

**270 INTERVIEWS**



**3 TRAIN STATIONS**

- BUDAPEST NYUGATI
- BUDAPEST KELETI
- ZÁHONY

**MAIN FINDINGS**

- Women constituted 73% of respondents
- The largest age group was between 18-29 years old (37%)
- The 16% TCNs mostly originated from India (55%) and Nigeria (23%)
- The most common areas of origin were Zakarpatska (25%), Kyivska (13%) and the City of Kyiv (10%)
- 81% of respondents returned to the same area in Ukraine
- Among the 19% crossing back to different locations, the preferred destinations were Zakarpatska (55%), the City of Kyiv (20%) and Lvivska (8%)
- Out of Ukraine, respondents stayed in Europe (48%), Hungary (46%) and other locations (6%)
- 43% went back to Ukraine with the same group they fled with, and 49% of respondents had crossed back to Ukraine only once since the start of the war
- 71% declared staying in their homes in Ukraine
- 67% returned for a short visit, mostly to meet with family (60%) and collect personal belongings (49%)
- 31% planned to stay in Ukraine, mostly for family reunification (45%), care responsibilities (25%) and improved situation in the place of origin (20%)
- Financial support (36%) and documentation, consular and legal services (23%) were the main needs of respondents

**BACKGROUND**

Since 24 February 2022, refugees from Ukraine and Third Country Nationals (TCNs) have been fleeing to neighbouring countries as a result of the war. 33,446 refugees from Ukraine and TCNs were registered in Hungary as of 10 January 2022, according to [UNHCR and the Hungarian Government](#).

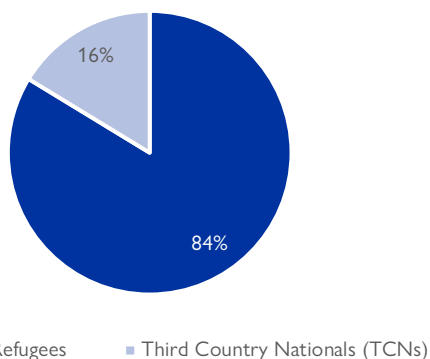
This report is based on a survey on profiles, displacement patterns and needs, launched by IOM's Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM). All interviews were conducted face-to-face by IOM's DTM trained enumerators with adult refugees and TCNs crossing back to Ukraine. The analysis is based on 270 surveys collected between 01 and 31 December 2022.

Interviews were carried out in various locations, such as Budapest (21) and Záhony – Szabolcs-Szatmár-Bereg County (249), at train stations.

*This sample is not representative of all persons crossing back to Ukraine from Hungary, and results should only be considered as indicative.*

**DEMOGRAPHIC PROFILES**

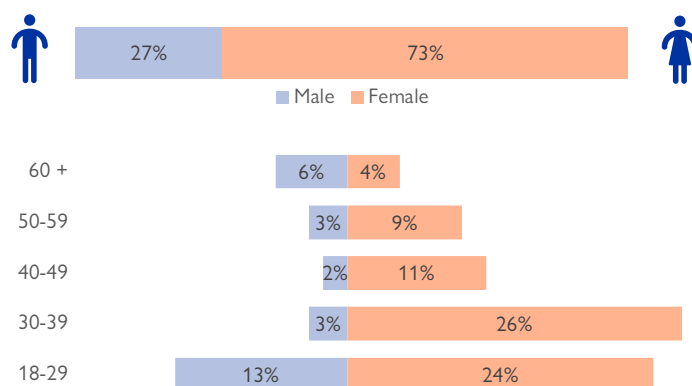
Figure 1: Ukrainian refugees and TCNs



The majority of respondents (84%) were refugees from Ukraine. Sixteen per cent were TCNs, originating from: India (55%); Nigeria (23%); Pakistan (5%); China (4%); Cyprus (2%); Georgia (2%); Ghana (2%); Sudan (2%); Zambia (2%); and Morocco (2%).

