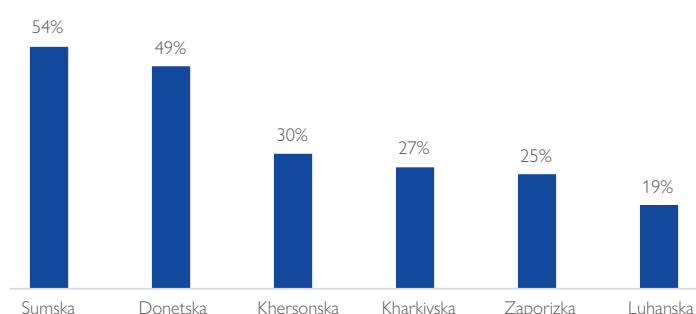
evacuation orders being issued for their settlement, followed by those from Donetsk (49%), Khersonska (30%), Kharkivska (27%), and Zaporizka (25%).

Displacement recency was associated with evacuation order involvement. Fifty-nine per cent of IDPs in front-line areas displaced within the past year left under some evacuation order (31% mandatory, 27% forced for families with children), compared to 22 per cent among those displaced more than two years ago.

Household composition also shaped evacuation circumstances. Twenty-eight per cent of households with only women and children reported leaving under mandatory evacuation, compared to 18 per cent among households with adult men. Moreover, among IDPs displaced multiple times, only 13 per cent left their most recent settlement under evacuation orders (7% mandatory, 6% forced), with 83 per cent reporting no order. This reinforces that while initial displacement may involve formal evacuation procedures, subsequent moves are almost entirely self-organised.

Despite the prevalence of evacuation orders, the majority of IDPs from front-line areas were displaced without receiving formal or voluntary assistance to do so. Nationally, 72 per cent reported using household resources or transport from friends and family,

Figure 3: Proportion of IDPs from front-line raions reporting evacuation order being issued for their settlement, by oblast of origin¹³



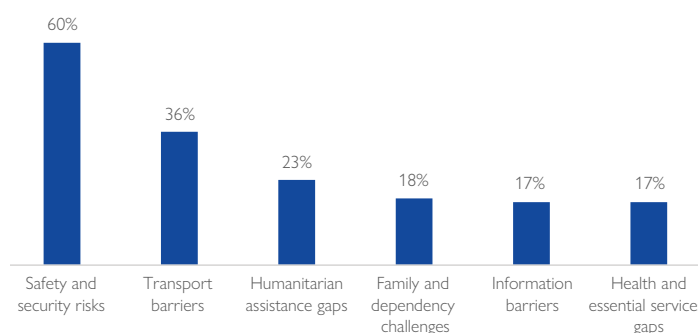
rather than organised convoys. Only 28 per cent received external assistance during movement, including 18 per cent from volunteers or NGOs, 2 per cent from state authorities alone, and 8 per cent from combined volunteer and state support. IDPs arriving in front-line areas were somewhat more likely to report receiving external support (33%), with 25 per cent receiving volunteer or NGO assistance.

SP2 implication: Most households displaced from front-line areas depart without receiving formal or volunteer assistance to leave, regardless of the presence of evacuation orders. SP2 systems must therefore be designed around the identification of arrival points and the development of proactive outreach mechanisms to assist and refer those who arrive independently but require life-saving assistance and support.

Evacuation challenges

Among IDPs who reported that a mandatory or forced evacuation order was in place when they left, substantial challenges were reported. These findings should be interpreted with caution, as they reflect the experiences of those who left under formal evacuation procedures, and some respondents (particularly those displaced in 2022) may be recalling conditions during the initial phase of the full-scale invasion rather than more recent, organised evacuations. Nationally, 60 per cent cited safety and security risks (insecurity on transport routes, shelling, checkpoints) as a main difficulty. Real-time route monitoring and safe corridor information can support safer movement where feasible. However, direct evacuation facilitation remains high-risk programming shaped by rapidly changing security conditions and duty-of-care limitations. Thirty-six per cent cited transport barriers (lack of available transport, high costs, long waiting times, overcrowding). Transport assistance (including subsidised or free transport, coordination with local authorities and volunteers, and information on available options) can address this barrier to some extent but capacity constraints and route availability may limit feasibility in many areas. Twenty-three per cent cited humanitarian assistance gaps (insufficient food, water, shelter, or cash during evacuation). Transit point assistance and pre-positioned supplies at key departure and arrival locations can address immediate needs. Eighteen per cent cited family and dependency challenges (difficulties evacuating children, elderly,

Figure 4: Main difficulties reported during evacuation among IDPs who left under evacuation orders



persons with disabilities). Accessible evacuation modalities, including accompanied transport, medical accompaniment, and adapted vehicles, are essential for these households. This group may require prioritised support and case management. Seventeen per cent cited information barriers (lack of timely or clear information about evacuation procedures), as well as health and essential services gaps. Information services, hotlines, and clear guidance on procedures and entitlements can reduce confusion and delays. Moreover, health referral pathways at arrival points and continuity of care for chronic conditions are critical.

¹³ No representative findings available for Chernihivska, Dnipropetrovska, Mykolaivska and Odesa Oblasts.

Geographic patterns differentiated difficulty profiles. Seventy per cent of those in intra-oblast displacement cited security risks, compared to 55 per cent among those in inter-oblast displacement. Those in inter-oblast displacement reported higher transport barriers (39% and 27%) and humanitarian gaps (26% and 17%).

Vulnerability status was associated with difficulty profiles. Among those with high depression risk scores (PHQ-2 3+), 66 per cent cited security risks, 31 per cent cited humanitarian gaps, and

25 per cent cited health and services gaps, compared to 52 per cent, 15 per cent, and 7 per cent respectively among those with lower scores. Among those in households with chronically ill members, 22 per cent cited family and dependency challenges and 21 per cent cited health gaps, compared to 9 per cent and 11 per cent among those without. Among those in households using emergency coping strategies,¹⁴ 69 per cent cited security risks, 41 per cent cited transport barriers, and 29 per cent cited humanitarian gaps.

SP2 implication: Security risks (60%) and transport barriers (36%) were reported as leading evacuation challenges, which indicates that practical enablers (accessible transport support, humanitarian assistance in transit, and realtime information) should be priorities under SP2 programming where safe and feasible.

Assistance upon arrival

Among IDPs who reported that a mandatory or forced evacuation order was in place when they left, assistance coverage upon arrival showed significant variation. Fifty-three per cent received NFI assistance (blankets, hygiene products, sleeping materials). Forty-four per cent received food and water assistance. Forty-one per cent received financial support, though 43 per cent reported unmet need for this type of assistance. Thirty-eight per cent received information and guidance, and 35 per cent received medical assistance.

Housing assistance represented the largest gap. Twenty-one per cent received temporary housing assistance, with 35 per cent reporting unmet need. Ten per cent received long-term housing assistance, with 44 per cent reporting unmet need.

Destination location shaped assistance coverage. IDPs in front-line areas were more likely to report assistance reception than those in non-front-line areas across multiple categories, including food and water (54% and 34%), financial support (55% and 28%), and NFI (63% and 43%).

SP2 implication: Housing represents the largest post-arrival gap for those displaced from front-line areas, with temporary housing an unmet need for 35 per cent of those displaced from front-line areas and long-term housing reported as an unmet need by 44 per cent. The response should treat housing stabilisation as a core component, including temporary accommodation options, rental/hosting support, and collective site standards.

