

HUNGARY

Crossing Back Surveys with Ukrainian Nationals



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Country Report & Data Analysis

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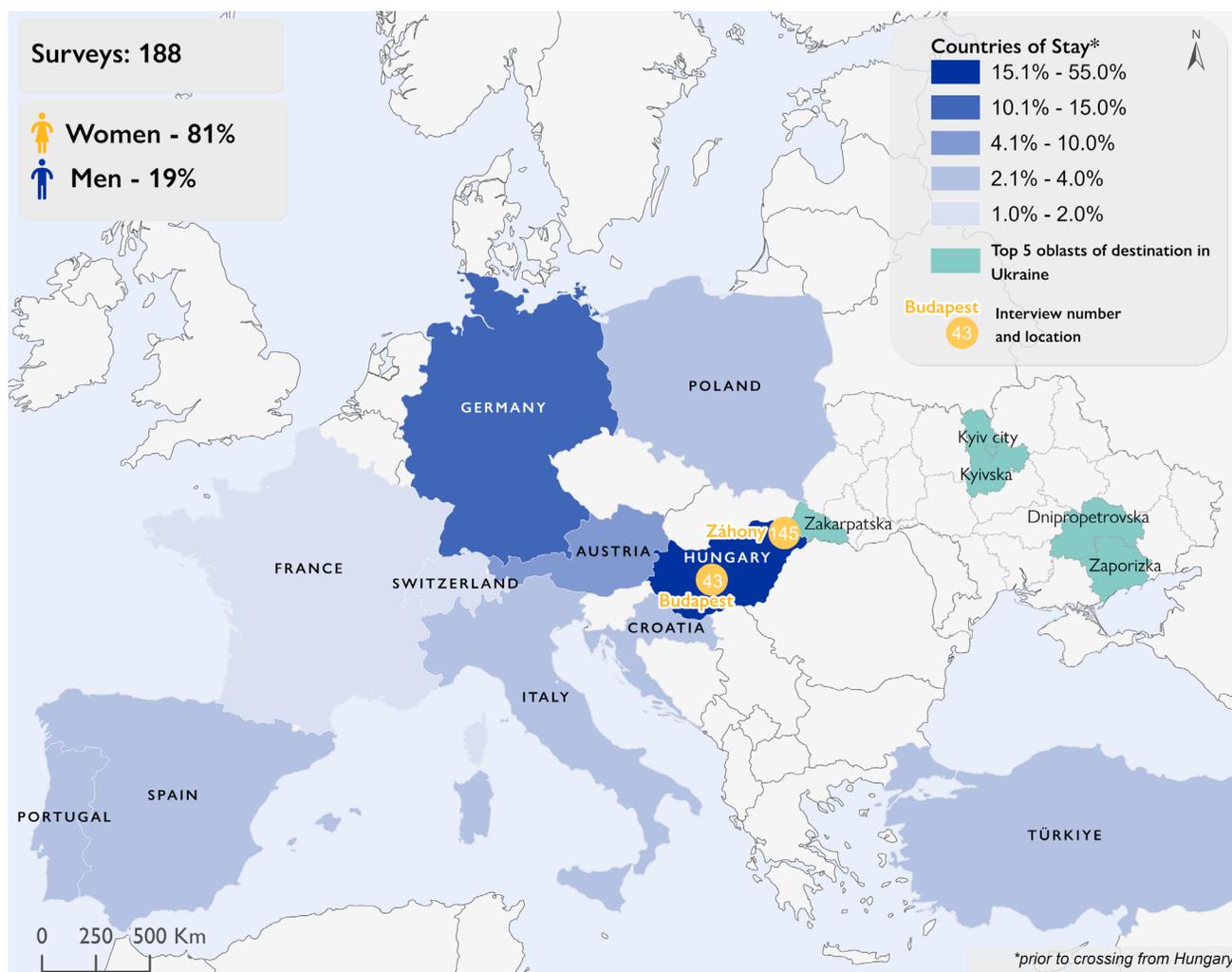
Data collected: 01 April – 30 June 2023

KEY FINDINGS

- **Top 3 countries of stay abroad:** Hungary (54%), Germany (12%), Austria (5%).
- **Top oblasts of origin:** Kyiv (22%), Zakarpatska (20%), Dnipropetrovska (13%).
- **Destinations in Ukraine:** returning to oblast of origin (86%), returning to a different oblast (14%) – Zakarpatska (62%), Kyiv (15%), Kyivska (11%).
- **Transport to Ukraine:** train (84%), bus (12%), taxi (3%).
- **Intentions upon crossing back:** long-term stay (30%), short-term visit (66%), do not know (4%).
- **Top needs upon crossing back*:** transportation support (52%), general information (43%), financial support (39%).
- **Top areas of assistance received*:** transport (52%), accommodation (39%), financial support (36%).

