

ROMANIA

Crossing Back Surveys with Ukrainian Nationals



April-June 2023
Country Report & Data Analysis

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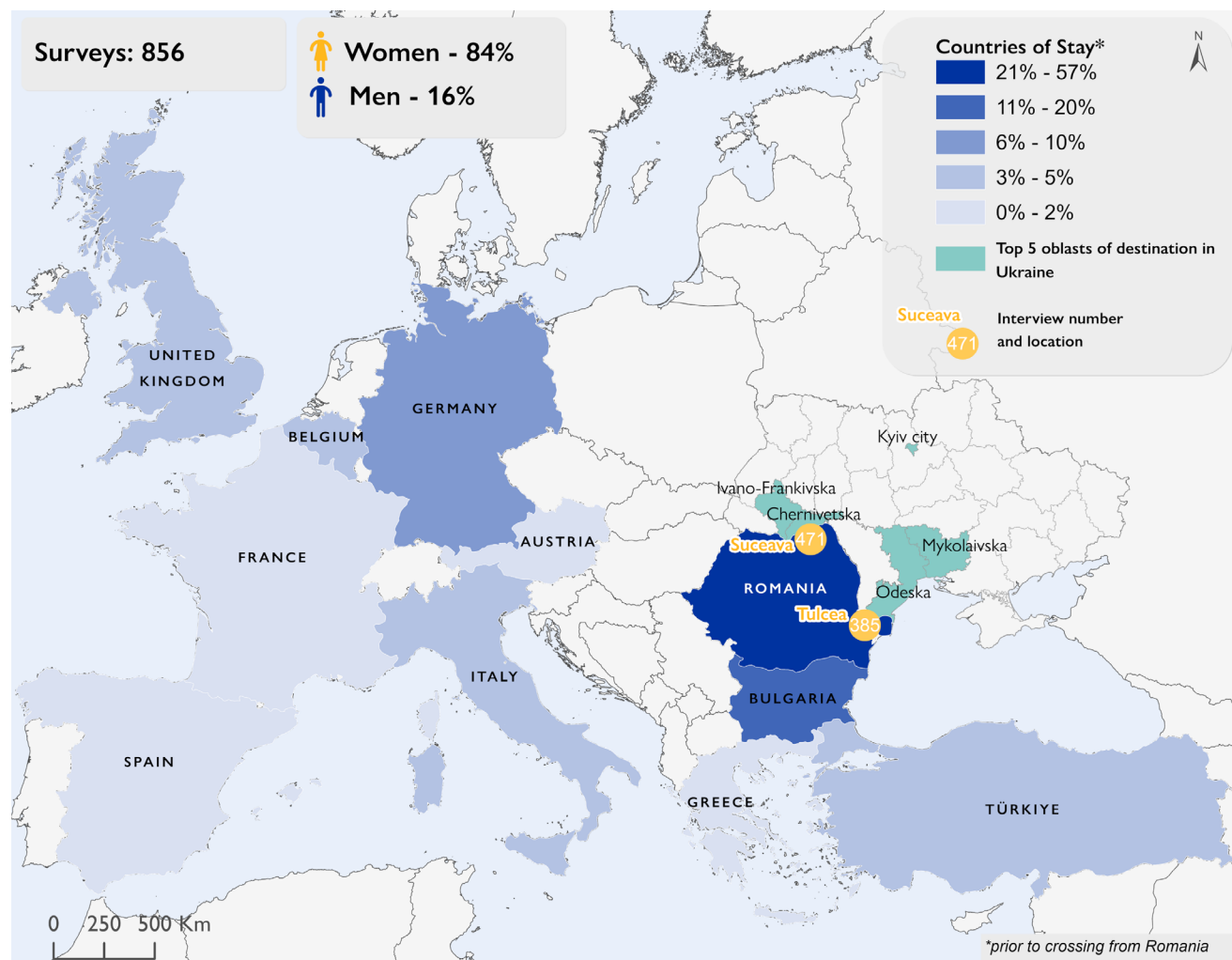
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KEY FINDINGS