Figure 2: Respondents by gender and age groups

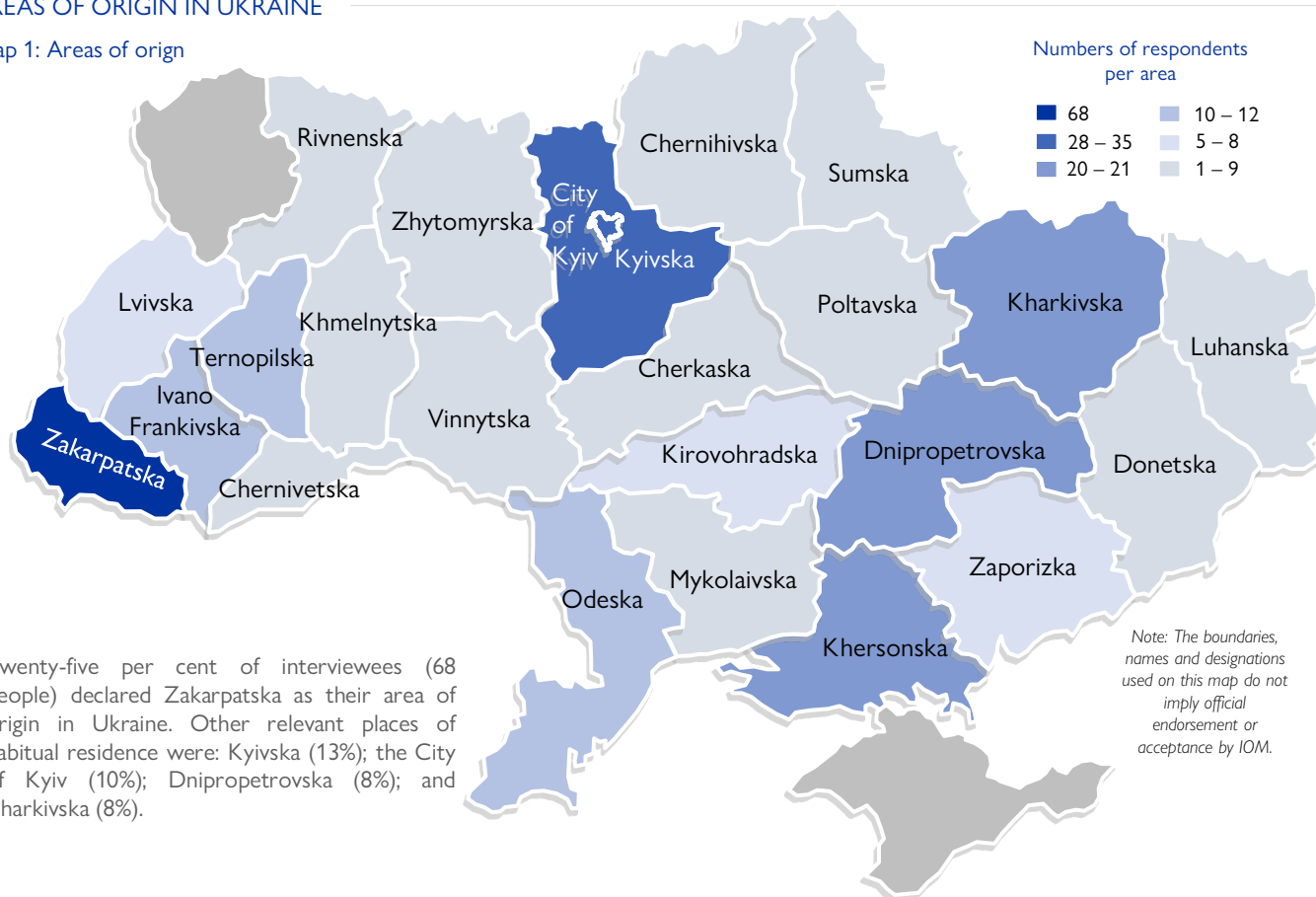
Women constituted 73 per cent of the interviewed population, while men represented the 27 per cent. Among the age groups, survey respondents between 18-29, 30-39 and 40-49 years old were at 37, 29 and 13 per cent each, while interviewees aged 50-59 and 60 and above were 12 and 10 per cent respectively.



*Note: The total sum is slightly higher than 100 as the numbers were rounded, avoiding decimals*

AREAS OF ORIGIN IN UKRAINE

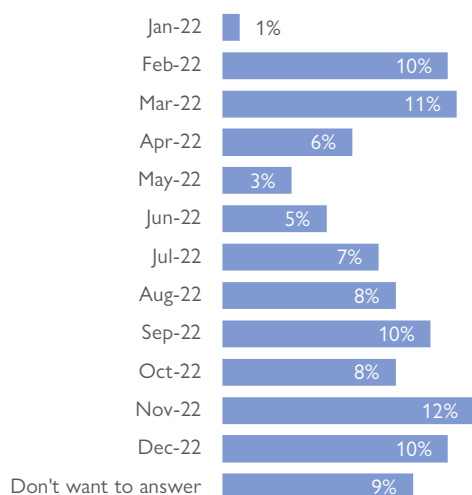
Map 1: Areas of origin



Twenty-five per cent of interviewees (68 people) declared Zakarpatska as their area of origin in Ukraine. Other relevant places of habitual residence were: Kyivska (13%); the City of Kyiv (10%); Dnipropetrovska (8%); and Kharkivska (8%).

