

Poland

Crossing Back Surveys with Ukrainian Nationals



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Country Report & Data Analysis

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Cover photo: An enumerator speaks with a refugee family from Ukraine. © IOM 2023

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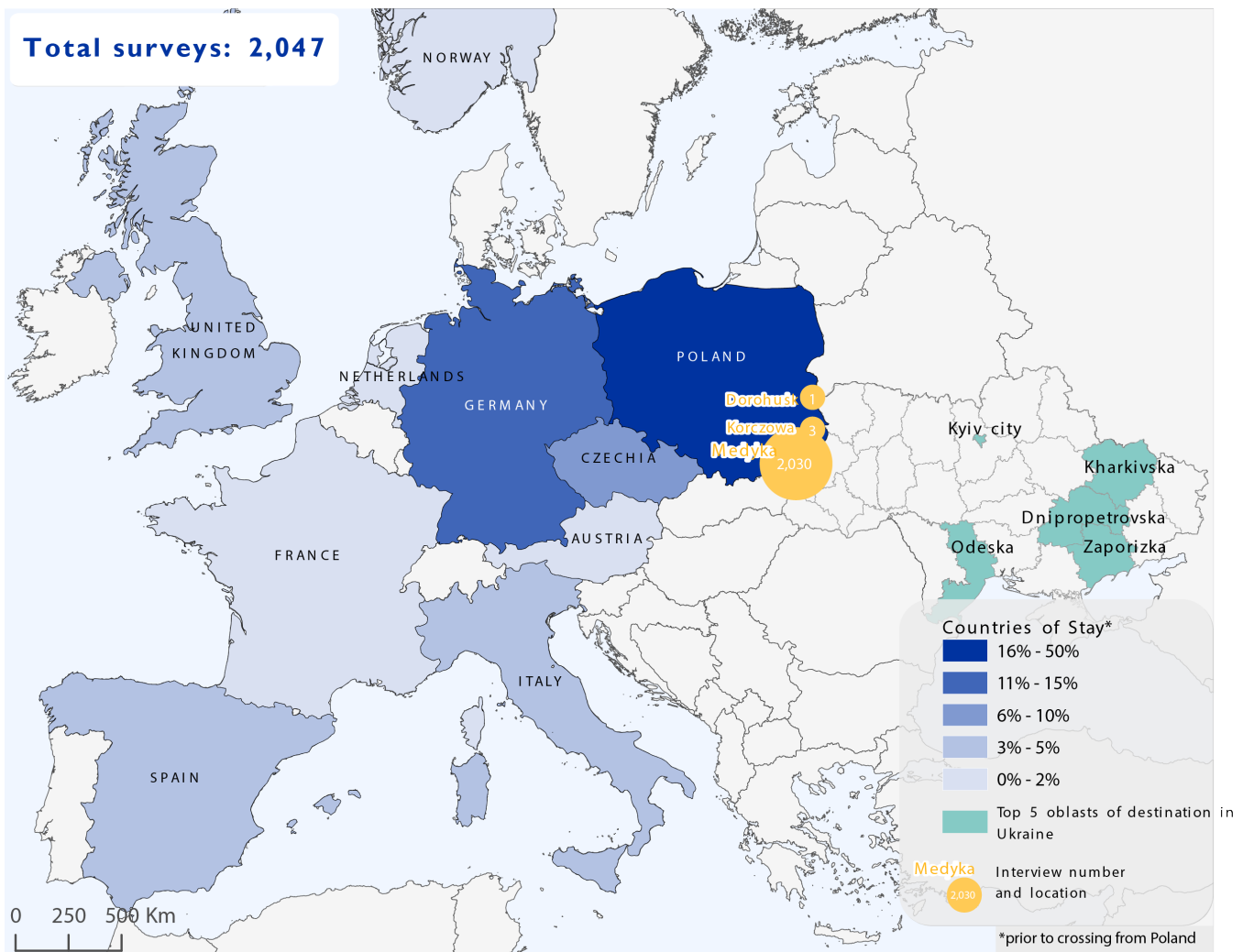
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KEY FINDINGS

- **Demographics:** 59% of respondents were traveling with at least one child in their group. Among male returnees (5%), 70% were over the age of 60 years.
- **Top 3 countries of stay abroad:** Poland (49%), Germany (25%), Czechia (17%).
- **Top oblasts of origin:** Dnipropetrovska (19%), Kharkivska (16%), Kyiv city (16%).
- **Intended destination: 93% of respondents were planning to return to their oblast of origin.** Seven per cent of those, who intended on returning to another oblast, were mainly from Donetsk, Kharkivska, Zaporizka, Khersonska and Dnipropetrovska oblasts.
- **Intentions upon crossing back:** long-term stay (50%), short-term visit (40%), 10% were not sure.
- **Top needs at the time of interview:*** health services (10%), financial support (9%), medicine (8%), food (6%) and personal safety (5%). 34% of respondents did not report any needs.
- **Top areas of assistance received:*** financial support (32%), food assistance (22%), accommodation assistance (17%), WASH (Water, sanitation and hygiene) items (12%), clothes (7%) and transportation support (5%).

