

UKRAINE CRISIS RESPONSE  
2022 — 2023

# UKRAINIANS AND THIRD-COUNTRY NATIONALS CROSSING BACK TO UKRAINE

Data collected in Hungary, Latvia, Poland, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Slovakia, and Ukraine.

JULY-SEPTEMBER 2023

REGIONAL ANALYSIS



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## KEY FINDINGS

### Demographics



### Countries of stay

**52%**



stayed in a neighbouring country

### Top 5 needs



### Oblasts\* of origin

**62%**



come from:

City of Kyiv, Dnipropetrovska, Odeska, Zaporizka, Kharkivska

\* Regions in Ukraine

### Destination

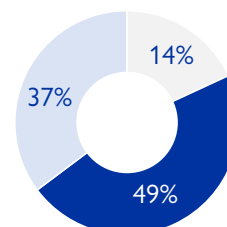
**90%**



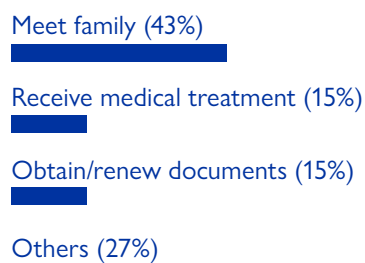
travel to the oblast of origin

### Intentions

- Short term visitors (intend to spend 0-30 days in Ukraine)
- Prospective returnees (more than one month stay)
- Don't know yet