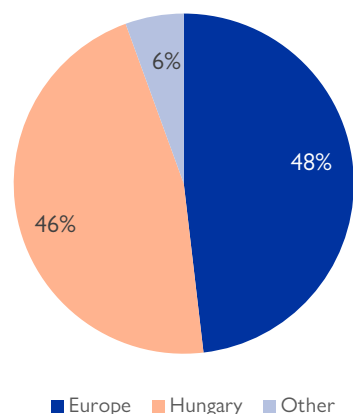
WHEN RESPONDENTS LEFT UKRAINE AND WHERE THEY STAYED

Figure 3: Period of departure from Ukraine



Respondents who left Ukraine for war/pre-war-related events (91%) exited in similar numbers throughout the year. For those who state they didn't leave due to the conflict (8%), the average month of departure was November 2022.

Figure 4: Location of stay since exit from Ukraine



Once exited Ukraine, 48 per cent of respondents declared staying in Europe, mostly Austria (26%) and Germany (20%). Forty-six per cent remained in Hungary, and six per cent went to India.

In Hungary, sixty-one per cent stayed in Budapest, followed by Szabolcs-Szatmár-Bereg County (14%).

AREAS OF RETURN IN UKRAINE

Map 2: Area of return

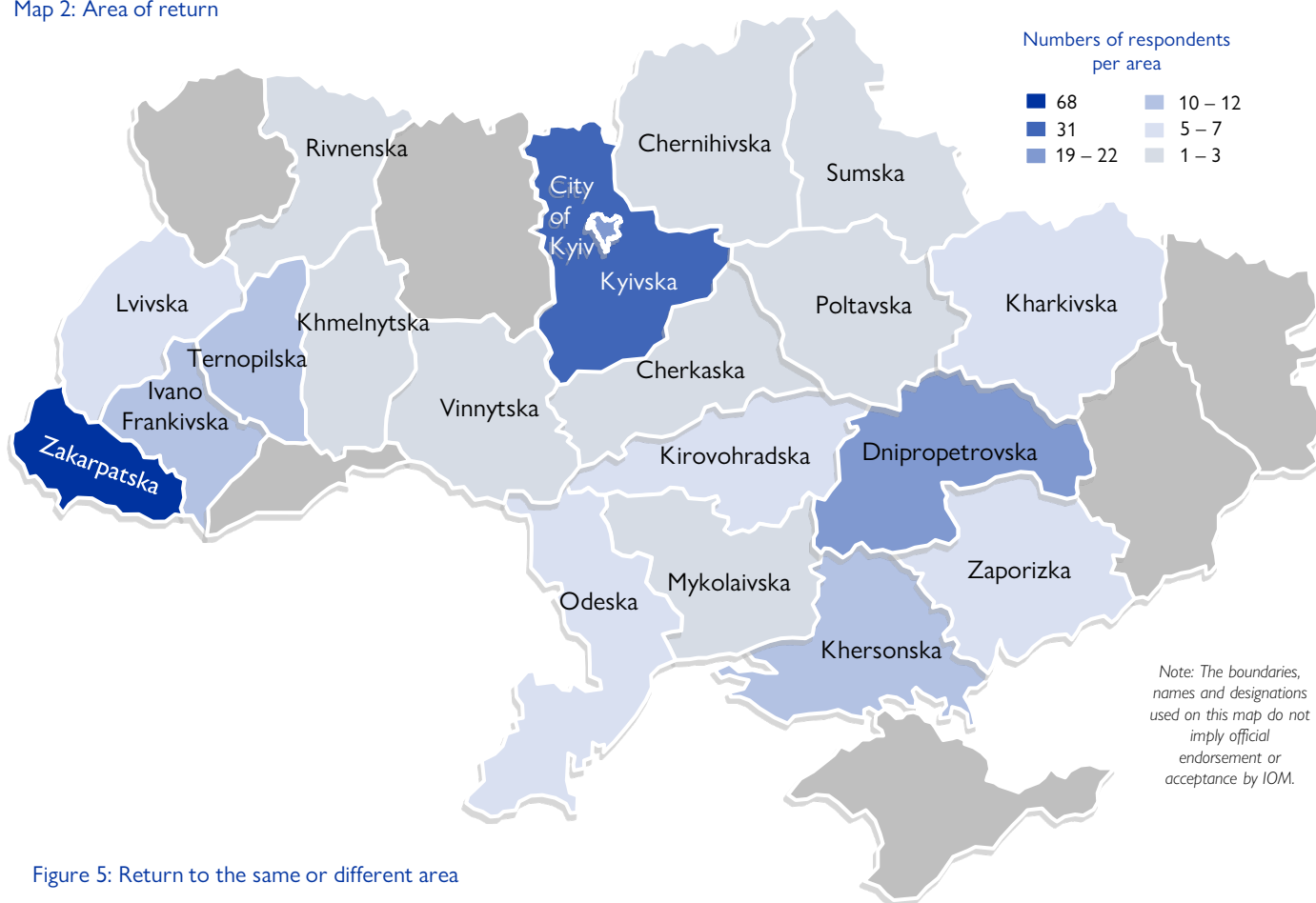
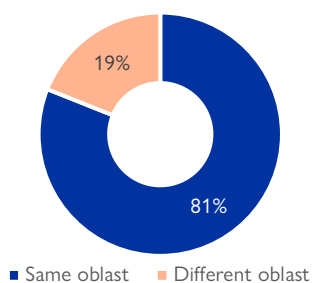


