Refugee Arrivals from Ukraine into the Republic of Moldova

Context & Methodology

More than 4.7 million refugees have fled Ukraine since the escalation of conflict on 24 February 2022. From among them, 417,650 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, 1,275 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 13 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	995	**82%**
Male	213	**18%**

Respondents reporting travelling with the following population groups[1]

Children 0-5 years of age	23%
Children 6-18 years of age	46%
Elderly (65+ years of age)	9%
Pregnant and lactating women	0%
Persons with disabilities	3%
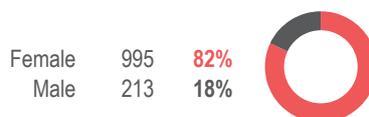
Nationality of the respondent

Ukrainian	**91%**
Moldovan	**4%**
Russian	**3%**
Other	**3%**

Number of people traveling with respondents

Alone	**21%**
1 - 4	**70%**
5 +	**8%**
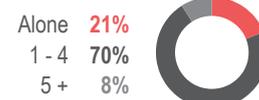
Most reported pre-displacement employment status of respondents[2]

Agriculture	**14%**
Education*	**13%**
Wholesale and retail trade	**12%**
Other	**10%**
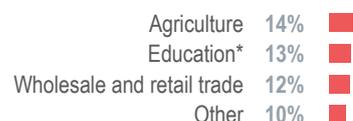
*including students and teachers

Origins and Arrivals

100% of respondents reported holding a passport

Most frequent regions (oblasts) of origin[2]

Mykolaiv	505	40%
Odesa	408	32%
Kyiv	105	8%
Vinnytsia	60	5%
Donestk	45	4%

Most frequently reported modalities of border crossing[3]

Foot	739	**61%**
Bus	358	**30%**
Car	106	**9%**

Reasons for leaving the area of origin[1, 3]

Active conflict (incl. troops) in the settlement	59%
Damage in or near my settlement	40%
Worry that active fightings will come to the settlement	12%
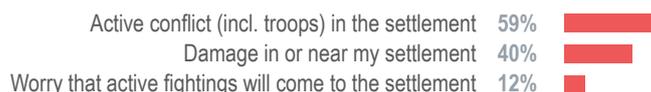
Reason for selecting border crossing[3]

Most direct route to border	43%
Most convenient for future intentions	36%
Shorter queues at the crossing	13%
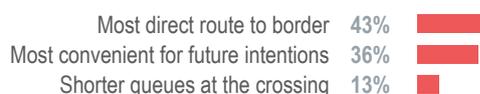
Intentions

Top 3 intended destination countries of respondents

Moldova	**41%**
Germany	**16%**
Romania	**8%**

35% 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	72%
Meet family/friends who already displaced there	16%
Advised by reception center	8%
Advised by family	5%
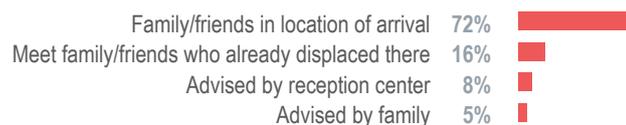
Reported accommodation type in destination country by respondents

Staying with family/friend	69%
Rented accommodation	10%
Other accommodation provided by authorities	7%
Don't know where to stay	6%
Collective centre	4%
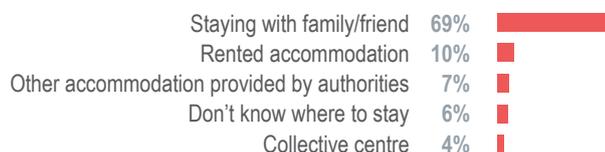
[1] Multiple responses permitted. The sum might exceed 100%. [2] Top four choices indicated by respondents. [3] Top three choices indicated by respondents.

UNHCR The UN Refugee Agency

REACH Informing more effective humanitarian action