



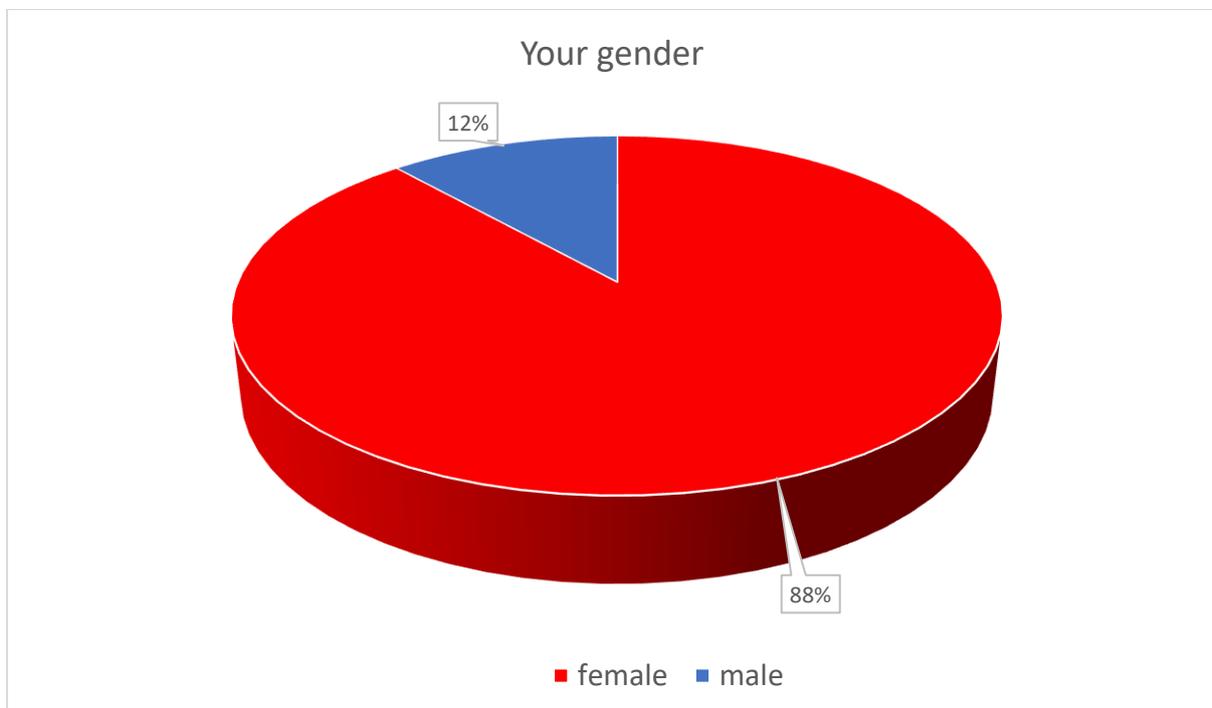
Co-funded by the
European Union

WP2A1

Thematic survey / sociological analysis based on the results of WP2A1

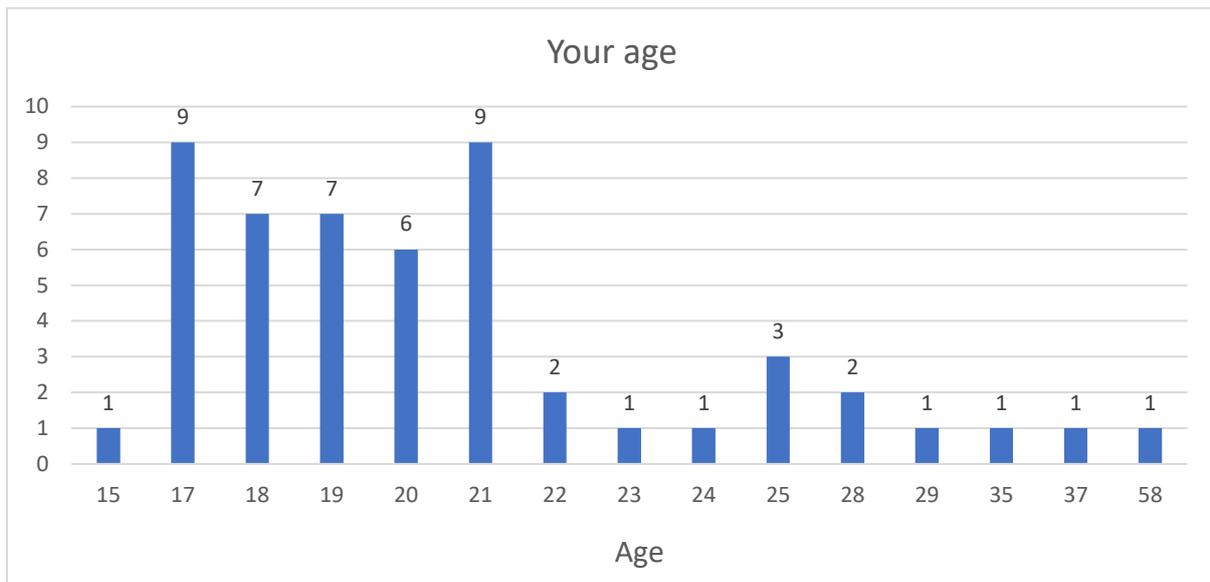
The case studies based on the questionnaire's primary materials represent a strange paradox: IDP youth are not just 'doing something', but 'doing something against the odds'. The war has completely changed the lives of all Ukrainians, adding to the troubles and the urgency of solidarity recovery. It seems that young people are the ones who suffer the most from such realities, because something needs to be done now, but there are always circumstances that prevent this to some extent. Let's try to analyse whether this is true or not based on some basic indicators and the answers of respondents interviewed during the study on 06-13 March 2025. A total of 52 respondents from among internally displaced youth and war-affected persons were interviewed (Google Forms), the roundtable questionnaire is attached.

