

4 countries
17 Border
Crossing Points

3,424 Interviews



91% female



9% male

Starting on 24 February 2022, the war in Ukraine triggered an unprecedented humanitarian crisis and generated large scale displacement both within Ukraine and to the neighbouring countries. As of the end of May, 7.1 million persons were internally displaced in Ukraine¹ and almost 7 million crossings of refugees and other Third-Country-Nationals (TCNs) not in need of international protection from Ukraine into the neighbouring countries were reported.² However, since April, an increasing number of returns have been identified both from other locations in Ukraine and self-reported returns from abroad¹ and according to UNHCR about 2.1 million crossings were registered from neighbouring countries into Ukraine as of the end of May.²

This report is based on 3,424 valid surveys collected by IOM's Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM) in four European countries neighbouring Ukraine with adult refugees from Ukraine and TCNs crossing to Ukraine between 16 April and 31 May 2022: 708 surveys in Poland, 2,102 in the Republic of Moldova, 514 in Romania and 100 in Slovakia. Total results were weighted with equal weights per each country sub-sample.

Individual crossings back into Ukraine are not necessarily returnees and conclusions on definitive trends cannot yet be drawn. The sample is not representative of all persons crossing to Ukraine and results should only be considered as indicative.

¹ IOM's *DTM Ukraine General Population Survey, Round 5*

² UNHCR number of crossings from/to Ukraine to/from neighbouring countries: *Ukraine Refugee Situation (unhcr.org)*

Socio-demographic profile

Between 16 April and 31 May 2022, IOM conducted 3,424 surveys with Ukrainian and TCNs adults in 17 Border Crossing Points (BCPs), in Poland, Romania, Slovakia and the Republic of Moldova, with persons crossing to Ukraine. Almost all (99%) the respondents declared that they left Ukraine because of the war after 24 February.

Most respondents were women (91%), while men represented 9 per cent of the sample. The share of men was higher than the average in the Moldovan sample (17%) and in the Romanian sample (14%).

Most respondents were between 30 and 39 years of age (35%) and between 40 and 49 years of age (26%). Women were younger than men on average in all countries where surveys were collected. While one third of women (33%) were between 30 and 39 years old, one third of men were 60 years old or more.

When asked about the country where they spent most of their time when outside Ukraine, most respondents (70%) reported to have stayed in the country where the survey was collected. In particular, 82 per cent of those met in Romania and Slovakia, and 61 per cent of those met in Poland. At the same time, 26 per cent of the whole sample reported to have spent most of the time outside

Ukraine in another European Union Member State (Bulgaria, Germany, Czechia, France, Italy, Spain) and another 4 per cent reported to have stayed in other countries in Europe or outside of Europe (Turkey and Azerbaijan more frequently).

Fig.1: Age distribution of respondents, by sex (weighted %)

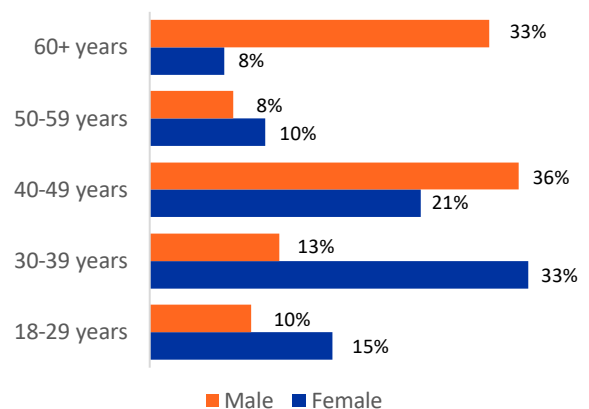


Fig.2: The location in which respondents spent most of the time outside Ukraine, by country of survey (%)

Location of stay	Poland	Republic of Moldova	Romania	Slovakia	Total (w.)
Country of the survey	61%	82%	68%	68%	70%
Europe	36%	13%	26%	31%	26%
Other	3%	5%	5%	1%	4%

