Context & Methodology

More than 4.7 million refugees from Ukraine have been recorded across Europe and more than 2.8 million refugees from Ukraine have been registered for temporary protection or similar national protection schemes in Europe as of 25 May 2022 (UNHCR). Since 28 February, a total of 2,164,500 movements back into Ukraine from the Western border have taken place. The number of border crossings out of Ukraine into neighboring countries is still declining and the number of crossings back is now higher.

Movement back to Ukraine may be pendular, and do not necessarily indicate sustainable returns as the situation across Ukraine remains highly volatile and unpredictable.2

In May 2022, as part of the longitudinal study conducted by IMPACT, 709 refugees who left Ukraine were contacted to follow up interviews. 6 out of 100 that responded to a second follow up reported to have returned to Ukraine six weeks after having first left the country.1

To understand the drivers of such movements and people's intentions, 3,005 interviews were conducted with people crossing back to Ukraine from Poland, Slovakia, Hungary, Romania and Moldova. Interviews were conducted in neighboring countries at checkpoints, reception centers and railway stations in the vicinity of the Ukrainian border, and began on 3 April. This fact sheet includes cumulative responses from 3 April to 25 May.

Interviewees were selected among individuals reportedly wanting to enter Ukraine purposively to gain a broader understanding of experiences and intentions. The sample is not statistically representative and results should therefore only be considered as indicative.

The map on the right shows assessed checkpoints, as well as percentage of respondents by reported oblast/area of destination.

Information on movement back to Ukraine

86% of respondents reported going to their area of origin in Ukraine

Sample distribution, by country of departure

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country of Departure</th>
<th>Number</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Poland</td>
<td>2,505</td>
<td>83%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Slovakia</td>
<td>242</td>
<td>8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Romania</td>
<td>172</td>
<td>6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Moldova</td>
<td>64</td>
<td>2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hungary</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>1%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Reasons for returning

- Perception of safety in area of return: 51%
- Temporary visit to home: 14%
- Reunite with family: 11%
- Temporary visit to see family: 7%
- Temporary visit to get supplies: 5%
- Support family members to evacuate: 3%
- Don’t know: 35%

Proportion of age/gender of interviewees

- 94% female / 6% male
- 18 - 30: 12%
- 31 - 40: 20%
- 41 - 50: 15%
- 51 - 64: 30%
- 65+: 23%

Proportion of respondents reported to be travelling with the following vulnerable groups

- Children 0 to 5 years: 17%
- Children 6 to 18 years: 45%
- Elderly 65+: 7%
- Pregnant and lactating women: 1%
- Persons with disabilities: 2%

Movement trends out of and back to Western Ukraine

1Crossing numbers of Ukrainian nationals recorded by the State Border Guard Service in Western Ukraine for 23 border crossings since 28 February (DPSU)
2Does not consider multiple movements of the same individual. IMPACT *Ki had multiple answer options (total may be >100%) Results only include 2,266 interviews.
Situation Overview: Movement of Ukrainians back into Ukraine from Poland, Slovakia, Hungary, Romania and Moldova

**Lvivska Oblast (876 interviewees)**

Sample distribution, by country of departure:
- Poland: 861 (98%)
- Romania: 8 (1%)
- Slovakia: 6 (0.9%)
- Hungary: 1 (0.1%)

**Reasons for returning**
- Perception of safety in area of return: 49%
- Temporary visit to home: 11%
- Temporary visit to get supplies: 8%
- Reunite with family: 8%
- Temporary visit to see family: 7%

**Proportion of respondents reported to be travelling with the following vulnerable groups**
- Children 0 to 5 years: 8%
- Children 6 to 18 years: 27%
- Elderly 65+ year: 4%
- Persons with disabilities: 1%

**Proportion of age/gender of interviewees**
- 95% female / 5% male

**Kyiv City & Kyivska Oblast (609 interviewees)**

Sample distribution, by country of departure:
- Poland: 449 (74%)
- Slovakia: 89 (15%)
- Romania: 47 (8%)
- Moldova: 15 (2%)
- Hungary: 9 (1%)

**Reasons for returning**
- Perception of safety in area of return: 65%
- Reunite with family: 17%
- Temporary visit to get supplies: 6%
- Temporary visit to see family: 5%
- To work in Ukraine: 4%

**Proportion of respondents reported to be travelling with the following vulnerable groups**
- Children 0 to 5 years: 14%
- Children 6 to 18 years: 46%
- Elderly 65+ year: 9%
- Persons with disabilities: 2%

**Proportion of age/gender of interviewees**
- 94% female / 6% male

**Dnipropetrovska Oblast (211 interviewees)**

Sample distribution, by country of departure:
- Poland: 181 (86%)
- Slovakia: 22 (10%)
- Romania: 5 (2%)
- Hungary: 2 (1%)
- Moldova: 1 (1%)

**Reasons for returning**
- Perception of safety in area of return: 46%
- Temporary visit to home: 20%
- Reunite with family: 7%
- Support family to evacuate: 5%

**Proportion of respondents reported to be travelling with the following vulnerable groups**
- Children 0 to 5 years: 22%
- Children 6 to 18 years: 53%
- Elderly 65+ year: 7%
- Pregnant and lactating women: 1%

**Proportion of age/gender of interviewees**
- 99% female / 1% male

**Zakarpatska Oblast (115 interviewees)**

Sample distribution, by country of departure:
- Slovakia: 55 (48%)
- Poland: 31 (27%)
- Romania: 20 (17%)
- Hungary: 7 (6%)
- Moldova: 2 (2%)

**Reasons for returning**
- Temporary visit to get supplies: 44%
- Perception of safety in area of return: 35%
- Reunite with family: 5%
- Temporary visit to see family: 5%

**Proportion of respondents reported to be travelling with the following vulnerable groups**
- Children 0 to 5 years: 18%
- Children 6 to 18 years: 35%
- Elderly 65+ year: 10%
- Persons with disabilities: 2%

**Proportion of age/gender of interviewees**
- 90% female / 10% male

*KI had multiple answer options (total may be >100%)*

The UN Refugee Agency

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