- Top 3 countries of stay abroad: Romania (56%), Bulgaria (16%), Germany (7%).
 - Top 3 oblasts of origin: Odeska (30%), Chernivetska (21%), Kyiv city (7%).
 - Top 3 needs upon crossing back:* food supply (18%), information (15%), support to return (11%).
 - Top areas of assistance received:* food (29%), sanitary supplies (21%), accommodation (16%) and financial support (15%).
 - Transport to Ukraine: car (64%), foot (16%), minibus (12%).
- * more than one answer possible

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



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TRENDS & CHANGES IN THE FIRST HALF OF 2023

Countries of stay

- The main countries of residence outside of Ukraine remained relatively similar in Quarter 2, 2023 (Q2) and the previous Quarter 1, 2023 (Q1) (see page 7). Also, Q2 shows a slight increase in the number of people saying they cross back to Ukraine for a long-term stay (33% in the first quarter, compared to 44% in the second quarter).

Group Composition

- Q2 shows an increase in the number of UA citizens entering the country with the same type of group (59% compared to only 45% in Q1).
- In Q2, 15% entered the country with a part of the initial group, compared to 30% during the first quarter.
- The percentage of adults accompanied by children has also registered a slight decrease in Q2 compared to Q1, from 62% to 57%. The group composition has remained somewhat stable compared to the Q1, a slight decrease in the percentage of infants being registered in Q2 (29% compared to 32%).

Oblast of destination

- The oblasts of origin, as well as the oblasts of destination, remained constant for both quarters with 94 per cent of the surveyed UA nationals in Q1 and 96 per cent in Q2, stating that they want to temporarily get back to their oblast of origin.
- Those indicating that want to travel to a different oblast, six per cent for Q1, and less than four per cent in Q2 indicated as destination oblasts: Odeska, Chernivetska, Kyiv city & Ivano-Frankivska for Q1, and Odeska, Chernivetska, Kyiv city or Mykolai vska for Q2.

Period of stay in Ukraine

- The percentage of UA citizens surveyed that visited Ukraine for a short time has remained the same for both quarters (58%), while the percentage of those that wanted to cross back for a long-term stay showed a significant decrease, from 28 per cent in Q1 to 18 per cent in Q2. Those that chose not to answer the question have also registered a significant change, from 13 per cent in Q1 to 24 per cent in Q2.

Needs

- When assessing the needs upon crossing back, the second quarter showed a shift in the needs of the surveyed UA nationals. Even if the need of food supplies has remained a top need for both quarters, it was reported by only 18 per cent in the second quarter, compared to 45 per cent in the first. Another important need that emerged in Q2 is for assistance during the long-term stay in Ukraine.
- The second quarter showed an increase in the needs of general information (15%), the need of support to cross back to UA (11 per cent compared to only 6 per cent in Q1) and financial support (reported by 10 per cent of the surveyed UA nationals for Q2 and 15% for Q1).

Assistance received

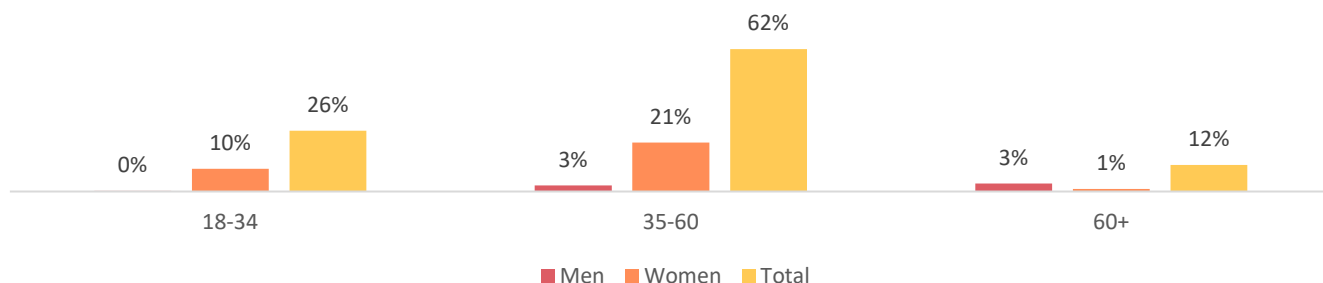
- The main types of assistance received have remained the same (food, personal hygiene products and accommodation), the second quarter registering a shift in the types of assistance provided, focusing more on food (29% compared to 20%), followed by personal hygiene products (21% compared to 18%) and accommodation (16% compared to 20%). Financial support has also registered a decrease during the second quarter of 2023 (15% from 18%).
- For more detailed information on Q1 2023, please check the [detailed report](#).**