### Reasons to cross back



### Assistance

**63%**



received aid while abroad

### TCNs

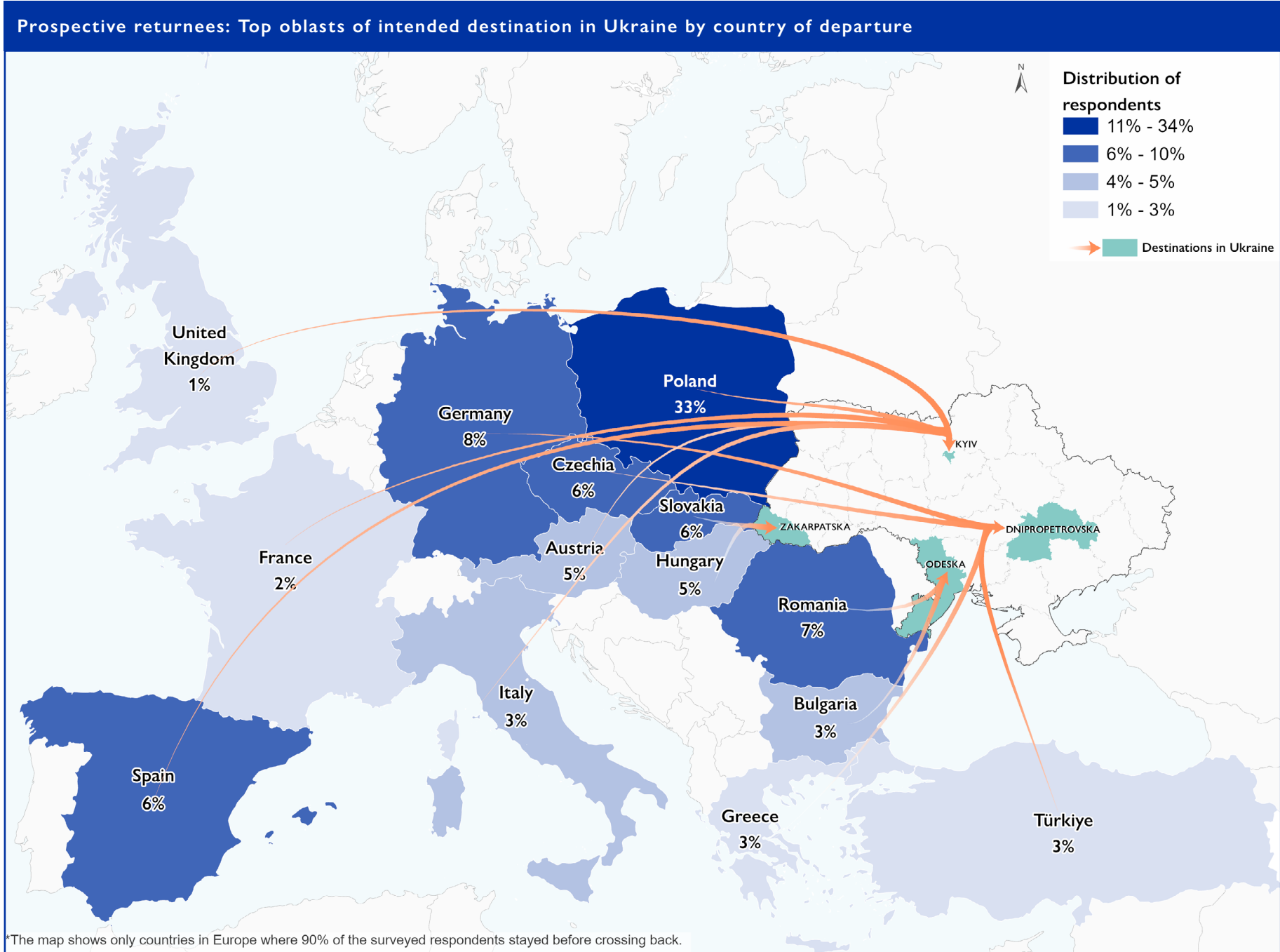
**68%**

left because of the war

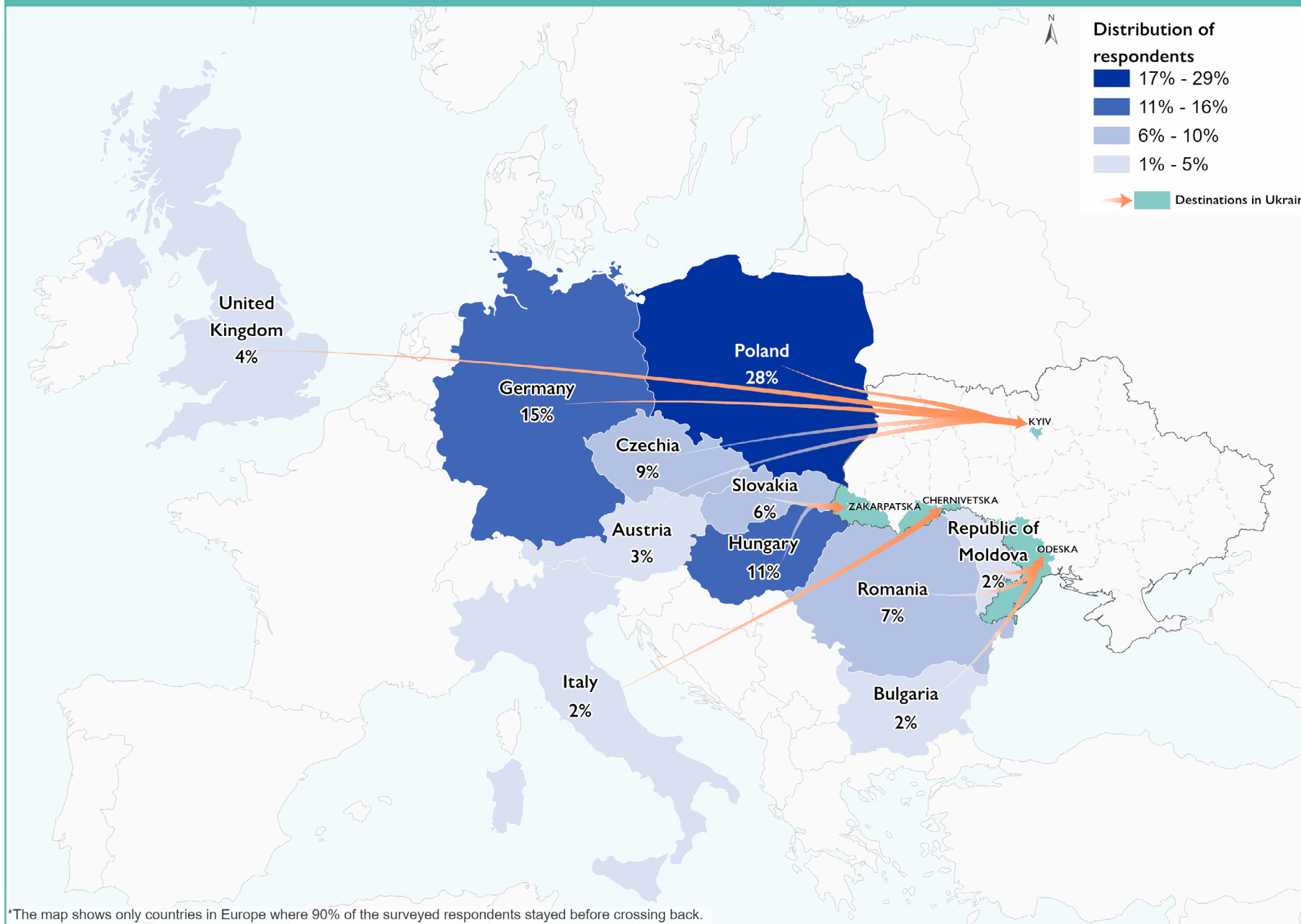
**49%**

resided in Ukraine 2-5 years prior to displacement





Short-time visitors: Top oblasts of intended destination in Ukraine by country of departure



## SUMMARY

### More short time visitors than returnees

**49%** are "short-time visitors" between July and September 2023 (Q3) in comparison to "prospective returnees" (37%) amongst the Ukrainians crossing back to their country of origin from neighbouring countries. A minority of the interviewed - 14%, is unsure on the length of their visit.

Women (93% of the sample) more frequently intend to pay a short visit than men (50% versus 35%). Prospective returnees are older than short-time visitors by almost 7 years on average.

### Main reason is to reunite with family

For both, short-time visitors and prospective returnees, reasons related to the desire to visit or reunite with family members are prevalent. Moreover, about 28 per cent of short-time visitors mentioned the need to seek medical care, and another 27 per cent aimed at obtaining or renewing identity documents (biometric passports, diplomas, licenses).

### Financial support & safety are mostly needed

There is an increase in the overall level of needs expressed in July to September 2023 (Q3) in comparison to April to June (Q2). Only 37 per cent of the respondents in Q3 reported no immediate needs, which is ten percentage points lower than in Q2 (47%).

The top five needs reported by Ukrainians crossing back are: financial support (28%), personal safety and security (26%), health services (21%), medicine (14%), and general information (12%). The share of those reporting financial support as the overall primary need increased from 20 to 28 per cent between the two quarters.

Short-time visitors report a higher level of needs overall (linked to issues that they aim to solve during the visit in Ukraine) than prospective returnees. While only one third (32%) of short-term visitors report no needs, almost half (47%) of prospective returnees report no immediate needs at the time of the interview, as they may be already more focused on the conditions of return rather than on what was not achieved successfully in the country of displacement.

The profiles and needs expressed by Ukrainians crossing back from neighbouring countries and surveyed in Q3 2023 match to a large extent the needs reported by Ukrainians interviewed in September 2023 who have already returned to their country of origin ([IOM Ukraine Return Report Round 14](#)).

### Short term visitors displaced for longer time

**453** days is the average time spent in displacement for the short-time visitors. In most cases, they have already crossed in and out of Ukraine two or more times since the beginning of the war in February 2022.

Prospective returnees have spent less time abroad (177 days) on average and have made fewer trips in and out of Ukraine compared to short-time visitors.

Compared to the previous quarter (Q2), results from surveys conducted in Q3 2023 show a slight increase in the share of short-term visitors (49% versus 47% in Q2) and a decrease of prospective returnees (37% in Q3 compared to 43% in Q2). This may be due to the higher frequency of visits over the summer period.

### The majority stayed in a neighboring country

**52%** of Ukrainians interviewed stayed in one of the neighbouring countries, while the rest stayed mainly in other European countries (Germany, Czechia, Austria, the UK and Spain).

### Travel more frequently with children

Respondents travel more frequently with children in Q3 than in Q2 (36% versus 30%) and less frequently with persons older than 60 years of age (7% versus 10%).

### Transiting through the Russian Federation

Ukrainians transiting from Latvia through the Russian Federation to reach eastern areas of Ukraine have a different profile than those crossing from neighbouring countries into western Ukraine. Most originate from areas in four oblasts (Donetska, Luhanska, Zaporizka, and Khersonska) which were not under the control of Ukraine's government in the reporting period.

### TCNs return to resume studies and work

Third-Country Nationals (TCNs) have often spent long periods in Ukraine (even more than 5 years) before being displaced abroad because of the military invasion. Most of those interviewed when crossing back from neighbouring countries plan to resume their studies or take exams to avoid interrupting their education cycle and and career.



## INTRODUCTION

About 3.7 million people were internally displaced in Ukraine as of September 2023 ([IOM Ukraine GPS14 report](#)) and about 5.8 million refugees were recorded across Europe as of end of October 2023 ([UNHCR](#)). As of September 2023, almost 4.6 million persons were estimated to be returnees in Ukraine after a period of previous displacement; of them, about 25 per cent (or 1.1 million) were returnees from abroad ([IOM Ukraine GPS14 report](#)).

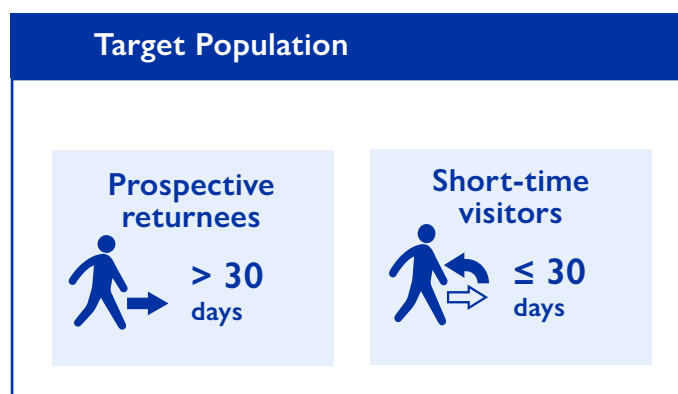
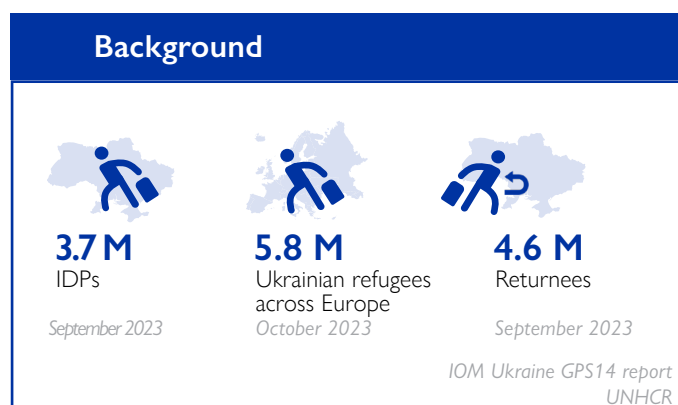
The number of total border crossings from Ukraine into neighbouring countries from February 2022 until October 2023 reached about 26 million, and at the same time about 18.9 million border crossings were registered in the opposite direction by Ukraine's border authorities. While some persons returning to Ukraine from abroad intend to remain, others may be engaging in short visits to Ukraine or pendular movements between border areas for a variety of reasons.<sup>1</sup>

This report presents evidence on persons crossing back to Ukraine from abroad distinguishing between those who aim to remain in Ukraine for longer periods (prospective returnees) and those who plan to pay a short visit (short-time visitors). It is based on 8,563 surveys collected by DTM between July and

September 2023 with adult individuals going to Ukraine. About 98 per cent of them were Ukrainians, and 2 per cent Third-Country Nationals (TCNs).