Figure 5: Return to the same or different area



Eighty-one per cent of respondents mentioned returning to the same area in Ukraine, while 19 per cent stated going to different locations, with Zakarpatska being the main preference (55%), followed by, among all, the City of Kyiv (20%) and Lviv (8%).

For those not returning to the same area, the following patterns were reported: from Kharkivska (14 people) to Zakarpatska (6), the City of Kyiv (5), Kyivska (2) and Dnipropetrovska (1); from Khersonska (9 people) to Dnipropetrovska (2), Zakarpatska (2), Cherkaska (1), Kharkivska (1), Lvivska (1), the City of Kyiv (1) and Zaporizka (1); from the City of Kyiv (6 people) to Zakarpatska (5) and

Lvivska (1); from Kyivska (4 people) to Zakarpatska (3) and Lvivska (1); from Odeska (4 people) to Zakarpatska (2), Lvivska (1) and the City of Kyiv (1); from Donetsk (3 people) to the City of Kyiv (2) and Zakarpatska (1); from Dnipropetrovska (2 people) to Zakarpatska (2); from Luhanska (2 people) to Lvivska (1) and Zakarpatska (1); from Mykolaivska (2 people) to the City of Kyiv (1) and Zakarpatska (1); from Chernihivska (1) to Zakarpatska (1); from Chernivetska (1) to Zakarpatska (1); from Kirovohradska (1) to Zakarpatska (1); from Poltavska (1) to Zakarpatska (1); and from Zhytomyrska (1) to Zakarpatska (1).

The main reasons for returning to a different area were: insecurity of the locations of origin (43%); displacement of families to other areas (22%); damage or destruction of houses (16%); and property being occupied by others (14%). Six per cent of respondents cited other reasons, such as lack of electricity.

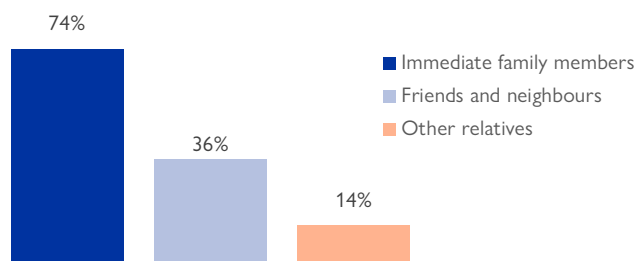
#### TRAVELLING CONDITIONS

Forty-three per cent of respondents reported going back to Ukraine with the same group they left with, while 34% per cent went alone and originally left alone, as shown in *Figure 6*.

Those who travelled in a group (46%), crossed back with immediate family members (74%), friends and neighbours (36%) and other relatives (14%).

Ninety-eight per cent declared travelling back to Ukraine by train, while cars and buses were less popular choices (1% in total).

Figure 7: Travelling companions back to Ukraine



Note: Respondents could select multiple replies, hence the total is higher than 100%.

