

Background and Methodology

Given the rapidly changing conflict, displacement trends across Ukraine are evolving quickly. Evidence-based research and information on displacement is necessary to support the humanitarian response. Drawing from REACH's ongoing data collection across Ukraine, this brief examines displacement-specific data from various REACH assessments, triangulated by secondary data sources on displacement.

The brief draws from REACH's **Humanitarian Situation Monitoring (HSM)** third round of data collection in **government-controlled areas**, conducted between **2 May and 16 May** through **515 telephone interviews** with non-government organization (NGO) and local authority key informants (KIs). **103 settlements** (towns or villages) were selected for data collection.¹ Enumerators aimed to interview 5 KIs per settlement, responses were aggregated at settlement level and should be considered as indicative only. KIs provided insights on internal displacement and return flows at the settlement level, as well as on barriers to movements and IDP humanitarian needs. Secondly, the report also draws from REACH's HSM data collection in non-government controlled areas. Data collection was conducted between **5 May and 16 May** through **307 face-to-face interviews** with community KIs from **91 settlements** - people who have been displaced from the settlement within 7 days prior to data collection or are in regular contact with people who have stayed, thus possessing sufficient knowledge to respond indicatively on behalf of the settlement or **"Area of Knowledge" (AoK)** at the time of data collection.²

In addition, the brief draws from REACH's **Border Situation Monitoring** assessment at Ukraine's borders with Poland, Hungary, Slovakia, and Moldova. Between **1 May and 31 May**, REACH enumerators collected **daily qualitative observations** at select border transit locations in neighbouring countries. These observations provide insights on displacement trends at selected border locations and should only be considered as indicative.

Fourthly, the brief draws from primary data from official Ukrainian national authorities, published via official Facebook and Telegram channels. This includes data published by oblast authorities, Ukrainian government ministries, and national railways Ukrzalyznitsia. Lastly, **secondary data review integrates** the quantitative and qualitative findings presented in the brief. Sources include international organizations operating in Ukraine (IOM, UNHCR, OCHA), Ukrainian research institutes (CEDOS and Raiting) and news agencies.

Estimating internal displacement and returns figures within Ukraine, as well as distilling displacement trends, has reportedly been challenging, due to a variety of limiting factors including data collection and availability, capturing IDP and return intentions, and the changing nature of the war. As such, data and key findings are **indicative only**.

Key Findings

• As of June 23, 6.25 million people were reported as internally displaced (IDPs) within Ukraine,³ and KIs in REACH-assessed settlements reporting **new IDP arrivals in all oblasts** between 2-16 May. Estimating displacement figures has reportedly been challenging due to the changing situation of the war.

• Western oblasts continue to host a large share of IDPs. 5,670 collective sites have so far been identified across Ukraine, mostly in educational and publicly owned facilities. Nevertheless, low occupancy and hence collective site closures suggest that many IDPs are residing in private housing, likely requiring a different response from humanitarian actors. IDP arrivals and returns to urban areas, such as Kyiv city, suggest rising needs in urban centres.

• Another wave of **displacement from eastern regions** was reported over the past month, despite **officially-supported transport and exit routes becoming less available.** Evacuation trains from eastern oblasts decreased in late May, potentially due to decrease in passenger demand, closure of railway stations, and many people having already left the region. **Access to transport remains difficult for vulnerable groups.**⁴

• Displacement and returns were reported in non-government-controlled areas (NGCAs), as well as **movement barriers** out of these areas. As humanitarian needs have reportedly been rising rapidly, **humanitarian access and security in NGCAs** are key concerns.

• Between 17 March and 6 May, 118,444 people were reportedly evacuated via government-approved evacuations (green corridors).⁵ However, green corridors out of conflict-affected areas and/or NGCAs have ceased since 6 May. Restrictions of movement out of non-government-controlled areas are a key concern.

