



World Vision® 

**SPECIAL
UKRAINE POLICY:
ANALYSIS &
RECOMMENDATIONS**

World Vision New Zealand and Mahi for Ukraine
June 2022

ABOUT

World Vision New Zealand (World Vision) is part of the World Vision International Partnership. We are a global Christian relief, development and advocacy organisation dedicated to working with children, families and communities to overcome poverty and injustice. We have programmes operating in nearly 100 countries around the world. World Vision is responding to the devastating impact of the conflict in Ukraine in Romania, Moldova, Georgia, and Ukraine, reaching more than 125,000 people, including more than 50,000 children, with emergency aid packages, food, financial, and shelter assistance, medical care, and education and psychosocial support.¹ [worldvision.org.nz](https://www.worldvision.org.nz)

Mahi for Ukraine is a cause that aims to help Ukraine and its people in light of Russia's unjust invasion of Ukraine in February 2022. We advocate for immigration, sanctions, humanitarian aid, and diplomatic relations. Mahi for Ukraine started with a small group of volunteers, all working professionals, who have united in pursuit of the Mahi for Ukraine cause and has since grown into a movement that works closely with New Zealand Ukrainian community groups and organisations as well as New Zealanders. mahiforukraine.com

1 World Vision, *Ukraine Crisis Response: Situation report #9*, 31 May 2022, <https://www.wvi.org/publications/report/ukraine/ukraine-crisis-response-sitrep-9-31-may-2022>

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RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Expand the Ukraine Visa scope so that applicants are also able to sponsor non-immediate family members, including cousins/second cousins, aunts/uncles, grandchildren, and other relatives through marriage (as well as any other Ukrainian persons if there is evidence of close connection).
2. Allow Ukrainians who live in New Zealand, but who are not New Zealand residents or citizens, to be sponsors for their Ukrainian family (including Ukrainians on work visas).
3. Allow other New Zealanders who are connected to Ukrainians but are not of Ukrainian origin to be sponsors (e.g. family members/spouses of Ukrainians living in New Zealand etc.).
4. As part of New Zealand's humanitarian response, consider establishing a humanitarian relocation support fund, either government-led or in partnership with the Ukraine Refugee Relocation Trust (a subset of the Perpetual Guardian Foundation established by Mahi for Ukraine's core team), to deliver financial assistance to Ukrainians resettling to New Zealand through the Ukraine Visa. This may include covering costs such as airfares, accommodation, and living expenses.

5. Alternatively, consider granting recipients of the Ukraine Visa the same rights and privileges as Convention refugees (Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees 189 UNTS 137). It is likely many recipients of the Ukraine Visa meet the convention definition of refugee, as they are fleeing their country due to war and have a well-founded fear of being gravely harmed if they return. This would allow recipients to access more support and services.
6. Partner with community-service agencies and churches that can provide settlement assistance to Ukraine Visa holders, including assisting with finding accommodation, furnishing homes, education and employment assistance, English-language classes, and other social-integration activities.
7. Provide subsidised healthcare for appointments with general practitioners and/or repeat prescriptions to Ukrainians who are not yet in work (e.g. through a Community Services Card or the Jobseeker benefit). A similar benefit should also be provided for elderly Ukrainians who cannot/will not be able to work.
8. Continue to prioritise and expedite all visa applications made by Ukrainian citizens, including under the 2022 Special Ukraine Visa.
9. Allow for recipients of the 2022 Special Ukraine Visa who had already commenced tertiary study to continue their study in New Zealand at domestic rates. Allow recipients of the 2022 Special Ukraine Visa to access free English Language (EL) and other NZQA certificates and fee-free courses currently available to New Zealand residents and citizens to allow Ukrainians to learn skills and trades that contribute to the New Zealand economy.

BACKGROUND

On 24 February 2022, Russia launched a military campaign in Ukraine, endangering the lives of all who live there. The conflict has had a devastating impact and Ukraine remains highly volatile and unpredictable. More than 4,000 civilians have been killed² and upwards of 4,800 civilians have been injured³ to date, with more than 1,800 attacks on education facilities⁴ and more than 260 on healthcare.⁵ One in three Ukrainian households are food insecure,⁶ more than 6 million people in Ukraine have limited access to drinking water, and people in many areas are consistently unable to access food and electricity.⁷ The lives and health of millions of children are threatened across Ukraine. Protection risks, including violence, sexual abuse, kidnapping, exploitation, and separation from their families, are a real concern, particularly for unaccompanied children.⁸ Schools closed at the outbreak of the war, disrupting the education of 5.7 million children. The secondary effects of the crisis have created a three-dimensional global crisis of food, energy, and finance that risks tipping up to one-fifth of the global population (1.7 billion people) into hunger, debt, and blackouts.⁹

The latest data estimates 8 million people are displaced inside Ukraine,¹⁰ and 6.8 million refugees¹¹ have fled to Poland (more than 3.5 million), Romania (more than 960,000), Russian Federation (more than 930,000), Hungary (almost 650,000), Moldova (more than 470,000), and Slovakia (more than 444,000).¹²

More than 250 humanitarian organisations are present within Ukraine,¹³ with almost 7 million people receiving aid.¹⁴ World Vision has supported almost 130,000 people, providing food assistance, financial support, temporary shelter, hygiene kits, medical support, and other key aid.¹⁵ World Vision is calling on leaders around the world to make a real push for peace, and for the international community and humanitarian agencies to redouble their efforts to protect and support the millions of vulnerable Ukrainian children and their families. As part of our response, the World Vision Advocacy team is looking at the New Zealand Government's response to the crisis in Ukraine.

