

**HUNGARY**  
**230 INTERVIEWS**



- 1 BORDER CROSSING POINT
- 2 TRANSIT POINTS
- 1 HELP CENTRE
- 5 COLLECTIVE CENTRES

**BACKGROUND**

Since 24 February 2022, refugees from Ukraine and Third Country Nationals (TCNs) have been fleeing to neighbouring countries as a result of the war. 30,000 refugees from Ukraine and TCNs were registered in Hungary as of 18 October 2022, according to [UNHCR and the Hungarian Government](#).

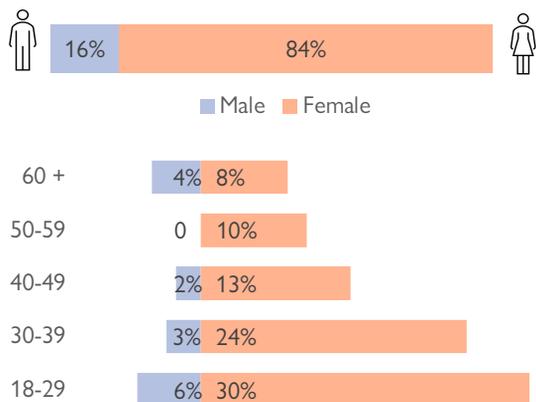
This report is based on a survey on profiles, displacement patterns and needs, launched by IOM's Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM). All interviews were conducted face-to-face by IOM's DTM trained enumerators with adult refugees and TCNs crossing back to Ukraine. The analysis is based on 230 surveys collected between 01 August and 30 September 2022.

Interviews were carried out in various locations, such as Budapest (38) and Záhony – Szabolcs-Szatmár-Bereg County (192), and in various settings, including border crossing and transit points (e.g., train stations), the Help Centre (run by the Budapest Municipality and IOM), and collective accommodations.

*This sample is not representative of all persons crossing back to Ukraine from Hungary, and results should only be considered as indicative.*

**DEMOGRAPHIC PROFILES**

Figure 1: Respondents by gender and age groups



Women constituted the 84 per cent of the interviewed population, while men represented the 16 per cent. Among the age groups, survey respondents between 18-29, 30-39 and 40-49 years old were at 36, 27 and 15 per cent each, while interviewees aged 50-59 and 60 and above were 10 and 12 per cent respectively.

Figure 2: Ukrainian refugees and TCNs



The majority of respondents (93%) were refugees from Ukraine. Seven per cent (17 people) were TCNs, originating from Nigeria (13), Turkmenistan (2), Afghanistan (1), and Kazakhstan (1).

**WHEN RESPONDENTS LEFT UKRAINE AND WHERE THEY STAYED**

Most respondents exited Ukraine in July and March 2022 (namely, 14% and 13%). Sixteen per cent preferred not to disclose when they left the country.

Figure 3: Period of departure from Ukraine

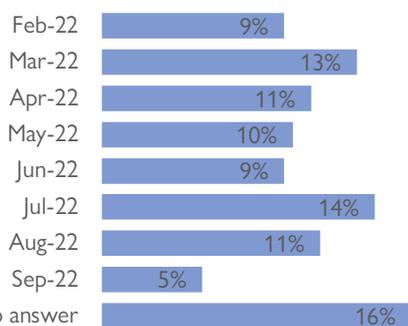
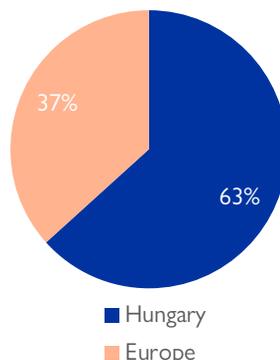


Figure 4: Location of stay since exit from Ukraine



Once exited Ukraine, sixty-three per cent of respondents declared staying in Hungary, while 37% remained in Europe.

In Hungary, sixty-six per cent stayed in Budapest, followed by – Szabolcs-Szatmár-Bereg County (8%).

