

Context & Methodology

5.8 million refugees have fled Ukraine since the escalation of conflict on 24 February 2022. From among them, 3,143,550 have been displaced to Poland (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, 5,105 interviews were conducted with people crossing from Ukraine into Poland. 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 4 May. 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 96%
Male 4%



Nationality of the respondent

Ukrainian 99%
Russian 1%



Respondents reporting travelling with the following population groups¹

77% respondents travelling with children of which 20% were under 5

11% respondents travelling with older persons (65+ years of age)

4% travelling with persons with disabilities

Most reported pre-displacement employment status of respondents²

Wholesale and retail trade 19%
Education (including students and teachers) 12%
Social services 9%
Retired 8%

Number of people traveling with respondents

Alone 14%
1 - 4 75%
5 + 11%



Origins and Arrivals

100% of respondents reported holding a passport

Reasons for leaving the area of origin^{1,3}

Active conflict (incl. troops) in the settlement 51%
Damage in or near the settlement 44%
Worry that active fighting will come to settlement in next days 28%

Most frequent regions (oblasts) of origin⁴

Kyiv 19%
Kharkiv 13%
Donetsk 10%
Dnipropetrovsk 10%
Lviv 7%

Reason for selecting border crossing²

Chose randomly 32%
Someone else in the group made the decision 23%
Most direct route to border 23%
Most convenient for future plans 12%

Most frequently reported modalities of border crossing²

Bus 40%
Foot 31%
Train 16%
Car 13%

Intentions

Top 5 intended destination countries of respondents

Poland 48%
Germany 17%
Spain 5%
Denmark 3%
France 3%

53% of respondents intending to stay in Poland plan to stay in the country as long as conflict in Ukraine continues

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

Reported drivers for selection of destination country by respondents^{1,2}

Pre-displacement linkages to the location of arrival (for example family or friends) 39%
Destination close to Ukraine 31%
Advised by reception center 17%
Meeting displaced family or friends 8%

Reported accommodation type in destination country by respondents

Staying with family/friend 27%
Found host through social media/volunteer 27%
Rented accommodation 16%
Don't know yet 9%
Accommodation provided by authorities 8%

¹Multiple responses permitted. The sum might exceed 100%. ² Top four choices indicated by respondents. ³ Top three choices indicated by respondents. ⁴ Top five choices indicated by respondents.