Fig.3: Country of origin/citizenship of respondent, by country of the survey (%)

Country	Total	Ukrainian nationals (%)	TCNs (%)
Republic of Moldova	2,102	95%	5%
Slovakia	100	100%	0%
Romania	514	99%	1%
Poland	708	99%	1%
Total (w %)	3,424	98%	2%

Most of the respondents (98%) were Ukrainian nationals while 2 per cent were nationals of other countries, originating mainly from the Republic of Moldova (46%), Azerbaijan (12%), Russian Federation (6%), Uzbekistan (6%), Türkiye (5%), Georgia (5%) and other countries (19%). The share of non-Ukrainians was the highest in the Moldovan sample (5%), while no TCNs were interviewed in Slovakia.

Overall, the top 5 regions of origin or habitual residence of Ukrainian nationals and TCNs interviewed were Odessa (27%), Kyiv (23%), Dnipropetrovsk (7%), Kharkiv (7%). Odessa was the most frequently reported region of origin for respondents in the Republic of Moldova (52%) and in Romania (41%), while Kyiv was most frequently reported as origin by respondents in Slovakia and Poland (40% and 28% respectively).

Fig.4: TCNs respondents, by nationality (%)

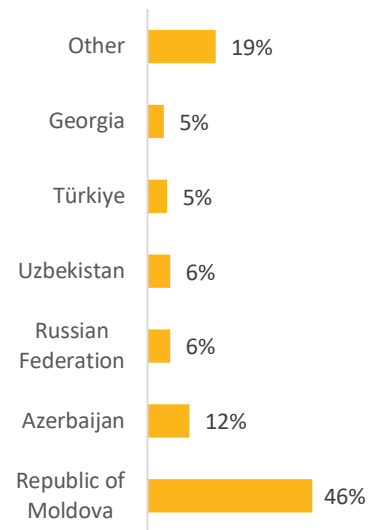
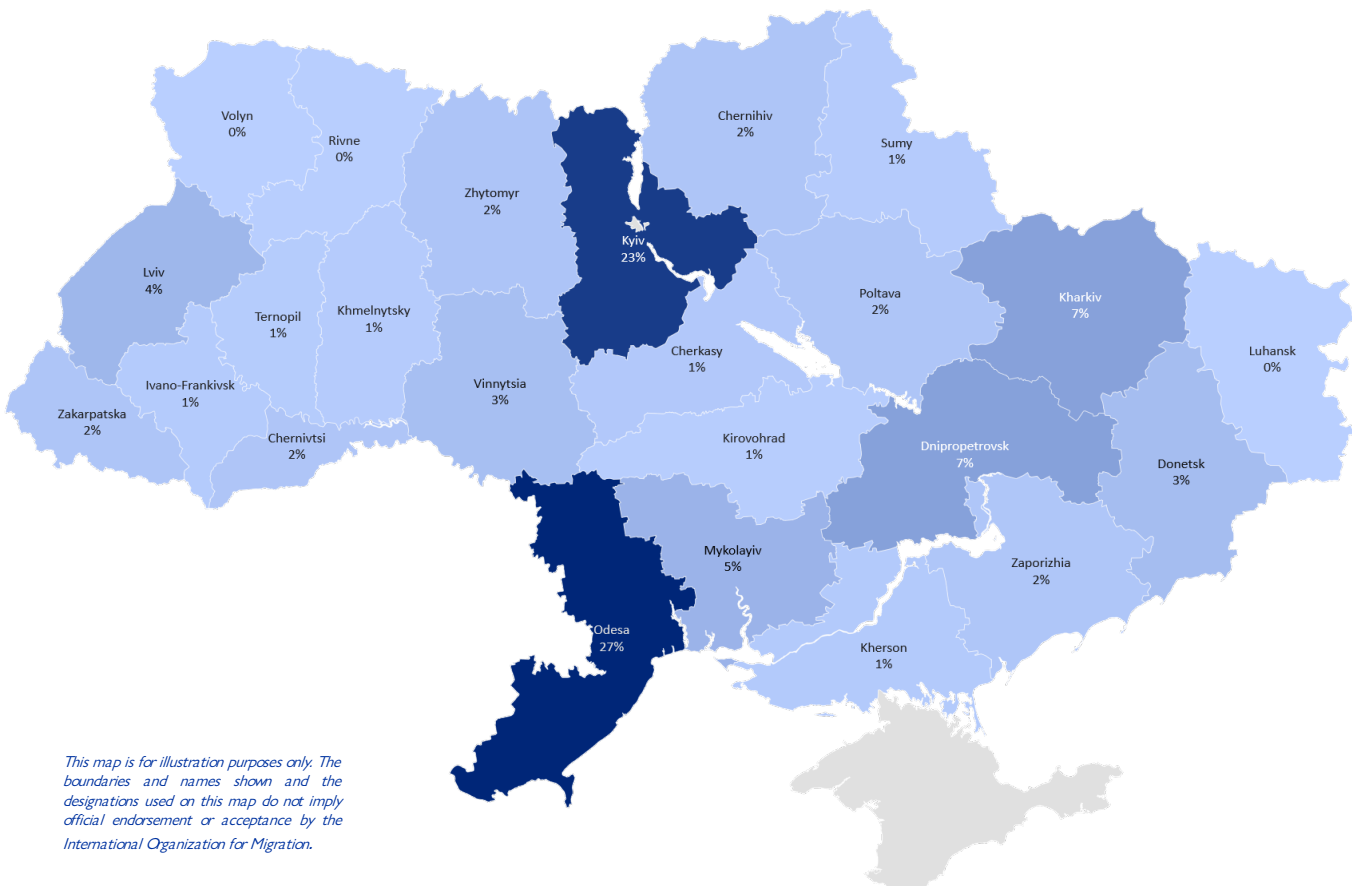


