

DISPLACEMENT SURVEY: UKRAINIANS AND THIRD-COUNTRY NATIONALS CROSSINGS TO UKRAINE

Data collected on: 07 June – 18 July 2022

1,177
 Crossing into Ukraine
 Survey Respondents

607
 In Palanca Exit BCP

570
 In Otaci Exit BCP

Since 24 February 2022, an increasing number of people fleeing from Ukraine to the neighbouring countries has been observed, as a result of the war in Ukraine. As of 18 July 2022, 538,602 refugees from Ukrainian and other third country nationals (TCNs) were registered at border crossing points (BCPs) while entering from Ukraine into the Republic of Moldova.

112,958 Ukrainians and TCNs, who have entered into the Republic of Moldova after 24 February, have since exited back to Ukraine (Source: General Inspectorate for Border Police).

This report presents the main findings of the displacement surveys commissioned by the International Organization for Migration (IOM) in partnership with UN Women to CBS Axa Research. Data were collected before crossing to Ukraine at two main border crossing points (BCPs) – Palanca and Otaci – between 16 April and 18 July 2022. This report focuses on data collected between 07 June and 18 July 2022. 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.

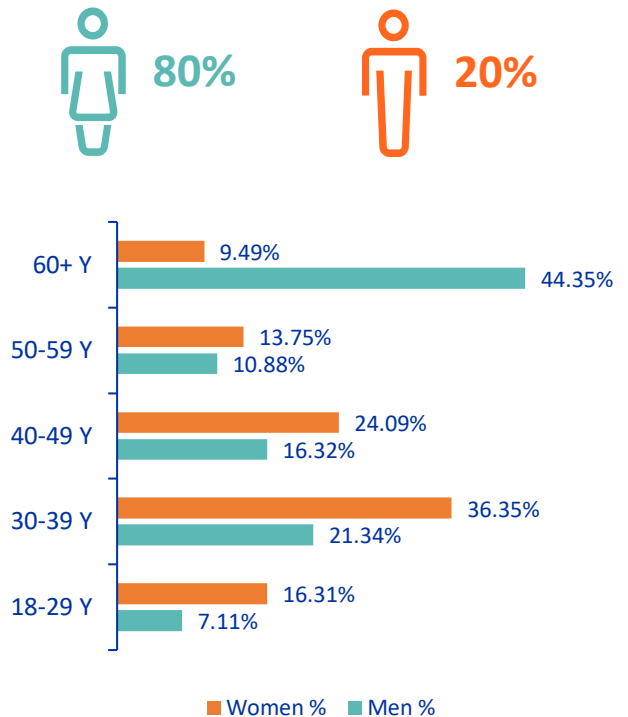
SOCIO-DEMOGRAPHIC PROFILES

A total of 1,177 individuals were interviewed, 643 in June and 534 in July 2022 (until 18 July 2022). All survey participants indicated that they were going to Ukraine and cited the war in Ukraine as the main reason for displacement from the country. Most of the respondents travelling to Ukraine were Ukrainian nationals (94%) and the remaining (6%) were citizens of other countries, mainly from the Republic of Moldova (3%), Azerbaijan (1%), Türkiye (1%), followed by citizens from Armenia, China, Denmark, Iraq, Israel, Russian Federation, and Tajikistan (1% each).

Most respondents were women (80%), while men represented 20 per cent of the sample. The share of women was higher among Ukrainian nationals (82%) and lower among respondents of other nationalities (44%). The average age of respondents was 43 years old.

The breakdown of interviewed respondents by age cohorts reveals that 36 per cent of women were aged 30-39 years and 24 per cent were aged 40-49 years, while among men, 44 per cent were above 60 years old.

Figure 1: Distribution of all respondents, by sex (%)



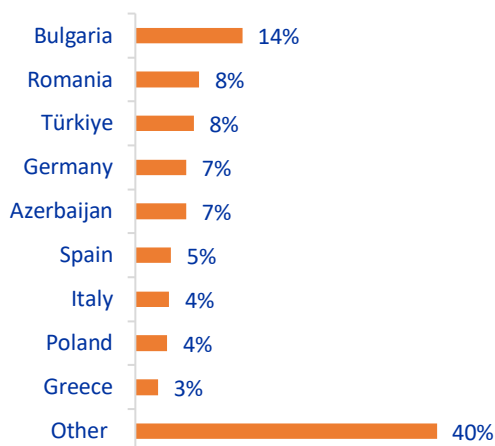
Out of the total 1,177 respondents, 63 per cent have been staying in the Republic of Moldova after leaving Ukraine, 28 per cent were staying in other European countries, and the remaining nine per cent have been staying elsewhere.