Questionnaire / sociological analysis

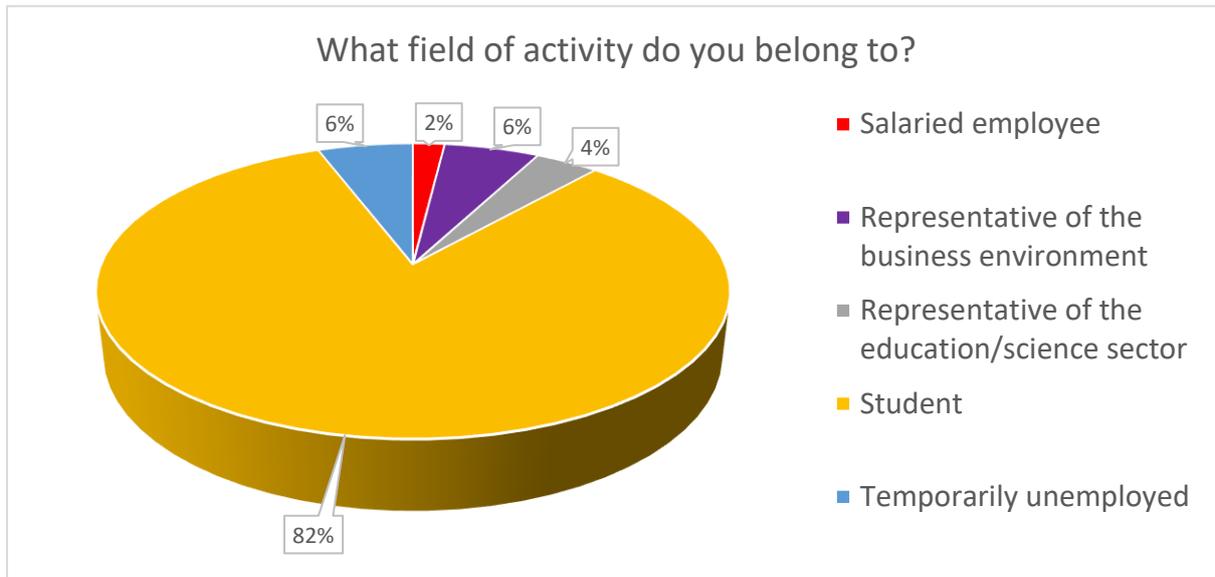


The analysis of respondents shows that the majority of IDP youth interviewed were female, as they were the ones who responded to communication and tried to join the activities and surveys during the two offline thematic meetings.

Given the legal requirements of Ukraine regarding the definition of youth and persons under the age of 18, most studies on this category of people are focused on the age range of 18-35 years. This category of ‘youth’ is conditionally divided into the following age groups: 18-24 years old - this period is characterised by choosing a place of study, obtaining education and first employment experience. 25-29 years - this is an active period of working life and family formation. 30-35 years old - this period is reserved for analysing the life and work experience gained [Nastroi ta otsinky ukrainskykh bizhentsiv, shcho povertaiutsia na Batkivshchynu (kviten-traven 2022 r.): Razumkov Center. URL: <https://razumkov.org.ua/napriamky/sotsiologichni-doslidzhennia/nastroi-ta-otsinky-ukrainskykh-bizhentsiv-shcho-povertaiutsia-na-batkivshchynu>].

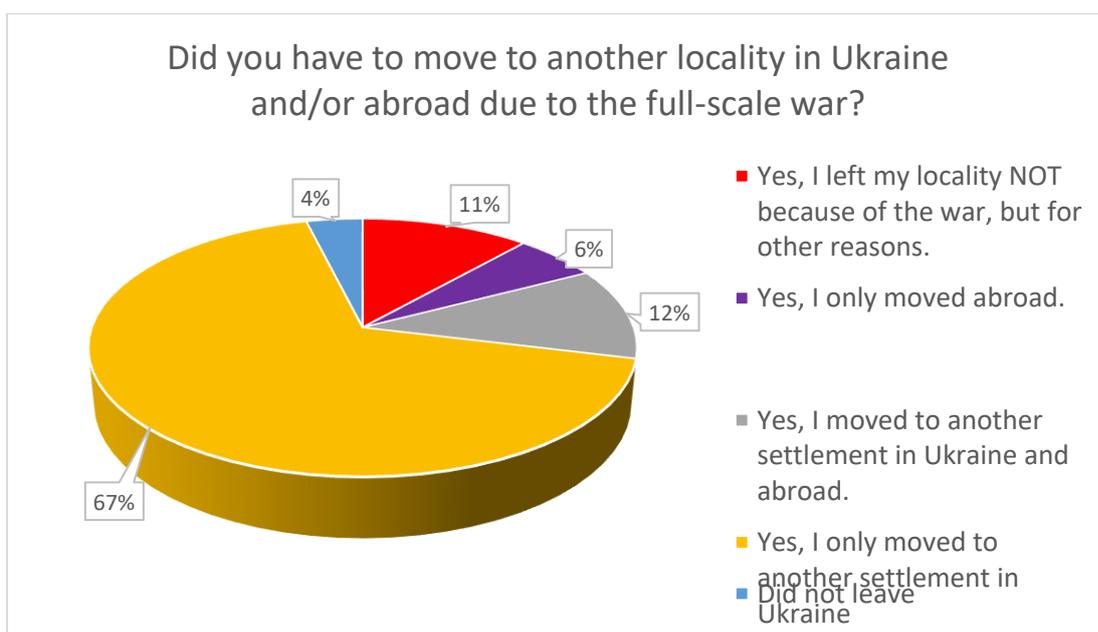


The statistical sample of respondents by age represents a significant number of IDP youth aged 21, which is 17.3% of the total number of respondents. This is the age of ‘special activity’, when the worldview around the question of their special and unique place in the system of life during trials, including war, has not yet been fully formed. The second place is occupied by people aged 17-18-19, who together account for 44% of respondents. This shows that the factor of maximum interest in changes around them in connection with the war is at a young age, when active social, civic, and student life is just beginning. Changes are ahead. There is a noticeable interest in the programme among young people aged 25, which also has its own explanation. After all, this is the age when the first steps have already been taken, usually basic, specialised vocational and higher education has already been obtained. Then there is the unknown. The desire to somehow ‘highlight’ the problems that bother or simply disturb you in life wins out. After all, one has to decide how to position oneself in the labour market, in social and personal life, etc.

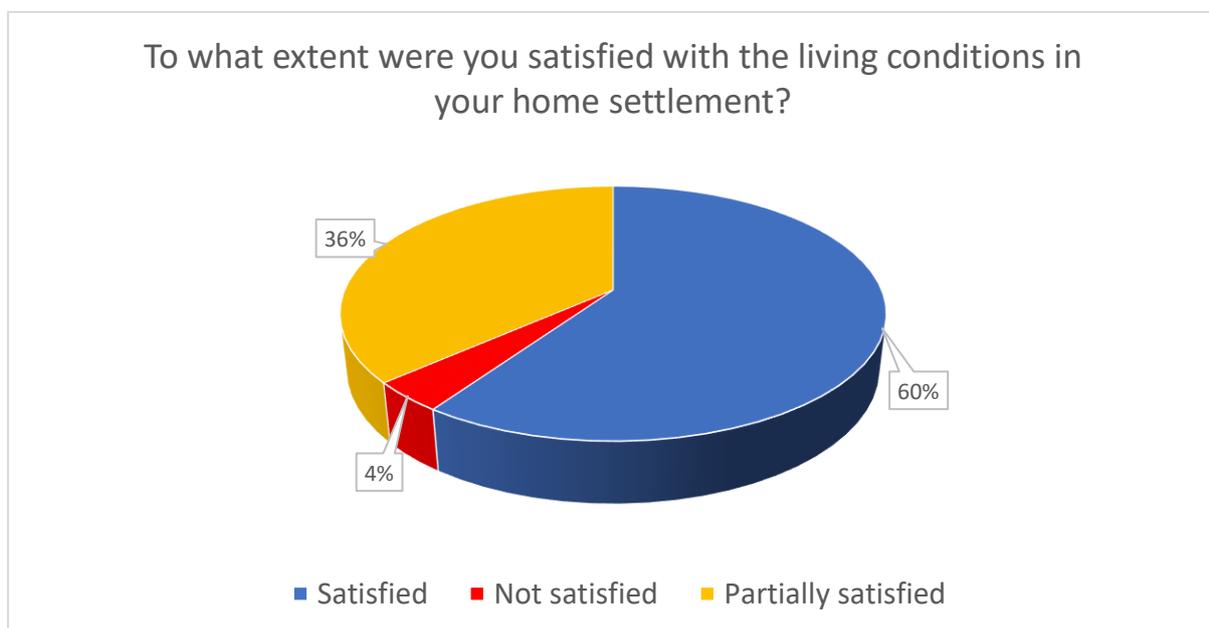


It can be assumed that these individuals, on the one hand, belong to the most active and motivated local population, are already professionally oriented, have a certain short life experience, and on the other hand, have the opportunity to stay in ‘new’ communities at the very time when their potential is most in demand.

