Regional Refugee Response for the Ukraine Situation

UKRAINE SITUATION: POLAND

Socio-Economic Insights Survey (SEIS), June 2024

Brief Summary of the Analysis

The Socio-Economic Insight Survey (SEIS) highlights the positive impact of the temporary protection directive in helping refugees with their legal stay, access jobs and services, although many still face significant vulnerabilities and require assistance.

Surveys conducted in **1,290** HH

Population coverage **3,093** refugees

2.4 average HH size

Organizations involved in the Regional Refugee Response Plan (RRP) will continue working with the government to protect refugees, following the Refugee Coordination Model to ensure alignment with national priorities. Regional collaboration will strengthen partnerships, with an increasing role for Polish and refugee-led organizations in the RRP leading the response for 2025 and 2026.

Methodology

Household interviews were conducted in person. The methodology employed for this assessment aimed to ensure that the findings were consistent with previous surveys (MSNA) carried out in 2022 and 2023.

SEIS data collection conducted from 16 May to 24 June by information management working group members (IMWG) through Household (HH) interviews in person.

Purposive/Convenience sampling (geographical coverage, various accommodation types, age and gender considerations).

Inter-agency collaboration with active participation from the Government (through the National Statistics Office), as well as support from the Inter-Sector Working Group.

88% of respondents were women, **12%** were men

57% of HHs with children

6% of HHs with pregnant or breastfeeding women

67% of HHs headed exclusively by females

6% of HHs with infants

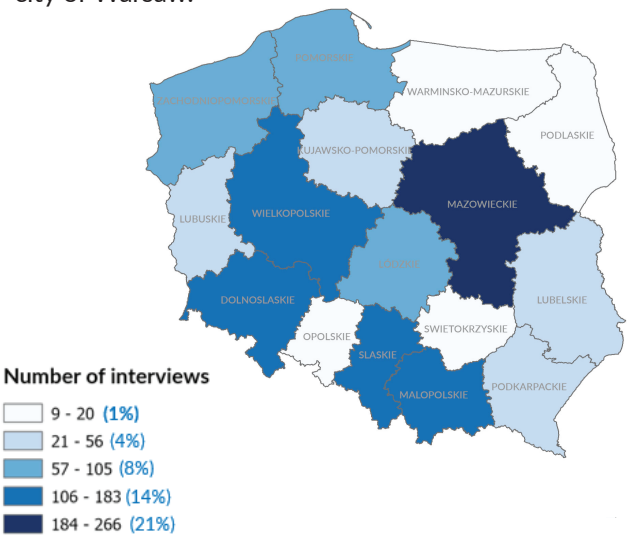
23% of HHs with older refugees

10% HHs have one or more persons with disabilities

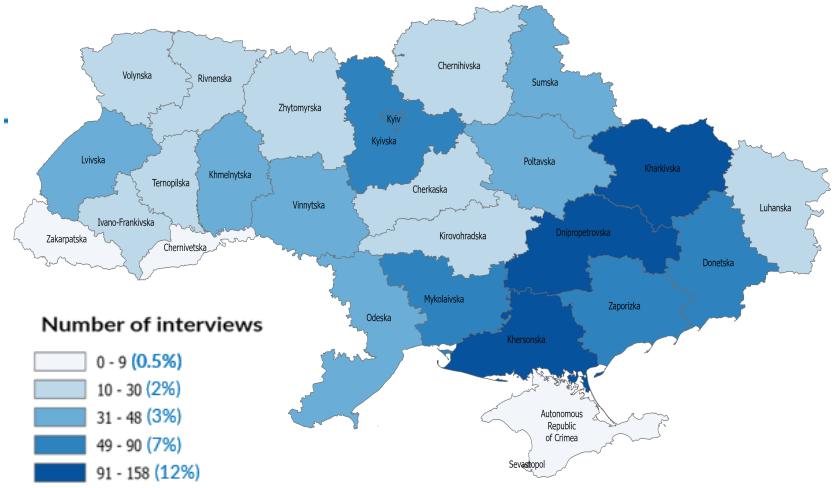
48% of HHs with a chronically ill member

Number of interviews by voivodeships

Interviews were conducted in all **16** voivodeships of Poland. In Mazowieckie and specifically in the capital city of Warsaw.



Number of interviews by oblast of origin in Ukraine



The majority of respondents surveyed originated from Kharkivska (12%), Dnipropetrovska (12%), Khersonska (10%), Zaporizka (7%) oblasts and Kyiv city (7%).

Protection

97 %

% of HHs did not face challenges during the TP application/extension

Access to GBV services

significant majority of respondents are familiar with available safety and security services **(67%)** and health services **(57%)**

60 %

% of the respondents did not face challenges in accessing information about aid and services

Low level of awareness of specialized services available to refugees (i.e. services for older people **11%**, daycare for people with disabilities **8%**, daycare for children **12%**)

Access to GBV services **78 %**

Verbal aggression towards Ukrainian refugees remains at the same high level as in 2023

40 %

% of HHs reported at least one member in need of MHPSS

6.3% have separated children or children under guardianship as part of the extended family of HHs with children.

The top five reasons respondents identified as main barriers for accessing GBV services are language and cultural barriers **(36%)**, stigma and shame (35%), followed by fear of retaliation **(23%)** and lack of trust in host country services **(20%)**.