Around 401 of those who have been staying in other countries reported to have spent most of their time in Bulgaria (14%), Romania (8%), Türkiye (8%), Azerbaijan (7%), Germany (7%), Italy (4%), and Poland (4%), with smaller shares reporting to have stayed in 27 other countries.

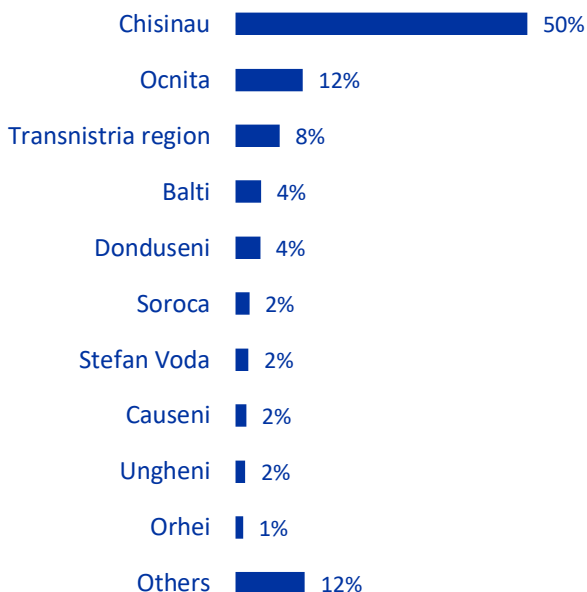
Figure 3: Main countries of staying since fleeing Ukraine (%)



Figure 4: Main countries of staying in Europe since fleeing Ukraine (%)



Half of those who have been staying in the Republic of Moldova were residing in Chisinau, followed by the districts of Ocnita (12%), Transnistria region (8%), Balti (4%), Donduseni (4%) and others (22%).



TRAVEL CHARACTERISTICS: REASONS TO CROSS TO UKRAINE

Around 62 per cent of those surveyed were going to Ukraine alone, and the remaining 38 per cent were travelling in a group, with the same or different group of

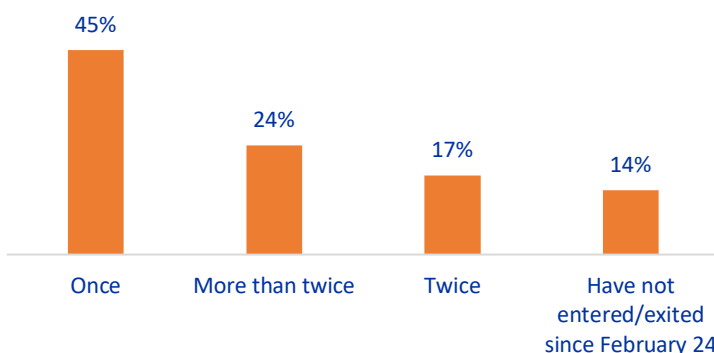
people than those they exited Ukraine with. Out of those going back to Ukraine alone, 46 per cent were alone when they left Ukraine and 54 per cent were with a group at the timing of fleeing Ukraine. In the case of respondents travelling in a group, 82 per cent were crossing with the same group of people they left Ukraine with, 16 per cent with some of the same group members they left with and two per cent with a different group.



Of those 38 per cent travelling in a group, around 89 per cent were going to Ukraine with immediate family members, 12 per cent were travelling with relatives and seven per cent were travelling with friends and neighbours. Among those travelling with a group, 69 per cent were travelling with at least one child below 18 years of age. About 16 per cent of respondents reported that they were travelling with at least one elderly person (60 years and above) and 11 per cent were travelling with a person with a serious health condition. Women were the majority among those travelling to Ukraine alone (78%), and most were women aged 30-39 years (33%). However, about 17 per cent of women travelling alone were young women aged 18-29 years and another 12 per cent were elderly women aged 60 and above.

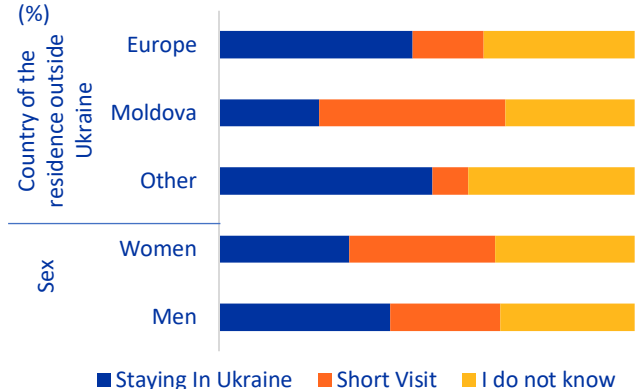
Around 45 per cent of respondents were crossing the border between Ukraine and the Republic of Moldova only once since the beginning of the war, while 17 per cent crossed it twice, 24 per cent travelled back more than twice and 14 per cent did not cross it since 24 February 2022.

