

2022 REPORT | Data collection: 12 April – 10 December 2022



DATA COLLECTION AT BCPs

MEDYKA-SZEGINIE  
HREBENNE-RAWA RUSKA  
KORCZOWA-KRAKOWIEC



6,337 RESPONDENTS



96%  
Female



4%  
Male

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 Polish Border Guard data from 13 December, a total of 8.19 million crossings from Ukraine to Poland were recorded at border crossing points (BCPs) so far. IOM's Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM) has been collecting data through surveys with Ukrainians before crossing to Ukraine at the border areas in Poland. This report provides an overview of key figures of the 6,719 surveys that were conducted between 12 April and 10 December to assess the profiles, needs and intentions of refugees from Ukraine crossing from Poland back into Ukraine. 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

- 52% of respondents reported Poland as their **place of stay outside of Ukraine**. Of the 42% who stayed in other European countries, 38% reported Czechia and 28% reported Germany as their place of stay.
- Overall, 45% **intended to stay** in Ukraine. This has number decreased from 62% in April to 34% in November. At the same time, crossings into Ukraine for a **short visit** have increased from 28% in April to 43% in November.
- The main **oblasts of destination** are Dnipropetrovska (21%), Lvivska (14%), the city of Kyiv (13%) and Zaporizka (10%). While the share of respondents travelling to Lvivska has been decreasing since April, the number of those intending to travel to Kharkivska has increased since September.
- The **main reported needs** just before crossing the border over the entire data collection period were financial support (11%), medicine/health care (5%) and transportation support (5%). Most respondents (75%) reported having no specific needs.
- An analysis of **reported needs over time** reveals a more nuanced pattern. After starting at more than 20% in April, the share of respondents reporting the need for financial support decreased until July. Since then, this trend has reversed and a steady increase of reported financial needs can be observed until November (16%), followed by an increase to 22% in the first half of December.
- **Medical/health care and accommodation needs** started from a low level but have become more prominent throughout the summer and autumn. In November, 7% of respondents highlighted accommodation needs (from initially 1%) and 12% of respondents reported medical needs (from initially 4%).

Figure 1: Respondent age

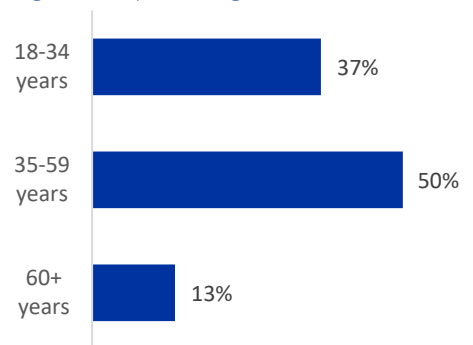
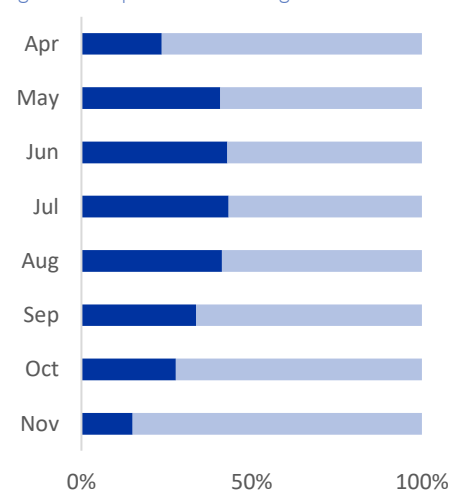


Figure 2: Respondents crossing with children



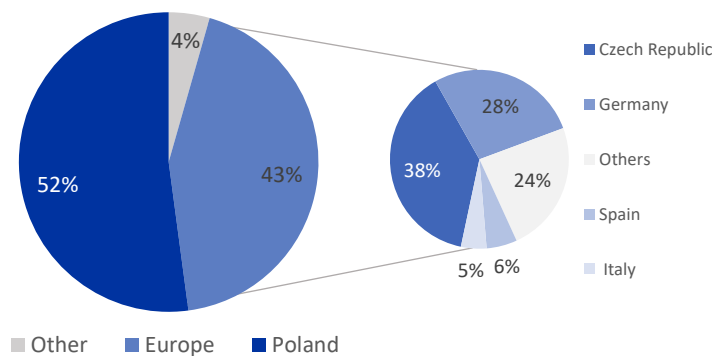
**RESPONDENTS' PROFILE**

 <p>51% travelling in a group 49% travelling alone</p>	 <p>4,086 adult household members</p>	 <p>3,577 child household members</p>	 <p>814 elderly household members</p>
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PLACE OF STAY OUTSIDE OF UKRAINE