4. NEEDS AND COPING STRATEGIES



This section examines humanitarian needs and coping mechanisms among conflict-affected populations across three areas: reported needs across multiple categories, identification of the single most pressing need, and adoption of livelihoods-based coping strategies. It directly informs assistance package design under both strategic priorities. For SP1, the

data identifies priority needs among front-line residents and reveals where coping strategies are most severe, indicating populations at greatest risk. For SP2, the persistence of needs among IDPs from front-line raions regardless of destination suggests that evacuation support should extend beyond immediate departure assistance to address ongoing vulnerabilities in host locations.

4.1 REPORTED NEEDS

Access to back-up power sources was the most widespread unmet need across all population groups. Fifty per cent of respondents nationally reported lacking power banks, generators, or lighting goods, rising to 55 per cent among respondents in front-line areas and 60 per cent among IDPs in front-line areas. The need was most acute in Donetsk, where 74 per cent of front-line residents reported energy-related need.

Medicines and health-related items constituted the second most prevalent gap. Thirty-nine per cent of respondents nationally

reported difficulty accessing medicines, compared to 43 per cent among respondents in front-line areas and 54 per cent among IDPs in front-line areas.

Building and reconstruction materials represented a significant burden for residents who remained in place. Thirty-eight per cent of respondents in front-line areas reported this need, rising to 53 per cent in rural front-line areas.

Respondents in front-line areas reported elevated needs across most categories compared to the national average. The gaps were biggest

¹⁴ The classification of strategies into stress-, crisis-, and emergency-level strategies is based on the categories used by REACH and the World Food Programme in Ukraine in 2024. In the aggregate analysis, the proportion of respondents reporting their households to have adopted or exhausted stress-, crisis- or emergency-level livelihoods-based are mutually exclusive. They reflect the level of the most severe coping strategy adopted / exhausted. Emergency level strategies include selling house or land, using degrading income source (illegal / high-risk jobs) or asking strangers for money to cover essential needs.

for food (30% and 26% nationally), hygiene items (26% and 20%), and clothes and NFIs (24% and 20%).

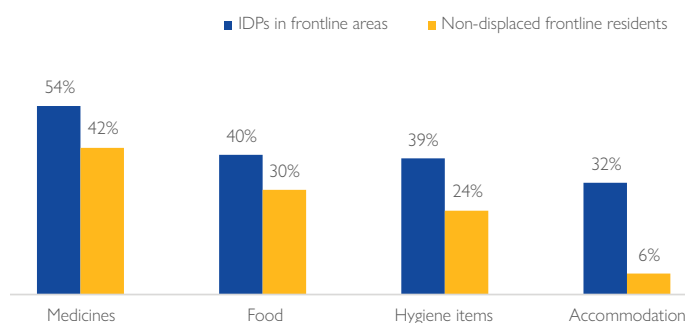
Within front-line areas, displacement status strongly differentiated need severity. IDPs in front-line areas were substantially more likely to report needs than non-displaced front-line residents across nearly all categories, including medicines (54% and 42%), food (40% and 30%), hygiene items (39% and 24%), and accommodation (32% and 6%).

IDPs from front-line raions reported consistently elevated needs regardless of current location. Forty-nine per cent reported lacking adequate access to medicines, 38 per cent reported food insecurity, and 38 per cent reported accommodation challenges. These rates exceeded those among IDPs from non-front-line raions (34%, 23%, and 22%, respectively).

Housing insecurity represented a defining challenge for IDPs from front-line raions. Thirty-eight per cent reported accommodation needs, compared to 22 per cent among IDPs from non-front-line raions. This gap persisted regardless of destination, as 41 per cent of IDPs from front-line raions living in non-front-line areas still reported accommodation needs.

Income status was strongly associated with need severity. Among respondents in front-line areas with per-capita household income below the Minimum Expenditure Basket (MEB) of UAH 8,422,

Figure 5: Proportion of respondents reporting selected needs, by displacement status in front-line areas



37 per cent reported food needs compared to 9 per cent among those above the threshold. Similar patterns held for medicines (50% and 23%) and hygiene items (34% and 5%).

Household composition affected need profiles. Among respondents in front-line areas in households with persons with disabilities, 59 per cent reported lacking adequate access to medicines (compared to 34% without), and 43 per cent reported food insecurity. Forty-one per cent of single elderly households reported food needs, compared to 28 per cent among other households.

SP1 implication: The consistent elevated needs across all categories among IDPs in front-line areas (medicines 54%; food 40%; accommodation 32%) can be used to identify the most vulnerable. For example, 9 per cent of households with a per-capita monthly household income above the MEB reported a need for food, compared to 37 per cent with an income below that threshold. Similarly, households that included at least one member with a disability were more likely to report a need for medicine (59%) compared others (34%). Delivery may be shaped by access constraints, and income verification may require proxy indicators given displacement and informal work patterns.

SP2 implication: The persistence of accommodation needs among IDPs from front-line raions regardless of destination (41% even in non-front-line areas) indicates that front-line origin can serve as a practical targeting factor for longer-term housing support, in conjunction with other vulnerability indicators.

4.2 PRIORITY NEEDS

When asked to identify their single most pressing need, respondents most commonly cited access to power and energy-related back-up solutions. Twenty per cent of respondents nationally identified power banks, generators, or lighting goods as their primary unmet need, followed by medicines (12%) and income opportunities (10%). Seventeen per cent reported no pressing need.

Among respondents in front-line areas, power and energy solutions remained the dominant concern, with 23 per cent identifying it as their most pressing need. This rate rose further in specific oblasts, as 41 per cent of respondents in Donetsk, 30 per cent in Chernihivska, and 27 per cent in Sumska identified power and energy as their primary gap. Eleven per cent of respondents in front-line areas reported no pressing need, compared to 17 per cent nationally.

Within front-line areas, IDPs reported distinct priority profiles compared to non-displaced residents. While power and energy

remained the top concern for both groups (24%), accommodation emerged as a significantly higher priority for IDPs. Nine per cent of IDPs in front-line areas identified accommodation as their most pressing need, compared to 1 per cent among non-displaced residents.

IDPs from front-line raions demonstrated distinctive priority patterns regardless of current location. Fourteen per cent identified accommodation as their most pressing need, compared to 7 per cent among IDPs from non-front-line raions. Among IDPs from front-line raions, those currently residing in non-front-line areas reported accommodation as their primary concern at particularly high rates (17%).

Moreover, income opportunities represented a critical priority for IDPs from front-line raions relying on irregular income sources, with 26 per cent identifying employment-related needs as most pressing.

SP1 implication: The identification of power banks, generators, or lighting goods as a priority need suggests that basic back up energy support could be a routine package component, ameliorating the need for seasonal shocks and scale up.

SP2 implication: The high priority given to accommodation by IDPs from front-line raions in non-front-line areas (17%) confirms housing stabilisation as central to stabilising households supported under SP2, and mitigating the risks of premature return or re-displacement. Income opportunities as a priority for those with irregular income (26%) suggests livelihoods support should complement housing assistance.

4.3 COPING STRATEGIES

The most commonly reported livelihoods-based coping strategy nationally was reduced utility usage, with 50 per cent of respondents reporting reduced consumption of wood, coal, electricity, or gas in the 30 days prior to data collection in order to meet their basic needs. This was followed by spending savings (49%) and reducing essential health expenditures (41%). Eighteen per cent reported depending on humanitarian assistance to meet basic needs.