Less than half of the respondents had either no security concerns **(38%)** or were not aware of any .

The most common type of aid received was from government social protection programs **(47%)**, followed by humanitarian distributions like food and non-food items **(35%)**. Other forms of aid included other government assistance (27%), housing programs (11%), and various types of financial aid.

The data shows that the majority of HHs **(82%)** did not face difficulties when returning back from visits to Ukraine, while **17%** reported experiencing challenges. Of the 17% reported challenges, **51%** mentioned the suspension or revocation of temporary protection or other legal status.

70.9% of HHs intend to remain in their present location within the next 12 months, while **18.4%** are uncertain about their future. Only **3.6%** plan to return to their habitual place of residence in Ukraine.

Despite access to essential services, refugees face significant vulnerabilities, particularly in areas such as gender-based violence (GBV), reproductive health, and psychosocial support.

Only **7%** of households are aware of reproductive health services, and even fewer know about GBV support. This lack of awareness highlights a critical gap in outreach and information dissemination. Child protection remains a key concern, as children are especially vulnerable to the impacts of displacement. Addressing the needs of unaccompanied minors and ensuring safe spaces for refugee children are priority areas in the upcoming response. The need for robust prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse (PSEA) measures is evident, with emphasis on safeguarding mechanisms to protect the most vulnerable from abuse and exploitation.

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Education

69 %

% of school-aged children (school year 2023-2024) who were no longer enrolled in any educational institution in Ukraine

88 %

% of HHs intended to enroll children into the host country education system for the next school year

39 %

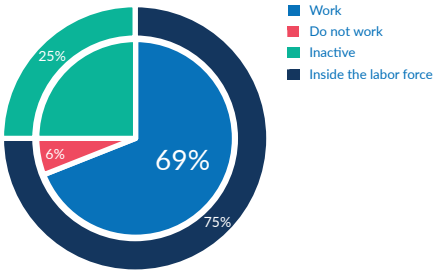
% of families intend to keep their children enrolled in Ukrainian schools and continue remote learning (2024-2025 school year)

While **72%** of school-aged refugee children attended Polish schools in 2023/2024, **26%** did not.

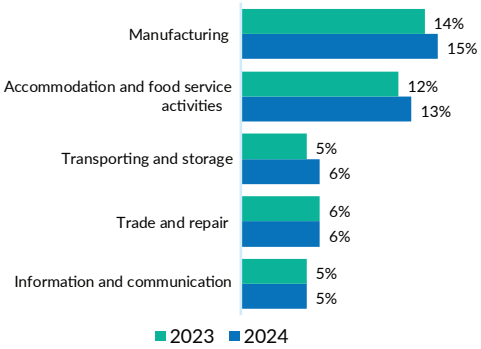
For the 2024/2025 academic year, many families plan to maintain this dual education approach, with language barriers, school capacity, and enrolment uncertainties remaining key obstacles.

Socio-economic Inclusion & Livelihoods

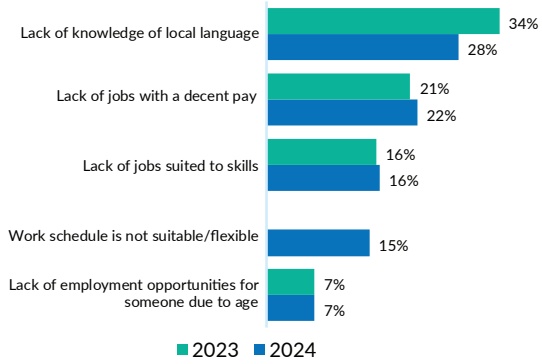
Labor Force Participation out of working age population 15 to 60 (female) and 65 (male) (n=1,880)



% of HH members employed by sector of employment (top 5) (n=1,312)*



% of HH members by main reasons for not finding work (MCQ) (n=1,952)



Although **69%** of individuals inside of labour force report employment, many refugees hold informal or low-wage jobs, particularly affecting vulnerable households with children, the elderly, or those with disabilities.

In 2024, the most popular employment sectors are manufacturing **(15%)**, accommodation and food service activities **(13%)**, observing a **1%** increase compared to 2023 for both sectors.

The main challenges reported are the lack of knowledge of the local language **(28%)**, lack of employment opportunities with decent pay (22%) and the lack of jobs suited to individuals' skills **(16%)**.

Access to services, especially healthcare and housing, remains challenging. Refugees face barriers such as language issues, administrative hurdles, and financial constraints that limit access to necessary services. Housing is also a concern, with many refugees living in overcrowded conditions or struggling to afford rent in urban areas.

Integration into Polish society is progressing slowly due to language barriers, economic insecurity, and the trauma of displacement. Employment and livelihoods remain top priorities for refugees, with 35% of households listing economic stability as essential for long-term integration.

The SEIS underscores the need for and importance of a continued coordinated response, with regular involvement from local and refugee-led organizations. Poland's government and humanitarian partners will continue to play key roles in supporting refugees, and local partnerships will continue to be vital for adaptive, responsive solutions. The 2025-2026 Refugee Response Plan will focus on strengthening education, livelihoods, protection, PSEA mechanisms, social cohesion and GBV prevention, to help refugees in Poland integrate and thrive.