* more than one answer possible

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



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TRENDS AND CHANGES IN THE FIRST HALF OF 2023

Among the Ukrainian nationals surveyed between January-March 2023 (Quarter 1 – Q1) and April-June 2023 (Quarter 2 – Q2), most respondents intended to return back to Ukraine only for a short period of time (62% in Q1 and 66% in Q2), while fewer people were planning to stay in Ukraine in the long-term (34% in Q1 and 30% in Q2).

Among those who answered which region they would like to return to (N=189 in Q1 and N=188 in Q2), in Q1 89 per cent and in Q2 86 per cent were planning to return to the same oblast that they had originally come from.

Among those who were planning to return to a different oblast (11% in Q1 and 14% in Q2), the most frequented region was Zakarpatska (57% and 62%), followed by Kyiv (19% and 15%).

Figure 1: Oblast (region) of destination in Q1 and Q2 (%)

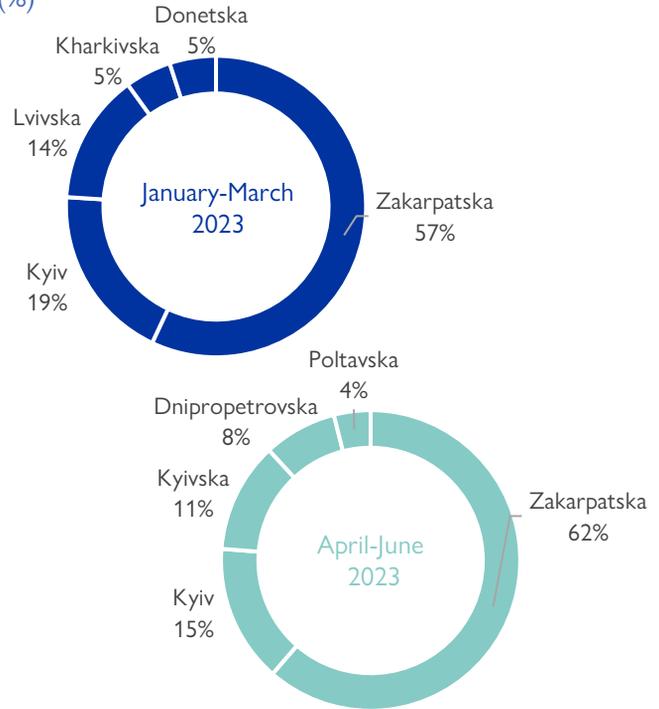
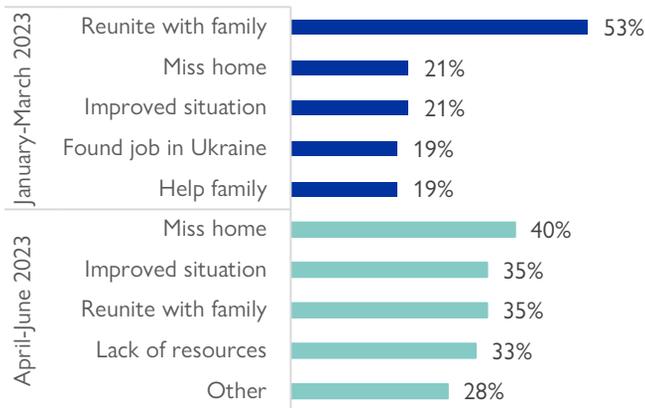


Figure 2: Reasons for long-term stay in Q1 and Q2 (%) (more than one answer possible)

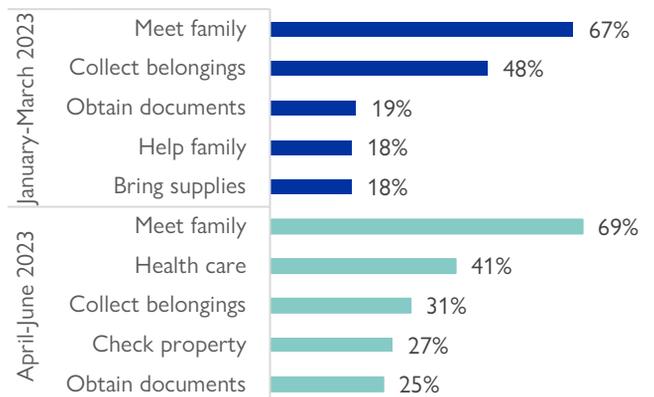


The reasons listed by the interviewees intending to return to Ukraine for the long-term varied between Q1 and Q2. While between January-March 2023 the most frequently stated reason was to reunite with family (53%), this reason was only mentioned by 35 per cent of respondents between April-June 2023. In Q2 most respondents cited missing home (40%) and the improved situation in their region (35%) as a reason for staying in Ukraine in the long-term.

