

Hungary

Crossing to Ukraine: Surveys with Refugees on Destinations, Length of Stay & Assistance



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Country Report & Data Analysis

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Publisher

International Organization for Migration
Regional Office for South-Eastern Europe, Eastern
Europe and Central Asia
Dampfschiffstrasse 4/10-11, 1030 Vienna, Austria
+43 1 581 22 22
Website: <https://rovienna.iom.int/>
Contact: [ROViennaDataResearch-Newsletter@
iom.int](mailto:ROViennaDataResearch-Newsletter@iom.int)

International Organization for Migration
Country Office Hungary
International Organization for Migration
Country Office Hungary
2 Radnoti Miklos utca Budapest
+36 (1) 472-2500
Website: <https://hungary.iom.int/>
Contact: iombudapest@iom.int

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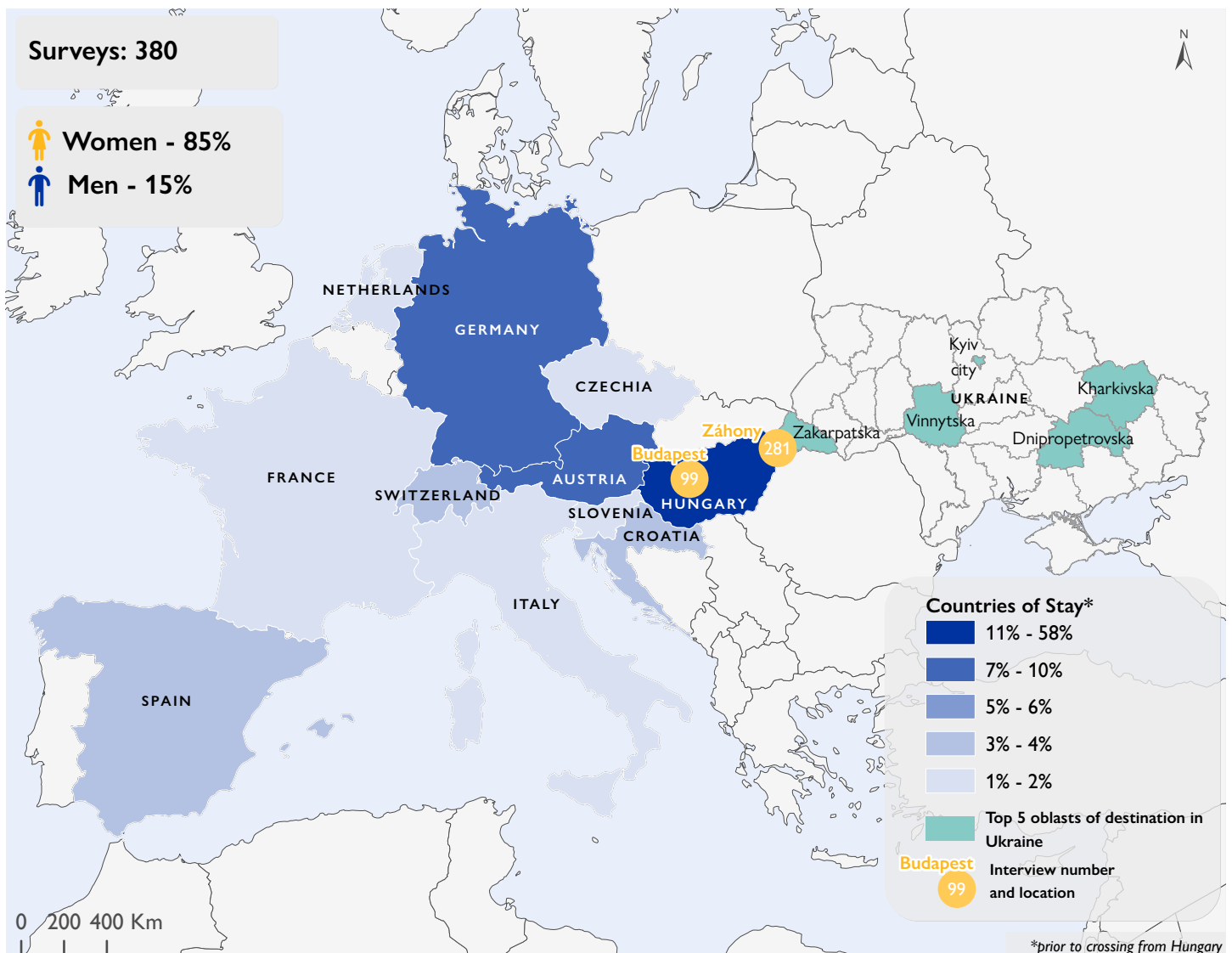
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KEY FINDINGS

