Refugee Arrivals from Ukraine into Poland

Context & Methodology

More than 6.5 million refugees have fled Ukraine since the escalation of conflict on 24 February 2022. From among them, 3,544,995 have been displaced to Poland (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, 10,678 interviews were conducted with people crossing from Ukraine into Poland. Interviews were conducted at every border checkpoint (four in Lubelskie and four in Podkarpackie voivodeships) as well as certain reception centers, and began on 28 February. This factsheet includes cumulative responses from 28 February to 25 May. 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: 96%
  - Male: 4%

- Nationality of the respondent
  - Ukrainian: 99%
  - Russian: 1%

- Most reported pre-displacement employment status of respondents
  - Wholesale and retail trade: 17%
  - Education (including students and teachers): 11%
  - Unemployed: 9%
  - Retired: 8%

- Number of people traveling with respondents
  - Alone: 17%
  - 1 - 4: 74%
  - 5 +: 9%

- Nationality of the respondent
  - Rustian: 1%

- Gender of the respondent
  - Female: 96%
  - Male: 4%

- Most frequently reported modalities of border crossing
  - Bus: 40%
  - Foot: 27%
  - Train: 18%
  - Car: 14%

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- Most frequent regions (oblasts) of origin
  - Kyiv: 18%
  - Kharkiv: 11%
  - Dnipropetrovsk: 11%
  - Lviv: 9%
  - Donetsk: 8%

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Intentions

- Top 5 intended destination countries of respondents
  - Poland: 48%
  - Germany: 16%
  - Spain: 5%
  - Denmark: 3%
  - France: 3%

51% of respondents intending to stay in Poland plan to stay in the country as long as conflict in Ukraine continues

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  - Germany: 16%
  - Spain: 5%
  - Denmark: 3%
  - France: 3%

33% of respondents intending to stay in Poland don’t know how long they will stay in the country

- Reasons for leaving the area of origin
  - Damage in or near the settlement: 46%
  - Active conflict (incl. troops) in the settlement: 40%
  - Worry that active fighting will come to settlement in next days: 35%

- Reason for selecting border crossing
  - Chose randomly: 30%
  - Most direct route to border: 24%
  - Someone else in the group made the decision: 21%
  - Most convenient for future plans: 17%

- Reported accommodation type in destination country by respondents
  - Staying with family/friend: 24%
  - Found host through social media/volunteer: 24%
  - Rented accommodation: 22%
  - Don’t know yet: 7%
  - Accommodation provided by authorities: 7%

1 Multiple responses permitted. The sum might exceed 100%. 2 Top four choices indicated by respondents. 3 Top three choices indicated by respondents. 4 Top five choices indicated by respondents.