Respondents in front-line areas reported elevated coping strategy adoption across multiple categories. Fifty-five per cent reported reduced utility usage (compared to 47% in non-front-line areas), and 45 per cent reported reducing essential health expenditures (compared to 39%). Most importantly, 31 per cent of respondents in front-line areas reported depending on humanitarian assistance, compared to 12 per cent in non-front-line areas.

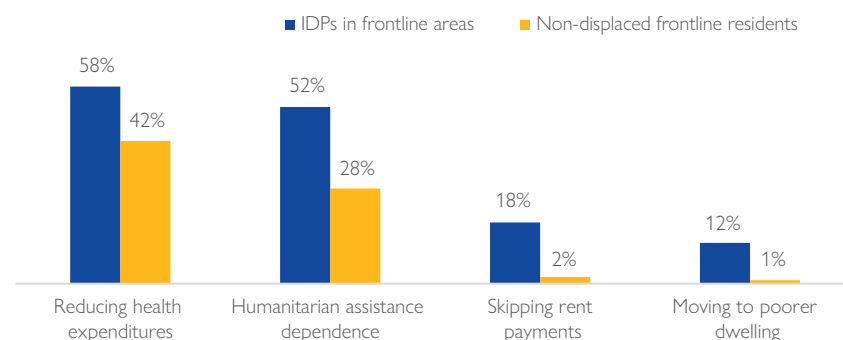
Dependence on humanitarian assistance varied significantly across front-line oblasts. Sixty-eight per cent of respondents in front-line raions of Khersonska Oblast reported humanitarian assistance dependence, followed by Donetsk (57%) and Dnipropetrovska (54%). Lower rates were observed in Odeska (13%), Mykolaivska (22%), and Chernihivska (27%).

IDPs in front-line areas had the most severe coping profiles. Fifty-eight per cent reported reducing health expenditures (compared to 42% among non-displaced front-line residents), and 52 per cent depended on humanitarian assistance (compared to 28%). IDPs in front-line areas were also more likely to report moving to poorer quality dwellings (12% compared to 1%), skipping rent payments (18% compared to 2%), and sending household members elsewhere to eat (9% compared to 2%).

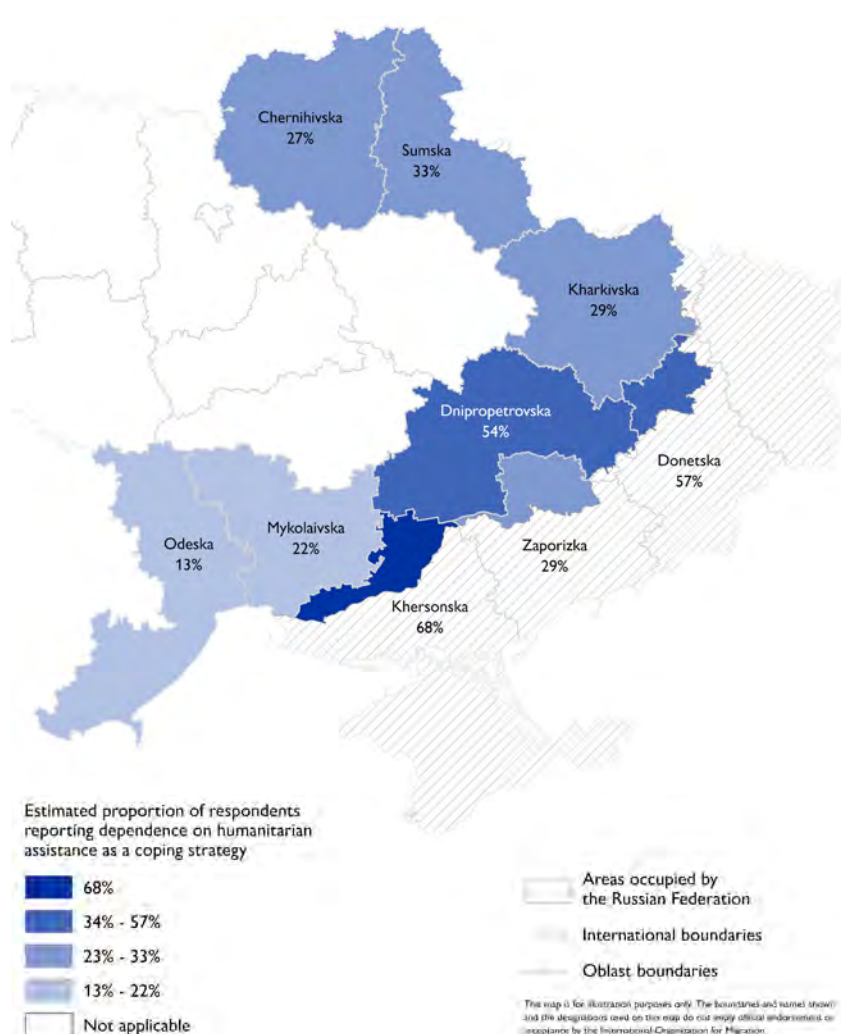
IDPs from front-line raions were more likely to report elevated coping severity regardless of current location. Forty-two per cent depended on humanitarian assistance (compared to 11% among IDPs from non-front-line raions), and 53 per cent reduced health expenditures (compared to 44%). Among IDPs from front-line raions, those currently residing in front-line areas reported the most severe profiles, with 52 per cent depending on humanitarian assistance compared to 35 per cent among those in non-front-line areas.

Irregular income sources were associated with severe coping. Sixty-one per cent of IDPs from front-line raions relying on irregular income reported accepting lower qualification jobs, compared to 26 per cent among those with regular income.

Figure 6: Proportion of respondents reporting selected coping strategies, by displacement status in front-line areas



Map 3: Estimated proportion of respondents in front-line areas reporting dependence on humanitarian assistance to meet basic needs in the 30 days prior to data collection



SP1 implication: Humanitarian assistance reliance patterns can serve as indicators of protracted vulnerability requiring continuity planning, repeat assistance cycles, and sustained service provision. The severe coping profiles of IDPs in front-line areas (52% humanitarian dependence, 58% reducing health expenditures) reinforce displacement status as a severity marker.

SP2 implication: The elevated coping severity among IDPs from front-line raions regardless of current location (42% humanitarian dependence, compared to 11% from non-front-line raions) indicates that front-line origin could inform targeting in receiving areas. Irregular income sources are associated with severe coping (61% accepting lower qualification jobs), suggesting livelihoods stabilisation is critical to reducing harmful coping mechanisms or exposure to trafficking and labour exploitation.

5. LIVELIHOODS



This section supports livelihoods programming under both SP1 and SP2 by identifying income gaps, employment barriers, and humanitarian assistance dependence. For SP1, the data highlights geographic and population-specific employment constraints that may inform cash-based interventions and livelihoods support in front-line areas. For

SP2, income and employment patterns among IDPs from front-line raions can guide self-reliance programming in displacement locations. Indicators analyzed include economic conditions among conflict-affected populations across three areas: household income sources, median income levels, and employment status among working-age individuals.

5.1 INCOME SOURCES

The most commonly reported household income sources nationally during the three months prior to data collection were regular salary (56%) and pension (54%). Social benefits were reported by 16 per cent, irregular earnings by 15 per cent, and disability benefits by 14 per cent of respondents. Smaller proportions reported receiving income from relatives or friends within Ukraine (9%), the monthly IDP living allowance (7%), private entrepreneurship (6%), remittances from abroad (4%), property income (4%), or humanitarian financial assistance (3%).