- Top 3 countries of stay abroad: Hungary (59%), Germany (10%), Austria (9%).
 - Transport to Ukraine: train (92%), bus (6%), car (1%).
 - Top oblasts of origin: Zakarpatska (24%), Kyiv City (19%), Kharkivska (14%).
 - Intended destination: going to same oblast of origin (44%), to a different oblast (6%) - to Zakarpatska, Kyiv & Lvivska. 50% did not specify their destination.
 - Intentions upon crossing back: long-term stay (34%), short-term visit (62%).
 - Top needs upon crossing back:* transportation (29%), information (28%), financial support (25%), health services (22%).
 - Top areas of assistance received:* transportation support (85%), financial support (60%), food supplies (54%), accommodation support (52%).
- * more than one answer possible

Map 1: Hungary, surveys deployed, countries of stay & oblasts of destination in Ukraine



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I. Socio-Demographic Profile

Gender and age

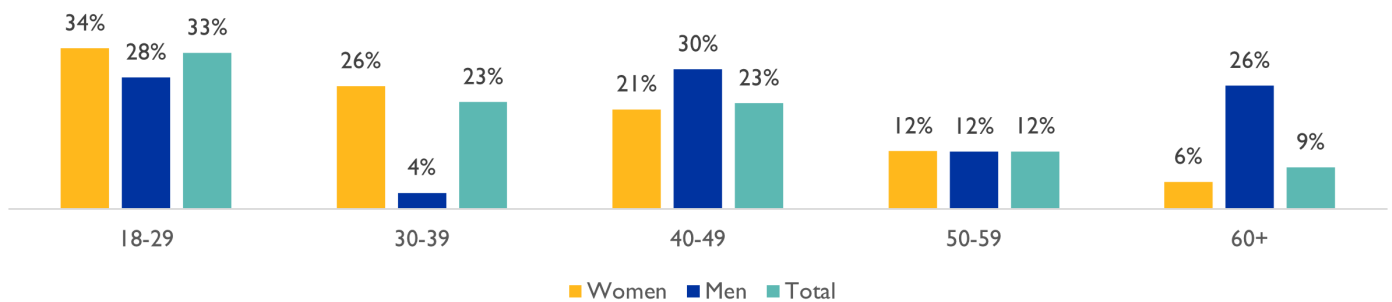
Out of the 381 refugees from Ukraine interviewed prior to crossing back from Hungary, 15 per cent were men, and 85 per cent were women. The average age for the total sample was 38 years.

When looking at the data disaggregated by gender, in average, men were slightly older than their female counterparts (45 years in average age for men, versus 37 years in average age for women).

Most respondents were aged between 18 and 39 years old (33%), and between 40 and 49 years old (23%). The largest age group for women was of those aged between 18 and 29 years old (34%) followed by those aged between 30 and 39 (26%).

Among men, the greatest age group was of those aged between 40 and 49 years old (30%), followed by those aged between 18 and 29 years (28%).

Figure 1: Age, by gender and total (%)

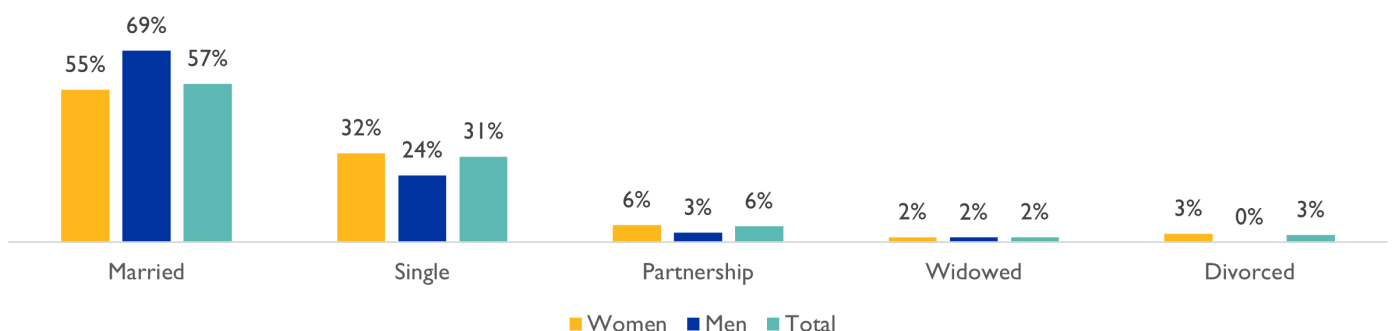


Marital status

Out of those who responded to this question (191 individuals), more than half of the respondents (57%) were married. This was followed by 31 per cent of respondents who were single, six per cent who were in a partnership, three per cent who were divorced and two per cent who were widowed. The share of