I. Socio-Demographic Profile

Gender and age

Out of the 867 respondents surveyed, less than one per cent were TCN's (N=11) and over 99 per cent (N=856) were of Ukrainian nationality. Eighty-four per cent of the Ukrainian nationals were women and 16 per cent of them were men. The overall average age of the UA nationals was 42 years old, and 88 per cent of the respondents were of active age. Even if the number of men UA nationals is smaller than the number of women, the average age of men (54 years old) is higher than the average age of women (40 years old). Most respondents were aged between 35 and 60 years old (62%), followed by those aged between 18 and 34 years old (26%). In the case of men, the percentage of those of working age is equal to the percentage of retirees, 3% in both cases. As for women, the most common age groups are 35-60 years old (21%) and 18-34 years old (10%)

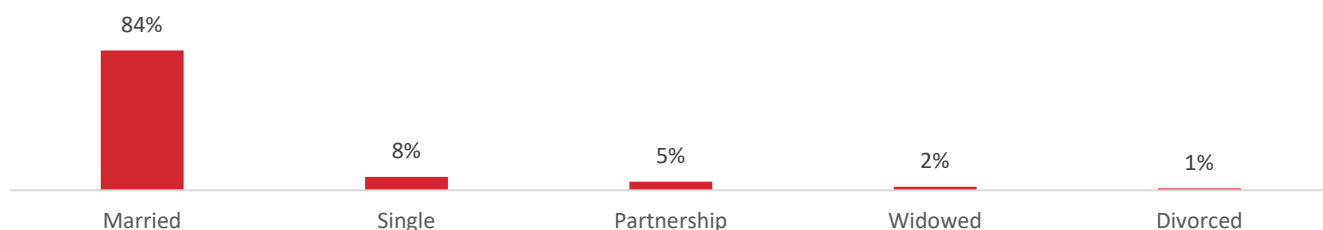
Figure 1: Age by gender and total



Marital status

Most respondents who answered this question (N=856) were married at the time of assessment (84%). This was followed by 8 per cent who were single. Another five per cent were in partnership, while two per cent were widowed. The remaining three per cent were divorced (1%). Compared to the data from the first quarter of 2023, the distribution of the marital status remained quite similar, only the share of married respondents exceeding the one in Q1 by 9%

Figure 2: Marital status

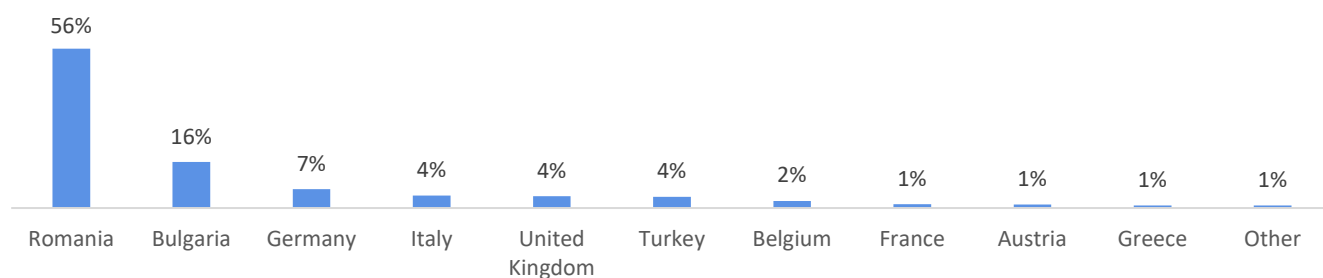


2. Time outside Ukraine

Countries of stay while abroad

Fifty-six per cent of the surveyed UA nationals stayed in Romania, where the current survey was conducted, before returning to Ukraine. Other countries of destination for the interviewed UA nationals were Bulgaria (16%), Germany (7%), United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and Italy (4%). A reduced share of the respondents also stayed in Türkiye (4%), Belgium (2%), France, Austria and Greece. The remaining 1% per cent of the respondents were living in other 14 different countries before crossing back to Ukraine through Romania.