Respondents in front-line areas reported a different income structure. Fifty per cent reported regular salary income compared to 59 per cent in non-front-line areas. Moreover, 7 per cent of respondents in front-line areas reported humanitarian financial assistance as an income source, compared to 1 per cent in non-front-line areas.

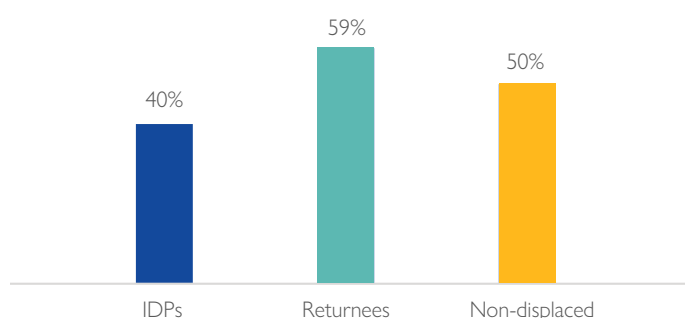
Regular salary reporting varied across front-line oblasts. Sixty-one per cent of respondents in front-line raions of Zaporizka Oblast reported regular salary income, followed by Kharkivska (52%) and Mykolaivska (51%). The lowest rate was recorded in Donetsk Oblast, where only 33 per cent reported regular salary income.

Humanitarian financial assistance was most frequently reported in front-line raions of Khersonska (21%) and Donetsk (17%), followed by Chernihivska (13%) and Zaporizka (11%).

Looking at the settlement type, 38 per cent of respondents in rural front-line areas reported regular salary income compared to 54 per cent in urban front-line areas. At the same time, humanitarian assistance was higher among rural front-line respondents (13%) compared to urban respondents (5%).

IDPs in front-line areas demonstrated a distinct income profile. Forty per cent reported regular salary income compared to 50 per cent among non-displaced front-line respondents, while

Figure 7: Proportion of respondents reporting regular salary as income source, by displacement status in front-line areas



58 per cent reported receiving the IDP living allowance. Humanitarian financial assistance was reported by 10 per cent of IDPs in front-line areas compared to 6 per cent among non-displaced respondents. Returnees in front-line areas were most likely to report regular salary as an income source (59%) and lower pension dependence (49%).

Among IDPs from front-line raions, 49 per cent reported regular salary income, 51 per cent - receiving the IDP living allowance and 52 per cent - receiving pension income. Comparison with IDPs from non-front-line raions shows differences, as 59 per cent of IDPs from non-front-line raions reported regular salary. IDP allowance dependence was substantially higher among IDPs from front-line raions (51% and 3%), as was humanitarian assistance (7% and 0%).

Among IDPs from front-line raions, those currently residing in front-line areas were less likely to rely on regular salary (40%) and more likely - on humanitarian assistance (10%) compared to those in non-front-line areas (56% and 4%, respectively).

SP1 implication: Those in front-line areas are less likely to have regular salary as a component of household income (50%, dropping to 33% in Donetsk Oblast), reflecting known structural and demographic employment constraints. Rural-urban differentials (38% compared to 54% reporting regular salary in urban areas) are compounded by an older demographic profile in rural areas, making cash assistance and access to pensions crucial to addressing needs among the most vulnerable.

SP2 implication: Limited access to regular salaries among IDPs from front-line raions (49%, compared to 59% of IDPs from non-front-line raions) and higher IDP allowance dependence (51% vs 3%) show that area of origin is an important factor in understanding access to social assistance as well as composition of household income following displacement.

5.2 INCOME LEVELS

The median available household income per person at the time of data collection was UAH 6,250 nationally, with median total household income of UAH 15,000. Respondents in front-line areas reported lower median incomes, with UAH 5,200 per capita (17% below national median) and UAH 12,000 per household (20% below national median).

Median income varied substantially across front-line oblasts. The lowest per capita incomes were recorded in Khersonska (UAH 4,000) and Donetsk (UAH 4,500), while the highest was in Zaporizka (UAH 6,667).

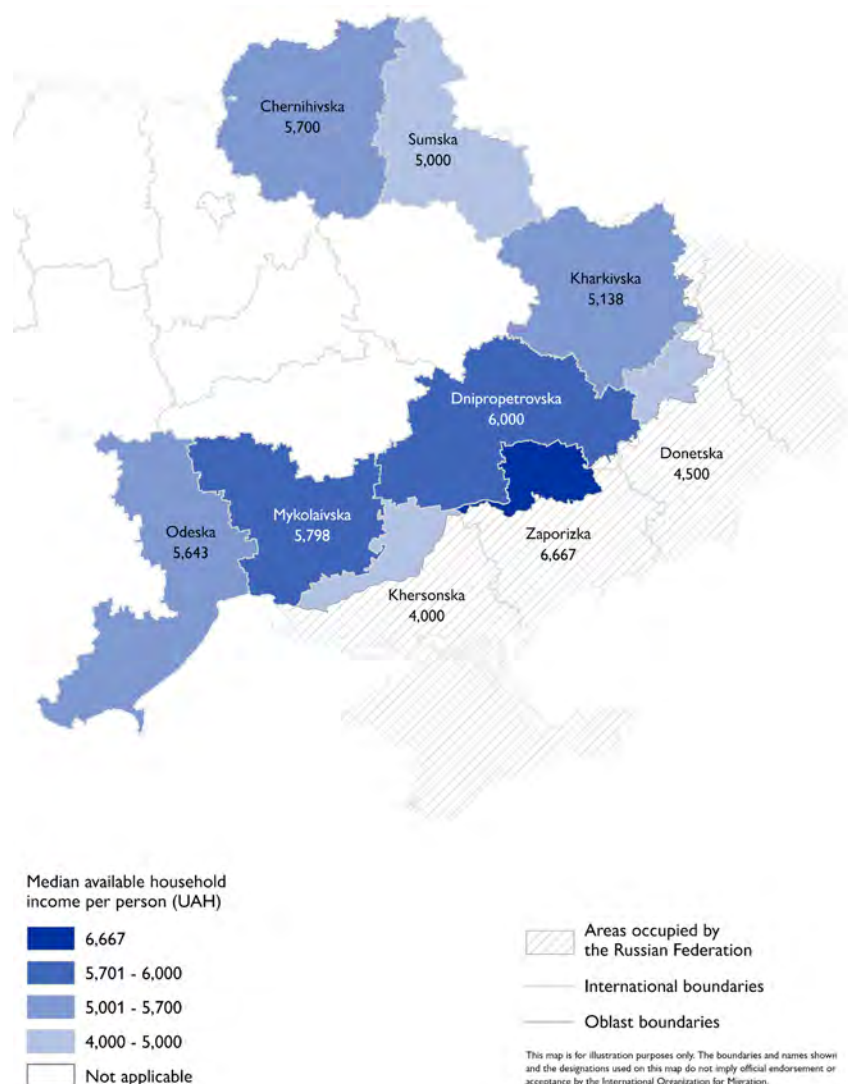
Settlement type produced substantial income differentials within front-line areas. Median per capita income among respondents in rural front-line areas was UAH 4,000 compared to UAH 6,000 among urban front-line respondents. Specifically, respondents in large front-line cities reported the highest incomes (UAH 7,000 per capita), while those in rural areas reported the lowest (UAH 4,000 per capita).

Among respondents in front-line areas, returnees reported the highest median incomes at UAH 6,000 per capita and UAH 15,000 per household. IDPs in front-line areas reported UAH 5,000 per capita and UAH 12,000 per household, while non-displaced front-line respondents reported UAH 5,000 per capita but only UAH 10,000 per household.