The peculiarities of belonging to a certain field of activity fully confirm the stereotypical opinion that students turned out to be the powerful ‘echelon of the migration tsunami’ that has been discussed in the media and in the news. The next ‘echelon’ is followed by representatives of the business environment (about 5%) and the unemployed (about 5%) with a large margin. This is a noticeably small percentage relative to business employment. It is noteworthy that only 3 people declared themselves temporarily unable to work or unemployed, respectively, given that this is a ‘sensitive issue’ and can be painful to disclose. This trend is explained by existing problems that cannot be solved quickly. We are talking about the ‘limits’ of jobs on the territory of the communities chosen by IDP youth to live in.

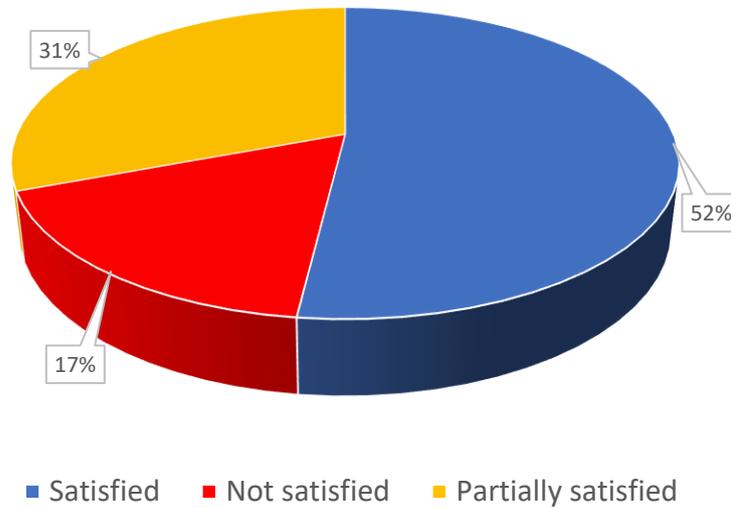


The information on respondents' answers about changing their place of residence during the active phase of the war and the occupation of their home town by the enemy is indicative. It is noteworthy that significantly more than half of the respondents (67.3%) acknowledge their own need to move, but to other settlements in Ukraine. This fact tells us that young people are reluctant to leave their country, even at such a crucial and dangerous time, and to cross the border. That is, even when leaving their place of residence, young people believe in their return, and thus in our Victory. In contrast, the percentage of those who have made up their minds and moved abroad in times of danger is 3%, which is optimistic. About 11.5% of respondents admitted that they had first left their own locality and later took the opportunity to travel abroad (but also returned!). This means that almost 3/4 of the young population is able to withstand any challenges. This is an understanding of the internal readiness of IDP youth in new communities to accept a dangerous reality, try to overcome their own fear and move on with their lives.



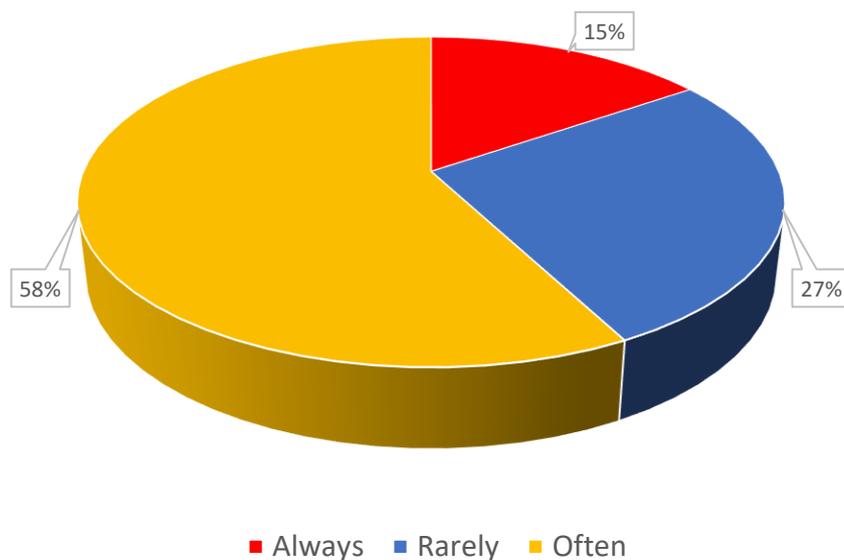
Satisfaction with previous experience of living in their 'native' communities is representative, as demonstrated by more than half of the respondents - almost 60%. This is a fairly high figure, which emphasises the importance of making a conscious move today. For young people, changing their place of residence is always associated with difficult decisions about changing habits, a certain level of comfort, memory, understanding of family ties, unique family experiences, behavioural transformations, etc. At the same time, it became clear that the factor of a safe or 'conditionally safe' life, the need for psychological recovery/relief from the shocks experienced, the desire to find one's place in society, to study, to work, wins out. After all, there is life ahead and it must be planned and implemented despite the existing challenges. Sometimes challenges are beyond human capabilities, they are a factor of irresistible force, especially in the case of an unmotivated aggressive attack by the enemy.

How satisfied are you with the existing transport infrastructure in your current place of residence?

