

SURVEYS WITH UKRAINIAN AND THIRD-COUNTRY NATIONALS CROSSING TO UKRAINE: OBSERVED TRENDS IN 2022

Data collected from 16 April to 18 November 2022

Since 24 February 2022, Ukrainians and Third-Country Nationals (TCNs) have been fleeing from Ukraine to neighbouring countries as a result of the war in Ukraine. According to the Moldovan General Inspectorate for Border Police, as of 20th November, a total of 698,131 refugees from Ukraine and TCNs were registered at border crossing points (BCPs) while entering from Ukraine into the Republic of Moldova. At the same time, movements of persons crossing back to Ukraine have also been reported. According to the same source, 370,918 Ukrainian nationals and TCNs, who entered into the Republic of Moldova, from all border control points since 24 February 2022, have exited back to Ukraine (Source: General Inspectorate for Border Police).

Since April 2022, the International Organization for Migration (IOM) has conducted surveys with adults (18 years and above) crossing back to Ukraine, through CBS Axa Research. The crossing back survey is part of IOM's DTM activities that are meant to monitor the displacement patterns, movement flows and intentions, regions of origin, and most immediate needs of refugees from Ukraine and TCNs who fled from Ukraine into neighbouring countries and other European countries since 24 February 2022 and are crossing back into Ukraine.

This report presents an analysis of the evolution of respondents' sociodemographic profiles, travel characteristics, regions of origin, humanitarian needs and intentions over time, during the covered period of 16 April and 18 November. During this period, 6 173 individuals were interviewed, most of whom were Ukrainian citizens (95%) while three per cent were TCNs and two per cent were Moldovan nationals. Data was collected at three main BCPs from the Republic of Moldova to Ukraine: at Otaci BCP (45%), at Palanca BCP and Transit centre (50%), at Tudora BCP (4%). Individuals crossing into Ukraine are not necessarily returnees and the sample is not representative of all persons crossing into Ukraine, results should hence only be considered as indicative. See the last page for a detailed description of the methodology.

KEY FINDINGS

- 6 173 total respondents
- Of those travelling in a group, 76 per cent were travelling with children and 28 per cent with the elderly, and 13 per cent were travelling with a person with a serious health condition
- The share of women respondents travelling alone increased from 48 per cent in April 2022 to 72 per cent in November.
- The largest share of women travelling alone were 60+ years old, while the greatest share of men travelling alone were 50-59 years old.
- The demand for humanitarian assistance increased from 24 per cent in April to 31 per cent in November 2022

SOCIO-DEMOGRAPHIC PROFILE

A total of 6,143 individuals were interviewed between the 16th of April and the 18th of November 2022 at three main border crossing points back to Ukraine. Half of the data was collected at Palanca BCP and Transit center (50%), almost 46 per cent was collected at Otaci BCP, and only 4 at Tudora BCP.

Most respondents travelling to Ukraine were Ukrainian nationals (95%) and the remaining were citizens of other countries, mainly from the Republic of Moldova (3%), Azerbaijan (1%), followed by citizens from Türkiye, Uzbekistan, Russian Federation, Armenia, China, Israel, and other countries (less than 1% each).

Figure 1: Distribution of respondents' number, by month, place of survey and nationality (%)

Month	Surveys	Ukrainians (%)	TCNs and Moldovan nationals (%)	Otaci BCP	Palanca BCP and Transit center	Tudora BCP
April	602	97%	3%	288	314	
May	1,500	95%	5%	568	678	254
June	643	93%	7%	311	329	3
July	877	95%	5%	423	454	
August	624	92%	8%	294	330	
September	802	96%	4%	396	406	
October	639	97%	3%	309	330	
November	456	95%	5%	205	251	
TOTAL	6,143	95%	5%	2,794	3,092	257

The distribution of respondents by nationality remained similar over the studied period. The share of Ukrainian respondents varied between 92 and 97 per cent, and respectively the share of TCNs and Moldovan citizens varied between 3 and 8 per cent.

All survey participants indicated that they were going to Ukraine and cited the war in Ukraine as the initial main reason for displacement from the country.

Gender and age disaggregated data show that most respondents were women (81%), while men accounted for 19 per cent. No respondent identified as neither woman nor man. The gender distribution did not considerably change over the studied period, varying from around 79 to 83 per cent for women and 17 to 21 per cent for men.

The breakdown of interviewed respondents by age cohorts reveals that one-third were aged 30-39 years. Nevertheless, on average, women respondents were younger than men respondents.

Figure 3: Age distribution of respondents, total (%)

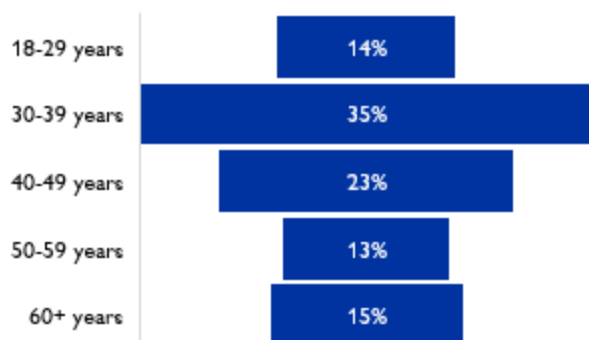


Figure 2: Gender distribution of respondents, by month, 2022 (%)

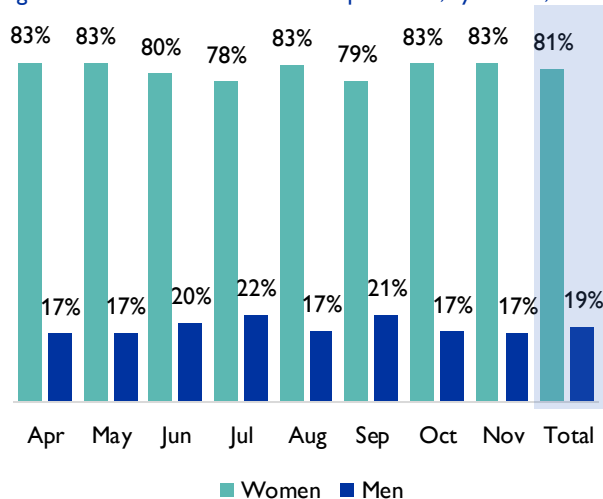
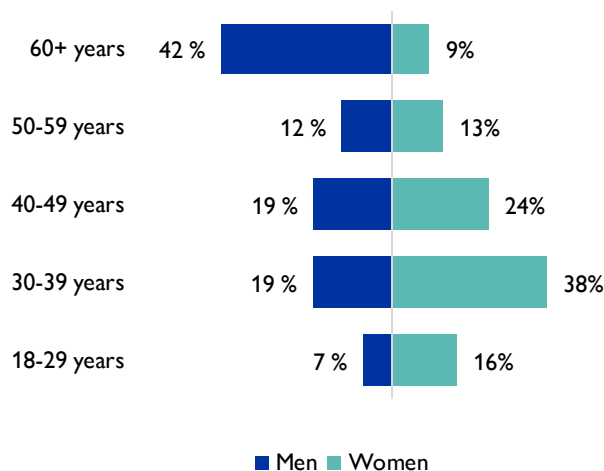
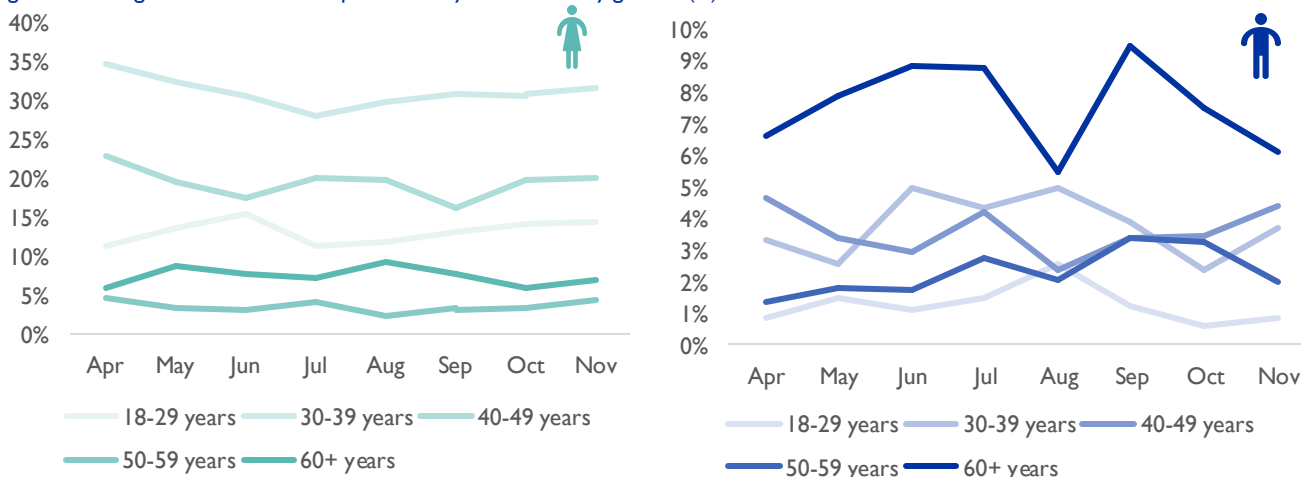


