

# POLAND:

## Crossing Back Surveys with Ukrainian Nationals

July – September 2023  
Country Report & Data Analysis

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This publication was made possible through the support provided by U.S. Department of State Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration (PRM).

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This report was issued without formal editing by IOM.

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

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Citation: International Organization for Migration (IOM), November 2023. DTM Moldova “Crossing Back Surveys with Ukrainian Nationals” IOM, Chisinau, Republic of Moldova.

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Release date: 8 December 2023

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# KEY FINDINGS

## Top 3 countries of stay:

- Poland (46%)
- Germany (14%)
- Czechia (11%)

## Top 3 oblasts\* of origin:

- Kyiv city (22%)
- Dnipropetrovska (16%)
- Zaporizka (14%)

\* Regions in Ukraine

## Destinations:

To the oblast of origin (90%)



To a different oblast (9%): Kyiv city, Donetsk & Zaporizka

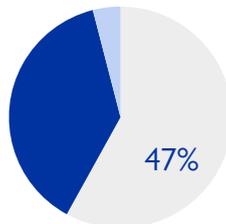
## Needs:

- Personal safety (53%)
- Financial support (48%)
- Health services (38%)
- Medication (28%)

More than one answer possible

## Intentions:

- Short term visit
- Long term stay
- Don't know



## Assistance:

- Financial (91%)
- Accommodation (43%)
- Food (34%)
- Hygiene items (21%)
- Clothes (18%)
- Transport (15%)

More than one answer possible

## Entries & exits:



90% had crossed back to Ukraine at least once prior to the survey.

