Refugee Arrivals from Ukraine into the Republic of Moldova

Update as of 06.04.2022

Context & Methodology

More than 4.3 million refugees have fled Ukraine since the escalation of conflict on 24 February 2022. From among them, 401,704 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, 1,066 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.

Demography

Gender of the respondent

- Female 825 (83%)
- Male 174 (17%)

Nationality of the respondent

- Ukrainian 92%
- Russian 3%
- Other 3%
- Moldovan 3%

Number of people traveling with respondents

- Alone 19%
- 1 - 4 72%
- 5 + 9%

Most reported pre-displacement employment status of respondents

- Education* 15%
- Agriculture 14%
- Wholesale and retail trade 13%
- Hairdressing/beauty salon 5%

*including students and teachers

Origins and Arrivals

99% of respondents reported holding a passport

Most frequent regions (oblasts) of origin

- Mykolaiv 432 (41%)
- Odesa 362 (34%)
- Kyiv 83 (8%)
- Vinnytsia 49 (5%)

Most frequently reported modalities of border crossing

- Foot 599 (60%)
- Bus 298 (30%)
- Car 97 (10%)

Reasons for leaving the area of origin

- Active conflict (incl. troops) in the settlement 60%
- Damage in or near my settlement 41%
- Worry that active fightings will come to the settlement 10%

Reason for selecting border crossing

- Most direct route to border 48%
- Most convenient for future intentions 32%
- Shorter queues at the crossing 16%

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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%

Intentions

Top 3 intended destination countries of respondents

- Moldova 39%
- Germany 16%
- Romania 8%

47% of respondents intending to stay in Moldova don’t know how long they will stay in the country

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