* more than one answer possible

Map 1: Poland, surveys deployed, countries of stay & oblasts of destination in Ukraine



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.

I. Socio-Demographic Profile

Gender and age

Out of the 2,047 refugees from Ukraine who were interviewed prior to crossing back from Poland, 95 per cent were women, and five per cent were men. When looking at the data disaggregated by gender, it appears that 75 per cent of men were in

the age category of 60+, compared to only 18 per cent of their female counterparts and only four per cent in the age category of 30-39, while female respondents made up 25 per cent in the same category.

Figure 1: Surveyed individuals by gender (%), N=2,047

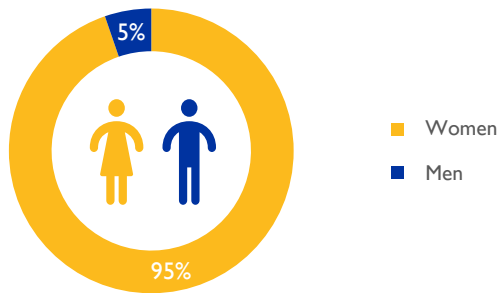
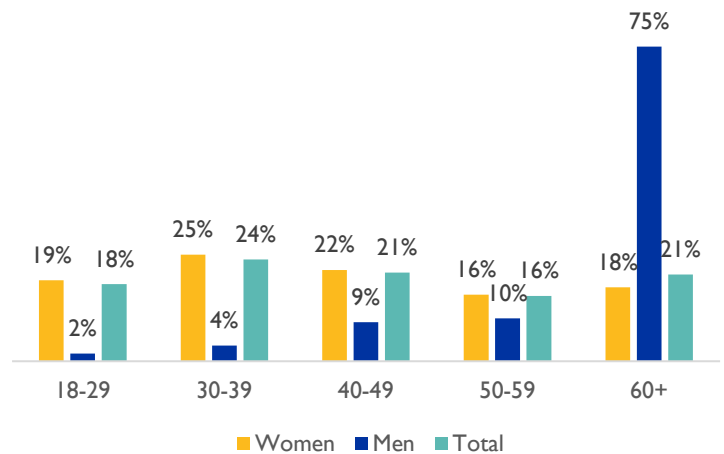