Figure 5: Countries of stay (%)



Average time since initial displacement

The approximate duration of time spent outside Ukraine can be assessed by looking at the difference between respondents' initial date of displacement from Ukraine, and the date of interview. Out of the total sample of respondents, most were displaced between April and June 2022 (31%).

Another 15 per cent of the surveyed UA nationals were displaced between January and March 2022.

Therefore, by the time the interviews were conducted (April-June 2023), they had spent over one year outside Ukraine.

Between July 2022 and December 2022, the percentage of UA nationals entering the country fluctuated between 13 and 15 per cent. These respondents spent between six and eleven months in displacement.

Table 1: Approximate time in displacement until the date of interview (%)

Date of initial displacement	Approximate time spent until date of interview	% Of respondents
Before May 2022	Over 2 years	9%
Apr-Jun 2022	12-14 months	31%
Jul-Sept 2022	9-11 months	13%
Oct-Dec 2022	6-8 months	7%
Jan-March 2023	3-5 months	15%
Apr-23	2 months or less	13%
May-23	Around a month	6%
Jun-23	Less than a month	4%

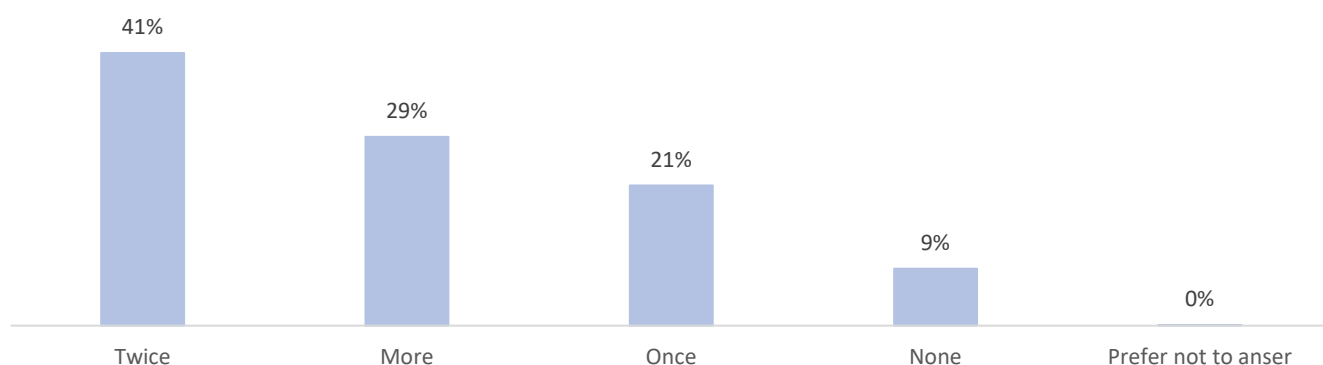
Number of exists/entries to and from Ukraine

Out of the total number of the respondents, most of them have entered/ exited Ukraine twice (41%) or more (29%). The high number of transits between Ukraine and Romania is also due to the fact that the countries are neighboring. Twenty-one per cent of the surveyed UA nationals

have entered/ exited the country only once since February 2022. Another nine per cent never returned to Ukraine since the displacement time.

Less than one per cent preferred not to answer this question.