Figure 4: Age distribution of respondents, by gender (%)



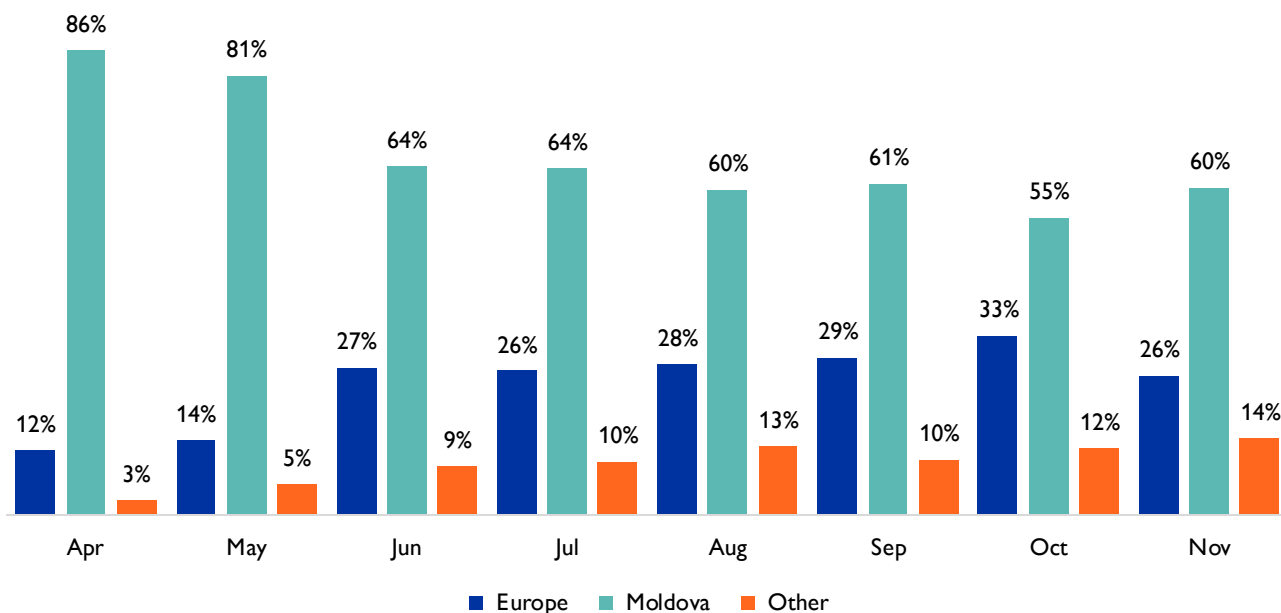
Out of the total 1,140 interviewed men, 42 per cent were above 60 years old. More than one third of women, or 38 per cent, were aged 30-39 years compared to 19 per cent of men from the same age group. The age distribution of respondents did not vary considerably over the studied period. The share of elderly male respondent decreased in August 2022, while the share of male respondents aged 30-39 years increased.

Figure 5: The age distribution of respondents, by month and by gender (%)



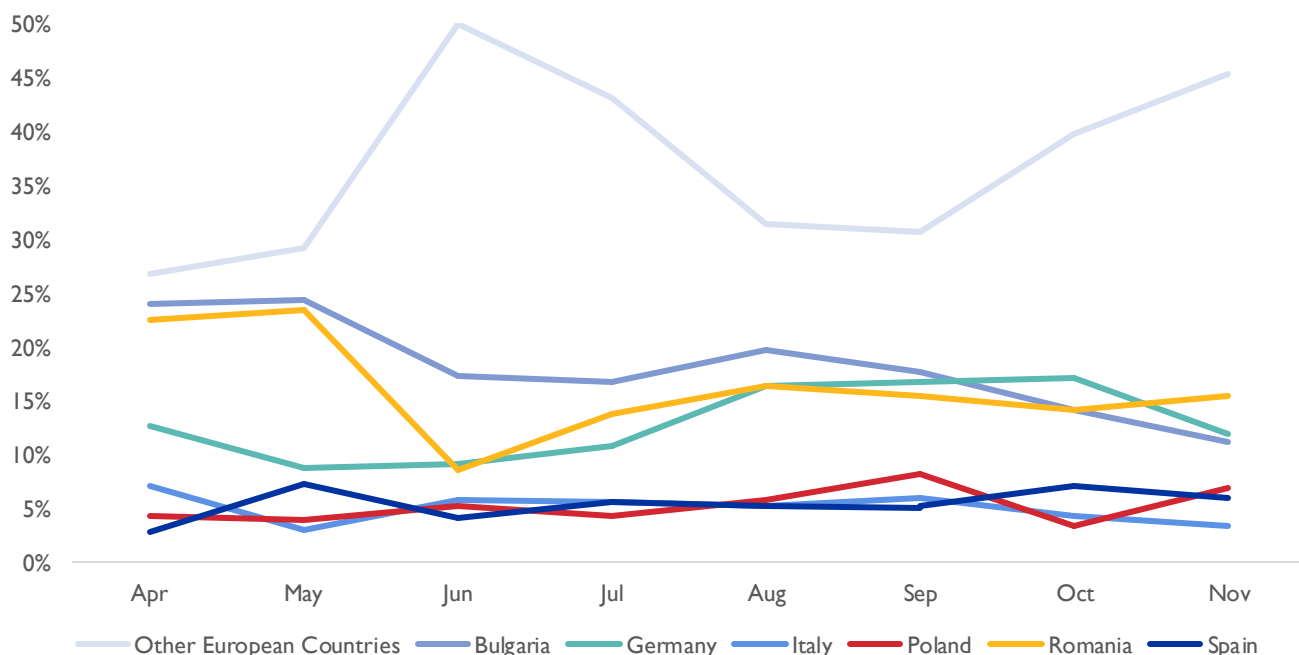
Out of the total 6,143 respondents, 68 per cent have been staying in the Republic of Moldova after fleeing the war in Ukraine, 23 per cent stayed in Europe and the remaining 9 per cent stayed in other countries. The share of respondents who reported staying in the Republic of Moldova decreased over the studied period, from 86 per cent in April to 60 per cent in November 2022, while the share of those staying in Europe increase from 12 per cent to 26 per cent. The share of those who have been staying in other countries than Europe or the Republic of Moldova, also increased from 3 to 14 per cent.

Figure 6: Main countries of staying since fleeing Ukraine, by month, 2022 (%)



Among those who have been staying in Europe, many reported staying in Bulgaria (18%), Romania (16%), Germany (13%), Spain (6%), Poland (5%), Italy (5%) and other European countries (37%). The share of respondents declaring staying in Bulgaria decreased over the studied period passing from 24 per cent to 12 per cent, the same as of those staying in Romania (decreased from 23% to 15%). The share of respondents who declared staying in Germany followed a wave shaped trend with a maximum of 17 per cent in October and a minimum of 9 per cent in May 2022. The share of those who reported staying in Italy, Poland and Spain varied between 3 and 7 per cent.

Figure 7: Main countries of staying in Europe since fleeing Ukraine, by month, 2022 (%)



Out of a total 4,147 respondents (68%) who declared staying in the Republic of Moldova after leaving Ukraine, more than half were residing in Chisinau (52%), followed by the districts of Transnistria region (7%), Ocnita (7%), Balti (5%), Donduseni (3%), and others (26%). The cities of residence of respondents in the Republic of Moldova varied slightly over the period.

The share of respondents residing in Chisinau decreased over the studied period (from 53% to 46%) as a result of an increase in the share of those staying in other districts in the Republic of Moldova indicating probably further distribution of refugees within the country's territory. For example, the share of the respondents staying in Cahul and Drochia increased from 1 to 3 per cent over the period, respectively.

The majority of those who have been staying outside of Europe and the Republic of Moldova were living in Türkiye (40%), Azerbaijan (14%), Israel (13%), Egypt (5%), Georgia (5%) and other countries. The share of respondents who reported staying in Türkiye and Azerbaijan followed a wave-shaped trend of consecutive decreases and increases.