Figure 2: Age of respondents, by gender (%), N=2,047



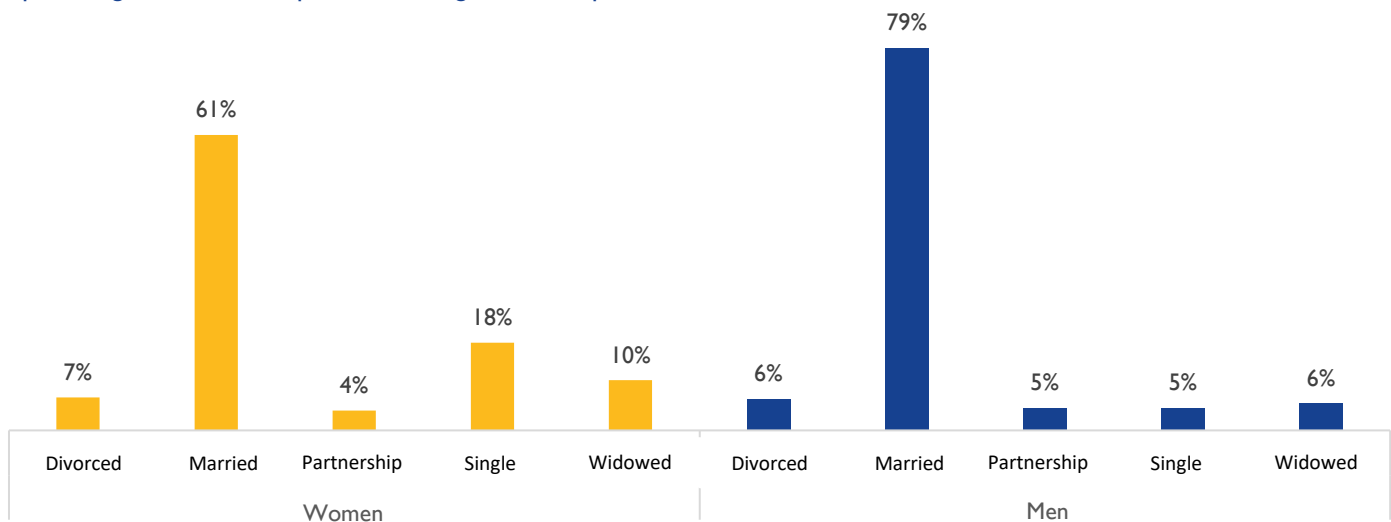
Marital status

Out of those who responded to this question (2,043 individuals), more than half of the respondents (62%) were married. A greater share of male respondents (79%) were married, compared to

female respondents in the sample (61%). Eighteen per cent of female respondents were single, while only five per cent of male respondents were in this category.

Figure 3: Marital status, by gender (%), N=2,043

*the percentages are rounded up, therefore, might not add up to a 100



2. Time Spent Outside of Ukraine

Countries of stay while abroad

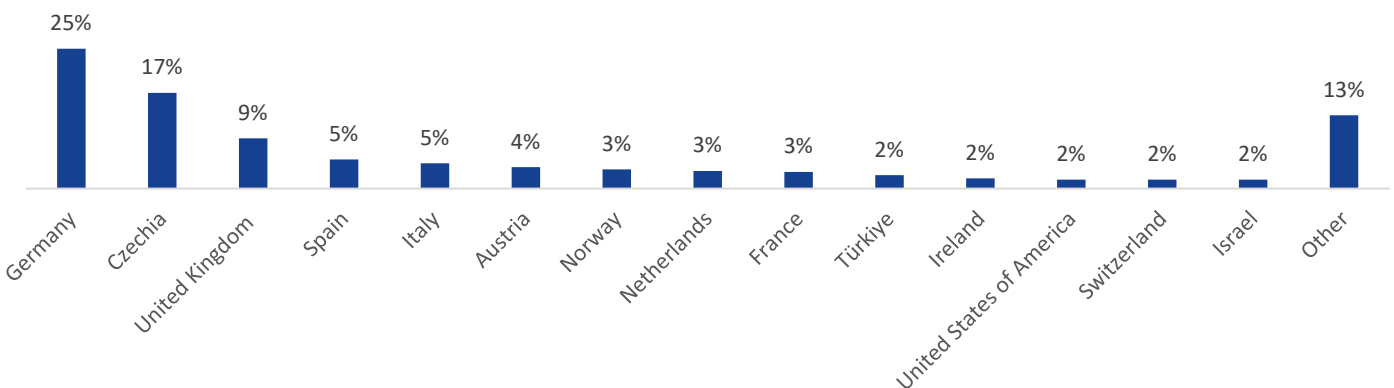
Forty-nine per cent of respondents had been residing in Poland prior to crossing back to Ukraine, while 51 per cent had also spent time in other countries.

Out of those who had stayed in another country, the largest portion were residing in Germany (25%), Czechia (17%) and the United Kingdom (9%). These were followed by Spain (5%), Italy (5%) and Austria (4%).

Other countries that were mentioned by respondents were Norway (3%), Netherlands (3%) and France (3%). Türkiye, Ireland, the United States of America, Switzerland and Israel made up ten per cent, with two per cent each. The remaining percentage of respondents (13%) stayed in other 13 countries across different continents before travelling back to Ukraine.

Figure 4: Countries of stay (%), N=1,045

*the percentages are rounded up, countries with less than 1 per cent are excluded from the graph



Average time since initial displacement

The approximate duration of time spent outside of Ukraine can be assessed by looking at the difference between respondents' initial date of displacement from Ukraine and the date of interview.

