



**2 BCPs**  
**1 Registration centre**  
**1 Hotspot**

**324 interviews**



**92% Female**



**8% Male**

Since 24 February 2022, an increasing number of refugees from Ukraine and other third-country nationals (TCNs) entering Slovakia has been registered as a result of the war in Ukraine. As of 30 September, Slovak authorities have reported 846,761 border crossings from Ukraine, out of whom 92 per cent were reported to be refugees from Ukraine and 7 per cent as other (EU national or Third Country Nationals). At the same time, 616,009 border crossings to Ukraine have been reported since 24 February 2022.

This report is based on a survey launched by IOM's Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM) with persons crossings to Ukraine from Slovakia since mid-April, and presents an analysis based on 324 surveys collected between 19 April and 30 September 2022 by IOM Slovakia trained enumerators.

Individuals crossing into Ukraine are not necessarily returnees and conclusions on definitive trends cannot be drawn. The sample is not representative of all persons crossing to Ukraine, and results should only be considered as indicative.

### Introduction

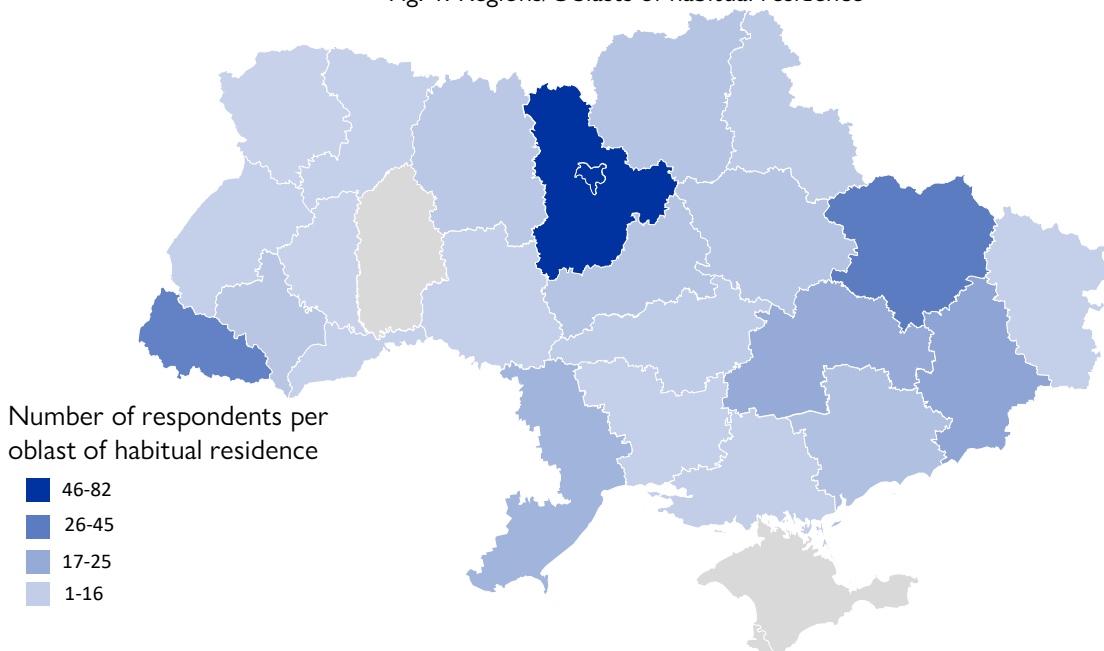
Since mid-April 2022, IOM carried out surveys with Ukrainians crossing back into Ukraine at two Border Crossing Points (BCPs) in Vyšné Nemecké and Ubl'a, at the Michalovce and Humenné Registration Centres and at the Červená Hviezda Hotspot in Košice.

Between 19 April and 30 September 2022, 324 surveys were conducted. All respondents were originally from Ukraine. Most were women (298 or 92% of the total), with 26 men interviewed in total (8%).