Sections 2 to 7 focus on the 8,226 surveys with Ukrainian nationals met at the border areas of neighbouring countries to Ukraine: Hungary (333), Poland (925), Republic of Moldova (2,855), Romania (1,589), and Slovakia (2,524). Results are weighted for the number of border crossings into Ukraine from each country during the data collection period. In Section 8, evidence on persons interviewed while crossing back is complemented with data on returnees from abroad collected by DTM in Ukraine.<sup>2</sup>

The report also discusses the different profiles of Ukrainian nationals surveyed in Latvia (224) while crossing to the Russian Federation with the aim to reach areas of Ukraine which are under the temporary military control of the Russian Federation (Section 9). Additionally, it contains a section dedicated to TCNs crossing into Ukraine from abroad (113 interviews, Section 10). The report ends with a short section elaborating on the Methodology.



<sup>1</sup> The [IOM glossary](#) defines return as "the act or process of going back or being taken back to the point of departure", which can take place within a country's territorial borders, or between a country of destination or transit and a country of origin.

<sup>2</sup> For a more comprehensive discussion on returns from abroad and from within the country, please check the DTM Ukraine [Return Report Round 14](#).

## SOCIO-DEMOGRAPHIC PROFILE

### Prospective Returnees (37%): intend to stay



Average age **46** years old

Top **3** oblasts of origin:

- Kyiv (21%)
- Dnipropetrovska (16%)
- Zaporizka (10%)

**46%** Alone

**54%** In a group

**20%**  
At least one person older than 60 years in the group

**34%**  
with at least one child

### Short-Time Visitors (49%): intend to do short visit



Average age **39** years old

Top **3** oblasts of origin:

- Kyiv (20%)
- Dnipropetrovska (12%)
- Zaporizka (12%)

**55%** Alone

**45%** In a group

**6%**  
At least one person older than 60 years in the group

**38%**  
with at least one child

## INTENTIONS AND REASONS TO CROSS TO UKRAINE

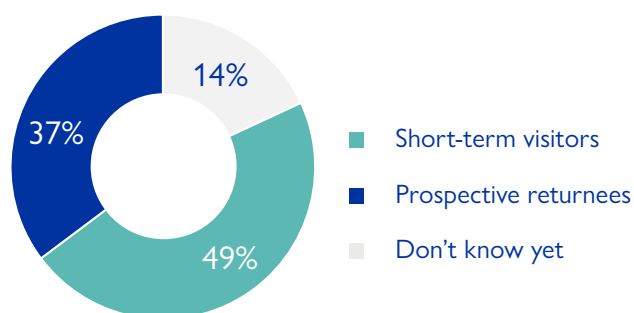
### SHORT VISIT OR PROSPECTIVE RETURN

Overall, 37 per cent of Ukrainian respondents intend to stay in Ukraine (prospective returnees), while 49 per cent plan to go for a short visit (short-time visitor). For the purpose of the analysis, “short-time visitors” are those who reported an intention to spend from 0 to 30 days in Ukraine, while respondents intending to stay in Ukraine more than one month are labelled as “prospective returnees”. About 90 per cent of those reporting periods longer than 30 days stated the intention to “remain indefinitely” in Ukraine. Another 14 per cent are unsure about the length of their visit.

The share of those intending to return to Ukraine is higher among men than among women (47% vs 36%). Women are more likely to be crossing into Ukraine for a short visit than men (50% vs 35%).

Most respondents plan to stay at their own houses in Ukraine (84% overall), while others report to be going at their relatives’ place (8%), or that they would find other private solutions or stay with friends (7%). The share of those planning to be hosted by relatives is higher among short-time visitors (12%) than among prospective returnees (3%).

Figure 1. Intention to stay or do a short visit, total (% w) N=8,226



### REASONS

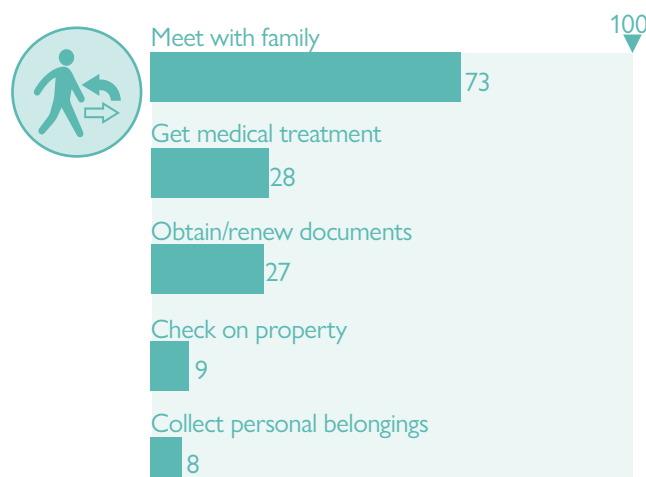
Out of all prospective returnees, just over three out of ten (33%) were out of Ukraine to visit relatives or close friends abroad (and thus had left Ukraine with the intention to return), while 22 per cent miss their place of origin and 14 per cent want to reunite with family members.

Short-time visitors are aiming to visit family members in almost three quarters of the cases (73%). Additionally, about 28 per cent want to seek medical care (including doctor visits and examinations from specialists such as paediatricians, dentists, gynaecologists, and others) and a similar share (27%) need to obtain or renew identity documents (biometric passport, diplomas, licenses).

Figure 2. Top 5 reasons to stay in Ukraine, prospective returnees (w, %) (more than one answer possible), N= 2,575



Figure 3. Top 5 reason to do a short visit, short-time visitors (w, %) (more than one answer possible), N= 4,188



My father passed away.  
I am going to his funeral  
and then I will go back to  
Czechia.



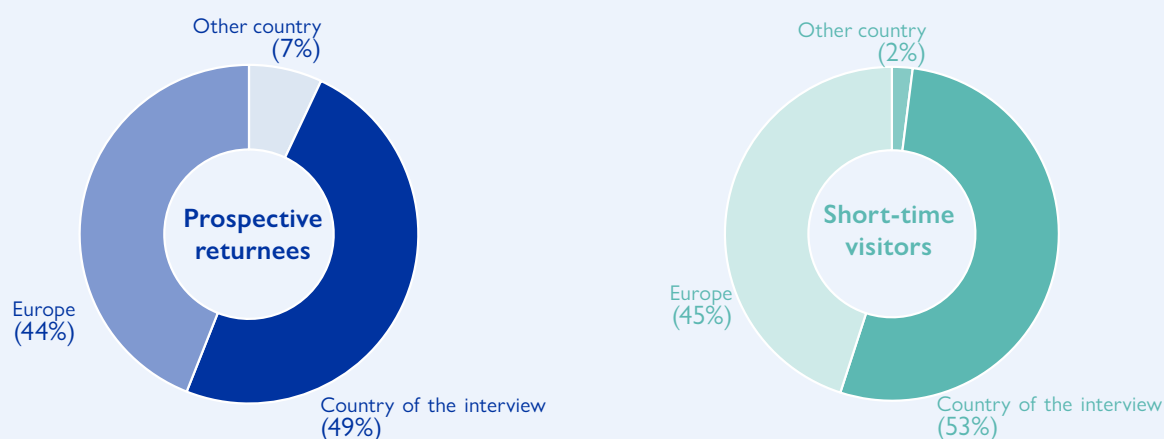
Fifty years old women from Dnipropetrovska oblast,  
crossing back from Poland



## TIME OUTSIDE OF UKRAINE

### DISPLACEMENT ABROAD

Figure 4. Main country of displacement while outside of Ukraine, for prospective returnees N= 2,575 and short-time visitors N=4,188 (w, %)



More than half (52%) of all respondents spent most of their time outside Ukraine in one of the five neighbouring countries where they are surveyed.

The rest stayed in other countries in Europe (45%), and only 3 per cent spent their time in displacement outside Europe.

Germany (8%), Spain and Czechia (6% each), Austria (5%), Italy and Bulgaria (3% each) are the main displacement countries among the prospective returnees.

Germany (15%), Czechia (9%), the United Kingdom (4%), Austria (3%), Bulgaria and Italy (2% each) are the top countries of displacement among those intending to pay a short visit.