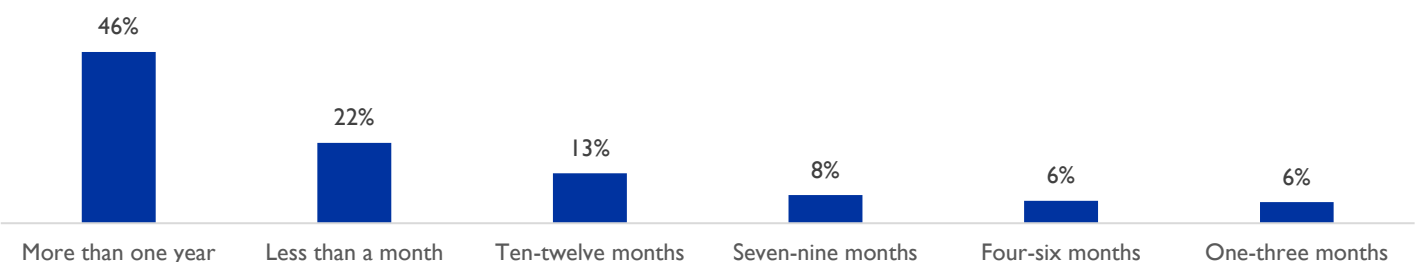
Forty-six per cent of respondents spent more than one year in displacement. Twenty-two per cent of respondents had spent less than a month in

displacement at the time of the interview.

This group was followed by those who had spent ten to twelve months in displacement (13%). Eight per cent had been displaced for a duration of seven to nine months. Both groups of those who had spent four to six months and those who had spent one to three months outside of Ukraine made up six per cent of respondents each.

Figure 5: Approximate time in displacement until the date of the interview (%)

*the percentages are rounded up, therefore, might not add up to a 100



3. Oblast (region) of Origin and Destination

Origin or habitual residence

More than half of respondents (64%) came from four Oblasts in Ukraine: Dnipropetrovska (19%), Kharkivska (16%), Kyiv city (16%) and Zaporizka (13%). The remaining respondents (36%) came from other 16 oblasts in Ukraine: Odeska (7%), Kyivska (5%), Lvivska (3%), Poltavska (3%), Cherkaska (3%), Vinnytska (2%), Donetsk (2%), Kirovohradka (2%), Mykolaivska (2%), including Ternopilska, Khersonska, Chernihivska, Khmelnytska, Zhytomyrska and Sumska with 1% of respondents each.

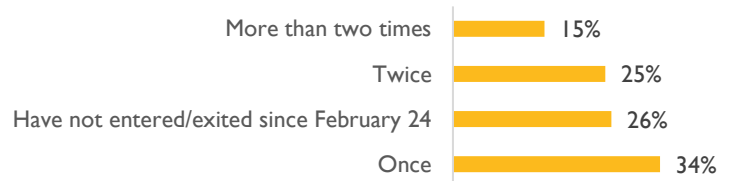
Number of exits/entries

Most respondents had entered or exited Ukraine only once since February 24, 2022 (34%). Twenty-six per cent had not entered or exited more than once, twenty-five per cent had entered or exited twice while fifteen per cent more than two times.

