

Differences between any of these groups were only reported when they were found to be sizable.³ This was rare, and as such, there is no weighting by location or type of respondent in the ‘overall results’ presented in this report. The survey aimed to include at least 100 families in each of the four surveyed municipalities. The actual breakdown of survey participants was 93% female, and per location ranged from 110 to 150 respondents, based on availability and willingness of families to be surveyed.

Limitations

This assessment used a non-representative sample. The nature of a purposeful sample is that it is not considered to be representative of the entire population of interest, in this case, Ukrainians and others who have fled the war to the four locations surveyed. However, the survey included as part of its design, a mapping of the locations where displaced people were congregating in each city (shelters, service provision points, train/bus stations, municipality offices, consulates, and information points) to ensure surveys were completed at all of the available locations. The target sample-size was increased to help address the lack of representativeness of the sample and initially aimed to include at least 800 families. Due to constraints explained in the Methods annex, we were only able to survey 520 families.

To ensure that the sampling methods do not preclude an accurate understanding of the situation –

donations of clothing, toys, food, bedding, and continue to volunteer their homes to host, and their time to help organize shelters and information provision sites. The outpouring of support can be seen in train stations, shelters, NGOs, and other service points around the country.

Data collection for this assessment occurred during the 3rd and 4th week of the conflict. In interviews with key informants (

KEY FINDINGS**Profile of those surveyed**

The vast majority (93%) of survey respondents were female with an average age of 40; 3% were under 18 (16 or 17 years old given that children under 16 were not invited to complete the survey);

Needs

Survey participants were asked to list their priority needs. First, they were asked to list all of their needs (n=482), and were then asked to choose two top priority needs from the list (n=346). Employment and shelter/accommodation were listed most commonly, for both questions; followed by money, food, and access to education. Though it should be noted, services related to protection (immigration regularization, information, legal assistance, mental health/psychosocial services, safety, special services for women and girls, and special services for LGBTQI) were split out in the options; when considered together, they are prioritized as the fifth need (40% choose at least one of these when listing all needs, 11% prioritized at least one of these when listing top two needs) (see chart below for all responses).



Importantly, priority needs did not vary significantly between locations or hosted families vs. non-hosted families. The top five needs when all listed were the same for all groups with the exception that in Lublin, more families reported a need for healthcare and clothing than for education. The same was true for identifying the top two needs: there was little difference between locations and hosted/non-hosted groups, with the one exception being hosted families prioritized medicines over healthcare, and non-hosted families prioritized healthcare over medicines.

Economic and basic needs (income/shelter/food)

Ukrainian-only schools that are funded by the Polish government but follow the Ukrainian curriculum and transcript system (one such school already exists in Warsaw for children of the Ukrainian diaspora).

Preparatory classes that students would attend for one year to learn Polish (and some 'light' educational curriculum) before joining the Polish school system. This system has also been tried in Poland, reportedly with some success in Krakow. The main concern is that children would likely fall behind about a year in school while learning Polish.

Full integration into Polish schools, with language tutoring after school and other assistance where feasible (such as dedicated Ukrainian-speaking staff in classes for tailored support to children).

Health needs

After economic needs and education, health (both healthcare and medicines) was the third most common type of need mentioned. The reporting of health needs in the survey (see below for details), as well as the prevalence of

entering Poland, and those that fled in the weeks leading up to the start of the invasion (but fled due to fear of conflict). Key informants noted there may be ongoing discussion with the government to revise these requirements, but this had not been accomplished by the time of the assessment. This means there is an unknown proportion of displaced people who will not be able to immediately claim the benefits offered by the PESEL number. In addition, two focus groups mentioned that older adults face mobility challenges going to offices and service points to wait in line and register for the PESEL; they request the possibility of registering for their PESEL number at the shelter.

Refugees also noted experiencing a number of risks since they left their homes. Most commonly these included risks of abandonment/family separation (36%) and human trafficking (28%), followed by physical violence and sexual violence/abuse (both 19%). The full list of risks can be seen in the chart at right (n=461). About one-third of those surveyed felt that it was generally safe in Poland, and they had faced few risks. Given that the majority of survey respondents were female, there was not clear data from the survey on risks specific to men versus women. However, key informants noted that given the mobility restrictions for men under 60 crossing the border from Ukraine, there has been evidence of stigma within the community against younger men who have managed to leave the country. At least one situation of conflict and discrimination against men in a displacement shelter was found during the assessment.

In most cases, respondents who noted risks said that they did not report those risks to anyone or seek any help to address them. When focus groups were asked who they would seek help from, three identified the police and did not express any fear or concern with approaching them. Additional information on help-seeking from the survey can be found in the table at right. Discussions in the four focus groups evidenced that women are, in general, aware of the human trafficking risks. One group noted they keep their documents safe and stay together, another noted being approached to take a ride and reporting to the police, while the last group had heard rumors about trafficking, but did not know of any first-hand accounts.

Another concern expressed by 12 key informants is around the emotional and psychological state of people: many refugees who have arrived, and in particular children, have been severely emotionally impacted by the separation of their families (leaving loved ones behind in Ukraine), and the experience/fear of war. Shelter directors and one focus group spoke of children who cry or wet themselves at night, mothe

sector are expected to be needed. Although the number one priority of displaced people is to find a job, only three organizations noted they were working to assist on this issue. Similarly, despite the clear prioritization of education, only one organization was providing education on site, and only four were assisting with school registration. The results of the service mapping exercise, for the organizations who chose to share them publicly, can be found in Annex 3.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Economic Recovery and Development

Economic needs were the highest priority for those displaced from Ukraine. While most of their basic needs are being met for the moment (particularly for those who are currently residing within the temporary shelters) the anticipation of a change/depletion of assistance has both service providers and affected persons highly concerned. As a result, IRC should consider:

- Partnering with existing service providers and reception centers/shelters to ensure mid-to-longer term continuation of services such as shelter, food, and distributions in select locations.
- Partnering with municipalities and legal aid organizations to improve and increase single service points for access to the PESEL and its corresponding assistance.
- Exploring opportunities to support displaced people with Polish language classes and linkages to livelihoods, either through partnership or direct service provision.
- Direct cash assistance to impacted households as a stop-gap intervention for vulnerable families who have not yet been able to register for PESEL or have not yet started receiving their stipulated assistance, on the basis of transparent targeting criteria.
- Investigating pairing livelihoods assistance with education/protection/child-care support activities, as many of affected persons seeking employment are the sole caregiver for their children at this time.

Access to Education and Early Childhood Development

Prioritization of access to education by refugee families was clear in the assessment. As a result, IRC should consider:

