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

Context & Methodology

More than 5.4 million refugees have fled Ukraine since 24 February 2022 (UNHCR). Since 28 February, a total of 1,257,500 Ukrainians have reportedly crossed the Western border into Ukraine. Although the number of border crossings out of Ukraine into neighbouring countries is still higher, this trend is declining.

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

To understand the drivers of such movements and people’s intentions, 846 interviews were conducted with people crossing to Ukraine from Poland, Slovakia, Hungary, Romania and Moldova. Interviews were conducted in neighbouring 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 27 April.

Interviewees were selected 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.

### Information on movement back to Ukraine

83% of respondents reported returning to their area of origin in Ukraine

#### Sample distribution, by country of departure

- Poland: 638 (75%)
- Romania: 112 (13%)
- Moldova: 48 (6%)
- Slovakia: 45 (5%)
- Hungary: 3 (1%)

#### Reasons for returning

- Reunite with family: 33%
- Perception of safety in area of return: 33%
- Temporary visit to get supplies: 9%
- Temporary visit to see family: 6%
- No housing/difficulty finding housing in neighbouring country: 5%
- Support family members to evacuate: 3%

#### Proportion of age/gender of interviewees

- 21-40%: 17%
- 11-20%: 40%
- 6-10%: 25%
- 1-5%: 15%
- 0%: 3%

#### Proportion of respondents reported to be travelling with the following vulnerable groups

- Children 0 to 5 years: 8%
- Children 6 to 18 years: 29%
- Elderly 65+ year: 6%
- Pregnant and lactating women: 1%
- Persons with disabilities: 2%

### Movement trends out of and back to Western Ukraine

- Crossing out of Western Ukraine: 80,000 (Mar 01) → 12,000 (Mar 15) → 107,000 (Apr 01) → 35,000 (Apr 15) → 39,000 (Mar 01)
- Crossing back into Western Ukraine: 16,000 (Mar 01) → 26,000 (Mar 15)

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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 destination

##### Lvivska Oblast (320 interviewees)

**Sample distribution, by country of departure**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Count</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Poland</td>
<td>309</td>
<td>96%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Romania</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Slovakia</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>0.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hungary</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0.5%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Reasons for returning**

- Perception of safety in area of return: 39%
- Temporary visit to get supplies: 22%
- Reunite with family: 20%
- Temporary visit to see family: 5%
- No housing/difficulty finding housing in neighbouring country: 4%

**Proportion of age/gender of interviewees**

- 94% female / 6% male
- 17% 18 - 30
- 38% 31 - 40
- 24% 41 - 50
- 19% 51 - 64
- 2% 65+

**Proportion of respondents reported to be travelling with the following vulnerable groups**

- Children 0 to 5 years: 4%
- Children 6 to 18 years: 23%
- Elderly 65+ year: 4%
- Persons with disabilities: 1%

##### Kyiv City & Kyivska Oblast (136 interviewees)

**Sample distribution, by country of departure**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Count</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Poland</td>
<td>78</td>
<td>57%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Romania</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Moldova</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>11%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Slovakia</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>11%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hungary</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Reasons for returning**

- Reunite with family: 39%
- Perception of safety in area of return: 36%
- No job/lack of employment opportunities in neighbouring country: 5%
- Temporary visit to see family: 4%

**Proportion of age/gender of interviewees**

- 65% female / 15% male
- 17% 18 - 30
- 39% 31 - 40
- 26% 41 - 50
- 15% 51 - 64
- 3% 65+

**Proportion of respondents reported to be travelling with the following vulnerable groups**

- Children 0 to 5 years: 10%
- Children 6 to 18 years: 35%
- Elderly 65+ year: 9%
- Persons with disabilities: 2%

##### Odeska Oblast (62 interviewees)

**Sample distribution, by country of departure**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Count</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Poland</td>
<td>39</td>
<td>63%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Romania</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>37%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Reasons for returning**

- Reunite with family: 45%
- Perception of safety in area of return: 24%
- Support family member to evacuate: 13%
- No housing/difficulty finding housing in neighbouring country: 6%

**Proportion of age/gender of interviewees**

- 77% female / 23% male
- 17% 18 - 30
- 40% 31 - 40
- 33% 41 - 50
- 10% 51 - 64
- 0% 65+

**Proportion of respondents reported to be travelling with the following vulnerable groups**

- Children 0 to 5 years: 8%
- Children 6 to 18 years: 31%
- Elderly 65+ year: 3%
- Pregnant and lactating women: 2%
- Persons with disabilities: 3%

##### Ivano-Frankivska Oblast (43 interviewees)

**Sample distribution, by country of departure**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Count</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Poland</td>
<td>41</td>
<td>95%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Romania</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Reasons for returning**

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

**Proportion of age/gender of interviewees**

- 97% female / 3% male
- 17% 18 - 30
- 31% 31 - 40
- 28% 41 - 50
- 21% 51 - 64
- 2% 65+

**Proportion of respondents reported to be travelling with the following vulnerable groups**

- Children 0 to 5 years: 7%
- Children 6 to 18 years: 40%
- Elderly 65+ year: 5%
- Persons with disabilities: 2%

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