• In late May, **returns to and within Ukraine increased considerably, and continued to rise in late June at a slower rate**.⁶ Common destinations were Northern oblasts, Kyiv city, and Eastern oblasts. Frequently cited reasons for return include **pull factors** such as family reunification and perception of safety, and **push factors** include employment, accommodation, access to social security and assistance, and access to documentation. Factors that remain difficult to assess include the estimation of return numbers, length of intended returns, provision of assistance to returnees, and the safety of return areas.

• The significant proportion of people returning to conflict-affected areas, or **people returning despite security concerns**, indicates that **other push factors could outweigh security concerns** and push IDPs to return. Further data collection could help indicate whether additional humanitarian support during displacement could contribute to mitigating push factors leading to returns to unsafe areas.

1. REACH's HSM survey tool targets key informants (NGO workers, local authorities, technical specialists) who

Figures reported by the telegram channel of the Ukrainian Minister of Reintegration of Temporarily Occupied Territories.
REACH monitors the telegram channel to track the government-official evacuations from eastern conflict-affected regions
IOM. Internal Displacement Report - General Population Survey Round 6 (17 - 23 June 2022). June 2022

4. REACH. Ukraine: Evacuations from Eastern Oblasts. April 2022.

provide insights at the settlement/community level on the humanitarian situation in 22 oblasts across Ukraine. 2. This geographic coverage includes settlements in Donetska, Kharkivska, Khersonska, Luhanska, Mykolaivska, and Zaporizka oblasts.

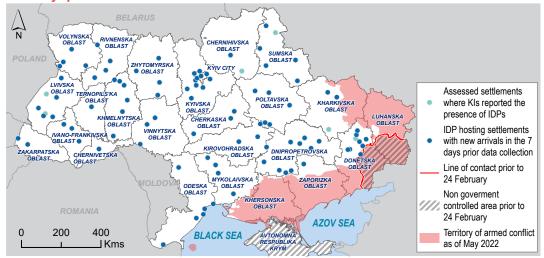
^{3.} IOM. Internal Displacement Report - General Population Survey Round 6 (17 - 23 June 2022). June 2022

Estimating internal displacement figures in Ukraine has reportedly been challenging due to the changing situation of the war, the variety of monitoring and registration tools, and the mixed nature of displacement (for example, large numbers of IDPs residing in urban areas). This brief aims to present a variety of sources, analyse key displacement trends, and identify gaps in understanding to inform the humanitarian response to support people who are internally displaced or returning in Ukraine.

IDP-hosting areas

As of 23 June, IOM reports that 14% of Ukraine's general population was internally displaced, equivalent to over 6.25 million IDPs.⁷ KIs in 94% of settlements in government-controlled areas assessed by REACH reported new IDP arrivals in the 7 days prior to data collection, indicating that displacement is still rapidly affecting settlements across Ukraine. While findings suggest that more people have been displaced in the last month due to an intensification of the conflict, a reported 12% decrease of nearly 900,000 IDPs since 23 May in overall figures reported by IOM signals competing displacement trends, for example due to IDPs returns.

Map 1: Assessed settlements where KIs reported the presence of IDPs and new IDP arrivals in the 7 days prior to data collection



KIs in Poltavska and Zaporizka oblasts noted a very large influx of IDPs, and KIs in Chernihivska, Cherkaska, Dnipropetrovska, and Kyiv city saw a large influx of IDPs in the 7 days prior to data collection.⁸ The majority of KIs reported IDPs arrivals from **Donetska** (90%), **Luhanska** (70%),

7. IOM. Internal Displacement Report - General Population Survey Round 6 (17 - 23 June 2022). June 2022

8. In REACH's HSM Round 3 survey for KIs, these definitions were used: (1) very large influx (existing services and infrastructures are overwhelmed and unable to cope with new arrivals), (2) large influx (significant strain on existing services and infrastructures as a result of new arrivals), and (3) small influx (no significant additional strain on services and infrastructures). 9. Figures reported by Oblast authorities through various Telegram channels. REACH monitors the telegram channels to track the progress of overall IDP registration figures. For Dnipropetrovska, IDP registration figures were obtained from a direct contact with Director of the Department of Social Policy.

