The World Bank Survey on Ukrainian Refugees in Italy

Basic Information Document

Introduction

The purpose of the present document is to provide detailed information on the World Bank Survey on Ukrainian Refugees in Italy. This survey, funded by the World Bank through the grants from the Global Knowledge Partnership on Migration and Development (KNOMAD) and the Knowledge for Change Program (KCP), was fielded by the Centro Studi di Politica Internazionale - CeSPI ETS (CeSPI), and collected data on Ukrainian refugees' children and their caregivers in Italy between January and July 2024. Survey responses are primarily collected by requesting schools to provide contact details of caregivers of 11-19 year old Ukrainian refugees enrolled in lower and upper secondary Italian schools. The list of schools with Ukrainian refugee students was compiled based on data from the Italian Ministry of Education. Additional contacts were collected through organizations working in Italy with Ukrainian refugee children and by publishing the link to the questionnaires via social media, thus tapping into networks of Ukrainians in Italy. Overall, 372 caregivers and 251 children completed the questionnaire.

The survey instruments

Caregivers and children were each asked questions under two different questionnaires: the Child questionnaire and the Caregiver questionnaire.

The modules of the Child questionnaire are listed below:

Table 1 – List of the Child questionnaire modules

Section no.	Title	Content
1	Socio-demographic information	Socio-demographic information (such as age, gender…) of the respondent
2	Schooling history	Schooling history and current schooling situation
2a	Education aspirations	Future educational aspirations for children currently attending in school
2b	Schooling environment	Information about the place and the environment used for studying
3	Language skill	Language skills of the respondent
4	Social network	Social network, friendship and relations with other Italian and non-Italian children
5	Assistance	Forms of assistance desired for school and for permanence in Italy
6	Youth empowerment	Youth empowerment and perceived independence
7	Bullying	Module concerning bullying episodes experienced by the respondent
8	Growth mindset	Growth mindset and maturity

The modules of the Caregiver questionnaire are listed below:

Table 2 – List of the Caregiver questionnaire modules

Section no.	Title	Content
1	Socio-demographic information	Socio-demographic information (such as age, gender...) of the respondent
2	Displacement history	Displacement information from Ukraine to Italy, transit country history, and current residence in the country
3	Employment in Italy	Employment and salary information for both past (In Ukraine) and present (In Italy)
4	Dwelling	Italian and Ukrainian dwelling description
5	Assistance	Forms of assistance desired for permanence in Italy
6	Access to information	Source of information (news, internet access, etc..)
7	Brief Parental Self Efficacy Scale (BPSES)	Brief Parental Self Efficacy Scale (BPSES) module
8	Mobility	Mobility in Italy
9	Financial services	Financial service used in Italy
10	Personal well-being	Personal well-being information
11	Social integration	Connection to Italy and to Ukraine, social integration with Italian residents
12	Believes on child's achievement and well-being	Child's current and potential future achievements, and child well-being

Data Collection

Schools

Survey respondents were primarily recruited by requesting contact information of caregivers of Ukrainian refugee students enrolled in Italian schools, as identified by student enrollment data provided by the Italian Ministry of Education. In April 2023, a sample of 1500 lower and upper secondary schools was selected from those with students of Ukrainian citizenship enrolled in the 2022-2023 academic year, regardless of refugee status, due to the lack of distinction in the Ministry's list. These schools were chosen from 12 out of Italy's 20 regions, representing 55% of the total student population in the country (see LIST 1 in Table 3). Schools were initially contacted via email and subsequently followed up with phone calls to obtain contact details for caregivers of any refugee students enrolled during the 2022-2023 academic year. Out of a potential 5055 students at the sampled schools, contact details for 80 students were obtained.

In October 2023, after the summer break, a sample of 3,000 schools with Ukrainian students enrolled in the 2022-2023 academic year was selected from the same 12 regions (see LIST 2). Unlike LIST 1, LIST 2 specifically included schools with students who had Ukrainian citizenship and were born abroad, having entered the Italian education system for the first time since the 2021-2022 academic year. Schools were once again contacted via email and followed up with phone calls. This effort

resulted in an increase in the number of contact details obtained, rising to 260 out of a possible 6,872 students.

In January 2024, following the winter break, the Ministry of Education shared an updated list of schools (see LIST 3). This list comprised schools with Ukrainian students enrolled in the 2023-24 academic year, who had entered the Italian school system for the first time in the 2021/22 academic year, similar to those in LIST 2. A new sample of 4,844 schools was selected from LIST 3, totaling 9,243 Ukrainian students. Among these, 2,610 schools with only one Ukrainian student enrolled were contacted solely via email. The remaining 2,234 schools were reached through both emails and follow-up calls by the data collection firm. This effort resulted in obtaining contact details for 268 students.

