

Context & Methodology

More than 4.7 million refugees from Ukraine have been recorded across Europe and more than 2.8 million refugees from Ukraine have been registered for temporary protection or similar national protection schemes in Europe as of 25 May 2022 (UNHCR). Since 28 February, a total of 2,164,500¹ movements back into Ukraine from the Western border have taken place. The number of border crossings out of Ukraine into neighboring countries is still declining and the number of crossings back is now higher.

Movement back to Ukraine may be pendular, and do not necessarily indicate sustainable returns as the situation across Ukraine remains highly volatile and unpredictable.²

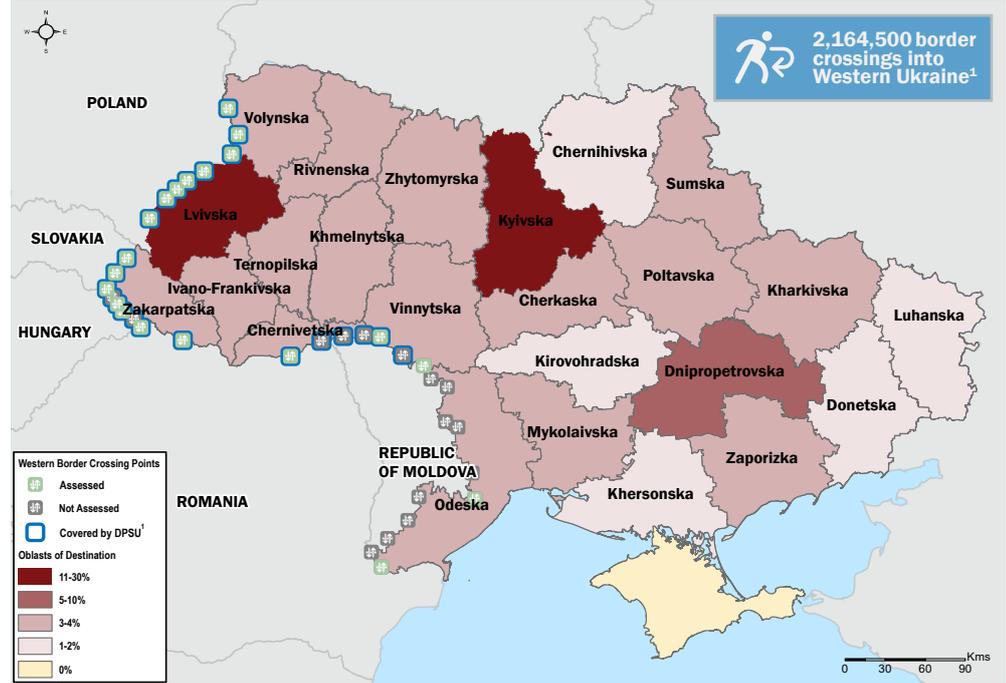
In May 2022, as part of the longitudinal study conducted by IMPACT, 709 refugees who left Ukraine were contacted to follow up interviews. 6 out of 100 that responded to a second follow up reported to have returned to Ukraine six weeks after having first left the country.³

To understand the drivers of such movements and people's intentions, 3,005 interviews were conducted with people crossing back to Ukraine from Poland, Slovakia, Hungary, Romania and Moldova. Interviews were conducted in neighboring countries at checkpoints, reception centers and railway stations in the vicinity of the Ukrainian border, and began on 3 April. This factsheet includes cumulative responses from 3 April to 25 May.

Interviewees were selected among individuals reportedly wanting to enter Ukraine purposively to gain a broader understanding of experiences and intentions. The sample is not statistically representative and results should therefore only be considered as indicative.

The map on the right shows assessed checkpoints, as well as percentage of respondents by reported oblast/area of destination.