Figure 10: Number of entries/exits between 24 February 2022 and 30 June 2023 (%)

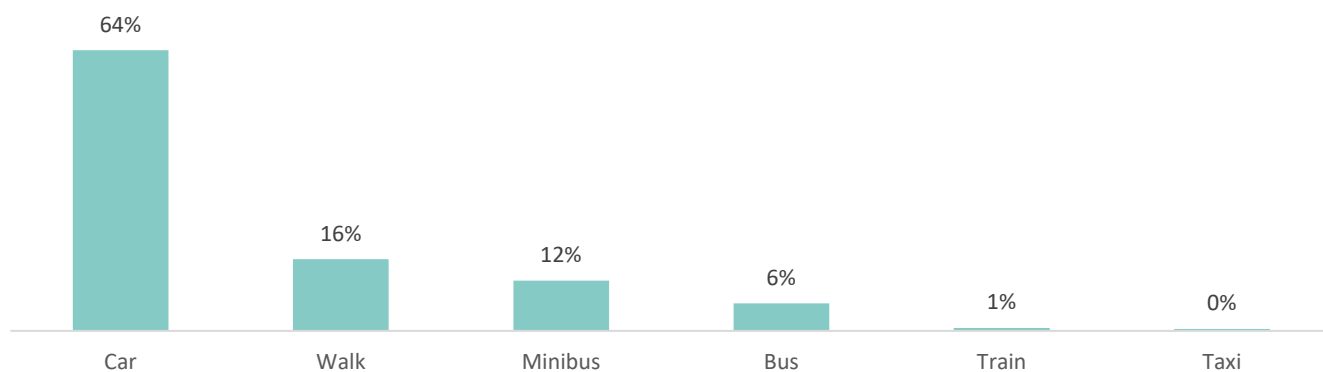


Transport

More than half of the surveyed UA nationals have entered Romania using private means of transportation like cars (64%). Because some communities of Ukrainians live close to Romanian border, they have entered the country by foot

(16%). This was followed by more than 12 per cent who entered the country using public transport, such as minibuses. Other means of public transport were the bus, used by up to six per cent of the surveyed UA nationals, and trains (1%).

Figure 12: Transport (%)



