

3 Transit Points
2 Border Crossing Points

4,044 INTERVIEWS



85% female



15% 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 9 September 2022, almost 7 million persons were internally displaced in Ukraine¹ and over 12.5 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, an increasing number crossings back into Ukraine, with UNHCR reporting over 5.7 million crossings from neighbouring countries into Ukraine as of 13 September 2022.²

This report is based on 4,044 valid surveys collected by IOM's Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM) in Romania with adult refugees from Ukraine and TCNs crossing to Ukraine between 4 May and 12 September 2022.

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 General Population Survey, Round 8

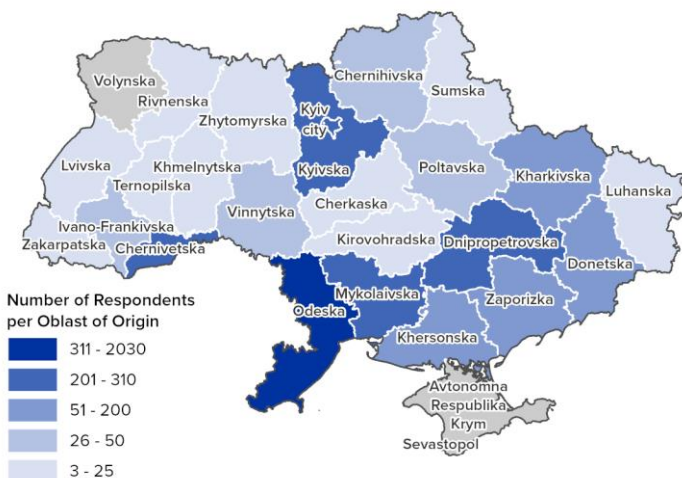
² UNHCR number of crossings from/to Ukraine to/from neighbouring countries: [Ukraine Refugee Situation \(unhcr.org\)](https://www.unhcr.org/ukraine-refugee-situation)

SOCIO-DEMOGRAPHIC PROFILE

This report is based on 4,044 interviews conducted by IOM Romania between 4 May and 12 September 2022 at 2 Border Crossing Points (BCPs) and 3 transit points (bus stations, train stations) in Romania, with persons crossing to Ukraine. Counties where interviews have taken place included Bucharest, Constanța, Iași, Suceava and Tulcea.

Out of a total 4,044 respondents, 99 per cent were Ukrainian refugees and 1 per cent TCNs, mainly from Türkiye, Turkmenistan, Georgia, Israel, Republic of Moldova and Morocco. The top five oblasts of origin of the Ukrainians were Odeska (50%), Kyivska (8%), Dnipropetrovska (8%), Mykolaivska (7%) and Chernivtska (6%).

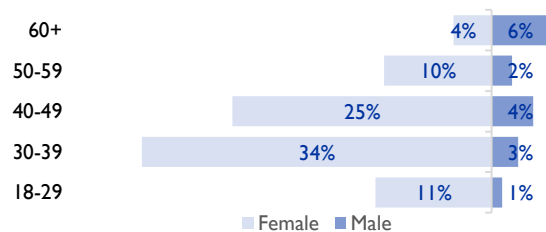
Fig. 1 Oblasts of origin (N=4,042)



This map is for illustration purposes only. The boundaries and names shown, and the designations used on this map, do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the International Organization for Migration.

Women represented eighty-five per cent of responses. Thirty-four per cent of all respondents were women aged 30-39 years. The largest group of male respondents were over 60 years of age (6%).

Fig. 2 Sex and age disaggregation of respondents



Sixty-eight per cent of respondents indicated that they were travelling with children. Of the reported ages of those minors, seventeen per cent were younger than 4 years old, fifty-six per cent between 5 and 13 years and twenty-six per cent between 14 and 17 years old.

Eighty-five per cent of the respondents reported they were travelling in a group, while fifteen per cent reported they were travelling alone. Twenty-seven per cent reported they were travelling with at least one elderly person.