married persons was higher among men than among women (69% versus 55%), while women were slightly more likely to be single than men in the sample (32% versus 24%). Women were twice as likely than men to be in a partnership (6% versus 3%). Moreover, only women in the sample were divorced (3%).

Figure 2: Marital status, by gender and total (%)



2. Time Outside Ukraine

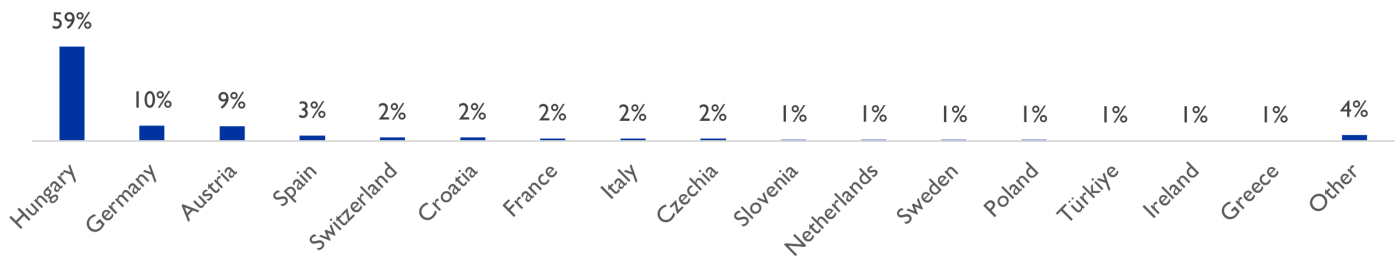
Countries of stay while abroad

More than half (59%) of respondents predominantly stayed in Hungary, where the assessment was conducted, before crossing back to Ukraine.

This was followed by those who mainly stayed in Germany (10%), and Austria (9%). To a lesser extent,

some of the interviewees also stayed in Spain (3%), Switzerland (2%), Croatia (2%), France (2%), Italy (2%), and Czechia (2%). The remaining percentage of respondents (9%) stayed in other 22 countries in different continents before crossing back to Ukraine.

Figure 3: Countries of stay (%)



Average time since initial displacement

The approximate duration of time spent outside Ukraine can be assessed by looking at the difference between respondents' initial date of displacement from Ukraine, and the date of interview. Out of the total sample of respondents, most were displaced between October and December 2022 (27%).

Specifically, 15 per cent of respondents were displaced in December 2022, thus spending about one to three months outside Ukraine (considering their initial date of displacement and the date of assessment). Moreover, 12 per cent of respondents were initially

displaced in January 2023, giving them an average of one to two months outside Ukraine. Another 14 per cent of respondents were initially displaced in March of 2022. This means that by the time the interviews were conducted (January - March 2023), they had spent about one year outside Ukraine. The few months between April 2022 and November 2022, displacement fluctuated between four to six per cent. Hence, over one-third of respondents (39%) had spent between two to eleven months in displacement at the time of assessment.

Table 1: Approximate time in displacement until the date of interview (%)

Date since initial displacement	Approximate time spent until date of interview	% Of respondents
Before 2022	1-3 years	3%
Jan-Mar 2022	11-14 months	20%
Apr-Jun 2022	07-11 months	16%
Jul-Sep 2022	4-8 months	12%
Oct-Dec 2022	3-5 month	27%
Jan-2023	1-2 months	12%
Feb-2023	Around one month or less	5%
Mar-2023	Less than a month	5%