10. Estimation number is a result of the CCCM Cluster in Ukraine site mapping exercise, with the support of REACH, ACTED, 16. [English translation], Rating, Lviv region during the war: the view of local residents and migrants, 31 May 2022, IOM, NRC, and other CCCM cluster partners

Table 1. IDP registratio	n figures as repor	ted by oblast authorit	ies (updated 26 May)
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	-	_	-	-			-	
Zakarpatska	Lvivska	Vinnytska	Khmelnytska	lvano- Frankivska	Cherkaska	Dnipro- petrovska	Chernivetska	
396,000	346,000	170,731	152,500	143,000	119,000	100,842	100,000	

Kharkivska (80%) and Zaporizka (70%) oblasts. This suggests continued internal displacement in particular originating from Eastern conflict-affected areas. According to IDP registration figures published by oblast authorities (Table 1), western oblasts continue to host a large share of IDPs, including Zakarpatska, Lvivska, and Vinnytska oblasts.9

Since the start of the war, collective sites were set up to provide assistance and accommodation to the large number of people displaced across Ukraine, however, many collective sites are reportedly closing and/or have low occupancy rates, indicating a potential shift in IDP accommodation needs and modalities of humanitarian assistance. 5,670 collective sites providing shelter and humanitarian assistance to IDPs have been located by humanitarian actors across the country,¹⁰ of which most of the mapped sites are in **Lvivska**, **Zakarpatska and** Kirovohradska oblasts.¹¹ As of 20 May, 62,800 individuals were staying in collective sites.¹² Most collective sites are hosted in educational facilities and in publicly owned locations.¹³

While the increase in reported closures of collective sites could have some positive outcomes such as educational facilities re-opening, it also indicates that demand for housing could increase and that displaced people in need of assistance could become more difficult to reach. Further mapping and analysis on the occupancy and role of collective centres to support IDPs in Ukraine would be beneficial to inform the humanitarian response and the delivery of aid.

In IDP-hosting urban areas, reports indicate that IDPs often reside with friends or family members and that housing prices have increased, raising concerns about the impact on local economies, especially if volunteer and/or private support were to dwindle in the case of protracted conflict. In almost half of assessed settlements (46%, n=45) by REACH's HSM survey, KIs reported an increase or significant increase in **housing prices** since the beginning of the war, primarily in Western and Central oblasts. In Odesa, news sources also reported that the average cost of housing increased in May 2022.¹⁴ In Ivano-Frankivsk, research group 'Rating' reported that 51% of IDPs currently live in the homes of relatives or friends, and that 74% of assessed residents supported the idea of building permanent housing for IDPs.¹⁵ In the Lviv region, 'Rating' reported that a higher proportion of IDPs was living in collective centres, and that 79% of residents believed that local authorities were effectively managing the accommodation of IDPs arriving in Lviv.¹⁶

11. It is necessary to note that the coverage in Kharkivska, Poltavska, Khmelnitska and Zaporizka oblast remains low, and therefore the mapping is not fully representative of the situation in Ukraine.

- 12. UNHCR Operations Data Portal, Ukraine Communal Settings Snapshot, 20 May 2022.
- 13. REACH, IDP Collective Centres Mapping Ukraine, 28 April 2022. Link:

14. [English Translation] Suspline Media, How the cost of housing in Odessa's new buildings has changed since the beginning of the war: data by district, 5 June 2022

15. [English translation], Rating, Ivano-Frankivsk during the war: the view of local residents and migrants, 19 April 2022.



