

**REGIONAL ANALYSIS:
DISPLACEMENT SURVEYS
UKRAINIANS AND THIRD-COUNTRY
NATIONALS
CROSSING BACK TO UKRAINE
2022 ANNUAL OVERVIEW**



Data collected: 16 April – 31 December 2022

Hungary, Poland, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Slovakia

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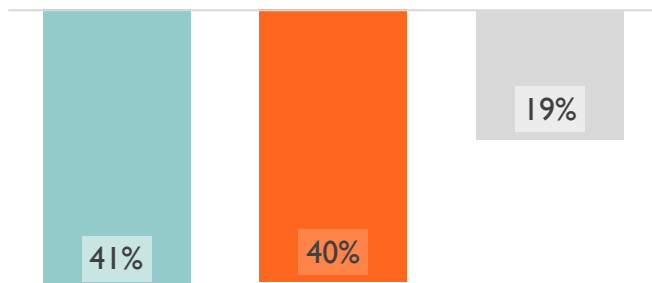
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KEY FINDINGS

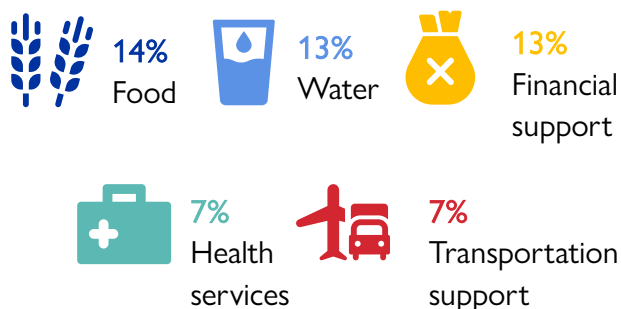
STAY IN UKRAINE SHORT VISIT DO NOT KNOW



TOP 5 OBLASTS OF DESTINATION



TOP IMMEDIATE NEEDS



8% Men



92% Women



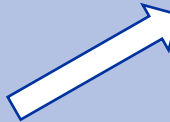
41% Travelling alone



72% Travelling with at least one child in the group



59% Travelling in a group



22% Travelling with at least one older person (60+) in the group



97% Ukrainians
3% TCNs



I. INTRODUCTION



Over **24 thousand** surveys conducted in 2022



5 Countries

Hungary, Poland, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Slovakia



Starting on 24 February 2022, the Russian full-scale invasion of Ukraine triggered an unprecedented humanitarian crisis and generated large scale displacement both within Ukraine and to the neighbouring countries. As of 23 January 2023,¹ 5.4 million persons were internally displaced in Ukraine. Moreover, in Mid-January 2023 nearly eight million refugees from Ukraine were recorded across Europe.² According to available administrative data, more than 17 million border crossings of Ukrainian and Third-Country refugees and migrants were reported from Ukraine into the neighbouring countries since February 2022. At the same time, around 5.2 million persons were estimated to be returnees including both from other locations within Ukraine and self-reported from abroad as of 5 December 2022.³ Nearly nine million cross-border movements were registered from Poland, Romania, Slovakia, and the Republic of Moldova among the neighbouring countries into Ukraine as of the end of January 2023.⁴

IOM has deployed its Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM) tools since mid-April 2022 to collect individual surveys in neighbouring countries with persons crossing into Ukraine, with the aim to improve the understanding of main profiles, displacement patterns, intentions and needs of those moving into Ukraine.

This report is based on **24,393 valid surveys** collected by IOM's DTM in five countries, with Ukrainian and Third-Country refugees and migrants crossing to Ukraine, between 16 April and 31 December 2022: **8,743 in Romania, 7,131 in the Republic of Moldova, 6,807 in Poland, 1,037 in Hungary, and 675 in Slovakia.** Total results are weighted as per the number of border crossings into Ukraine from each country of the survey, during the afore-mentioned period. Results are also presented by period of the data collection to show the evolution of profiles, needs and intentions from Quarter 2 of 2022 (from April to June), to Quarter 3 (July-September) and Quarter 4 (October-December).

Movements back to Ukraine can be pendular, and do not necessarily indicate sustainable intentions to stay as the situation across the country remains highly volatile and unpredictable. Hence, individuals surveyed while crossing into Ukraine from neighbouring countries are not necessarily returnees, and conclusions on definitive trends cannot be drawn.

For a complementary discussion on returnees within Ukraine, after internal or international displacement, please check the latest DTM [Ukraine Return Report](#) (January 2023) and the [Factsheet Conditions of Return Assessment](#) (February 2023).

¹ IOM Ukraine — [Ukraine — Internal Displacement Report — General Population Survey Round 12 \(16 - 23 January 2023\) | Displacement Tracking Matrix \(iom.int\)](#)

² See: [UNHCR](#)

³ IOM Ukraine — [Returns Report \(25 November - 5 December 2022\)](#)

⁴ No data on border crossings from Hungary to Ukraine is available for 2022, see [UNHCR](#).

II. SOCIO-DEMOGRAPHIC PROFILE

Gender

Women were about 92 per cent of the whole sample of 24,393 respondents, while men represented about 8 per cent.

The share of women was the lowest among respondents in the Republic of Moldova (81%) and Hungary (81%), and the highest among respondents in Slovakia (92%), followed by Poland (89%), and Romania (87%).

Moreover, the share of women was higher when focusing on refugees from Ukraine (93%) and much lower among respondents of other nationalities (34%).

Table 2: Share of women by country and period of survey (% ,w*)

Country of the survey	Q2 2022	Q3 2022	Q4 2022
Hungary	-	87%	79%
Poland	97%	97%	95%
Rep. of Moldova	82%	80%	82%
Romania	82%	87%	89%
Slovakia	97%	88%	92%
Total (W)	94%	94%	90%

Age

The average age of respondents was 42 years old. Men were about 10 years older than women on average (50 vs 40 years of age). Women were younger than their male counterparts in all countries covered.

Slovakia presented the largest age gap on average between and men (women were 39 years old on average versus 54 years old as average age for men), followed by Poland which presented a 13-

Table 1: Share of women and men by country of survey, by nationality and total (% ,w)

Country of the survey	Women	Men
Hungary	81%	19%
Poland	96%	4%
Rep. of Moldova	81%	19%
Romania	87%	13%
Slovakia	92%	8%
Total (w)	92%	8%
Total Ukrainians (w)	93%	7%
Total TCNs (w)	34%	66%

The gender composition in most countries remained relatively stable throughout the three periods of the data collection – April-June (Q2 2022), July-September (Q3), and October-December (Q4). In the Republic of Moldova, the gender composition remained almost the same, with no more than a two per cent fluctuation across the three periods.

In Hungary, Poland, and Slovakia the share of women decreased by few percentage points over time, while in Romania the share of women tended to increase slightly from Q2 to Q4 of 2022.

year gap in the average between men and women (54 years old versus 41 years old, respectively), the Republic of Moldova (40 years old for women versus 51 years old for men), Romania (40 years old for women versus 50 years old for men), and Hungary (37 years old average for women, and 40 years old for men).

* w: total results are weighted for the number of crossings registered from each neighbouring country to Ukraine over the reference period.

More than half (52%) of women were less than 40 years old, while almost the same share (51%) of men were 50 years old or more.

About 39 per cent of men in the sample were more than 60 years old, while only seven per cent of women were in the older age group. Overall, older persons (60 years or more) were 11 per cent of the sample.

In most countries, the biggest age group by number of respondents was the one of 30 to 39 years old.

However, this was not the case in Hungary where young adults between 18 and 29 years old were more than one third of respondents (34%) and in Poland, where the biggest age group was the one between 50 to 59 years old (26% of the total).

Table 3: Age distribution of respondents, by country of survey (%)

Age group	Hungary	Poland	Rep. of Moldova	Romania	Slovakia
18-29y	34%	23%	15%	12%	18%
30-39y	27%	24%	34%	36%	33%
40-49y	18%	29%	23%	32%	27%
50-59y	11%	12%	13%	13%	12%
60+y	10%	12%	15%	7%	9%

Citizenship

Out of the overall sample, 97 per cent of respondents said to be Ukraine nationals, while only three per cent were TCNs. The share of non-Ukrainians in the sample varied greatly from less than one per cent in Slovakia to five per cent in the Republic of Moldova, and 12 per cent in Hungary. Encompassing 75 per cent of the sample, the Top 5 nationalities include India (27%), Nigeria (24%), Russian Federation (5%), Republic of Moldova (3%) and Morocco (3%).

Table 4: Nationality of respondents by country (% w)

Country	TCNs	Ukrainians
Hungary	12%	88%
Poland	1%	99%
Rep. of Moldova	5%	95%
Romania	1%	99%
Slovakia	0.3%	99.7%
Total (w)	3%	97%

Figure 1: Age distribution of respondents, total (% w)

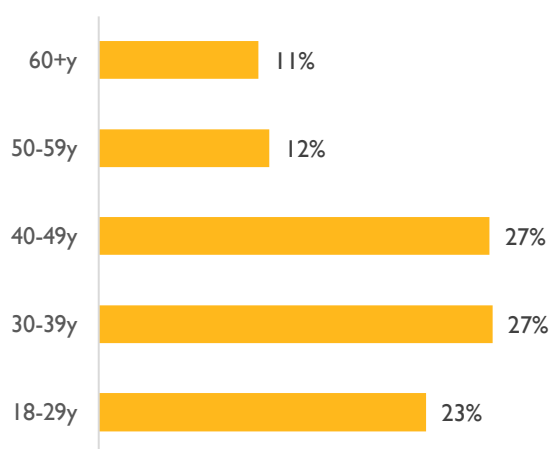
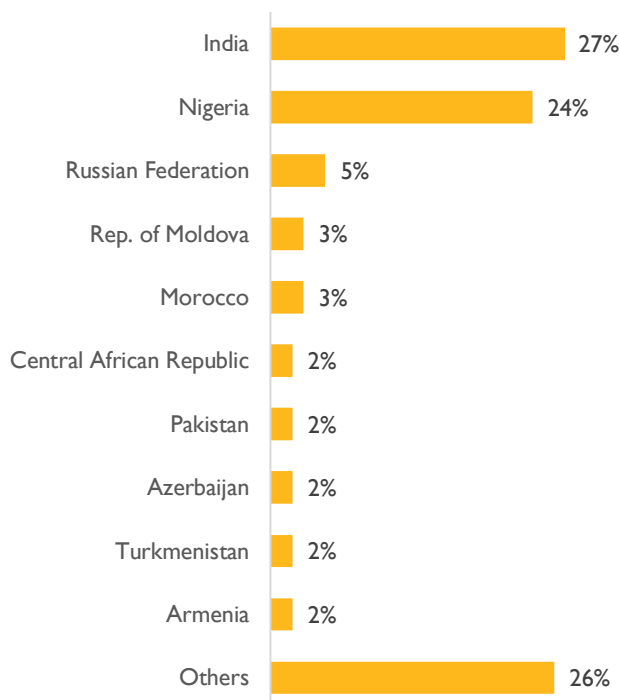
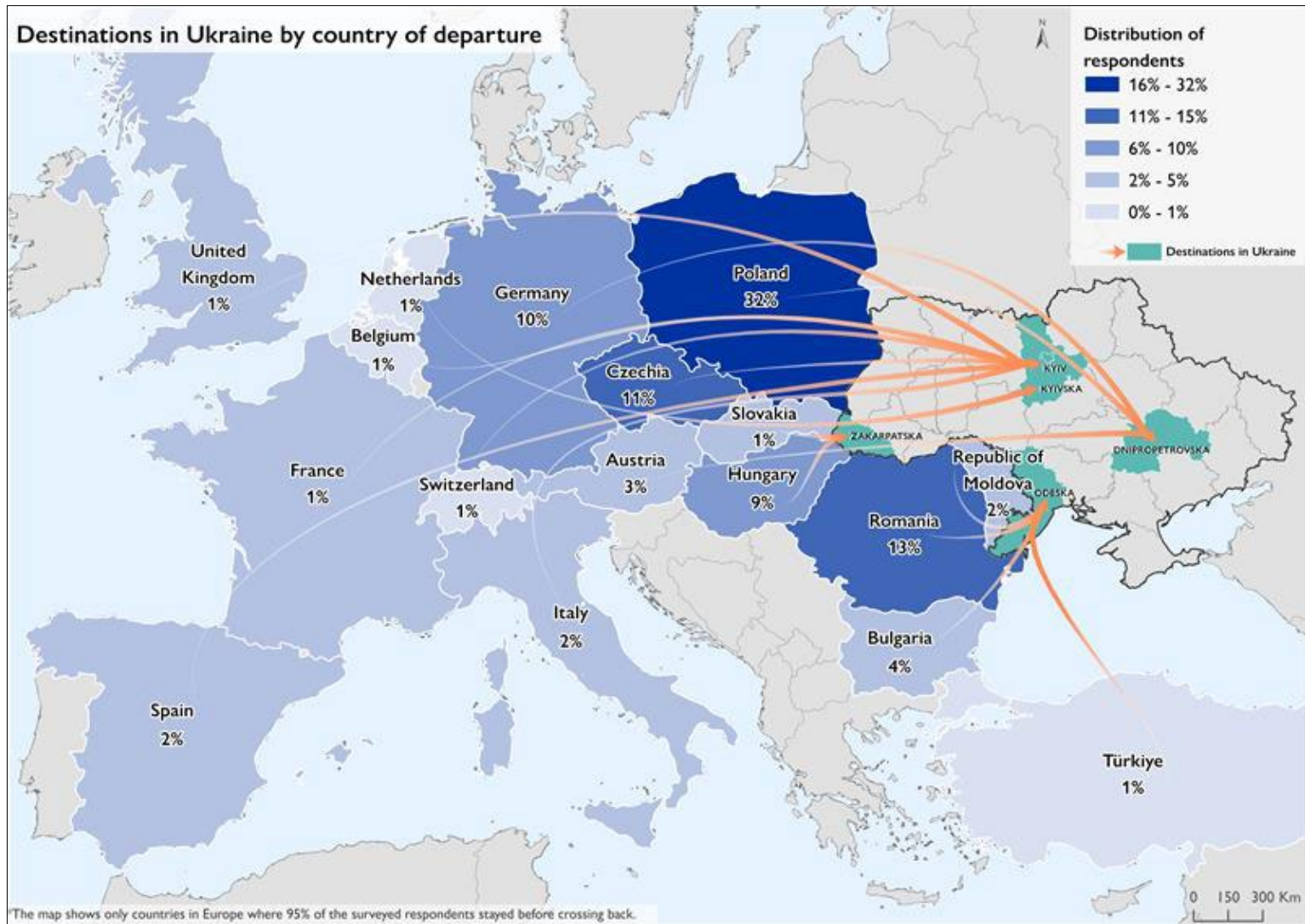


Figure 2: TCNs respondents by nationality, total (% w)

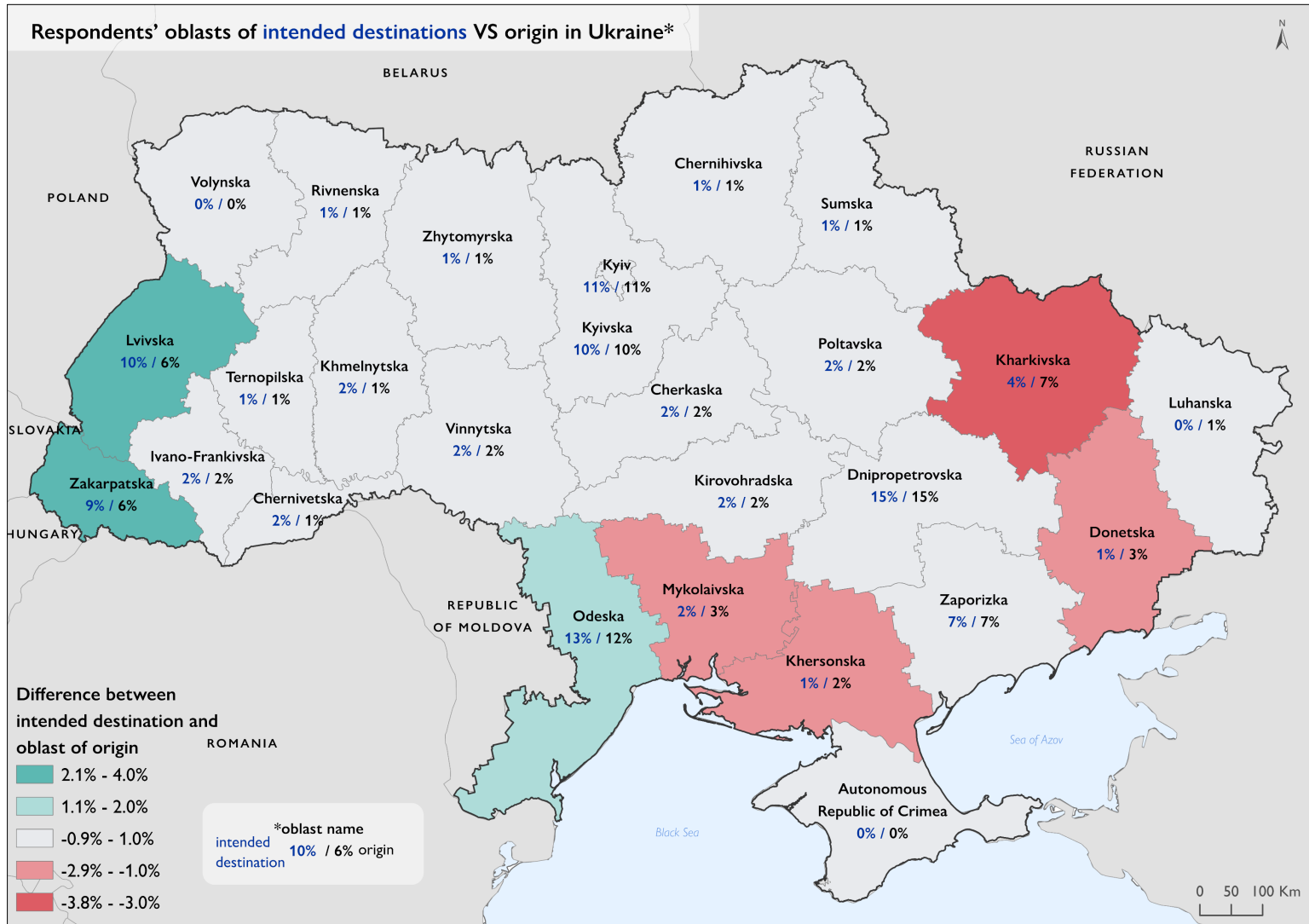


Map 1: Oblasts of destination in Ukraine, by country of stay abroad, total (%).



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 IOM.

Map 2: Comparison of oblasts of intended destination and oblast of origin in Ukraine. total (%)



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III. TIME OUTSIDE UKRAINE AND GROUP COMPOSITION

Main country of stay prior to crossing back

The average time spent outside Ukraine before going back is of about 4 months. It increased over time, with those interviewed in the second quarter of 2022 going back after about 66 days of stay abroad and those interviewed in the last quarter of 2022 who have spent abroad slightly more than 5 months on average. This is consistent with the fact that most refugees from Ukraine left the country in the first months of the war and that almost half (44%) of the sample crossed the border only once since February 2022.

4 months

average time spent abroad before crossing back to Ukraine in 2022

Overall, half of the respondents reported to have spent most of their time outside Ukraine in the country where they were surveyed. Fifty-four per cent of respondents interviewed in Hungary stayed in Hungary, 67 per cent of those interviewed in the Republic of Moldova stayed within the border of the Republic of Moldova, 56 per cent of those interviewed in Poland stayed in Poland, and 51 per cent of respondents in Romania stayed in Romania.