Fig.5: Region of origin or habitual residence of Ukrainians and TCNs respondents (weighted %)



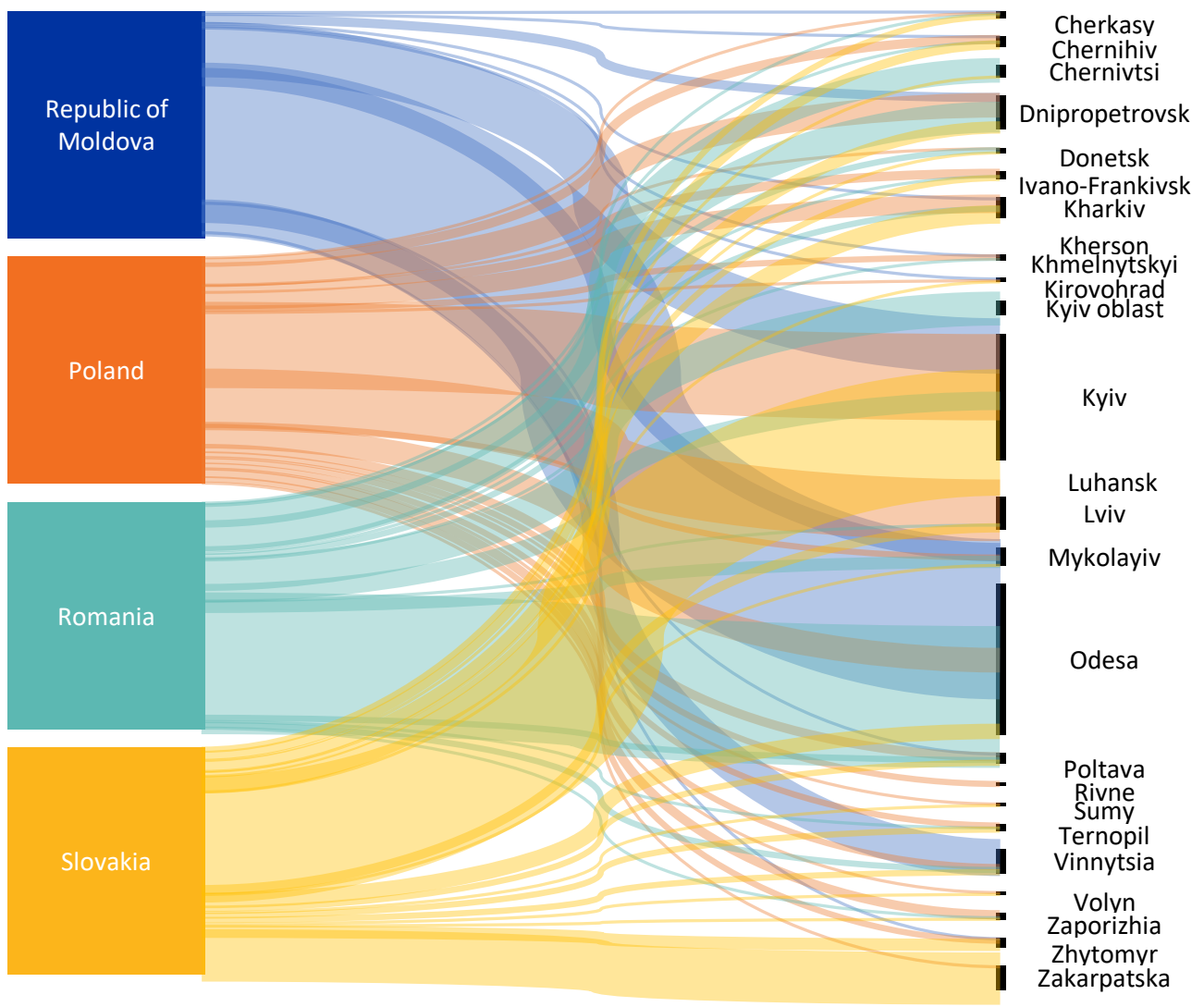
Intended destinations in Ukraine

Most respondents reported the intentions to go back to the same region of origin or habitual residence in Ukraine (86%), while 13 per cent said they were going to another region while the remaining 1 per cent were not certain. The share of those intending to reach their region of origin or habitual residence was the highest among respondents in the Republic of Moldova (91% of them), followed by 88 per cent of respondents in Poland, 85 per cent of respondents in Romania and 79 per cent of respondents in Slovakia.

Among the respondents going to a different region than their habitual residence, respondents in the Republic of Moldova mentioned more frequently Vinnytsia as the destination (52%), respondents in Poland mentioned Lviv (43% of those going to a different region), respondents in Romania mentioned more frequently Odessa (43%) and respondents in Slovakia who were going to a different region mentioned Zakarpatska (50%).

Thirty-eight per cent reported that they felt that their location of origin was unsafe due to violence, conflict and insecurity, 25 per cent declared that the reason for this change of location was because their family has moved or was displaced to another location and 11 per cent said that their house or property was destroyed or damaged.

Fig.6: Region of intended destination by country of survey (weighted %)



Intentions and reasons to cross to Ukraine

Half of the sample (49%) reported the intention to stay in Ukraine, while 27 per cent reported that they were doing a short visit and another 23 per cent was uncertain of how long they will be staying in Ukraine. The share of those intending to stay in Ukraine was higher among males (67% on average) than among females (49%). Moreover, respondents in the Republic of Moldova reported more frequently the intention to pay a short visit (42%) than to stay in Ukraine (34%), while in Poland, Romania and Slovakia most respondents declared to be willing to stay in Ukraine (57%, 50% and 55% respectively).

More than half (63%) of the respondents in the sample declared that they crossed to Ukraine only once since the war started on 24 February 2022, while a considerable portion (22%) indicated that they did not cross the border since February 24. Others reported to have crossed the border twice (7%) or more than twice (7%).