#### FREQUENCY OF TRAVEL TO UKRAINE

Figure 9: How often respondents entered and exited Ukraine



Figure 6: Travelling alone or in a group

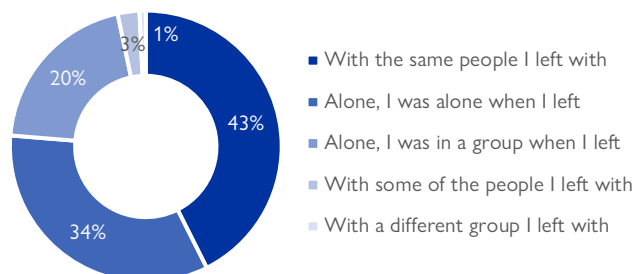
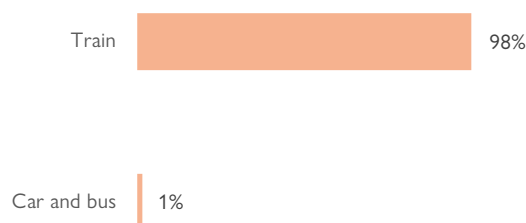


Figure 8: Transportation means back to Ukraine



Almost half of respondents (49%) had crossed back to Ukraine only once since the start of the war, followed by 31 and 19 per cent, who had returned more than twice or twice, respectively.

Only one per cent of interviewees had never crossed back since their exit from the country.

#### PLACES AND LENGTH OF STAY IN UKRAINE

Once back to Ukraine, seventy-one per cent of respondents declared staying in their homes, while eleven per cent in private accommodations, i.e., hotels or private/civic initiatives.

Figure 10: Intended place of stay in Ukraine

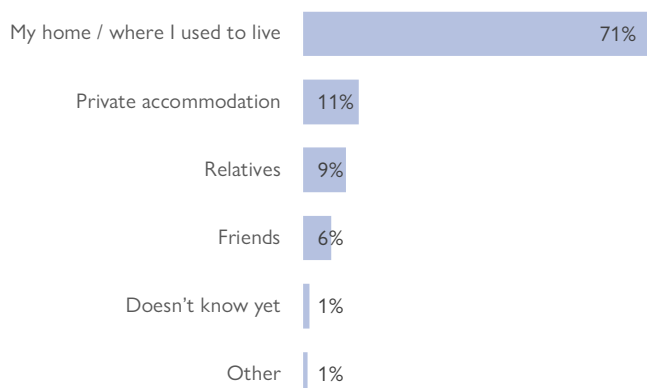
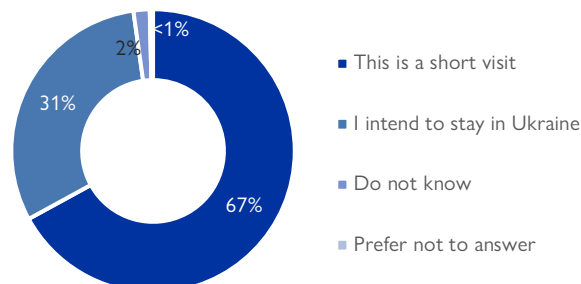


Figure 11: Intended length of stay in Ukraine

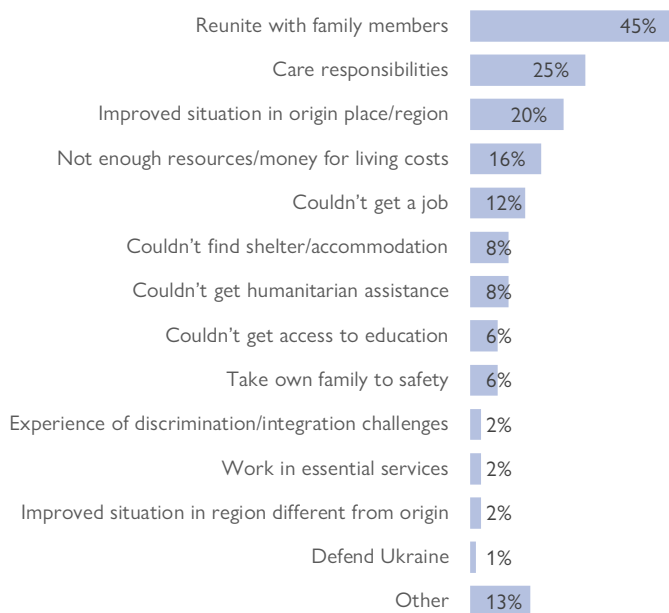


Sixty-seven per cent of interviewees returned for a short visit, while 31 per cent planned to remain in Ukraine. The rest were not sure (2%) and one person preferred not to answer.