The exception is Slovakia, where 82% of respondents who were crossing to Ukraine, previously stayed in Romania. The other

countries where respondents stayed the most on average where Czechia (11%), Germany (10%), Romania (6% among those interviewed elsewhere), Bulgaria (4%), Austria (3%), Spain (2%) and Italy (2%).

The country of main stay before moving back to Ukraine varied by country of survey. More than two thirds (67%) of respondents in the Republic of Moldova stayed in that country, with smaller proportions in Romania (4%), Bulgaria (4%) and Germany (3%). Also, more than half (54%) of respondents in Hungary stayed in that country, with the rest staying mainly in Germany (10%), Austria (10%), Spain, Italy and France (3% each).

In Poland, the main countries of stay besides Poland were Czechia (17%), Germany (12%), Spain, Italy and the United Kingdom (2% each). In Romania, the main countries of stay after Romania were Bulgaria (28%), Germany and Türkiye (4% each), and Italy (3%). Only 12 per cent of respondents in Slovakia spent most of their time outside Ukraine in Slovakia. The majority declared Romania (82%) as the country where they spent most of their time before moving back to Ukraine.

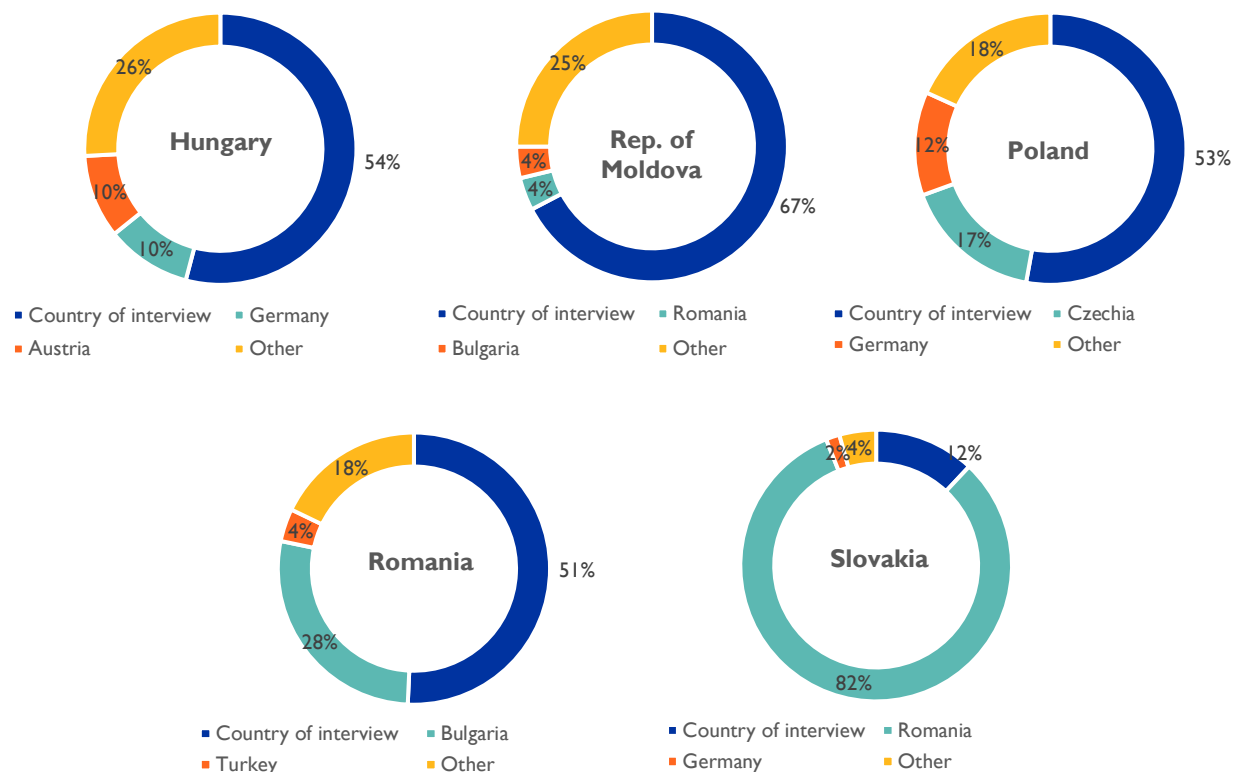
Czechia, Germany, Bulgaria, Austria, Spain, Italy

main countries of displacement besides neighbouring countries

Table 5: Main countries of stay while outside Ukraine, by country of interview and total (% w)

Country of stay	Hungary	Poland	Rep. of Moldova	Romania	Slovakia	Total (w)
In the country of interview	54%	53%	67%	51%	12%	50%
Czechia	2%	17%	1%	1%	1%	11%
Germany	10%	12%	3%	4%	2%	10%
Romania	1%	0%	4%	0%	82%	6%
Bulgaria	0%	0%	4%	28%	0%	4%
Austria	10%	1%	0%	1%	0%	3%
Spain	3%	2%	1%	1%	0%	2%
Italy	3%	2%	1%	3%	0%	2%
France	3%	1%	1%	1%	0%	1%
United Kingdom	1%	2%	1%	0%	0%	1%
Türkiye	0%	0%	3%	4%	0%	1%
Netherlands (the)	2%	1%	0%	0%	0%	1%
Switzerland	1%	1%	0%	0%	0%	1%
Belgium	1%	0%	0%	1%	0%	1%
Other	8%	7%	13%	6%	2%	7%

Figure 3: Main country of stay while outside Ukraine, by country of survey (%)



Group composition and travel mode

Overall, about 41 per cent of the respondents said they were travelling alone towards Ukraine, while 59 per cent were moving with a group. Women were more likely to be travelling in a group than alone (53% vs 47%), and in particular a high share were travelling with the same group they left with (42% of all women), while men were slightly more likely to be travelling by themselves (53% vs 47%).

The share of those travelling alone was higher in Slovakia (64%) and Hungary (59%), close to the

average in Republic of Moldova (58%), and Poland (46%) and much lower in Romania (15%).

Additionally, TCNs more frequently reported to be travelling alone than refugees from Ukraine (60% vs 47%) on average.

Moreover, the share of respondents travelling alone tends to increase over time, from 42 per cent of them in Q2 of 2022, to 45 per cent Q3 of 2022 and 54 per cent in Q4 of 2022.

Figure 4: Group composition when crossing back, by gender (% w)

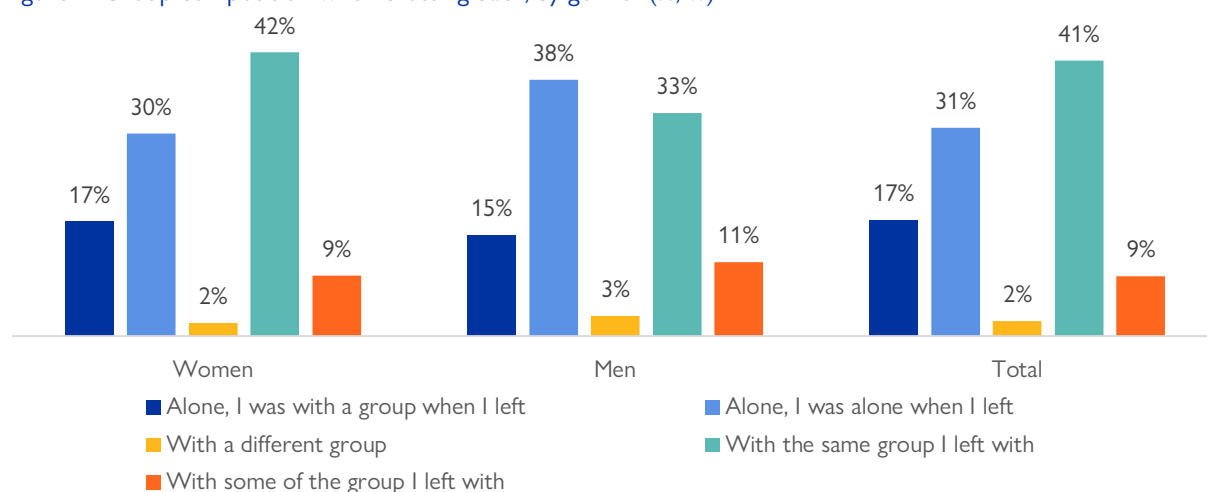


Table 6: Group composition when crossing back, by country of survey and total (% w)

Group composition	Hungary	Poland	Rep. of Moldova	Romania	Slovakia	Total (w)
Alone, I was with a group when I left	15%	19%	30%	6%	25%	18%
Alone, I was alone when I left	44%	31%	28%	9%	39%	23%
With a different group	2%	1%	1%	11%	1%	5%
With the same group I left with	37%	48%	34%	21%	30%	33%
With some of the group I left with	2%	2%	7%	52%	5%	21%

Figure 5: Group composition when crossing back, by period of the survey (% , w)

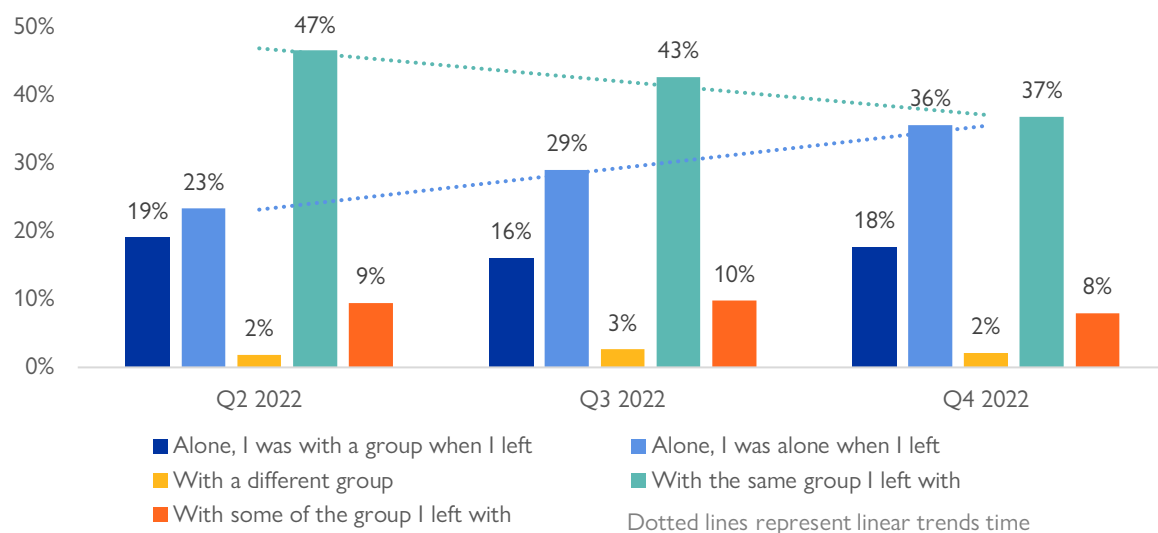


Table 7: Group composition of those travelling in a group, by country, by nationality and total (% , w)
(more than one answer possible)