2 Humdata, 'Civilian casualties – killed', *Ukraine data explorer*, 30 May 2022, <https://data.humdata.org/visualization/ukraine-humanitarian-operations/>

3 Humdata, 'Civilian casualties – injured', *Ukraine data explorer*, 30 May 2022, <https://data.humdata.org/visualization/ukraine-humanitarian-operations/>

4 Humdata, 'Attacks on education facilities', *Ukraine data explorer*, 26 May 2022, <https://data.humdata.org/visualization/ukraine-humanitarian-operations/>

5 Humdata, 'Attacks on health care', *Ukraine data explorer*, 27 May 2022, <https://data.humdata.org/visualization/ukraine-humanitarian-operations/>

6 OCHA, 'Ukraine: Situation report, 6 May 2022', *ReliefWeb*, <https://reliefweb.int/report/ukraine/ukraine-situation-report-6-may-2022>

7 UNICEF, '1.4 million people without running water across war-affected eastern Ukraine', *ReliefWeb*, 13 April 2022, <https://reliefweb.int/report/ukraine/14-million-people-without-running-water-across-war-affected-eastern-ukraine>

8 DFS, 'Ukraine conflict analysis brief – the impact of the conflict on children', *ReliefWeb*, 20 April 2022, <https://reliefweb.int/report/ukraine/ukraine-conflict-analysis-brief-impact-conflict-children>

9 United Nations Global Crisis Response Group, *Global Crisis Response Group on food, energy and finance – press release*, 13 April 2022, <https://news.un.org/pages/global-crisis-response-group/>

10 Humdata, 'Internally displaced people (estimated)', *Ukraine data explorer*, 3 May 2022, <https://data.humdata.org/visualization/ukraine-humanitarian-operations/>

11 Humdata, 'Refugee arrivals from Ukraine (total)', *Ukraine data explorer*, 30 May 2022, <https://data.humdata.org/visualization/ukraine-humanitarian-operations/>

12 UNHCR, 'Ukraine refugee situation', *Operational data portal*, 23 May 2022, <https://data2.unhcr.org/en/situations/ukraine>

13 Humdata, 'Humanitarian orgs present within Ukraine (total)', *Ukraine data explorer*, 19 May 2022, <https://data.humdata.org/visualization/ukraine-humanitarian-operations/>

14 Humdata, 'People reached within Ukraine (total)', *Ukraine data explorer*, 19 May 2022, <https://data.humdata.org/visualization/ukraine-humanitarian-operations/>

15 World Vision, *Ukraine Crisis Response: Situation report #9*.

New Zealand 2022 Special Ukraine Policy

In March 2022, the New Zealand Government announced that the 2022 Special Ukraine Policy (Ukraine Policy)¹⁶ will be open for one year. The Ukraine Policy enables New Zealand citizens and residents in New Zealand who were born in Ukraine or are Ukrainian citizens to sponsor their parents, grandparents, adult siblings, and adult children, and their immediate family, to come to New Zealand on a temporary two-year visa, with the right to work, study, or attend school in New Zealand.¹⁷ Ukrainian nationals can apply for the Special Ukraine Visa (Ukraine Visa) once their New Zealand family member has nominated them, and must travel to New Zealand within nine months of their visa being granted.¹⁸ The Ukraine Visa application has no fees, but sponsors are responsible for arranging and funding travel to New Zealand, and accommodation and living costs once in New Zealand.¹⁹ The Ukraine Policy sits alongside other supports, including visa extensions for Ukrainian nationals in New Zealand whose visas expire before the end of the year, immediate entry to New Zealand for Ukrainian citizens holding valid New Zealand visas, and NZ\$8 million in humanitarian aid.²⁰

While the Ukraine Policy will allow for up to 4,000 people to enter New Zealand,²¹ to date only 666 visas have been approved and just 157 Ukrainians have arrived in New Zealand on the Ukraine Visa.²² There are barriers that deter uptake of the benefits of the Ukraine Policy.

On 19 April 2022, World Vision and Mahi for Ukraine jointly released The Special Ukraine Policy Survey (Survey). The Survey seeks to understand who can access the benefits of the Ukraine Policy and what some of the current barriers are to accessing these benefits. The data obtained from the Survey will assist World Vision and Mahi for Ukraine to form a Ukraine Policy response and advise the New Zealand Government regarding what amendments need to be made to the Ukraine Policy to make its benefits accessible to more Ukrainians.

16 'New temporary visa for family of Ukrainians in New Zealand', *New Zealand Immigration*, May 2022. <https://www.immigration.govt.nz/new-zealand-visas/apply-for-a-visa/tools-and-information/support-family/new-temporary-visa-for-family-of-ukrainians-in-new-zealand>

17 Ibid.

18 'New temporary visa for family of Ukrainians in New Zealand', *New Zealand Immigration*.

19 'New temporary visa for family of Ukrainians in New Zealand', *New Zealand Immigration*.

20 New Zealand Foreign Affairs and Trade (MFAT), 'Russian invasion of Ukraine', MFAT, May 2022, <https://www.mfat.govt.nz/en/countries-and-regions/europe/ukraine/russian-invasion-of-ukraine/?msclid=bbaa5e7ccf6811ecab618ef321a7bd56>

21 'New temporary visa for family of Ukrainians in New Zealand', *New Zealand Immigration*.