Short-time visitors are more likely to have spent their time in the neighbouring country in which they were surveyed compared to prospective returnees (53% vs 49%), while a larger

proportion of prospective returnees was displaced outside of Europe (in Türkiye, Israel, Egypt, Georgia, Canada and many others) compared to short-time visitors (7% vs 2%).

Respondents had first displaced from Ukraine and went abroad on average 336 days (about 11 months) prior to the time of the interview. This is slightly higher for short-time visitors (339 days), and lower for prospective returnees (220 days, or about 7 months).

The difference between the two groups is also reflected in the frequency of crossings to Ukraine among respondents: most short-time visitors report to have crossed the border twice or more than twice (54% of them) since February 2022, while prospective returnees not only have spent less time in total outside Ukraine, but they made fewer entries and exits (55% only made one or zero crossing since February 2022).

### Prospective Returnees



**220 days**  
Average time spent abroad

Top countries of displacement:

- Germany (8%)
- Spain (6%)
- Czechia (6%)

### Short-Time Visitors



**339 days**  
Average time spent abroad

Top countries of displacement:

- Germany (15%)
- Czechia (9%)
- United Kingdom (4%)

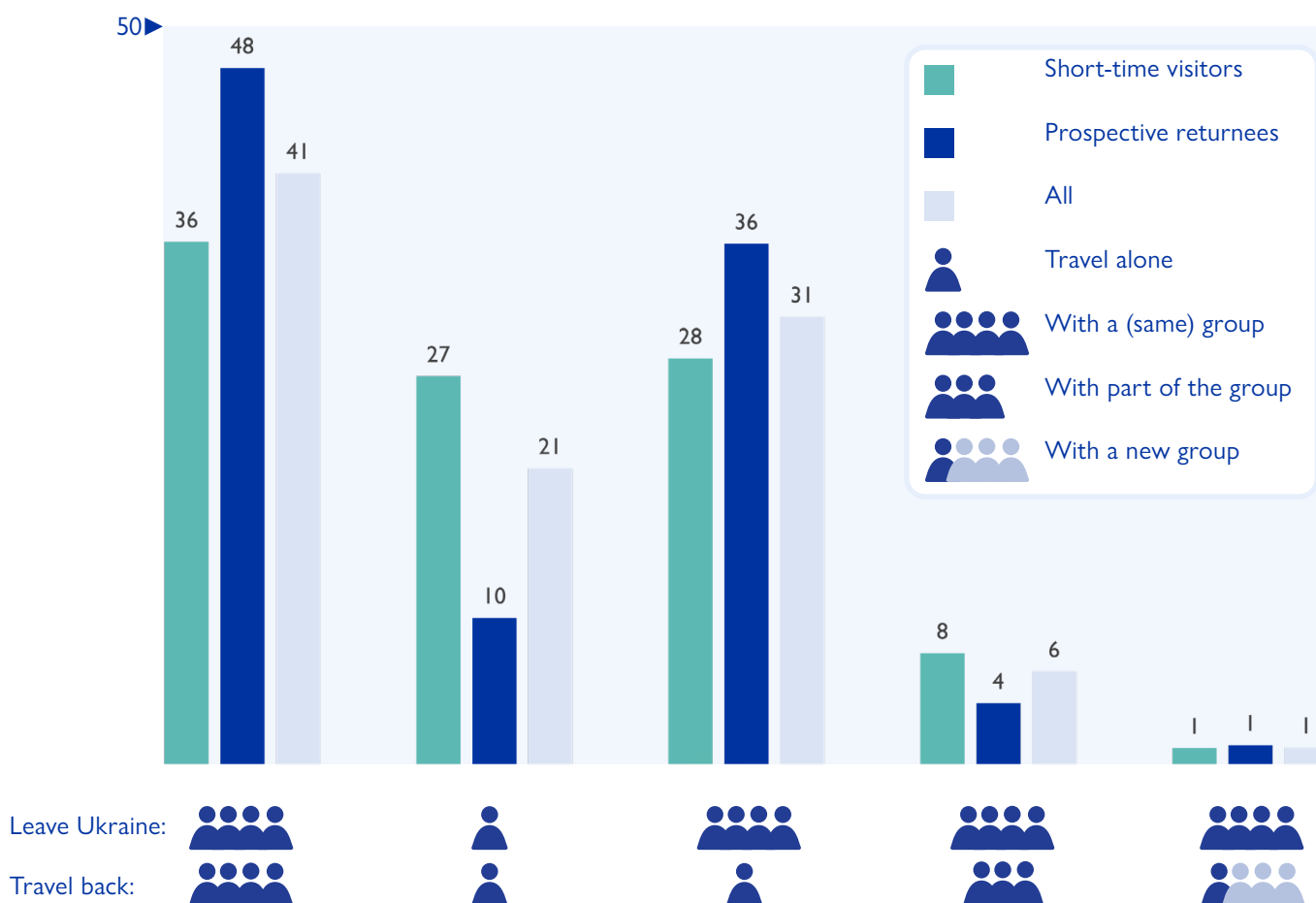
## DISPLACEMENT ABROAD

About 51 per cent of respondents travel alone, while 49 per cent move in a group. Prospective returnees are more likely to be accompanied by the same group with whom they left Ukraine than short-time visitors (48% versus 36%), while short-time visitors are more likely to have left Ukraine and be returning to Ukraine alone compared to prospective returnees (27% versus 10%).