Country of interview	Family	Other relatives	Friends/ neighbours	Other
Hungary	73%	10%	29%	0%
Poland	94%	2%	5%	0%
Rep. of Moldova	89%	10%	7%	0%
Romania	94%	15%	7%	7%
Slovakia	85%	8%	14%	0%
Total (w)	91%	6%	9%	2%
TCNs (w)	43%	2%	55%	0%
Ukrainians (w)	85%	6%	7%	2%

Overall, almost all those travelling in a group were with family members (91%). Groups travelling together were also including friends and neighbours (9%), other relatives (6%) and other persons (2%, sometimes colleagues).

Moreover, Ukrainian citizens were almost two times more likely than TCNs to be travelling with family (85% vs 43%), while TCNs were eight times more likely than Ukrainian respondents to be travelling with friends, neighbours or colleagues (55% vs 7%).

Figure 6: Share of respondents travelling in groups with at least one child, by country

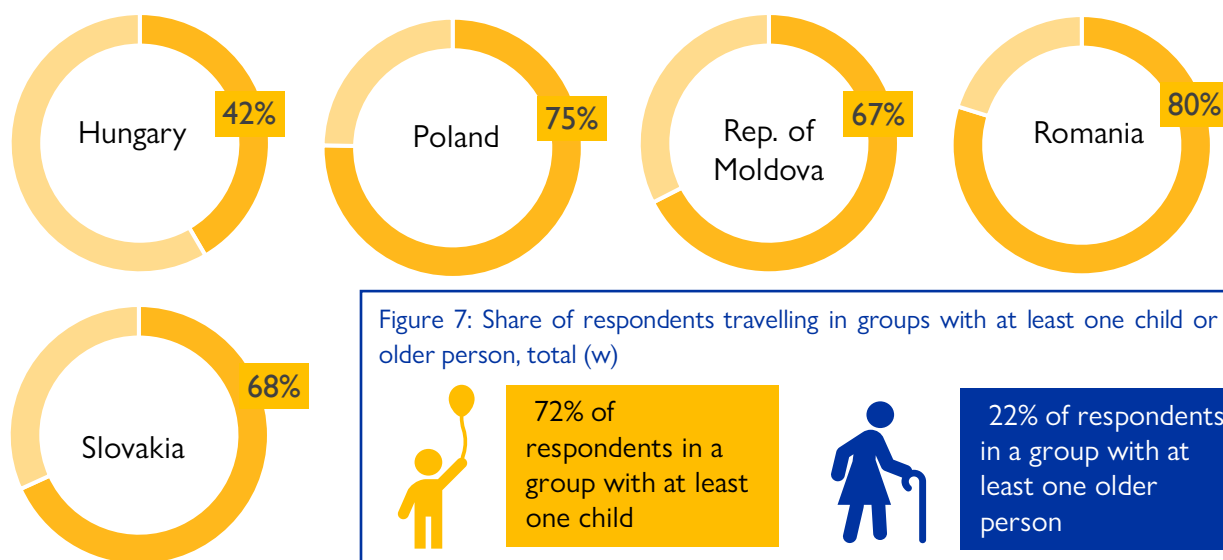


Figure 7: Share of respondents travelling in groups with at least one child or older person, total (w)



72% of respondents in a group with at least one child



22% of respondents in a group with at least one older person

Around 37 per cent of the whole sample and 72 per cent of those travelling in a group, were with at least one child below 18 years of age when crossing back. Children were more frequently reported by respondents in Romania (where 80% of respondents travelling with a group where crossing back with at least one child), followed by respondents in Poland (75%), Slovakia (68%), the Republic of Moldova (67%) and Hungary (42%).

Transportation

Out of the total sample, the most common form of transport to cross back into Ukraine was by train (65% of all respondents), followed by car (16 per cent). Other selected means of transport were: by bus (12%), by foot (6%), and by minibus (1%). Important variations of prevalent means of transportation vary in each country, due to the accessibility of various transit points to conduct interviews. The transportation means depend on what type of links were available between Ukraine and the five countries.

In Hungary, only two per cent of respondents were crossing back to Ukraine by car, while the vast majority (96%) of respondents were interviewed at train stations heading to Ukraine.

In the Republic of Moldova, the opposite was true, and more than half of the persons

Moreover, about 11 of the whole sample and 22 per cent of those travelling in a group reported to be travelling with at least one older person (60 years or more). Older persons were more frequent in groups met in the Republic of Moldova (38%), followed by those in Romania (31%), Slovakia (21%), Poland (19%) and Hungary (18%).

interviewed (56%) were crossing back via car, while train transportation was not an option. On the contrary, 24 per cent of respondents were going back by foot, and another 11 per cent by bus.

In Poland, 81 per cent of respondents were met while going back by train, ten per cent were going by bus, while the remaining persons were going by car (5%), foot (4%), or minibus (0,4%).

In Romania, most of the respondents were going back by car (66%); this was followed by foot (14%), bus (11%), minibus (6%), and train (4%).

In Slovakia, most respondents (63%) were met while going back by bus. Another 22 per cent were going by car, foot (9%), train (3%), or minibus (1%).

Number of entries and exits

The majority of respondents had only crossed the Ukrainian borders once (44%) since the beginning of the war. Also, a substantial number had crossed the border already twice (15%) or more than twice (14%) since February 2022. About 27 per cent of those surveyed on entry to Ukraine already were outside of the country before the start of the full-scale invasion on 24 February 2022. The remaining respondents preferred not to answer (1%).

Although remaining a minority, the number of persons reporting to have crossed the border with Ukraine more than once since the start of

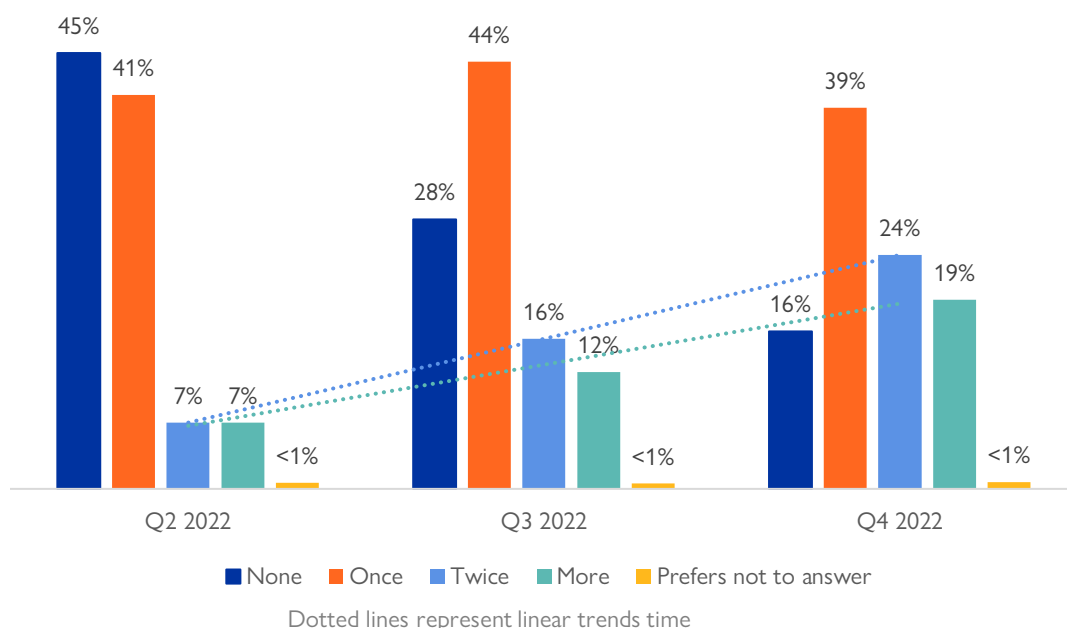
the war increased over the data collection period, which is consistent with the observed number of border crossings to Ukraine from neighbouring countries registered by national authorities.

While only around 14 per cent of the sample in Q2 of 2022 had crossed the border with Ukraine more than once, the shared doubled to 28 per cent in Q3 of 2022, and reached 43 per cent in Q4, the last period of data collection.

Table 8: Share of respondents by number of crossing in/out of Ukraine since February 2022, by country of interview and total (% , w)

Country of interview	Hungary	Poland	Rep. of Moldova	Romania	Slovakia	Total (w)
None	1%	35%	14%	18%	12%	27%
Once	60%	36%	44%	44%	51%	44%
Twice	16%	12%	17%	23%	9%	15%
More than twice	23%	9%	25%	15%	21%	14%
Prefers not to answer	0.1%	0.4%	0.2%	0.2%	6%	1%

Figure 7: Share of respondents by number of crossings in/out of Ukraine since February 2022, by period of the survey (% , w)



IV. MAIN INTENTIONS AND REASONS TO CROSS BACK TO UKRAINE

Intentions: short visit or stay in Ukraine

Overall, forty-one per cent of the respondents intended to stay in Ukraine, while 40 per cent said they would only do a short visit in the country. Another 19 per cent were not sure of their intentions at the time of the interview. Ukrainian respondents were more likely than TCNs (41% versus 38%), and men were more likely than women (45% versus 41%) to report the intention to remain in Ukraine. On the contrary, the non-Ukrainians were more frequently reporting the intention to pay a short visit (54% compared to 39% among Ukrainians) and less frequently undecided on their plans (8% compared to 19% among Ukrainians).