## Time in displacement:

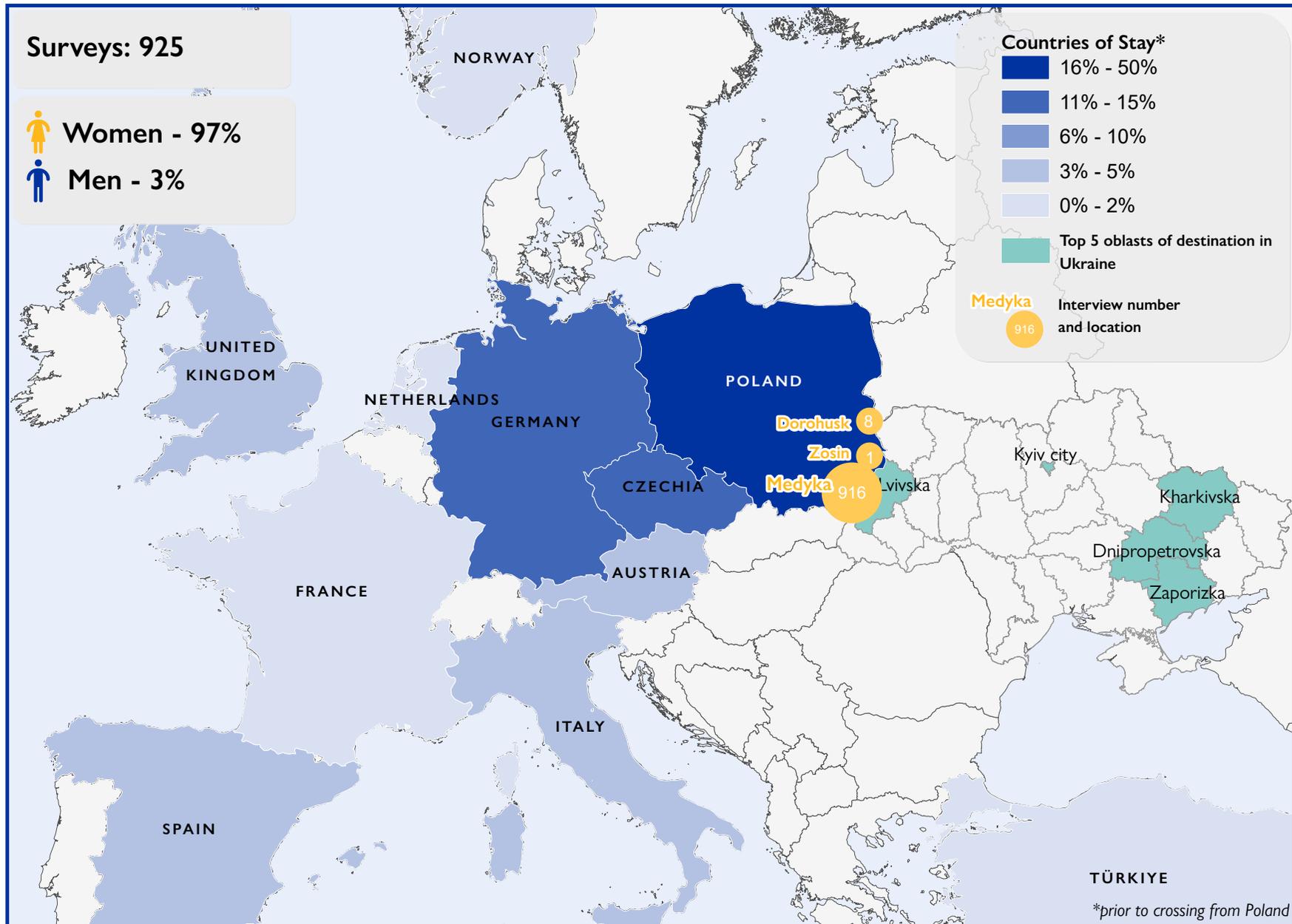
57%

spent more than a year in displacement.

## Transport:

- Train (96%)
- Bus (2%)
- On foot (2%)

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



The map is for illustration purposes. The boundaries and names shown, and the designations used do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by IOM.

## I. Socio-Demographic Profile

### Gender and age

Out of the 925 refugees from Ukraine who were interviewed prior to crossing back from Poland, 97 per cent were women, and three per cent were men. When looking at the data disaggregated by gender, it appears that 68 per cent of men were in

the age category of 60+, compared to only 11 per cent of their female counterparts and less than one per cent in 18-29 age group, while female respondents made up 18 per cent in the same category.

Figure 1: Surveyed individuals by gender (%), N=925

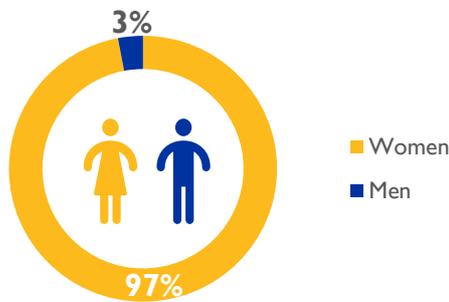
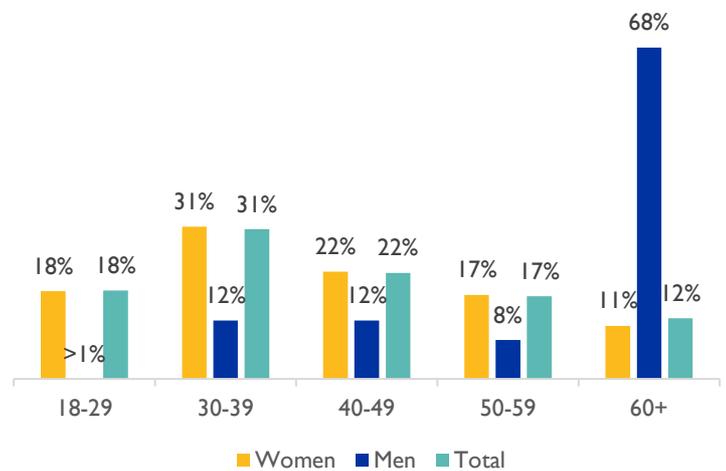