Table 3 - List of schools shared by the Ministry of Education

	LIST 1 (April 2023)	LIST 2 (October 2023)	LIST 3 (January 2024)
Schools			
Schools in the universe (MoE list)	6245	4657	4966
Student distribution per school (MoE list)			
Schools with 1 Student	2887	2,591	2680
Schools with 2 Students	1425	1071	1149
Schools with 3 Students	771	508	510
Schools with 4 Students	424	216	263
Schools with 5+ Students	738	271	496
Schools sampled	1500*	3000*	4844
Student distribution per school (school sampled)			
Schools with 1 Student	359	1,183	2775
Schools with 2 Students	367	919	1082
Schools with 3 Students	279	449	449
Schools with 4 Students	186	193	232
Schools with 5+ Students	309	256	306
Students			
Students in the whole universe	15024	8476	9380
Students in the universe of sampled schools	5055	6872	9243
Student contacts obtained[5]	80	260	268

* Schools have been selected from 12 regions (Abruzzo, Campania, Emilia-Romagna, Friuli Venezia Giulia, Lazio, Liguria, Lombardy, Marche, Piemonte, Toscana, Umbria, and Veneto).

Other sources

Starting in late 2023, due to the limited number of student contacts obtained from schools, 327 organizations that had previously assisted Ukrainian refugee children aged 11-19 years were contacted to provide contact details for both the refugees and their caregivers (see Table 4). Additionally, a post containing links and QR codes to access the questionnaires for children and caregivers was shared on UNHCR Italy's Telegram channel. UNHCR also supported the dissemination of the flyer through its network of Ukrainian volunteers. Furthermore, the same flyer was distributed among facilitators employed by the survey firm, who shared it through their networks and on social media platforms.

Table 4 - List of contacted associations

Type of association	Number of associations
Ukrainian NGOs	54
Directed contact	6
Consulate	4
Italian NGOs	69
Caritas	157
Churches	4
Ukrainian schools	2
"Spazi Comuni" UNHCR	3
Local authority	2
Other NGOs	26
Total	**327**

Survey Response

Starting in January 2024 until the end of June 2024, eligible contacts were reached out to via email and phone calls to request their participation in completing the questionnaires, unless they explicitly declined to take part or if the contact information provided was inaccurate. Respondents were provided with a link or QR code to access the questionnaire separately for caregivers and children. The completion of the questionnaires was conducted independently through CAWI. The questionnaires were translated into Ukrainian, Russian, Italian, and English to accommodate respondents' preferred languages.

As of June 30, 2024, a total of 726 caregiver contacts and 817 child contacts were shared. Among the 817 children, 752 were deemed eligible. Of these eligible children, 608 were sourced from schools, while 144 came from associations or other channels. 376 caregivers and 251 children successfully completed the questionnaires (see Table 5).

Table 5 - Survey responses

Source	Schools	Associations	Telegram, facilitators' contacts and social networks	Total
Contacts received				
Caregivers	596	97	33	**726**
Children	673	108	36	**817**
Eligible contacts				
Caregivers	533	130		**663**
Children	608	144		**752**
Refusals				
Caregivers	30			**30**
Children	32			**32**
Successfully completed questionnaires				
Caregivers	170	27	179	**376**
Children				**251**

To evaluate the bias in the survey data, the regional distribution of Ukrainian refugee students as provided by the Ministry of Education is compared to the distribution of students enrolled in Italian schools observed in the World Bank survey. This analysis suggests that Lombardia and Piemonte are the most underrepresented regions, as they respectively host 27% and 13% of students according to the Ministry, but only 22% and 7% in the survey data.

The caregiver is identified as the person who currently cares for the child and whose contact information (from schools, associations, or other sources) has been shared. In most cases the caregiver corresponds to one of the two parents (usually the mother), but in some cases it may be another relative or legal guardian who did not necessarily live in Ukraine with the child before the war began. For this reason, the questionnaires were designed to consider different types of relationships and different scenarios with respect to the cohabitation between the caregiver and the child.