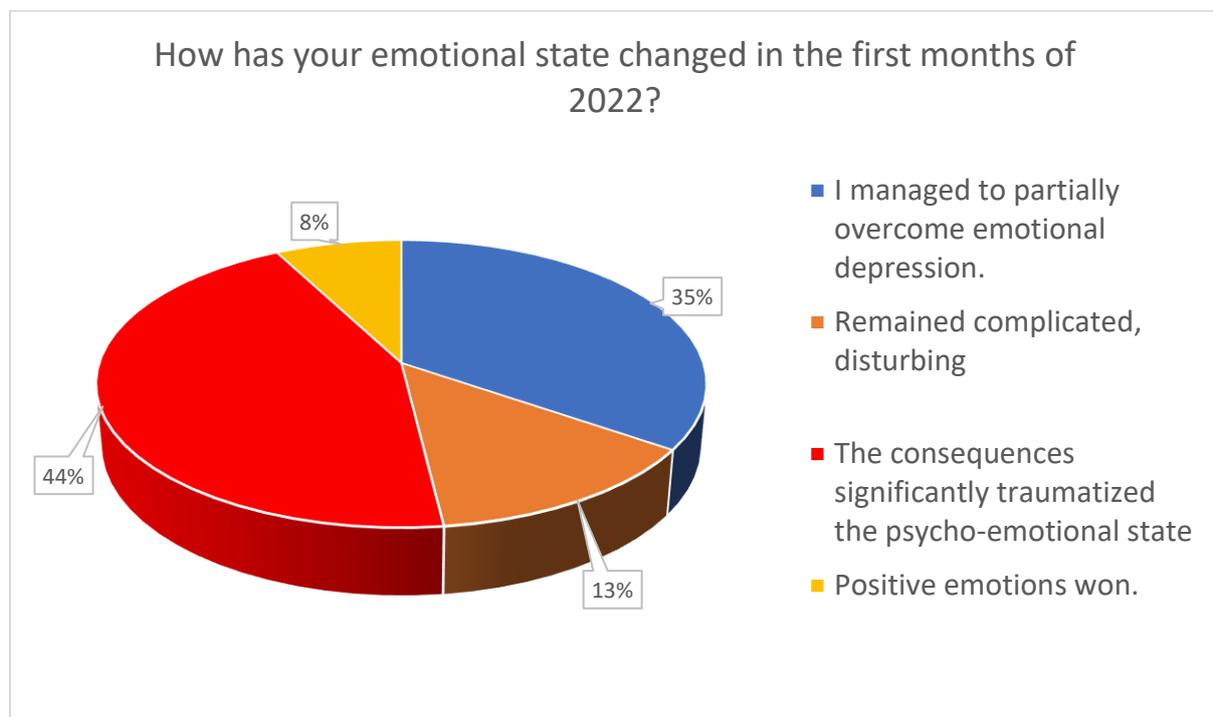


We see that the majority (over 50%) express their satisfaction with the level of development of transport infrastructure. This fact is quite important (sometimes extremely important) in the case of rapid adaptation in a new area, in new communities. Establishing communication among IDP youth in the new realities, searching for housing, the benefits of close proximity or convenient access to education, work, and social infrastructure facilities is an important advantage of a new style and way of life. This is especially important in the early stages of youth adaptation.

How often do you experience negative feelings, such as bad mood, despair, anxiety, depression?

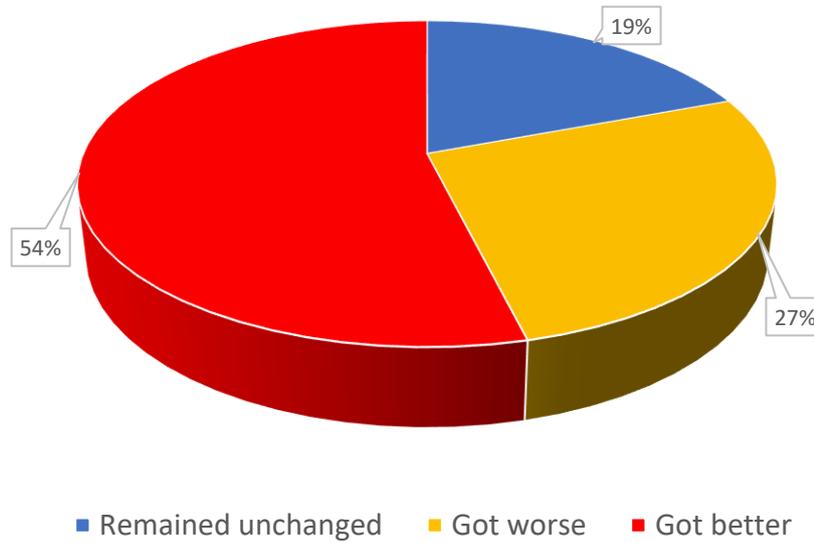


Overcoming unforeseen circumstances and internal fears in an extremely short period of time does not pass without a trace for any person, even a morally strong one. Therefore, we asked about negative experiences and bad moods, because the consequences can be a marker of the experience. It is clear that despair, anxiety and depression accompany any person throughout their life more than once, but it is alarming that the majority of respondents - 57.7% - admit to this condition often. At the same time, it is gratifying that 26.9% of IDPs surveyed partially reject such consequences, recognising them quite rarely, but there were no those who reject them altogether. Instead, 15.4% always face these problems. This is worrying in terms of the importance of special approaches to psychological recovery in order to help IDP youth rebuild their lives in the new environment right now.



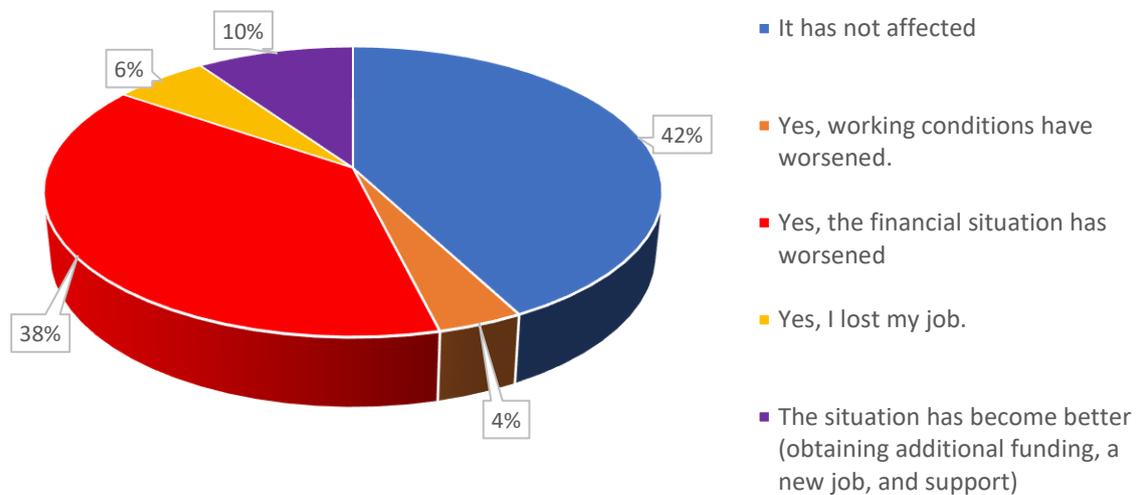
During offline events, communication, and conversations with young people, experts - activists, managers, volunteers, scientists/educators - noticed a certain emotional lability, when the same person changes emotions very quickly during a conversation and is capable not only of anger (when it comes to assessing the situation and the consequences of aggression), but also of sentimental softness, and sometimes even crying and despair. However, the answers to the question 'How has your emotional state changed in the first months of 2022....' show that 34.6% of IDP respondents were able to partially overcome emotional depression, i.e. one third of young people. Almost half of the respondents - 44.2% - admit to being 'significantly traumatised' by what they have seen and experienced, meaning that the war and its consequences have affected them personally very deeply; and another 13.5% admit to being in a difficult and disturbing state, despite the general 'optimism' associated with leaving a dangerous place. Only 7.7% of the population acknowledges the victory of positive emotions at first.

Has your emotional state changed in 2024/2025 compared to 2022?