22 'Special Ukraine visa: Jump in the number of people seeking refuge in NZ', RNZ, 21 May 2022, <https://www.rnz.co.nz/news/world/467585/special-ukraine-visa-jump-in-the-number-of-people-seeking-refuge-in-nz>

SUMMARY OF RESULTS

1. There were 191 responses from Ukrainians, 99.5% of whom live in New Zealand.
2. Almost half (46%; 87) are New Zealand citizens, 42% (81) hold a resident visa, and the remaining 11% (21) hold work, visitor, spouse, or essential skills visas.
3. Most (80%; 153) respondents live in a household with two-to-four family members, followed by households with five-to-ten members (12%; 22), and those living alone (8%; 16).
4. 85% (163) have close Ukrainian family members currently eligible for the Ukraine Visa via sponsorship. Of those 163 respondents, most would ideally like to bring one-to-four family members to New Zealand (71%; 115), followed by those wanting to bring five-to-ten family members to New Zealand (27%; 44), and those hoping to bring ten-plus family members to New Zealand (2%; 3).
5. Most respondents (72%; 138) have applied for, or intend to apply for, the Ukraine Visa for their family members. Of those 138 respondents, more than half (56%; 77) have applied/intend to apply for one or two family members to come to New Zealand, followed by 30% (42) who have applied/intend to apply for three or four family members, and 20% (27) who have applied/intend to apply for five-to-ten family members. Just one respondent intends to apply for ten-plus family members to come to New Zealand.
6. Almost 30% (54) of respondents will not be applying for the Ukraine Visa for their close family members. These 54 respondents identified the biggest barrier to sponsoring their family to come to New Zealand as the cost of living (89%; 48), followed closely by housing in New Zealand (81%; 44), and the cost of flights (69%; 37).
7. Almost two-thirds (70%; 133) of respondents want to sponsor other family members/friends who fall outside of the current eligibility scope (e.g. uncles, cousins, etc.) to come to New Zealand. However, more than half (84) said that they are unable to sponsor other family/friends outside of their immediate family without financial support.
8. Almost all respondents identified areas for improvement in the Ukraine Policy. Respondents said that the Ukraine Policy could be improved if the eligibility criteria was extended to non-immediate family members; financial support was provided via a contribution towards flights, living expenses, and healthcare in New Zealand; and if sponsor visa requirements were extended to include Ukrainian nationals in New Zealand on a work/student visa, as well as non-Ukrainian individuals/families wanting to be sponsors.

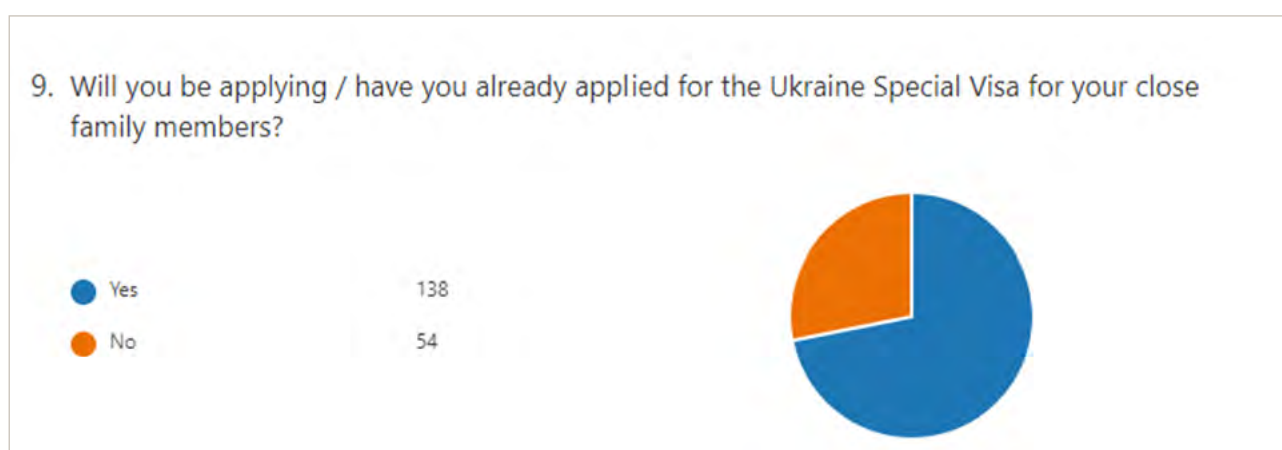
POINTS OF INTEREST

Survey engagement

The Survey had a good engagement rate among the more than 1,200 Ukrainians in New Zealand,²³ with 191 responses – more than 15% of the New Zealand Ukrainian population responding. It is expected this engagement may be an underestimate, as respondents may have been answering the Survey on behalf of their family members, with most respondents currently residing in a household consisting of three-to-ten family members (55%; 105), and 37% (70) in a two-person household. Unfortunately, there is no data to identify if respondents were completing the Survey on behalf of their family members.

Barriers to sponsoring family to New Zealand

Significant barriers to accessing and implementing the Ukraine Policy were identified by the almost 30% (54) of respondents who will not apply/have not applied for the Ukraine Visa for their family members.