68% reported at least 1 child in the group



85% travelling in a group
15% travelling alone



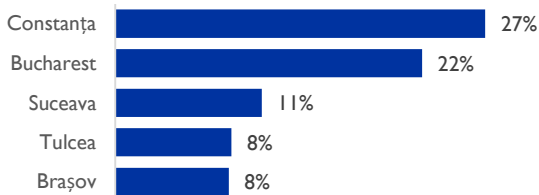
27% travelling with at least 1 elderly person (60+ years)

LOCATION OF REFUGE OUTSIDE UKRAINE

Of the total number of respondents who intended to return to Ukraine, forty per cent reported having stayed in Romania, while sixty per cent reported to have sought temporary accommodation in other countries (Fig. 4). A considerable number of respondents previously stayed in Bulgaria (38%).

From the total of the respondents who have stayed in Romania, twenty-seven per cent said they stayed in Constanța, twenty-two per cent in Bucharest, eleven per cent in Suceava, seven per cent in Tulcea and eight per cent in Brașov (Fig. 3).

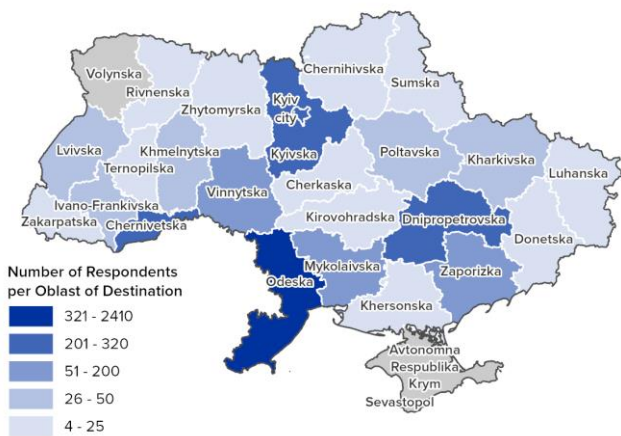
Fig. 3 The main five reported counties for temporary accommodation in Romania (N=1,614)



INTENDED DESTINATION IN UKRAINE

Most respondents stated they intended to get back to the same region of origin or habitual residence in Ukraine (85%), while fourteen per cent said they were going to a different destination. One per cent of the respondents did not know where they were heading (Fig. 5). Compared to their habitual residence in Ukraine, fewer respondents reported to be returning to Donetsk, Kharkivska, Khersonska or Mykolaivska, instead reporting destinations including Chernivetska, Kyivska, Lvivska and Odeska.

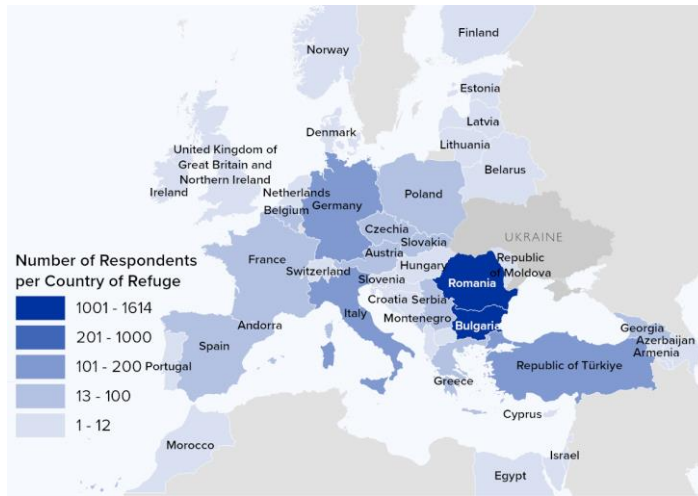
Fig. 5 Destination oblast (N=4,011)



This map is for illustration purposes only. The boundaries and names shown, and the designations used on this map, do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the International Organization for Migration.