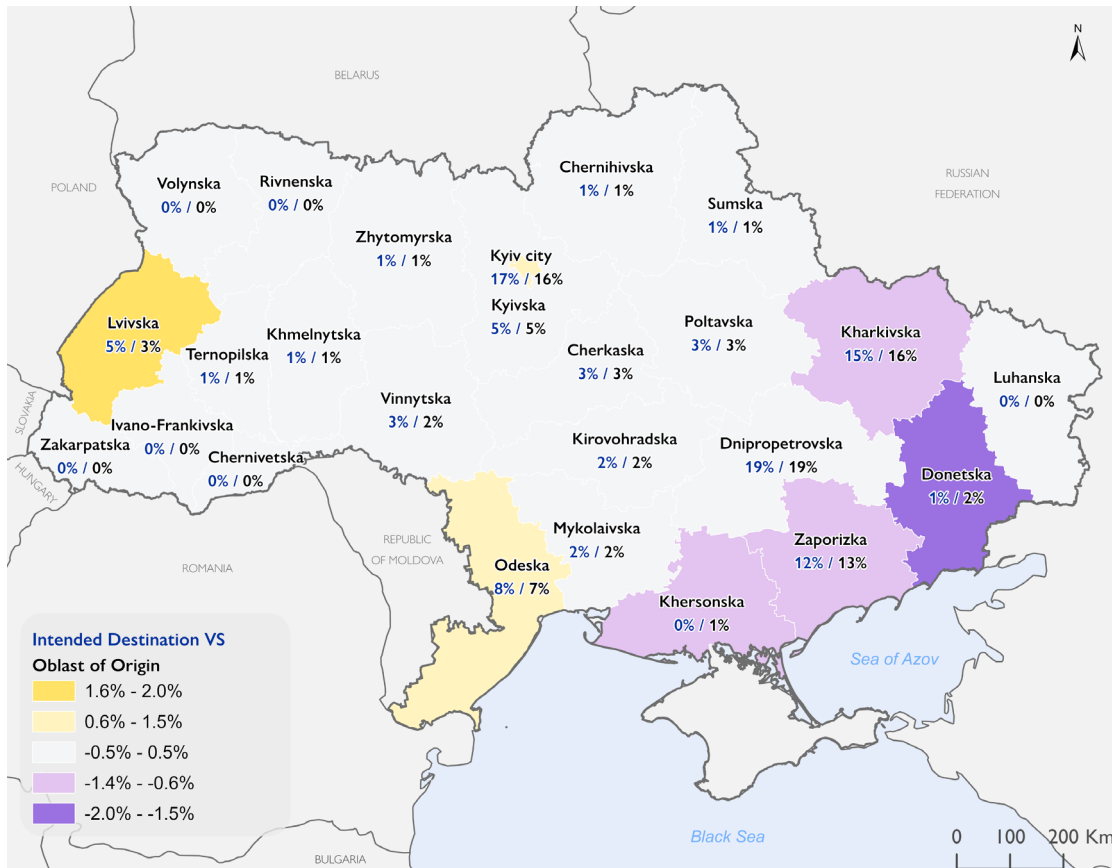
Intended destination

Out of 2,043 respondents who answered this question, 93 per cent were planning to return to the same oblast of origin while another seven per cent aimed to reach a different one. Out of those returning to a different oblast (N=152), 20 per cent were originally from Donetsk oblast, 14 per cent from Kharkivska, 13 per cent from Zaporizka and Khersonska, and 12 per cent from Dnipropetrovska. The main oblasts of destination of those returning to a different oblast are Lvivska (26%), Kyiv city (25%) and Dnipropetrovska (16%).

Figure 6: Number of entries/exits between 24 February 2022 and 30 June 2023, (%)



Map 2: Intended oblast of destination versus oblast of origin in Ukraine (%)



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.

4. Intentions and Reasons to Cross Back

Intentions to stay

Fifty per cent of respondents indicated that they were returning to Ukraine to stay. Among them, 42 per cent indicated that they were returning and staying in Ukraine because they missed home. This was followed by 16 per cent of those who were returning to reunite with their families and 16 per cent who are crossing back since they work in

essential services back in Ukraine and 10 per cent who indicated other reasons for their return.

Other reasons for returning were improved situation in the place of origin (3%), return after taking family to safety (1%), shopping abroad (1%) and inability to find employment outside of Ukraine.

Figure 7: Reasons for returning to Ukraine (%), N=1,026

(more than one answer possible)

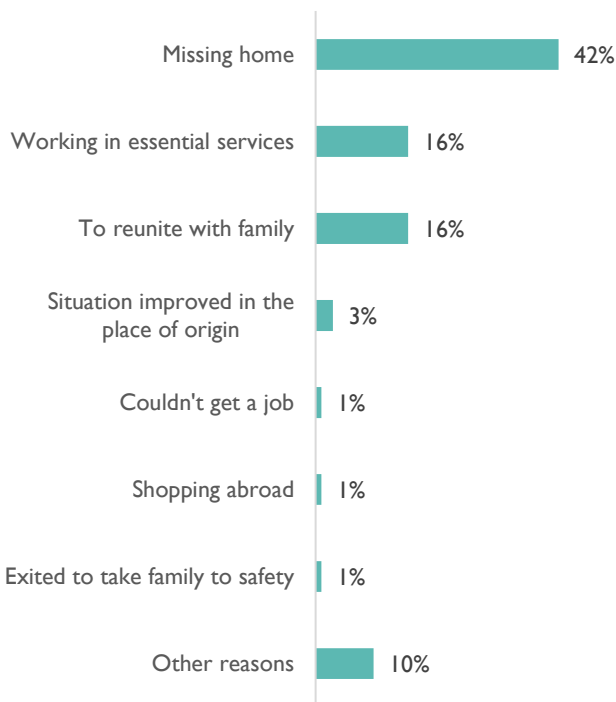
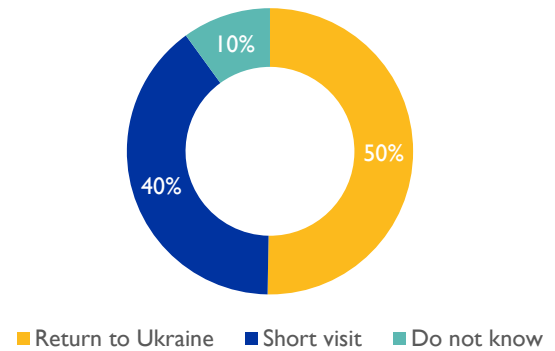