23 '2018 census ethnic group summaries – Ukrainian ethnic group', Stats NZ, 2018, <https://www.stats.govt.nz/tools/2018-census-ethnic-group-summaries/ukrainian>

The biggest barriers to Ukrainians sponsoring family to New Zealand are the cost of living (89%; 48) and housing (81%; 44) in New Zealand, followed by the cost of flights to resettle their family in New Zealand (69%; 37). Additional barriers were identified as their extended Ukrainian family and friends not being eligible for the Ukraine Visa (35%), their eligible Ukrainian family members being unable or unwilling to leave Ukraine (35%), ineligibility to sponsor family to New Zealand (31%), a lack of ongoing support for Ukraine Visa holders settling in New Zealand (26%), and a complicated Ukraine Visa application processes (13%).

These eight barriers acted as layers preventing the allocated 4,000 Ukrainian nationals from accessing the benefits of the Ukraine Policy. Addressing all barriers is essential to the Ukraine Policy’s effective implementation.

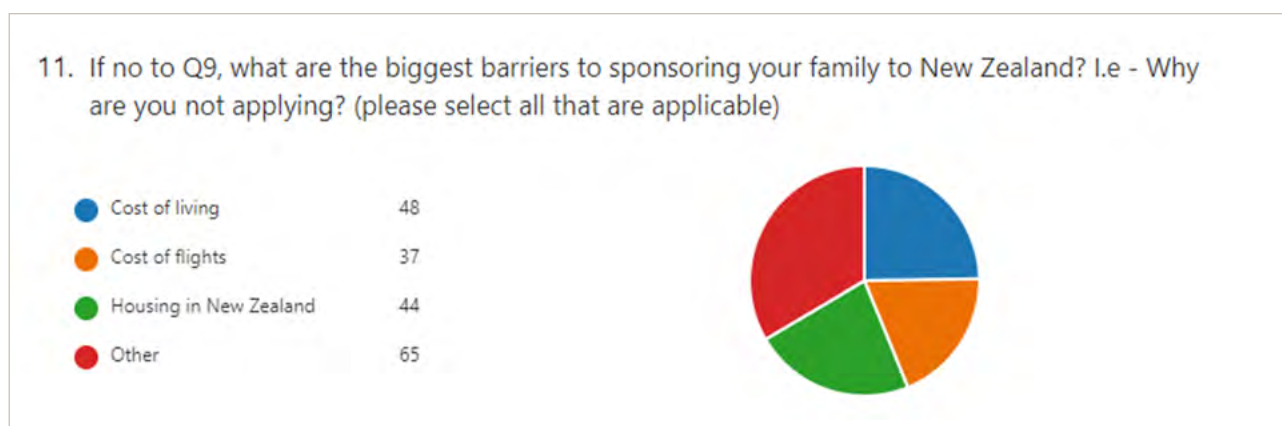
Please note that all statistics outlined in the barriers that follow are based on the 28% (54) of respondents who will not apply/have not applied for the Ukraine Visa for their family members, rather than the whole Survey sample (191 respondents), unless specified.



Barrier one: cost of living

The cost of living was the greatest barrier to accessing the benefits of the Ukraine Policy (89%; 48). The Ukraine Policy stipulates that sponsors are responsible for accommodation and living costs when their family arrives in New Zealand. New Zealand is one of the most expensive countries in the world to live in.²⁴ A survey by Consumer NZ found that “the cost of living has become Kiwis’ biggest concern,”²⁵ with an average annual spend increase in the last 12 months of NZ\$4,500 on basics such as food, petrol, and rent.²⁶ Extending finances to support the cost of living of sponsors is considered an impossible financial burden for many Ukrainian New Zealanders.²⁷

“In some situations, [being a sponsor] could impose an onerous burden on New Zealand families, which may be beyond their means.”



The financial burden is greater for people bringing to New Zealand their elderly parents/relatives who are unable to work and also unable to access their Ukrainian pension or a New Zealand pension. Respondents outlined that even if access to the Ukrainian pension was granted, it would not cover living costs in New Zealand. For example, the Ukrainian pension amounts to NZ\$416.30 per fortnight,²⁸ less than half of the New Zealand pension of NZ\$1,076.48 per fortnight.²⁹ Respondents asked for financial aid to assist with living costs for Ukraine Visa holders.

“[The Ukraine Visa is] currently classified as a work visa, hence no government involvement after relatives cross the border. Should be integrated into a wider scheme with additional benefits.”

24 'Most expensive countries to live in 2022', *World Population Review*, 2022, <https://worldpopulationreview.com/country-rankings/most-expensive-countries-to-live-in>

25 'Cost of living now Kiwis' biggest concern; PM says "no crisis"', *Otago Daily Times*, 7 March 2022, <https://www.odt.co.nz/business/cost-living-now-kiwis-biggest-concern-pm-says-no-crisis>

26 Mark Quinlivan, 'Jacinda Ardern acknowledges cost of living crisis, will announce "other options" to relieve impact', *Newshub*, 14 March 2022, <https://www.newshub.co.nz/home/politics/2022/03/jacinda-ardern-accepts-cost-of-living-crisis-to-announce-other-options-to-relieve-impact.html>

27 Ibid.

28 'Ukraine's average pension grows by 25% since Jan 2020', *Rubryka*, 4 September 2021, <https://rubryka.com/en/2021/09/04/za-pivtora-roku-serednya-pensiya-v-ukrayini-zrosla-na-25/>