Figure 2: Age of respondents, by gender (%), N=925

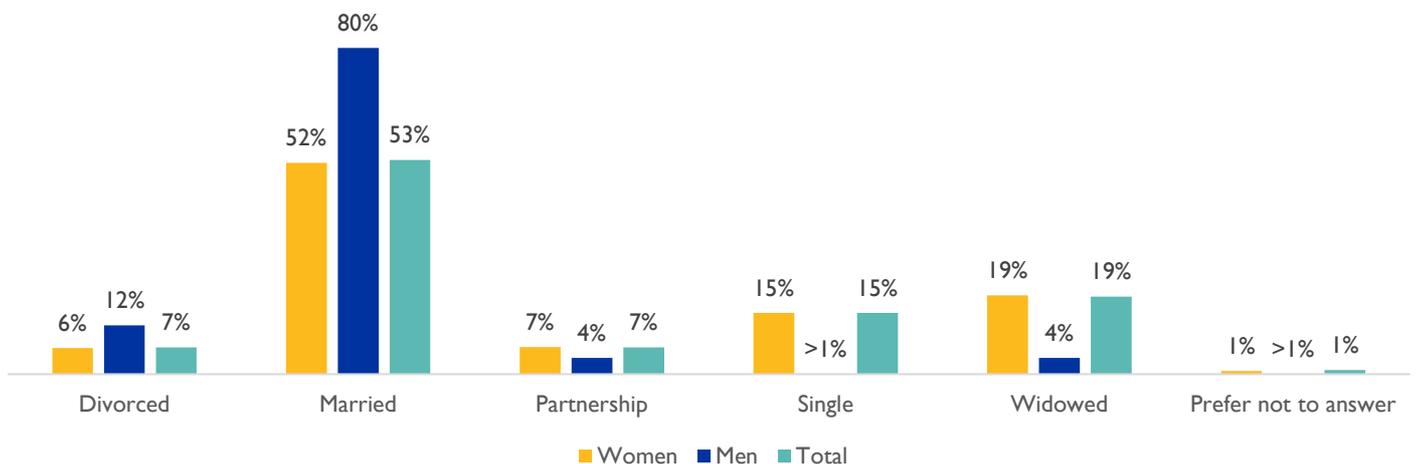


### Marital status

Out of those who responded to this question, more than half of the respondents (53%) were married. A greater share of male respondents (80%) were married, compared to female respondents in

the sample (52%). Fifteen per cent of female respondents were single, while less than one per cent of male respondents were in this category.

Figure 3: Marital status, by gender (%), N=925



## 2. Time Spent Outside of Ukraine

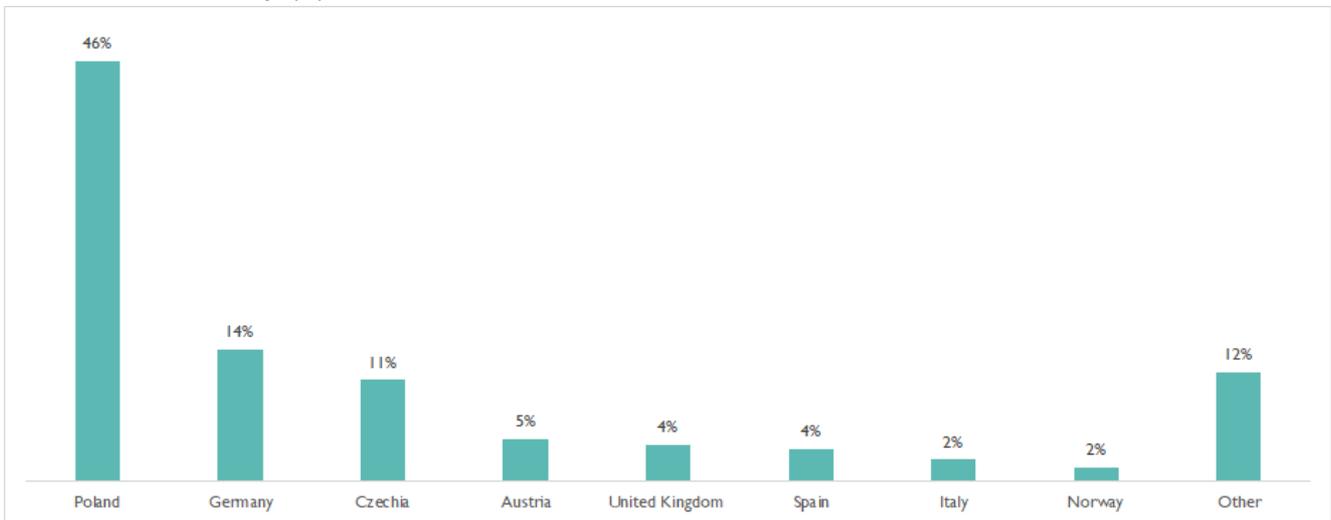
### Countries of stay while abroad

Out of total sample size (N=925) forty-six 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 (14%), Czechia (11%) and Austria (5%).

These were followed by United Kingdom (4%), Spain (4%), Italy (2%) and Norway (2%).

The remaining percentage of respondents (10%) stayed in other 10 countries across different continents before travelling back to Ukraine.