The reasons for which the surveyed UA nationals are returning to Ukraine for a short-term visit varied between the two data collection periods.

While most respondents continued to return in order to visit their families in Ukraine (67% in Q1 and 69% in Q2), the share of those returning and seeking healthcare services in Ukraine has increased from 16 per cent in Q1 to 41 per cent in Q2.

Figure 3: Reasons for short-term visit in Q1 and Q2 (%) (more than one answer possible)



1. Socio-Demographic Profile

Gender and age

Out of the 203 respondents participating in the assessment, seven per cent (N=15) were Third Country Nationals (TCNs) and 93 per cent (N=188) were Ukrainian nationals. 81 per cent of the Ukrainian (UA) nationals were women and 19 per cent of them were men. The average age of the UA nationals was 41 years old, with a higher average age recorded among men (50 years old) than among women (39 years old). Most female respondents were aged between 30-39 (23%), while men outnumbered women in the 60 plus age group (6%). When considering both genders, 88 per cent of the respondents were of active age.

Figure 4: Share of respondents by gender

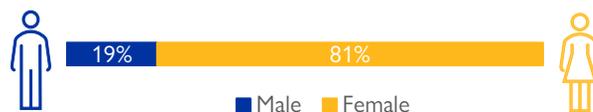
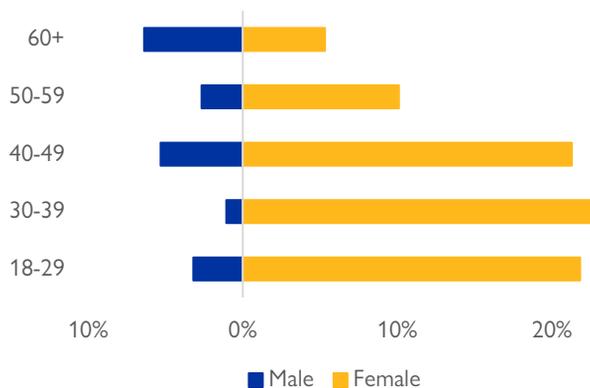


Figure 5: Share of respondents by age and gender



Marital status

Most respondents who participated in the survey were married at the time of assessment (69%), while 18 per cent of the respondents were single. Six per cent were in a partnership, while four per

cent were widowed and three per cent were divorced. As highlighted below, after applying a gender lens, no major discrepancies have been recorded.

Figure 6: Marital status, female (%)

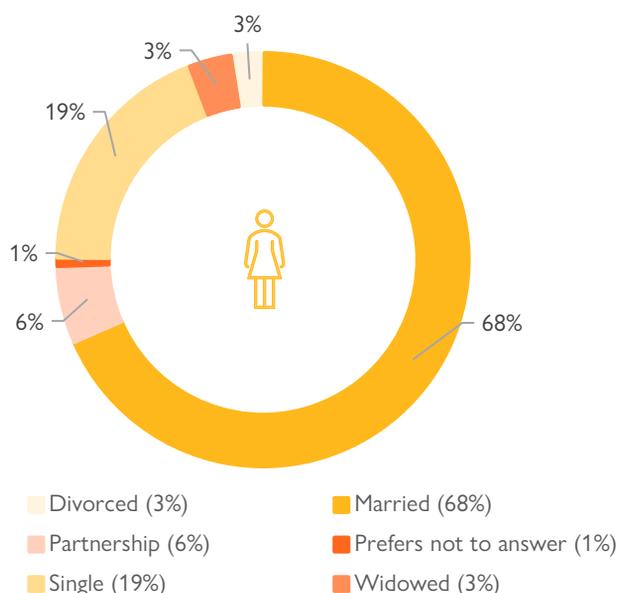
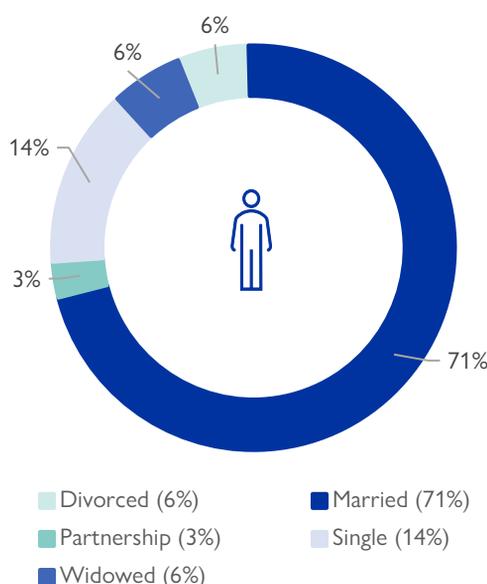


Figure 7: Marital status, male (%)