Figure 8: Main areas of residence in the Republic of Moldova since fleeing Ukraine, by month, 2022 (%)

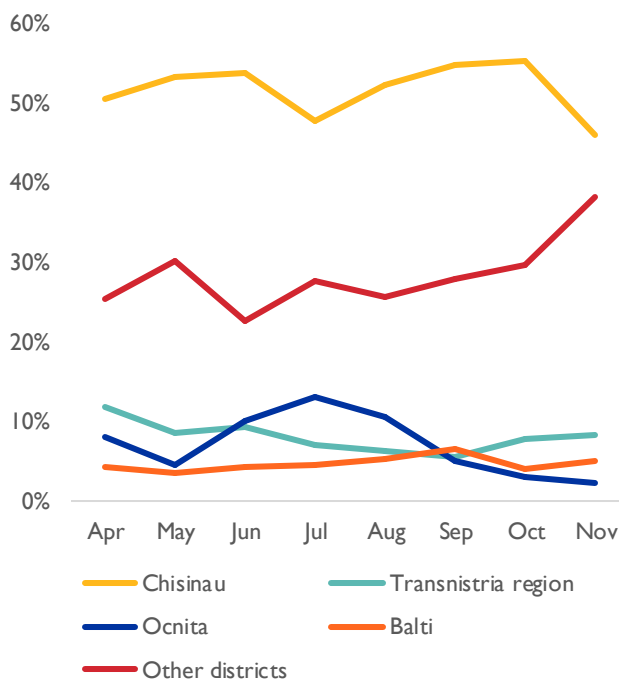
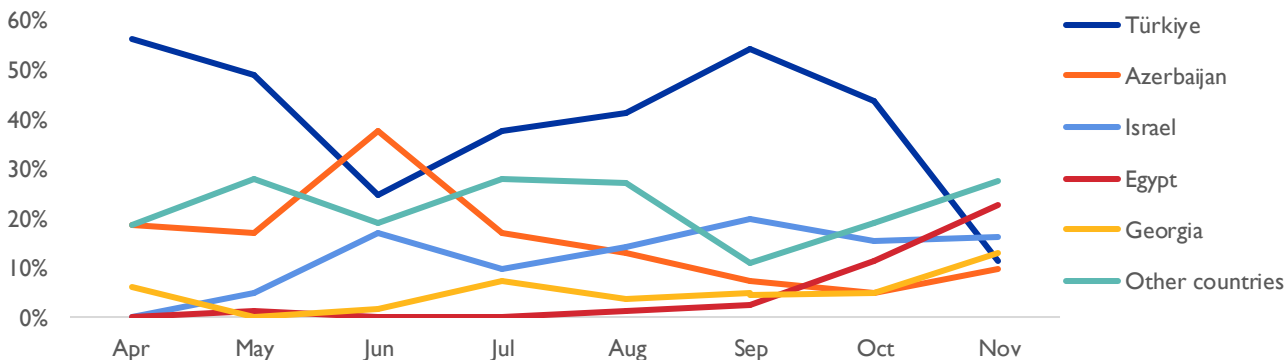


Figure 9: Main countries of staying outside Europe and the Republic of Moldova since fleeing Ukraine, by month, 2022 (%)

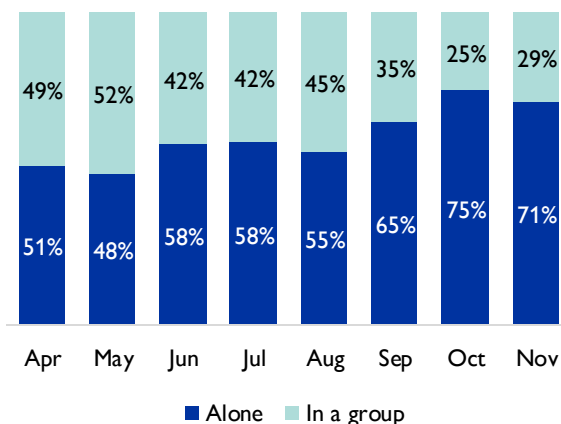


The number of respondents who reported staying in other than European countries or the Republic of Moldova, n=539.

TRAVEL CHARACTERISTICS

Most of those interviewed were returning to Ukraine alone (58%), and the remaining 42 per cent were travelling within a group, of the same or different group of people than those they exited Ukraine with. Since the onset of the war, there have been more people who report travelling on their own which is indicating of a shift in the travel mode. In April 2022, 51 per cent of respondents reported travelling alone and 49 per cent reported respectively travelling in a group. In November 2022, 71 per cent reported travelling alone and 29 per cent reported travelling in a group.

Figure 10: Distribution of respondents by travel mode while crossing back to Ukraine, by month, 2022 (%)



A breakdown by gender proves that the shift in the travel mode is mainly due to a shift in the travel characteristics of women respondents. The share of women respondents travelling alone increased from 48 to 72 per cent while the share of men respondents traveling alone oscillated around 65 per cent.

Figure 11: Distribution of women respondents by travel mode while crossing back to Ukraine, by month, 2022 (%)

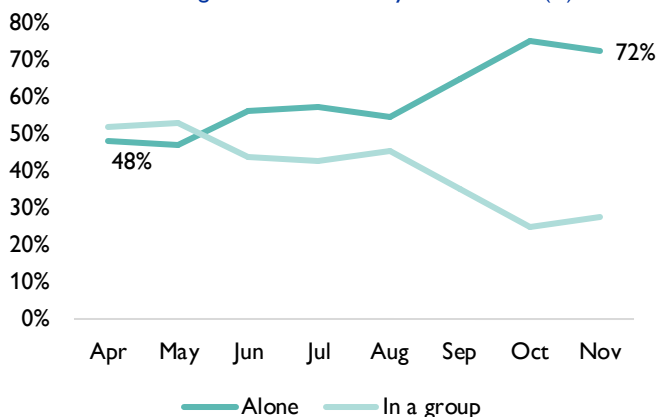
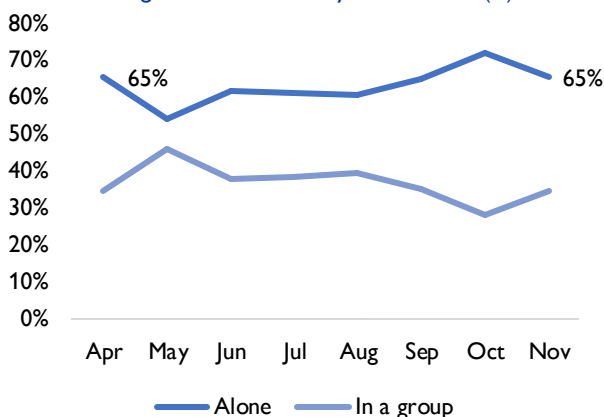


Figure 12: Distribution of men respondents by travel mode while crossing back to Ukraine, by month, 2022 (%)



A breakdown by age and gender shows that the largest share of women travelling alone were 60+ years old, while the greatest share of men travelling alone were 50-59 years old.

Figure 13: Distribution of women respondents by age and by travel mode (%)

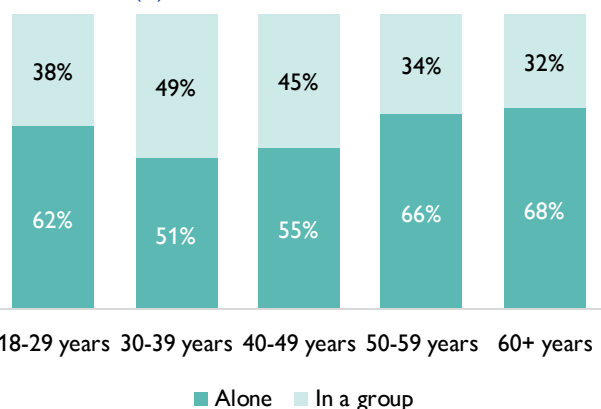
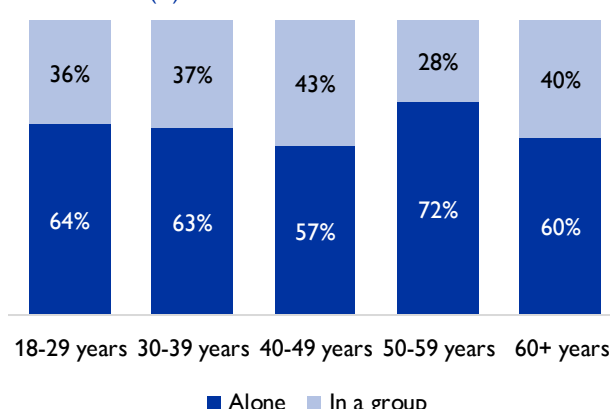


Figure 14: Distribution of men respondents by age and by travel mode (%)



The share of older women travelling alone was at its highest level in August (17%) and at its lower point in April and November 2022 (7%).