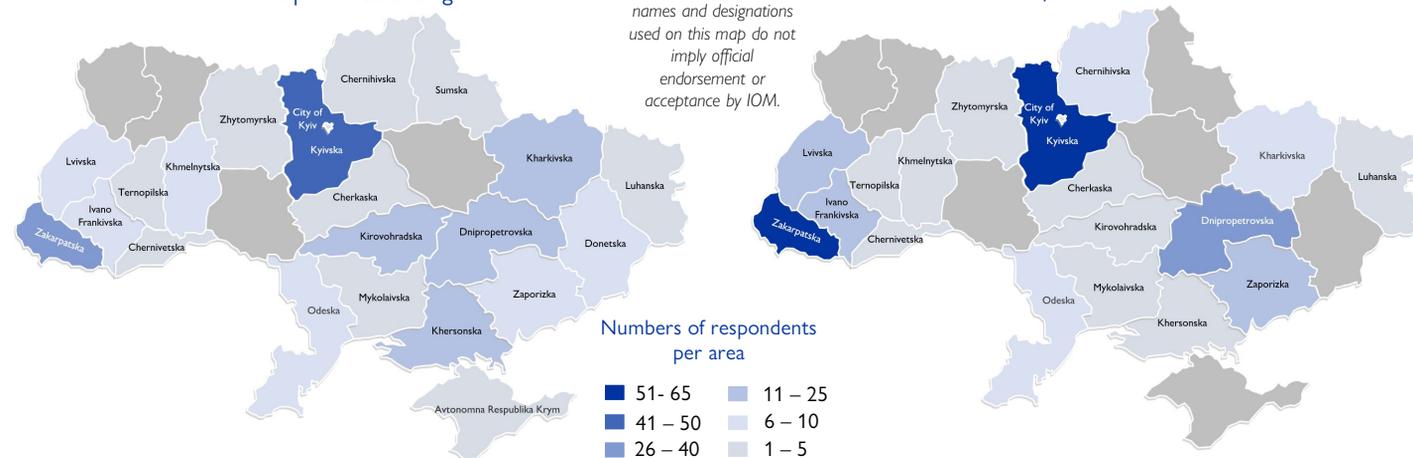
In Europe, interviewees stayed the longest in: Austria (27%); Germany (18%); France (10%); Belgium (8%); Italy (7%); the Netherlands (5%); Croatia, Ireland, the United Kingdom (4% respectively); Cyprus, Czechia, Luxembourg, Portugal, Switzerland (2% respectively); and Montenegro and Slovenia (1% respectively).

AREA OF ORIGIN AND RETURN IN UKRAINE

Map 1: Area of origin

Map 2: Area of return

Note: The boundaries, names and designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by IOM.



Twenty-one per cent of interviewees declared Kyivska as their oblast of origin, followed by Zakarpatska (16%), Dnipropetrovska (10%), Kharkivska (10%) and Khersonska (9%). Sixty-six per cent mentioned returning to the same area in Ukraine, while 33 per cent stated going to different locations. One per cent was not sure about the final destination.

For those not returning to the same area, the following patterns were reported: from Khersonska (19 people) to Kyivska (9), Dnipropetrovska (2), Ternopil (2), the City of Kyiv (2), Zakarpatska (2), Ivano Frankivska (1), and Lvivska (1); from Kharkivska (13) to Zakarpatska (6), Kyivska (4), Ivano Frankivska (2) and Odeska (1); from Kyivska (12) to Lvivska (5), Zakarpatska (5), and Zaporizka (2); from Donetska (8) to Chernihivska (2), Ivano Frankivska (2), Kyivska (2), and Zakarpatska (2); from

Dnipropetrovska (7) to Zakarpatska (4), Kyivska (1), the City of Kyiv (1) and Zaporizka (1); from Kirovohradska (7) to Kyivska (3), Zakarpatska (3) and Zaporizka (1); from Mykolaivska (3) to Ivano Frankivska (1), Zakarpatska (1), and undisclosed destination (1); from Khmelnytska (2) to Dnipropetrovska (1) and Kyiv (1); from Avtonomna Respublika Krym (1) to Kyivska (1); from Chernihivska (1) to Zakarpatska (1); from Ivano Frankivska (1) to Zakarpatska (1); from Lvivska (1) to Zakarpatska (1); and from Sumska (1) to Zaporizka (1).

The main reasons for returning to a different area were: insecurity of the locations of origin (36%); damage or destruction of houses (24%); displacement of families to other areas (14%); and occupation of personal properties by others (12%).

PLACES AND LENGTH OF STAY IN UKRAINE

Once back to Ukraine, fifty-nine per cent of respondents declared staying in their homes, while 17 per cent stated residing in private accommodations, i.e., hotels or private/civic initiatives.

Concerning their length of stay, 52 per cent of interviewees returned for a short visit, while 39 per cent planned to remain in Ukraine. The rest were not sure or preferred not to answer (8% and 1% respectively).