Figure 4: Countries of stay (%), N=925



### 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.

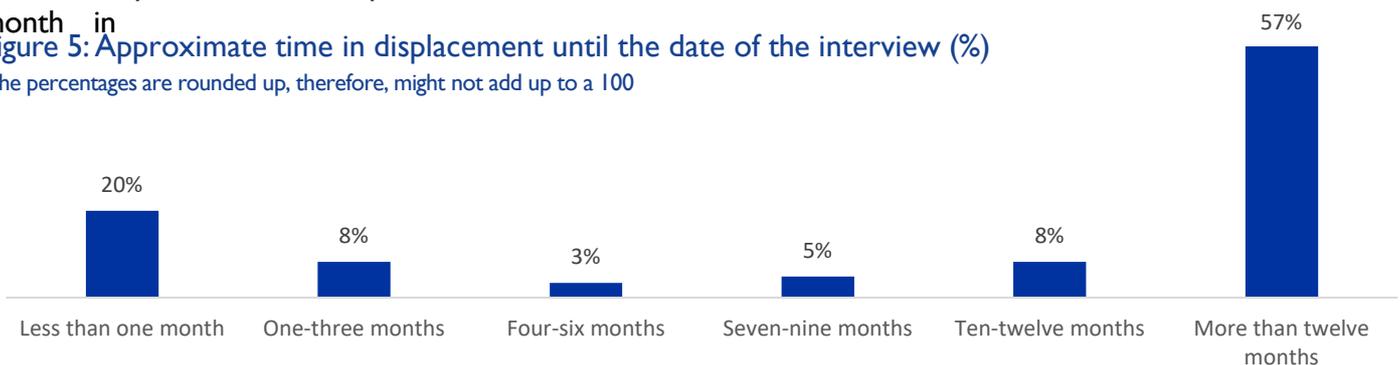
Fifty-seven per cent of respondents had spent more than one year in displacement. Twenty per cent of respondents had spent less than a month in

displacement at the time of the interview.

This group was followed by those who had spent one to three or ten to twelve months in displacement (both 8%). Five per cent had been displaced for a duration of seven to nine months. Those being displaced for between four and six months made up three percent of the respondents.

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 (63%) came from four Oblasts in Ukraine: Kyiv city (22%), Dnipropetrovska (16%), Zaporizka (14%) and Kharkivska (11%). The remaining respondents (37%) came from other 17 oblasts in Ukraine: Odeska (6%), Lvivska (5%), Donetska (3%), Mykolaivska (3%), Sumska (3%), Kyivska oblast (3%), Vinnytska (2%), Poltavaska (2%), Cherkaska (2%), Kirovohradska (2%), Chernihivska (2%), Zhytomyrska (2%), including Khersonska, Volynska, Khmelnytska, Ternopilska, and Rivnenska with 1% of respondents each.

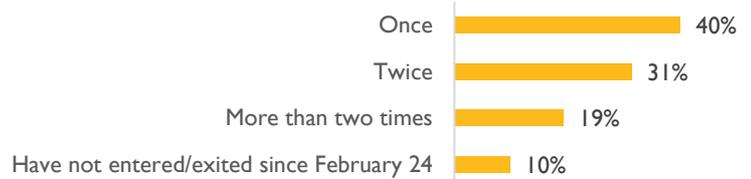
#### Number of exits/entries

Most respondents had entered or exited Ukraine only once since February 24, 2022 (40%). Thirty-one per cent had entered or exited twice, nineteen per cent had entered or exited more than two times while 10 per cent had not entered or exited even once.