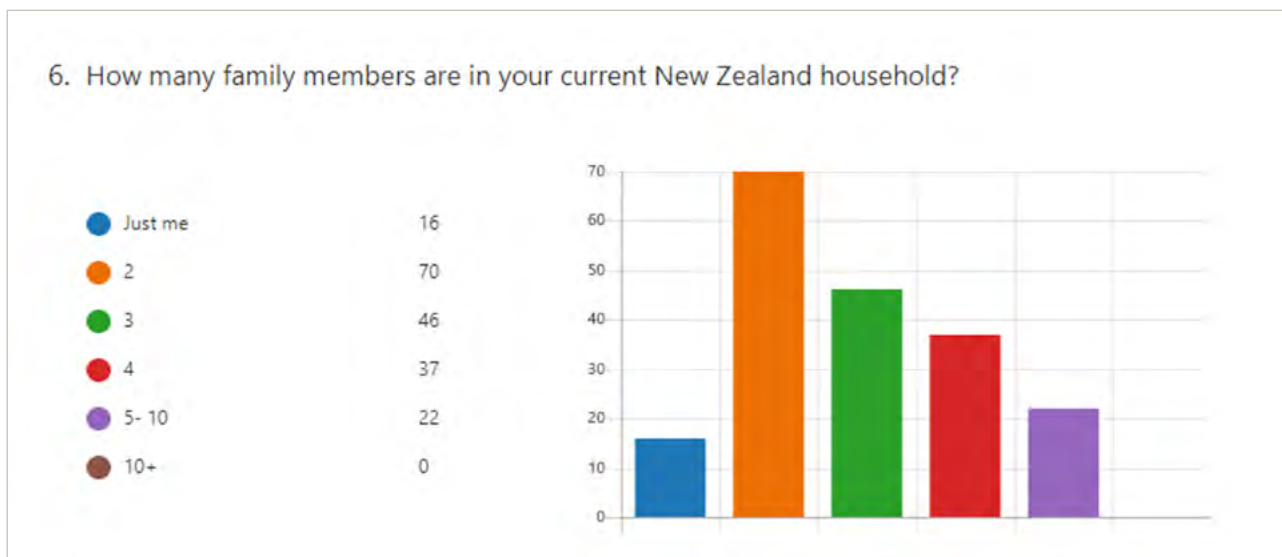
29 'Pension payment for an individual living alone or with a dependent child, before tax', *Work and Income*, 2022, <https://www.workandincome.govt.nz/eligibility/seniors/superannuation/payment-rates.html>

Barrier two: housing in New Zealand

The second barrier to accessing the benefits of the Ukraine Policy is the cost of housing in New Zealand (81%; 44). New Zealand housing affordability is at a historic low, with rental costs absorbing 22% of gross average household income.³⁰ Sponsors face significant financial output to secure and furnish a home for their Ukrainian family members, who will arrive with few possessions.

“Some of them have lost everything, some of them fled Ukraine leaving everything they worked hard for throughout their whole lives and are now waiting with no money.”

Ukraine Visa holders are likely to share their sponsors' home due to financial restraints. More than half of all Survey respondents reside in a three-to-ten family member household (55%; 105). 163 respondents want to bring family members to New Zealand, with 106 of those wanting to bring three-to-ten family members to New Zealand. If sponsors are unable to secure additional accommodation, there could be an issue of overcrowded homes. Overcrowding has flow-on effects for mental and physical health³¹, which is pertinent given sponsors' concerns about covering health expenses for their Ukrainian family members (outlined in detail in 'barrier seven'). This could be exacerbated if overcrowding occurs.



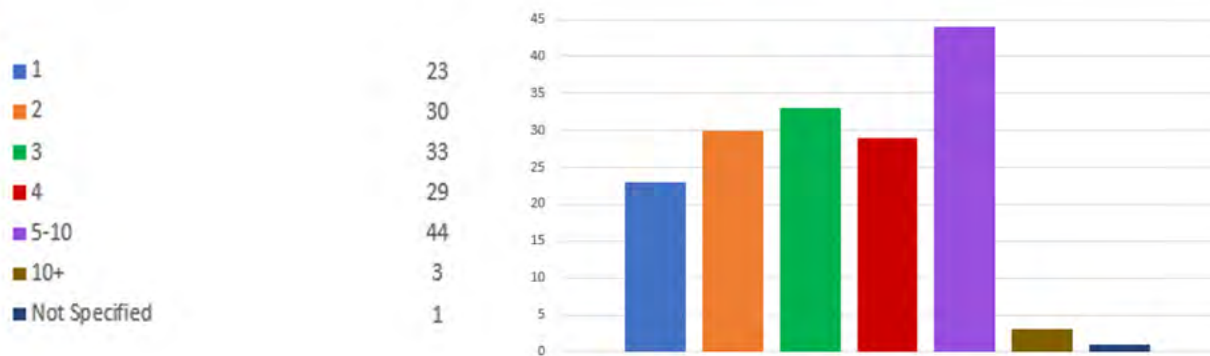
30 RNZ, 'Housing affordability in New Zealand plummets to all-time low', *Newshub*, February 2022, <https://www.newshub.co.nz/home/money/2022/02/housing-affordability-in-new-zealand-plummets-to-all-time-low.html>