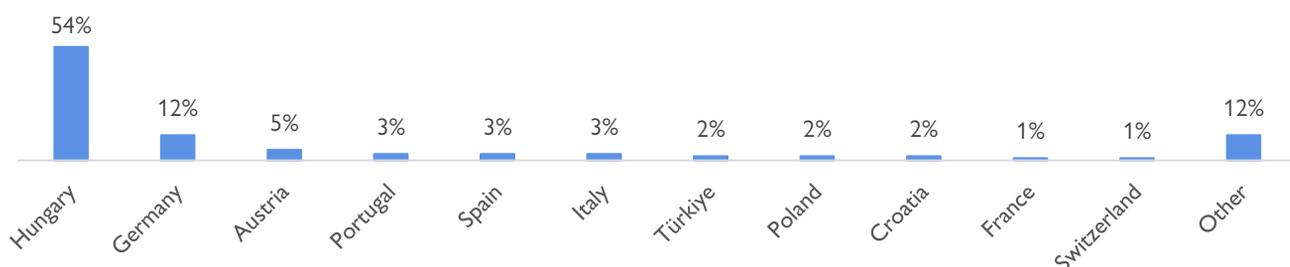
2. Time Outside Ukraine

Countries of stay while abroad

Slightly over fifty per cent of the surveyed UA nationals stayed in Hungary prior to crossing back to Ukraine. Other countries of destination for the interviewed were Germany (12%) and Austria (5%). To a lesser extent, some respondents stayed in Portugal (3%), Spain (3%) and Italy (3%).

Other respondents stayed in Türkiye (2%), Poland (2%) and Croatia (2%), while one per cent of respondents stayed in France and Switzerland. Additionally, 12 per cent of the respondents lived in another 14 countries before returning to Ukraine through Hungary.

Figure 8: Countries of stay (%)



Average time since initial displacement

The average time spent outside of Ukraine can be assessed by looking at the difference between the initial date of displacement of the surveyed UA nationals and the date of the interview.

The survey found that most respondents were displaced between April-June 2022 (27%), while another 24 per cent were displaced between January-March 2022. Therefore, by the time the interviews were conducted in April-June 2023, they had already spent at least one year outside Ukraine.

Between the months of July and December 2022, four to nine per cent of the respondents were displaced, who had spent an average of six to nine months in displacement by the time of the survey.

In addition, those whose initial displacement occurred between January-March 2023 (13%) had spent on average 2 months away from Ukraine. As for the months covered by the current analysis, those who left Ukraine in April 2023 (12%), May 2023 (8%) and June 2023 (2%) spent an average of one month or less outside Ukraine.

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

Date of initial displacement	Average time spent in displacement	% of respondents
Before 2022	Over 3 years	1%
Jan - March 2022	14 months	24%
April - June 2022	12 months	27%
July - Sept 2022	9 months	9%
Oct - Dec 2022	6 months	4%
Jan - March 2023	2 months	13%
April 2023	One month	12%
May 2023	One month	8%
June 2023	Less than a month	2%

Number of exists/entries to and from Ukraine

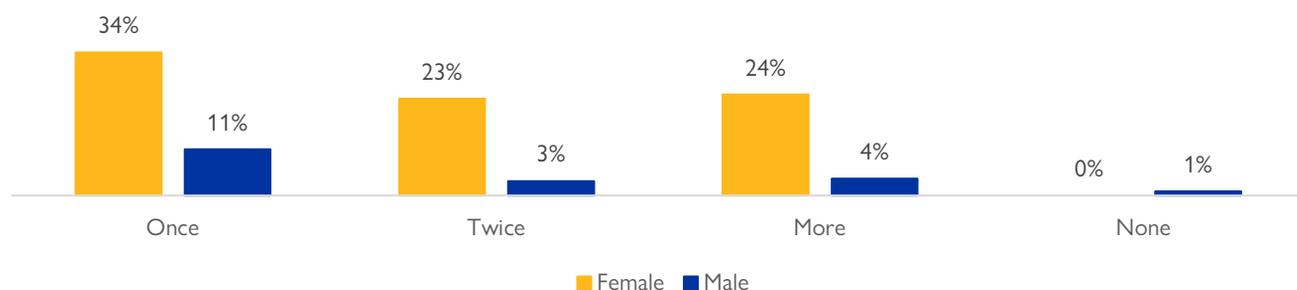
Since February 2022, 99 per cent of respondents crossed back to Ukraine at least once, with women accounting for 81 per cent of all returns.

Most of the respondents have entered/exited Ukraine only once (45%), accounted for by 34 per cent of all women respondents. 26 per cent of respondents crossed the border towards Ukraine twice and 28 per cent returned to Ukraine more than twice. Again, women were in majority, with

23 per cent and 24 per cent, respectively. The fact that Hungary and Ukraine are neighbouring countries accounts for the prevalence of pendular movements.