Around half of respondents crossed back into Ukraine after having stayed in Poland (52%). Of the 43 per cent of respondents who were residing in other countries in Europe, the majority came from the Czechia (38%) and Germany (28%). The average length of time since first leaving Ukraine was four months at the time of interview.

Figure 2: Place of stay outside of Ukraine



USUAL PLACE OF RESIDENCE IN UKRAINE

Respondents were distributed over all parts of the country in terms of their region of usual residence before leaving Ukraine.

When asked about their habitual region of residence in Ukraine before leaving, 21 per cent reported Dnipropetrovsk, 12 per cent were originally in the city of Kyiv, 11 per cent Zaporizka, 8 per cent in Lvivska and 8 per cent in Kyivska.

Map 1: Destination oblasts of respondents



\*Autonomous Republic of Crimea and the City of Sevastopol, Ukraine, temporarily occupied by the Russian Federation

Maps in this report are 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.

## INTENDED DESTINATIONS IN UKRAINE

### RETURN TO SAME/ANOTHER OBLAST

A large majority (86%) of the refugees interviewed declared their intention to go back to the same oblast that was their initial usual place of residence. Out of the 815 respondents that are choosing a different region (14%), 28 per cent are from Donetsk and 28 per cent from Kharkivska. Forty per cent of respondents intend to go back to Lvivska and 21 per cent to the city of Kyiv or Kyivska oblast.

Respondents' main reasons for not returning to their habitual place of residence are that the area is unsafe (62%), that the family has moved or has been displaced to another region (14%) or that the house/property is damaged (10%).

The share of respondents intending to return to their oblast of habitual residence has remained stable between April and December.

Figure 3: Share of respondents intending to return to another oblast and reasons for doing so

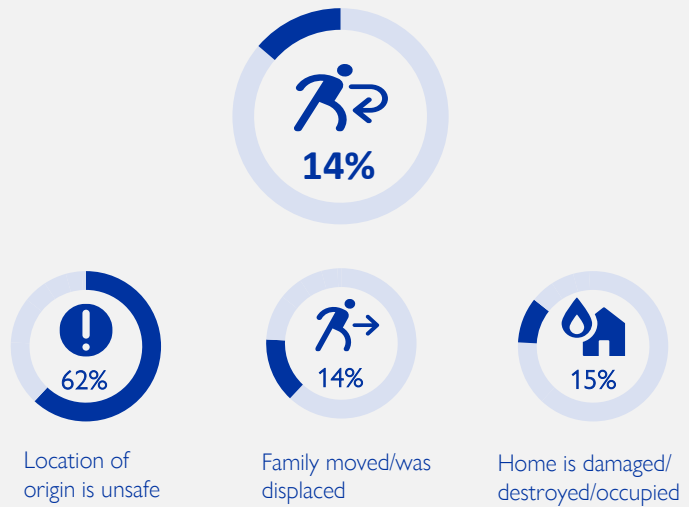


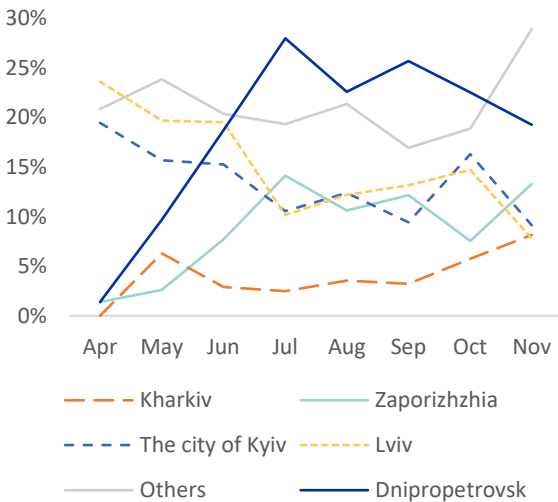
Table 1: Where will you be staying in Ukraine?