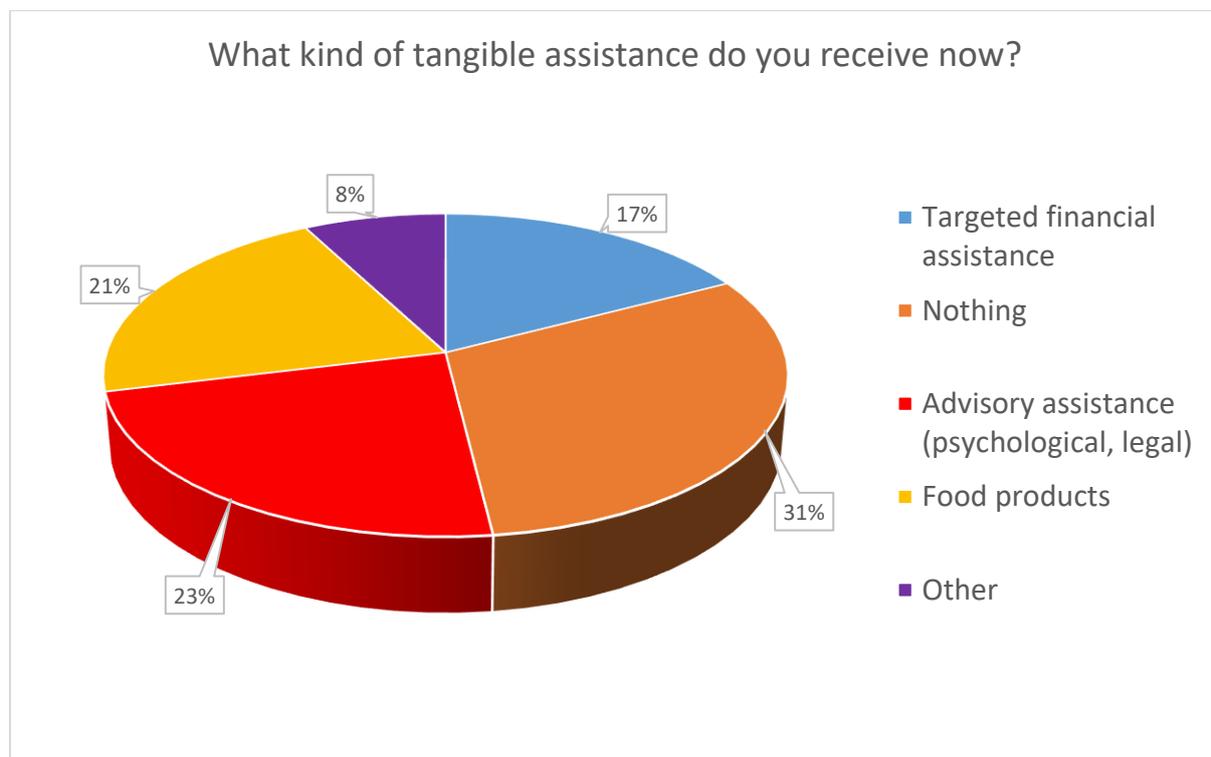


We are very pleased with the fact that despite the state of war that we all have to live in every day, more than half of IDP youth - 53.8% - have improved their emotional state compared to 2022. This is a very important **MARKER**, because during the difficult time of struggle and recovery, displaced youth have not ‘given up’. This means that, in general, the vector of **LIFE BUILDING** and **RECOVERY** is already being chosen correctly during the war. The group of ‘emotional optimists’ has significantly expanded, as these are the ones who are moving forward against all odds, with faith in a new life.

Has the war affected your work?

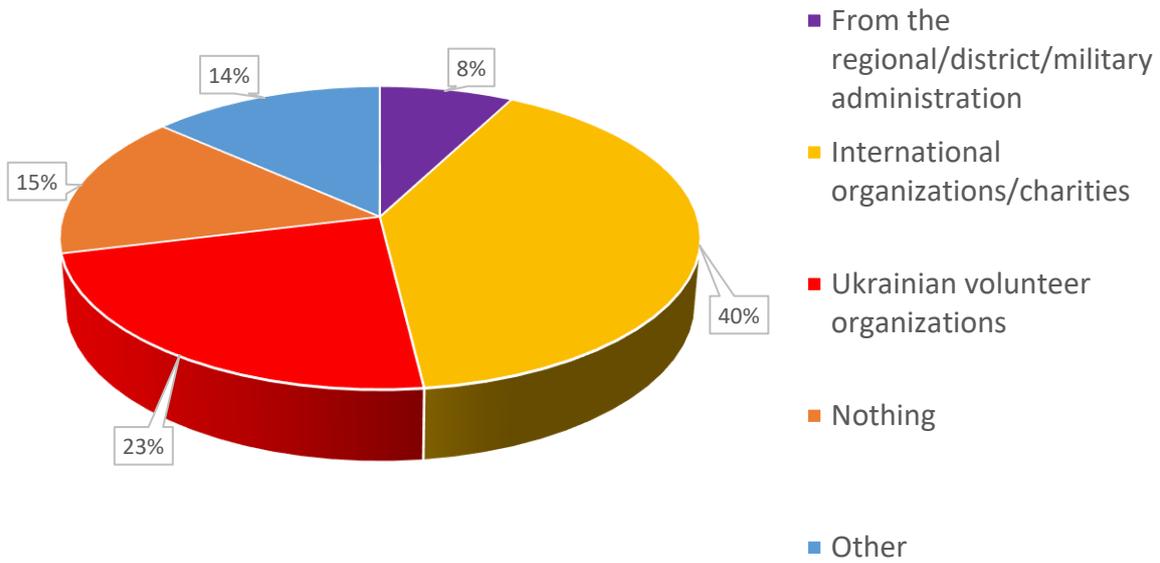


The ability of a citizen/young person to recover is also determined by the extent to which an IDP can feel economically independent, have a job, be useful and in demand in the new environment (in a new community). It is not a secret that the war has changed plans a lot, many young people had to change, lost their jobs or had to get other skills. Sometimes this process is productive and socially useful, and sometimes it leads to despair and loss of interest in work in general. In response to the question ‘Has the war affected your work?’, we see that a total of 57.7% say it has. In total, more than 40% admit to a significant deterioration in their financial situation and working conditions. Another 9.6% acknowledged even an improvement in the situation (this is probably explained by those cases when the team is being substantially renewed). The work of 42.3% of respondents proved to be stable and unaffected by the challenges of war. This is a significant result of the state's achievements in stimulating the development of a progressive labour market for young people, including IDPs.