Figure 8: Intention to stay or do a short visit, total (% , w)

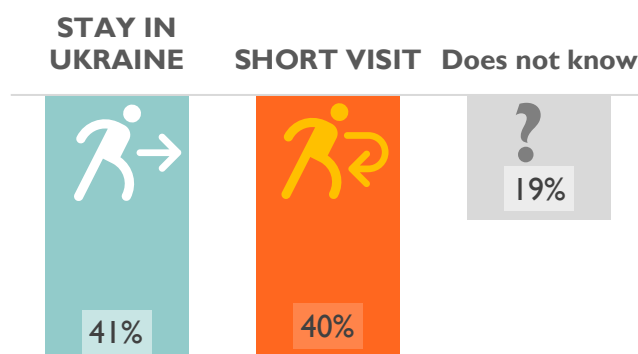


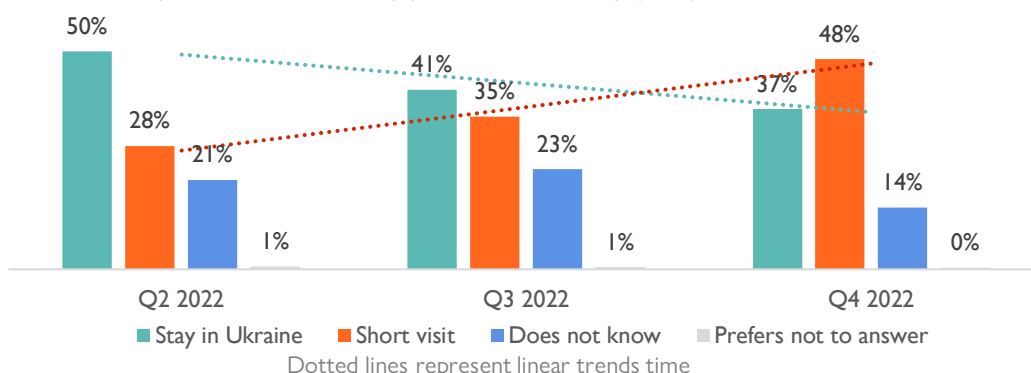
Table 9: Intention to stay in Ukraine or to do a short visit, by nationality, gender and total (% , w)

Intention	Total (w)	Ukrainians (w)	TCNs (w)	Women (w)	Men (w)
Does not know	19%	19%	8%	19%	15%
Prefers not to answer	<1%	1%	0%	0%	2%
Short visit	40%	39%	54%	40%	39%
Stay in Ukraine	41%	41%	38%	41%	45%

Interestingly, the share of total respondents reporting to be willing to stay in Ukraine for longer periods decreased from half (50%) of those met during Q2 of 2022 to 41 per cent of those met during Q3 (summer) and to 37 per cent of those met in Q4 of 2022. In parallel, the share of those planning to pay a short visit

increased from 28 per cent (Q2) to 35 per cent (Q3) up to 48 per cent (Q4). This may be due to the willingness to visit the place of origin both for emotional and more practical reasons but with an increasing understanding of the temporariness of the movement, due to the protracted nature of the war.

Figure 9: Intention to stay or do a short visit, by period of the survey (% , w)



Stay in Ukraine

Out of all respondents intending to return to Ukraine for the foreseeable future, more than half of the respondents (59%) said they would stay in Ukraine to reunite with family and friends.

Twenty-three per cent felt that the situation was improving at home and 8 per cent were returning because they were working in essential services. Interestingly, some of the main reasons for going back to Ukraine were linked to the conditions found abroad: lack of sufficient financial resources (11%), lack of employment (8%), lack of shelter (4%) and of education services (4%) abroad were mentioned.

Looking at country-level differences, in Hungary, 'lack of education' was cited as the fifth main reason to return, while 'essential services' only received three per cent of responses. In the

Republic of Moldova, 'bring family to safety', and 'home' were the fourth and fifth more selected reasons to return to Ukraine. In Slovakia and Hungary, the share of those intending to reunite with family or friends was lower than the average (25% and 29% respectively).

The vast majority (88%) of those intending to return to Ukraine stated that they were planning to stay at their homes, while only a small share reported to be staying in other private accommodation (5%), with relatives (4%), and with friends (2%). The remaining two percent was shared between those planning to stay in a reception centre (0,5 %), and those who did not know or did not specify (1.5%).

Figure 10: Top 10 reasons for respondents intending to stay in Ukraine, total (% w) (more than one answer possible) (N=9,996)

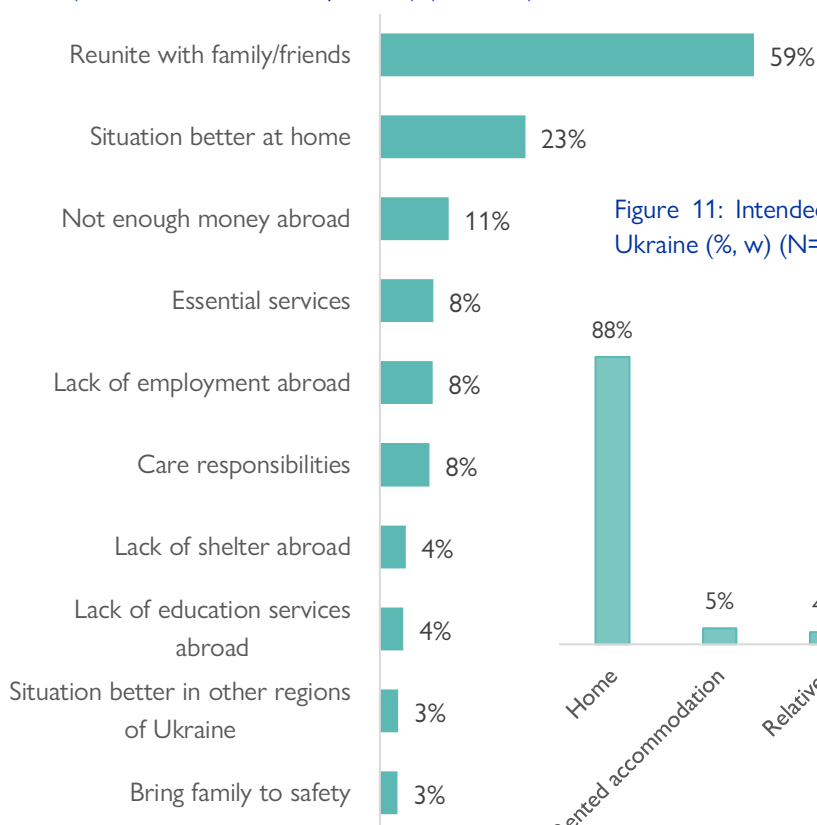
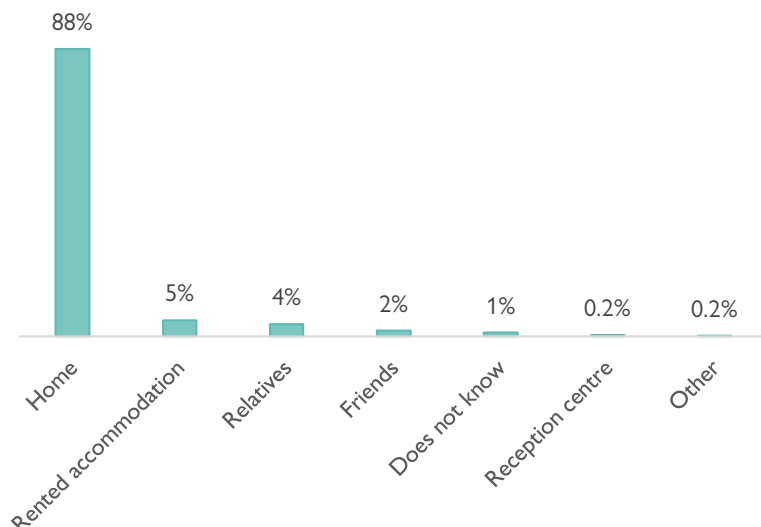


Figure 11: Intended accommodation for respondents staying in Ukraine (% w) (N=9,953)



Short visit

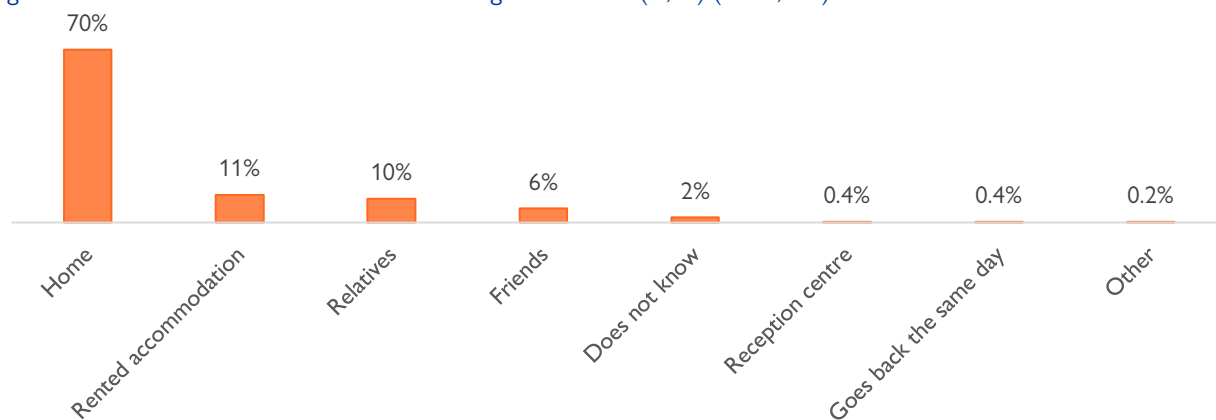
Amongst the share of respondents returning to Ukraine for a short visit only, the top reasons given were to meet family members (65%), to collect personal belongings (35%), to help family/friends in Ukraine (11%), to help family/friends to get to the border (11%) and to bring supplies to Ukraine (11%). Also, 11 per cent

reported the need to obtain or renew identity documents (biometric passport and others) and at least 5 per cent mentioned the intention to go to the doctor and have a medical examination (paediatricians, dentists and gynaecologists among them) as reason for the short visit.