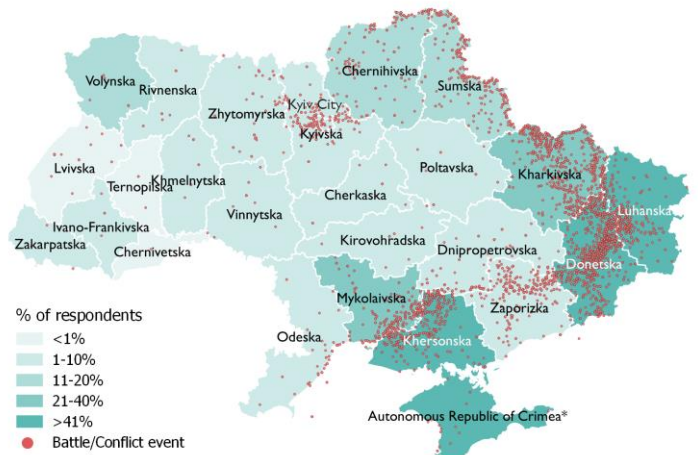
### RETURN DESTINATIONS

From April to November, the main oblasts to which respondents intended to travel were Dnipropetrovska (21%), Lvivska (14%), the city of Kyiv (13%) and Zaporizka (10%). The share of respondents intending to travel to Lvivska and the city of Kyiv have been decreasing steadily since May from 24 per cent and 19 per cent to just 8 per cent and 9 per cent respectively in November. While Dnipropetrovska is still the main destination of Ukrainian refugees surveyed, a decrease in return intentions can be observed since July. Instead, more respondents have expressed the intention to travel to Kharkivska.

Figure 4: Share of respondents intending to return to selected oblasts over time



Map 2: Percentage of respondents who do not intend to return to their usual oblast of residence – reported battle/conflict events since February 2022\*



\*Data source for conflict events: Armed Conflict Location & Event Data Project (ACLED), <https://acleddata.com/about-acledd/>. Data as of 09 December 2022.

\*Autonomous Republic of Crimea and the City of Sevastopol, Ukraine, temporarily occupied by the Russian Federation

## INTENTIONS AND REASONS TO CROSS INTO UKRAINE

### INTENTION TO STAY

Almost half of the respondents (45%) reported the intention to stay in Ukraine, while 32 per cent reported that they were doing a short visit and another 23 per cent was uncertain of how long they would be staying in Ukraine. From April the share of respondents intending to stay in Ukraine has been steadily decreasing whereas the share of those crossing for a short visit has increased.

Among those who reported to be intending to remain in Ukraine, 66 per cent declared that the main reason was to reunite with family members and 15 per cent based their decision on the improvement of situation in their place of habitual residence. And 7 per cent cited a lack of financial resources.

Among those who intended to return for a short visit to Ukraine (32% of the whole sample), 66 per cent reported that they wanted to meet with family members left in Ukraine and 24 per cent returned to collect personal belongings.