Figure 15: Age distribution of women respondents travelling alone, by month, 2022 (%)

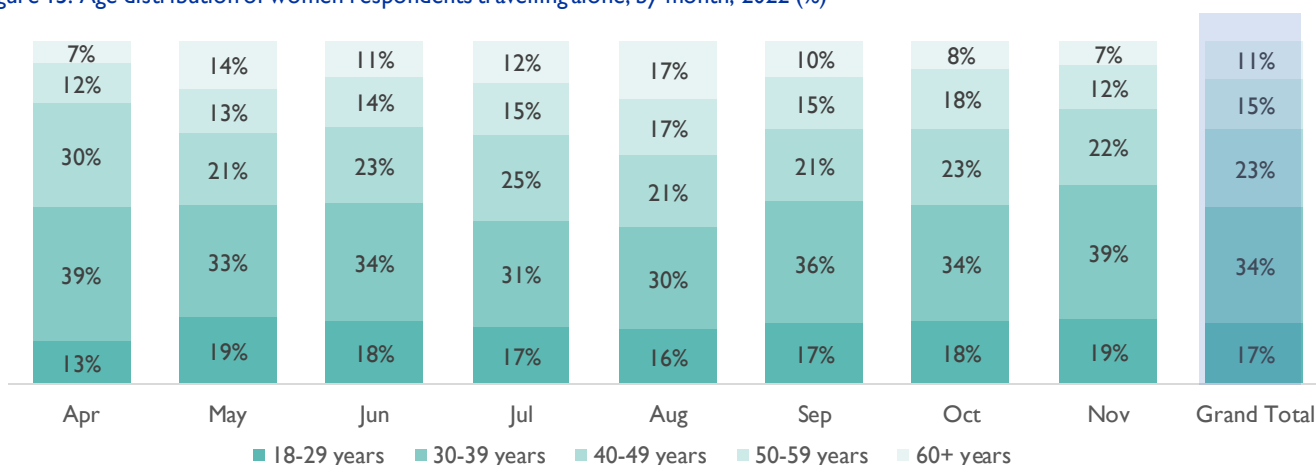
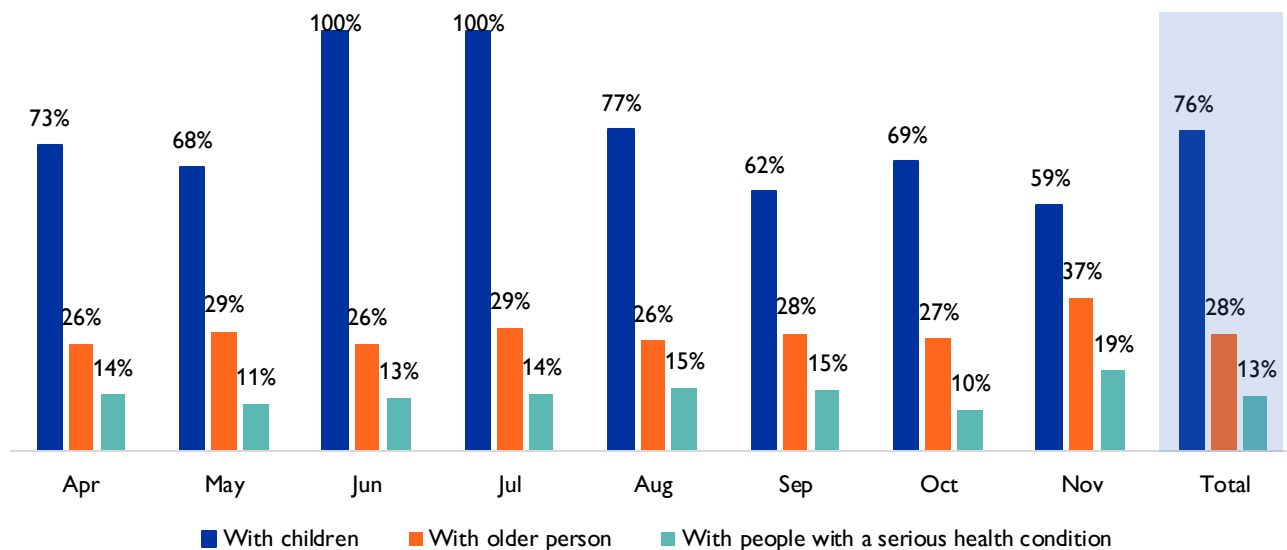


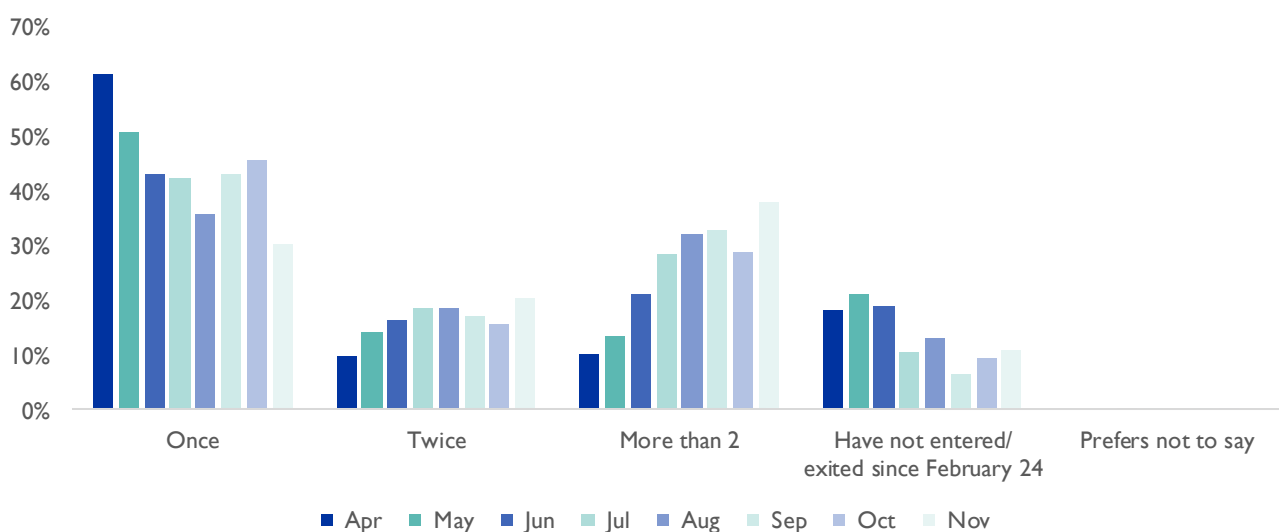
Figure 16: Distribution of respondents travelling in a group with children, older and persons with serious health conditions, by month 2022 (%)



Among those travelling in a group, 88 per cent were travelling with immediate family members, 11 per cent were travelling with relatives and 8 per cent were travelling with friends and neighbours (this question allowed multiple answers therefore the sum doesn't equal 100 per cent).

Of those travelling in a group, 76 per cent were travelling with children and 28 per cent with older persons, and 13 per cent were travelling with a person with a serious health condition. The share of those travelling in a group and with at least one child oscillated between 59 and 100 per cent, while the share of those travelling with the elderly and with people with serious health conditions oscillated between 26 and 29 per cent and between 10 and 19 per cent respectively over the period.

Figure 17: Number of crossings at the Moldovan/Ukrainian border, by month, 2022 (%)



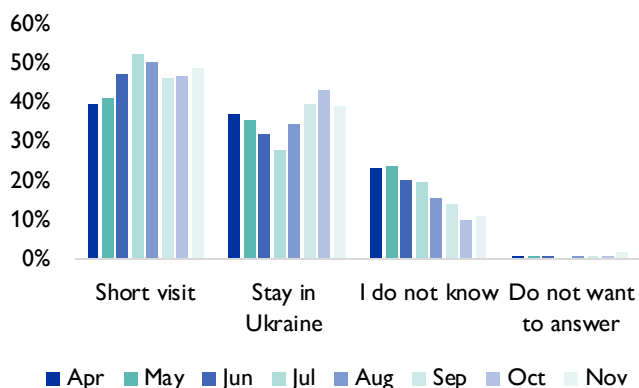
Out of the total number of respondents, 45 per cent were crossing the border between Ukraine and the Republic of Moldova only once since the beginning of the war, 16 per cent travelled back twice and 24 per cent travelled back more than twice. About 15 per cent did not cross the border since 24 February 2022 and only five respondents preferred not to answer this question.

The share of those who were declaring crossing the border only once decreased over the studied period, passing from 61 per cent to 30 per cent, respectively the share of those who declared crossing more than twice the border increased passing from 10 to 20 per cent.

INTENTIONS

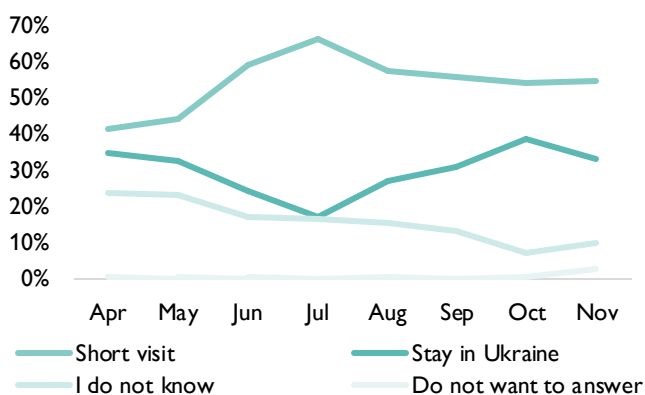
When asked about their intentions almost a half of the respondents (46%) reported that they were travelling for a short visit, 36 per cent reported that they intend to stay in Ukraine, around 18 per cent were unsure of their intention and less than one per cent didn't want to answer to this question.