Figure 6: Number of crossings at Moldovan/ Ukrainian border (%)



When asked about their intentions, 47 per cent of respondents reported that they were travelling for a short visit, 32 per cent reported that they intend to stay in Ukraine and around 20 per cent were unsure of their intentions. Women were mostly travelling for a short visit (50%), while men were mostly travelling to remain in Ukraine (41%). The share of respondents who have had an intention to remain in Ukraine is higher for those travelling from Europe and other countries than for those who were residing in the Republic of Moldova recently.

Figure 7: Distribution of respondents by intended duration to stay by main country of residence outside of Ukraine and sex (%)



Among those who reported to be intending to remain in Ukraine, almost half, or 46 per cent, of respondents reported that they wanted to reunite with family members, every third person, or 35 per cent, perceived that the situation was improving in their place of origin, about 11 per cent reported that they exited to take family members to safety, 9 per cent reported to be working in essential services and 4 per cent reported the lack of resources as one of the main reasons.

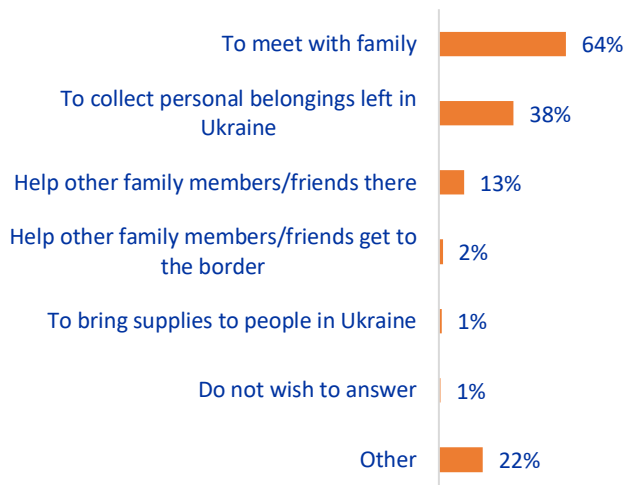
Among those who intended to do a short visit to Ukraine, 64 per cent reported that they wanted to meet with family members left in Ukraine and 38 per cent were travelling to collect personal belongings that were left in the country. Around 13 per cent wanted to help family members or friends in Ukraine, 2 per cent to help someone else to reach the border and about one per cent intended to bring some supplies to Ukraine. Other reasons expressed by respondents were the need complete or obtain documents (passports, identity cards, social benefits), medical appointments, business, and the like. Among those travelling alone, 78 per cent were women, of whom 53 per cent intend to stay for a short period of time and one in every three women had an intention to remain in Ukraine.

The majority of all respondents reported that they planned to spend in a few days in Ukraine (58%), while 28 per cent intended to stay for about one week, 10 per cent for about one month and the remaining 4 per cent did not specify.

Figure 8: Reported reasons among respondents intending to stay in Ukraine (% , more than one option possible)



Figure 9: Reported reasons among respondents intending to do a short visit to Ukraine (% , more than one option possible)



Most refugees from Ukraine and TCNs interviewed reported that they intended to stay in their homes or their usual place of residence in Ukraine (84%), while 5 per cent were planning to be hosted by relatives and 4 per cent to stay with friends. The remaining reported not knowing or planned to stay in private accommodations.

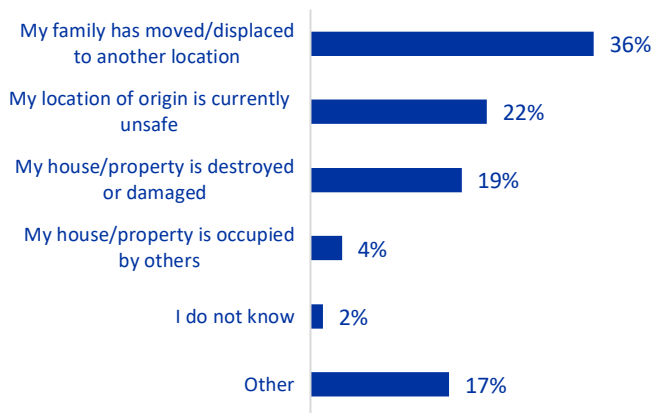
Out of the total 1,177 survey respondents, 53 per cent were going back to Ukraine by car and 28 per cent by foot, while only 13 per cent in minibuses and 6 per cent in buses. Nevertheless, the main means of transportation varied between the two BCPs where interviews were collected. In Otaci, in the northern part of the Republic of Moldova, most respondents (45%) were travelling by car and (41%) were travelling by foot, while in the south of the country, in Palanca, most respondents (60%) were travelling by car and 17 per cent were travelling by foot.