Percentage of respondents by intended oblast of destination



Information on movement back to Ukraine

86% of respondents reported going to their area of origin in Ukraine

Sample distribution, by country of departure

Country	Count	Percentage
Poland	2,505	83%
Slovakia	242	8%
Romania	172	6%
Moldova	64	2%
Hungary	22	1%

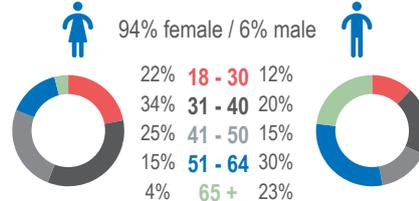
Reasons for returning⁴

Perception of safety in area of return	51%
Temporary visit to home	14%
Reunite with family	11%
Temporary visit to see family	7%
Temporary visit to get supplies	5%
Support family members to evacuate	3%

Intended duration of stay⁵

1 - 2 days	5%
3 days - one week	6%
One week - one month	5%
More than one month	1%
Permanent return	48%
Don't know	35%

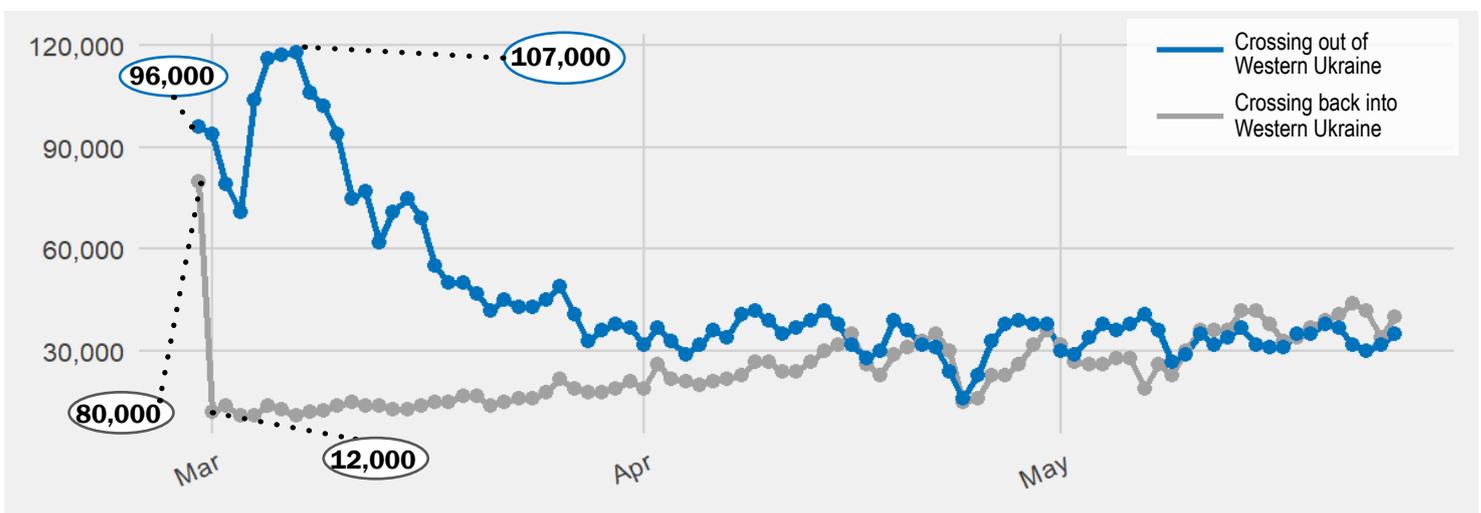
Proportion of age/gender of interviewees



Proportion of respondents reported to be travelling with the following vulnerable groups⁴

Children 0 to 5 years	17%
Children 6 to 18 years	45%
Elderly 65+ year	7%
Pregnant and lactating women	1%
Persons with disabilities	2%

Movement trends out of and back to Western Ukraine¹



¹Crossing numbers of Ukrainian nationals recorded by the State Border Guard Service in Western Ukraine for 23 border crossings since 28 February (DPSU)

²Does not consider multiple movements of the same individual. ³IMPACT KI had multiple answer options (total may be >100%) ⁵Results only include 2,266 interviews.