Figure 18: Reported intended duration of stay in Ukraine, by month, 2022 (%)



Over the studied period, the share of respondents who declared staying for a short visit followed a wave-shaped trend of increase and decline (passing from 40% to 49% with a maximum of 52%). The share of those who intended to stay in Ukraine followed a U-shaped trend (from 37% to 39% with a minimum of 28%).

Figure 20: Reported intended duration of stay in Ukraine – respondents residing in Republic of Moldova, by month, 2022 (%)



The share of respondents who intended to stay in Ukraine was oscillating around 30 per cent of respondents residing in the Republic of Moldova and Europe. The share of respondents who were residing in other countries and intended to stay in Ukraine oscillated from 56 to 70 per cent. The share of respondents who intended to stay in Ukraine decreased for those who were residing in Europe (from 48% to 35%) probably indicating that Ukraine refugees who moved to European countries consider European countries for a long-term or permanent settlement.

Figure 19: Reported intended duration of stay in Ukraine – respondents residing in Europe, by month, 2022 (%)

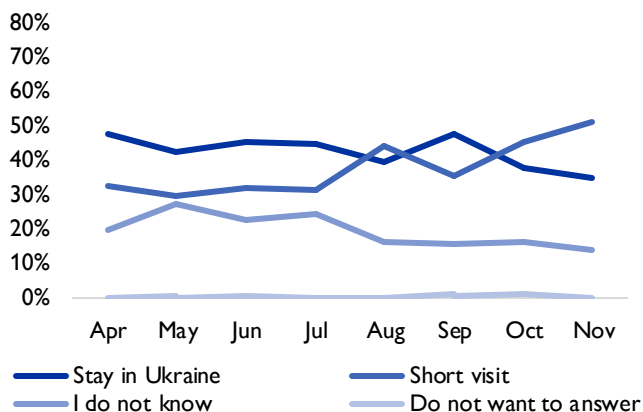
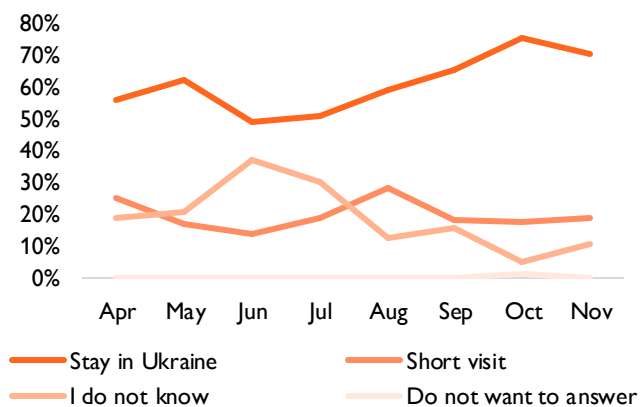


Figure 21: Reported intended duration of stay in Ukraine – respondents residing in other countries, by month, 2022 (%)



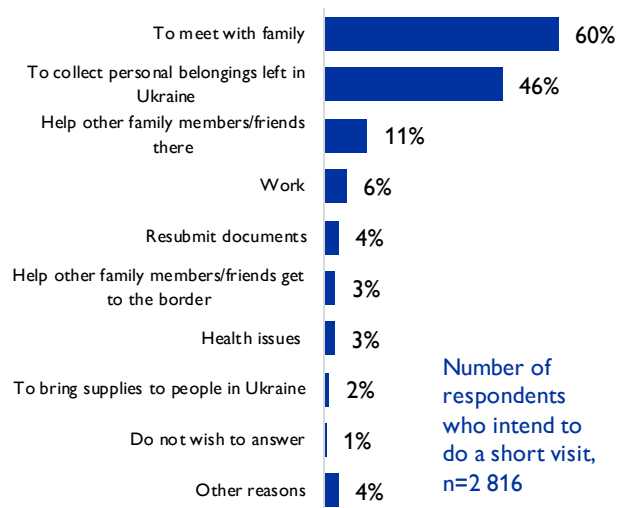
Among those who reported their intention to stay in Ukraine, around 48 per cent reported that they want to reunite with family members, 28 per cent perceived that the situation was improving in their place of origin and other 5 per cent considered that the situation is better in Ukraine, 8 per cent declared that they work in essential services, 7 per cent that they exited to take family members to safety, and other reasons.

Among those who intended to do a short visit to Ukraine, 60 per cent of all respondents reported that they want to meet with family members in Ukraine, and 46 per cent that they were travelling to collect personal belongings. Other main reasons expressed by respondents were the intent to help other family members (11%), to work (6%), to obtain documents and passports (4%), to see a doctor (3%), to help someone else reach the border (3%), and to bring supplies to people in Ukraine (2%).

Figure 22: Reported reasons among respondents intending to stay in Ukraine (% , more than one possible option)



Figure 23: Reported reasons among respondents intending to do a short visit to Ukraine (% , more than one possible option)



The share of reported reasons for those who stay in Ukraine or do a short visit was similar between rounds. Among those whose intention was to stay in Ukraine, an increasing number declared that their main reason for crossing-back is to reunite with family and a decreasing number reported that the situation is better in their place of origin or region (a decrease from 27% to 19%). Among those whose intention was to do a short visit to Ukraine, an increasing number declared their main reason for crossing back was to meet with family (from 53% to 66%) and to collect personal belongings (from 43% to 58%).

Figure 24: Reported reasons among respondents intending to stay in Ukraine, by month, 2022 (% , more than one possible option)

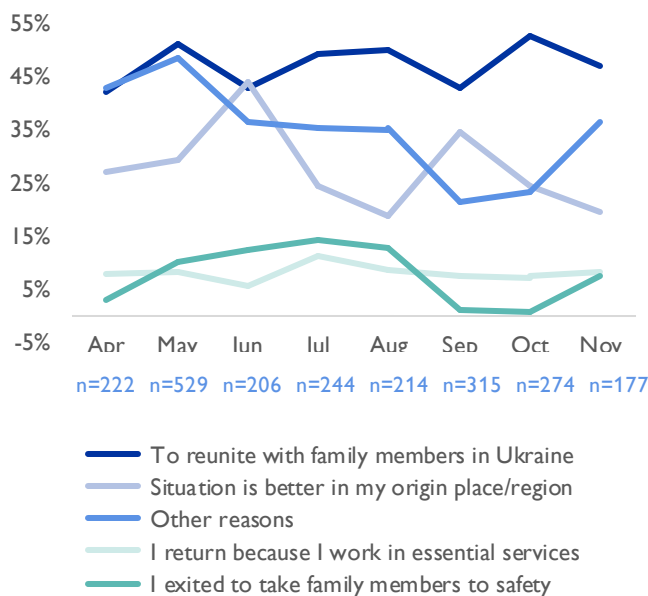
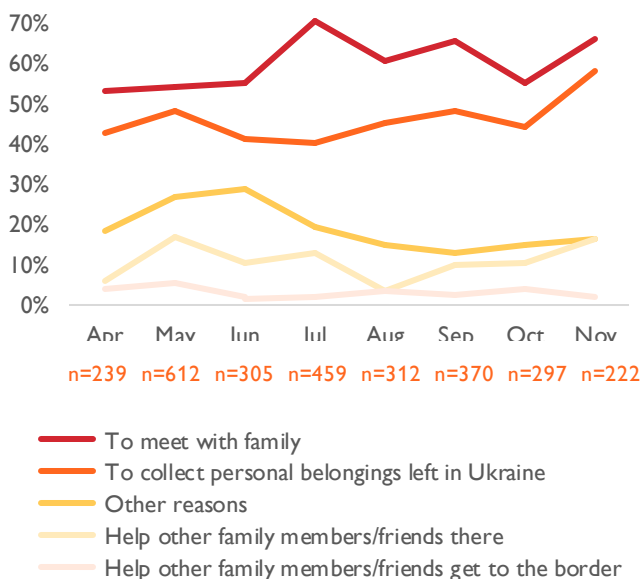
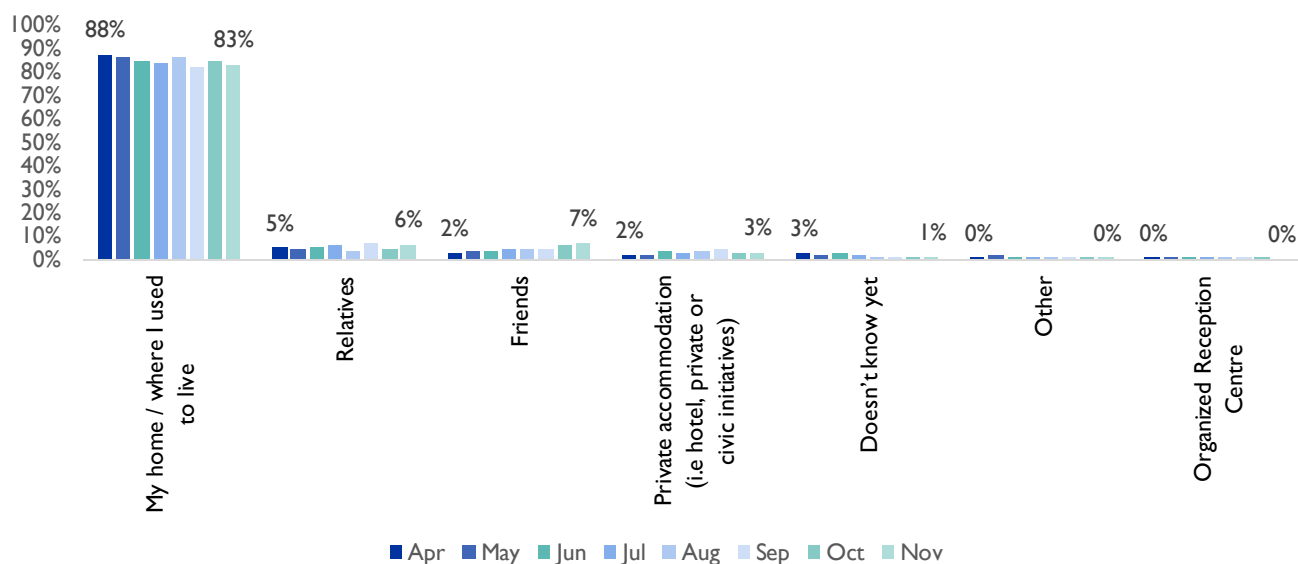