Displacement duration was associated with income among IDPs in front-line areas. Median per capita income among those displaced for more than one year was UAH 5,500 compared to UAH 4,500 among those displaced up to one year.

IDPs from front-line raions reported median per capita income of UAH 5,851 and median household income of UAH 15,000. Those currently residing in front-line areas reported lower incomes (UAH 5,000 per capita) compared to those in non-front-line areas (UAH 6,000 per capita).

Map 4: Median available household income per person among respondents in front-line areas at the time of data collection

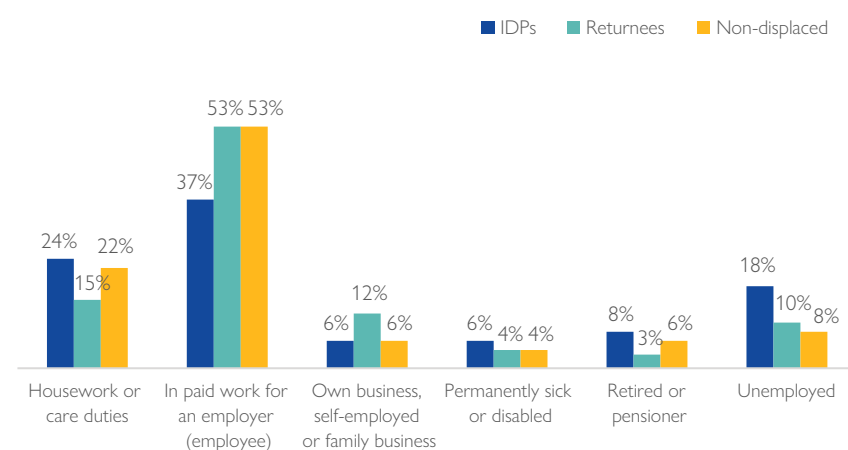


5.3 EMPLOYMENT STATUS

Employment status in the seven days prior to data collection was assessed among working-age individuals (aged 18-60).¹⁵ Nationally, 55 per cent were in paid employment for an employer, with an additional 9 per cent self-employed or working in family businesses. Sixteen per cent reported doing housework or caregiving, 8 per cent were unemployed, 4 per cent were permanently sick or disabled, and 6 per cent were retired or receiving pensions.

Respondents in front-line areas reported lower employment and higher unemployment. Fifty per cent were employed for an employer (compared to 57% in non-front-line areas), and 10 per cent were unemployed (compared to 7%).

Figure 8: Employment status among working-age respondents in front-line areas, by displacement status



¹⁵ Working age refers to the 18-60 age cohort within the population. This range defines the typical (although not exclusive) span during which individuals are most likely to engage in the labour market. In this report, it is used to estimate the employment and unemployment rates. For more information, please see: <https://dtm.iom.int/reports/ukraine-resilience-work-displacement-and-integration-ukraines-labour-market-october-2025>

Geographic variation was substantial across front-line oblasts. Respondents in Donetsk had the lowest employment (38%) and highest unemployment (21%), while those in Sumska and Zaporizka were relatively more likely to report employment (57% and 56%, respectively). Settlement type also strongly differentiated outcomes. Thirty-four per cent of respondents in rural front-line areas were employed, compared to 55 per cent in urban front-line areas, with 17 per cent unemployment in rural areas, compared to 8 per cent in urban areas.

IDPs in front-line areas faced the most difficult employment situation. Thirty-seven per cent were employed for an employer

(compared to 53% among non-displaced front-line respondents), while 18 per cent were unemployed (compared to 8%). This pattern persisted among those displaced more than one year (42% employed and 16% unemployed).

At the same time, 45 per cent of IDPs from front-line raions reported employment and 14 per cent reported unemployment. Moreover, 30% of IDPs from front-line raions residing in rural areas were employed, compared to 49 per cent among IDPs from front-line raions residing in urban areas (with 17% unemployment in rural areas and 13% in urban areas).

SP1 implication: The IDP employment gap in front-line areas indicates displacement-specific barriers beyond geographic factors. Cash-based interventions and livelihoods support may need to account for documentation gaps, disrupted networks, and skills matching challenges.

SP2 implication: IDPs from front-line areas that reside in rural locations face particularly acute employment constraints, suggesting rural-specific livelihoods and retraining programming may be needed.

6. PROTECTION



This section identifies protection risks relevant to both strategic priorities. Family separation data informs family reunification and tracing programming. Labour

exploitation indicators highlight the need for protection monitoring and referral pathways, particularly among IDPs who may accept exploitative conditions due to economic necessity.

6.1 FAMILY SEPARATION

Respondents were asked whether household members had been separated due to the full-scale invasion. Nationally, 22 per cent reported ongoing separation, 11 per cent had reunited, and 66 per cent remained together throughout.

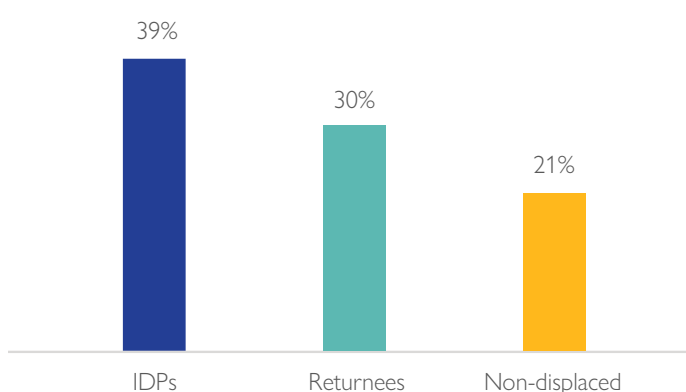
Twenty-five per cent of respondents in front-line areas reported ongoing separation, compared to 21 per cent in non-front-line areas. Geographically, 44 per cent of respondents in Khersonska reported ongoing separation, followed by Donetsk (33%) and Zaporizka (30%). Moreover, 27 per cent of urban front-line residents reported ongoing separation compared to 19 per cent among rural residents.

Displacement status was associated with separation rates. Thirty-nine per cent of IDPs in front-line areas remained separated from household members, compared to 21 per cent among non-displaced residents. Only 46 per cent of IDPs in front-line areas stayed together throughout the invasion, compared to 71 per cent among non-displaced residents. Returnees in front-line areas reported mixed patterns, as 30 per cent remained separated but 25 per cent had reunited.

IDPs from front-line raions were the most likely to report separation rates overall, as 42 per cent remained separated, 15 per cent reunited, and only 41 per cent stayed together.

Oblast of origin shaped outcomes significantly. Sixty per cent of IDPs from Luhanska reported ongoing separation - the highest

Figure 9: Proportion of respondents reporting ongoing household separation, by displacement status in front-line areas



among all groups - followed by Sumska (44%), Khersonska (43%), and Donetsk (42%).¹⁶

Multiple displacements were associated with higher separation. Fifty-one per cent of those displaced to four or more settlements reported ongoing separation with only 23 per cent staying together, compared to 39 per cent separation among those in their first displacement location. Fifty-five per cent of IDPs who spent time abroad reported ongoing separation, compared to 41 per cent among those who remained in Ukraine.

¹⁶ In this paragraph, all IDPs from these oblasts were included in the analysis, as findings for solely IDPs from front-line areas across these oblasts would not yield representative results.