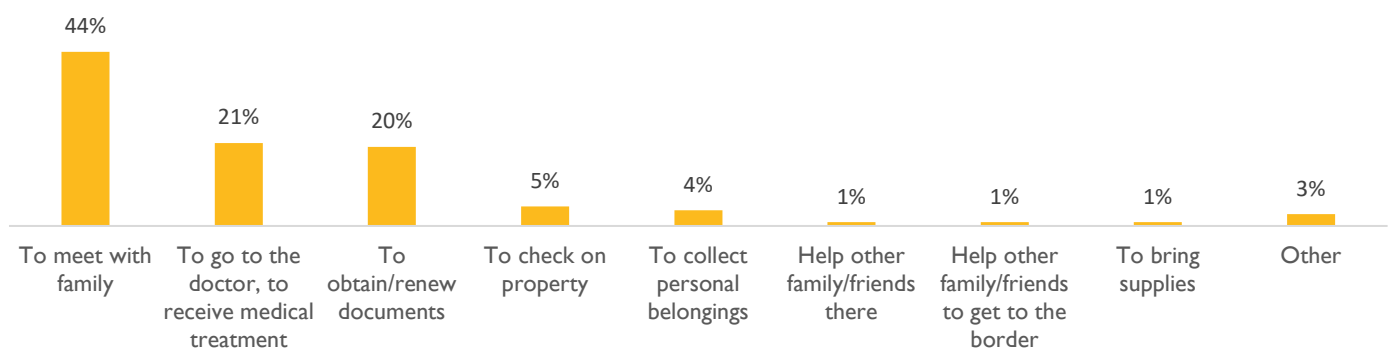
Figure 8: Intended length of stay (%), N=1,026



Short-term visit

Forty per cent of the refugees from Ukraine who were surveyed were planning to stay in Ukraine for a short visit only. Out of this sample (811 individuals), 44 per cent stated that their main reason to go to Ukraine for a limited duration was to meet with family. Another 21 per cent were returning to visit a doctor or receive medical treatment, followed by those who needed to obtain or renew documents (20%). Fifteen per cent of respondents indicated other reasons for returning.

Figure 9: Reasons for a short visit (%), N=811



5. Needs, Assistance Received, and Challenges

Immediate needs upon crossing back

Thirty-four per cent of respondents indicated no need for any kind of assistance while crossing back into Ukraine. Among those who indicated having immediate needs upon return, the most prevalent reported needs were: health services (10%), financial support (9%) and medications (8%). This was followed by food (6%), personal safety (5%), employment (4%) and psychological counselling (4%). The remaining 11 per cent were distributed between the need for short-term accommodation (3%), information (3%), personal hygiene (3%) and language courses (2%).

Assistance received while outside of Ukraine

Thirty-two per cent of respondents who indicated having received assistance outside of Ukraine (N=1,124) received financial support. Twenty-two per cent received food, followed by 17 per cent of respondents who received accommodation assistance. Other relevant areas where respondents received assistance while outside of Ukraine were personal hygiene items (12%), clothes/shoes (7%) and transportation support (5%).

Figure 11: Main areas of assistance received (%), N=1,124

(more than one answer possible)