The top five regions of respondents' habitual residence before leaving Ukraine were Kyivska (25%), Kharkivska (14%), Zakarpatska (13%), Donetska (8%) and Dnipropetrovska (7%).

Out of all 324 respondents, 91 per cent (296 respondents) stated they had left Ukraine because of the war. For the purposes of monitoring the intentions and needs of the Ukrainian nationals who fled from war, the following sections are based on the total number of 296 respondents, unless stated otherwise.

Fig. 1: Regions/Oblasts of habitual residence



*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.*

### Demographic profile

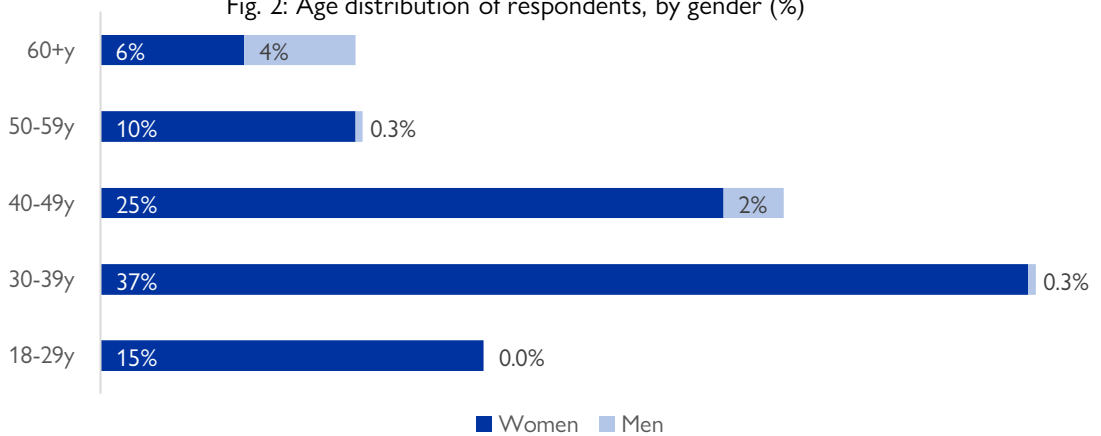
Women accounted for 93 per cent of all respondents in the sample. The average age of women was 40 years, while 59 for men. The breakdown of adult refugees by age cohorts reveals that more than a third (37%) of surveyed individuals were women aged 30-39 years (109 women interviewed in total). The second largest age cohort was represented by women between 40 and 49 years old (73 women or 25% of the total sample).

Older women represented 6 per cent of the sample (17 women over 60 years old), compared to 4 per cent of older men (13 men older than 60).

Out of the 22 men in the sample, one was in the 30-39 cohort, seven men between 40 and 49 and one man in the 50-59 cohort. There were no men aged 18-29 in the sample, compared to 45 women (15%).

Forty per cent of the respondents travelled with at least one child (aged less than 18).

Fig. 2: Age distribution of respondents, by gender (%)



### Crossing back to Ukraine

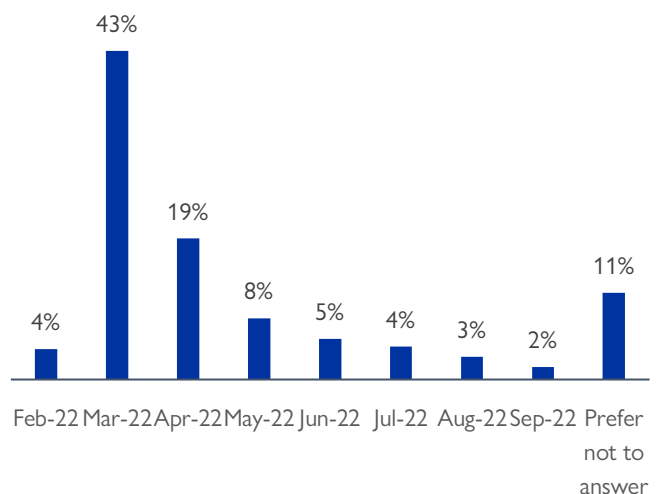
Under half of the respondents (42%) were crossing back to Ukraine with the same group of persons they fled with. Moreover, 23 per cent of the respondents were crossing back alone as they did when they left, while 26 per cent were crossing back alone but left Ukraine with a group. Finally, seven per cent were returning with part of the group they went with, and the remaining one per cent was crossing back with a different group.

