

Vulnerability Profiles among Ukrainian Returnees: A Latent Class Analysis of Household and Contextual Constraints

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Abstract. *The massive forced displacement resulting from the full-scale conflict in Ukraine was accompanied by significant return flows, which were also marked by an environment of insecurity as well as economic instability. Therefore, it is important to understand that not all returns were accompanied by socioeconomic recovery; rather, returnees also faced various structural challenges that were determined by their household composition as well as differences in living conditions in the post-conflict environment. This article seeks to explore the socioeconomic vulnerability of returnees in Ukraine based on a survey conducted by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees in August 2024, targeting 1,435 respondents who were displaced.*

The concept of vulnerability in this article was based on the International Organization for Migration's Determinants of Migrant Vulnerability approach, which indicates that vulnerability was determined by multiple factors that interact at different levels: the individual, household, community, and structural levels. Indicators of vulnerability were recoded to reflect binary outcomes of cumulative vulnerability conditions of dependency burden, presence of older persons in the household, experience of household separation, economic inactivity, and deterioration in safety, services, and institutional support.

To examine the unobserved typologies of vulnerability, a latent class analysis was used. The results revealed four distinct classes, distinguishing between older-person households with high inactivity and severe deprivation, and dependent households with varying degrees of contextual hardship. The two classes were primarily driven by demographic vulnerability and withdrawal from the labor market, while the others were driven by dependency-related disadvantage and varying degrees of pronounced disruption in basic services and livelihood opportunities

The current study makes a significant contribution to the displacement return literature by providing an empirically grounded typology of vulnerability in the Ukrainian returnee population, thus underscoring the importance of differentiated returnee and social protection strategies, particularly for the most structurally disadvantaged groups.

Keywords: Return migration, Household-level analysis, Forced displacement, Latent Class Analysis, Post-conflict labor markets, Ukraine.

Introduction

Since the onset of the war in Ukraine, large-scale forced displacement has been followed by significant return flows, often taking place under circumstances of ongoing insecurity. Millions of Ukrainians have experienced displacement by 2024. Around 1.3 million refugees have returned to their points of origin despite ongoing hostilities, damaged infrastructure, and socioeconomic instability according to UNHCR. Therefore, return did not always signal socioeconomic improvement but was also taking place under circumstances of ongoing instability.

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Although the literature has extensively focused on the socioeconomic status of refugees and internally displaced people, comparatively less focus has been devoted to the inherent vulnerability of returnees. In this context, return has been viewed as a signal of resilience or reintegration. However, recent literature emphasized that returnees cannot be viewed as a homogenous entity. In fact, return has been viewed as taking place under circumstances of ongoing constraints with regards to household composition, labor market attachment, and regional context (Adema et al., 2024; Ash, 2025). Empirical evidence from Ukraine further suggested that labor markets during wartime have remained highly polarized. Formal labor reabsorption has been accompanied by inactivity, informality, and caregiving-related labor force detachment (Anastasia et al., 2022; IOM, 2024).

A growing body of research emerged to emphasize the level of vulnerability experienced by the displaced and returning population cannot be explained by single indicators, such as employment and income, which have been found to frequently fail to capture the multidimensional nature of the phenomenon, especially in contexts characterized by institutional disruption and incomplete labor market recovery (Brück et al., 2024; Baldet et al., 2025). Structurally vulnerable households may therefore remain overlooked if assessed on the basis of single indicators, as the phenomenon was the result of the complex interplay between household burdens, demographic constraints, and contextual factors (Tkach, 2024).

Based on the IOM Determinants of Migrant Vulnerability (DoMV) model, the phenomenon of vulnerability has been defined as the constrained capacity to avoid, manage, or recover from negative outcomes, which was the result of the complex interplay of various factors, both at the individual, household, and community levels, and the broader structural environment (IOM, 2019). Household composition, dependency burdens, and access to livelihoods and services have been identified as key factors of vulnerability in the context of conflict-affected societies. Given the multidimensional nature of the phenomenon, returnee vulnerability should be assessed on the basis of profiles of cumulative disadvantage, rather than a single continuous variable.

To address the multidimensional nature of returnee vulnerability, the present study applied Latent Class Analysis (LCA), a probabilistic modeling technique that was commonly used to identify hidden classes within populations based on certain categorical factors (Collins & Lanza, 2010; Santos et al., 2015; Petersen et al., 2019). In contrast to conventional techniques such as regression analysis, which frequently conceal the complexity, LCA facilitates the detection of differentiated types of vulnerability based on internally homogeneous yet externally heterogeneous response patterns. This advantage was also recognized by the field of applied economics, where the technique was utilized to uncover differentiated patterns that linear analysis frequently conceals (Vodă et al., 2025).