Figure 6: Top 3 reasons for intending to remain in Ukraine after return

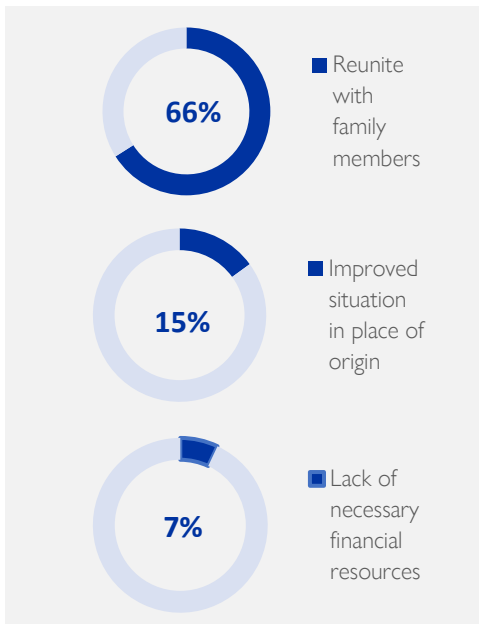


Figure 5: Intention to stay in Ukraine over time

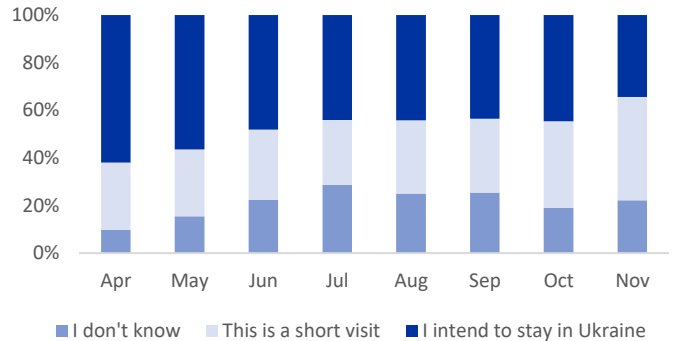


Table 2: Reason to return for a short visit

To meet with family	66%
To collect personal belongings left in Ukraine	24%
To bring supplies to people in Ukraine	8%
To help other family members/friends to get to the border	8%
To help other family members/friends there	7%

More than a third of the respondents (39%) declared that this was their first time crossing into Ukraine since leaving the country after the war began. Thirty-nine per cent indicated that they had crossed into Ukraine (and subsequently exited) once before and 9 per cent reported to have entered and exited on two or more occasions.

Among respondents intending to stay in Ukraine, 53 per cent travelled in the same group as the one with which they had initially entered Poland. Among respondents crossing for a short visit, on the other hand, more than 61 per cent travelled alone.

The top 5 oblasts to which respondents returned who intend to stay in Ukraine are the following: Dnipropetrovska (23%), the city of Kyiv (13%), Lvivska and Zaporizka (both 11%). The majority of respondents crossing into Ukraine for a short visit returned to Lvivska (24 per cent), followed by Dnipropetrovska and the city of Kyiv (both 15%).

### MEANS OF TRANSPORTATION\*



76%  
Travelling  
by train



10%  
Travelling  
by bus



6%  
Travelling  
by car



4%  
Travelling  
on foot

\*DTM Poland data collection sites include train stations close to the Ukrainian border, which may affect the accuracy of the data on means of transportation.

## NEEDS WHILE CROSSING TO UKRAINE

Most respondents (75%) reported having no specific needs just before crossing the border. The top reported needs over the entire period of data collection (April-December 2022) were financial support (11%), medicine/health care (5%), transportation support (5%) and support to return home (4%). Other reported needs included accommodation, psychological counselling, job support as well as food and water.

The share of respondents travelling with an elderly person who reported that they had needs at the time of the interview was higher than that of respondents travelling without an elderly person (33% vs 24%). The main differences can be observed in reported financial needs, which are mentioned by 16 per cent of those travelling with an elderly person (as compared to 10% without). Moreover, transportation support (8% vs 4%) and medicine/health care (8% vs 4%) were more frequently mentioned by respondents travelling with an elderly person.

For those respondents who were travelling with children, only a small difference could be observed as compared to respondents travelling without children. Of the former, 13 per cent reported the need for financial support, while that share stands at 9 per cent for the latter group.

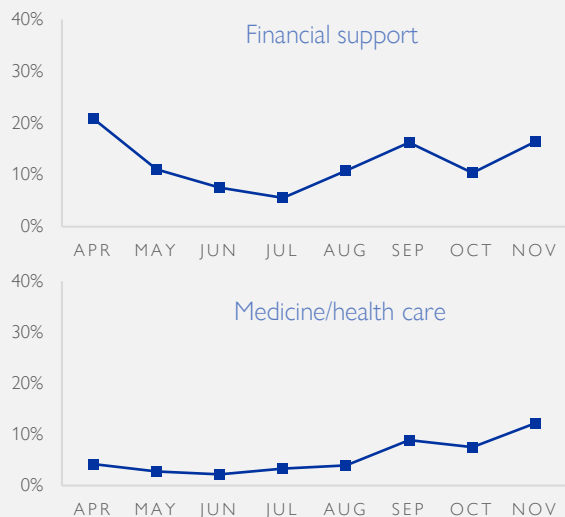
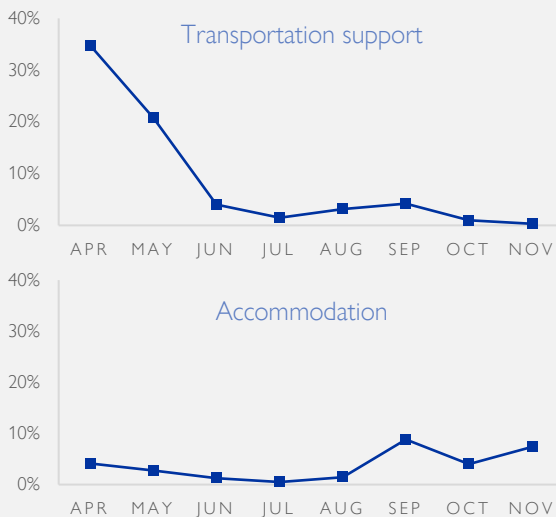
### EVOLUTION OF NEEDS OVER TIME