While thirty-eight per cent of the respondents were intending to stay in Ukraine for a longer time, thirty-three per cent reported intending to stay for a short time. The remaining twenty-eight per cent did not know how long they would be there for.

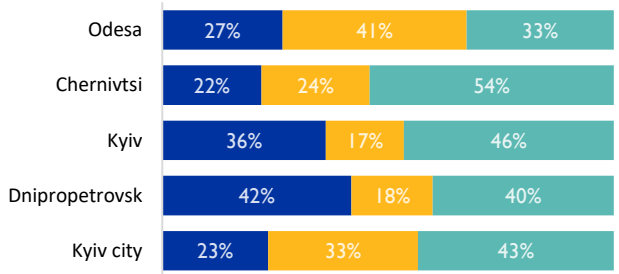
Fig. 4 Reported country of temporary accommodation (N=4,039)



This map is for illustration purposes only. The boundaries and names shown, and the designations used on this map, do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the International Organization for Migration.

Figure 6 presents the main 5 oblast destinations and the intended period of stay of the respondents. The percentages of respondents who intend to stay in Ukraine for a longer period appear to be higher for the oblasts Chernivetska (54%), Kyiv (46%), Kyiv city (43%), and Dnipropetrovska (40%), and lower for Odeska (33%).

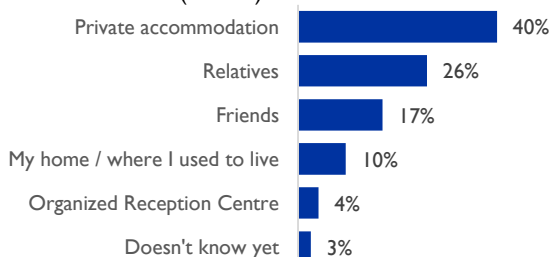
Fig. 6 Main oblast destinations and intention to stay



■ Do not know ■ This is a short visit ■ I intend to stay in Ukraine

The fourteen per cent of respondents who intended to travel to different oblasts to their habitual residence intended to stay mainly in private accommodations (40%) with relatives (26%), or with friends (17%).

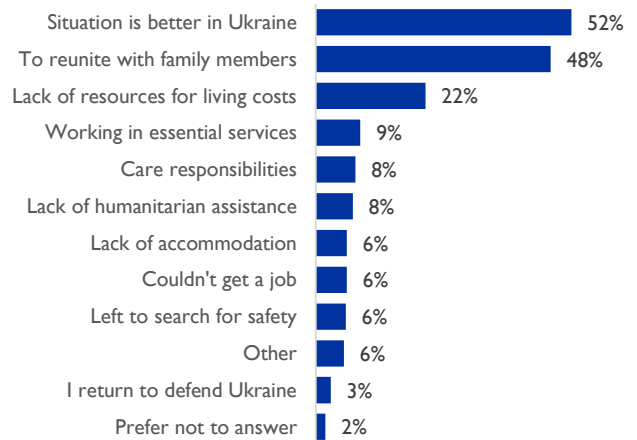
Fig. 7 Where will you be staying in Ukraine if going to a different Oblast? (N=580)



INTENTION TO RETURN LONG-TERM

Among the reasons given by the respondents who intended to travel to Ukraine and stay for a longer time, the improvement of the situation in the country (52%) and the intention to reunite with family members (48%) were the most common. Other reasons included not having enough resources for living costs (22%), their employment in essential services (9%), the urgency of care responsibilities in Ukraine (8%), and the failure to access humanitarian assistance (8%). Difficulty finding employment and lack of available accommodation were also cited by some respondents. The 'Other' category (6%) includes reasons such as the urge to go back home after being away (1%), the need of medical care (1%) and educational services (1%). One per cent of the respondents returned to Ukraine because they experienced hardship while abroad (e.g., discrimination, integration challenges).