Among those who reported to be intending to remain in Ukraine, 43 per cent declared that the main reason was to reunite with family members and 35 per cent based their decision on the improvement of situation in their place of habitual residence. Other given reasons were the lack of financial resources (15%), the inability to find a job in the country of stay (8%), being an essential worker in Ukraine (6%).

Fig.7: Intended length of stay in Ukraine (weighted %)

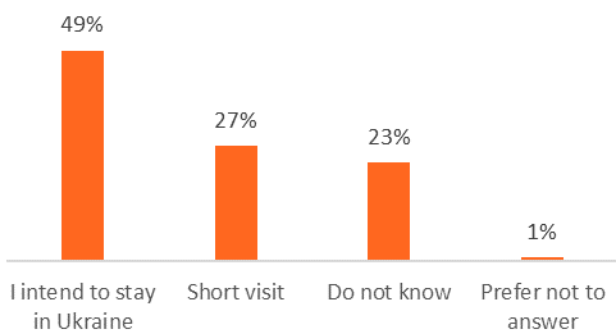


Fig.8: Number of entries/exits through the Ukrainian borders (weighted %)

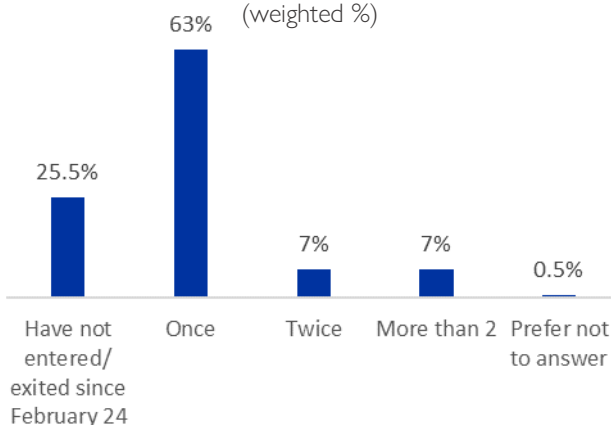


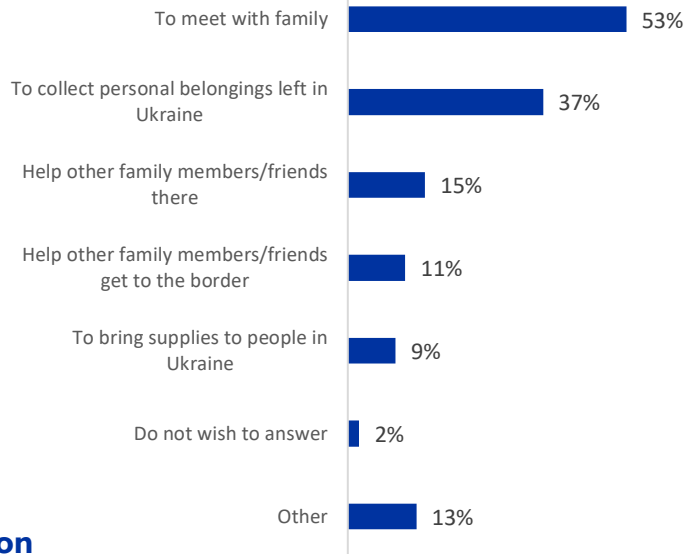
Fig.9: Reasons of return for respondents intending to stay in Ukraine (multiple options possible) (%)

Reasons for intending to stay in Ukraine	Poland	Moldova (Rep.)	Romania	Slovakia	Total (w%)
To reunite with family members in Ukraine	67%	48%	43%	15%	43%
Situation is better in my origin place/region	26%	28%	24%	62%	35%
Not enough resources/money for living costs	10%	7%	20%	22%	15%
I couldn't get a job	10%	3%	7%	13%	8%
Situation is better in Ukraine (other region)	6%	4%	9%	5%	6%
I return because I work in essential services	8%	8%	8%	0%	6%
I return because I have care responsibilities	9%	5%	4%	4%	5%
Couldn't find shelter/accommodation	5%	1%	10%	0%	4%
I couldn't get humanitarian assistance	3%	1%	10%	0%	3%
I exited to take family members to safety	3%	8%	3%	0%	3%
I experienced discrimination, integration challenges	5%	1%	1%	0%	2%
Prefer not to answer	1%	1%	0%	2%	1%
I couldn't get access to education	2%	1%	2%	0%	1%
I return to defend Ukraine	0%	2%	1%	0%	1%
Other	4%	21%	8%	11%	11%