Displacement from conflict-affected areas

While findings suggest that displacement continued in May following further escalation of the conflict in the Eastern region, an overall decrease in transportation options within and out of eastern regions was observed. Evacuation trains from eastern oblasts decreased during the period 18-31 May, compared to the period 1-14 April. During the period 1-14 April, 403 free-of-charge trains departed from Eastern regions (Map 2), whereas during the period 18-31 May, evacuation trains decreased to 189 (Map 3).¹⁷ The departure hubs operating in late May are Kharkiv, Zaporizhia, Dnipro, Kryvyi Rih, and Pokrovsk was the only remaining departure hub in Donetska oblast.

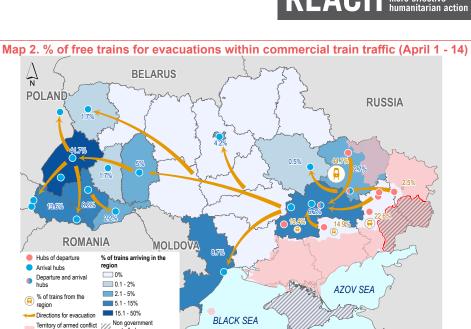
Ukrzaliznytsia railways indicates that the reduction is due to the **decrease in the number of passengers.**¹⁸ Contributing factors could be that stations of Kramatorsk, Slavyansk and Liman have closed, and that many people who intended to leave have already left conflict-affected areas. As a result, people remaining in conflict affected areas have likely faced increased financial and logistical difficulties to leave eastern oblasts, particularly affecting vulnerable groups such as the elderly, disabled, and people with health conditions.¹⁹ According to local authorities, out of the 1,670,000 that lived in Donetska before the fullscale invasion by Russia, approximately 340,000 people currently remain.²⁰ Decrease in passenger demand and train traffic could suggest rising difficulties to access public transport to leave eastern conflictaffected areas.

In addition to a reduction in evacuation trains, government-approved official evacuations via bus or car (green corridors) out of conflict-affected areas and/or non-government-controlled areas have ceased since 6 May (Table 2), following the intensification of the war in the region. Between 17 March – 31 March, 86 green corridors departed from Donetska, Zaporizka, Kharkivska, Luhanska, Poltavska, Kyivska, Sumska, and Khmelnytska oblasts evacuating 65,349 people. Between 1 April – 30 April, 143 green corridors departed from Donetska, Luhanska, Zaporizka oblasts evacuating 52,701 people. Between 1 May - 6 May, only 6 green corridors departed from Donetska and Zaporizka oblasts (settlements of departure: Mariupol, Berdiansk, Manhush, Tokmak, and Vasylivka) and successfully evacuated **394 people**.²¹ In the case of Kherson, as of June 2, the head of the Kherson regional military administration reported that no green corridors had been agreed for evacuations since the Russian invasion on 24 February.²²



In terms of arrival hubs, since late February, Lviv has been the main hub for train arrivals and arrival numbers have remained consistent. During the period 18-31 May, traffic towards Ivano-Frankivsk increased. Moreover, a large percentage increase in train traffic towards Kyiv (from 4% in early April to 21% in late May),²³ confirms reports indicating an increase in IDP arrivals and returns in the capital after the withdrawal of Russian troops.

- 17. Data collected and aggregated by REACH from the official website of Ukrainian railways Ukrzalyznitsia
- 18. Ukrazalyznitsia, Telegram announcement, 14 April 2022, https://t.me/UkrzalInfo/1996
- 19. REACH. Ukraine: Evacuations from Eastern Oblasts. April 2022.
- 20. [English translation] Ukrinform, In Donetsk region, civilians are evacuated daily, 2 June 2022.



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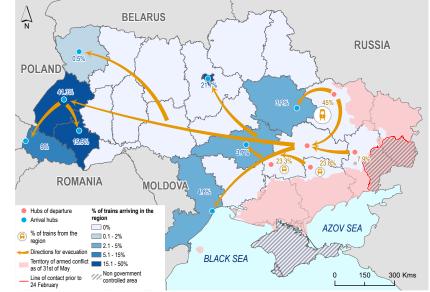


controlled area

24 February

Line of contact prior to

as of 14th of April



21. Figures reported by the telegram channel of the Ukrainian Minister of Reintegration of Temporarily Occupied Territories. REACH monitors the telegram channel to track the government-official evacuations from eastern conflictaffected regions. REACH's monitoring indicates a cessation of officially reported evacuation corridors as of May 6, 2022. [English translation], Ukrinform, The invaders did not allow any children from the Kherson region to be taken out 22. of the "green corridor', 2 June 2022.