The self-reported needs of Ukrainian refugees crossing back into Ukraine have changed over time. While transportation support was one of the main reported needs during the first two months of data collection, its share has decreased considerably to less than one per cent in November. At the same time, the share of other needs that were reported by respondents has gradually increased.

The share of respondents reporting the need for financial support stood at more than 20 per cent in April but decreased to 6 per cent in July. Since then, the share has increasing and reached 16 per cent in November.

Reported medicine/health care needs started at a low level (4% in April) and increased over time. From August onwards, the growth in the share of respondents reporting health care needs has accelerated and reached 12 per cent in November.

Likewise, the share of respondents reporting the need for an accommodation has seen a moderate increase in the second half of 2022 from less than 1 per cent in July to 7 per cent in November.



### DISCRIMINATION EXPERIENCES

Of the 6,719 Ukrainians who participated in the surveys, 293 reported having experienced discrimination in their host countries. The share of respondents from this group mentioning certain needs is relatively higher than among other respondents, particularly for financial support (23% vs 10%). No clear patterns concerning respondents' demographic groups and discrimination experiences could be observed in the dataset. This may be related to the overall low share of respondents who reported having experienced any unfair treatment.

Since you left your place of usual residence in Ukraine, did you or any of your family members experience any unfair/ unequal treatment ?



**5%**  
Declared experiencing unfair/unequal treatment

## Methodology

This report summarizes the results of the Crossings to Ukraine Surveys initiated by IOM to assess the profiles and intentions of persons met while entering Ukraine from Poland. Only adults (18+) were approached, and the questionnaire was proposed only to refugees who arrived in Poland after 24 February 2022. Respondents were approached in a simple random sample by enumerators at selected border points between Poland and Ukraine, train/bus stations and transit centres. Face-to-face surveys were conducted in Ukrainian, Russian, Polish and English by trained DTM data collectors. Data were collected and stored through a mobile application.

Interviews took place at railway/bus stations and at border crossing points. Individual crossings back into Ukraine are not necessarily returnees as the duration and nature of their move is uncertain. Therefore, conclusions on definitive trends cannot yet be drawn. The sample is not representative of all persons crossing into Ukraine, results should hence only be considered as indicative. Due to the very limited number of surveys (1%) conducted with TCNs, this report reflects the findings of surveys conducted only with Ukrainian nationals who reported that they left Ukraine because of the war after 24 February.

The survey is based on IOM's Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM), a system to track and monitor displacement and population mobility and was designed to capture the primary displacement patterns – origin country and region – for Ukrainians and TCNs fleeing from Ukraine because of the war. It captures the demographic profiles of respondents and of the group they are travelling with, if any; asks about intentions relative to the permanence in Poland and intended final destinations; gathers information regarding access to assistance and services in Poland, main needs expressed by the respondents, vulnerabilities, accommodation types, information sources, socioeconomic conditions, and various protection-linked indicators. To access all the indicators collected and more detailed information including statistical breakdown by cities, demographic profiles and accommodation types please visit <https://displacement.iom.int/Poland>. For more information on the profiles and intentions of refugees returning to their places of habitual residence in Ukraine see the latest [Ukraine Returns Report](#) published by DTM Ukraine.



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