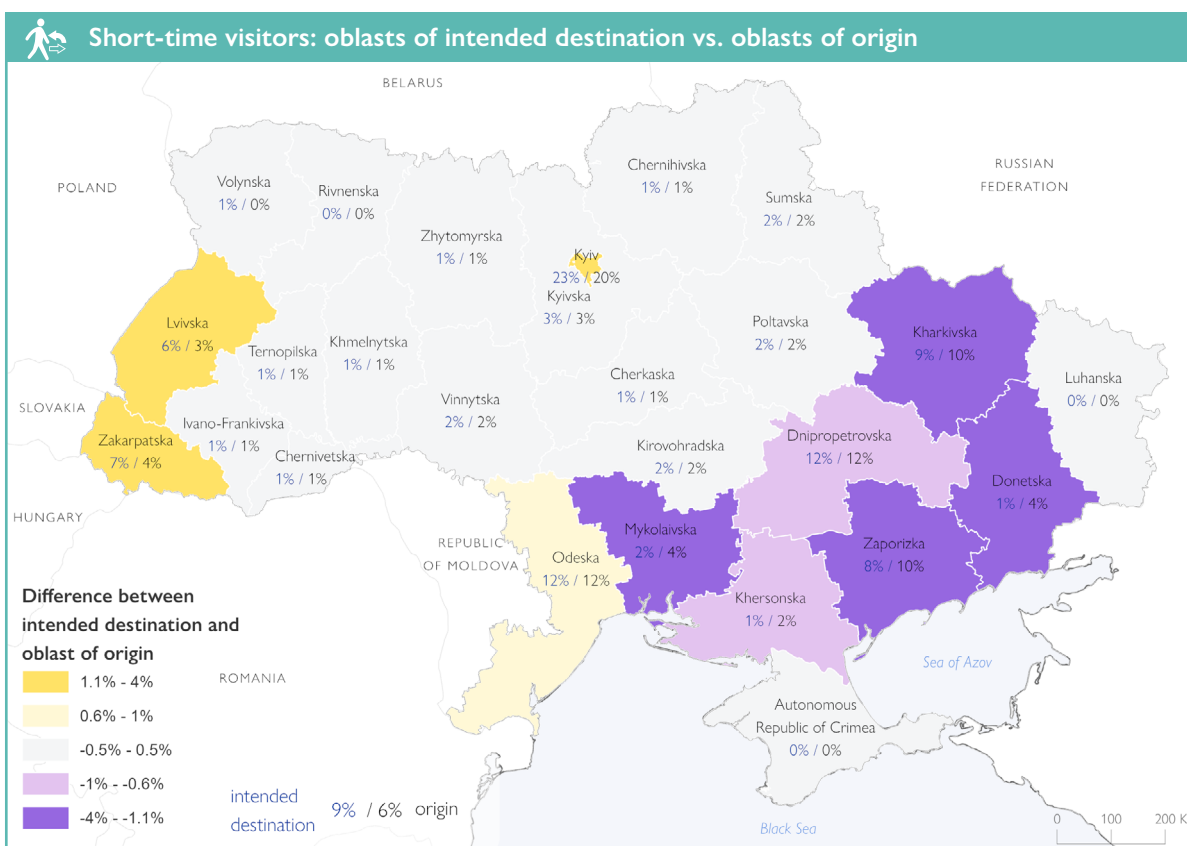
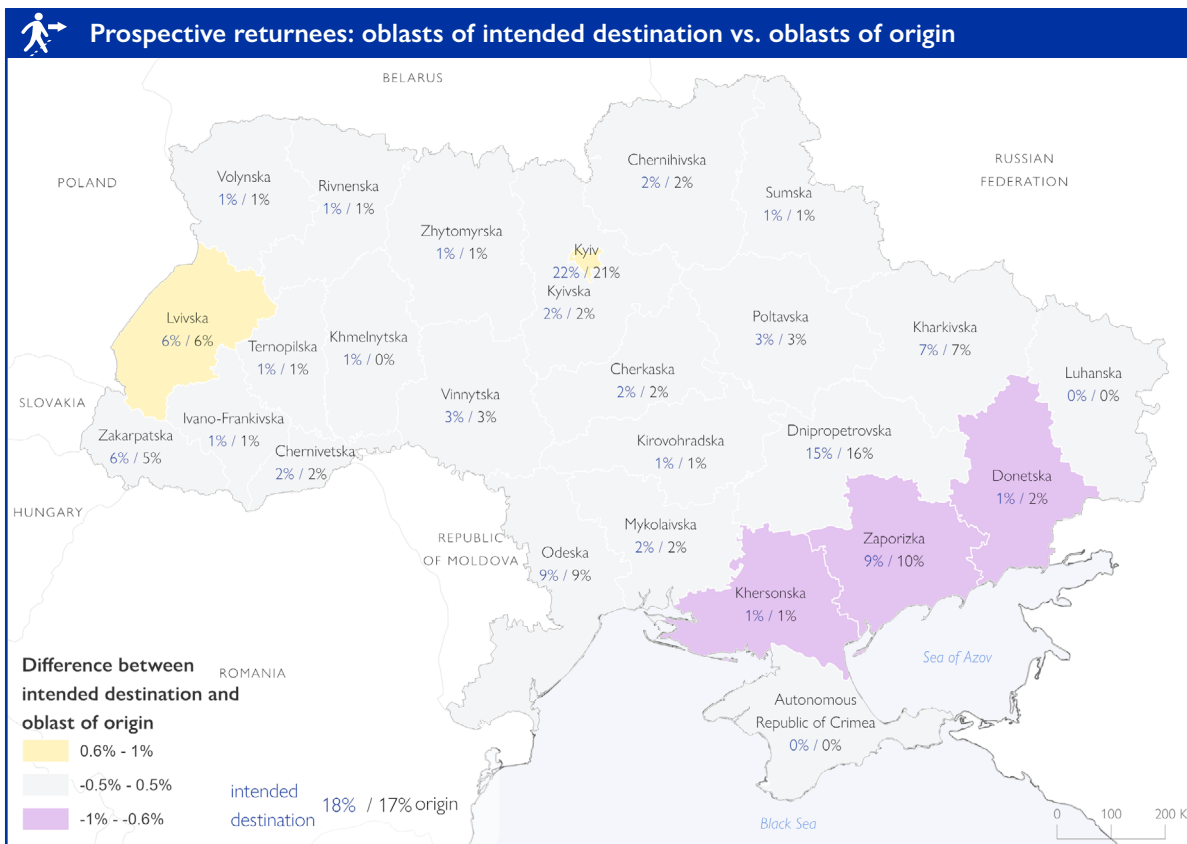
More than a third (36%) of all Ukrainian respondents cross back with at least one child (<18 years old). Short-time visitors were traveling slightly more frequently with children than prospective returnees (38% versus 34%). Significant differences are found between women and men, and between older and younger respondents. About 37 per cent of women are with at least one child when interviewed, compared to 17 per cent of men. At the same time, one-fifth (20%) of prospective returnees are or are travelling with a person older than 60 years of age, while among short-visitors only 6 per cent are older than 60.



Figure 5. Group composition at crossing into Ukraine by return intention and total (%), N=8,226



# OBLASTS (REGIONS) OF ORIGIN & DESTINATION





The share of respondents from each region of origin in Ukraine vary widely across the countries of the survey, but overall, 62 per cent of respondents lived in only five regions before being displaced outside Ukraine: the city of Kyiv (19%), Dnipropetrovska (13%), Odeska (11%), Zaporizka (10%), and Kharkivska (9%).

Over one-third (35%) of respondents originate from oblasts in the eastern part of Ukraine, while almost one in five originate from the city of Kyiv (19%). Almost one in six originate from the southern part (15%) as well as the west (15%), while smaller percentages originate from the north (8%) and the center (8%).

Ninety per cent intend to reach their oblast of origin, while the remaining 10 per cent are traveling to a different oblast. The

share of those going to a different oblast than that of origin is higher among short-time visitors (14%) than among prospective returnees (5%).

Among those who do not go to their oblast of origin, the city of Kyiv (30%), Zakarpatska (19%), and Lvivska (18%) are the top 3 destinations. Over two out of five (44%) respondents state that their origin oblast is unsafe, 28 per cent plan to go to a different oblast where their family is currently located after being displaced. This is followed by 20 per cent whose home is damaged, destroyed, or being occupied. In general, there were no significant changes in the breakdown of the reasons respondents are not returning to their oblast during the third quarter compared to the second quarter.

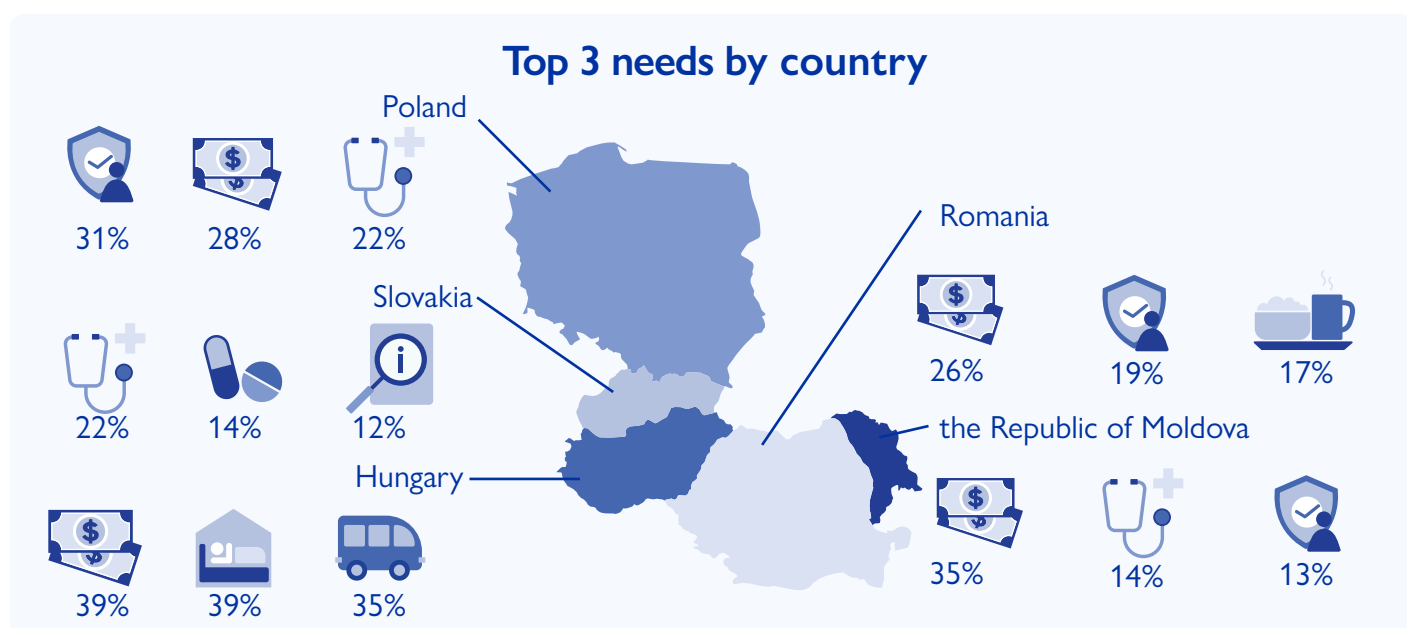
## NEEDS & ASSISTANCE

Overall, the proportion of respondents reporting needs while crossing back is lower than that reported by those who are interviewed when leaving Ukraine or during their displacement outside of the country.<sup>3</sup>

**Financial support remains the overall primary need among those crossing back:** more than one quarter (28%) of respondents indicate that financial support is among their needs, which is 10 percentage points higher than what reported in the previous quarter (18%). In this quarter, respondents also point to personal safety and security as one of main needs, with a share of positive reply that is more than the double than what observed in quarter 2 (26% vs 11%). Consistently with previous reporting periods, health services (21%) and medicines (14%)

are also among the priorities of respondents at the moment of crossing back to Ukraine.

