Context & Methodology

Almost three million refugees have fled Ukraine since the escalation of conflict on 24 February 2022. From among them, 337,215 have been displaced to Moldova (UNHCR). The number of people crossing has fluctuated in the days since the escalation, and it can be anticipated that it will vary with the intensity and geography of conflict in the next days or weeks.

To understand the drivers of displacement and intentions of refugees, 270 interviews were conducted with people crossing from Ukraine into Moldova. Interviews were conducted at every border checkpoint and certain reception centers, and began on 28 February. This factsheet includes cumulative responses from 28 February to 14 March. Following this data collection, select interviewees will be contacted for long-form qualitative interviews to gain a longitudinal understanding of their experience of displacement.

Interviewees were selected purposively to gain a broader understanding of experiences and intentions, and results should therefore be considered indicative.

The data collection tool was modified after the deployment and therefore the sample size differs for certain questions; for some of them, the sample size is provided.

Demography

Gender of the respondent

Female 160 80% Male 41 20%



Respondents reporting travelling with the following population groups¹

Children 0-5 years of age	32%
Children 6-18 years of age	52%
Elderly (65+ years of age)	12%
Pregnant and lactating women	1%
Persons with disabilities	3%
Women traveling alone	50%

Nationality of the respondent

-
91%
4%
3%
2%



Number of people traveling with respondents

Alone	13%	
1 - 4	77%	
5 +	10%	



Most reported pre-displacement employment status of respondents²

Education (including students and teachers)	24%	
Agriculture	14%	
Wholesale and retail trade	10%	
Arts, sports, entertainment and recreation	5%	•

ᡮ Origins and Arrivals

99% of respondents reported holding a passport

Reasons for leaving the area of origin^{1,3}

Active conflict (incl. troops) in	C20/	
the settlement	62%	
Shelling in or near the settlement	36%	
Worry that active fightings will	14%	
come to the settlement	1-7/0	

Most frequent regions (oblasts) of origin³

Odesa	141	52%
Mykolaiv	104	39%
Kyiv	11	4%

Reason for selecting border crossing³

Most direct route to border	68%	
Most convenient for	20%	
future intentions		
Shorter queues at the crossing	9%	

Most frequently reported modalities of border crossing

Foot	86	43%	
Bus	86	43%	
Car	28	14%	

± Intentions

Top 3 intended destination countries of respondents

Moldova	33%
Germany	14%
Poland	10%

of respondents intending to stay in Moldova indicated that they would like to stay in Chisinau

of respondents intending to stay in
Moldova don't know how long they will
stay in the country

33% of respondents intend to stay in Moldova

Reported drivers for selection of destination country by respondents¹

Family/friends in location of arrival Meet family/friends who already displaced there	76% 22%	
Other reasons	5%	
Advised by reception center	5%	
Advised by family	4%	

Reported accommodation type in destination country by respondents

Staying with family/friend	66%	
Rented accommodation	19%	
Don't know where to stay	5%	
Collective centre	4%	
Hotel/hostel	3%	•

¹Multiple responses permitted. The sum might exceed 100%. ² Top four choices indicated by respondents. ³ Top three choices indicated by respondents.