This paper addressed the following research questions:

RQ1. What are the different latent vulnerability profiles based on the variables of household composition, livelihood constraints, and post-return living conditions?

RQ2. How do the different latent vulnerability profiles vary according to demographic composition, household dependency burden, and service deprivation patterns?

Guided by the DoMV framework and the prevailing literature on displacement-related disadvantage, this study aimed to test the following hypotheses:

H1: Several distinct latent vulnerability profiles exist among Ukrainian returnees rather than a homogeneous group.

H2: Ukrainian returnees living in households characterized by a high dependency burden, such as dependents, household sizes, and age, are concentrates across the most vulnerable classes.

H3: The most vulnerable classes among Ukrainian returnees have a compounded disadvantage in safety, services, and institutional support, and a high rate of economic inactivity.

H4: There exist regional variations in vulnerability profiles due to regional differences in structural and infrastructural conditions in the post-return context.

Literature review

Research on forced displacement has increasingly examined the socioeconomic consequences of war-induced mobility, especially on refugees and internally displaced populations. An important feature that has emerged from the existing literature on displacement is that forced mobility was often associated with disadvantageous labor market integration, income stability, housing access, and social protection, especially in the context of prolonged insecurity and institutional disruption (Brück et al., 2024).

A further recurring finding in the existing empirical literature on forced displacement has been that the group of returnees was highly heterogeneous in terms of their post-return outcomes. While some returnees demonstrated stronger labor market attachment, others faced difficulties in terms of health limitations, caregiving burdens, and household disruption (Nguyen et al., 2024).

Overall, the empirical literature on forced displacement indicated that the post-return vulnerability cannot be understood through average effects alone. Instead, the analytical approaches that were capable of capturing the configurations of the disadvantaged within the returnee population were required. Therefore the methodologies that account for multidimensional vulnerability are essential for identifying distinct groups facing different constraints in the conflicted affected context.

Within this broader framework, the phenomenon of return migration has traditionally been viewed as a positive factor, often seen as a measure of recovery or successful reintegration. However, recent research cautioned that this may actually be an oversimplification of the complexities of the return migration process. Adema et al. (2024) argued that the decision to return was not only influenced by security factors, but also by factors such as household limitations, economic opportunities, and the pace of regional recovery. Similarly, Ash (2025) highlighted that returnees were not a homogeneous group and that the phenomenon of return migration can coexist with structural limitations, particularly in cases where return migration occurs in the context of incomplete recovery and continued exposure to conflict.

Ukraine represents a particularly relevant case in this respect. Significant return flows have been recorded despite the continued presence of conflict, raising critical questions whether the conditions experienced by returnees were actually improved or whether the returnees were plunged back into a state of hardship in a damaged environment (UNHCR, 2024). In this respect, it has been argued that the return of the displaced does not necessarily equate to their reintegration, particularly in cases where the displaced return to environments where the provision of public services remains limited and where insecurity remains a factor.

One of the most important aspects of vulnerability in displaced and returning populations was related to labor market disruption and livelihood insecurity. Empirical evidence in Ukraine revealed that labor markets in wartime remained highly polarized. While certain individuals managed to return to labor markets, others faced labor inactivity, informal labor, or disengagement due to caregiving responsibilities (Anastasia et al., 2022; IOM, 2024). This suggested that labor market engagement in return contexts was characterized by unequal distribution and was influenced by inequalities related to household responsibilities and demographic constraints.

Household composition has been recognized as a significant factor in determining post-displacement socioeconomic vulnerability, particularly in conflict settings where livelihood opportunities were limited and coping capacity was constrained. Dependency burden, household size, presence of elderly people, and separated or fragmented family structures have been recognized as constraints in economic engagement, limiting the capacity of households to earn a stable income and relying heavily on informal coping strategies (Egamberdiev et al., 2024). These constraints are especially pronounced in return contexts where individuals return in a state of incomplete recovery, making household composition a significant dimension of structural vulnerability.

In the Ukrainian context, labor market disruptions were further intensified by factors related to sectoral collapse, imbalance between labor demand and labor supply, and labor withdrawal, particularly for women and older adults (Tsapin & Zholud, 2025). These developments were also related to the destruction of local economic infrastructure and the expansion of unpaid caregiving responsibilities, which have disproportionately affected female returnees. Older returnees likewise face vulnerabilities related to health limitations, skill erosion, and occupational flexibility in an ever-changing labor market (Tsapin & Zholud, 2025). These demographic dynamics indicate that vulnerability profiles were also shaped by structural factors related to labor withdrawal and were not solely defined by labor status.