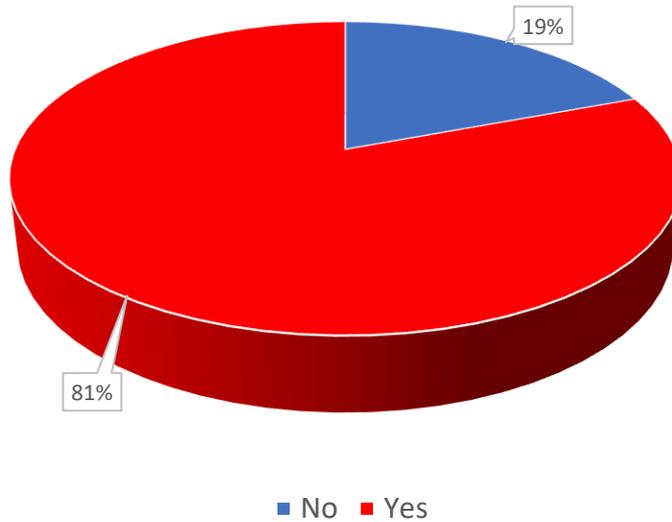
The diverse range of responses indicates the wide range of needs of IDP youth in the context of adaptation, which should be taken into account by the state, the public sector, volunteers, and international humanitarian missions currently assisting IDP youth. Three main types of assistance are clearly visible, with counselling (23.1%) in the first place, food (21.2%) in the second place, and financial targeted assistance in the third place. The remaining types of assistance account for 61.6% in total. All types of assistance are important and should be continued and strengthened to the maximum extent possible. However, we would like to draw attention to psychological assistance in the first place, as this is also indicated by the previous answers of IDPs.

Whose help was the most tangible and useful for you?

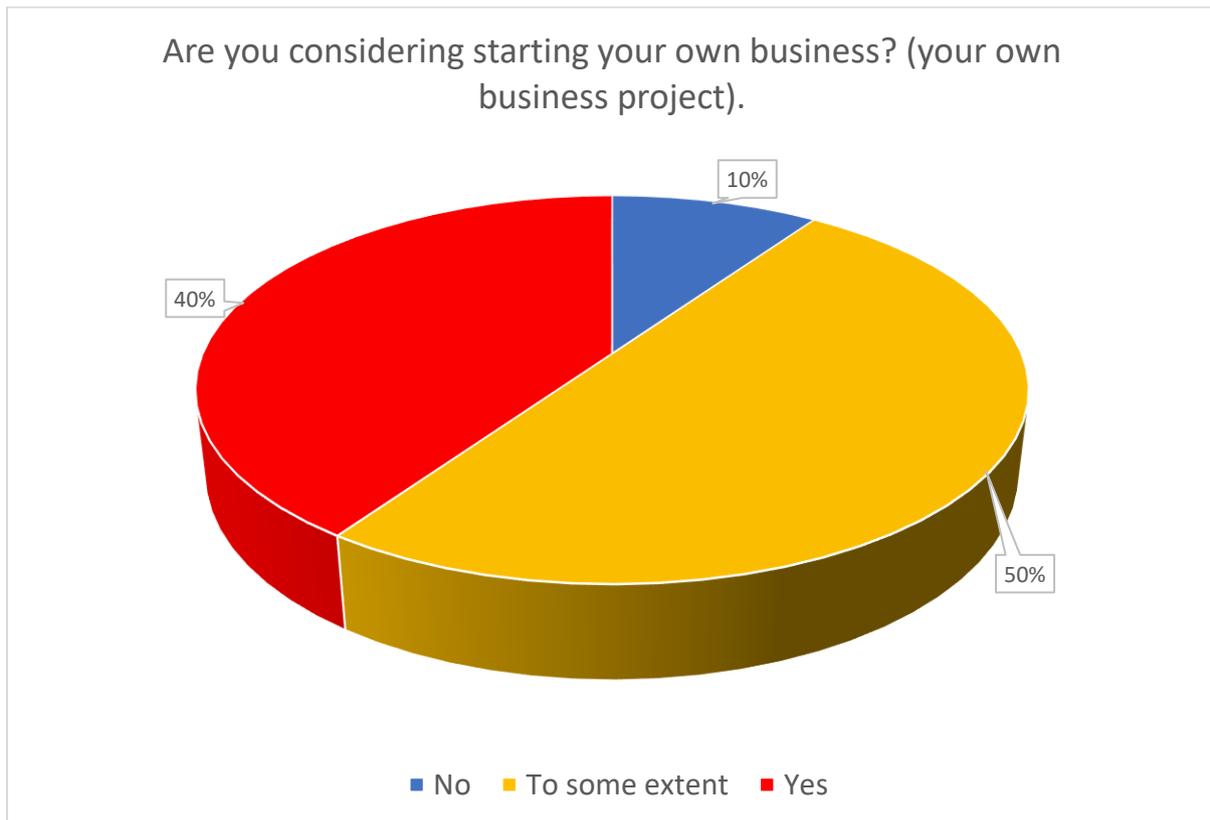


When asked whose help was the most tangible and useful in the first months after the de-occupation, various volunteer organisations are popular (23.1%), however, international organisations and charitable foundations are in the lead (40.4%), and assistance from local community administrations is in third place (about 10%). Unfortunately, few respondents mentioned assistance from individual MPs and from regional/district/military administrations. If there was any, it was less noticeable against the background of the powerful humanitarian flow of goods and products provided to IDP youth by the civilised world. It is the IDP youth in the communities who are in critical need of assistance from volunteers, international donors and socially responsible businesses.

Do you find it possible to combine study and work?

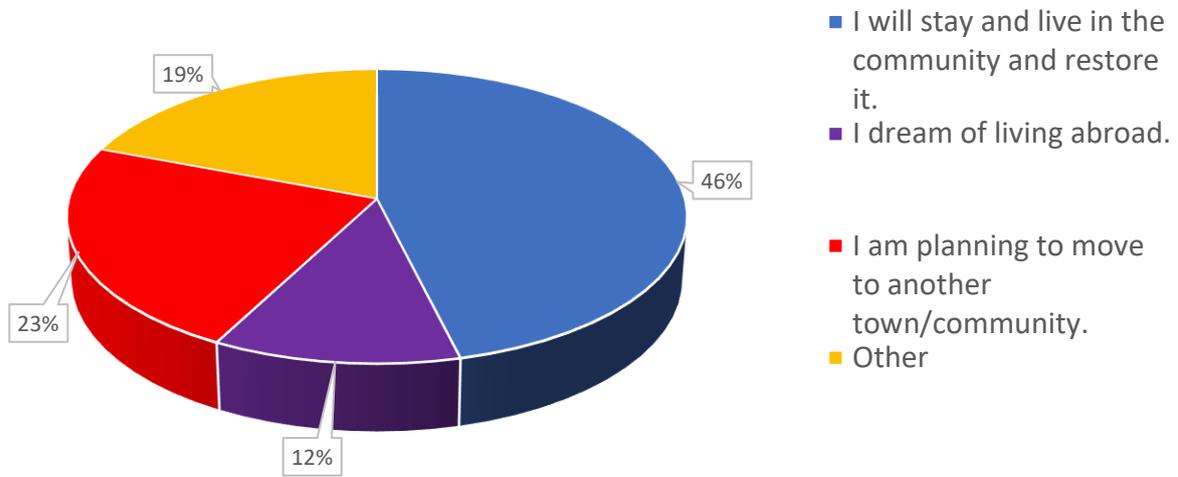


The answer to this question makes it possible to understand that young IDPs prefer education as a way to secure their future. That is why 80.6% of IDPs prefer education. It is quite natural that the acquisition of knowledge in the context of ever-growing competition in specialised labour markets should be in the FIRST place. Young people who are more ‘mature’ in the age sense will be happy to join the labour market after mastering certain professions. However, the former does not negate the latter in the face of constant competition for more prestigious and interesting job offers.