23. Data from REACH's collection and aggregation of data from the official website of Ukrainian railways - Ukrzalyznitsia



150

300 Kms



Findings indicate that **displacement drivers** towards Western Ukraine are mainly driven by **presence of relatives and close friends**, among other cited reasons. Ukrainian sociological research group 'Rating' conducted a survey targeting IDPs and local residents in large cities in the Lviv region (2,000 interviews completed 13-23 May) and in Ivano-Frankivsk (1,000 interviews completed 16 April). In **Ivano-Frankivsk**, surveyed IDPs came from central regions (50%), and Eastern regions (38%), and 61% indicated the presence of relatives or friends as their main reason for moving to Ivano-Frankivsk.²⁴ IDPs reported relocating to the **Lviv** region (66% arriving from Eastern Ukraine) due to presence of relatives or close friends (38%), information about availability of temporary accommodation (20%), and organized resettlement opportunities (18%). On **tensions between IDPs and locals**, 61% of surveyed IDPs reported no tensions and 36% indicated some tension. Among locals, 52% indicated some tension, and 42% reported no tensions.²⁵

Employment is often cited as a high need for IDPs. REACH KIs in 95% of assessed settlements cited employment as a main need for IDPs in government-controlled areas.²⁶ Since the start of the war, the International Labour Organization (ILO) reports that an estimated **4.8 million jobs have been lost across Ukraine**,²⁷ underscoring the role of employment as a displacement driver, as well as a potential source of increasing pressure in areas hosting a large proportion of IDPs.

Displacement within non-government controlled areas

Displacement within non-government-controlled areas has also been reported, raising concerns regarding humanitarian access to affected populations.

In REACH's AoK assessment (6-16 May), KIs from **31 (out of 91) settlements** in non-governmentcontrolled areas reported the presence of IDPs in 7 days prior to data collection.²⁸ Of those, KIs in **Kivsharivka, Shevchenkove (Kharkivska oblast), and Berdiansk (Zaporizka oblast),** reported a very large or large influx of newly arrived IDPs. REACH KIs also reported a lot of **restrictions to movement** within and out of assessed settlements in **Donetska and Luhanska oblasts**. In **23% (n=21)** of assessed settlements, KIs also indicated that there were people who had left the settlement since the start of the war and returned to the settlement during 7 days prior to data collection. Most returns occurred in **Kharkivska and Zaporizka oblasts**. These findings must be considered as indicative, and they highlight that internal displacement and returns are also occurring within non-government-controlled areas.

Humanitarian access to these non-government-controlled areas to assist IDPs and populations unable to move has become a concern. International organizations, local organizations and volunteer networks have reportedly faced difficulties accessing non-government-controlled areas to provide aid.²⁹ Where possible, **local counterparts** almost exclusively handle delivery and distribution, putting pressure on local networks that have likely been already strained due to the volatile security context. Access challenges include security of staff, lack of fuel, military checkpoints, and damaged critical infrastructure.³⁰

- 24. [English translation], Rating, Ivano-Frankivsk during the war: the view of local residents and migrants, 19 April 2022.
- 25. [English translation], Rating, Lviv region during the war: the view of local residents and migrants, 31 May 2022.
- 26. For the complete humanitarian needs analysis, please refer to: REACH, Humanitarian Situation Monitoring, June 2022.
- 27. ILO, Nearly 5 million jobs have been lost in Ukraine since the start of the Russian aggression, 11 May 2022
- 28. REACH's complete humanitarian needs analysis in NGCAs can be shared with humanitarian partners upon request.
- 29. ACAPS, Ukraine: Bridging the Humanitarian Response Thematic Report, 25 May 2022.
- 30. ACAPS, Ukraine: Bridging the Humanitarian Response Thematic Report, 25 May 2022.
- 31. New York Times, Sisters Recount Perilous Escape From Mariupol as Russians Closed In, 2 May 2022