Beyond conventional labor market determinants, recent research increasingly argued that vulnerability profiles in displacement-affected contexts could not be defined or predicted based solely on isolated socioeconomic factors or indicators. Traditional empirical approaches have used single-factor empirical measures based on factors such as employment status or income levels to define and measure vulnerability profiles. However, these factors have often failed to capture multiple disadvantages related to factors such as household composition, dependency ratios, demographic factors, and contextual deprivation factors (Brück et al., 2024; Baldet et al., 2025). Tkach (2024) highlighted that return and post-return outcomes were also influenced by a range of complex factors related to economic, social, psychological, and contextual factors.

This multi-dimensional approach was consistent with the IOM Determinants of Migrant Vulnerability (DoMV) model, which defines the concept of migrant vulnerability based on the interplay between risk and protective factors at the individual, household, community, and structural levels (IOM, 2019). Within the DoMV model, the concept of vulnerability is not considered a linear, but rather as the cumulative effect of various constraining factors such as household dependency structures, limited livelihood options, weakened institutional protection, and diminishing access to physical infrastructure.

Forced displacement has received substantial scholarly attention within the context of conflict-driven migration. Most empirical research on the subject have concentrated on refugees and internally displaced persons, while the experience of returnees remained largely understudied. Existing evidence on forced displacement showed that such migration experiences generated significant disruptions to the employment trajectory, income-generating activities, and the development of human capital, that resulted in long-term difficulties in labor market reintegration and access to other essential social services (Schrooten, 2025). These findings suggest that socioeconomic vulnerability was not limited to the period of forced displacement itself, but may persist beyond return.

From a methodological standpoint, this heterogeneity has posed significant challenges. Continuous measures of vulnerability could summarize disadvantage on a single dimension, yet frequently obscure the existence of distinct subgroups facing distinctly different configurations of

constraints. Approaches based on average effects often overlook heterogeneity within subgroups, hence the need to apply typological approaches such as latent class analysis.

The empirical findings also suggested that returnees represent a highly heterogeneous population with regards to their post-return outcomes. While certain individuals demonstrated strong labor market attachments and better reintegration prospects, others faced challenges stemming from health constraints, caregiving demands, and household disruption (Nguyen et al., 2024). This heterogeneity suggested that vulnerability after return could not be captured via average effects; it required approaches that can account for distinct configurations of disadvantage across households and subgroups.

Latent Class Analysis (LCA), in particular, has been increasingly used in the social sciences to identify unobserved subgroups within the population based on categorical indicators (Collins & Lanza, 2010). Prior applications of LCA demonstrates its ability to capture multidimensional disadvantages through internally homogeneous and externally heterogeneous typologies (Santos et al., 2015; Petersen et al., 2019; Zhou et al., 2018). The application of latent class techniques within the field of applied economics highlighted the usefulness in uncovering nuanced typologies that would be difficult to identify through linear approaches (Vodă et al., 2025).

Typological approaches in displacement and return research offered significant analytical advantage of identifying the ways in which structural vulnerability was experienced through different configurations of household dependency, demographic constraints, livelihood insecurity, and contextual deterioration. The use of LCA in the case of Ukrainian returnees had the advantage of identifying latent typologies of vulnerability that correspond to the DoMV framework and provided evidence for the development of targeted reintegration and social protection programs.

Latent Class Analysis therefore constituted an appropriate methodological approach for examining the displacement and return processes in the context of substantial heterogeneity. LCA enabled the identification of internally homogeneous and externally heterogeneous groups based on categorical indicators of disadvantage, in contrast to the estimation of average marginal effects of linear regression (Collins & Lanza, 2010). Recent applications within the current research in the field of applied economics has uncovered that LCA had the capacity to identify multidimensional vulnerability typologies that would be difficult to identify through linear approaches (Vodă et al., 2025).

Methodology

The empirical analysis employed survey data at the household level, which was conducted by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) through a survey titled “Ukraine – Survey of Intentions and Perspectives of Returnees #2,” conducted in August 2024 (UNHCR, 2024). The survey targeted individuals who returned to Ukraine following displacement due to full-scale conflict. The cleaned and coded dataset consisted of 1,435 returnees with information regarding their labor market engagement and perceived living conditions.