Among those who intended to do a short visit to Ukraine (27% of the whole sample), more than half (53%) reported that they wanted to meet with family members left in Ukraine and 37 per cent returned to collect personal belongings. Around 15 per cent wanted to help family members or friends in Ukraine, 11 per cent were there to help someone to reach the border and about 9 per cent intended to bring some supplies into Ukraine.

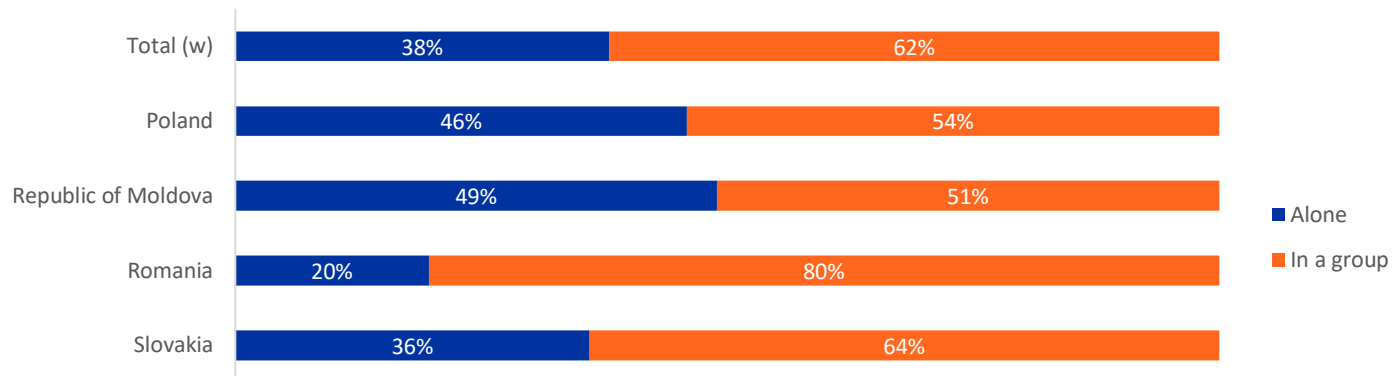
Other reasons expressed by respondents were the need complete, renew or obtain documents (passports, identity cards, social benefits), to attend celebrations and medical appointments.

Fig.10: Reasons of return for respondents intending to do a short visit in Ukraine (multiple options possible) (weighted %)



Travel characteristics and group composition

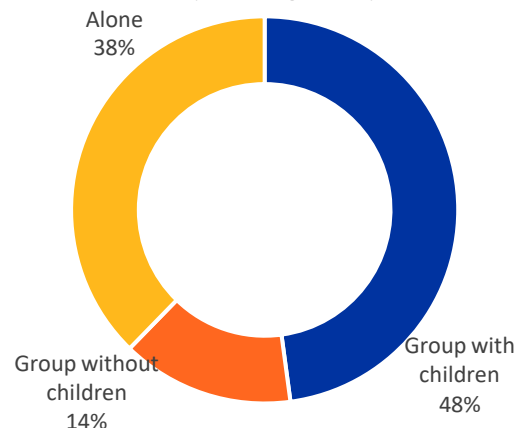
Fig.11: Share of respondents travelling in a group and alone, by country of the survey (%)



About 38 per cent of the respondents reported to be travelling alone, while the majority (62%) were travelling with a group of mostly family members, relatives and to a smaller extent of friends. About 18 per cent of women and 14 per cent of men were alone when crossing back while declared to be in a group when they left Ukraine. More than half (51%) of men and a great share of women (43%) declared that they were crossing into Ukraine with the same group of persons they fled with.