Country by country results differ widely in the frequency of reported needs among Ukrainian respondents: these variations – besides sampling differences due to field constraints – could be due to factors pertaining to the personal characteristics of the refugee populations in each of the neighbouring countries on one side, and to factors linked to the national context in terms of rights and services granted to refugees from Ukraine under the national temporary protection schemes, to the pre-existing level of public infrastructures (in terms of public services, for example), and to the local labour market structure, on the other side.



<sup>3</sup> Check the IOM's DTM Regional [Dashboard on Needs, Intentions and Integration Challenges survey results](#) (Jan-Jun 2023).



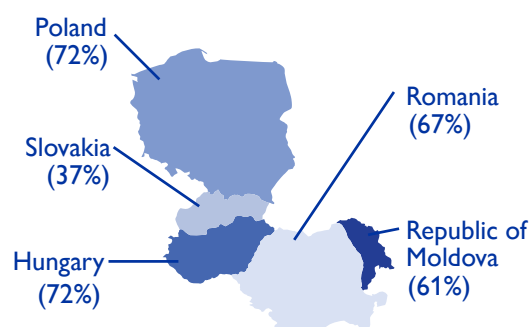
I don't have enough money to survive abroad. Are there any part-time jobs for mothers with small children or any help?



Forty-year-old woman from Odeska oblast, crossing back from Romania

## RECEIVED ASSISTANCE

Over three out of five (63%) Ukrainian respondents received humanitarian assistance while being abroad, which is slightly higher than in the previous quarter (59%). When comparing respondents in each country, the largest share who received aid were those in Hungary (72%), followed closely by Romania (67%), Poland (62%) and the Republic of Moldova (61%). The smallest share of respondents who received aid were those in Slovakia (37%).

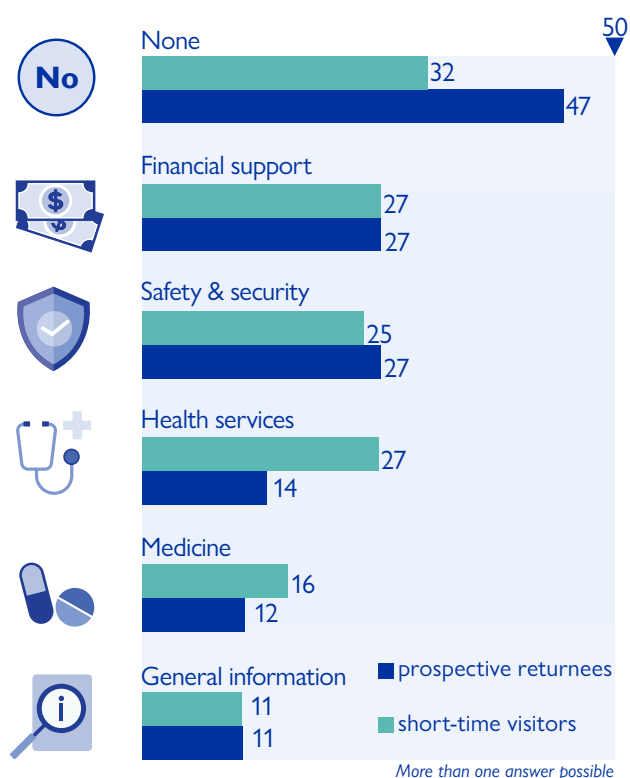


Share of respondents who received assistance by country

Prospective returnees, those who aim to return and remain in Ukraine, reported at much lower rates that they have received humanitarian assistance (35%) compared to short-time visitors (81%). This gap has grown larger since the previous quarter, when 41 per cent of prospective returnees and 73 per cent of short-term visitors reported to have received humanitarian assistance while abroad.

Moreover, short-time visitors report higher level of needs overall than prospective returnees. This can be linked to issues that short-time visitors aim at solving during the visit in Ukraine (such as the access to health services or the renewal of expired documents). On the other side, almost half (47%) of the prospective returnees report they have no immediate needs, as they may be already more focused on the conditions of return rather than on what was not achieved successfully in the country of displacement. Nevertheless, also among prospective returnees the proportion of those reporting that they have no immediate needs has decreased by 8 percentage points since the last quarter (during which 55% of respondents indicated the same).

Figure 6. Top needs by return intention, (w, %), more than one answer possible, N=8,226



### Prospective returnees



### Short-time visitors



This is not necessarily due to a short reach of humanitarian actors to those in need of support, as only a minority (5% of respondents) had difficulties receiving support when they asked for it.

Rather, prospective returnees may have higher income overall than short-time visitors, hence not requiring humanitarian assistance as frequently as short-time visitors do. Among the issues reported are delays in receiving financial support or social benefits foreseen in the country of displacement, together with queues, congestion when accessing basic health services, lack of information, and language barriers.

## UNEQUAL TREATMENT

One out of ten (10%) Ukrainians crossing back say 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. A slightly smaller proportion (8%) of respondents such experiences in the previous quarter. About one per cent does not know or prefers not to answer, while the majority do not report such experience (89%).

Women reported experiencing discrimination at higher rates (11%) compared to men (4%) this quarter. Those who are in the country for business report discrimination at higher rates (33%) compared to respondents with EU Temporary Protection status (16%), respondents who are transiting (16%), respondents with refugee status (14%), and respondents who are studying (10%).



“  
My son left for another country. I am returning home. My house is destroyed, but I will live with friends.”

Sixty-six-year-old man from Mykolaivska oblast, crossing back from Romania

Experiences of discrimination are virtually not reported by respondents in the Republic of Moldova, Hungary, and Romania (less than 1% each). In contrast, such experiences are reported by 14 per cent of respondents in Poland and 13 per cent of respondents in Slovakia.

The proportion of respondents reporting experiences of discrimination in Poland and Slovakia the previous quarter of this survey were also higher compared to other countries (10% and 12% respectively).

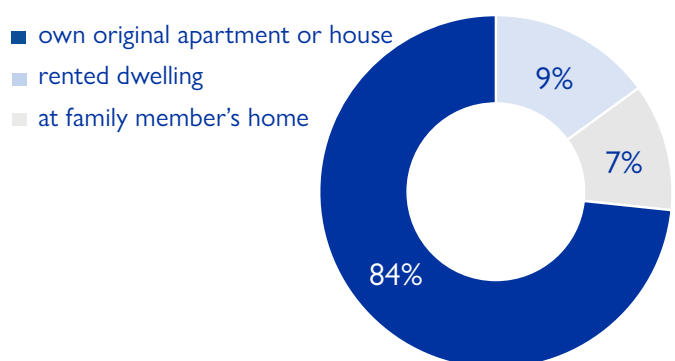
## RETURNEES TO UKRAINE

The main profiles and needs expressed by Ukrainians who have already returned from abroad, surveyed within [Round 14 of IOM's General Population Survey \(GPS\)](#) in Ukraine<sup>4</sup> align with those expressed by Ukrainian respondents crossing from neighbouring countries into Ukraine presented in Section from 2 to 7 of this report and especially with prospective returnees intending to remain in the country.