Vulnerability was operationalized according to the Determinants of Migrant Vulnerability (DoMV) model developed by the International Organization for Migration. Within this model, vulnerability is conceptualized as a limited capacity to prevent, resist, cope with, or recover from undesirable consequences of the interaction between risk and protective factors across different levels (IOM, 2019). It emphasizes on the multifaceted nature of vulnerability and its development via determinants such as the individual, family/household, community, and structural levels. With regard to return migration under conditions of conflict, vulnerability determinants comprise family dependency relationships, limited livelihood options, and reduced service access.

In accordance to the DoMV framework, the study has operationalized the concept of structural socioeconomic vulnerability using a set of categorical variables. All the variables have been transformed to binary variables. The choice of using binary variables was consistent with previous studies on latent class analysis of multidimensional social constructs (Santos et al., 2015).

The first set of indicators that targeted demographic and household composition constraints including gender (gender_male), having dependents (dependents_hh), having older people in the household (older_person_hh), household split during return (hh_split), and large household size (large_household).

The second dimension captured livelihood related vulnerability proxied by economic inactivity (inactive_status).

The third group of indicators that measured perceived contextual deterioration of safety conditions (safety_worse), housing conditions (housing_worse), livelihood opportunities (livelihood_worse), access to education (education_worse), and access to health services (health_worse).

The fourth set of indicators that targeted basic deprivation and institutional support constraints including deterioration of access to electricity (electricity_worse), heating (heating_worse), water (water_worse), humanitarian assistance (humanitarian_assistance_worse), and government support or benefits (gov_support_worse).

This multidimensional indicator structure reflects the interdependence between household and structural level constraints, as proposed by the DoMV approach.

To determine different typologies of returnee vulnerability, the study applied the method of Latent Class Analysis (LCA) as a probabilistic modeling technique to identify unobserved subgroups in diverse populations according to categorical response patterns (Collins & Lanza, 2010; Petersen et al., 2019). LCA was a suitable method in this context because the phenomenon of returnee vulnerability was not directly measurable and was theoretically assumed to be the outcome of diverse combinations of household burden and contextual deprivation. The LCA model estimated the probability of belonging to a latent class C_k given their observed indicator responses $X = x$, expressed as:

$$P(X = x | C_k) = \prod_{j=1}^J P(X_j = x_j | C_k)$$

where $P(X_j = x_j | C_k)$ represented the conditional probability of the indicators X_j that took on the value x_j given the class membership of the individual in the class C_k . The model assumes conditional independence of the indicators within the classes.

Recent contributions within applied economics further demonstrated the potential of LCA to provide a multidimensional typology and uncover the heterogeneity which traditional linear approaches mask (Vodă et al., 2025).

A range of different models with between two and eight latent classes were estimated. The optimal number of classes was selected on the basis of the Bayesian Information Criterion (BIC), which strikes the balance between model fit and model simplicity (Wagenmakers, 2007):

$$BIC = -2\ln(L) + k\ln(N)$$

where $\ln(L)$ denoted the model log-likelihood, k represented the number of parameters and N was the sample size

To evaluate the accuracy of class assignment, entropy was calculated following Celeux and Soromenho (1996) where N is the total number of observations and K is the total number of latent classes:

$$Entropy = 1 + \frac{\sum_{i=1}^N \sum_{k=1}^K p_{ik} \ln(p_{ik} + \varepsilon)}{N \ln(K)}$$

The latent class model was further examined through conditional response probability heat maps, in addition to the distributions of region, gender, and employment status, in order to further understand the identified typologies of vulnerability.

Results and discussions

Latent class models specifying between two to eight classes were estimated to determine distinct typologies of vulnerability among Ukrainian returnees. Model selection was guided by the Bayesian Information Criterion (BIC), whose values decreased monotonically as the number of classes was increased. Although the seven-class model had the lowest BIC value, implying that it was the best-fitting model from a statistical point of view, the improvements beyond the four-class model were marginal. Furthermore, as the number of classes was increased beyond four, the interpretability of the model results was reduced. In line with standard practice in applied latent class analysis modeling, the four-class model was selected as the best model based on its parsimony and interpretability (Vodă et al., 2025).

The four-class model was also found to have good classification performance, as evidenced by the entropy value of 0.8167. This level of entropy suggests that the model was able to classify the profiles of vulnerability well (Celeux & Soromenho, 1996).