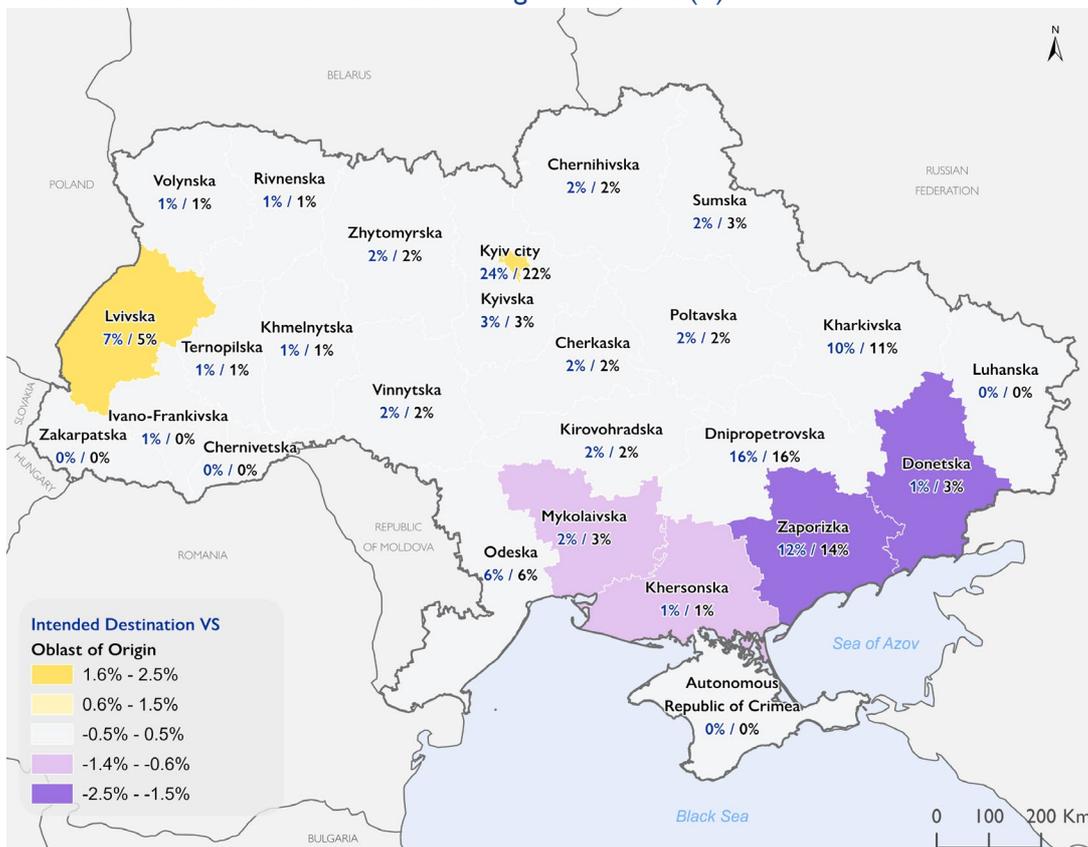
#### Intended destination

Out of 924 respondents who answered this question, 90 per cent were planning to return to the same oblast of origin while another nine per cent aimed to reach a different one. One per cent did not know where they would return at the time of interview. Of those returning to a different oblast (N=87), 26 per cent were originally from Donetska oblast, 18 per cent from Zaporizka and 10 per cent from Kyiv city. The main oblasts of destination of those returning to a different oblast are Kyiv city (37%), Lvivska (26%), Dnipropetrovska (5%) and Odeska (5%).

Figure 6: Number of entries/exits between 24 February 2022 and 29 September 2023, (%)



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



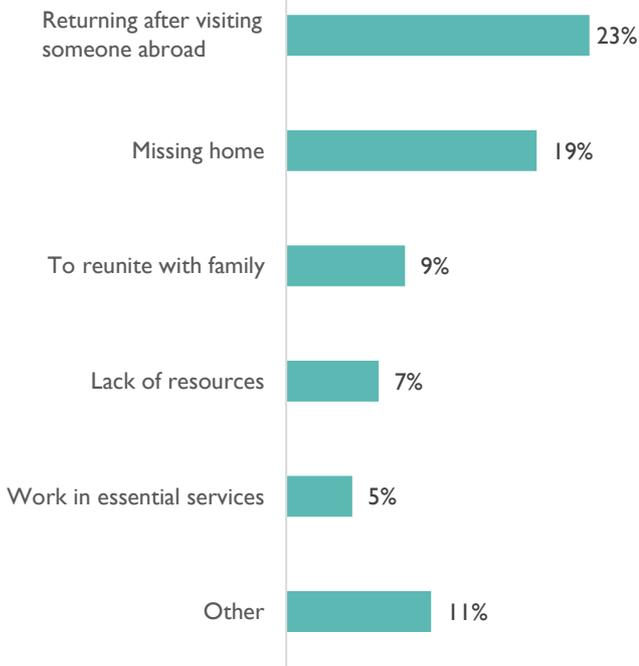
This map is for illustration purposes only. The boundaries and names shown, and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by IOM.