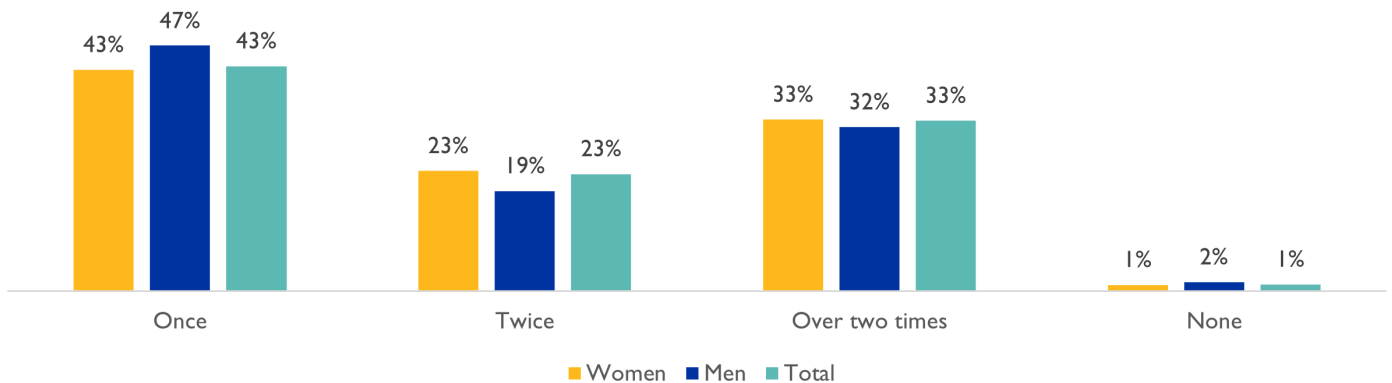
Number of exits/entries from and to Ukraine

Out of the total number of interviewees (N=381), most respondents had entered/exited Ukraine only once since February 24 2022. Twenty-three per cent had entered/exited twice, while one-third (33%), had done so more than twice. Only one per cent of respondents had not re-entered Ukraine before the time of survey. When looking at the data disaggregated by gender, male respondents were more likely than female respondents

to have entered/exited Ukraine once (47% versus 43%). Moreover, women were more likely than men to have entered/exited Ukraine twice at the time of assessment (23% versus 19%).

On the contrary women and men were nearly as likely to have entered/exited Ukraine more than twice at the time the assessment was conducted (33% for women, and 32% for men).

Figure 4: Number of entries/exits between 24 February 2022 and 31 March 2023, by gender and total (%)

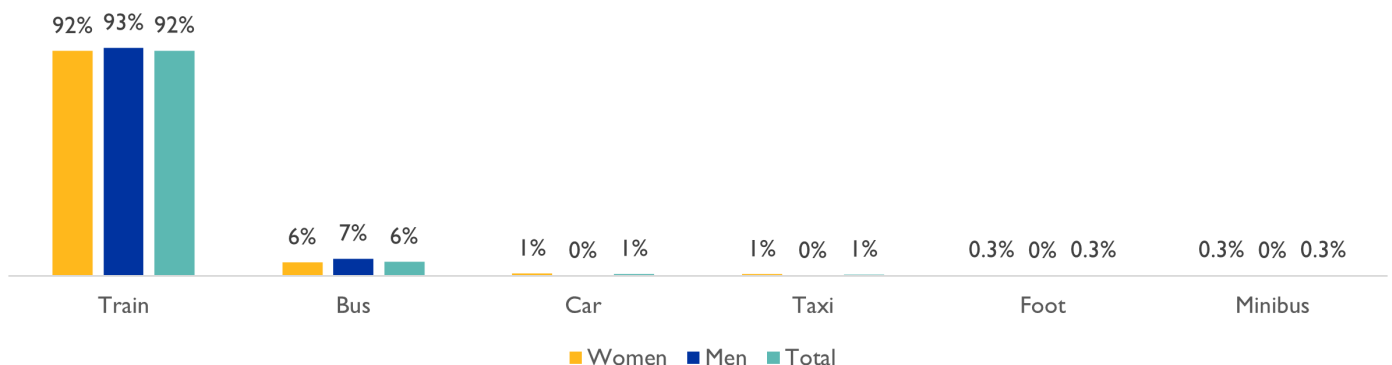


Transport

Almost all respondents were travelling to Ukraine by train (92%). This was followed by six per cent of respondents who were going back by bus. The remaining two per cent were going by car (1%), by taxi (1%), foot or by minibus (less than one per cent each).

No particular distinction was found when looking at the data from a gendered lens. Male and female respondents were nearly as likely to have selected similar transport mean to reach Ukraine irrespective of their sex.

Figure 5: Transport means, by gender and total (%)



3. Oblast (region) of Origin and Destination

Origin or habitual residence

More than half (67%) of respondents came from six oblast in Ukraine; these were: Zakarpatska (24%), Kyiv city (14%), Dnipropetrovska (10%), Kharkivska (7%), Vinnytska (6%), and Kyivska (6%). The remaining respondents (33%) came from other 21 oblasts in Ukraine.