The number of respondents travelling alone was quite lower than the average in the case of Romania, where 80 per cent of respondents were crossing back with a group. Overall, 44 per cent of respondents were travelling in a group with at least one child below 18 years of age. Women were travelling with at least one child in 45 per cent of the cases, while only 19 per cent of men declared to be with one child at the moment of the interview.

Fig.12: Share of respondents travelling alone, in a group with children or without children (total weighted %)



Most children travelling with respondents were between 5 and 13 years of age (57%), while 22 per cent were under 5 years old and 21 per cent was between 14 and 17 years of age.

Among respondents in the Republic of Moldova, about 5 per cent reported to be travelling with a person with serious health conditions (e.g. disability, chronic disease, wounded, pregnancy etc.) and an additional 1 per cent with 2 or 3 persons with a serious health condition.

Interviewers noted the means of transportation of respondents while they were crossing back to Ukraine. About 38 per cent were travelling by car, 23 per cent were about to travel by train, another 21 per cent were walking while the rest were either on a bus (14%) or a minibus (5%).

Fig.13: Age distribution of children travelling with respondents (weighted %)

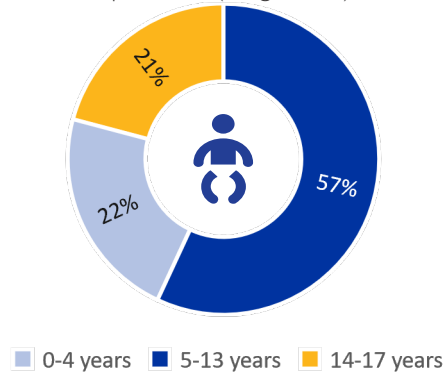


Fig.14: Means of transportation, by country of the survey

Means of transportation	Poland	Republic of Moldova	Romania	Slovakia	Total (w)
Car	27%	47%	54%	24%	38%
Train	28%	14%	5%	40%	22%
On foot	24%	25%	19%	17%	21%
Bus	19%	9%	11%	17%	14%
Minibus	2%	5%	11%	2%	5%

Main needs

The survey asked about the main needs of the respondents at the time of the interview. On average, 41 per cent of the whole sample reported to have no specific need at the moment of the interview. Nevertheless, the share of those reporting some needs whilst crossing the border varied a lot by country of the survey.

In the Republic of Moldova, 80 per cent of respondents declared they had no needs. The main needs reported by respondents in the country were financial support (9%), medical services and medicines (5%) and food (4%). Almost two thirds (64%) of respondents in Poland reported to have no specific needs, while 23 per cent reported the need of support for transportation, 17 per cent reported the need of support to return home, and 12 per cent reported financial needs. In Romania, respondents reported frequently food (62%) and water (60%) as main needs, followed by need for transportation support (18%). In Slovakia, 63 per cent of respondents reported the need of support with transportation, followed by financial support (47%), food and water (40% each). Both in Romania and Slovakia the share of those reporting no need was considerably lower than in the Republic of Moldova and Poland (16% and 5% compared to 80% and 64% respectively).

Fig.15a: Main needs at the moment, by country of the survey (%)

