Refugee Arrivals from Ukraine into the Republic of Moldova

Context & Methodology

More than 4 million refugees have fled Ukraine since the escalation of conflict on 24 February 2022. From among them, 388,837 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, 882 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 29 March. 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.

Intentions

Top 3 intended destination countries of respondents

- Moldova: 38%
- Germany: 17%
- Romania: 8%

63% 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

- Family/friends in location of arrival: 74%
- Meet family/friends who already displaced there: 16%
- Advised by reception center: 5%
- Advised by family: 4%

Reported accommodation type in destination country by respondents

- Staying with family/friend: 69%
- Rented accommodation: 11%
- Don’t know where to stay: 7%
- Other accommodation provided by authorities: 6%
- Collective centre: 3%

 Origins and Arrivals

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Reasons for leaving the area of origin

- Active conflict (incl. troops) in the settlement: 64%
- Damage in or near my settlement: 41%
- Worry that active fightings will come to the settlement: 7%

Most frequent regions (oblasts) of origin

- Mykolaiv: 354 (41%)
- Odesa: 335 (38%)
- Kyiv: 62 (7%)
- Vinnytsia: 33 (4%)

Reason for selecting border crossing

- Most direct route to border: 51%
- Most convenient for future intentions: 31%
- Shorter queues at the crossing: 13%

Most frequently reported modalities of border crossing

- Foot: 466 (58%)
- Bus: 249 (31%)
- Car: 85 (11%)

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