## 4. Intentions and Reasons to Cross Back

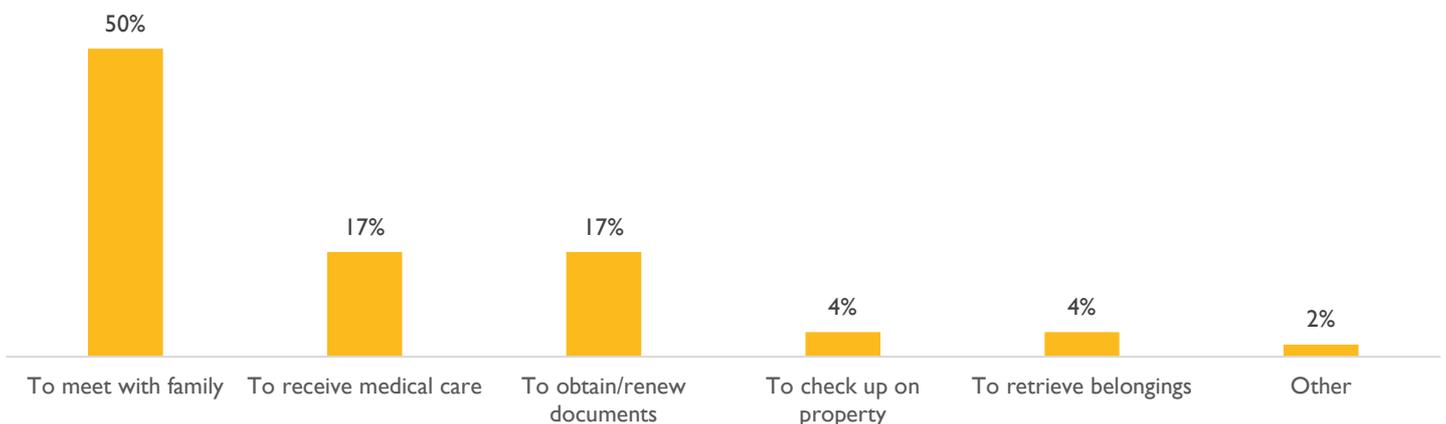
### Intentions to stay

Forty-one per cent of respondents indicated that they were returning to Ukraine to stay permanently. Within this group top three indicated reasons were returning after visiting someone abroad (23%), missing home (19%) and other reasons which were not listed in the survey (11%).

**Figure 7: Reasons for returning to Ukraine (%), N=378**  
(more than one answer possible)

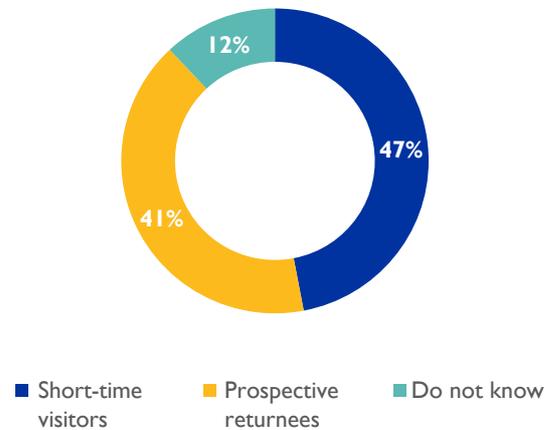


**Figure 9: Reasons for a short visit (%), N=438**



Other reasons for returning were to reunite with family in Ukraine (9%), lack of resources in country of temporary residency (7%) and working in essential services (5%).

**Figure 8: Intended length of stay (%), N=925**



### Short-term visit

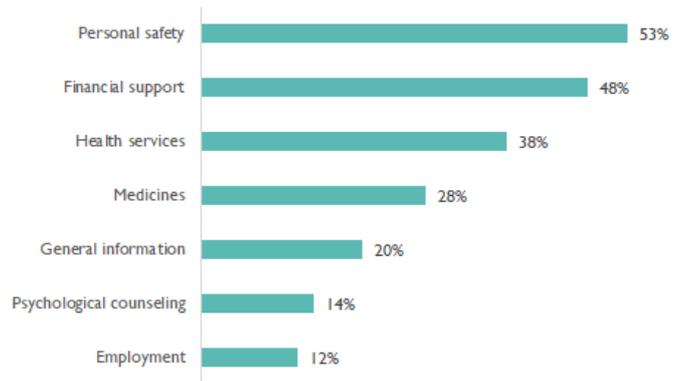
Forty-seven per cent of the refugees from Ukraine who were surveyed were planning to stay in Ukraine for a short visit only. Out of this sample, 50 per cent stated that their main reason to go to Ukraine for a limited duration was to meet with family. Seventeen per cent were returning to visit a doctor or to receive medical treatment, and another 17 per cent needed to obtain or renew documents.