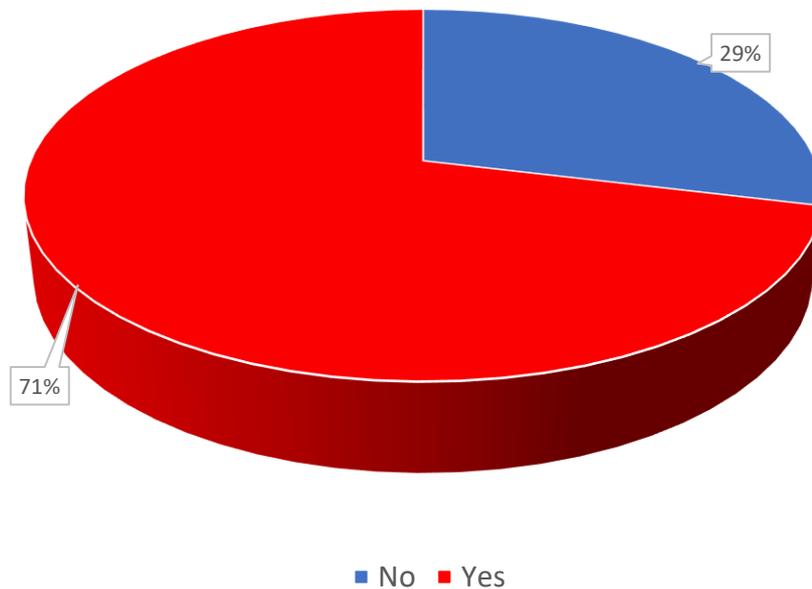
The answer of half of the IDP youth respondents about the possibility of starting their own business (50% of respondents) is optimistic, and the number of those who are considering such a possibility is extremely high, as this approach is encouraging. The country really needs to revitalise its business environment right now by engaging young talented people, including IDPs, and there are plenty of them. That is, in total, about 90% of those surveyed may join in starting their own business (small, medium...) in the future. This is an extremely optimistic figure. The state should already be providing all possible assistance to young IDPs. It is necessary to carefully build the conditions for the development of the business environment during the war and after the victory, to promote the development of a network of free legal services, initial lending, support of business interests through the involvement of leading stakeholders in their fields, etc.

Do you associate your future with this community?



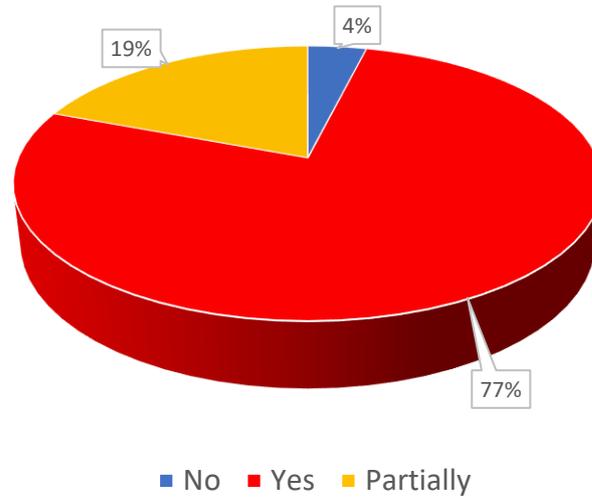
The community in which an IDP youth currently lives and wants to stay is a springboard to a further optimistic life scenario. Undoubtedly, IDP youth will choose ‘security’, ‘work/employment’, ‘education/training’, ‘infrastructure convenience’, ‘promising business environment’, ‘conditions for psychological recovery’ and many other things that should accompany life. The proportion of IDPs who choose the community in which they live and want to restore it despite all odds is optimistic - 53.8%. Usually, in such surveys, one-third of respondents want to make changes and move: only 23.1% of IDP youth in our programme plan to move to another settlement in search of a ‘better life’. Only 11.5% of respondents dream of living abroad (however, for some reason, they have not yet made this choice) and this is the cohort for which we need to ‘fight especially hard’ to keep them in Ukraine!

Have you personally been involved in any volunteer work in 2022-2025?



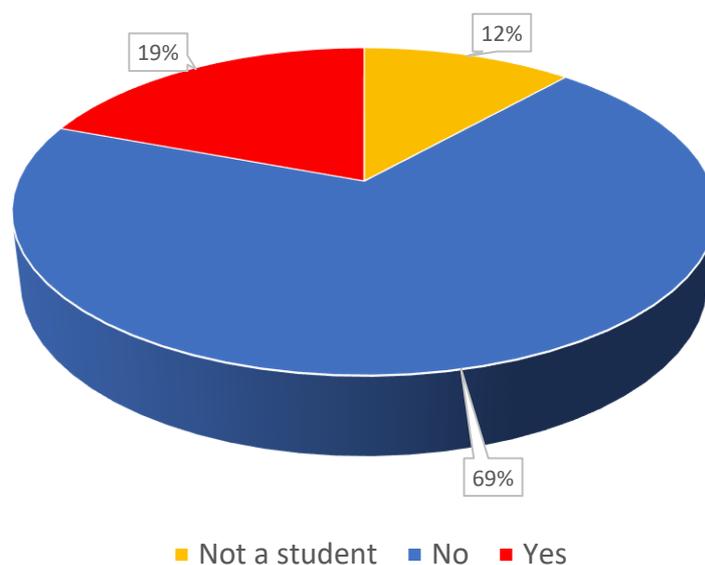
Another issue that highlights the sufficient activity of the local population/community, which has been acknowledged earlier. The extremely high rate of IDPs' activity in various volunteering activities - 71.2% (we are aware that these could be both systemic and individual activities), this trend should be maintained and strengthened through the involvement of IDPs. The thesis 'one of their own' should become a guideline that will help to activate the role of displaced youth in the new environment. The share of IDPs (28.8%) who may not have fully realised the importance of unity, mutual assistance and mutual support in the difficult trials that Ukrainians have faced during the war and occupation is quite high. Perhaps this is the so-called 'my house is on the edge' category, or perhaps they did not consider their socially useful actions in their own community to be 'volunteer work' and therefore answered as follows. I want to believe that my second assumption is correct. Because sometimes I want to say in some cases that the war has not taught some of us anything... we hope that our own judgement is wrong...

In your opinion, do art projects, festivals, and trips help people adapt to new living conditions in the community?