Among returnees from abroad surveyed upon their return to Ukraine, women represented 89 per cent and men, 11 per cent. On average, they spent around 180 days (6 months) abroad since February 2022, and 286 days (9.5 months) have passed, on average, since they returned to Ukraine. Eighty-four per cent of returnees reported to be currently living in their own original apartment or house, while the rest were living in a rented dwelling (9%) or at family member's home (7%). Among those paying rent or living with family members, the main reasons

were that someone was living in their home, their home was not safe, or they wanted to stay with family. A minimal share (less than 1%) was without shelter.

Figure 7. Accommodation of returnees from abroad, (w, %), more than one answer possible, N=8,226



<sup>4</sup> In September 2023, as part of GPS Round 14, IOM estimated about 4.6 million returnees in Ukraine: 75 per cent were returnees after internal displacement while the remaining 25 per cent (1.1 million) was returning from abroad.



Similarly to what was reported by Ukrainians surveyed while crossing back into Ukraine, the vast majority of returnees who had been displaced abroad stayed in European Union countries (85%) before returning to Ukraine, and almost half of them (46%) in countries neighbouring Ukraine. The main country of displacement was Poland (38%), followed by Germany (11%), Italy (7%), Czechia (5%), Bulgaria (4%) and Spain (3%). Smaller shares of those who returned from abroad have been displaced in Austria (3%), Romania (3%), France (2%), the United Kingdom and Türkiye (2%).

Most returnees who were displaced abroad reported they intended to remain in Ukraine in the near term (86%), while a small proportion were considering the possibility to move again from their area of residence (5%). Seven per cent of returnees from abroad indicated they would consider relocation, depending on the evolving situation.

The primary oblasts of return for returnees from abroad were not concentrated in specific areas and were spread out throughout the country, with the main regions of return being Kyiv City (16%) in central Ukraine, Dnipropetrovska oblast (11%) in the east, Odeska oblast (10%) in the south and Lvivska oblast (9%) in western Ukraine.

The main needs reported by returnees from abroad included: financial support, mentioned by 58 per cent of respondents, followed by power banks and generators (46%), heating appliances for winter (24%), and reconstruction material for shelters (24%).

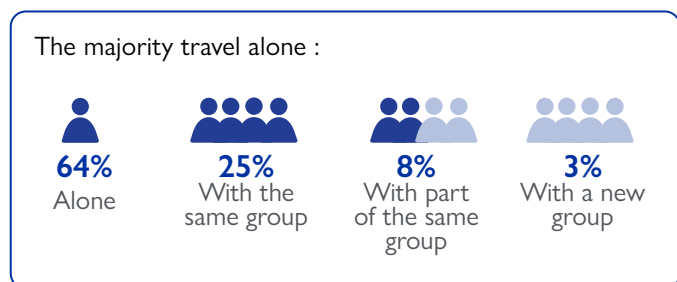
For more granular data on conditions of return for selected oblasts in Ukraine please see the [Conditions of Returns Assessment Factsheet \(August 2023\)](#).

**“** We are going to meet my husband, the children want to see their father. **”**

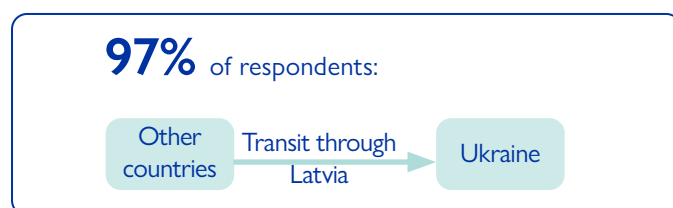
Forty-year-old woman from Kharkivska oblast, crossing back from Poland and going for a visit to Lviv

## TRANSITING THROUGH THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION

Between July and September 2023, 224 surveys were collected at border crossing points in Latvia with Ukrainians who intended to transit through the Russian Federation to non-governmental controlled areas in Ukraine ([IOM Latvia 2023](#)). Sample of Ukrainians surveyed at two main border areas between Latvia and the Russian Federation is more balanced in terms of gender breakdown than sample of Ukrainians in neighbouring countries: women are 64 per cent of the total, while men are 36 per cent. The majority of respondents interviewed in Latvia travel alone (64%), with the rest mainly going towards the Russian Federation with the same group with whom they left (25%), with part of the group they left with (8%), or with a new group (3%).



For the vast majority (97% of respondents), Latvia was a transit country rather than their country of displacement when abroad. Their main countries of stay outside Ukraine were Poland (26%), Germany (16%) and the Russian Federation (12%), and Czechia (5%).



Sixty-three per cent of Ukrainians heading towards the Russian Federation are from only three eastern oblasts: Doneska (27%), Luhanska (21%), and Zaporizka (14%). Among all Ukrainians surveyed in Latvia, almost half (49%) intend to stay in Ukraine for the foreseeable future, while 24 per cent are travelling for a short visit and another 26 per cent is unsure. For both prospective returnees and short-time visitors, the main motivations for crossing back are mainly to reunite with family members (33%), to check on property (26%), and because they miss home (25%).

“ I went to meet my son in Lviv in western Ukraine, and now I am going back to a place that is now under occupation. ”

Fifty-eight-year-old woman from Donetsk oblast, crossing from Latvia to Russian Federation

Contrary to what is observed among Ukrainians crossing into Ukraine from neighbouring countries, Ukrainians in Latvia express a very high need of general information about Ukraine and most recent developments on the ground (84%), while only a minority report other needs such as with food supply (11%) and short-term accommodation support (2%).

Main need among Ukrainians transiting through Latvia:



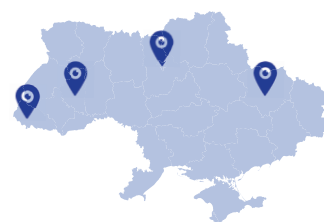
**84%**  
express a need of  
**general information**

## THIRD-COUNTRY NATIONALS

Alongside Ukrainian nationals, also TCNs are observed while crossing into Ukraine. TCNs represent about 1 per cent of all surveys collected in the third quarter of 2023 with persons crossing back to Ukraine. Among the 113 TCNs interviewed in Q3 2023, over two-thirds (68%) had originally left Ukraine because of the war and almost half (49%) had resided in Ukraine for between 2 and 5 years prior to displacement.

Most TCNs were surveyed at border crossing points (BCPs) with Ukraine in the Republic of Moldova (41%) and in Hungary (37%), but others were also met in Romania (11%), Slovakia (7%) and Poland (4%).<sup>5</sup>

The top 5 nationalities are: India (24%), Russian Federation (19%), Türkiye (6%), Republic of Moldova (5%) and Belarus (5%). Contrary to Ukrainian respondents, more than half of TCNs (55%) are men while 45 per cent are women.



Most (91%) intend to reach the same place of habitual residence they had before displacement abroad. Most TCNs interviewed are going to the city of Kyiv (31%) Ternopil'ska oblast (14%), Zakarpatska oblast (11%), and Kharkiv'ska (9%).

The biggest group of TCNs (38%) is of those who are unsure or do not state about the length of their time in Ukraine. About 28 per cent are short visitors and 32 per cent are prospective returnees. Many TCNs travel to Ukraine to take exams, resume their study path or just take one exam in presence. Moreover, others report the intention to visit family members left behind and renew documents.

### TCNs



**113**  
Interviewed



**55%**  
Male



**68%**  
Left Ukraine  
because of the war



**45%**  
Female

“ I visited my children who are studying in Slovakia, now I go back home. ”

Forty-year-old woman from Zakarpatska oblast, crossing back from Slovakia

<sup>5</sup> This is due, among other things, to the language skills of DTM enumerators deployed in different countries. While most enumerators speak Ukrainian and Russian beside the local language, others use English, Arabic, and other languages that would be needed to interview TCNs.