## 5. Needs, Assistance Received, and Challenges

### Immediate needs upon crossing back

Forty-two per cent of respondents indicated no need for any kind of assistance while crossing back into Ukraine (N=390). Among those who indicated having immediate needs upon return (N=535), the most prevalent reported needs were: personal safety (53%), financial support (48%), health services (38%), medications (28%) and general information (20%). This was followed by psychological counseling (14%) and employment (12%).

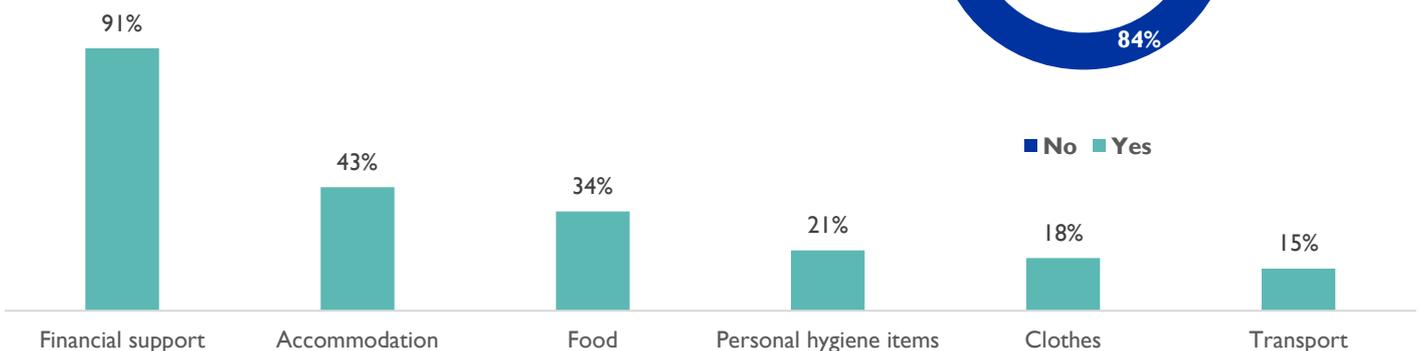
Figure 10: Top seven needs upon crossing back (%), N=535  
(more than one answer possible)



### Assistance received

Ninety-one per cent of respondents who indicated having received assistance outside of Ukraine (N=577) received financial support. Forty-three per cent received accommodation support, thirty-four received food, twenty-one received items of personal hygiene, eighteen were provided with clothes and fifteen with transportation support. Other relevant areas where respondents received assistance while outside of Ukraine were psychological counselling (5%), vouchers (2%) and toys (1%).

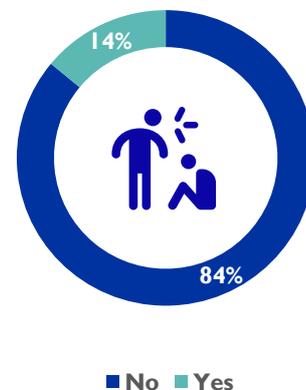
Figure 11: Top six areas of assistance received (%), N=577  
(more than one answer possible)



### Unequal treatment

Fourteen per cent of respondents reported having experienced discrimination in the country of displacement. In contrast, eighty-four per cent of respondents reported having no such experiences. One per cent of respondents preferred not to respond to the question.

Figure 12: Experiences of discrimination (%), N=925



## 6. Group Composition

### Travel mode

The majority of respondents (52%) were travelling back to Ukraine alone. Among these, 32 per cent had left Ukraine on their own and 20 per cent had initially left the country as part of a group but then were returning alone. The remaining 48 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 (41%).

Five 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=438), the average group size was 2,5 persons.

