Ukrainian Refugees in Poland Survey 2022 - preliminary findings

WHO and Statistics Poland

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Important Note

- This presentation is prepared for **internal consumption** by WHO Country Office Poland and Statistics Poland, for the purpose of sharing it with the health sector partners active in the refugee response in Poland.
- It was presented in the coordination meeting held on 18th Nov 2022.
- The content shows some of the key **preliminary findings** to be used as inconclusive for information and orientation pending the launch of the final report.
- The final report and findings of the Ukrainian Refugees’ Survey in Poland 2022 will be presented in Warsaw on 13 Dec 2022 at the Statistics Poland (GUS) premises.
Agenda

- Escalation of the conflict – need for new approach
- Border Guard data – selected aspects
- Pilot survey of refugees
- Survey of refugees
Russia’s invasion of Ukraine, which began on 24 February 2022, has led to a humanitarian and refugee crisis on a massive scale in the region.

Poland hosted one of the largest Ukrainian migrant populations in Europe before 2022.

As of 24 February 2022 Poland transformed into a country hosting one of the largest refugee populations in the world - more than 6.8 million people have entered Poland through the Polish-Ukrainian border to seek asylum.

New approach should cover:

- comprehensive inventory of data sources
- the necessity for modification of current surveys
- new surveys
Escalation of the conflict – need for new approach

From June to August 2022, Statistics Poland (Statistical Offices in Rzeszów and Lublin) together with the World Health Organisation (WHO) conducted a survey of refugees.

Statistics Poland developed:
• the survey methodology,
• module I of the questionnaire,
• organisation of the survey,
• IT system.
Escalation of the conflict – need for new approach

- Pilot survey: April - May 2022
- Survey of refugees: June - August 2022
Border Guard data

Border traffic on the Polish-Ukrainian border from 24.02 to 31.08.2022

Border traffic from 24.02-31.08
2022 – 10.1 million
2021 – 6.8 million
2020 – 2.8 million
2019 – 11.6 million

- 0 500 1,000 1,500 2,000 2,500 3,000

- 0 20 40 60 80 100 120 140 160

- February March April May June July August

- 03 06 09 12 15 18 21 24 27 30 03 06 09 12 15 18 21 24 27 30

- 02 05 08 11 14 17 20 23 26 29 02 05 08 11 14 17 20 23 26 29

- 24 27 02 05 08 11 14 17 20 23 26 29 02 05 08 11 14 17 20 23 26 29

- thousand

- thousand

- Statistical Office in Rzeszów

Ukrainian Refugees in Poland Preliminary Findings – 18 Nov 2022
## Border traffic on the Polish-Ukrainian border

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Citizenship</th>
<th>Refugees*</th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>in thousands</td>
<td>%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ukraine</td>
<td>2 313.2</td>
<td>94.9</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Poland</td>
<td>15.5</td>
<td>0.6</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>other EU/Schengen countries (excluding Poland)</td>
<td>12.9</td>
<td>0.5</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Russia</td>
<td>9.1</td>
<td>0.4</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Uzbekistan</td>
<td>7.7</td>
<td>0.3</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>India</td>
<td>6.1</td>
<td>0.3</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Belarus</td>
<td>5.3</td>
<td>0.2</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Azerbaijan</td>
<td>4.9</td>
<td>0.2</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>USA</td>
<td>4.8</td>
<td>0.2</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Georgia</td>
<td>4.6</td>
<td>0.2</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Armenia</td>
<td>4.0</td>
<td>0.2</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Others</td>
<td>61.9</td>
<td>2.5</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* source: Border Guards, as of 31 August 2022
Demographic structure of persons who have applied for refugee status (UKR) in Poland

Source: General electronic, population register system (Poland)
as of 31 August 2022
Pilot survey of refugees

- A pilot survey was conducted at 5 reception points. These points were opened and organized in border areas so that refugees could take rest after a long and sometimes very stressful journey.

- The pilot refugee survey covered people who left Ukraine via the Polish-Ukrainian border. The target group included both Ukrainian and citizens of other countries who were in Ukraine when the war started and decided to leave its territory because of the war.
New surveys
Survey of refugees – WHO and Statistics Poland

BU – Survey of refugees

Dear Visitors,

Statistics Poland is conducting an anonymous survey on arrivals to Poland. Please fill in this questionnaire and hand it back to the interviewer. The information given is used for research purpose only.