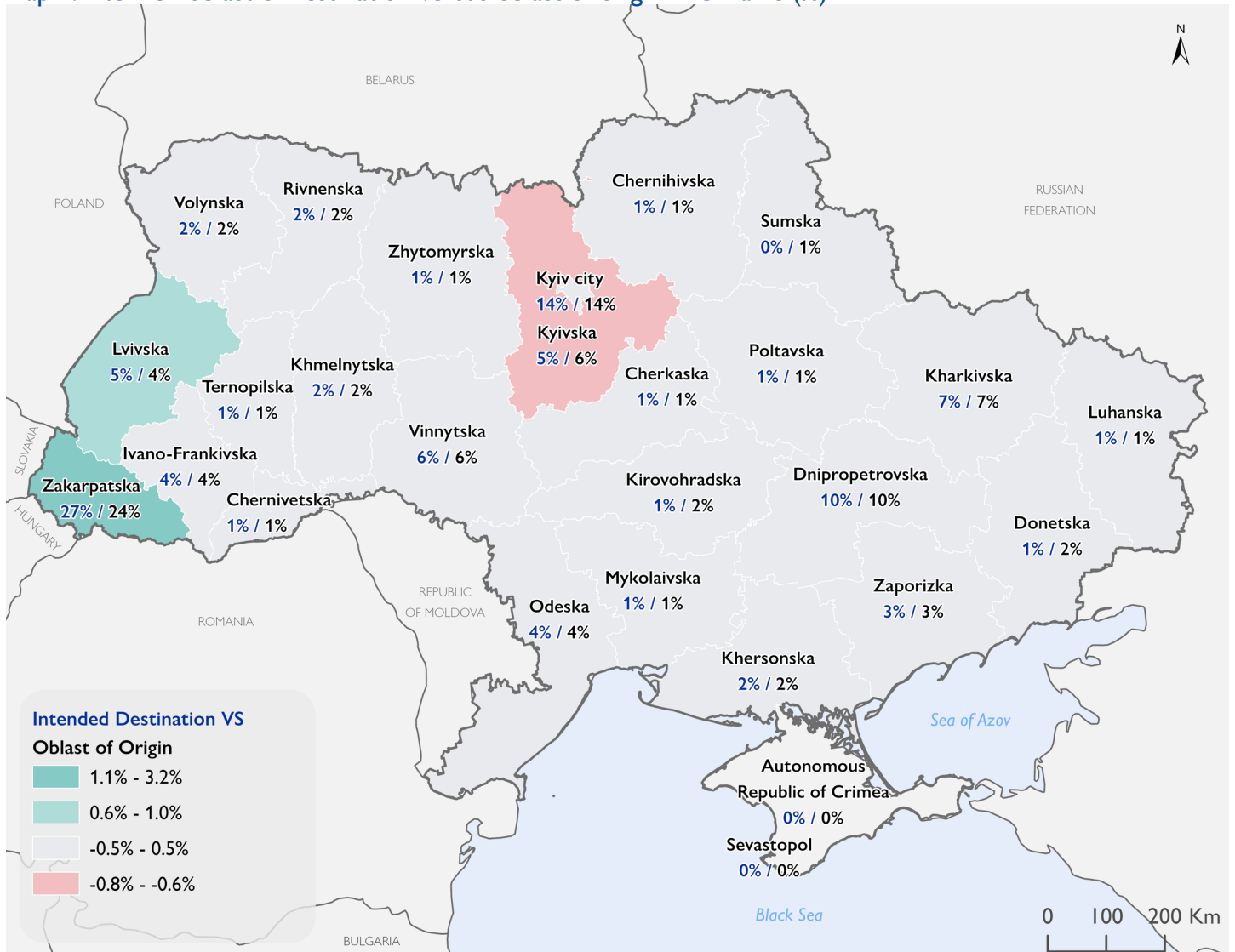
(7%), Vinnytska (6%), and Kyivska (6%). The remaining respondents (33%) came from other 21 oblasts in Ukraine.

Intended destination

Out of the total number of interviewees, 44 per cent were planning to return to the same oblast of origin while another six aimed to reach a different one. The remaining 50 per cent did not provide an answer to this question.

Out of those returning to a different oblast (21 individuals), 57 per cent were planning to go to Zakarpatska, 19 per cent to Kyiv city, 14 per cent to Lvivska, five per cent to Donetska, and five per cent to Kharkivska.