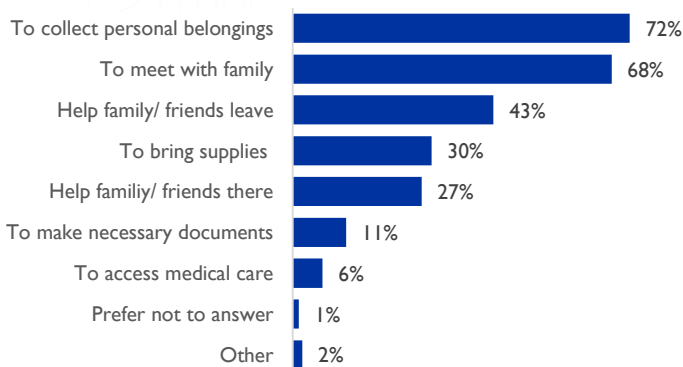
Fig. 8 Why are you returning to Ukraine? (multiple response) (N=1,543)



INTENTION TO RETURN SHORT-TERM

Many of the respondents who intended to travel to Ukraine for a short visit reported doing so to collect their personal belongings (72%), to meet with family (68%), help other family members and/or friends get to the border (43%), bring supplies (30%), help family members and friends in Ukraine (27%), but also to issue necessary documents (11%) or access medical care (6%).

Fig. 9 Why are you returning to Ukraine? (multiple response) (N=1,348)



The majority of respondents who intended to return to Ukraine for a short stay said they planned to stay for around a week (66%). Twenty-one per cent intended to stay for a few days, and thirteen per cent for around a month.

Fig. 10 How long do you intend to stay? (N=1,348)

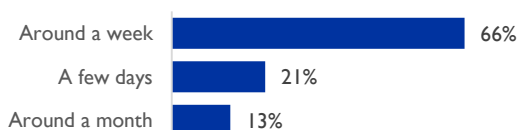
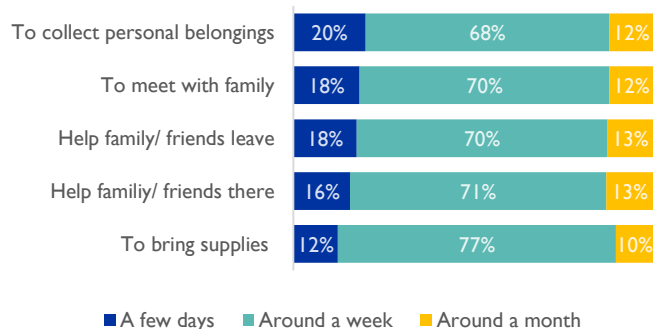


Figure 11 (below) presents the top 5 reasons for returning to Ukraine for a short visit and the duration of stay. Most respondents allocated around one week for their visit. Of the respondents who intended to return to collect their personal belongings, twenty per cent intended to stay for a few days, sixty-eight per cent for around a week and twelve per cent for around a month. A greater percentage of those who said they were returning to Ukraine to bring supplies intended to stay for a week (77%). The majority of those who planned to return to help friends and family there or help others get to the border allocated around a week for their stay (71%, 70%).

Fig. 11 Main five reasons of short-term return and the intended duration of stay



NEEDS

Figure 12 presents the reported needs upon return to Ukraine of those who had been staying in Romania (40%), Bulgaria (38%) and in other countries (22%). Water, food, NFI/ hygiene items, support to return home and transportation support were the most common needs. Overall, respondents who had been staying in Romania or Bulgaria were more likely to report needs upon return to Ukraine than respondents who had been staying elsewhere. The needs for food and water were expressed by eighty-seven per cent of the respondents who stayed in Bulgaria, by eighty per cent of those who stayed in Romania, and by fourteen per cent of those who stayed in other countries. The majority of those who expressed needing NFI/ hygiene items reported staying in Bulgaria (36%). A support to return home was quoted as a need most by those who stayed in Bulgaria (14%).