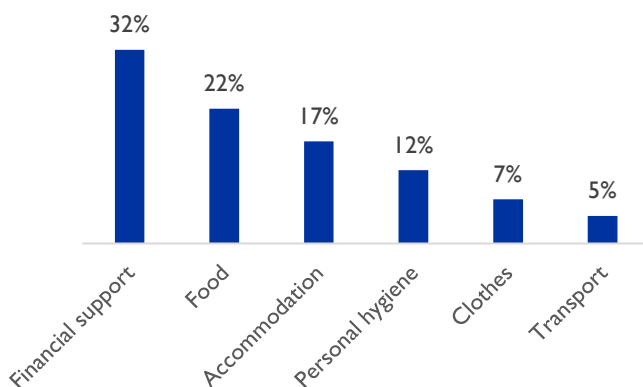
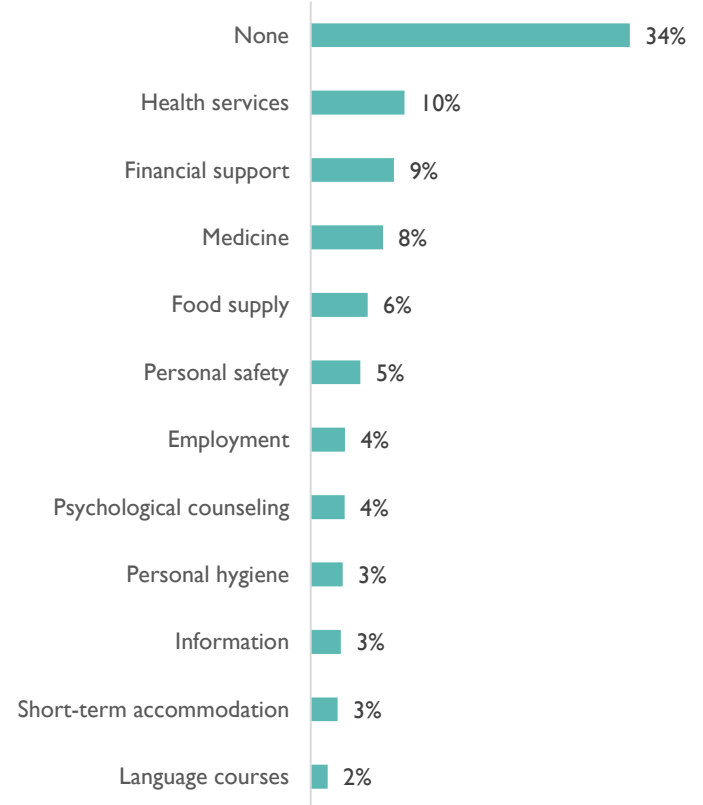


Figure 10: Needs at the moment of interview (%), N=2,047

(more than one answer possible)



Experiences of Discrimination

Ten per cent of respondents reported having experienced discrimination in the country of displacement. In contrast, 90 per cent of respondents reported having no such experiences.

Figure 12: Experiences of discrimination (%), N=2,047



6. Group Composition

Travel mode

The majority of respondents (55%) were travelling back to Ukraine alone. Among these, 43 per cent had left Ukraine on their own and 12 per cent had initially left the country as part of a group but then were returning alone. The remaining 45 per cent of survey respondents were crossing back into Ukraine as part of a group. Among these, most respondents were travelling with the same group (34%). Eleven

per cent of respondents had some changes in their travel group, while one per cent were travelling with a different group.

For those travelling in a group, whether the same one or different (N=918), the average group size was two persons.

Figure 13: Travel mode (%), N=2,047

*the percentages are rounded up, therefore, might not add up to a 100

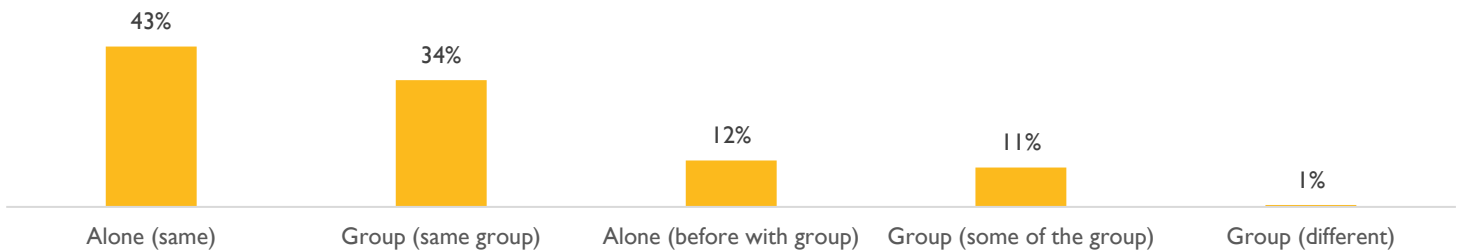
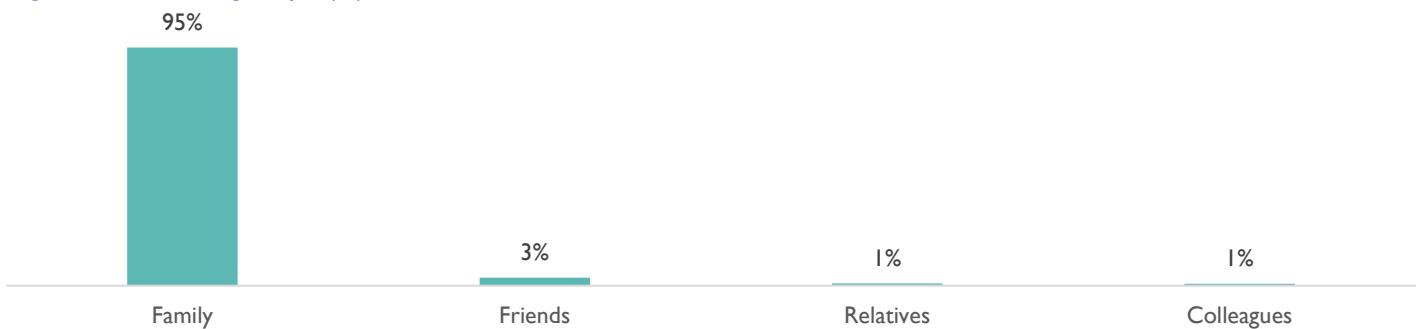