Out of the respondents travelling with a group, a large majority did so with immediate family members (84% of the respondents returning with a group). In addition, nine per cent of the sample was crossing back with friends and old neighbours and seven per cent were travelling with other relatives.

Out of the 296 respondents who said they left Ukraine because of the war, almost half (43%) left in March 2022. April was the next most commonly

selected month (19%), followed by May (8%) and June (5%). Thirty-four (or 11%) of respondents preferred not to answer this question.

Fig. 3: Time/month of leaving Ukraine (%)



### Displacement and border crossing

Seventy-seven per cent of the respondents spent most of their time outside Ukraine in Slovakia, while others stayed in Germany (8%) and Czechia (6%). Respondents who remained in Slovakia were mainly hosted in Košický (31%), Prešovský (15%), Bratislavský (15%) and Trenčiansky (13%) regions.

Sixty-three per cent of the respondents have already exited and re-entered Slovakia once and 17 per cent have not crossed the Slovakian border since 24 February 2022. Eight per cent went back to Ukraine twice and seven per cent more than twice. Finally, four per cent of respondents preferred not to answer.

In comparison, 29 per cent of the respondents who did not leave Ukraine because of the war reported having crossed the border more than two times.

### Main intentions

Seventy-five per cent of the respondents planned to go back to their oblast of habitual residence. For those who were planning to reach another region, Kharkivska (8% of the total), Donetsk (7% of the total) and Dnipropetrovska (2% of the total) were the three oblasts of destinations most frequently mentioned. The reasons behind the choice of reaching a different oblast than that of habitual residence included the fact that the location of origin was unsafe (27%), that the house was damaged or destroyed (20%), that the respondent's family was displaced to another location (18%). Ten per cent stated that their house/property was occupied by others.

Fig. 5: Intention to stay in Ukraine or to make a short visit (%).

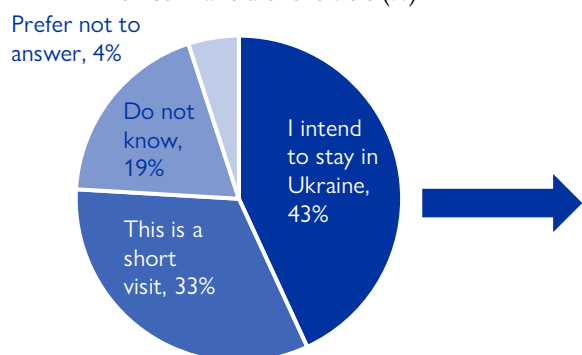
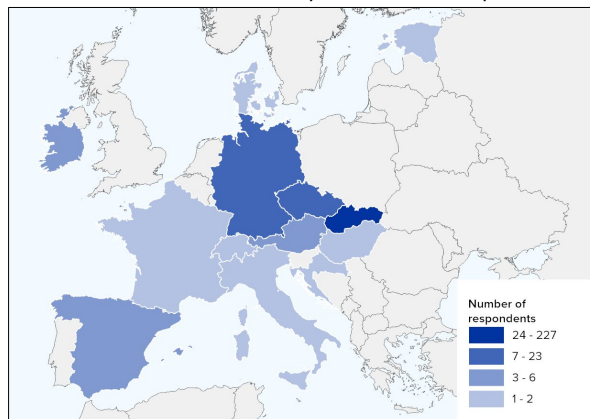


Fig. 4: Countries where the respondent spent most of the time outside Ukraine, by number of respondents