Lastly, news sources are reporting **displacement of Ukrainians to and/or via Russia**. In some cases, sources indicate that relocation of Ukrainians to Russia was forced.³¹ UNHCR has reported that border crossings from Ukraine to Russia totaled 1,041,095, as of 1 June 2022.³² According to observations of REACH data collection teams, some IDPs who reported fleeing Ukraine into Russia have been travelling onwards to Poland.

Returns to and within Ukraine

According to IOM, returns increased significantly during May. As of 23 June 2022, for those returning to their place of habitual residence (an estimated 5,547,000 returns), the top destinations are the Northern region (34%), Kyiv city (22%), and the Eastern region (22%).³³

Many people have been returning to Kyiv city and surrounding areas. REACH's KIs (interviewed between 5-15 May) characterised the arrival rate of returning populations in **Kyiv city** and **Chernihivska** oblast as a medium influx. KIs in other assessed oblasts indicated that settlements are facing a small influx of people returning. According to the majority of KIs, people returned mostly from abroad, but also from **Zakarpatska**, **Ivano-Frankivska and Lvivska** oblast.

In **previously conflict-affected areas** on the outskirts of Kyiv, reports indicate that **housing** has caused tensions among residents and people returning to the areas: those with means are starting to pay for their own repairs, while those without money are left dependent on aid groups for shelter. A member of the **Irpin** City Council reported that many people returning to the area were finding their homes destroyed, and encouraged people to wait to return until the local government and aid organizations could scale up housing support and planning.³⁴

In Eastern oblasts, returns seem to be concentrated in **Kharkiv**, with the Kharkiv Oblast State Administration indicating that 2,000 people are retuning daily by train alone.³⁵ As of 3 June, REACH's Situation Overview noted that Kharkiv remained unsafe for return, as frequent shelling and unexploded ordinance still pose significant risks.³⁶ In the southern city **Mykolaiv**, the Mykolaiv Regional Administration urged people to wait before return home due to rising attacks.³⁷ **Returns to conflict-affected areas remain a sensitive and rapidly changing displacement trend.**

A significant proportion of people are also **returning to Ukraine from abroad**. As of June 1, UNHCR reports 2,102,047 border crossings to Ukraine from neighbouring countries.³⁸ The State Border Guard Service of Ukraine reports 25-30,000 people cross into Ukraine daily. On April 16-17, the entrances at the Ukrainian-Polish border exceeded the exits for the first time since February 24.³⁹

Limitations: The accuracy of data on returns to and within Ukraine remains uncertain. This is due difficulties to capture intention of return, pendular movements, perceptions of security situations, and reporting methods. Data on returns risks being inaccurate due to the trend of people crossing the border multiple times for temporary returns or people returning to and within Ukraine but not returning to their place of habitual residence (and therefore still qualify as an IDP).

- 32. UNHCR, Ukraine Refugee Situation Operational Data Portal, June 2022.
- 33. IOM. Internal Displacement Report General Population Survey Round 6 (17 23 June 2022). June 2022
- 34. NBC News, Many in Ukraine lack resources to rebuild after Russia leaves wake of destruction, 19 May 2022
- 35. [English translation] Ukrayinska Pravda, 2,000 people are returning to Kharkiv every day, 15 May 2022
- 36. REACH, Situation Overview: Kharkivska Oblast, June 2022.
- 37. [English translation] Ukrayinska Pravda, Kim urges Mykolaiv residents to be patient with returning home, 1 June 2022.
- 38. UNHCR collation of statistics made available by authorities, Ukraine Refugee Situation Operational Data Portal, June 2022.
- 39. [English translation], Eurointegration, For the first time since February 24, fewer people travel to Poland than to Ukraine, 18

April 2022. As cited in CEDOS, Return of displaced persons and refugees: what influences the decision, 4 May 2022



Push and pull factors for returns to Ukraine

A variety of push and pull factors have reportedly been affecting peoples' decision on whether to return to their place of habitual residence. Frequently cited reasons for return include **pull factors** such as family reunification and perception of safety, and **push factors** include employment, accommodation, access to social security and assistance, and access to documentation.