3. Oblast (region) of Origin and Destination

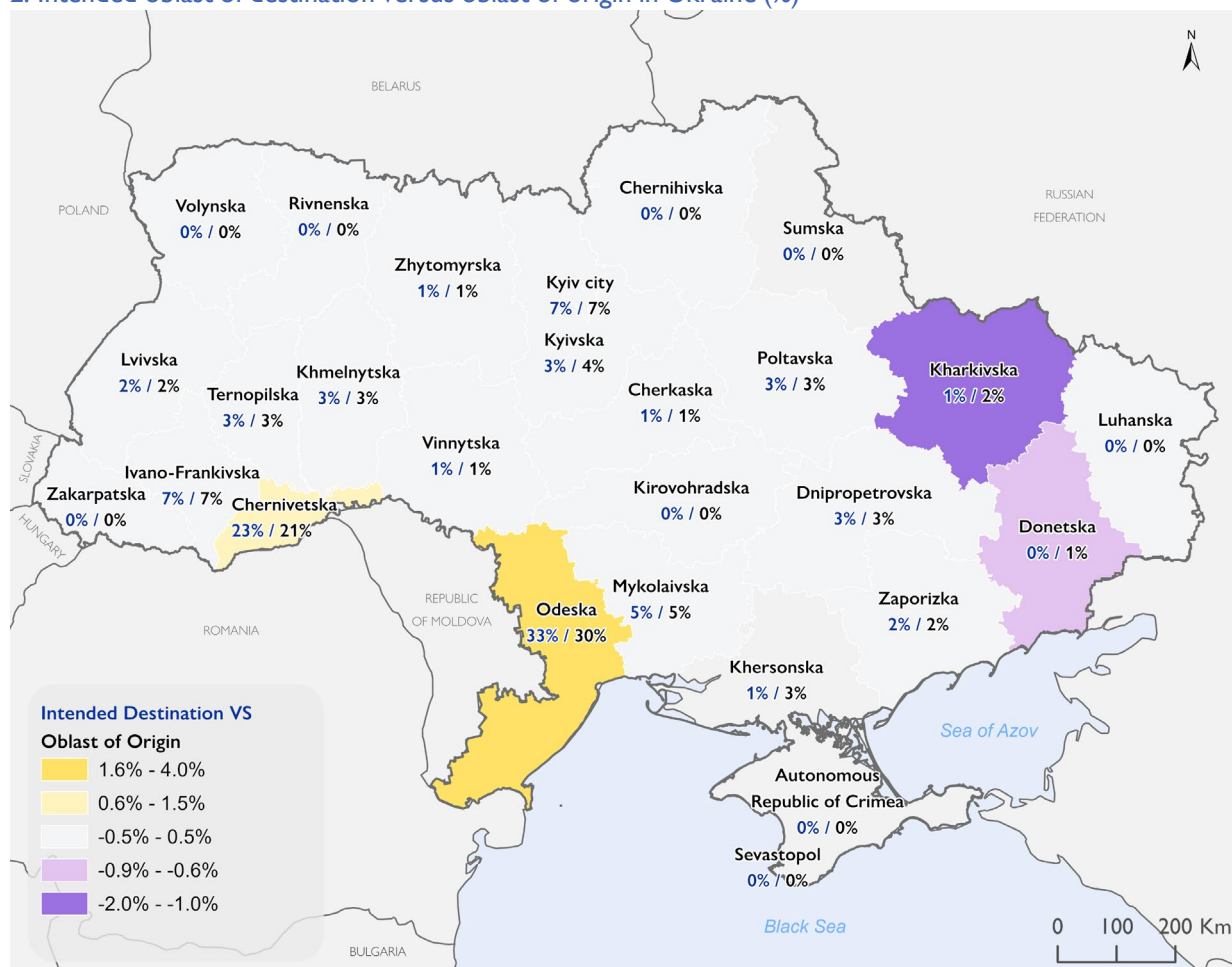
Origin or habitual residence

More than three-quarters (74%) of the surveyed UA nationals came from six oblasts in Ukraine; namely: Odeska (30%), Chernivetska (21%), Kyiv (7%), Ivano-Frankivska (7%), Mykolaivska (5%), and Kyivska (4%). The remaining twenty-six per cent of the respondents came from 19 other oblasts in Ukraine. Since the previous surveying period (Jan – March 2023), the oblasts of origin have remained partly the same.

Intended destination

Almost all respondents (94%) stated that they intended to return to the same oblast they were displaced from. A small percentage, the other six per cent aimed to return to a different oblast - Kyivska (4%).

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



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4. Intentions and Reasons to Cross Back to Ukraine

Long-term stay

Eighteen per cent of respondents aim to stay in Ukraine upon return. Out of this share (N=155), 23 per cent indicated that they planned to return because they miss their home. This was followed by 16 per cent of respondents who stated that they wanted to return as to reunite with the family members and 13 per cent who were returning because they lacked resources to maintain a comfortable life.

Another 11 per cent were returning because the

situation in the place of origin started to improve. Compared to the previous report, this shows an increase in the return of UA citizens due to emotional reasons (missing home or reunite with the family). The percentage of UA nationals returning because they were not able to maintain a comfortable lifestyle has remained constant, while the Ukrainian citizens returning because their region has shown improvement has decreased (11% from 24 % in last report).

Table 2.
Main reasons for staying in Ukraine, by gender and total (%) (N=155)

(more than one answer possible)

Listed reasons	Total (%)
Miss home	23%
Reunite with family	16%
Lack resources	13%
Improved situation in place of origin	11%
Help family	9%
For family safety	6%
Lack of employment	3%
Shopping abroad	3%
Offer essential services	3%

Short-term visit

On the other hand, 58 per cent of respondents were planning to go to Ukraine for a short-term visit only. The main reasons mentioned for visiting Ukraine were to meet family members who stayed back (28%) and to bring necessary documents (20%). Another eighteen per cent of the UA nationals were travelling back to check on

property, while 15 per cent visited to collect belongings. A small percentage travelled for a short visit to access health care services (10%), to bring supplies (3%), to help family leave the country (3%), or to aid remaining family members who remained in Ukraine (3%).