One per cent of male respondents declared never having crossed back to Ukraine, while all female respondents have returned to Ukraine at least once since February 2022.

Figure 9: Number of entries/exits between 24 February 2022 and 30 June 2023 (%)

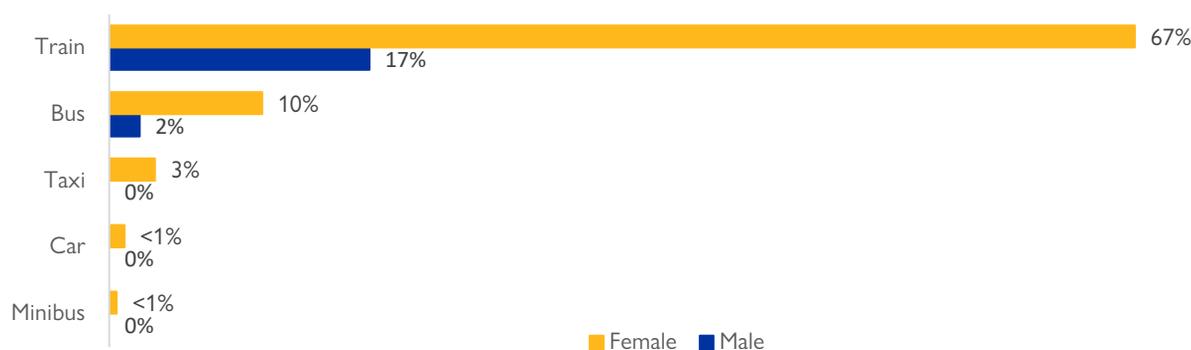


Transport

Eighty-four per cent of respondents travelled back to Ukraine by train, with 67 per cent of the trips being accounted for by women and 17 per cent by men. This was followed by 12 per cent of respondents who decided to travel back by bus

(10% women, 2% men). Taxis were reported to be used by women only (3%). Travelling by car and minibus was an option for one per cent of female respondents, while men did not opt for these transport facilities.

Figure 10: Transport (%)