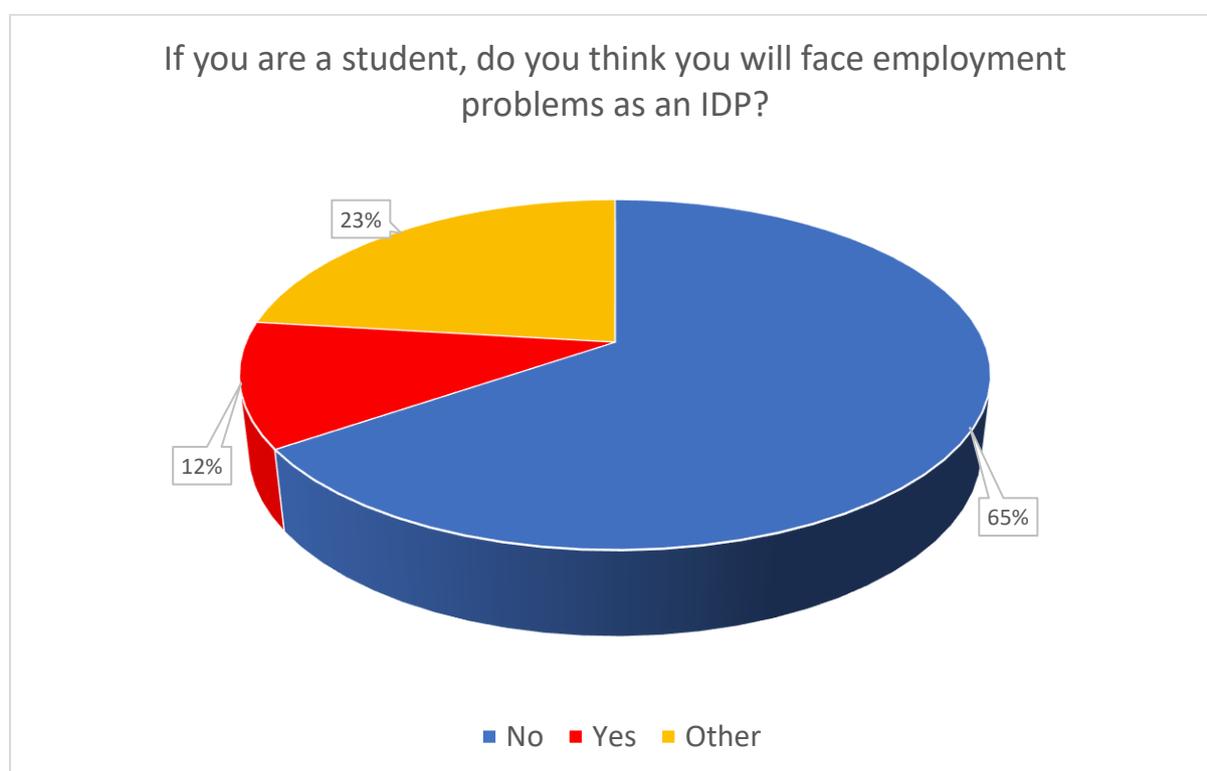


Culture and art indivisibly have a special mission aimed not only at preserving the traditions and authenticity of the people, but also at capturing their 'ups and downs' along the path of history in artistic form. For IDP youth, the cultural engagement segment is particularly strategic, as it allows them to better explore the area, learn about the life of a new community, and discover the benefits of geographic branding in finding their own uniqueness and role in community life. Thus, the vast majority - 96.1% - are aware of the importance of various types of events, art projects, and travel in their own adaptation process. Therefore, it is important to involve IDP youth in the cultural and artistic life of the community as much as possible, and to develop activity programmes at both the state and local levels.

If you are a student, have you faced any problems in getting an education as an IDP?

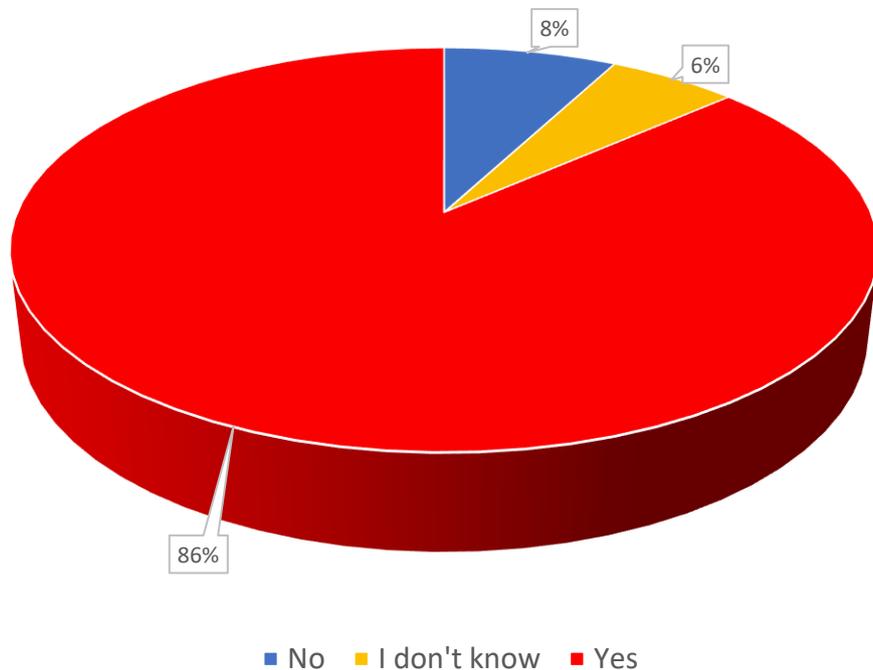


About 20 percent of respondents noted that there is a problem with education for IDP youth, but the majority, almost 70 percent, have not encountered this. How to overcome possible risks and existing shortcomings? These questions were answered exhaustively by experts/speakers from education, educational management and academic researchers. Creation of equal conditions for education, development of targeted programmes to overcome injustice and sometimes ‘arbitrariness’ of the administration of individual institutions, formation of a segment of socially active youth that will defend the interests of all segments, taking into account diversity, inclusion and special needs of students; development of stakeholder involvement to involve particularly talented IDP youth in useful practices during their studies; grant programmes with useful case studies both in Ukraine and abroad, etc.



Traditionally, education and employment are segments that develop interdependently, i.e. in a ‘common trend’. The majority of IDPs surveyed (65.4%) say they do not expect such challenges. This is a positive signal that education and businesses and stakeholders are cooperating. Only 11.5% of young people expect to face employment problems in the current labour market. Accordingly, we should pay attention to the systematic measures - the preventive measures mentioned earlier.

Are there any soldiers or volunteers among your friends/family/relatives who are currently defending Ukraine at the front?



Of course, the vast majority of the surveyed IDP youth - 86.5% - acknowledge the involvement of family/friends/relatives in the army of Ukraine's defenders at such a crucial time for the state. The analysis of the answers of the IDP youth respondents to the questions of the thematic questionnaire reflects, to a certain extent, the psycho-emotional state of community residents, their moods during the occupation, during the war and now, demonstrates their readiness/unwillingness to reflect on challenges and threats, to determine the priorities of their own lives and the life of the community, to join socially useful projects and common causes, to show an active position and civic consciousness in the most crucial period - recovery during the war. The powerful analytical material of the questionnaire (which serves as a sociological basis), exchanges of opinions of IDP youth with experts during events, case studies of mapping the needs of IDP youth and observations allow us to consciously approach the formation of a co-design plan to be implemented during the project.