Table 1: Main reasons for staying in Ukraine for a short-term period (N=493)

(more than one answer possible)

Listed reasons	Total (%)
Meet Family	28%
Bring documents	20%
Check property	18%
Collect belongings	15%
Health care	10%
Bring supplies	3%
Help family leave	3%
Help family	3%

5. Needs, Assistance Received, and Challenges

Immediate needs upon crossing back

The most immediate need upon return reported by the interviewed UA nationals (N=856) was the need for food supplies (18%). This was followed by the need of general information reported by 15 per cent of the respondents, support to return, (11%) and the need of financial support, mentioned by 10 per cent of the surveyed Ukrainian citizens. Other imminent needs reported were the one for short-term accommodation (10%), health services (8%), long-term accommodation (8%), and personal safety (7%).

Needs less frequently mentioned included: document assistance (2%) or sanitary supplies (2%). Compared to the report on the trends in the first quarter of 2023, the data shows an increase in the need of support to return home (11% compared to 6%) and short-term accommodation (10% compared to 6%). The need of food supplies or general information remained stable.

Assistance received in Romania

Seventy-five per cent of the respondents declared having received assistance such as food supplies (29%), personal hygiene products (21%) and accommodation support. (16%) Fifteen per cent of the respondents have also received financial support. Other areas of assistance included vouchers (6%), transport assistance and toys (4% each) or clothes (3%).

Experiences of Discrimination

Ninety-nine per cent of respondents reported not having encountered any form of discrimination in the country of displacement. The remaining one

Figure 6: Needs upon crossing back (%)
(more than one answer possible)

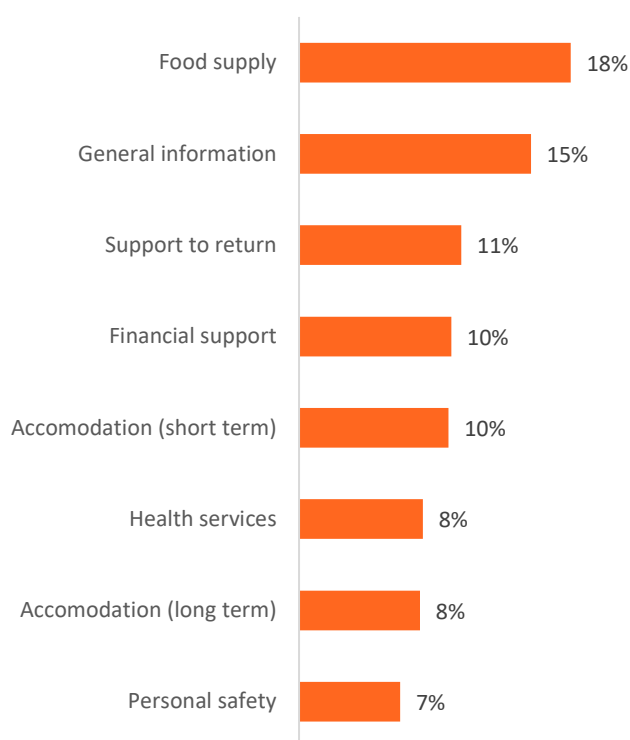


Table 4: Main areas of assistance received
(more than one answer possible)

Type of assistance received	Total (%)
Food	29%
Personal hygiene	21%
Accommodation	16%
Financial support	15%
Vouchers	6%
Transport	4%
Toys	4%
Clothes	3%
Psychological counseling	2%

per cent either reported having experienced some form of discrimination, did not know, or preferred not to answer.