3. Oblast (region) of Origin and Destination

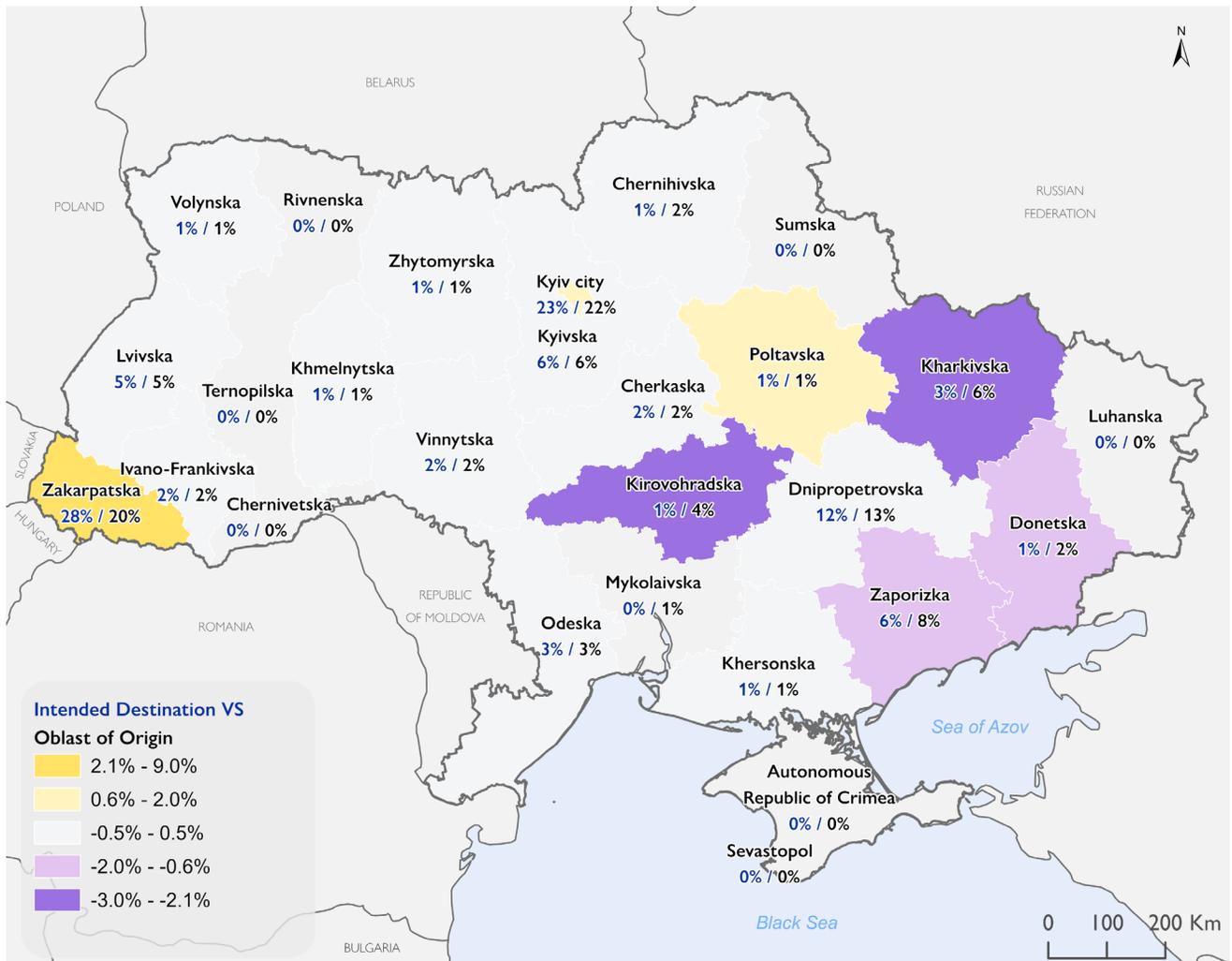
Origin or habitual residence

Three-quarter (75%) of the respondents came from the following six oblasts in Ukraine: Kyiv (22%), Zakarpatska (20%), Dnipropetrovska (13%), Zaporizka (8%), Kyivska (6%) and Kharkivska (6%). The remaining 26 per cent of those surveyed came from another 14 oblasts.

Intended destination

Most respondents (86%) intended to return to the same oblast where they originated from. The other 14 per cent (N=26) was planning to return to a different region. For them, the top destinations include Zakarpatska (62%), Kyiv (15%), Kyivska (11%), Dnipropetrovska (8%) and Kyivska (6%). Overall, when assessing all surveyed UA nationals (N=188), the top five oblasts where they aimed to return to are the following: Zakarpatska (28%), Kyiv (23%), Dnipropetrovska (12%), Zaporizka (6%) and Kyivska (6%).

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

Among the UA nationals crossing back to Ukraine (N=188), 30 per cent intended to stay there in the long-term. Four per cent of them have not yet decided about the length of their stay at the time of the interview.

The survey found that among them (N=57), 40 per cent indicated that they had decided to return and stay as they had missed being home. 35 per cent of respondents indicated that they would like to return and reunite with their families, while another 35 per cent mentioned the improvement of the situation in their place of origin as a reason to return to Ukraine in the long-term. Following this, 33 per cent cited the lack of resources for covering their living costs in Hungary as a reason to cross back and stay in Ukraine.

Short-term visit

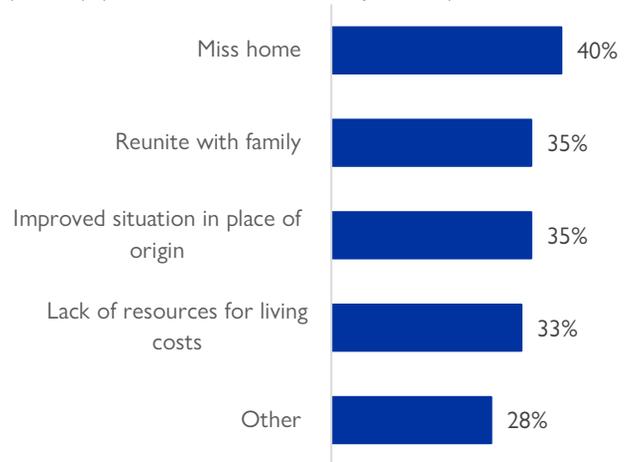
Sixty-six per cent of respondents (N=124) were planning to cross back to Ukraine only for a short-term visit.

The main reasons for visiting Ukraine included visiting family members (69%) and seeking healthcare (41%). Another 31 per cent travelled back to collect belongings, to check on their properties (27%) or to obtain and/or renew documents (25%).

Figure 11: Length of intended stay upon return (%)