31 'Healthy Homes Initiative', *Ministry of Health NZ*, 21 April 2022, <https://www.health.govt.nz/our-work/preventative-health-wellness/healthy-homes-initiative>

7. Do you have close Ukrainian family members currently eligible for this visa through sponsorship?



8. If yes to Q7, how many family members would you ideally like to bring to New Zealand if it was possible?



Barrier three: cost of flights

The cost of flights is the third barrier to accessing the benefits of the Ukraine Policy (69%; 37). An estimated current average price for a single adult to travel economy-class one-way from Auckland to Kyiv, booked one month in advance, is NZ\$3,300.³² This cost increases significantly when return flights for additional passengers are added. For instance, the cost for one adult to fly to Ukraine and return with one additional family member is upwards of NZ\$7,000.³³ This excludes additional costs, such as airport transfers and travel insurance. Respondents asked for government financial assistance towards the costs of travel to New Zealand.

Barrier four: Ukrainian extended family members and friends not eligible for the Ukraine Visa

Extended family members' and friends' ineligibility to access the Ukraine Visa was the fourth barrier (35%; 19). Respondents were unable to sponsor their nieces and nephews (3), aunts and uncles (2), cousins (4), in-laws (4), close friends (3), children belonging to their niece/nephew/cousin (5), and other extended family (5).

“Because of death of my brother, my sister-in-law is not eligible anymore for this type of visa. It’s such a tragedy for our family because she is a part of our family. [Immigration New Zealand] said that there’s a broken link and there is no blood connection anymore. We are absolutely devastated, she is begging for help, we have space to accommodate her, money for leaving there, but we can’t bring her.”

There are also barriers to sponsoring eligible children. Immigration New Zealand states that eligible family members include adult children, and dependent children of eligible family members being sponsored to New Zealand. Children cannot be sponsored to New Zealand without their parents, even if they are a proven family member of a Ukrainian New Zealander. Children whose eligible parents are unable to accompany them to New Zealand (e.g. if they are performing military service) are unable to access the Ukraine Visa, despite being eligible and sponsored, until their parent(s) can join them.

This is problematic because current statistics show that Ukrainian children are extremely vulnerable. More than 150 children have died and an additional 246 have been injured,³⁴ with these numbers likely to be underestimated. The education of millions of children has

32 'Flights from Auckland to Kiev for Monday 6 June 2022', Microsoft Bing | Travel, 6 May 2022, https://www.bing.com/travel/flight-search?src=akl&des=iev&ddate=2022-07-11&isr=0&rdate=2022-06-11&sel=&cls=0&adult=1&child=0&infant=0&FORM=FBL1YC&as=akl_all&ad=iev_all&serpig=40D33F0A4BA8430FAC612F498C994C9D&fit=&fltName=&signrec=0&hubpage=0&dSugg=0&serp=1&q=flights from akl-iev

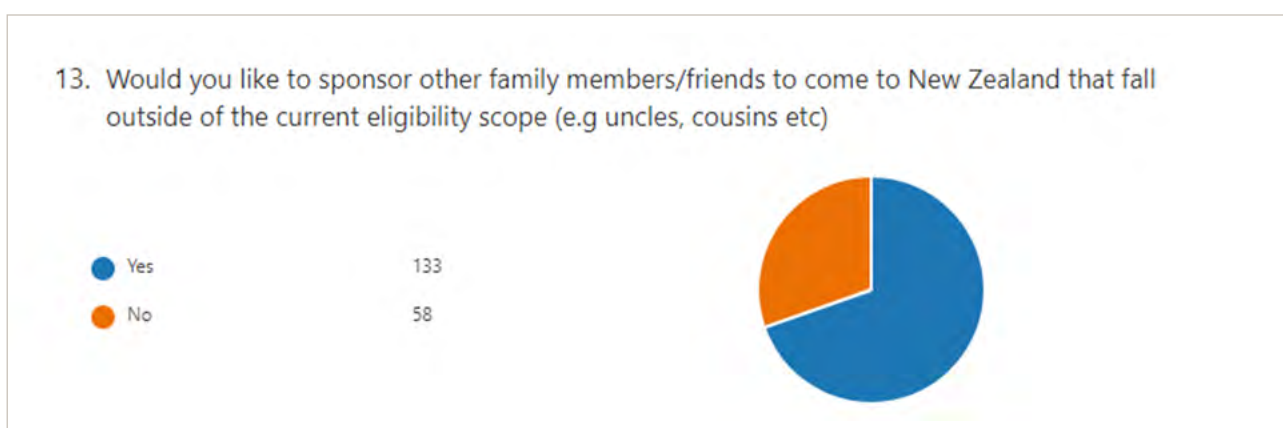
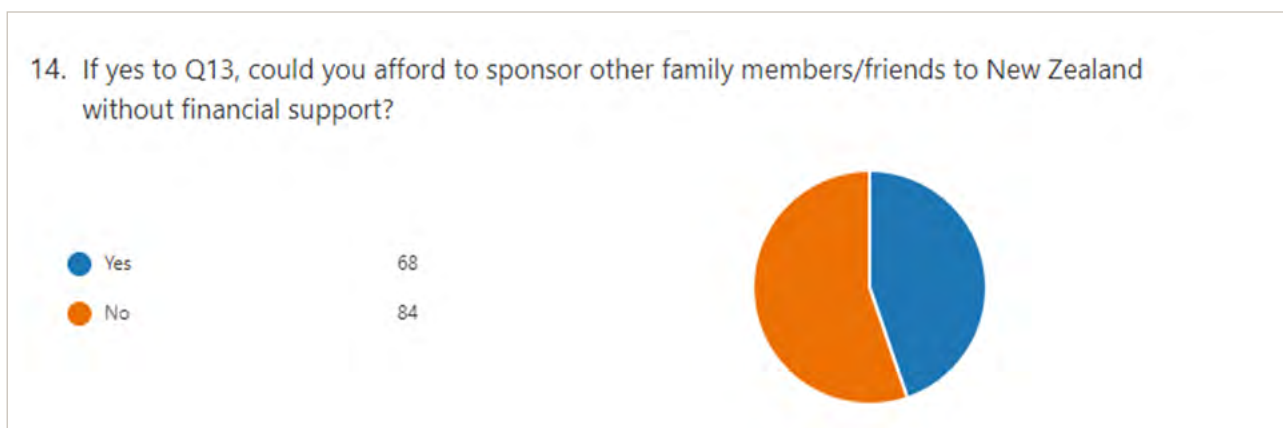
33 Based on current average economy airline prices for travel between 6 and 9 June 2022. 'Flights from Kyiv to Auckland for Thursday 9 June 2022', Skyscanner, 6 May 2022, <https://www.skyscanner.co.nz/transport/flights/kyiv/akl/220609/?adultsv2=2&cabinclass=economy&childrenv2=&inboundaltsenabled=false&outboundaltsenabled=false&preferdirects=false&rt=0>