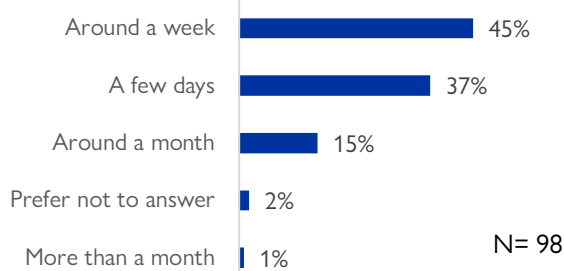
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Just under three quarters (73%) of respondents said they planned to stay in their house. Other types of accommodations include hotels (10%), relatives (8%) friends (6%) and organised reception centres (1%).

Almost half of the respondents intended to remain in Ukraine (43%), while 33 per cent were only returning for a short visit and the remaining ones did not know yet how long they were going to stay (19%) or preferred not to answer the question (5%).

Of the 98 respondents returning for a short visit, the majority were planning to stay for less than a month: 45 per cent for around a week and another 37 per cent for a few days. Fifteen per cent reported the intention to stay for around a month, while only one per cent planned to stay more than a month, with two per cent who preferred not to answer this question.

Fig. 6: Expected length of stay in Ukraine (% of those going for a short visit).



### Reasons and mode of going to Ukraine

Of the 296 respondents, 43 per cent were planning to stay in Ukraine. Most reported that the situation had improved in their place of origin or habitual residence (53%). Other reasons that were mentioned by respondents who intended to remain in Ukraine included not having enough resources to cover for their living costs (22%), the desire to reunite with family members (19%), but also the difficulty in getting a job (17%) and that the situation improved in other regions (9%). Five per cent of respondents preferred not to answer.

The smaller number of respondents also mentioned the following reasons: challenges in finding shelter/accommodation (5%), caring responsibilities in Ukraine (5%), challenges in receiving humanitarian assistance (3%), return to work in essential services (3%), challenges in access to education (2%), and

return after taking family members to safety (2%).

On the other side, 33 per cent of respondents went to Ukraine only for a short visit. The primary reason for this was meeting with their families (43%), while 23 per cent were going to collect personal belongings they left behind. Sixteen percent of the surveyed people were going to help family or friends who stayed in Ukraine and 6 per cent also stated they were bringing them supplies.

Most respondents were travelling by bus to cross back into Ukraine (63% of the total), while others were crossing into Ukraine with their private car (15%), on foot (13%) by train (7%), or by minibus (1%).

Fig. 7: Reasons for respondents who intended to stay in Ukraine (% , multiple answers possible)

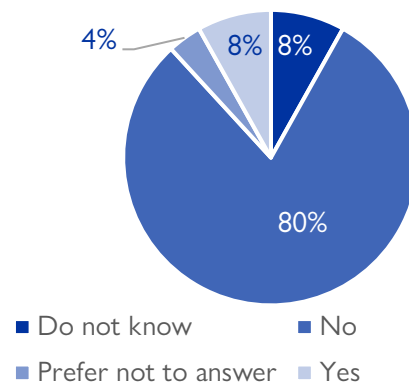


### Unfair treatment

Despite not being mentioned by the respondents as one of the reasons behind their return to Ukraine, eight per cent reportedly experienced unfair or unequal treatment due to nationality, ethnicity, or gender since they left Ukraine.

On the other hand, 80 per cent reported that they did not experience any of these behaviours towards themselves or a family member. In addition, eight per cent did not know whether they had experienced unfair or unequal treatments, while four per cent did not wish to answer the question.