One of the primary pull factors reported for returning to Ukraine is reportedly to **reunite with family**.⁴⁰ This was echoed through REACH's qualitative observations at selected border crossings in neighbouring countries, which reported 10 out of 108 observations of return for family reunification between 1-31 May 2022. In terms of pull factors, findings also suggest that many people intend to return due to the **perception of safety**. On May 25, REACH reported the perception of safety in area of return was the primary reason of return for respondents travelling from abroad primarily to **Lvivska oblast**, **Kyiv City, and Kyivska oblast**, followed by **Dnipropetrovska and Zakarpatska oblasts**.⁴¹ According to REACH qualitative observations, in early May some respondents had been waiting until after Russia's Victory Day parade on May 9 to decide on whether they would return to Ukraine, due to the risk of further escalation of hostilities.

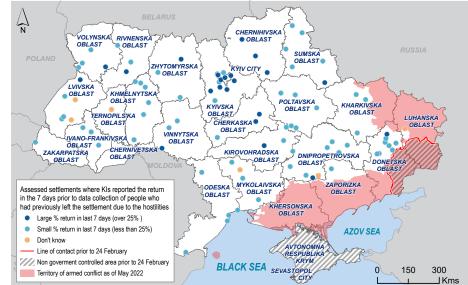
Nevertheless, IOM reported that 37% of people who had returned perceived their location as somewhat unsafe, while 5% perceive it as completely unsafe.⁴² Data has also shown that many people are returning to conflict-affected areas towards the east of the country. The **significant proportion of people returning despite security concerns** indicates that other push factors could outweigh security concerns and push IDPs to return home. Further research could help indicate whether additional humanitarian support during displacement could contribute to mitigating push factors leading to returns to unsafe areas.

Employment reportedly is a push factor contributing returns within Ukraine. In May, the Razumkov Center's survey (a Ukrainian public policy think-tank) indicated that 49.9% of people returning will return to their old workplace, and 27.7% hope to return to their old workplace.⁴³ On April 26, the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine adopted **Resolution 481**, according to which employees, members of executive bodies and heads of economic entities of the public sector cannot work remotely outside Ukraine.⁴⁴ Ukrainian think-tank CEDOS expects that public sector workers who have left Ukraine will be asked to either return or resign.⁴⁵

Findings indicate that **lack of financial resources and limited social security** are also a concern for IDPs and could push additional return movements within Ukraine. Between March and May 2022, all IDPs were entitled to receive UAH 2,000 from the Ukrainian government, and displaced children and people with disabilities UAH 3,000. From May 2022, only IDPs from areas of active hostilities or temporary occupation and those whose homes have been damaged or destroyed will be able to receive government assistance.⁴⁶

Intended length of stay is also a key challenge for local authorities and humanitarian organizations responding to increased returns. Pendular movements are regularly observed at Ukraine's borders.

- 40. REACH Initiative, Situation Overview: Movement of Ukrainians back into Ukraine from Poland, Slovakia, Hungary, Romania and Moldova, 25 May 2022
- 41. REACH Initiative, Situation Overview: Movement of Ukrainians back into Ukraine, 25 May 2022
- 42. IOM. Internal Displacement Report General Population Survey Round 6 (17 23 June 2022). June 2022
- 43. [English translation] Razumkov Centre, <u>Attitudes and Assessments of Ukrainian Refugees Who Return Home (April-May 2022)</u>, 18 May 2022



Map 4: Assessed settlements where KIs reported that people who had previously left the settlement had returned in the 7 days prior to data collection

On May 25, REACH reported that many people returning temporarily intended to visit their homes. Other reasons included visiting family and retrieving supplies or documentation.⁴⁷ For example, according to REACH's qualitative observations many Ukrainians travel temporarily to **Uzghorod** to retrieve documentation, usually passports. Others reported concerns for their visa's 90-day limit in the Schengen area or returned to Ukraine to wait for visas to travel outside the EU.