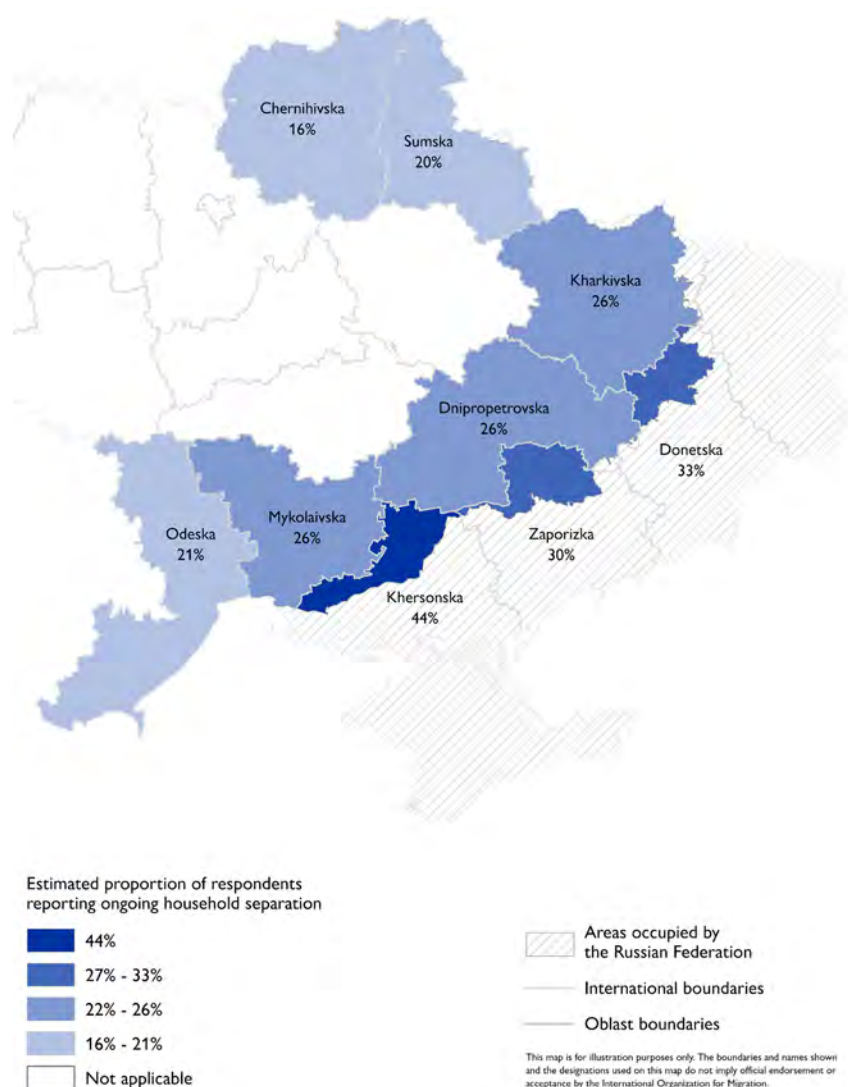
Household composition was associated with separation rates. Thirty-two per cent of respondents in front-line areas in households with only women and children remained separated, compared to 22 per cent among those with adult men present. Forty-four per cent of single-parent households in front-line areas reported ongoing separation.

Among IDPs from front-line raions, 65 per cent of those in households with only women and children remained separated, compared to 32 per cent among those with adult men. Seventy per cent of single-parent IDP households from front-line raions reported ongoing separation - the highest rate among all demographic groups analysed.

SP1 implication: Higher family separation rates in front-line areas (25% compared to 21% in non-front-line), particularly in Khersonska (44%), Donetsk (33%), and Zaporizka Oblasts (30%), indicate geographic concentration of protection needs and highlight that family tracing and reunification pathways should be integrated with front-line response activities where feasible.

SP2 implication: The 70 per cent separation rate among IDP households from front-line raions that currently have one parent present indicates acute protection needs requiring prioritised case management. Family tracing and reunification and child protection integration should be embedded in reception approaches.

Map 5: Estimated proportion of respondents in front-line areas reporting ongoing separation of household members due to the full-scale invasion



6.2 POTENTIAL INDICATORS OF LABOUR EXPLOITATION

Employed respondents were asked whether they had experienced various potential indicators of labour exploitation in the 12 months prior to data collection.

Nationally, the most prevalent potential indicators reported were working very long hours (32%), working without proper contracts or with contracts not covering all working hours (12%), and being underpaid or not paid for work (7%). Smaller proportions reported being denied breaks or rest time (3%), not being given protective gear when needed (2%), and threats or violence in the workplace (2%).

Thirty-seven per cent of employed respondents in front-line areas reported working very long hours, compared to 31 per cent in non-front-line areas. Contract irregularities affected 10 per cent in front-line areas (compared to 13% non-front-line), and being underpaid affected 6 per cent (compared to 7%).

Moreover, settlement type differentiated experiences, as 39 per cent of urban front-line workers reported very long hours compared to 23 per cent in rural areas.

IDPs were more likely to report potential indicators of labour exploitation compared to other population groups. Forty-four

per cent of employed IDPs nationally reported working very long hours (compared to 34% returnees and 30% non-displaced), 18 per cent reported working without proper contracts (compared to 12% returnees and 11% non-displaced), and 9 per cent reported being underpaid (compared to 6% returnees and 7% non-displaced).

IDPs from front-line raions had the highest rates across most indicators, as 43 per cent reported very long hours, 19 per cent reported contract irregularities, 9 per cent reported being underpaid, 6 per cent reported being denied breaks, and 3 per cent reported missing protective gear.

Gender differences were identified, with men more likely to report potential indicators of labour exploitation. Among employed respondents in front-line areas, 50 per cent of men reported working very long hours compared to 28 per cent of women. Among IDPs from front-line raions, 55 per cent of employed men worked very long hours compared to 37 per cent of women.

Potential indicators of labour exploitation were associated with economic vulnerability. Among workers in front-line areas using emergency coping strategies, 49 per cent worked very long hours,

21 per cent had contract irregularities, and 7 per cent experienced workplace threats or violence, compared to 33 per cent, 6 per cent, and zero per cent respectively among those using no coping strategies.

Among those reporting potential indicators of labour exploitation, the most commonly affected sectors nationally were manufacturing (14%), wholesale and retail trade (12%), education (12%), transportation and storage (9%), and human health and social work (9%).

SP2 implication: Elevated potential indicators of labour exploitation among IDPs from front-line raions (43% very long hours, 19% contract irregularities, 9% underpaid) indicate protection monitoring and referral pathways should be thoroughly integrated with front-line displacement response activities.

7. HOUSING AND WINTER PREPAREDNESS



This section directly informs shelter and winterization programming under SP1, identifying anticipated winter shortfalls among front-line populations. The distinct needs profiles between urban areas (heating appliances, utilities) and rural areas (solid fuels, repair materials)

support differentiated assistance modalities. For SP2, the housing insecurity faced by IDPs from front-line raions - regardless of destination - highlights the need for longer-term housing solutions beyond immediate evacuation support.

7.1 WINTER PREPAREDNESS

Respondents were asked whether they currently experience or expect to experience a lack of essential items for the coming winter. Nationally, the most commonly anticipated shortfalls were repair and construction materials (24%), heating appliances (22%), fuel and energy for heating (19%), and winter clothing (19%).

Winter preparedness concerns were higher in front-line areas. Twenty-eight per cent anticipated lacking repair materials, 27 per cent heating appliances, 24 per cent winter clothing, and 22 per cent fuel and energy. Geographically, respondents in Donetska were more likely to indicate lack of items across most categories (39% heating appliances, 35% fuel, 32% warm bedding, 30% winter clothing), followed by Khersonska (37% heating appliances, 31% fuel, 38% repair materials).