Seventy-two per cent of respondents crossed back to Ukraine for the first time since the outbreak of the war, while this was the second or several occasion for others (11% and 16% respectively).

Figure 5: Intended place of stay in Ukraine

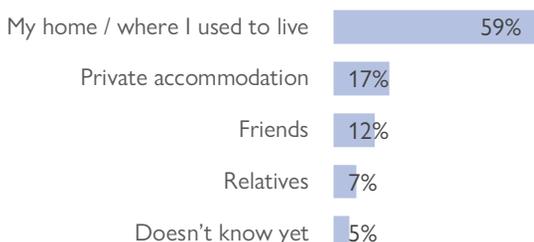


Figure 6: Intended length of stay in Ukraine

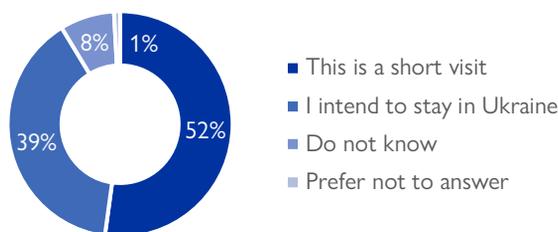


Figure 7: Short visit duration



Most respondents estimated short visits to be around one week (41%) or a few days (30%). Fewer planned to return for a month or more (21% and 8% respectively).

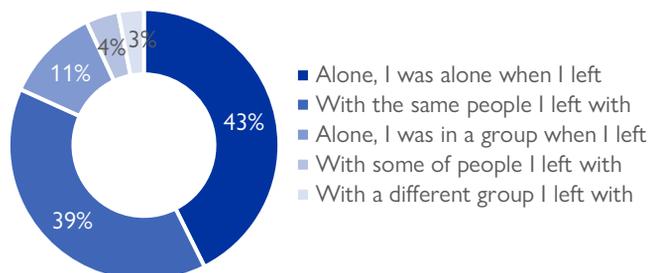
### TRAVELLING CONDITIONS

Forty-three per cent of respondents reported going back to Ukraine alone, while 39 per cent with the same group they had left with. The rest returned with or without companions, with changes compared to their initial exit from the country as shown in *Figure 8* (e.g., crossed back with different people).

All who travelled in a group (46% in total), crossed back with relatives (100%). Other companions included: immediate family members (79%) and friends/neighbours (24%) (as respondents could select multiple replies, the total of the percentages above is higher than 100%).

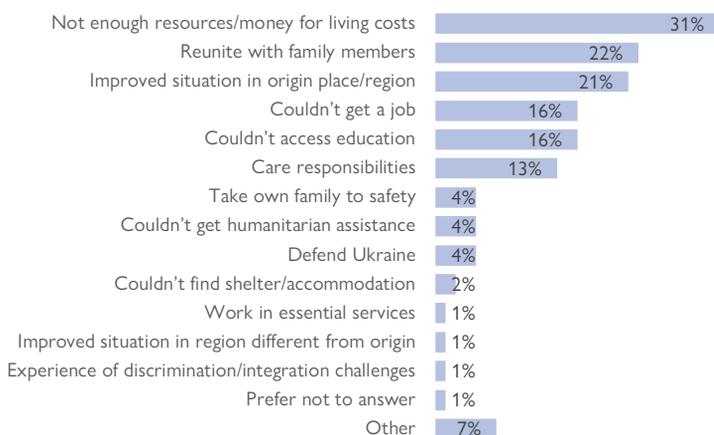
Ninety-six per cent declared travelling back to Ukraine by train, while cars and buses were less popular choices (namely, 2% and 1%). One per cent of interviewees crossed the border on foot.

Figure 8: Travelling alone or in a group



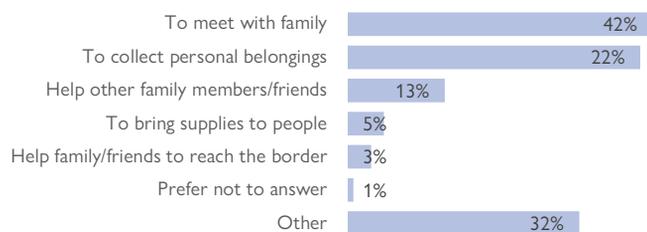
### REASONS FOR CROSSING BACK TO UKRAINE

Figure 9: Reasons for who intends to stay in Ukraine



Note: Respondents could select multiple replies. Hence, the total is higher than 100%.