I. Method of crossing the border (please circle the correct answer):
- by foot
- road transport
- air transport
- rail transport
- military transport

II. What is your nationality?

III. Please give the number of people travelling together (family, friends) (please circle one):

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Specification</th>
<th>Total</th>
<th>0-4 years old</th>
<th>5-14 years old</th>
<th>15-17 years old</th>
<th>18-24 years old</th>
<th>25-34 years old</th>
<th>35-44 years old</th>
<th>45-54 years old</th>
<th>55-64 years old</th>
<th>65-84 years old</th>
<th>85 years old or over</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Gender (F)</th>
<th>01</th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Majority (M)</td>
<td>02</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Education</th>
<th>Number of persons</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>primary</td>
<td>01</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>vocational</td>
<td>02</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>post-primary</td>
<td>03</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>higher</td>
<td>04</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

VII. Do you intend to work in Poland?
- yes

VIII. Do you intend to take advantage of the following forms of education in Poland?
- nursery (children under 3 years old)
- primary school (6-10 years old)
- vocational school (10-12 years old)
- pre-primary (11-14 years old)
- higher education institutions

IX. Do you have a need for continued medical care in Poland due to a chronic illness or disability?
- yes for ___ persons
- no

X. Please specify oldest, reason of residence in Ukraine

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>number of persons</th>
<th>oldest</th>
<th>reason</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

XI. Please specify the distance from your place of residence in Ukraine to the border crossing

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Distance from the border</th>
<th>Number of persons</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>up to 100 km</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>from 101 to 500 km</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>from 501 to 1000 km</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1001 km and over</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

XII. Do you intend to return to Ukraine after the end of military operations?
- yes
- no
- do not know

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Ukrainian Refugees in Poland Preliminary Findings – 18 Nov 2022
Survey of refugees

Survey tool

The BU interview questionnaire was prepared in 3 language versions: Ukrainian, English and Polish. It contains 20 questions, both closed and semi-open-ended, which were divided into 2 modules containing sets of questions:

Module I

• characteristics of persons who came to Poland by citizenship, gender, age, level of education,

• previous place of residence in Ukraine,

• planned place of stay in Poland or abroad,

• intention to return to Ukraine after the end of military operations,

• intention to take up employment by refugees in Poland,

• intention to benefit from various forms of education in Poland.
Survey of refugees

Module II

- health needs of refugees,
- information concerning their state of health, past illnesses,
- access to health care in Poland or outside Poland,
- places in Poland and outside Poland where health care services were provided,
- information on the proportion of income allocated to health care,
- the level of refugee vaccination against COVID-19,
- the level of vaccination of children aged 1-4 years for MMR, DTP, polio,
- mental health needs and the need for support regarding this problem.

The questionnaire was designed to fill in by both an individual as well as a group of people travelling together (e.g. a family).
Methodology – selected aspects

• **Sampling**

Sample selection is based on a two-stage random sampling with stratification according to border crossings in the first stage.

In the first stage, locations are drawn by simple random sampling, while in the second stage, people residing in these locations are drawn by systematic sampling.

The persons sampled provide answers for all persons who meet the following conditions simultaneously:

– they travel together,
– they have left Ukraine due to the military operations of the Russian Federation,
– they are planning to live together during their stay outside Ukraine.

• **Estimation**

In order to estimate the results of the survey, the following are of key importance:

– list of survey locations,
– data from the Border Guard Main Headquarters on the border traffic by directions and border crossings, and data on the number of evacuated persons,
– data from the register of citizens of Ukraine and their family members who have been granted the status of foreigners under the special law.
Results of the pilot survey

Number of refugees who arrived in Poland, by region of residence in Ukraine in thousand persons

*Refugees who arrived from Ukraine after the start of the war and were staying in Poland at the time of the implementation of the pilot survey*
Results of the pilot survey

Demographic structure of refugees

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age Group</th>
<th>Females</th>
<th>Males</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>65 year and over</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>35 – 64</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18 – 34</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15 – 17</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7 – 14</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5 – 6</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0 – 4</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Refugees by sex and age group

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age Group</th>
<th>Females</th>
<th>Males</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>65 years and over</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>35 – 64</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18 – 34</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15 – 17</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7 – 14</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5 – 6</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0 – 4</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

[Graphs showing the distribution of refugees by age and sex.]

Ukrainian Refugees in Poland Preliminary Findings – 18 Nov 2022
Survey of refugees

During the survey interviewers collected
1.8 thousand questionnaires with information on approximately
5 thousand persons who found temporary shelter in Poland.
Survey of refugees

Statistical interviewers carried out the survey in Podkarpackie and Lubelskie Voivodships in 94 localities:

- 41 localities in Lubelskie Voivodship,
- 53 in Podkarpackie Voivodship.
Survey of refugees

The need to identify new refugee points of residence (new locations) in cooperation with:

• governmental and self-governmental institutions to find accommodation establishments: hotels, dormitories, student houses, sanatoriums, school dormitories, school hostels, guest rooms, private homes,

• religious associations, e.g. religious houses, nursing homes, charitable organisations,

• the Ukrainian Consulate in Lublin and Przemyśl.