Situation Overview: Movement of Ukrainians back into Ukraine from Poland, Slovakia, Hungary, Romania and Moldova

i Top Oblasts of intended destination

📍 Lvivska Oblast (876 interviewees)

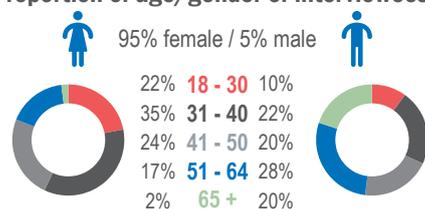
Sample distribution, by country of departure

Poland	861	98%
Romania	8	1%
Slovakia	6	0.9%
Hungary	1	0.1%

Reasons for returning³

Perception of safety in area of return	49%
Temporary visit to home	11%
Temporary visit to get supplies	8%
Reunite with family	8%
Temporary visit to see family	7%

Proportion of age/gender of interviewees



Proportion of respondents reported to be travelling with the following vulnerable groups⁴

Children 0 to 5 years	8%
Children 6 to 18 years	27%
Elderly 65+ year	4%
Persons with disabilities	1%

📍 Kyiv City & Kyivska Oblast (609 interviewees)

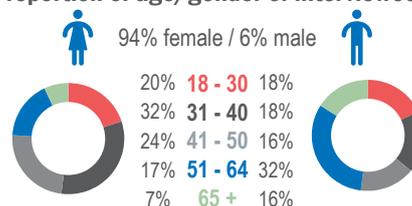
Sample distribution, by country of departure

Poland	449	74%
Slovakia	89	15%
Romania	47	8%
Moldova	15	2%
Hungary	9	1%

Reasons for returning³

Perception of safety in area of return	65%
Reunite with family	10%
Temporary visit to home	9%
Temporary visit to see family	6%
To work in Ukraine	4%

Proportion of age/gender of interviewees



Proportion of respondents reported to be travelling with the following vulnerable groups⁴

Children 0 to 5 years	14%
Children 6 to 18 years	46%
Elderly 65+ year	9%
Persons with disabilities	2%

📍 Dnipropetrovska Oblast (211 interviewees)

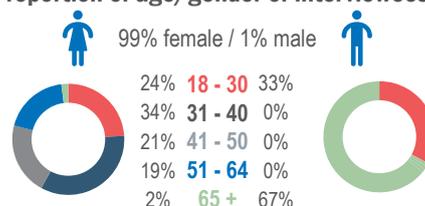
Sample distribution, by country of departure

Poland	181	86%
Slovakia	22	10%
Romania	5	2%
Hungary	2	1%
Moldova	1	1%

Reasons for returning³

Perception of safety in area of return	46%
Temporary visit to home	20%
Reunite with family	7%
Support family to evacuate	5%

Proportion of age/gender of interviewees



Proportion of respondents reported to be travelling with the following vulnerable groups⁴

Children 0 to 5 years	22%
Children 6 to 18 years	53%
Elderly 65+ year	7%
Pregnant and lactating women	1%

📍 Zakarpatska Oblast (115 interviewees)

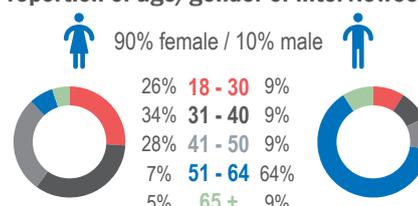
Sample distribution, by country of departure

Slovakia	55	48%
Poland	31	27%
Romania	20	17%
Hungary	7	6%
Moldova	2	2%

Reasons for returning³

Temporary visit to get supplies	44%
Perception of safety in area of return	35%
Reunite with family	5%
Temporary visit to see family	5%

Proportion of age/gender of interviewees



Proportion of respondents reported to be travelling with the following vulnerable groups⁴

Children 0 to 5 years	18%
Children 6 to 18 years	35%
Elderly 65+ year	10%
Persons with disabilities	2%

⁴KI had multiple answer options (total may be >100%)