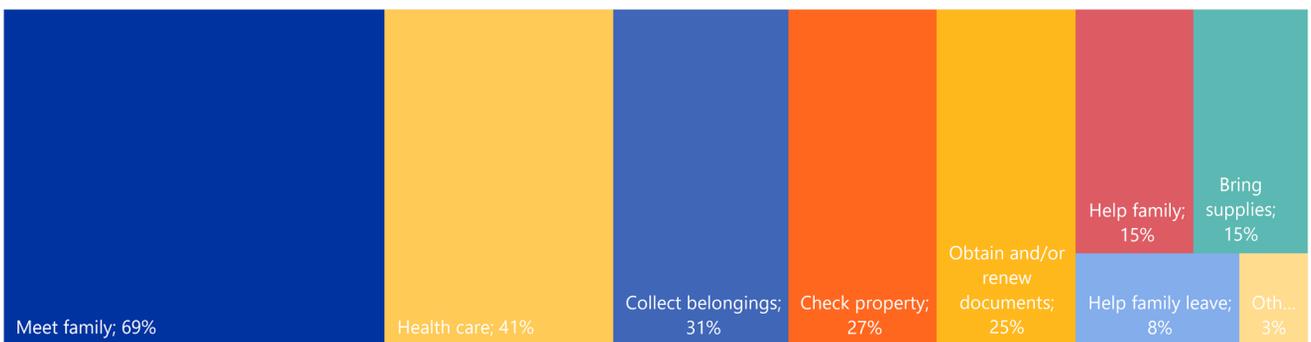
Figure 12: Top five reasons for staying in Ukraine (%) (N=57) (more than one answer possible)



To a lesser extent, respondents crossed back to help their families who still live in Ukraine (15%), to bring back supplies (15%) or to gather other necessary documents (9%).

A smaller share travelled to help their families leave Ukraine (8%), while three per cent cited other reasons, such as short-term employment-related duties, or leaving to another country afterwards.

Figure 13: Main reasons for staying in Ukraine for a short-term period (%) (N=124) (more than one answer possible)



5. Needs, Assistance Received and Challenges

Immediate needs upon crossing back

The most immediate need upon return cited by the surveyed UA nationals (N=188) was the need for transportation support (52%). Following this, most people reported the need for general information (43%) and financial support (39%). This was followed by the need for ensuring personal safety (27%) and accessing health services (27%).

Twenty-three per cent of respondents mentioned the need for food assistance and another 22 per cent cited long-term accommodation as one of their most pressing needs upon return. To a lesser extent, employment (17%), medicines (15%) and legal assistance (13%) also appeared on the list of respondents as their most imminent needs when returning to Ukraine either for a short visit or a long-term stay.

Figure 14: Top ten needs upon crossing back (%) *(more than one answer possible)*

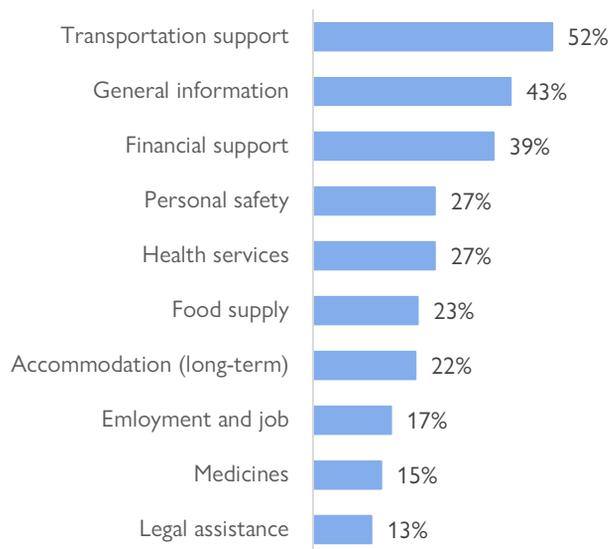


Table 2: Main areas of assistance received *(more than one answer possible)*

Assistance received in Hungary	Total (%)
Transport	52%
Accommodation	39%
Financial support	36%
Food	32%
Personal hygiene items	15%
Clothes and shoes	14%
Psychological counseling	8%
Vouchers	7%
Toys	5%
Other	4%
Prefers not to answer	1%

Assistance received in Hungary

More than half of the respondents (52%) confirmed having received transportation support while in Hungary. Another 39 per cent received support with accommodation and 36 per cent was provided with financial support, followed by 32 per cent of respondents who benefitted from food assistance.

To a lesser extent, personal hygiene items (15%) and clothes (14%) were also present in the list of services received during their time in Hungary. Fewer people declared having received psychological counselling (8%), vouchers (7%) and toys (5%) while in Hungary.

Experiences of discrimination

The majority of respondents (94.7%) have not experienced any kind of discrimination while staying in Hungary. Less than one per cent of the participants preferred not to answer this question.

Five per cent of the surveyed Ukrainian nationals reported having encountered some kind of discrimination while abroad.



6. Current Group Composition

Travel mode

Out of the 188 UA nationals surveyed, 45 per cent were returning to Ukraine with exactly the same group that they entered Hungary with. 36 per cent of the respondents were planning to cross back alone, same as how they initially came to Hungary.

Another 18 per cent of them were aiming to return to Ukraine alone, whereas initially they had left Ukraine in a group. To a small extent, one per cent of the UA respondents were crossing back with a different group or with some members of the group that they had initially entered Hungary with.