The results of the four-class solution point to significant heterogeneity in the level of structural vulnerability experienced by returnees, and the differences in the profiles were noted in household composition, livelihood difficulties, and post-return deprivation perceptions. Figure 1 presents the conditional response probabilities of each of the indicators in each class.



Figure 1 Heatmap of conditional response probabilities (LCA class profiles)

Source: Author's work, Data: UNHCR (2024).

The first profile of vulnerability was characterized by a high prevalence of older members of households and high levels of economic inactivity. Individuals who returned and fell under this class also reported a general decline of livelihood opportunities as well as access to basic services

such as electricity, water, heating, etc. This profile represented compounded structural vulnerability resulting from the intersection of demographic vulnerability and high contextual deprivation.

The second latent class similarly exhibited higher probabilities of having older members of households and labor market inactivity. However, in contrast to the first profile, this class was distinct by having considerably lower levels of perceived deterioration of services. This typology therefore represented demographic as well as employment related vulnerability under more stable local conditions.

The third class was primarily characterized by a pronounced level of dependency burden as well as large household size. Returnees assigned to this class were likely to have members of their households as dependents. While moderate levels of deterioration of safety as well as services are also reported, the dominant source of disadvantage was likely to have been caused by household dependency.

The fourth class combines high dependency burdens as well as severe contextual deprivation. Individuals who returned under this class reported a decline of livelihood opportunities as well as deterioration of safety and marked deteriorations in access to utilities such as electricity as well as water. This profile represented households with dependency burdens as well as high levels of structural hardship following their return.

Variations in regional distributions of latent vulnerability profiles were also identified. Figure 2 illustrates that some of the classes were densely concentrated in specific macro-regions, suggesting uneven patterns of infrastructural disruption and recovery in Ukraine.

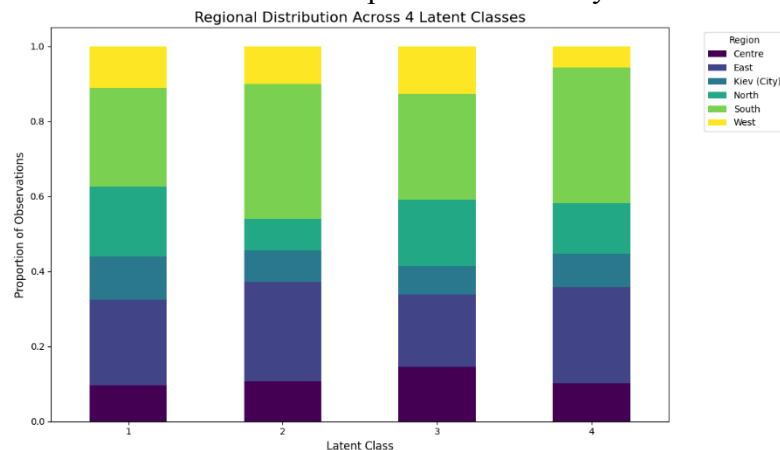


Figure 2 Regional distribution across latent classes

Source: Author's work, Data: UNHCR (2024).

The results provide the empirical support for the hypothesis that the level of vulnerability of returnees is closely associated with the regional post-war environment.

All classes were dominated by females, consistent with the demographic profile seen in the conflict displacement and subsequent return. The variation in the representation of males in the classes was not significant, suggesting that household-based vulnerability typologies were not driven by gender factors in the returnee population. The most deprived vulnerability types, especially those based on older household types, had significantly higher proportions of economic inactivity. The dependent household types had relatively higher proportions of formal employment and unemployment.

The findings indicated that the structural vulnerability of Ukrainian returnees did not follow a continuous gradient but, rather, took the form of clear latent typologies of vulnerability, which

were determined by household composition and contextual deprivation. This supported the view that vulnerability stemmed from the interplay of determinants, operating on both the household and the structural levels, and not from economic factors per se, as the IOM DoMV model would predict (IOM, 2019).

The results provided clear answers to the research questions and confirm the hypotheses presented in the Introduction section of the dissertation. With regard to the first research question, Latent Class Analysis (LCA) indicated the existence of four different vulnerability profiles of Ukrainian returnees, which supported the view that post-return vulnerability did not result from a homogeneous process but, rather, occurred via qualitatively different types of household burden and contextual deprivation. Thus, provide evidence for the first hypothesis, which predicted the existence of multiple latent vulnerability typologies instead of a single type of returnee vulnerability.