Figure 25: Reported reasons among respondents intending to do a short visit to Ukraine, by month, 2022 (% , more than one possible option)



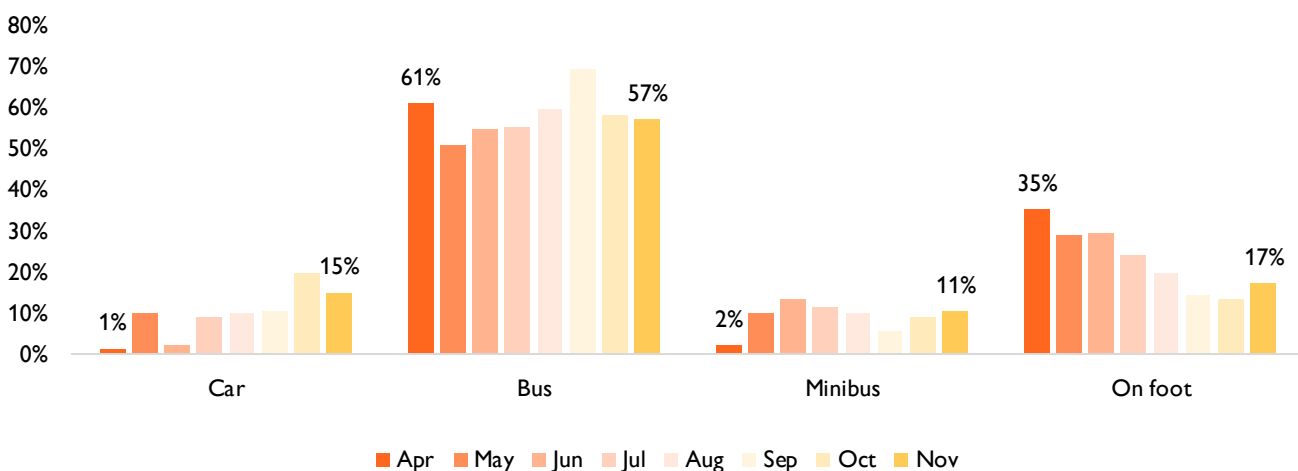
Most refugees from Ukraine and TCNs interviewed reported that they intend to stay in their homes or their usual place of residence in Ukraine (85%), while 5 per cent were planning to be hosted by relatives and another 4 per cent to stay with friends. Around 3 per cent planned to stay in hotels or other private accommodations. Less than 1 per cent reported staying at organized reception centers and the remaining 2 per cent reported not knowing or other.

Figure 26: The reported place of stay while back in Ukraine, by month, 2022 (%)



The share of those who intended to stay in their homes while back in Ukraine slightly decreased over the studied period (from 88 % to 83%) and the share of those declaring to stay with friends slightly increased (from 2% to 7 %). The share of those declaring to stay with relatives, in private accommodation or organized reception centers remained stable.

Figure 27: The means of transportation of respondents to Ukraine (%)



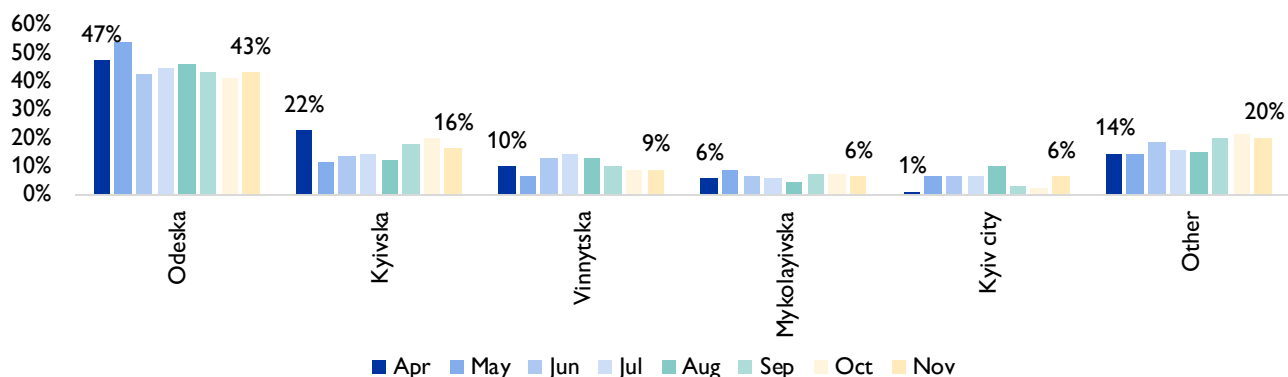
Out of the total of 6 143 respondents, 57 per cent were going back by car, 24 per cent on foot, 10 per cent by bus and the remaining 9 per cent by minibus.

The share of those who were returning to Ukraine by bus and by minibus increased over the period (passing from 1% to 15% and from 2% to 11 % respectively), while the share of those who were travelling by foot decreased (from 35% to 17%). The share of those travelling by bus oscillated between 69 per cent and 51 per cent but did not show any significant trend.

REGIONS OF ORIGIN AND DESTINATION IN UKRAINE

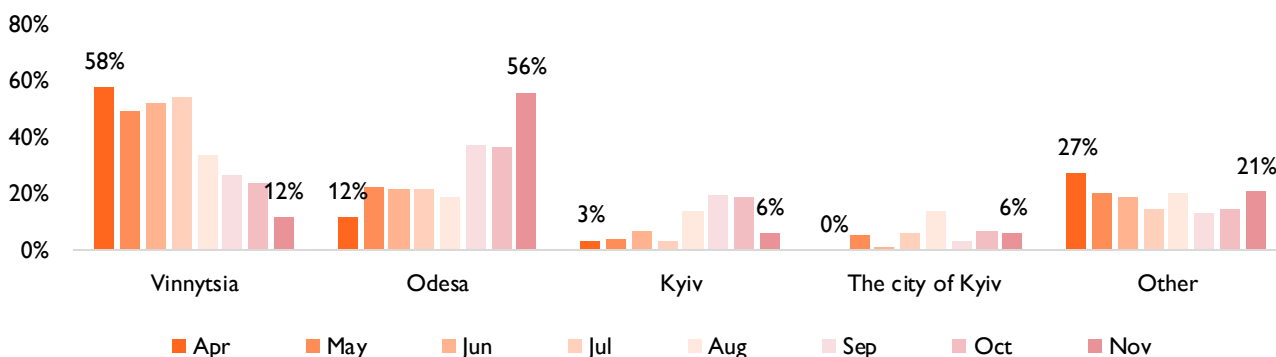
The Odeska region was reported by 46 per cent of respondents as the region of usual residence before leaving Ukraine, followed by the Kyivska region (15%), the Vinnytska region (10%), the Mykolayivska region (7%), the city of Kiev (5%), and others (17%). The share of respondents returning to Odeska and Kyivska region decreased over the studied period (passing from 47% to 43% and from 22% to 16%) and the share of those going to city of Kyiv and other oblast increased (passing from 1% to 6% and from 14% to 20% respectively). The vast majority of respondents (90%), reported that they intend to go back to the same region, 9 per cent reported their intention to go to another region while 1 per cent did not know. The distribution of respondents by intended destination remained approximately the same between the rounds. The share of those who declared returning to the same region of habitual residence oscillated between 89 and 91 per cent, of those who were going to a different region oscillated between 9 and 11 per cent and the share of those who did not know was around 1 per cent.

