Refugee Arrivals from Ukraine into the Republic of Moldova

Update as of 20.04.2022

Context & Methodology

More than 5,1 million refugees have fled Ukraine since the escalation of conflict on 24 February 2022. From among them, 428,577 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.
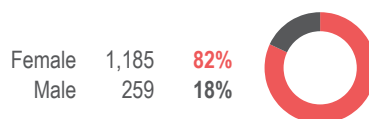
To understand the drivers of displacement and intentions of refugees, 1,511 interviews were conducted with people crossing from Ukraine into Moldova. Interviews were conducted at every border checkpoint and certain reception centers, and began on 28 February. This factsheet includes cumulative responses from 28 February to 20 April. 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.
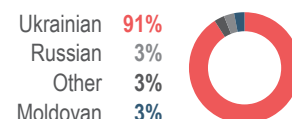
The data collection tool was modified after the deployment and therefore the sample size differs for certain questions; for some of them, the sample size is provided.
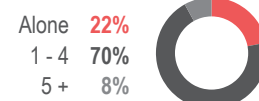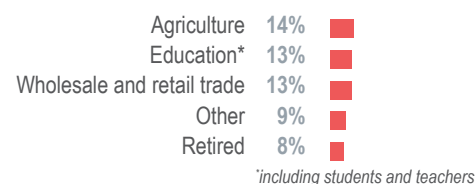
Demography

Gender of the respondent

Female	1,185	**82%**
Male	259	**18%**

Respondents reporting travelling with the following population groups[1]

Children 0-5 years of age	21%
Children 6-18 years of age	45%
Elderly (65+ years of age)	9%
Persons with disabilities	4%

Nationality of the respondent

Ukrainian	**91%**
Russian	3%
Other	3%
Moldovan	3%

Number of people traveling with respondents

Alone	**22%**
1 - 4	**70%**
5 +	**8%**

Most reported pre-displacement employment status of respondents[2]

Agriculture	**14%**
Education*	**13%**
Wholesale and retail trade	**13%**
Other	**9%**
Retired	**8%**

*including students and teachers

Origins and Arrivals

99% of respondents reported holding a passport

Most frequent regions (oblasts) of origin[2]

Mykolaiv	573	38%
Odessa	449	30%
Kyiv oblast	131	9%
Vinnytsia	86	6%
Donetsk	53	4%

Most frequently reported modalities of border crossing[3]

Foot	937	**65%**
Bus	387	**27%**
Car	115	**8%**
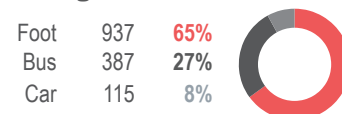
Reasons for leaving the area of origin[1,3]

Active conflict (incl. troops) in the settlement	**58%**
Damage in or near my settlement	**37%**
Worry that active fightings will come to the settlement	**12%**
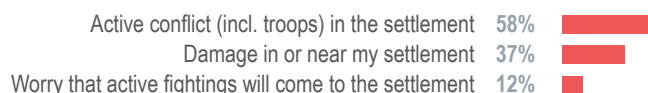
Reason for selecting border crossing[3]

Most convenient for future intentions	**40%**
Most direct route to border	**39%**
Shorter queues at the crossing	**12%**
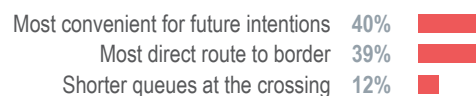
Intentions

Top 3 intended destination countries of respondents

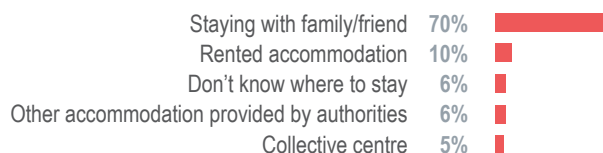|	
Moldova	**43%**
Germany	**15%**
Romania	**7%**

31% of respondents intending to stay in Moldova don't know how long they will stay in the country

Reported drivers for selection of destination country by respondents[1,2]

Family/friends in location of arrival	**71%**
Meet family/friends who already displaced there	**15%**
Advised by reception center	**8%**
Advised by family	**6%**
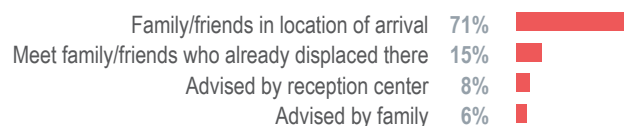
Reported accommodation type in destination country by respondents

Staying with family/friend	**70%**
Rented accommodation	**10%**
Don't know where to stay	**6%**
Other accommodation provided by authorities	**6%**
Collective centre	**5%**

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

UNHCR The UN Refugee Agency

REACH Informing more effective humanitarian action