Map 2: Intended oblast of destination versus oblast of origin in Ukraine (%)



This map is for illustration purposes only. The boundaries and names shown, and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by IOM.

4. Intentions and Reasons to Cross Back to Ukraine

Long-term stay

Thirty-four per cent of the interviewees intended on staying in Ukraine upon return. Out of this share of respondents (131 individuals), 53 per cent indicated that they were returning and staying in Ukraine in order to reunite with family. Another 42 per cent was returning as they considered that the situation in their place of origin had significantly improved, or because they miss home (21% each). Other key reasons for returning were: helping family (19%), having found a job

in Ukraine (19%), and lack of resources in the current location (16%). Women were more likely than men to have selected reunite with family as a main reason for returning to Ukraine (55% versus 40%). On the contrary men were more likely than women to aim to move back to Ukraine to help family (25% versus 18%). Only women indicated that they were returning to Ukraine because they had found employment there (23%).

Table 2.

Main reasons for staying in Ukraine, by gender and total (%) (N=131) (more than one answer possible)

Listed Reasons	Women (%)	Men (%)	Total (%)
Reunite with family	55%	40%	53%
Improved situation in place of origin	22%	20%	21%
Miss home	23%	10%	21%
Help family	18%	25%	19%
Found job in Ukraine	23%	0%	19%
Lack resources	17%	10%	16%
Lack of employment	10%	10%	10%
Work in essential services	3%	15%	5%
Visit someone abroad	4%	10%	5%
Lack of shelter	5%	0%	4%

Short-term visit

Sixty-two per cent of the refugees from Ukraine interviewed, were planning to stay in Ukraine for a short visit only. Out of this sample (236 individuals), 67 per cent stated that their main reason to go to Ukraine for a limited duration was to meet with family. Another 48 per cent were returning to collect belongings left in Ukraine, and 19 per cent to obtain or renew documents.

This was followed by bringing supplies (18%), and helping family (8%). Women were more than twice as likely than men to go back to Ukraine to meet family (73% versus 36%). They were also more likely to return to collect belongings (50% for women versus 36% for men). On the other hand men were slightly more likely than women to go back to obtain or renew documents (25% versus 19%).

Table 3.

Main reasons for staying in Ukraine for a short-term period, by gender and total (%) (N=236) (more than one answer possible)

Listed Reasons	Women (%)	Men (%)	Total (%)
Meet family	73%	36%	67%
Collect belongings	50%	36%	48%
Obtain/renew documents	19%	25%	19%
Bring supplies	19%	14%	18%
Help family	19%	11%	18%
Health care	15%	22%	16%
Check property	15%	19%	15%
Help family leave	12%	19%	13%

5. Needs, Assistance Received, and Challenges

Immediate needs upon crossing back

The most immediate need upon return at the moment of interview was transportation support for 29 per cent of respondents. This was followed by support with general information (28%), financial support (25%), health services (22%), and communication elsewhere (20%). Other imminent needs reported were long-term accommodation (18%), medicine (17%), employment (15%), food supply (14%), and short-term accommodation (12%).

To a lesser extent, 11 per cent of respondents indicated legal assistance, and 10 per cent documentation support, as a key needs when crossing back to Ukraine. Psychological counselling (8%), and personal safety (8%), were also relevant needs reported by respondents. Another 31 per cent of respondents selected other needs such as school enrolment, clothes/shoes, household goods, personal hygiene, family tracing, education for adults, language courses, among others. Only 11 per cent reported having no needs upon return.

Assistance received in Hungary

Eighty-five per cent of respondents received transportation support in Hungary. Sixty per cent received financial support, 54 per cent food supplies, and 52 per cent accommodation support. Other relevant areas where respondents received assistance while in Hungary were clothes/shoes (25%), personal hygiene items (24%), psychological council (12%), vouchers (10%), and toys (9%). Both men and women reported transportation support (79% and 86%), financial support (47% and 62%), and food (42% and 56%) as the top areas where they received assistance in Hungary.

Experiences of Discrimination

Seven per cent of respondents reported having experienced discrimination in the country of displacement. In contrast, 91 per cent had not no such experiences. The remaining two per cent did not know.

Figure 6: Needs upon crossing back (%) (more than one answer possible)



Table 4: Main areas of assistance received, by gender and total (more than one answer possible)

Listed Reasons	Women (%)	Men (%)	Total (%)
Transport support	86%	79%	85%
Financial support	62%	47%	60%
Food	56%	42%	54%
Accommodation	54%	37%	52%
Clothes/shoes	24%	32%	25%
Personal hygiene items	23%	32%	24%
Psychological council	12%	11%	12%
Vouchers	10%	11%	10%
Toys	9%	5%	9%
Other	3%	5%	3%

When looking at the data disaggregated by gender, female respondents were nearly twice as likely than men to have experienced discrimination (7% versus 4%).