Figure 28: Regions of origin/habitual residence of respondents, before leaving Ukraine, by region and by month, 2022 (%)



Among the respondents going to another region, the most reported region was Vinnytska (42%), followed by Odeska (26%), Kyivska region (9%), city of Kiev (5%), and others (18%). The share of those returning to a different region and going to Vinnytsia decreased over the period passing from 58 to 12 per cent and the share of those going to Odeska increased passing from 12 to 56 per cent. For other oblasts, the distribution remained approximately the same.

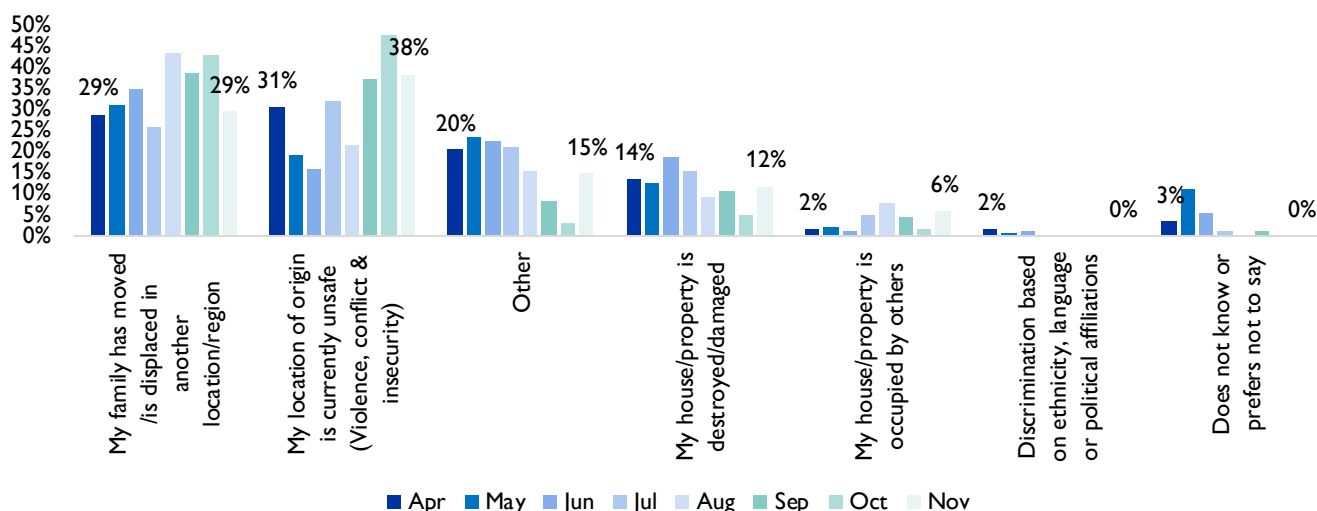
Figure 29: Distribution of respondents going to another oblast in Ukraine, by region and by round (%)



Among the reasons not to go back to their place of origin, 36 percent of respondents mentioned that their family had moved or been displaced to another part of the country. Other reported reasons were that their place was currently unsafe (30%), that their house was destroyed (13%), or that their property is occupied (4%), and some respondents reported other reasons, for example, the need to take documents (3%), to obtain documents and passports (2%), to take personal belongings (2%), etc.

The share of those who declared to move to another region than their habitual place of origin due to the fact that their family moved or was displaced to another location oscillated between 26 and 49 per cent over the studied. The share of those who reported that their location of origin was unsafe increased (from 31% to 38%). Those who declared that their property is damaged or destroyed slightly decreased (from 14% to 12%), and the share of those who declared other reasons remained almost the same.

Figure 30: Reasons not to go back to their place of origin, by region (% , more than one possible option)



The number of respondents not returning to their place of origin, Apr n = 59, May n = 136, Jun, n=75, Jul, n=85, Aug, n=65, Sep, n=86, Oct, n=63, Nov, n=34.

MAIN NEEDS AT EXIT POINTS

From April through November 2022, the top five reported needs remained the same, but the ranking of these shifted slightly. The top reported needs among all respondents were financial support (12%), medicines and health services (6%), food (5%), employment (4%), and NFI/hygiene items (3%). The need for financial support increased over the studied period, from 10 to 17 per cent. In November 2022, there was an increase in the per cent of respondents reporting a need for food (it increased from 4% to 8%) and NFI/hygiene items (from 2% to 8%), and an increase in need for health services and medicines (5% to 6%).

Figure 31: Main needs reported at the exit crossing points (% , more than one possible option)

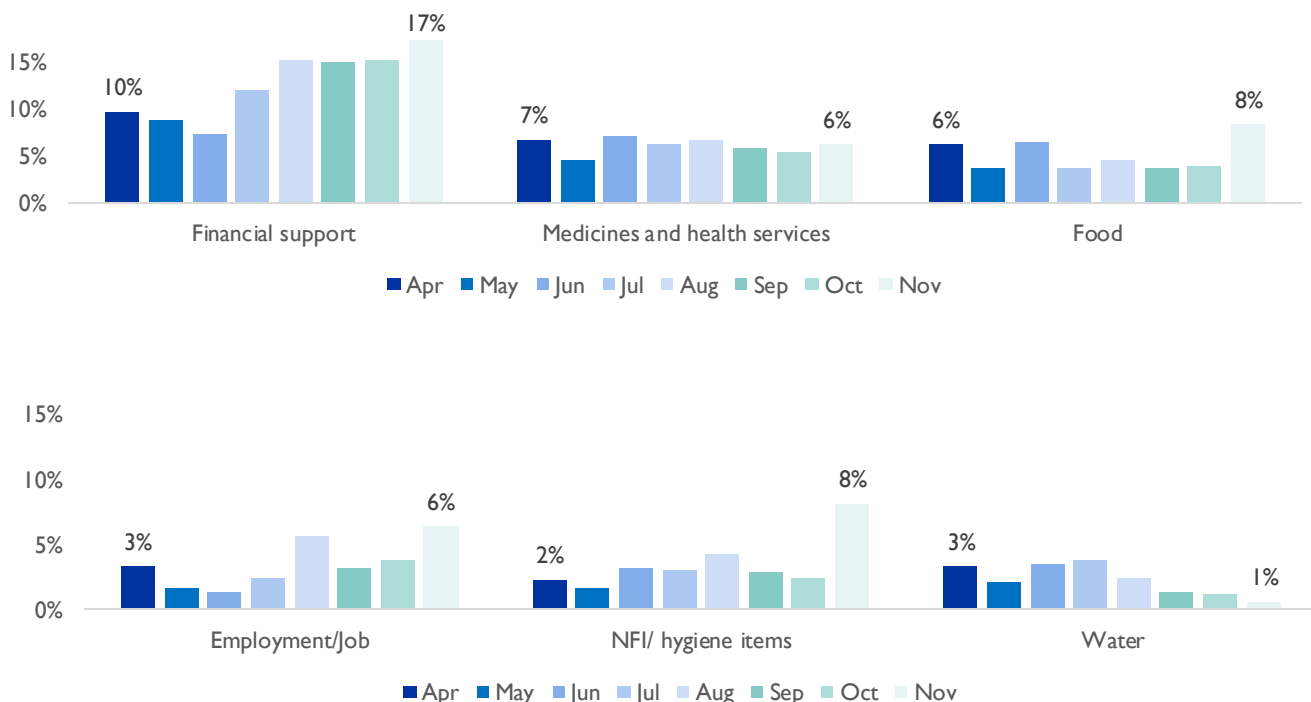
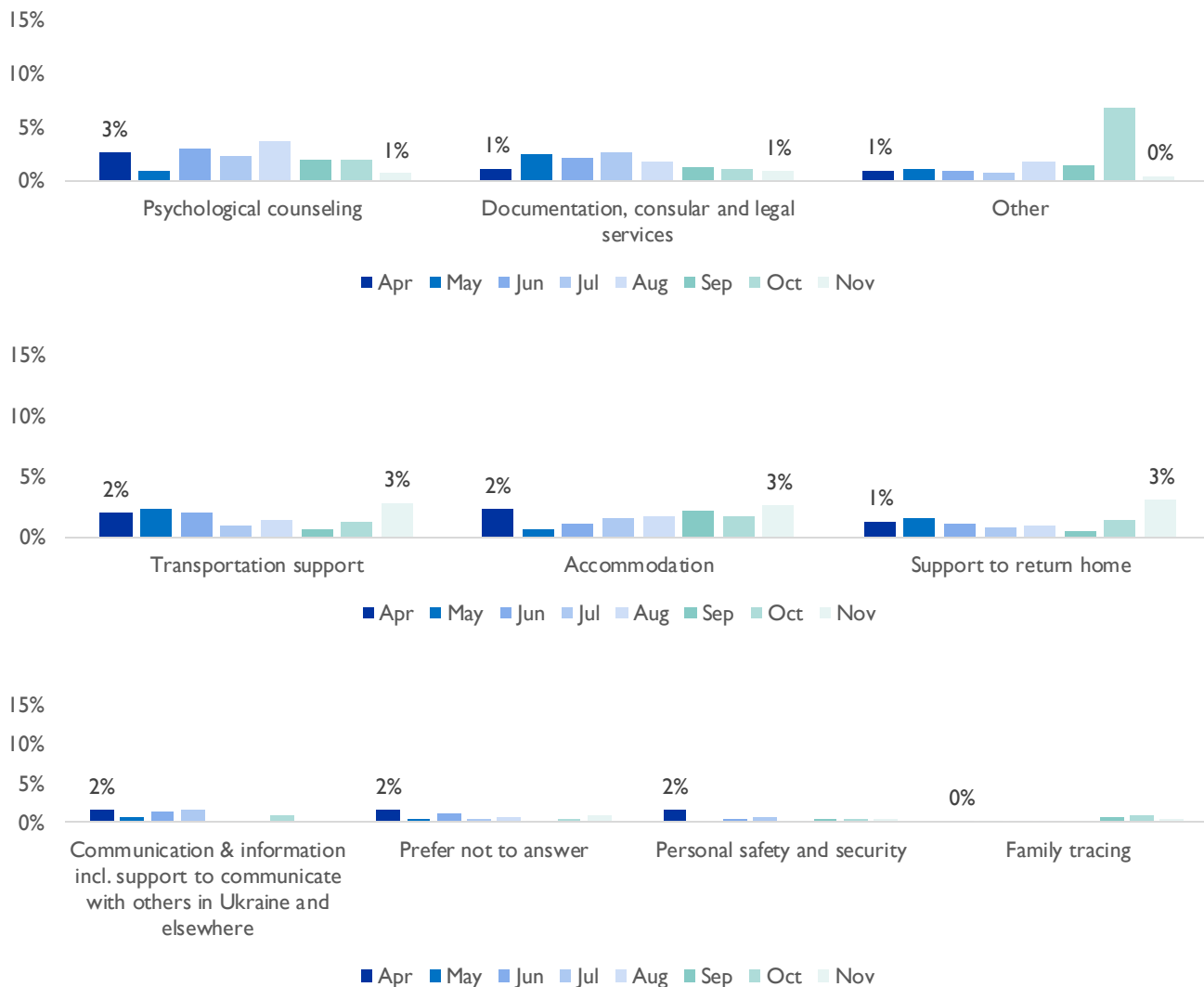