Figure 12: Main reasons for those intending to go to Ukraine for a short visit (% w) (more than one answer possible) (N=9,684)



Figure 13: Intended accommodation those doing a short visit (% w) (N= 9,597)



Among those aiming for a short visit, 69 per cent stated that they will be staying at their home, 11 per cent in other private (rented) accommodation, 10 per cent with relatives, and six per cent with friends. The remaining four per cent was either staying at a reception centre (0.4%), going back the same day (0.4%), did not know at the time of the interview (2%), provided no answer (1%), or selected 'other' (0.2%).

Additionally, of those intending to stay in Ukraine for a short visit (N= 9,684), 25 per cent intend to stay for some days, 47 per cent for a week, 24 per cent for a month, three per cent for more than a month, and one per cent preferred not to answer.

V. OBLASTS OF ORIGIN AND OF DESTINATION

Oblast (region) of origin prior to leaving Ukraine

Eighty per cent of respondents lived in only ten regions before leaving Ukraine, but the share of respondents from each region of origin in Ukraine varied widely across the countries where surveys were conducted.

The top mentioned oblasts of origin on average were Dnipropetrovska (15%), Odeska (12%), the city of Kyiv (11%), the Kiyvska region (10%), Zaporizka (7%), and Kharkivska (7%). Looking at TCNs in the sample only, the main regions of origin were the city of Kyiv and Dnipropetrovska oblast.

Overall, the respondents crossing back to Ukraine were more frequently originating from oblasts in the central and western part of Ukraine, which are the least affected by the war. Ukrainians from eastern oblasts, who are a larger number amongst the refugees from Ukraine in Europe (DTM [Needs and Intentions surveys](#) in the region, DTM Ukraine [Internal displacement report](#)), seem to be

less willing or able to cross back to their place of origin, and hence less surveyed in this exercise.

Odeska was by far the main oblast of origin for respondents met in the Republic of Moldova and Romania while going back to Ukraine (44% and 47%, respectively). In the Republic of Moldova this was followed by Kyivska (16%), and Vinnytska (11%), while in Romania it was followed by Chernivetska (9%) and Mykolaivska (8%).

Dnipropetrovska was the main oblast of origin for those interviewed in Poland (21%), followed by Kyiv city (13%), and Zaporizka oblast (11%).

Zakarpatska was the first oblast of origin for respondents in Slovakia (30%) and Hungary (21%). In Slovakia this was followed by those coming from Kyivska with 15 per cent response rate, and Kharkivska oblasts (12%). Finally, in Hungary, this was followed by Kiyvska oblast with a 14 per cent response rate and Kyiv city with 10% of the total answers.

Oblast (region) of intended destination

Eighty-four per cent of the share of respondents intended to return to their region of origin, while another 16 per cent stated their intention to go to another region.

The share of respondents who aimed at reaching their own place of origin varied across countries, from 91 per cent of respondents in the Republic of Moldova (who were more frequently from western oblasts, and from of Odeska), to 77 per cent of respondents in Hungary (where higher shares of respondents were originally from oblasts in the eastern part of the country) heavily affected by military actions.

Overall, the share of those intending to reach their oblast of origin slightly decreased from 86 per cent of the total in Q2 of 2022 to around 83 per cent in Q4 of 2022, but with small variations in all five countries of the survey.

Figure 14: Intention to reach the oblast of origin or not, total (% , w)

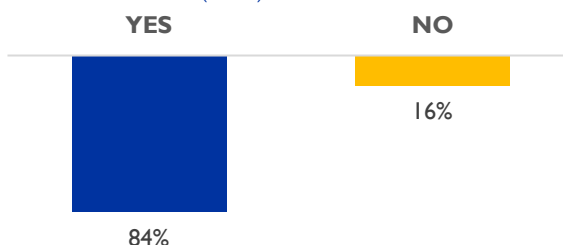
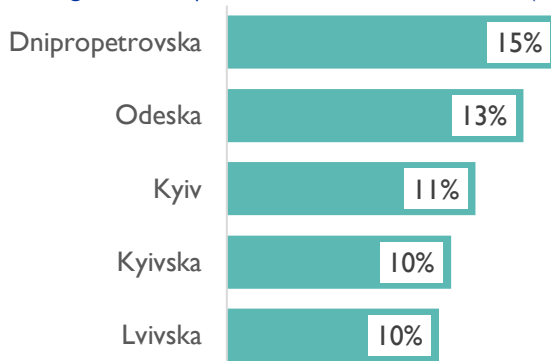


Figure 15: Top 5 oblasts of destination, total (% , w)



Dnipropetrovska was the second most populated oblast in Ukraine with a bit more than 3 M inhabitants⁵ as of the beginning of 2022. It is located close to the regions with fighting. Therefore, Ukrainians originating from that oblast and who fled at the beginning of the war, may be induced to go back together with those originally from the war affected regions who would like to stay in a safer place, but as close as possible to their places of residence. Another factor would be the relatively stable economy of Dnipropetrovska oblast that is ranked fifth in terms of average salary levels (UAH 14,479, or \$ 392).⁶

The reason **Odeska** region is the second destination of the surveyed populations might be fact that it is the nearest to the countries where they stayed before crossing back to Ukraine:

Romania, Bulgaria, Republic of Moldova, and Türkiye. Another factor would be the closer cultural ties⁷ of the region with these countries, where a big number of Ukrainians sought refuge in the beginning of the conflict.

Kyiv city is the country capital and could offer better employment opportunities in comparison to other regions of Ukraine – it is ranked number 1 by average salary levels (UAH 21,347, or USD 578, for 2022), and it is considered safe and protected, although a total 32 security incidents related to the ongoing war were registered only in November and December 2022 (these were 78 in the February and March 2022).⁸

Table 10: Intention to return to the oblast of origin or elsewhere, by country of interview and total (% , w)

	Hungary	Poland	Rep. of Moldova	Romania	Slovakia	Total (w)
Yes	77%	85%	91%	85%	79%	84%
No	23%	15%	9%	15%	21%	15%

Table 11: Intention to return to the oblast of origin, by country and period of interview (% , w)

Country of interview	Q2 2022	Q3 2022	Q4 2022	Total (w)
Hungary		69%	80%	77%
Poland	86%	87%	83%	85%
Rep. of Moldova	90%	89%	93%	91%
Romania	87%	84%	84%	85%
Slovakia	76%	76%	82%	79%
Total (w)	86%	84%	83%	84%

⁵ State Statistics Service of Ukraine, [Number of present Population of Ukraine](#), 2022

⁶ Ministry of Finance of Ukraine, [Average Salary in Ukraine in 2022](#)

⁷ According to the Ukraine Census of 2001, 6 per cent of the citizens are of Bulgarian origins, and 5 per cent declare to be Moldovans; [All Ukrainian Population Census of 2001](#)

⁸ Source: Armed Conflict Location & Event Data Project ([ACLED](#)).

The surrounding Kyivska oblast is ranked eighth in terms of population (1,8 M),⁹ and third by average monthly remuneration levels¹⁰ (UAH 15,152, or USD 410). Additionally, the levels of hostilities and Russian attacks on the region decreased significantly from 55 in (the last week of) February 2022 and 430 in March 2022 to a total of 10 in November and December 2022.¹¹ Kyivska oblast was seriously impacted by the first waves of the Russian military invasion in late February and March 2022.

The western Lvivska oblast (5th by population – 2,5 M)¹² borders Poland and it is chosen as destination by those who cross back to Ukraine but cannot return to their regions of origin. Also, a possible exit of Ukraine and return to the European Union countries remains an easy and fast option in case of need. Lvivska oblast can be considered the safest amongst the top 5 of destinations – the highest monthly number of security incidents was registered in May 2022 (8), and gradually decreases afterwards to only one registered in Dec 2022 (a total of 44 for the entire year 2022).¹³

Reasons to reach a different oblast than that of origin

Among respondents who did not intend to reach their oblast of origin, almost three fourth mentioned as destination the most western regions in Ukraine or the capital city and the surrounding region: 24 per cent stated their intention to reach Lvivska oblast, 18 per cent - Zakarpatska, 11 per cent - Odeska, 10 per cent - Kyiv city, and 10 per cent - Kyivska oblast.

Among them, more than half (53%) stated that their origin region was unsafe. Another 16 per cent were going somewhere else due to their family being displaced there. This was followed by 13 per cent who stated that their home was damaged or destroyed, and another six per cent whose region of origin was not under Ukrainian government control. Another two per cent needed to obtain new documents at the intended destination, while one per cent were intending to reach relatives or friends. Finally, some cited health issues (0.5%), and discrimination in the location of origin (0.2%) made them travel to a different oblast. The remaining respondents had other reasons (3%), did not know (3%), or did not to answer (2%).