34 DFS, 'Ukraine conflict analysis brief - the impact of the conflict on children', ReliefWeb, 20 April 2022, <https://reliefweb.int/report/ukraine/ukraine-conflict-analysis-brief-impact-conflict-children>

been disrupted. Their living conditions are deteriorating due to damaged housing and lack of access to basic utilities and food. And increasing numbers of children are at risk of protection incidents, such as kidnapping.³⁵ Respondents asked that children of family members be able to travel to New Zealand with parental consent and that adoption processes for family members in New Zealand should also be possible.

“Mechanisms to expedite adoption processes by close family members in New Zealand should also be considered.”

Respondents appealed for an extension of the Ukraine Policy to all Ukrainian nationals fleeing the war who have a New Zealand sponsor, rather than immediate family members only. Financial aid is required for sponsors supporting additional family members.



35 Ibid.

Barrier five: eligible family members are unable/unwilling to leave Ukraine

Eligible family members' unwillingness or inability to leave Ukraine was the fifth barrier to accessing the benefits of the Ukraine Policy (35%; 19). Ukrainians are unable to leave Ukraine despite their eligibility for the Ukraine Visa due to the risk of family separation where extended family are not eligible (6); because they are unwell or have a disability (4); because they are in, or supporting someone who is active in, the military or other essential service (4); or because they do not want to travel far from home (2). In three instances, the reason was not specified.

Family separation was thus a barrier for 19% (10) of those who would not apply for the Ukraine Visa. Recognising the collective whānau³⁶/family model is essential to uptake of the benefits of the Ukraine Policy.

“Extending the term ‘family’ to align with what family actually is. Extended family are family. Married family are family. Whānau are all family members, NZders have grown to understand that, now please understand the same is for Ukrainian families.”

Barrier six: ineligibility to be a sponsor

Barrier six is respondents' residency status affecting their ability to access the benefits of the Ukraine Policy for their family members where they are not a New Zealand citizen or resident (31%; 17). In some cases, ineligible Ukrainian sponsors have a partner who is a New Zealand citizen, but who is also ineligible to sponsor as they do not meet the criteria to “have been born in Ukraine, or have held citizenship or be a permanent resident of Ukraine”.³⁷

“My husband is New Zealander, I am Ukrainian, who arrived in New Zealand at the end of March, I only have a work visa for six months. My husband applied as a sponsor for a visa for my daughter and her husband, but he was refused, saying that he was not Ukrainian. My daughter is Ukrainian and we are one family. How can I get a visa for her and her husband?”

Other barriers to sponsoring were being unemployed and receiving benefits (1), and not currently residing in New Zealand (1). A widening of the sponsor eligibility should be considered so Ukrainians currently in New Zealand on work and student visas can sponsor their family to New Zealand. Several respondents suggested that any New Zealand residents should be eligible to sponsor Ukrainians fleeing the war, rather than only those who have a connection to Ukraine.

³⁶ Whānau is the New Zealand Māori term for an extended family group. 'Whānau', *Te Aka Māori Dictionary*, 2022, <https://maoridictionary.co.nz/search?idiom=&phrase=&proverb=&loan=&histLoanWords=&keywords=whanau>

³⁷ 'New temporary visa for family of Ukrainians in New Zealand', *New Zealand Immigration*.

Barrier seven: lack of resettlement support in New Zealand

Barrier seven to accessing the benefits of the Ukraine Policy is a lack of settlement support for Ukrainians arriving in New Zealand (26%; 14). Access to healthcare for Ukrainians arriving is considered essential (17%; 9), particularly for those who are elderly, unwell, or have a disability. Respondents are concerned about both ongoing and unexpected medical expenses that will fall to sponsors, who will already be financially strained supporting additional family members. An additional barrier exists for elderly family members or those with a disability or illness. In some cases, these family members will not meet the Ukraine Visa eligibility criteria that “you must be of good health and character”.³⁸ In other cases, these family members are not comfortable with the level of medical support they will be able to access in New Zealand.