Fig. 8: Did you experience any unfair or unequal treatment due to nationality, ethnicity or gender? (%)



### Most immediate needs

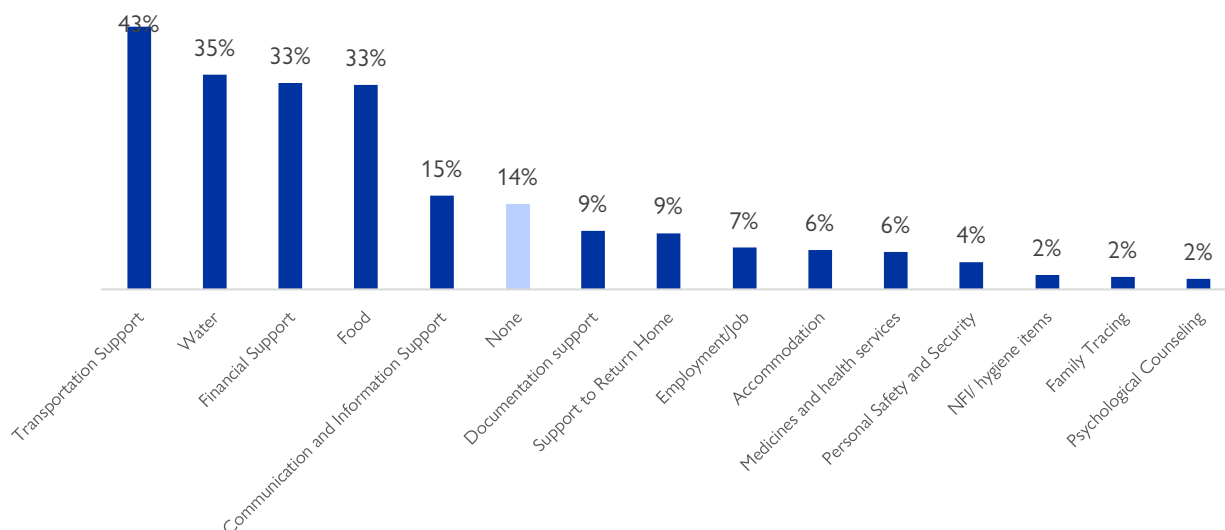
More than half of the respondents mentioned transportation support as one of the most urgent needs at the moment of the interview (43% of the total). Among other needs, access to water was mentioned by 35 per cent of the respondents, as support with food and access to financial support by one third of respondents each.

Other needs that respondents have mentioned included communication and information support (15%), help with documentation, consular and legal services (9%), support to return home (9%),

employment (7%), accommodation (6%), access to medicines and health services (6%), personal safety and security (4%), non-food items (NFI) and hygiene items, family tracing and psychological counselling (2% for each).

Notably, 14 per cent of the respondents declared they had no need for specific support at the moment of the interview.

Fig. 9: Main reported needs at the moment of the interview (% , multiple answers possible)



**Note:**

**Documentation** includes legal and consular services (information and assistance).

**Communication and information** refers to support to communicate with others in Ukraine and elsewhere.

**Support to return home** refers to the intention to be able to return to the origin location as soon as the security situation in Ukraine will allow.

**Accommodation** includes Immediate (48 hour) Accommodation and Accommodation longer than 48 hours.

**Personal safety and security** refers to protection from instances of violence, harassment, theft, exploitation and reporting of incidents, grievances, assaults.

### Methodology

This report summarizes the results of displacement surveys initiated by IOM to assess the profiles and intentions of Ukrainians and TCNs met while crossing from Slovakia into Ukraine.

The survey was based on IOM's Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM), a system to track and monitor displacement and population mobility. It was designed to capture the main displacement patterns – origin country and region – for refugees 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 permanence in Ukraine and to the intended final destination; it gathers information regarding a set of primary needs that the respondents expressed as more pressing at the moment of the interview.

Only adults (18+) were approached, and the questionnaire was proposed only to migrants and refugees who arrived in Slovakia after 24 February 2022. Respondents were approached in a simple random sample by enumerators at selected border points between Slovakia and Ukraine and other registration centres and hotspots in Slovakia.

Face-to-face surveys were conducted in Ukrainian, Russian and English by trained teams of enumerators. Data were collected and stored through a mobile application.