Sample description

Overview of characteristics of refugee students in the sample (N=251)

The mean age of children in the survey is 14 years old, with 47% being females. All children who completed the questionnaire lived in Ukraine before the war. Among the surveyed children, 98% have a family member as their main caregiver, with 94% of the sample being cared for by their parent, while 2% reside with non-family legal guardians. Given the data collection approach, it is not surprising that 97% of refugee children in the sample attend any type of schools, with 83% attending an Italian school. Among those attending Italian schools, 50% are in lower secondary education, and 50% are in upper secondary education. Of those enrolled in upper secondary schools, 37% attend vocational schools, 34% attend technical schools, and 29% attend academic high schools. Additionally, 25% of respondents attend both a Ukrainian school online and an Italian school in person.

Overview of characteristics of caregivers in the sample (N=376)

For adult caregiver respondents, the mean age was 41.8, with 93% being females. 89% of them are refugees, and 99% of these refugees left Ukraine in 2022. Only 46% of the caregivers were employed at the time of responding to the survey, and their households had 1.8 children on average. 94% of surveyed caregivers identify as parents of a refugee child, 3% as other family members, and 3% as non-family legal guardians. Caregivers who fled the war in Ukraine come from all over the country, with a predominance from Kyiv (22%) and Kharkiv (14%).

Table 6 and Table 7 provide more insights on the characteristics of the respondents.

Table 6 - Characteristics of the children

Variables	count	mean	sd	min	max
Lived in Ukraine before the war	251	1	0	1	1
Caregiver is a refugee	241	0.9	0.3	0	1
Age	242	14.1	2.1	9	20
Female	249	0.5	0.5	0	1
Caregiver is employed	215	0.5	0.5	0	1
Caregiver is the parent	241	0.9	0.2	0	1
Caregiver is a family member	241	1.0	0.1	0	1
Caregiver is a non-family member	241	0.0	0.1	0	1
Currently attend school	249	1.0	0.2	0	1
Currently attend Italian school in person	249	0.8	0.4	0	1
Currently attend Ukrainian school in person	249	0.0	0.1	0	1
Currently attend Ukrainian school online	249	0.3	0.4	0	1
Currently attend both online & in person school	249	0.2	0.4	0	1
Currently attending Italian Lower secondary school	201	0.5	0.5	0	1
Currently attending Italian Upper secondary school	201	0.5	0.5	0	1
Currently attending Vocational Italian Upper secondary school	98	0.4	0.5	0	1
Currently attending Technical Italian Upper secondary school	98	0.3	0.5	0	1
Currently attending Academic Italian Upper secondary school	98	0.3	0.5	0	1
Average number of hours per week attending Ukrainian school online	65	9.2	10.0	0	35
Average number of hours per week attending Italian school	199	33.3	14.7	10	144
Plan to reach university	239	0.6	0.5	0	1
Would like to attend High School (academic track)	101	0.5	0.5	0	1
Would like to attend a Technical Institute	101	0.1	0.3	0	1
Would like to attend a Professional Institute	101	0.2	0.4	0	1
Don't know which High school to attend	101	0.2	0.4	0	1
Don't know how Italian secondary school is organized	101	0.1	0.4	0	1
Growth mindset	243	20.6	3.2	10	30
Feel strongly or very strongly connected to Ukraine	247	0.6	0.5	0	1
Feel strongly or very strongly connected to Italy	247	0.3	0.4	0	1
Feel strongly or very strongly connected to Ukraine (lower age group: 9-14 yo)	144	0.7	0.5	0	1
Feel strongly or very strongly connected to Italy (lower age group: 9-14 yo)	143	0.2	0.4	0	1