Many interviews could be conducted among refugees at points where material aid, food and other essentials of life were distributed.
Results of the survey of refugees

Number of refugees who arrived in Poland, by region of residence in Ukraine in thousand persons

*Refugees who arrived from Ukraine after the start of the war and were staying in Poland at the time of the survey
Refugees by sex and age groups

Refugee survey (refugees who crossed the Polish-Ukrainian border)

General electronic population register system (Poland)
Results of the survey of refugees

Completed education

- 30% children up 14 years old
- 25% primary
- 17% vocational
- 10% post-primary
- 11% higher
- 7% not filed in

Educational needs

- 8% nursery
- 19% vocational school
- 48% pre-primary
- 7% primary school
- 11% post-primary
- 7% higher education institution
Survey of refugees

Planned country of stay

Poland 53.8%

Others 46.2%

- Great Britain 8.8%
- Netherlands 5.0%
- Austria 5.7%
- Canada 6.0%
- Germany 2.5%
- Italy 2.5%
- France 1.6%
- Lithuania 1.6%
- Others 12.6%

Data obtained from a pilot survey

Poland 95.2%

Others 4.8%

- Belgium 0.3%
- Spain 0.5%
- Germany 2.2%
- Others 1.8%

Data obtained from the BU survey
Survey of refugees

Where will you stay in Poland?

- 24% (29%) with family or friends
- 58% (30%) other accommodation (rented flats, dormitories, hotels, shelters, etc.)
- 18% (41%) we do not know yet

(30%) data obtained from a pilot survey
Do you intend to work in Poland?

- Yes: 66%
- No: 34%
- Do not know: 27%

Do you intend to return to Ukraine?

- Yes: 64%
- No: 9%
- Do not know: 27%
IX-1 In the past 30 days or less, did your household member need health care?

IX-2 What types of health care were needed?

Concerns persons who needed health care in the last 30 days. Respondent could have given more than one answer.
Results of the survey of refugees

IX-3 Were your household members have access to health care for the above-mentioned conditions?

- Yes – in Poland
- Yes – outside of Poland
- No
- No answer

Concerns persons who needed health care in the last 30 days. Respondent could have given more than one answer.

Barriers indicated among those who did not have access to health care

- Information barrier
- Cost of services
- Logistics to attend facilities
- Unavailability of medical care or treatment
- Others
- No answer

Concerns persons who needed health care in the last 30 days. Respondent could have given more than one answer.
Results of the survey of refugees

IX-4 Where were (country and type of facility) the health care services provided for the affected household members?

Type of facility for persons provided with health care services in Poland or outside Poland

- government health facility
- private health facility
- mobile / temporary health facility
- others
- no answer

Concerns persons who needed health care in the last 30 days. Respondent could have given more than one answer.

Concerns persons who needed health care in the last 30 days. Respondent could have given more than one answer.
Results of the survey of refugees

IX-5 What proportion of your income/savings did you need to spend on healthcare-related costs?

- less than 10%: 39%
- between 10 and 25%: 24%
- more than 25%: 25%
- no answer: 12%

Concerns persons who needed health care in the last 30 days.
Results of the survey of refugees

IX 6 Have your household members received vaccinations against COVID-19?

- Yes: 35%
- No: 60%
- No answer: 5%

Number of doses received for persons vaccinated against COVID-19 (concerning people vaccinated against COVID-19)

- 2 doses: 80%
- 1 dose: 12%
- 3 doses: 8%
Results of the survey of refugees

IX-7 Vaccination of children aged 1-4 years

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Vaccine</th>
<th>yes</th>
<th>no</th>
<th>don't know</th>
<th>no answer</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>POLIO</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DTP</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MMR</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

IX-8 Is there anyone in your household member currently so upset, anxious, worried, agitated, angry or depressed that it affects the person’s daily functioning?

- yes 10%
- no 74%
- no answer 16%

56% of those who answered "yes" would simultaneously benefit from support for this problem.
In addition to the 1,800 interviews described above, there were also 35 in-depth interviews conducted focusing on

**Behavioural insights on health service needs and access:**

*Qualitative study among Ukrainian refugees in Poland*

- Soon after war started, the WHO Regional Office for Europe designed a qualitative study protocol focusing on Ukrainian refugees in neighbouring countries.
- The study was conducted in Poland in August and September 2022 with the WHO Country Office for Poland, Statistics Poland and researchers based in Ukraine.
- Results provide detailed insights into participant’s perceived health needs and actual experiences accessing health services.
- Careful sampling and data saturation ensure confidence in qualitative findings, although not quantifiable.

**Study design**

- In-depth interviews with Ukrainian adults over 18 years who left Ukraine due to war and had been in Poland at least 2 weeks.
- Recruitment through GUS enumerators and social media.
- Purposive maximum variation sampling by gender, age, housing type, caregiver status.
- Data saturation reached at 35 interviews (no new insights).
Conclusions and next steps

- Integration of new data sources (smart systems, MNO, satellite pictures)
- Prototype of coherent research system with innovative micro-services
- Real-time data analysis and flash estimates
Thank you for your attention

Merkur Beqiri, WHO

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