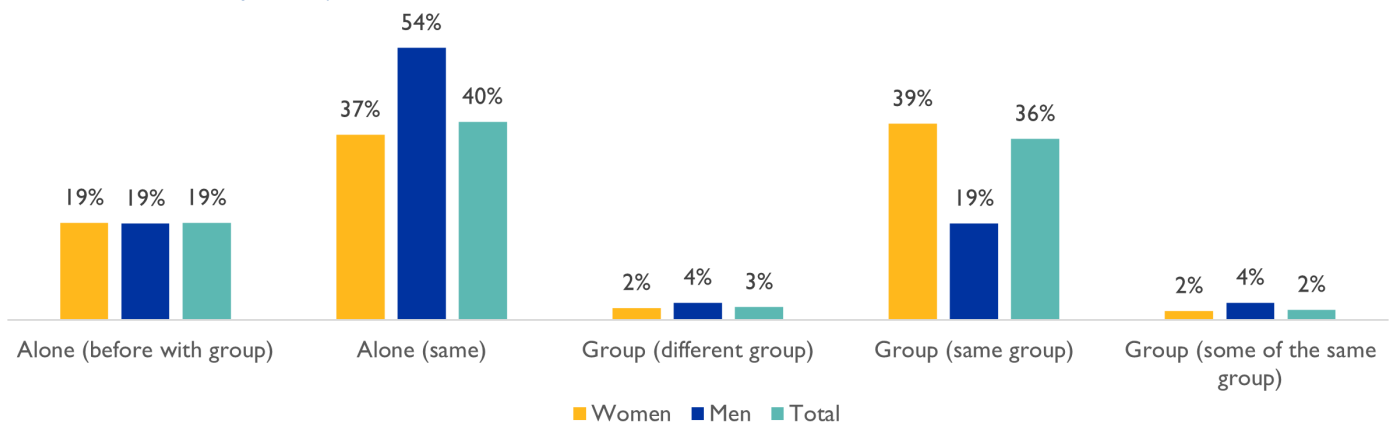
7. Group Composition

Travel mode

Out of the 381 respondents, 40 per cent were crossing back by themselves; they were also travelling alone when they exited Ukraine. Another 36 per cent were travelling with the same group they left with, and 19 per cent were travelling alone, when they had departed

with a group when leaving Ukraine. The remaining five per cent were either crossing back with a different group, or with some of the group they had previously left with (2%). Men were more likely to be travelling by themselves (73%) than women (56%).

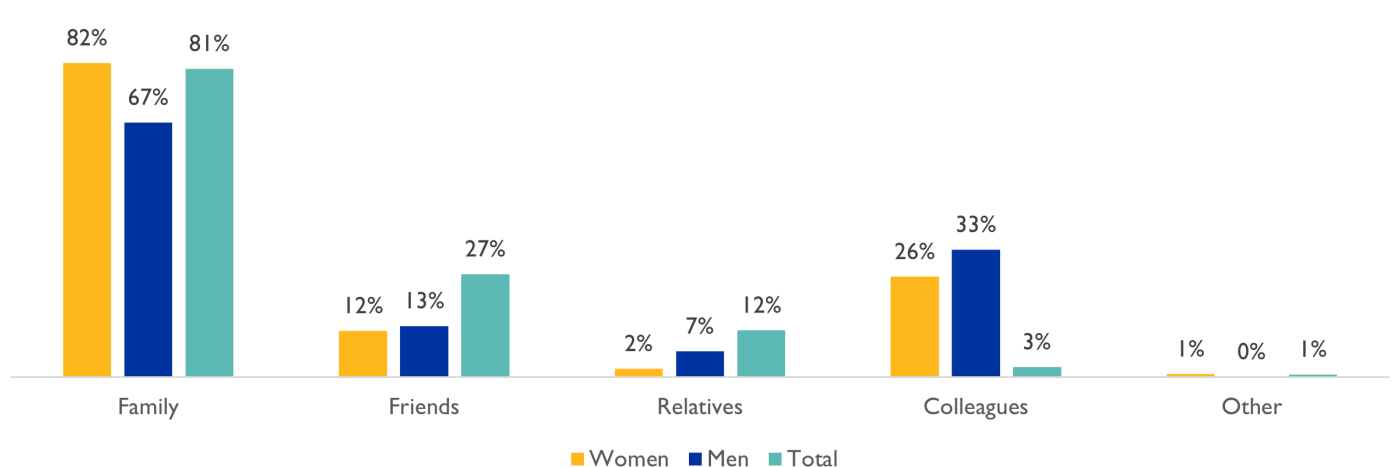
Figure 7: Travelling mode, by gender and total (%) (more than one answer possible)