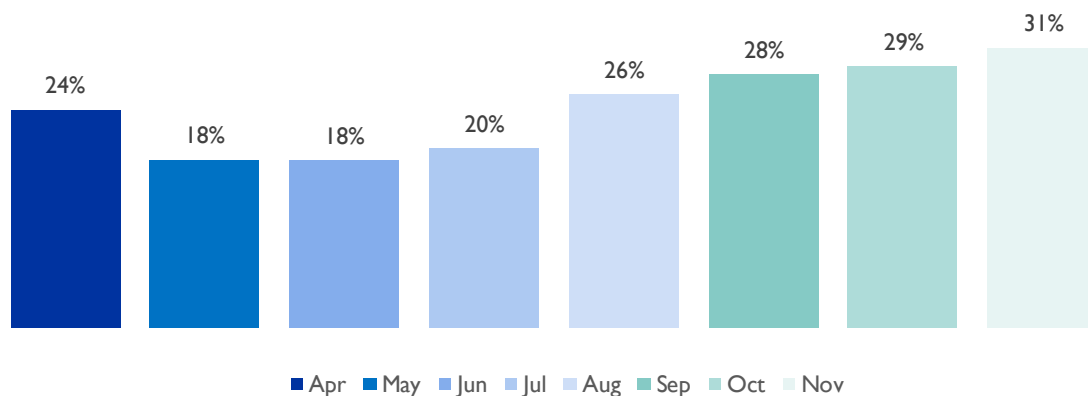
Figure 31: Main needs reported at the exit crossing points (% , more than one possible option)



The number of respondents, Apr n = 602, May n = 1500, Jun, n=643, Jul, n=877, Aug, n=624, Sep, n=802, Oct, n=639, Nov, n=456.

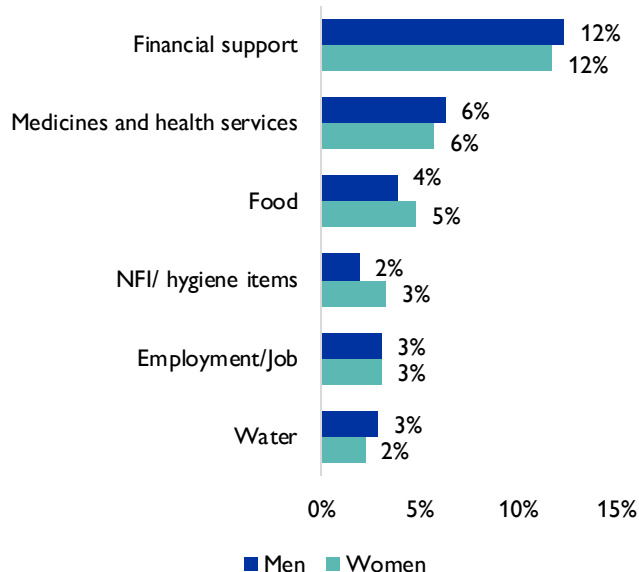
The overall percentage of respondents reporting any needs increased from 24 per cent in April to 31 per cent in November 2022 indicating a rise in demand for humanitarian assistance.

Figure 32: The percentage of respondents reporting any needs, by month, 2022



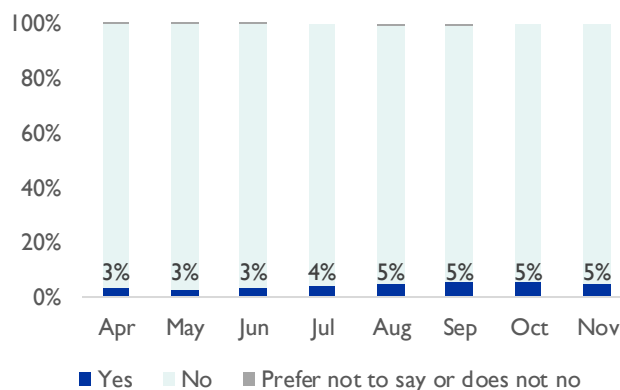
Women compared to men reported more frequently the need for food (5%) and NFI and hygiene item (3%), while men reported more frequently the need for financial support, medicine and health services (6%) and employment (3%).

Figure 33: Main reported need, by gender (%)



Around 5 per cent of all respondents reported that they and/or their family members experience unfair or unequal treatment based on nationality, ethnicity, or gender since they left their usual place of residence in Ukraine. Less than 1 percent did not know or preferred not to answer this question, while the majority did not report any such experience. The share of those who reported unfair or unequal treatment increased from April to November (from 3% to 5%).

Figure 34: The share of those who reported unfair or unequal treatment, by month, 2022 (%)



METHODOLOGY

The International Organization for Migration’s (IOM) 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.

These surveys are part of IOM’s DTM activities to monitor the displacement patterns, movement flows and intentions, regions of origin and most immediate needs of refugees from Ukraine and third country nationals (TCNs) who fled from Ukraine into neighbouring countries and other European countries since 24 February 2022 and are crossing back into Ukraine. The survey is based on DTM’s tools to capture the demographic profiles for refugees of any nationality who fled Ukraine, and of the group they are travelling with, if any; it asks about intentions relative to their stay and destination; it gathers information regarding a set of main needs that the respondents expressed as more pressing at the moment of the interview. Data are collected at selected border crossing points, at entry, exit and transit locations, between the Republic of Moldova and Ukraine. Face-to-face interviews were conducted in Russian, Romanian and English, by trained enumerators of IOM’s implementing partner, CBS Axa Research, using a mobile application. The interviews are anonymous and conducted one-on-one with respondents, provided they consent to be interviewed after a brief introduction. Only adults (18+) were approached, in a simple random sample, and those interviewed in the survey were only those populations who were crossing back to Ukraine from the Republic of Moldova since April 2022. The data presented in this document are representative of the individuals surveyed in the covered locations and during the indicated timeframe.

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