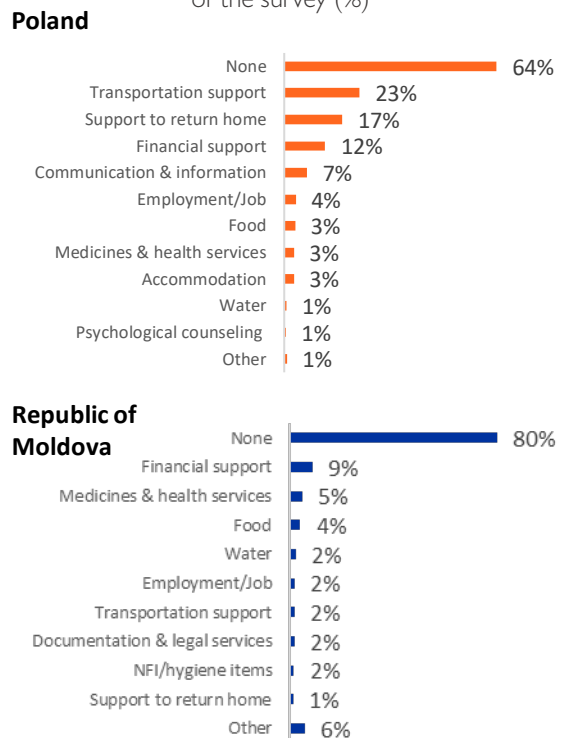
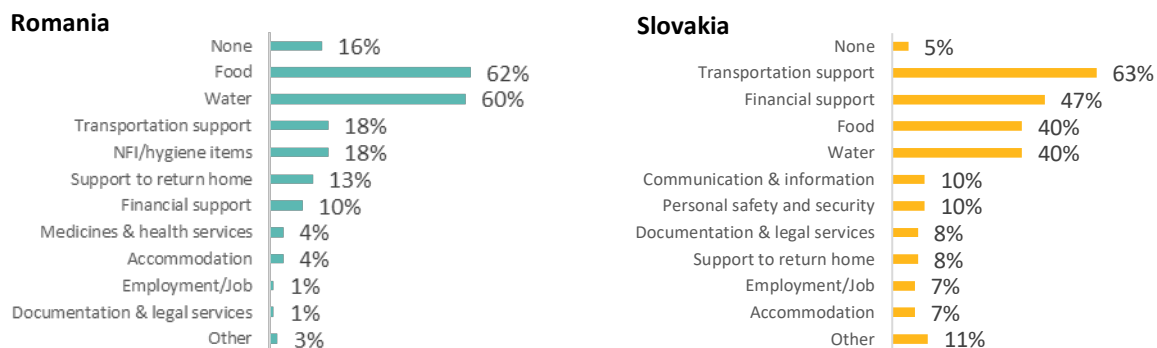


Fig.15b: Main needs at the moment, by country of the survey (%)



Five per cent of all respondents reported that they or/and their family members experienced unfair or unequal treatment based on nationality, ethnicity, or gender since they left their usual place of residence in Ukraine. Ninety-four per cent said they did not have such experiences, and the remaining 1 per cent was not certain. The share of respondents reporting some forms of unfair or unequal treatment was higher among TCNs (8%) than among Ukrainian respondents (4%) on average.

Methodology

The survey was based on IOM’s Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM), a system to track and monitor population mobility, and it was designed to capture the main displacement patterns – needs and intentions, region and country of origin – for refugees and third country nationals fleeing from Ukraine because of the war.

It captures the demographic profiles of respondents and of the group they are travelling with, if any; it asks about intentions relative to the permanence in Ukraine and to intended destinations; it gathers information regarding a set of main needs that the respondents expressed as more pressing at the moment of the interview.

Only adults (18+) were approached, and the survey conducted only with persons who were crossing back to Ukraine from Poland, Romania, the Republic of Moldova and Slovakia since April 2022.

The number of surveys and locations covered by country is as follows:

- 2,102 surveys in the Republic of Moldova – 3 BCPs: Tudora, Palanca, Otaci
- 708 surveys in Poland - 5 BCPs: Medyka-Szeginie, Korczowa-Krakowiec, Hrebenne-Rawa Ruska, Kraków, Przemysł
- 514 surveys in Romania – 4 BCPs: Iasi, Bucuresti, Suceava, Tulcea
- 100 surveys in Slovakia – 5 BCPs: Michalovce, Cervena Hvezda, Vysne Nemecke, Ubly, Humenne

Respondents were approached by enumerators at selected border points with Ukraine. Face-to-face surveys were conducted mainly in Ukrainian, Russian and English by trained enumerators. Data were collected and stored through a mobile application.