Out of those travelling in a group (N=156), 81 per cent were travelling with family, 27 per cent with friends, 12 per cent with relatives, and three per cent with colleagues. Moreover, 18 per cent were travelling with

at least one elderly person; out of which, 12 per cent with at least one elderly woman, and six per cent with at least one elderly man. Twenty-eight per cent were travelling with at least one child.

Figure 8: Travelling groups, by gender and total (%) (N=156) (more than one answer possible)



8. Methodology

Background

Please change with: Since 24 February 2022, refugees from Ukraine and Third Country Nationals (TCNs) have been fleeing to neighbouring countries as a result of the war. As of May 2023, more than eight million refugees from Ukraine were recorded across Europe. At the same time, almost 13 million of border crossings of Ukrainian and Third-Country refugees and migrants were reported from Ukraine into the neighbouring countries since February 2022.

IOM has deployed its Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM) tools since mid-April 2022 to collect individual surveys in neighbouring countries with persons crossing into Ukraine, with the aim to improve the understanding of main profiles, displacement patterns, intentions and needs of those moving into Ukraine.

This report is based on surveys collected in Hungary between 01 January and 31 March 2023 in various locations, such as Budapest, and Záhony – Szabolcs-Szatmár-Bereg County, as well as in various settings, including transit points (e.g., train and bus stations), the Help Center (run by the Budapest Municipality and IOM), the Info and Community Center (run by IOM and UNHCR), collective accommodations and a food and non-food items distribution event.

Methodological framework

IOM's Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM) is a system to track and monitor displacement and population mobility. It is designed to regularly and systematically capture, process and disseminate information to provide a better understanding of the movements and evolving needs of displaced populations, whether on site or en route.

This survey is part of IOM's DTM activities to monitor the profiles, displacement patterns and most immediate needs of the Ukrainian refugees and TCNs crossing back to Ukraine since 24 February 2022.

In Hungary, surveys were conducted in Ukrainian, Russian, and English by IOM's DTM trained teams of enumerators on a mobile application.

The interviews are anonymous and carried out one-on-one with respondents, provided they consent to be interviewed after a brief introduction. Enumerators trained on ethics of data collection, information provision and protection principles, approached people crossing back to Ukraine, to verify their willingness to conduct the survey, which was only addressed to adults (18+).

The survey form was designed by IOM to capture the main displacement patterns for refugees crossing back to Ukraine following the outbreak of the war. It analyses the demographic profiles of respondents and of the group they are travelling with, if any; it asks about intentions relatively to the permanence in Ukraine; and it gathers information regarding a set of main needs at the moment of the interview.

Various settings were identified to conduct surveys, to maximise the number of interviews, and reach out to different profiles of individuals.

While in border crossing/transit points, such as train stations, the flow of people was higher and interviewees were randomly surveyed (having the same likelihood compared to others to be selected), in other settings, such collective accommodations, respondents were intentionally identified.

Among the limitations encountered during data collection were the reduced time to carry out surveys at transit points and the presence of only four enumerators at the moment of the interviews.

To address the aforesaid shortcomings, and cover different viewpoints, a mixed sampling strategy guided the data collection exercise.

Consequently, this analysis does not proportionally represent the whole population and results cannot be deemed representative of a full picture of mobility towards Ukraine from Hungary.

DTM

Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM) is a system to track and monitor displacement and population mobility. The survey form was designed to capture the main displacement patterns – origin country and region – for refugees of any nationality fleeing from Ukraine because of the war. It captures the demographic profiles of respondents and of the group they are travelling with, if any; it asks about intentions relative to the intended final destination and prospects of permanence in the country of the survey/first reception; it gathers information regarding a set of main needs that the respondents expressed as more pressing at the moment of the interview.

Since the onset of the war in Ukraine, several IOM's DTM tools were deployed in countries neighbouring Ukraine and in other countries particularly impacted by the new arrivals of migrants and refugees from Ukraine.

For more information, please consult: <https://dtm.iom.int/responses/ukraine-response>

DTM is part of IOM's Global Data Institute.