“I find it very unfair, as something can happen ... and if we need medical help, I just need to fully pay it. Would be great to have some sort of insurance or social help.”

The Ukraine Visa is a two-year visa with work and study entitlements and, as such, Ukraine Visa holders should be eligible for publicly funded health and disability services.³⁹ Government funding of health and disability services means that eligible people “may receive free inpatient and outpatient public hospital services, subsidies on prescription items, and a range of support services for people with disabilities in the community”.⁴⁰ There needs to be greater transparency around Ukraine Visa holders’ eligibility for publicly funded healthcare. Sponsors will still need to cover unfunded healthcare costs, which could be significant. For instance, a basic adult general-practitioner consultation generally costs between NZ\$50–75⁴¹ and an adult dental examination without any treatments costs NZ\$76.⁴²

Resettlement programmes are required for Ukraine Visa holders to experience a good quality of life in New Zealand. Respondents said these programmes should address the cost of healthcare (9); English-language classes (2); community connection to relieve loneliness and isolation (2) support to find and settle into employment (2); public-transport subsidies and driver education, particularly for the many Ukrainian women who do not drive (2); and a longer Ukraine Visa period to provide security (2).

“Language courses would be of great help to begin with.”

38 ‘New temporary visa for family of Ukrainians in New Zealand’, *New Zealand Immigration*.

39 Te Kāwanatanga o Aotearoa | New Zealand Government, ‘If you’re in NZ on a work visa’, *govt.nz*, 19 October 2021, <https://www.govt.nz/browse/health/public-health-services/healthcare-on-a-work-visa/>

40 ‘Work visa holder eligible to be in NZ for two years or more’, *Ministry of Health NZ*, 15 April 2011, <https://www.health.govt.nz/new-zealand-health-system/eligibility-publicly-funded-health-services/guide-eligibility-publicly-funded-health-services/work-visa-holder-eligible-be-nz-two-years-or-more>

41 Susan Edmunds, ‘Cost of doctor’s visit varies widely depending on where you are’, *Stuff*, 26 November 2016, <https://www.stuff.co.nz/business/money/86904891/cost-of-doctors-visit-varies-widely-depending-on-where-you-are>

42 Katarina Williams, ‘From grin to grimace: The pain of paying for adult dental care’, *Stuff*, 27 January 2019, <https://www.stuff.co.nz/national/health/110145152/from-grin-to-grimace-the-pain-of-paying-for-adult-dental-care#:~:text=While%20it%20doesn%27t%20make%20price%20recommendations%2C%20NZDA%27s%20Fee,was%202476%2C%20while%20a%20panoramic%20x-ray%20cost%202491>

Barrier eight: complicated Ukraine Visa application processes

The final barrier to accessing the benefits of the Ukraine Policy is a complicated application process (13%; 7). Respondents described their family having out-of-date passports (2) that would take too long to renew given the current situation in Ukraine, and the requirement for Ukraine Visa recipients to “travel to New Zealand within 9 months”⁴³ of being granted a Ukraine Visa. The application process also acted as a barrier when family members were ineligible as they were not “living in Ukraine as at January 2022”,⁴⁴ as specified in the Ukraine Visa requirements (2), information needed for the application was not accessible when Ukrainian family were unreachable (2), and the nature of the application process was considered stressful (1).

“I have applied for visa for my parents, but seems like they are not able to get visa because they have no passport for traveling overseas.”

There is also uncertainty around processing times for Ukraine Visa applications, which is a frustration given the urgency of removing family from war-torn Ukraine. For the benefits of the Ukraine Policy to be accessible, key actions should be considered: reduce and make transparent the Ukraine Visa processing times; lessen the paperwork required to access the Ukraine Visa (and in particular any paperwork that Ukrainian nationals must complete themselves); support Ukrainians to update their international passports or forgo the requirement for international passports altogether; and remove the requirement to live in Ukraine as of January 2022.

43 'New temporary visa for family of Ukrainians in New Zealand', *New Zealand Immigration*.

44 'New temporary visa for family of Ukrainians in New Zealand', *New Zealand Immigration*.

APPENDIX

The Special Ukraine Policy Survey had 15 questions as outlined below:

1. Name
2. Email address
3. Are you currently living in New Zealand?
4. If yes to Q3, are you a New Zealand citizen or hold a resident class visa?
5. If you answered “other” to Q4, what visa type do you hold?
6. How many family members are in your current New Zealand household?
7. Do you have close Ukrainian family members currently eligible for this visa through sponsorship?
8. If yes to Q7, how many family members would you ideally like to bring to New Zealand if it was possible?
9. Will you be applying/have you already applied for the Ukraine Special Visa for your close family members?
10. If yes to Q9, how many family members are you applying for/have applied for?
11. If no to Q9, what are the biggest barriers to sponsoring your family to New Zealand? i.e. Why are you not applying? (Please select all that are applicable)
12. If you selected “other” above, please explain what other barriers prevent you sponsoring your family to New Zealand.
13. Would you like to sponsor other family members/friends to come to New Zealand who fall outside of the current eligibility scope (e.g. uncles, cousins etc.)?
14. If yes to Q13, could you afford to sponsor other family members/friends to New Zealand without financial support?
15. How could the Special Ukraine Policy be improved?