Figure 15: Travel mode (%)

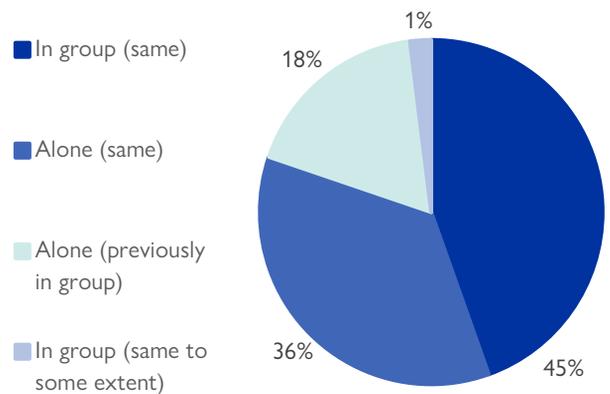
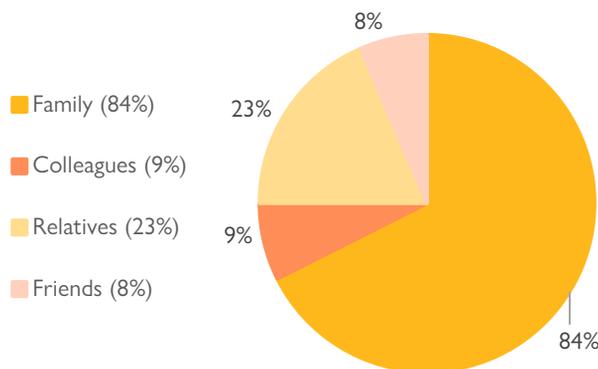


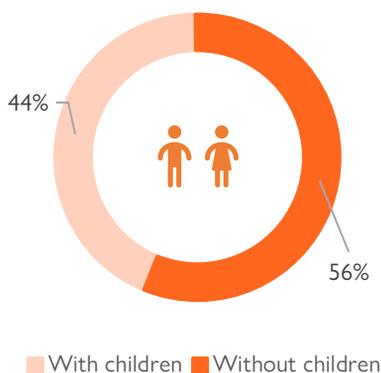
Figure 16: Group composition (%)
(more than one answer possible)



Out of those travelling in a group (N=87), 84 per cent were travelling with their families, while 23 per cent were returning to Ukraine with other relatives. Another nine per cent were travelling with their colleagues and eight per cent were crossing back to Ukraine with their friends.

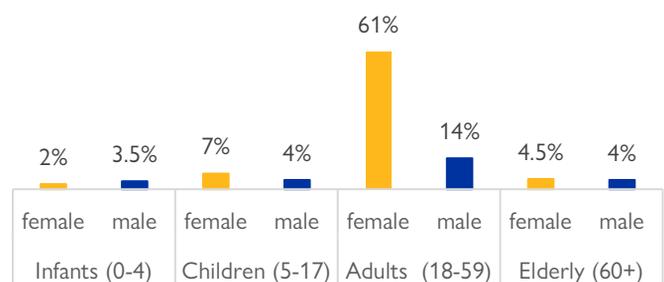
When assessing whether children were included in the groups, the survey highlighted that 56 per cent of groups were travelling without children and 44 per cent were returning to Ukraine with children.

Figure 17: Share of groups travelling with or without children (%)



Average group size
3.3 individuals

Figure 18: Age and gender disaggregation for groups and those travelling alone (%)



7. 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 full-scale invasion of Ukraine. As of July 2023, nearly six million refugees from Ukraine were recorded across Europe. In Hungary, 36,330 refugees applied for Temporary Protection or similar national protection schemes as of July 2023.

IOM deployed its Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM) tools in Hungary in July 2022 to collect individual surveys in neighbouring countries with persons crossing back to Ukraine, with the aim to improve the understanding of the main profiles, displacement patterns, intentions and needs of those returning to Ukraine. This report is based on surveys collected among Ukrainian nationals in Hungary between 01 April and 30 June 2023 in two locations, namely in Budapest and in Záhony (Szabolcs-Szatmár-Bereg county) in various sites, including transit points (e.g., train and bus stations) and IOM premises.

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 Hungary, surveys were conducted in Ukrainian, Russian, 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, approach 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 related to their stay 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 individuals with different profiles. Surveys are collected, among others, in selected exit and transit locations, and in information and collective centres, identified to be the most frequently visited by refugees and TCNs returning to Ukraine.

Among the limitations encountered during data collection were the reduced time to carry out surveys at transit points and the limited number of enumerators available between May and June 2023. To address the aforesaid shortcomings and cover different viewpoints, a mixed sampling strategy guided the data collection exercise. IOM takes note of the limitations of comparing data collected in two consecutive periods, resulting from the lack of longitudinal data collection methods.

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 Hungary.

DISPLACEMENT TRACKING MATRIX (DTM)

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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 refugees from Ukraine.

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

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