## METHODOLOGY

Since March 2022, IOM Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM) has been regularly surveying individuals who are crossing back to Ukraine from neighbouring countries. The aim of the survey is to improve the understanding of their profiles, displacement patterns, intentions and needs. The survey is deployed in 5 countries neighbouring Ukraine – Hungary, Poland, the Republic of Moldova, Romania, and Slovakia.

Face-to-face surveys are conducted by a network of more than 70 trained enumerators deployed at selected exit points and transit locations close to the border points with Ukraine. The survey is anonymous and voluntary, administered only after obtaining consent from the respondent. Respondents can stop the survey at any time. The questionnaire is available in Ukrainian, Russian, Romanian and English, and the preferred language is determined by the interviewee. Only fully completed surveys are included in the analysis.

Since March 2023, the survey has also been deployed in Latvia to collect information on Ukrainian refugees who were met at border areas and are intending to move through the Russian Federation to reach occupied areas in western Ukraine.

Since July 2023, the survey section dedicated to intentions was adjusted to reflect more updated understanding of the dynamics of movements from and to Ukraine. A question on “length of stay in Ukraine” measured in number of days has been added (“forever” and “does not know” were also possible). For the purpose of this report short-term visitors are those who report the intention to remain in Ukraine for 30 days or less, while prospective returnees are those who report the intention to remain for more than 30 days or “forever” in Ukraine.

### About the Survey

#### Aim

To improve the understanding of their profiles, displacement patterns, intentions and needs.

#### Target Population

Ukrainians and TCNs who are crossing back to Ukraine from neighbouring countries.

#### Location & Execution

Face-to-face surveys are conducted by over 70 trained enumerators stationed at exit points and transit locations near Ukraine's border with five neighboring countries: Hungary, Poland, the Republic of Moldova, Romania, and Slovakia.

#### Expansion of Locations and Updates

From March 2023, the survey expanded to Latvia, targeting Ukrainian refugees intending to transit through the Russian Federation to reach occupied areas in western Ukraine.

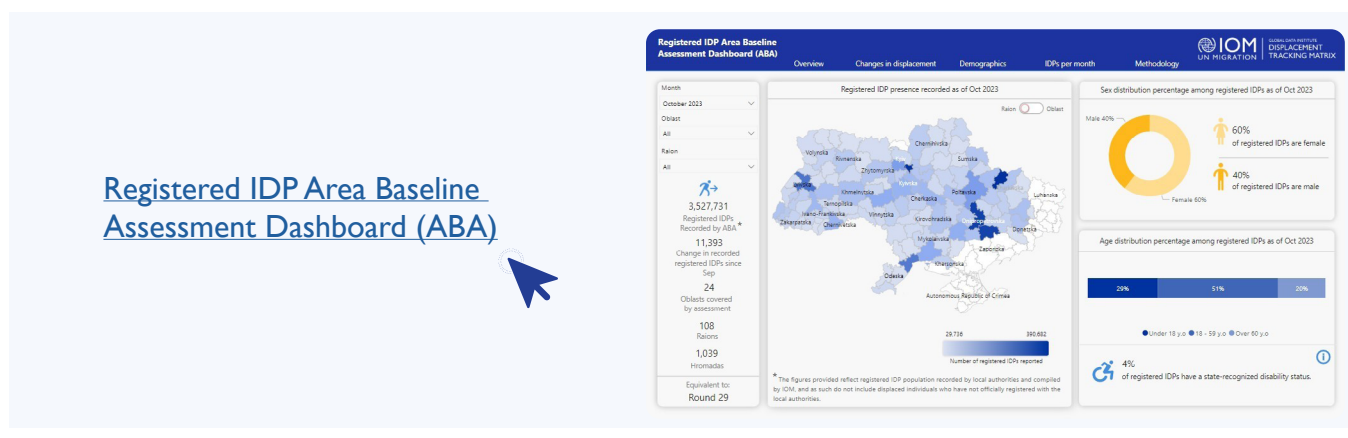
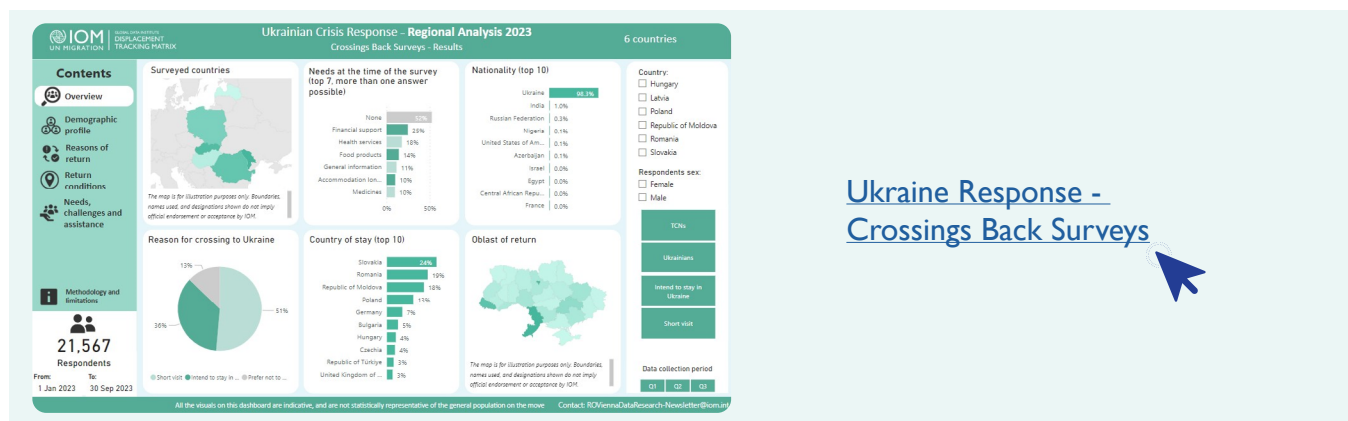
## LIMITATIONS

The sampling framework could not be based on verified figures of refugees from Ukraine and TCNs exiting towards Ukraine through all land border points where the survey took place. Such verified figures are not consistently available nor are they comparable for all neighbouring countries. The geographic spread of enumerators deployed captures a wide range of locations and modes of travel. Nevertheless, the accessibility of different transit points fluctuates and not all individuals crossing have time (10 to 20 minutes) to respond to the survey. 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.

Results for Ukrainians met in neighbouring countries are weighted for the number of border crossings by Ukrainian nationals into Ukraine from each country during the data collection period. Results for Ukrainians crossing into the Russian Federation and for TCNs crossing back to Ukraine are not weighted.

Whilst the overall sample cannot be deemed as representative, the consistency of data collection in each country and at the regional level suggests that the current sampling framework produces findings of practical value.

## INTERACTIVE DASHBOARDS



## RESOURCES

- IOM Europe. 2023. 'DTM Ukraine Crisis Response page: <https://dtm.iom.int/responses/ukraine-response>
- IOM Europe. 2023. 'DTM Ukraine Crisis Response: interactive dashboard on Needs, Intention and Integration Surveys' Results (Jan-Sep 2023)
- IOM Europe. 2023. 'Ukraine Response — Regional Analysis — Ukrainian Refugees and TCNs crossing to Ukraine in Q2 2023 (April-June)'. September. Vienna: IOM.
- IOM Europe. 2023. 'DTM Ukraine Crisis Response — Regional Annual Overview — Ukrainian Refugees and TCNs crossing to Ukraine in 2022'. April. Vienna: IOM.
- IOM Latvia 2023. 'DTM Latvia — On the Way Back to Ukraine: Surveys with Refugees on Destinations, Length of Stay & Assistance (April - June 2023)'. Riga: IOM.
- IOM Ukraine. 2023. 'DTM Ukraine — Internal Displacement Report — General Population Survey Round 14 (September – October 2023)'. November. Kyiv: IOM.
- IOM Ukraine. 2023. 'DTM Ukraine — Conditions of Return Assessment Factsheet — Round 4 (July–August 2023)'. October. Kyiv: IOM.
- UNHCR. 2023. 'Ukraine Refugee Situation portal'.



## 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 destinations and prospects of permanence abroad or return; 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>



GLOBAL DATA INSTITUTE  
DISPLACEMENT  
TRACKING MATRIX