Figure 14: Travel groups (%), N=918

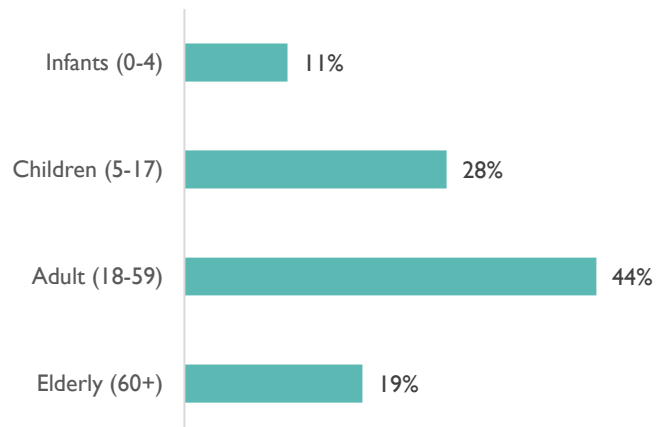


Age groups

Among those survey respondents, who travelled in a group and provided information on their group composition (N=918), the group composition was as follows: adults made up 44 per cent, followed by children between age 5-17 (28%), elderly persons (19%) and infants between 0-4 years old (11%). At the same time, 82 per cent of respondents travelled with at least one child (0-17 y.o.) and 39 per cent had at least one elderly person in their household.

Figure 15: Travel groups age breakdown (%), N=918

*the percentages are rounded up, therefore, might not add up to a 100



8. Methodology

Background

Since 24 February 2022, refugees from Ukraine and Third Country Nationals (TCNs) have been fleeing to neighbouring countries as a result of the war. As of June 2023, more than twelve million refugees from Ukraine were recorded at various border crossings entering Poland and ten million had crossed back since February 2022.

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, aiming to improve the understanding of the main profiles, displacement patterns, intentions and needs of those moving into Ukraine.

This report is based on surveys collected in Poland between 01 April and 30 June 2023 at the train and bus stations in Przemysl, one of the primary border crossing points between Ukraine and Poland.

Methodological framework

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

This survey is part of IOM's DTM activities to monitor the profiles, displacement patterns and main immediate needs of the Ukrainian refugees and TCNs crossing back to Ukraine since 24 February 2022.

In Poland, surveys were conducted in Ukrainian, Russian, and English by IOM's DTM trained teams of enumerators via mobile application.

The interviews were anonymous and carried out one-on-one with respondents, provided they consented to be interviewed after a brief introduction.

Enumerators trained on ethics of data collection, information provision and protection principles, approached people crossing back to Ukraine to verify their willingness to conduct the survey, which was only addressed to adults (18+).

The survey form was designed by IOM to capture the main displacement patterns for refugees crossing back to Ukraine following the outbreak of the war. It analyses the demographic profiles of respondents and of the group they are travelling with, if any; it asks about intentions relative to the permanence in Ukraine; and it gathers information regarding a set of main needs at the moment of the interview.

Various settings were identified to conduct surveys, to maximise the number of interviews, and reach out to different profiles of individuals.

While in border crossing/transit points such as train stations, the flow of people was higher and respondents were randomly surveyed (having the same likelihood compared to others to be selected), while in other settings such as collective accommodations, respondents were intentionally identified.

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

To address the aforesaid shortcomings, a mixed sampling strategy guided the data collection exercise.

Consequently, this analysis does not proportionally represent the whole population and results cannot be deemed representative of a full picture of mobility towards Ukraine from Poland.

DTM

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, several IOM's DTM tools were deployed in countries neighbouring Ukraine and in other countries particularly impacted by the new arrivals of migrants and refugees from Ukraine.

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

DTM is part of IOM's Global Data Institute.