Feel strongly or very strongly connected to Ukraine (higher age group: 15-20 yo)	95	0.6	0.5	0	1
Feel strongly or very strongly connected to Italy (higher age group: 15-20 yo)	96	0.3	0.4	0	1
Italian Identity (scaled from 0 to 1)	247	0.5	0.2	0	1
Ukrainian Identity (scaled from 0 to 1)	247	0.7	0.2	0	1
Would like to continue living in Italy	244	0.5	0.5	0	1
Would like to move back to Ukraine	244	0.3	0.5	0	1
Would like to continue living in Italy (lower age group: 9-14 yo)	142	0.5	0.5	0	1
Would like to move back to Ukraine (lower age group: 9-14 yo)	142	0.4	0.5	0	1
Would like to continue living in Italy (higher age group: 15-20 yo)	94	0.6	0.5	0	1
Would like to move back to Ukraine (higher age group: 15-20 yo)	94	0.3	0.4	0	1
Skills in reading Italian (scaled from 0 to 1)	250	0.6	0.2	0	1
Skills in speaking Italian (scaled from 0 to 1)	248	0.6	0.3	0	1
Attend any extracurricular activities	247	0.5	0.5	0	1
Knew someone in Italy before moving	249	0.3	0.5	0	1
Made new friends in Italy	249	0.8	0.4	0	1
Child never meets with friends	173	0.1	0.3	0	1
The Psychometric Properties of the Kessler Psychological Distress Scale (K6)	244	7.2	4.9	0	21
Probable serious mental illness (K6>=13)	244	0.2	0.4	0	1
K6 Scale for caregiver	217	8.8	5.8	0	24
K6 scale for children in lower age group (9-14yo)	143	6.8	4.8	0	19
Probable serious mental illness (K6>=13) in lower age group (9-14yo)	143	0.2	0.4	0	1
K6 scale for children in higher age group (15-20yo)	94	7.8	5.1	0	21
Probable serious mental illness (K6>=13) for children in higher age group (15-20	94	0.2	0.4	0	1
Faced at least one bully	217	0.3	0.5	0	1
Assistance needed at school: Language courses	206	0.4	0.5	0	1
Assistance needed at school: Psychological Support	206	0.0	0.2	0	1
Assistance needed in general: Psychological Support	251	0.1	0.3	0	1
Oblast of origin with high number of fatalities	165	0.3	0.5	0	1

Table 7 - Characteristics of the caregivers

Variables	count	mean	sd	min	max
Age	364	41.7	6.6	17	67
Female	373	0.9	0.5	0	1
Parent of the child	377	0.9	0.2	0	1
Caregiver is a family member	377	0.9	0.2	0	1
Caregiver is a non-family member	377	0.02	0.2	0	1
Number of children	341	1.8	1.2	1	18
Lived in Ukraine before the war	377	0.9	0.3	0	1
The caregiver left Ukraine in 2022	242	1.0	0.1	0	1
Currently working for a pay in Italy	297	0.5	0.5	0	1
Feel strongly or very strongly connected to Italy	283	0.3	0.5	0	1
Feel strongly or very strongly connected to Ukraine	283	0.7	0.5	0	1
Italian Identity (scaled from 0 to 1)	283	0.5	0.2	0	1
Ukrainian Identity (scaled from 0 to 1)	283	0.7	0.2	0	1
Would like to continue living in Italy	282	0.6	0.5	0	1
Would like to move back to Ukraine	282	0.3	0.5	0	1
Skills in reading Italian (scaled from 0 to 1)	370	0.5	0.2	0	1
Skills in speaking Italian (scaled from 0 to 1)	370	0.5	0.3	0	1
The Psychometric Properties of the Kessler Psychological Distress Scale (K6)	305	8.3	5.7	0	24
Probable serious mental illness (K6>=13)	305	0.2	0.4	0	1

Survey data

The survey data is composed of two datasets: the "Child_qx" and the "Caregiver_qx".

Both datasets have been modified to show all the data collected in a wide form, in order to simplify the use of data by the researchers and remove tedious merges among sections. The datasets contain variables from the respective questionnaire module. Variables are named with the section number and the variable number. For example, s03q01 corresponds to variable q01 in section s03. Please refer to the questionnaire for the sections and the numbering of variables.

The Caregiver dataset

The Caregiver_qx dta corresponds to data collected from all caregivers interviewed. The interview respondent is the main caregiver, the person who gave the consent for the child's participation in the survey.

Since the caregiver is the person responsible for the child(ren) for whom consent was given, the same person is interviewed in the case of more than one child. For child-specific questions, the variable label includes a reference to the child being asked. The dataset includes a variable (*caregiver_id*) that can be used to uniquely identify the caregiver and the related child(ren).

The Child dataset

The *Child*_qx dta corresponds to data collected from all children interviewed. The dataset includes the variables *caregiver_id* and *child_id* that can be used to uniquely identify the child interviewed. However, for children whose caregiver interview is missing, the *caregiver_id* variable is missing.

Use of the data

In each file, the variable *caregiver_id* is used to identify the caregiver interviewed and facilitate the matching between the two dta files.

A sequential number is assigned to each child interviewed. This number is expressed by the *child_id*variable in the *Child_qx* dataset. The value expressed by the *child_id*variable can be used to identify the child investigated in the child-specific questions of the caregiver interview (i.e. a child having child_id==1 will be displayed as %child_name1% in the question text of the caregiver interview).

To merge the two datasets, perform a 1:m merge using only the *caregiver_id* variable.