IDPs in front-line areas were the most affected, as they were more likely to anticipate winter preparedness shortfalls. Forty-five per cent of IDPs in front-line areas anticipated lacking warm bedding (compared to 15% non-displaced), 43 per cent anticipated lacking winter clothing (compared to 19%), 39 per cent anticipated lacking heating appliances (compared to 22%), and 30 per cent anticipated lacking insulation (compared to 14%). Eleven per cent anticipated lacking access to safe shelter, compared to 2 per cent among non-displaced respondents.

Forty-five per cent of respondents in rural front-line areas anticipated lacking fuel and energy compared to 15 per cent in urban areas, and 38 per cent anticipated lacking repair materials compared to 25 per cent in urban areas.

Forty per cent of IDPs from front-line raions anticipated lacking winter clothing, 39 per cent anticipated lacking warm bedding, 35 per cent

anticipated lacking heating appliances, and 28 per cent anticipated lacking insulation. Recently displaced IDPs (one year or less) were more likely to report issues than those displaced over one year, as 49 per cent anticipated lacking warm bedding (compared to 37% displaced over one year) and 48 per cent anticipated lacking winter clothing (compared to 38%).

IDPs from front-line raions currently residing in rural areas faced acute needs, as 58 per cent anticipated lacking fuel and energy, 48 per cent anticipated lacking repair materials, and 36 per cent anticipated lacking insulation.

Among respondents anticipating a lack of heating appliances, electric heaters were the most commonly needed item nationally (63%), followed by stoves (24%), solid fuel boilers (23%), gas boilers (19%), and electric boilers (17%).

Needs differed by settlement type. Forty-eight per cent of respondents in rural front-line areas needing appliances required electric heaters, while 41 per cent needed stoves and 38 per cent needed solid fuel boilers. Seventy-one per cent of respondents in urban front-line areas needed electric heaters, with lower demand for stoves (24%) and solid fuel boilers (19%).

IDPs in front-line areas expressed particularly high demand for electric heaters (86%), compared to 60 per cent among non-displaced residents. Non-displaced residents had higher demand for solid fuel equipment, as 30 per cent needed stoves (compared to 23% IDPs) and 26 per cent needed solid fuel boilers (compared to 13% IDPs).

SP1 implication: Profound winter-related needs among IDPs in front-line areas highlights the relevance of displacement status as a winterisation targeting factor. Rural-urban differentiation is also critical: rural areas require fuel-focused packages (45% compared to 15% anticipating fuel lack) while urban areas require appliance-focused support (86% of IDPs needing electric heaters). Rural front-line packages may prioritise solid fuel, stoves, and repair/insulation materials reflecting heating infrastructure and damage patterns. Urban front-line packages may prioritise electric heaters, power banks, and utility-related support reflecting grid dependence and appliance-based heating.

SP2 implication: Recently displaced IDPs were more likely to report winter preparedness shortfalls. Rural IDPs from front-line raions face particularly acute needs (58% fuel/energy, 48% repair materials), indicating winter support should be integrated into SP2 packages.

8. MENTAL HEALTH



This section examines mental health outcomes among conflict-affected populations, focusing on the risk of depression as measured by the Patient Health Questionnaire-2 (PHQ-2). The PHQ-2 assesses depressive symptoms over the preceding two weeks through two questions on frequency of experiencing little interest or pleasure in doing things, and frequency of feeling down, depressed, or hopeless.

Responses yield a score from 0 to 6, with a score of 3 or greater indicating higher risk of depressive disorder. The results provide an indication of possible prevalence and differences between population groups but do not represent precise clinical estimates. This section informs MHPSS programming under both strategic priorities by identifying populations at elevated risk of depression.

8.1 RISK OF DEPRESSION

Nationally, 38 per cent of respondents were estimated to be at high risk of depression (PHQ-2 score of 3 or above) during the data collection. The risk of depression was more common among IDPs (50%), followed by returnees (40%) and non-displaced respondents (36%).

Forty-three per cent of respondents in front-line areas were at high risk - six percentage points above the national rate. Sixteen per cent of respondents in front-line areas reported the maximum score of 6 compared to 13 per cent in non-front-line areas.

The risk of depression varied across front-line oblasts. The highest prevalence was recorded in Chernihivska (55%), Khersonska (52%), Donetsk (48%), and Odeska (45%). The lowest rates were in Kharkivska (37%). Moreover, 45 per cent of respondents in rural front-line areas were at high risk compared to 41 per cent in urban areas.

Displacement status was associated with depression risk in front-line areas. Fifty-one per cent of IDPs in front-line areas were at high risk compared to 43 per cent among returnees and 40 per cent among non-displaced residents. Twenty-two per cent of IDPs in front-line areas reported the maximum score of 6 compared to 14 per cent among non-displaced respondents.

Displacement recency was also associated with depression risk. Fifty-six per cent of IDPs in front-line areas displaced up to one year were at high risk compared to 50 per cent among those displaced over one year, with 33 per cent of recently displaced IDPs reporting the maximum score. Similarly, 56 per cent of returnees who had returned within the past year were at high risk compared to 41 per cent among those who returned earlier.

Moreover, 50 per cent of IDPs from front-line raions were at high risk of depression. The risk was more common among those from Donetsk (55%) and Sumka (53%) than those from Luhanska (44%).

Movement intentions were strongly associated with depression risk. Among IDPs from front-line raions considering leaving their current location in the short term (up to 3 months), 77 per cent were at high risk compared to 48 per cent among those not considering leaving. Forty-five per cent of those considering departure were estimated to be at the maximum score.

Map 6: Estimated proportion of respondents in front-line areas at high risk of depression (PHQ-2 score of 3 or above)

