Refugee Arrivals from Ukraine into Poland

Context & Methodology

More than 6 million refugees have fled Ukraine since the escalation of conflict on 24 February 2022. From among them, 3,294,723 have been displaced to Poland (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, 7,016 interviews were conducted with people crossing from Ukraine into Poland. 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 11 May. 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

Respondents reporting travelling with the following population groups

- 78% respondents travelling with children of which 21% were under 5
- 10% respondents travelling with older persons (65+ years of age)
- 4% travelling with persons with disabilities

Nationality of the respondent

- Ukrainian 99%
- Russian 1%

Most reported pre-displacement employment status of respondents

- Wholesale and retail trade 18%
- Education (including students and teachers) 11%
- Retired 9%
- Social services 8%

Number of people traveling with respondents

- Alone 14%
- 1 - 4 75%
- 5+ 11%

Origins and Arrivals

100% of respondents reported holding a passport

Reasons for leaving the area of origin

- Active conflict (incl. troops) in the settlement 46%
- Damage in or near the settlement 45%
- Worry that active fighting will come to settlement in next days 31%

Reason for selecting border crossing

- Chose randomly 31%
- Someone else in the group made the decision 22%
- Most direct route to border 22%
- Most convenient for future plans 14%

Most frequent regions (oblasts) of origin

- Kyiv 18%
- Kharkiv 12%
- Dnipropetrovsk 11%
- Donetsk 9%
- Lviv 7%

Most frequently reported modalities of border crossing

- Bus 40%
- Foot 29%
- Train 17%
- Car 14%

Intention

Top 5 intended destination countries of respondents

- Poland 48%
- Germany 16%
- Spain 5%
- Denmark 3%
- France 3%

52% of respondents intending to stay in Poland plan to stay in the country as long as conflict in Ukraine continues

32% of respondents intending to stay in Poland don’t know how long they will stay in the country