Figure 16: Reasons for reaching a different oblast (% w)



⁹ State Statistics Service of Ukraine, ibid

¹⁰ Ministry of Finance of Ukraine, ibid

¹¹ ACLED, ibid

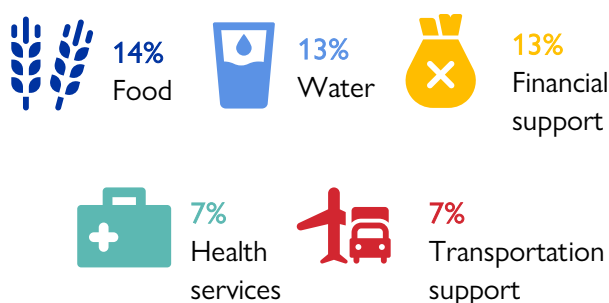
¹² State Statistics Service of Ukraine, ibid

¹³ ACLED, ibid

VI. IMMEDIATE NEEDS WHILE CROSSING BACK

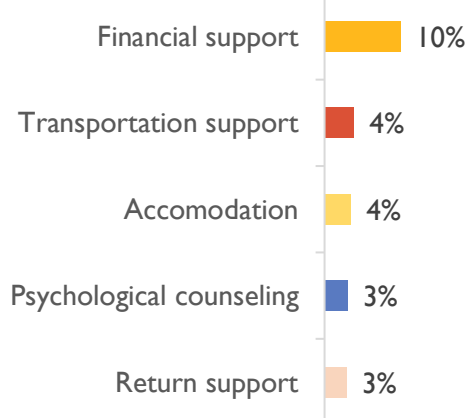
The top immediate needs reported by respondents while crossing the border with Ukraine were, on average, food (14%), water (13%), financial support (13%), health (7%), and transportation support (7%).

Figure 17: Top 5 reported needs, total (% w) (more than one answer possible)¹⁴



In **Hungary**, the top reported needs were financial support (27%), health services (19%), legal services (16%), support with accommodation (16%), and transport support (14%). Food and water, among the top needs on average for the whole sample, only received 10 per cent and six per cent of positive replies respectively.

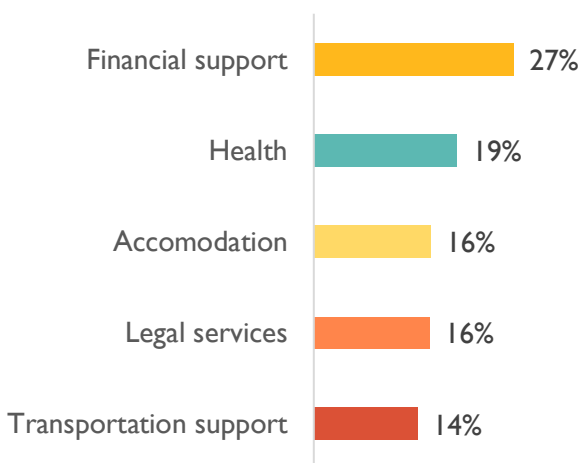
Figure 19: Top 5 reported needs in Poland. (more than one answer possible)



Overall, the level of needs reported by persons crossing back is lower on average than that reported by Ukrainians and TCNs interviewed when entering the same countries.

Nevertheless, important variations in the type and the frequency of reported needs were found in terms of main needs expressed by respondents at the moment of going back to Ukraine, when looking at each of the five countries' sub-samples separately.

Figure 18: Top 5 reported needs in Hungary. (more than one answer possible)

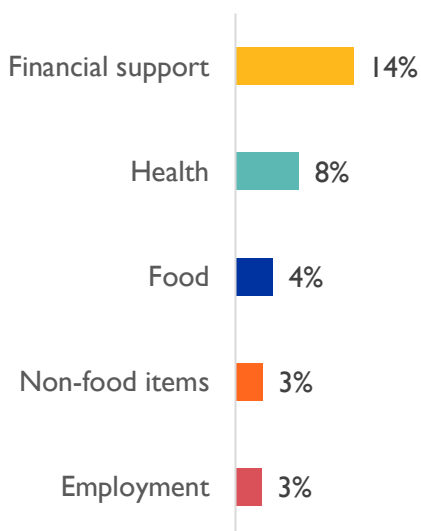


In **Poland**, the most frequently reported need was financial support (10%), followed by support with accommodation (4%), transportation support (4%), return support (3%), and psychological counselling (3%).

Like Hungary, food and water only received small shares of positive replies (2% and 1%, respectively) and most respondents reported to have no needs at the time of interview (69%).

¹⁴ Respondents were asked to say what were the main needs out of a list of options/items. The reported values represent the share of positive replies ("yes") to each item. The sum can therefore be lower or higher than 100 per cent.

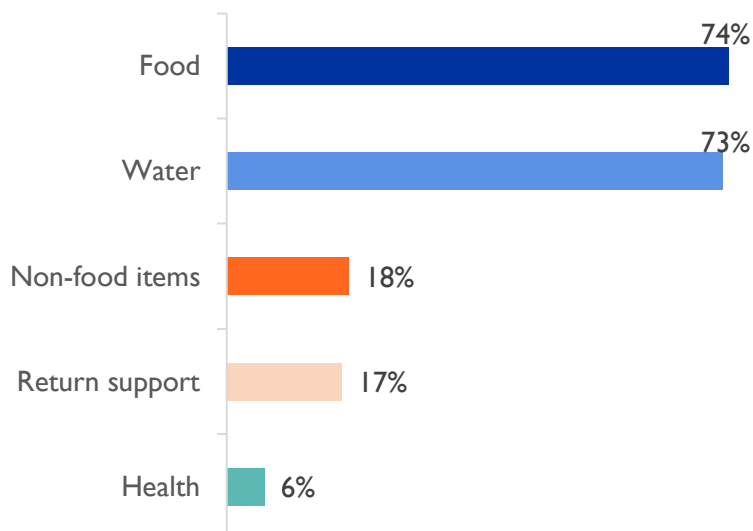
Figure 20: Top 5 reported needs in the Republic of Moldova (more than one answer possible)



In the **Republic of Moldova**, the top reported needs were financial support (14%), health services (8%), food (4%), non-food items (3%), and employment support (3%).

Most of the respondents reported to have no pressing needs at the time of the interview (74%).

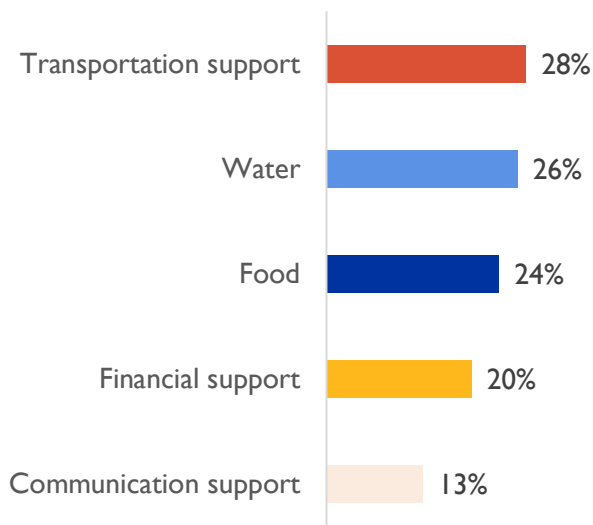
Figure 21: Top 5 reported needs in Romania (more than one answer possible)



In **Romania**, the top reported needs were food (74%), water (73%), non-food items (18%), and health services (6%).

Compared to the other countries, Romania is the one with the highest level of reported needs by respondents and the one with the smallest share of respondents stating to have no needs and the time of the survey (13%).

Figure 22: Top 5 reported needs in Slovakia. (more than one answer possible)



In **Slovakia**, the main needs were transportation support (28% of respondents), water (26%), food (24%), and financial support (20%).

Unlike the other four countries where interviews were conducted, respondents in Slovakia reported communication support as one of their main needs (13%). Also, over one-third (37%) of respondents stated to have no needs at the time of interview.

VII. EXPERIENCES OF DISCRIMINATION

Around five per cent of all respondents reported that they and/or their family members experienced unfair or unequal treatment based on nationality, ethnicity, or gender since they left their usual place of residence in Ukraine. About one per cent did not know or preferred not to answer, while the majority did not report any such experience.

The share of respondents reporting direct experiences of discrimination varies by country of the survey. It was more prominent in Hungary where nine per cent of respondents reported having experienced unfair treatment or discrimination. This was followed by Slovakia with six per cent of respondents reporting some experience of discrimination, then Poland (5%), Republic of Moldova (4%), and Romania (2%). Amongst the experiences reported by respondents, most involved episodes of harassment and discrimination due to citizenship or language used in public places (i.e., public

transport, on the street, in restaurants and shops), or in accessing services provided by national and local authorities (welfare services, education institutions such as schools and universities). Others reported discrimination due to their belonging to a specific ethnic group (most often by Roma persons).

Overall, men seem more likely to report some experience of discrimination than their female counterparts (6% versus 5%), while no big variation over time in the share of positive responses has been observed overall. On the contrary, a big difference in the share of positive responses to this question has been observed between Ukrainians and other nationalities in the sample: TCNs reported to have experienced some form of discrimination or unfair treatment almost three times more frequently than Ukrainian respondents on average (14% versus 5%).

Table 12: Share of respondents reporting unfair treatment or discrimination during displacement, by country of the survey, gender and total (% , w)

	Hungary	Poland	Rep. of Moldova	Romania	Slovakia	Women (w)	Men (w)	Total (w)
Yes	9%	5%	4%	2%	6%	5%	6%	5%
Does not know	2%	0.4%	0.2%	0.2%	9%	1%	3%	1%
Prefers not to answer	0.0%	0.1%	0.4%	0.0%	3.4%	0.3%	1%	0.3%
No	89%	94%	96%	98%	82%	93%	91%	93%

Table 13: Share of respondents reporting unfair treatment or discrimination during displacement, by period of survey and nationality (% , w)

	Q2 2022	Q3 2022	Q4 2022	TCNs (w)	Ukrainians (w)
Yes	6%	5%	6%	14%	5%
Does not know	1%	1%	2%	0.4%	1%
Prefers not to answer	0.1%	0.4%	0.4%	1%	0.3%
No	94%	94%	92%	84%	93%

VIII. METHODOLOGY

This report is based on a survey of displacement patterns, needs and intentions conducted by IOM's Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM) in 5 countries neighbouring Ukraine between 16 April and 31 December 2022 through a network of more than 80 enumerators.

Face-to-face surveys were conducted by trained enumerators with adult refugees from Ukraine and TCNs (18 years of age and above) while crossing back into Ukraine. Respondents were approached in a simple random sample by enumerators at selected exit points and transit locations close to the border points with Ukraine. In border crossing point areas, persons moving by car, by bus and by foot were interviewed.