Figure 10: Reasons for who plans a short visit in Ukraine



Note: Respondents could select multiple replies. Hence, the total is higher than 100%.

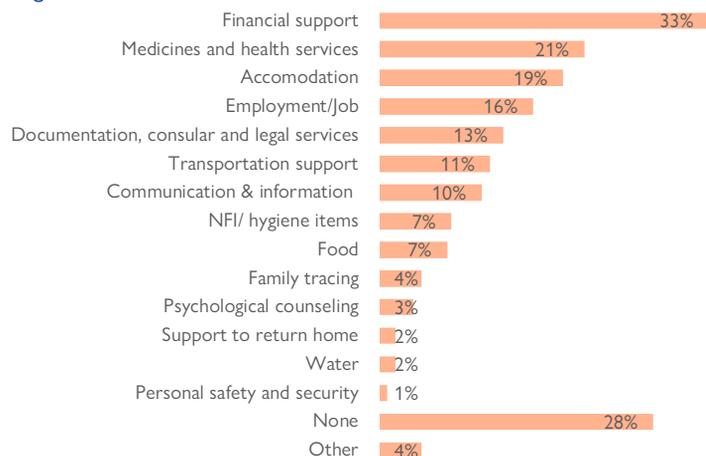
For who planned to remain in Ukraine, living costs (31%), family reunification (22%), and improved situation in the place of origin (21%) were the most relevant factors for returning.

For who intended to go back for a short visit, the most relevant considerations were, again, family (42%) and the collection of personal belongings (22%). Thirty-two per cent of respondents mentioned other reasons, such as missing home and needing access to medical services.

### NEEDS OF PEOPLE CROSSING BACK TO UKRAINE

Most respondents declared needing financial (33%), medical (21%) and accommodation (19%) support. Twenty-eight per cent had no needs.

Figure 11: Main needs



Note: Respondents could select multiple replies. Hence, the total is higher than 100%.

#### Persons with special needs in travelling groups

Travelling groups included:

- **82 children**  
(12 between 0-4 years old  
53 between 5-13 years old  
17 between 14-17 years old)
- **32 older persons**  
(60 years old and above)

**Figure 12: Experience of unfair/unequal treatment**

**Eight per cent** of respondents declared having experienced unfair or unequal treatment out of Ukraine based on their nationality, ethnicity or gender

## METHODOLOGY

IOM's Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM) is a system to track and monitor displacement and population mobility. It is designed to regularly and systematically capture, process and disseminate information to provide a better understanding of the movements and evolving needs of displaced populations, whether on site or en route.

This survey is part of IOM's DTM activities to monitor the profiles, displacement patterns and most immediate needs of the Ukrainian refugees and TCNs crossing back to Ukraine since 24 February 2022. Surveys are collected, among others, in selected exit and transit locations, and in information and collective centres, identified to be the most frequently used by refugees and TCNs returning to Ukraine.

In Hungary, surveys were conducted in Ukrainian, Russian and English by IOM's DTM trained teams of enumerators on a mobile application. The interviews are anonymous and carried out one-on-one with respondents, provided they consent to be interviewed after a brief introduction. Enumerators trained on ethics of data collection, information provision and protection principles, approached people crossing back to Ukraine, to verify their willingness to conduct the survey, which was only addressed to adults (18+).

The survey form was designed by IOM to capture the main displacement patterns for refugees crossing back to Ukraine

following the outbreak of the war. It analyses the demographic profiles of respondents and of the group they are travelling with, if any; it asks about intentions relatively to the permanence in Ukraine; and it gathers information regarding a set of main needs at the moment of the interview.

Various settings were identified to conduct surveys (*see page 1 for specific locations*), to maximise the number of interviews, and reach out to different profiles of individuals. While in border crossing/transit points, such as train stations, the flow of people was higher and interviewees were randomly surveyed (having the same likelihood compared to others to be selected), in other settings, such collective accommodations, respondents were intentionally identified.

Among the limitations encountered during data collection were the reduced time to carry out surveys at transit points and the presence of only four enumerators at the moment of the interviews.

To address the aforesaid shortcomings, and cover different viewpoints, a mixed sampling strategy guided the data collection exercise. Consequently, this analysis does not proportionally represent the whole population and results cannot be deemed representative of a full picture of mobility towards Ukraine from Hungary.



DTM Enumerator conducting an interview at the Záhony train station, in Szabolcs-Szatmár-Bereg County, Hungary © IOM Hungary/2022..