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

Update as of 19.04.2022

Context & Methodology

More than 5 million refugees have fled Ukraine since the escalation of conflict on 24 February 2022 (UNHCR). Starting from 28 February, a total of 1,025,500 Ukrainian nationals crossing into Ukraine through the Western border has been reported. Although the number of border crossings out of Ukraine into neighbouring countries is still higher, this trend is tailing off.

The reported numbers of individual crossings back into Ukraine are not necessarily “returnees” and this cannot draw conclusions yet on definitive trends. These movements can be pendular considering the situation remains highly volatile and unpredictable.

To understand the drivers of such movement and intentions, 518 interviews were conducted with people crossing to Ukraine from Poland, Slovakia, Hungary, Romania and Moldova. Interviews were conducted in neighbouring countries at western border checkpoints and reception centers, including railway stations, and began on 3 April. This factsheet includes cumulative responses from 3 April to 19 April.

Interviewees were selected purposively to gain a broader understanding of experiences and intentions, while sample is not statistically representative, results should therefore be considered indicative of short/long-term Ukrainian movement back.

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

Information on movement back to Ukraine

84% of respondents reported returning to their area of origin in Ukraine

Sample distribution, by country of departure

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Number</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Poland</td>
<td>399</td>
<td>77%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Romania</td>
<td>48</td>
<td>9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Moldova</td>
<td>42</td>
<td>8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Slovakia</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hungary</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>1%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Reasons for returning^2

- Perception of safety in area of return: 32%
- Reunite with family: 31%
- Temporary (shopping, bring family, visit, etc.): 20%
- No job/lack of employment opportunities in neighbouring country: 5%
- No housing/difficulty finding housing in neighbouring country: 5%

Proportion of age/gender of interviewees

- 20% 18 - 30
- 40% 31 - 40
- 25% 41 - 50
- 13% 51 - 64
- 2% 65 +

Proportion of respondents reported to be travelling with following vulnerable groups^2

- Children 0 to 5 years: 7%
- Children 6 to 18 years: 29%
- Elderly 65+ year: 6%
- Pregnant and lactating women: 1%
- Persons with disabilities: 1%

Trends of movement back to - out of Western Ukraine^1

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Month</th>
<th>Crossing out of Western Ukraine</th>
<th>Crossing back into Western Ukraine</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mar 01</td>
<td>96,000</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mar 15</td>
<td>107,000</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Apr 01</td>
<td></td>
<td>32,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Apr 15</td>
<td></td>
<td>39,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May 01</td>
<td>35,000</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May 15</td>
<td>29,000</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

^2 KI had multiple answer options (total may be >100%)
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Top Oblasts of intended destinations

Lvivska Oblast (218 interviewees)

Sample distribution, by country of departure
- Poland: 211 (97%)
- Romania: 5 (2%)
- Slovakia: 1 (0.5%)
- Hungary: 1 (0.5%)

Reasons for returning
- Perception of safety in area of return: 39%
- Temporary (shopping, bring family, visit, etc.): 29%
- Reunite with family: 20%
- No housing/difficulty finding housing in neighbouring country: 4%
- No job/lack of employment opportunities in neighbouring country: 2%

Proportion of age/gender of interviewees
- 74% female / 26% male
- 18-30: 31% - 40: 29% - 51-64: 14% - 65+: 2%

Proportion of respondents reported to be travelling with following vulnerable groups
- Children 0 to 5 years: 5%
- Children 6 to 18 years: 25%
- Elderly 65+ year: 4%
- Persons with disabilities: 1%

Odeska Oblast (32 interviewees)

Sample distribution, by country of departure
- Poland: 21 (66%)
- Romania: 11 (34%)

Reasons for returning
- Reunite with family: 50%
- Temporary (shopping, bring family, visit, etc.): 29%
- Perception of safety in area of return: 22%
- No job/lack of employment opportunities in neighbouring country: 6%
- No housing/difficulty finding housing in neighbouring country: 6%

Proportion of age/gender of interviewees
- 78% female / 22% male
- 18-30: 13% - 31-40: 29% - 41-50: 29% - 51-64: 29% - 65+: 0%

Vinnytska Oblast (31 interviewees)

Sample distribution, by country of departure
- Moldova: 16 (51%)
- Poland: 10 (32%)
- Romania: 5 (16%)

Reasons for returning
- Reunite with family: 42%
- Perception of safety in area of return: 32%
- No job/lack of employment opportunities in neighbouring country: 6%
- No housing/difficulty finding housing in neighbouring country: 10%

Proportion of age/gender of interviewees
- 74% female / 26% male