REGIONS OF ORIGIN AND DESTINATION IN UKRAINE

The Odessa region was reported by 43 per cent of respondents as the region of usual residence before leaving Ukraine, followed by the region of Kyiv (15%), the region of Vinnytsia (14%), Mykolaiv (6%) and others (22%). The vast majority of respondents (89%) reported that they intend to go back to the same region, while 11 per cent reported their intention to go to another region and around one per cent did not know. Among the respondents going to another region, the most reported region was Vinnytsia (55%), followed by Odessa (25%), Kyiv (5%), Zhytomyr (3%) and others.

Among the reasons not to go back to their place of origin, 36 per cent of respondents mentioned that their family had moved or was displaced to another part of the country. Others reported that they perceived their place of origin was currently unsafe (22%), or that their house was destroyed (19%), or that their property is occupied, and some respondents reported other reasons, for example the need to reach a specific place to obtain documents and passports.

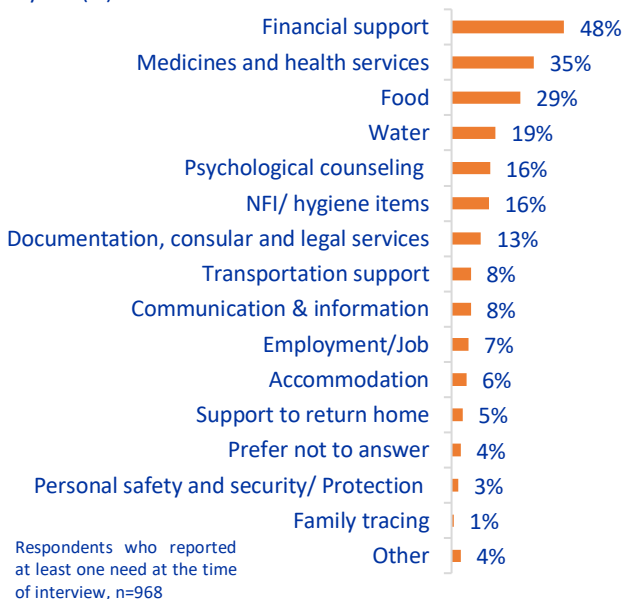
Figure 10: Main reasons travelling to a different oblast than the one of origin/ habitual residence (%)



MAIN NEEDS AT EXIT POINTS

The survey asked about the two main needs at exit border crossing points. Most respondents (82%) reported having no specific needs whilst crossing the border. However, among those who expressed specific needs, 48 per cent reported the need for financial support, 35 per cent for health care services and medicines and for 29 percent of respondents, food was one of most reported needs at the time the interviews were conducted. Women reported more frequently the need for financial support, medicines and health services, food and water, while men reported to a higher extent the need for financial support among the most pressing immediate needs.

Figure 11: Main needs reported at the exit crossing points, by sex (%)



Around three per cent of all respondents reported that 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. Less than one per cent did not know or preferred not to answer, while the majority did not report any such experience.

METHODOLOGY

The survey was based on IOM’s Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM), a system to track and monitor population mobility. DTM tools in countries neighbouring Ukraine were designed to capture the main displacement patterns, needs and intentions, origins, for refugees and third country nationals fleeing from Ukraine because of the war and for those crossing back to Ukraine. It captures the demographic profiles of respondents and of the group they are travelling with, if any; it asks about intentions relative to their stay and final destination; it gathers information regarding a set of main needs that the respondents expressed as more pressing at the moment of the interview.

Only adults (18+) were approached, and those interviewed in the survey were only those populations who were crossing back to Ukraine from the Republic of Moldova since April 2022. Respondents were approached in a simple random sample by enumerators at selected border points between the Republic of Moldova and Ukraine. Face-to-face surveys were conducted in Russian, Romanian and English by trained enumerators from CBS-AXA Research. Data were collected and stored through a mobile application.