Prior to the start of the survey, all enumerators were trained by IOM on the DTM methodological framework, the Kobo application, IOM approach to migrants' protection, ethics of data collection and provision of information. The survey was anonymous and voluntary. Surveys were administered only if consent from the respondent was given. The respondent could stop the survey at any time. Only fully completed surveys were taken in account for this report.

The questionnaire was available in Ukrainian, Russian, Romanian and English, and the preferred language was determined by the interviewee. All responses were checked for any systematic issues by enumerator and this process did not identify any problems.

The total sample is composed of 24,393 individual valid surveys collected in Hungary (1,037), Poland (6,807), Republic of Moldova (7,131), Romania (8,743), Slovakia (675).

Table 14: Number of surveys conducted by country and per period

Country of interview	1 st period (Q2 2022)	2 nd period (Q3 2022)	3 rd period (Q4 2022)	Total
Hungary	not activated	301	736	1,037
Rep. of Moldova	2,745	2,303	2,083	7,131
Poland	1,450	2,870	2,487	6,807
Romania	1,620	3,321	3,802	8,743
Slovakia	150	176	349	675
Total	5,965	8,971	9,994	24,393

Country-level implementation and limitations

The sampling framework was not based on verified figures of refugees from Ukraine and TCNs exiting to Ukraine through the various land border points of the country where surveys were conducted. This is due to the limited availability of baseline information of all border crossings to Ukraine from each neighbouring country. The geographic spread of enumerators deployed, and locations targeted captures a wide range of locations and modes of travel. Whilst results cannot be deemed representative, the internal consistency within the data within each country and at the regional level suggests that the findings of the current sampling framework have practical value.

Whilst every attempt was made to capture all types of movements at the Border Crossing Points (BCPs), the operational reality of fieldwork was confronted with different levels of accessibility of BCPs and other transit locations and the different availability of possible target potential respondents to comfortably spend 10-20 minutes responding to the questionnaire. For example, it is easier to interview persons travelling by bus and other types of group transportation than those in private vehicles who tend to be faster in transiting through BCPs and travel onwards.

In **Hungary**, 1,037 surveys were collected by 8 IOM's DTM enumerators in the reporting period in the capital city Budapest and in the county Szabolcs-Szatmár-Bereg which borders Ukraine and Slovakia in the north-east of the country. Collective centres, help centres and train stations were covered.

In **Poland**, 6,807 surveys were collected by 15 IOM's DTM in the reporting period, eight main locations were covered in regions of entry/exits close to the border with Ukraine and transit: Dolhobyczów-Uhrynów, Hrebenne-Rawa Ruska, Korczowa-Krakowiec, Krakow, Lublin, Medyka-Szeginie, Tomaszow Lubelski, Zosin-Ustyluh.

In the **Republic of Moldova**, 7,131 interviews were conducted in the reporting period by IOM's DTM in partnership with CBS-Axa, a Moldovan research company, with 20 enumerators. The survey on crossings back into Ukraine was deployed to two main BCPs of entry/exit with Ukraine: Otaci and Palanca.

In **Romania**, 8,743 were conducted in the reporting period by 27 DTM enumerators, covering 6 counties. In particular, surveys, were collected in BCPs at entry/exit with Ukraine – Isaccea, Siret, Suceava, Niculitel, Galati – and in some transit locations in main cities in Bucharest, Costanta, Iasi, Radauti, Siret, Suceava, Isaccea.

In **Slovakia**, 675 surveys were collected by 15 IOM's DTM at three BCP at entry/exit including Vyšné Nemecké, Ubl'a, Veľké Slemence, and in two main transit locations – the Michalovce Registration Centre and Červená Hviezda Hotspot in Košice.

IX. DATA APPENDIXES

Table 15: Oblast of origin or habitual residence in Ukraine, by country of interview and total (% , w)

Oblast	Hungary	Poland	Rep. of Moldova	Romania	Slovakia	Total (w)
Dnipropetrovska	8%	21%	3%	6%	6%	15%
Odeska	4%	6%	44%	47%	4%	12%
Kyiv	10%	13%	6%	6%	6%	11%
Kyivska	14%	8%	16%	6%	15%	10%
Zaporizka	3%	11%	1%	2%	3%	7%
Kharkivska	9%	7%	3%	2%	12%	7%
Zakarpatska	21%	0%	0%	0%	30%	6%
Lvivska	3%	8%	0%	1%	1%	6%
Mykolaivska	3%	2%	6%	8%	1%	3%
Donetska	2%	4%	1%	1%	4%	3%
Khersonska	5%	1%	1%	3%	1%	2%
Kirovohradska	3%	2%	1%	1%	1%	2%
Vinnyska	1%	2%	11%	1%	1%	2%
Cherkaska	1%	2%	2%	1%	2%	2%
Ivano-Frankivska	4%	1%	0%	2%	3%	2%
Poltavska	1%	2%	1%	1%	2%	2%
Khmelnyska	2%	2%	1%	1%	0%	1%
Chernihivska	1%	2%	1%	1%	2%	1%
Chernivetska	0%	0%	0%	9%	1%	1%
Ternopil'ska	3%	1%	0%	1%	0%	1%
Sumska	1%	1%	0%	0%	1%	1%
Zhytomyrska	0%	1%	1%	0%	2%	1%
Luhanska	1%	1%	0%	0%	1%	1%
Rivnenska	0%	1%	0%	0%	1%	1%
Volynska	0%	0%	0%	0%	1%	<1%

Table 16: Top 10 reasons for respondents intending to stay in Ukraine, total (% , w)
(more than one answer possible, N=9,996)

Reasons	Hungary	Poland	Rep. of Moldova	Romania	Slovakia	Total (w)
Reunite with family/friends	29%	65%	54%	53%	25%	59%
Situation better at home	23%	14%	22%	42%	46%	23%
Not enough money abroad	16%	7%	5%	21%	11%	11%
Essential services	3%	10%	7%	8%	3%	8%
Lack of employment abroad	11%	8%	3%	5%	8%	8%
Care responsibilities	21%	5%	5%	6%	4%	8%
Lack of shelter abroad	4%	4%	1%	4%	4%	4%
Lack of education services abroad	13%	2%	1%	1%	1%	4%
Situation better in other regions of Ukraine	1%	1%	4%	10%	6%	3%
Bring family to safety	4%	2%	7%	6%	2%	3%
Lack of humanitarian assistance abroad	4%	1%	0%	5%	2%	2%
Discrimination abroad	2%	1%	0%	1%	1%	1%
To check my property*	1%	1%	7%	0%	0%	1%
To defend Ukraine	3%	0%	2%	3%	0%	1%
Returning after meeting relatives abroad*	1%	0%	0%	6%	0%	1%
Returning after medical treatment abroad*	1%	1%	1%	1%	0%	1%
Returning after groceries abroad*	0%	0%	0%	2%	0%	0.3%
Documents*	0%	0%	0%	1%	0%	0.2%

* Answers re-categorized from open comments of respondents.

Table 17: Top 10 reasons for respondents intending to do a short visit in Ukraine, total (% w)
(More than one answer possible) (N=9,996)

More than one possible answer	Hungary	Poland	Rep. of Moldova	Romania	Slovakia	Total (w)
Meet family	56%	69%	59%	80%	70%	65%
Collect belongings	49%	22%	44%	73%	29%	35%
Help family/friends to get to border	17%	6%	11%	20%	16%	11%
Documents (issuance, renewal)	10%	14%	5%	10%	4%	11%
Help family/friends to get to border	11%	8%	3%	28%	4%	11%
Bring supplies	10%	7%	2%	32%	9%	11%
Going to the doctor, get a medical treatment in Ukraine	4%	8%	2%	2%	2%	5%
Work reasons	1%	2%	2%	0%	1%	1%
Check my property	0%	2%	2%	0%	0%	1%
Study	2%	0%	1%	0%	0%	1%

Table 18: Main needs, by country of interview and total (% , w)
(more than one answer possible)

Reported needs	Hungary	Poland	Rep. of Moldova	Romania	Slovakia	Total (w)
None	28%	69%	74%	13%	37%	57%
Food	10%	2%	4%	74%	24%	14%
Water	6%	1%	2%	73%	26%	13%
Financial support	27%	10%	14%	4%	20%	13%
Health	19%	1%	8%	6%	4%	7%
Transportation support	14%	4%	2%	4%	28%	7%
Accommodation	16%	4%	2%	4%	3%	6%
Return support	4%	3%	3%	17%	5%	5%
Employment	13%	3%	3%	1%	4%	4%
Legal services	16%	1%	3%	0.4%	7%	4%
Non-food items	4%	0.3%	3%	18%	3%	3%
Psychological counselling	3%	3%	2%	1%	1%	3%
Communication support	7%	1%	1%	0%	13%	3%
Family tracing	5%	0.1%	0.4%	0.1%	1%	1%
Protection	4%	0.1%	0.5%	0.1%	3.0%	1%
Other	6%	0.5%	1%	0%	0.0%	1%
Prefers not to answer	0.5%	0.2%	1%	0.1%	2%	2%

Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM) is a system to track and monitor displacement and population mobility. The survey form was designed to capture the main displacement patterns – origin country and region – for refugees of any nationality 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 intended final destination and prospects of permanence in the country of the survey/first reception; it gathers information regarding a set of main needs that the respondents expressed as more pressing at the moment of the interview.

Since the onset of the war in Ukraine, other IOM's DTM tools were also deployed: surveys with TCNs only in Belgium, France, Germany, surveys with refugees from Ukraine in Montenegro, North Macedonia and Albania, surveys with Ukrainians and TCNs crossing back to Ukraine in Hungary, Poland, the Republic of Moldova, Romania, Slovakia.

DTM is part of IOM's Global Data Institute.

For more information, please consult: <https://dtm.iom.int/responses/ukraine-response> and country-pages:

<https://dtm.iom.int/hungary>

<https://dtm.iom.int/poland>

<https://dtm.iom.int/republic-of-moldova>

<https://dtm.iom.int/romania>

<https://dtm.iom.int/slovakia>