Fig. 12 Which of the following things you need support with, by country of refuge (select up to 3)

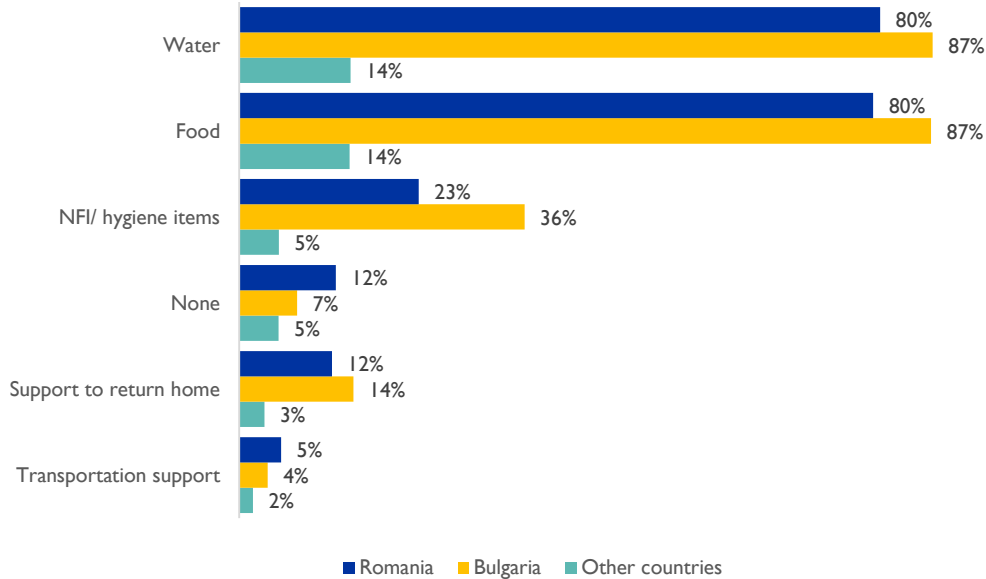
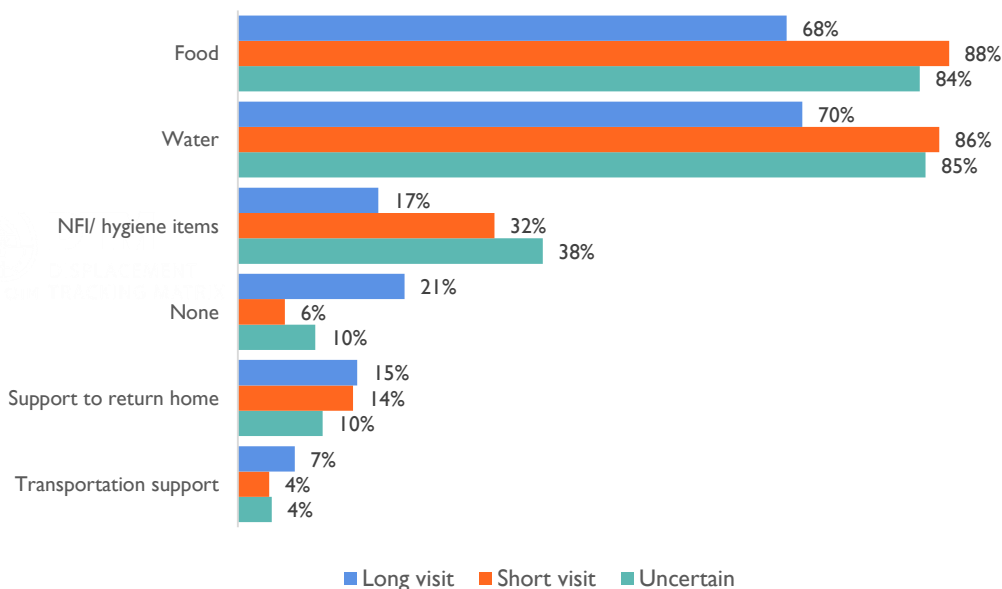


Figure 13 presents the needs of the respondents by their intended period of stay in Ukraine. Those who were returning for a short visit expressed the need for food (88%), water (86%) and NFI/ hygiene items (38%) more frequently than those who intended to return long-term. The respondents who were uncertain about the period of stay in Ukraine frequently mentioned the need of food (84%), water (85%), and NFI/ hygiene items (38%). Most of the respondents who said they had no needs intended to return to Ukraine for a long visit (21%). Moreover, they appeared in higher numbers in the categories of needs 'support to return home' (15%) and 'transportation support' (7%).