Lastly, IOM reported that of those reported returning to their place of habitual residence, an estimated 665,000 individuals (**12%**) are considering **leaving their homes again**.⁴⁸ REACH also reported that among those interviewed at border crossings, 35% indicated that they did not know the duration of their stay.⁴⁹ This indicates continued volatility for returns to and within Ukraine.

In conclusion, given the rapidly changing conflict, internal displacement and returns trends across Ukraine are evolving quickly. Evidence-based research and information on displacement is necessary to contribute to filling information gaps and to support the humanitarian response. This brief has aimed to present primary and secondary data sources, identify some key trends, and indicate areas in need of further research.

45. [English translation] CEDOS, <u>Return of displaced persons and refugees: what influences the decision</u>, 4 May 2022

- 47. REACH Initiative, <u>Situation Overview</u>: <u>Movement of Ukrainians back into Ukraine</u>, 25 May 2022
- 48. IOM. Internal Displacement Report General Population Survey Round 6 (17 23 June 2022). June 2022
- 49. REACH Initiative, Situation Overview: Movement of Ukrainians back into Ukraine, 25 May 2022

^{44. [}English Translation], Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine, <u>Decree</u>, <u>26 April 2022</u>. <u>Some issues of organization of work</u> of employees of economic entities of the public sector of the economy during martial law, April 2022.

^{46. [}English translation] CEDOS, Return of displaced persons and refugees: what influences the decision, 4 May 2022



Endnotes

1. REACH's HSM survey tool targets key informants (NGO workers, local authorities, technical specialists) who provide insights at the settlement/community level on the humanitarian situation in 22 oblasts across Ukraine.

2. This geographic coverage includes settlements in Donetska, Kharkivska, Khersonska, Luhanska, Mykolaivska, and Zaporizka oblasts.

3. IOM. Internal Displacement Report - General Population Survey Round 6 (17 - 23 June 2022). June 2022

4. REACH. <u>Ukraine: Evacuations from Eastern Oblasts</u>. April 2022.

5. Figures reported by the telegram channel of the Ukrainian Minister of Reintegration of Temporarily Occupied Territories. REACH monitors the telegram channel to track the government-official evacuations from eastern conflictaffected regions

- 6. IOM. Internal Displacement Report General Population Survey Round 6 (17 23 June 2022). June 2022
- 7. IOM. Internal Displacement Report General Population Survey Round 6 (17 23 June 2022). June 2022

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- 19. REACH. Ukraine: Evacuations from Eastern Oblasts. April 2022.
- 20. [English translation] Ukrinform, In Donetsk region, civilians are evacuated daily, 2 June 2022.

21. Figures reported by the telegram channel of the Ukrainian Minister of Reintegration of Temporarily Occupied Territories. REACH monitors the telegram channel to track the government-official evacuations from eastern conflict-affected regions. REACH's monitoring indicates a cessation of officially reported evacuation corridors as of May 6, 2022.

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About REACH

REACH facilitates the development of information tools and products that enhance the capacity of aid actors to make evidence-based decisions in emergency, recovery and development contexts. The methodologies used by REACH include primary data collection and in-depth analysis, and all activities are conducted through inter-agency aid coordination mechanisms. REACH is a joint initiative of IMPACT Initiatives, ACTED and the United Nations Institute for Training and Research - Operational Satellite Applications Programme (UNITAR-UNOSAT). For more information please visit our website: www.reach-initiative.org. You can contact us directly at: geneva@reach-initiative.org.