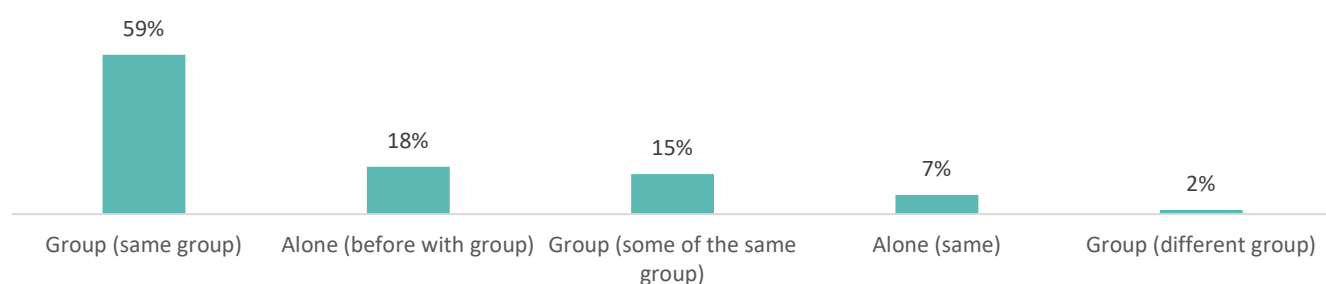
7. Current Group Composition

Travel mode

Out of the 856 UA nationals surveyed, 59 per cent stated that they are returning with the same group they entered the country of displacement. Another 18 per cent are returning to Ukraine alone when they entered Romania with a group. Fifteen per cent of the respondents are returning to Ukraine

part of the group they exited the country with, while seven per cent are exiting Romania alone, just as they came in the first place. A small share of 2% returns to Ukraine with a different group to the one they exited the country with.

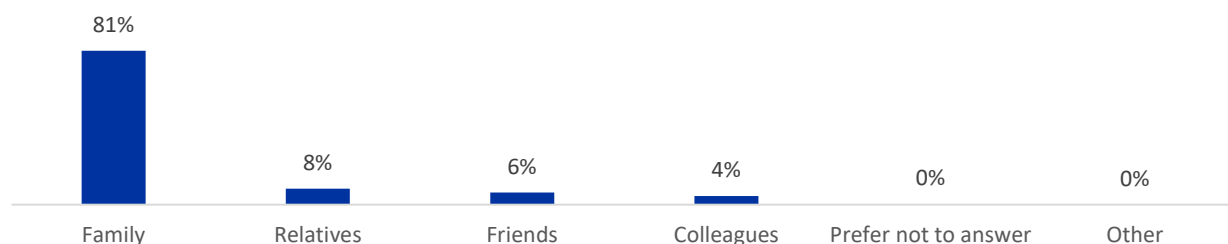
Figure 30: Travel mode (%)



Out of those traveling in a group (N=645), 81 per cent were travelling with family and eight per cent were travelling with other relatives.

Six per cent were travelling with friends, while four per cent came accompanied by work colleagues.

Figure 31: Group composition (%)
(multiple answers possible)



Concluding remarks

The assessment on the travel intentions of the Ukrainian citizens returning home shows that most respondents return to Ukraine for short periods of times, for personal reasons such as visiting family members, checking on valuables

goods or helping those left in Ukraine. During their stay in Romania, with few cases, they have not experienced discriminatory behavior. A short analysis on the assistance received shows that their most basic needs have been met.

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 July 2023, up to six million refugees from Ukraine were recorded across Europe. At the same time, more than 20 million border crossings of Ukrainian and Third-Country refugees and migrants were reported from Ukraine into the neighbouring countries 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, 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 surveys collected in Romania between 01 April and 30 June 2023 in various locations, such as Siret, Isaccea, Iasi county or Galati county, as well as in various settings, including transit points (e.g., train and bus stations), the Info and Community Center (run by IOM and UNHCR), collective accommodations and a food and non-food items distribution event.

The methodology for collecting the data was the same methodology used for the data collection process for the quarter I report, when the data collection span between January and March 2023. For the Quarter I report, please click on the following [link](#).

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 most immediate needs of the Ukrainian refugees and TCNs crossing back to Ukraine since 24 February 2022.

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

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

Various settings were identified to conduct surveys, to maximise the number of interviews, and reach out to different profiles of individuals. While in border crossing/transit points, such as train stations, the flow of people was higher and interviewees were randomly surveyed (having the same likelihood compared to others to be selected), in other settings, such 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 three enumerators at the crossing points, two in Tulcea and one in Suceava. 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 Romania.

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.