Moreover, the obtained class profiles indicated clear differences with regard to the characteristics of household dependency, inactivity, and deterioration of services, which supported the view presented in the second research question. The highlighted that returnees living in households with dependents, older members, and larger household sizes were concentrated in the most deprived profiles, which supports the second hypothesis. Additionally, the classes characterized by high levels of economic inactivity were linked to compounded decreases in opportunities for livelihood and service access, which supported the third hypothesis.

The evidence of regional distributions revealed that the vulnerability profiles were unevenly represented in the macro-regions, suggesting that structural and infrastructural disparities do affect the outcomes of return. The findings mostly corroborated the fourth hypothesis, that reinforced the importance of spatial inequality in the post-return setting. The multidimensional concept of vulnerability that the DoMV framework was confirmed, in which vulnerability was a function of the interplay of household and context-level constraints, rather than economic factors.

Two of the identified vulnerability profiles were primarily defined by demographic vulnerability in terms of the presence of older household members and low labor market participation. These profiles highlighted the importance of constraints related to the adaptability of older members of the household and the vulnerability of older household members in the post-return setting. This emphasized on the role of older household members in the post-return setting was in line with recent research on the wartime labor markets of the region (Tsapin & Zholud, 2025). At the same time, the large gap between the severe deprivation of the first class and the relatively moderate contextual conditions of second class points to the fact that the vulnerability of older household members was heavily dependent on the regional and infrastructural setting.

The remaining two typologies reflected dependency-driven vulnerability for large households with children or dependents. These findings align with prior research indicating that dependency burden, large households, and family separation were key factors constraining economic engagement and creating vulnerability in conflict-affected contexts (Egamberdiev et al., 2024). Although one profile for dependent households experienced moderate-level constraints, the most disadvantaged profile reflected a combination of structural deprivation and significant service disruption, indicating that structural deprivation can create vulnerability beyond household composition.

Overall, these findings reinforce existing evidence indicating that returnees were a heterogeneous group with respect to post-return outcomes, which aligned with broader empirical research indicating significant variation in post-return trajectories based upon health status, caregiving responsibilities, and household disruption (Nguyen et al., 2024). These typologies

supported the notion that return does not necessarily equate with recovery or improved outcomes, as many returnees experienced multidimensional disadvantage post-return due to uneven reconstruction and institutional weakening.

From a policy perspective, the identified typologies supported the need for differentiated approaches to support returnees post-return. Returnees who experienced compounded service disruption required infrastructural and service support, whereas households composed of older persons who experience inactivity require different types of support related to social protection and health outcomes. Similarly, dependency-driven vulnerable households required livelihood support and caregiving-sensitive support for child-rearing activities.

Conclusion

This study provided an empirical exploration of the phenomenon of structural socioeconomic vulnerability among Ukrainian returnees, using household-level data gathered by UNHCR in the year 2024. Guided by the IOM Determinants of Migrant Vulnerability (DoMV) instrument, the study understood the phenomenon of vulnerability as multidimensional and the result of the interplay between various household and contextual limitations, rather than the sole influence of labor market factors.

Latent Class Analysis was applied to the dataset to establish the existence of four unique classes of returnee vulnerability, confirming the heterogeneity of return outcomes and aligning with the assumption that return is not associated with homogeneous reintegration outcomes. The distinct profiles revealed the presence of returnee vulnerability as the outcome of unique combinations of dependency burdens, demographic limitations, and the perception of diminished access to basic services, livelihoods, and institutional support. Specifically, the latent classes composed of older household members and economic inactivity were associated with high levels of compound deprivation, while dependent returnees were associated with various degrees of structural hardships depending on the contextual environment.

The evidence further confirmed the proposed hypotheses on the multidimensional nature of returnee vulnerability and its association with household composition and deprivation in access to services, and further suggested the presence of regional variation in the descriptive results, confirming the influence of structural and infrastructural dissimilarities on the phenomenon of returnee vulnerability in Ukraine.

From a policy perspective, the latent vulnerability profiles emphasized the need for differentiated reintegration strategies for returnees. For example, older inactive households needed social protection and health-related assistance, whereas dependent households with extreme service disruption needed infrastructural assistance and livelihood recovery support. Overall, effective return policies should not treat returnees as a homogeneous group but rather consider the various vulnerability profiles that were still present under conditions of ongoing instability.

In conclusion, this research has added to the growing body of research on forced displacement and return by providing a multidimensional typology of Ukrainian returnees' vulnerability profiles. By integrating the DoMV framework with Latent Class Analysis modeling, this study has added new knowledge about the structural factors that shape post-return livelihoods and has identified priority groups for targeted humanitarian and policy support.

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