Figure 13: Travel mode (%), N=925

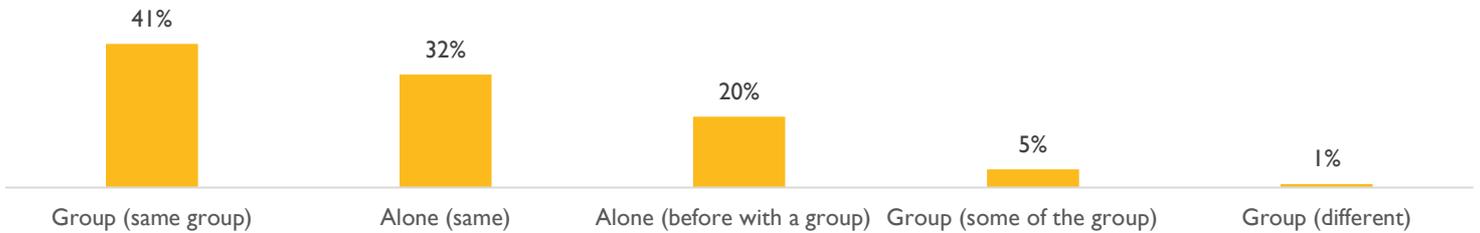
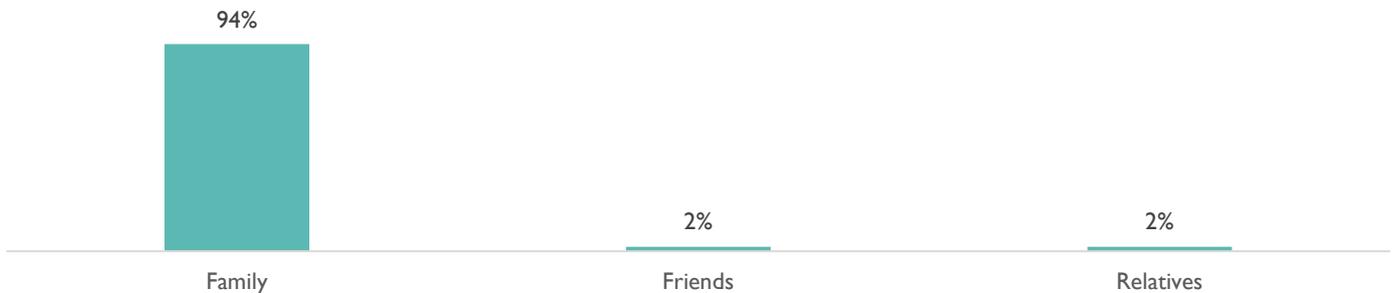


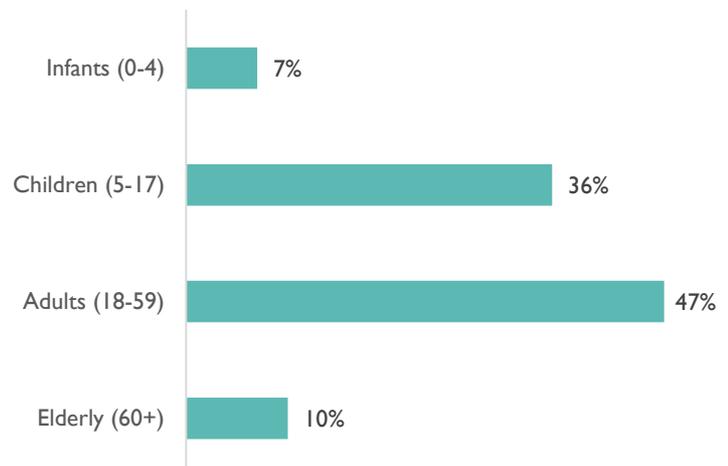
Figure 14: Top three travel group modes (%), N=438



### Age groups

Among those survey respondents, who travelled in a group and provided information on their group composition (N=438), the group composition was as follows: adults made up 47 per cent, followed by children between age 5-17 (36%), elderly persons (10%) and infants between 0-4 years old (7%). At the same time, 37 per cent of respondents travelled with at least one child (0-17 years old) and only 3 per cent had at least one child and elderly person in their household.

Figure 15: Travel groups age breakdown (%), N=438



## 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 03 July and 30 September 2023 mostly at the train and bus stations in Przemysl, one of the primary border crossing points between Ukraine and Poland.

### Methodological framework

IOM's 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 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.