Fig. 13 Which of the following things you need support with, by duration of stay (select up to 3)



METHODOLOGY

The 4,044 interviews used in this report were collected by a team of 18 enumerators deployed in four counties in Romania: Bucharest, Iași, Suceava and Tulcea. Four interviews were conducted in other counties including Constanta and Galati. Seventy-five per cent of the interviews were taken at Isaccea border crossing point in Tulcea county. Enumerators included a mix of Ukrainian (12), Romanian (5) and other nationalities (1). Of the enumerators, 16 spoke Russian and/or Ukrainian. Enumerators mainly worked in pairs, with at least one Ukrainian/Russian speaker present. All enumerators were trained on the ethics of data collection and provision of information. All of the active enumerators have received training in protection, concerns and safer referrals as well as prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse, with further trainings scheduled. The questionnaire was available in English, Russian and Ukrainian and the preferred language of questioning was determined by the respondent.

Tab. 1 County in which the interview was conducted

County	Number
Tulcea	3,043
Suceava	685
Bucharest	234
Iași	78
Other	4

LIMITATIONS

The sampling framework was not based on verified figures of Ukrainian refugees and third country nationals entering/exiting through the various BCPs or staying in various counties or sub-counties across Romania. This was due to the limited availability of baseline information. The reported county of refuge in Romania suggests (at least amongst those staying in Romania) that the sampling framework provided responses from a wide range of counties.

Whilst every attempt was made to capture all types of departures at the BCPs, the operational reality of identifying individuals who could comfortably spend 10 minutes responding to the questionnaire meant mainly those travelling via Isaccea, a ferry crossing, were interviewed.

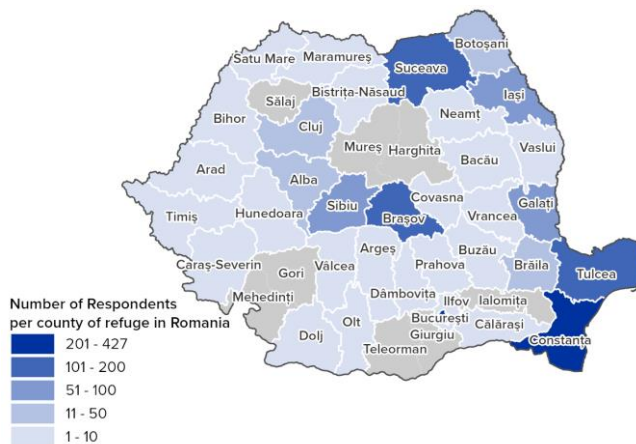
Tab. 2 Type of location in which the interview was conducted

Location type	Number
Border crossing point	3,564
Train station	276
Hotel	98
Bus station	71
Airport	10
Other	25

The types of locations targeted for interviews were border crossing points (BCPs) and transit points (bus stations, train stations, airports). Other locations of interview included collective centres, hotels and private accommodation, where enumerators identified Ukrainians who were about to travel to Ukraine.

Not all enumerators spoke the language of the individual they were interviewing. The questionnaire was available in Ukrainian and Russian, so respondents were able to read and answer questions themselves if they wanted to. All responses were checked for any systematic issues by enumerator and this process did not identify any problems.

Fig. 14 Number of respondents by county of refuge in Romania



This map is for illustration purposes only. The boundaries and names shown, and the designations used on this map, do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the International Organization for Migration.