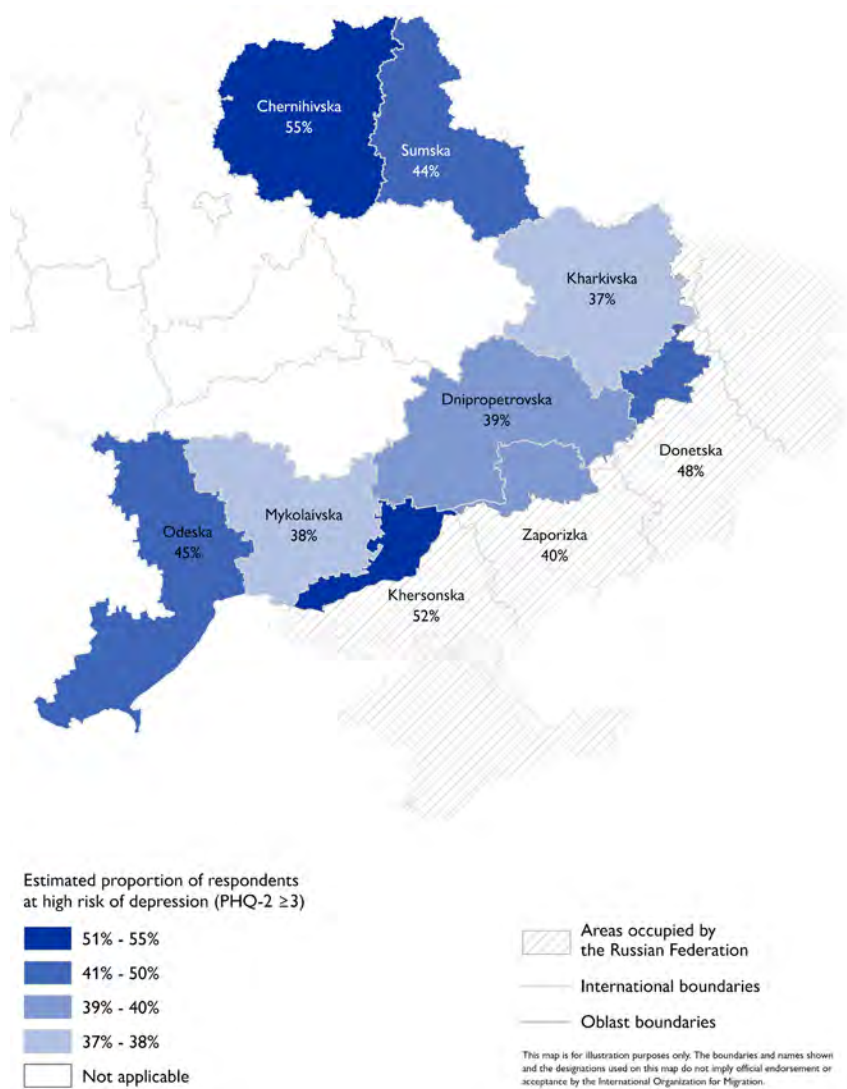
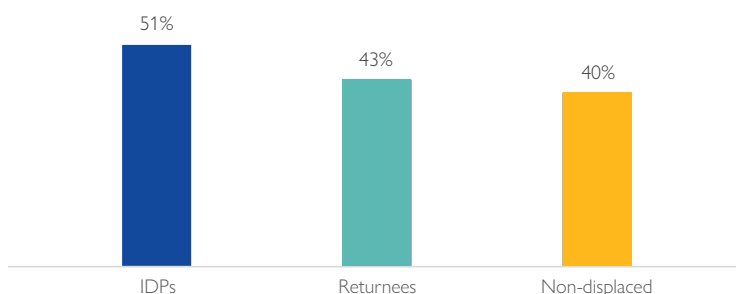


Figure 10: Proportion of respondents at high risk of depression (PHQ-2 score 3+), by displacement status in front-line areas



SP1 implication: Higher depression risk in front-line areas, with geographic concentration in Chernihivska (55%), Khersonska (52%), and Donetsk Oblasts (48%), supports integrating MHPSS into front-line response. The elevated needs among IDPs in front-line areas reinforces displacement status as a targeting factor. Scalable community-based approaches may be more feasible than clinic-only models given access constraints.

SP2 implication: The high prevalence of psychological distress among IDPs from front-line raions (50%), and those considering leaving their current location (77%), indicates that mental health and psychosocial support should continue to serve as a core component of SP2 programming.

8.2 DEMOGRAPHIC AND VULNERABILITY PATTERNS

Symptoms of depression were more commonly reported by women (47%) than men (34%) in front-line areas. The risk varied by age, with the lowest prevalence among those aged 25-35 (25%) and highest among those aged 36-45 (50%).

Household-level vulnerabilities were associated with higher rates of depression risk. Fifty-five per cent of respondents in single-parent households in front-line areas were at high risk compared to 41 per cent in other households. The risk was also higher among respondents in households without adult men (48% compared to 39%), households with persons with disabilities (47% compared to

38%), and households with chronically ill members (49% compared to 30%).

Economic status was associated with depression risk. Forty-five per cent of unemployed respondents in front-line areas were at high risk compared to 34 per cent among those in paid employment. Among households where no adults were employed, 46 per cent were at high risk compared to 34 per cent in fully employed households. Respondents with per capita household income below MEB were also more likely to be at risk (45% compared to 34% among those above the threshold).

METHODOLOGY

The data presented in this report was commissioned by the International Organization for Migration (IOM) and collected as part of Round 22 of the General Population Survey (GPS). Data was collected by Multicultural Insights through screener phone based interviews with 40,001 randomly selected respondents and follow-up interviews with 1,388 IDPs, 1,135 returnees, and 1,636 non-displaced residents, using random digit dial (RDD) approach, with an overall sample error of 0.49% [CL95%]. Round 22 of data collection was completed between 15 October and 22 December 2025.

In this report, Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) are defined as individuals who have been forced to flee or to leave their homes or who are staying outside their habitual residence in Ukraine due to the full-scale invasion in February 2022, regardless of whether they hold registered IDP status. The terms “return” and “returnee” are used without prejudice to status and refer to all people who have returned to their habitual residence after a period of displacement of minimum two weeks since February 2022, whether from abroad or from internal displacement within Ukraine. This definition excludes individuals who have come back to Ukraine from abroad but who have not returned to their places of habitual residence in the country.

The survey included all oblasts in Ukraine, excluding the Autonomous Republic of Crimea (ARC) and the areas of Donetsk, Luhanska, Khersonska, and Zaporizka Oblasts under the temporary military control of the Russian Federation where phone coverage by Ukrainian operators is not available. All interviews were anonymous, and respondents were asked for consent before starting the interview.

Limitations: Those currently residing outside the territory of Ukraine were not interviewed, following active exclusion. Population estimates assume that minors (those under 18 years old) are accompanied by their adult parents or guardians. The sample frame is limited to adults that use mobile phones, in areas where phone networks were fully functional for the entire period of the survey. People residing in the Autonomous Republic of Crimea (ARC) or the occupied areas of Donetsk, Zaporizka, Luhanska, and Khersonska Oblasts were not included in the survey. Estimates in Donetsk, Zaporizka, and Khersonska Oblasts are likely under-represented as a result of coverage being limited to government controlled areas and to the limited number of respondents reached in occupied areas.

DEFINITIONS

Term	Definition
Front-line areas / front-line raions	Raions designated under the Government of Ukraine's Resolution "On approval of the list of territories on which combat operations are (were) conducted or temporarily occupied by the Russian Federation," as updated on 12 December 2025. This includes raions bordering, adjacent to, or in proximity to areas with ongoing hostilities or a high likelihood of such activities. This definition differs from the Humanitarian Country Team's 0-50 km belt designation used for operational planning under Strategic Priority 1.
IDPs in front-line areas	Internally displaced persons currently residing in a front-line raion at the time of data collection, regardless of their area of origin.
IDPs from front-line raions	Internally displaced persons whose area of habitual residence prior to displacement was a front-line raion, regardless of their current location.
Recently displaced IDPs	IDPs who were displaced within the 12 months prior to data collection (i.e., since October-December 2024).
Mandatory evacuation order	A government-issued order requiring the population to leave a designated settlement or area due to security conditions.
Forced evacuation order for families with children	A government-issued order specifically requiring families with children to leave a designated settlement or area, even where mandatory evacuation has not been declared for the general population.
Self-organised evacuation	Displacement undertaken using household resources or informal support networks (e.g., personal vehicles, assistance from friends or relatives), without external assistance from authorities, volunteers, or humanitarian organisations.
Minimum Expenditure Basket (MEB)	The minimum culturally adjusted set of basic food and non-food items required for a household to meet basic needs on a monthly basis. As of the data collection period, the MEB threshold was UAH 8,422 per person per month.
PHQ-2 (Patient Health Questionnaire-2)	Two-item screening tool assessing depressive symptoms over the preceding two weeks. A score of 3 or above (out of 6) indicates higher risk of depressive disorder. Results provide an indication of possible prevalence and differences between population groups but do not represent clinical diagnoses.



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