Most respondents estimated short visits to be around one week (49%) or a few days (30%). Fewer planned to return for a month or more (15% and 4% respectively). Two per cent preferred not to answer.

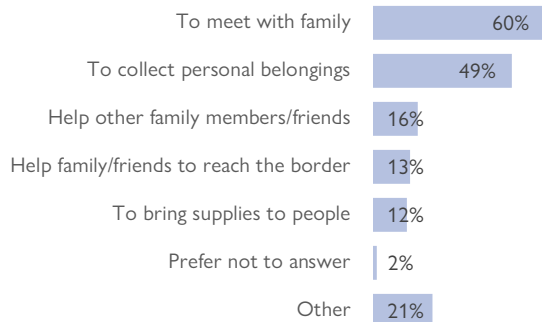
REASONS FOR CROSSING BACK TO UKRAINE

Figure 12: Reasons for who intends to stay in Ukraine



Note: Respondents could select multiple replies, hence the total is higher than 100%.

Figure 13: Reasons for who plans a short visit in Ukraine



Note: Respondents could select multiple replies, hence the total is higher than 100%.

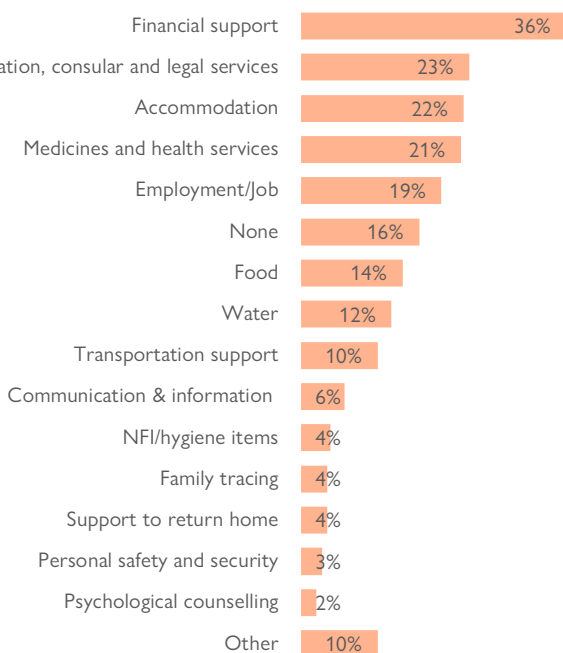
For those who planned to remain in Ukraine, family reunification (45%), care responsibilities (25%) and improved situation in the place of origin (20%) were the most relevant factors for returning.

For those who intended to go back for a short visit, the most relevant considerations were, again, family (60%) and the collection of personal belongings (49%). Twenty-one per cent of respondents mentioned other reasons, such as celebrating the holidays or the renewal/collection of documents.

NEEDS OF PEOPLE CROSSING BACK TO UKRAINE

Most respondents declared needing financial (36%), documentation, consular and legal services (23%) and accommodation (22%). Sixteen per cent had no needs.

Figure 14: Main needs



Note: Respondents could select multiple replies, hence the total is higher than 100%.

Persons with special needs in travelling groups



212 children

- 52 between 0-4 years old
- 118 between 5-13 years old
- 42 between 14-17 years old

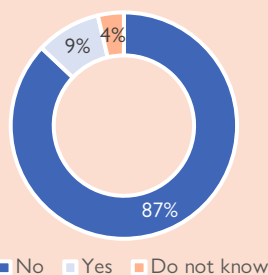


54 older persons

60 years old and above

Note: the numbers above are not fully representative of all persons in travelling groups, as they rely on estimations of survey respondents.

Figure 15: Experience of unfair/unequal treatment



9 per cent of respondents declared having experienced unfair or unequal treatment out of Ukraine based on their nationality, ethnicity or gender

■ No ■ Yes ■ Do not know



## METHODOLOGY

IOM's Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM) is a system to track and monitor displacement and population mobility. It is designed to regularly and systematically capture, process and disseminate information to provide a better understanding of the movements and evolving needs of displaced populations, whether on site or en route.

This survey is part of IOM's DTM activities to monitor the profiles, displacement patterns and most immediate needs of the Ukrainian refugees and TCNs crossing back to Ukraine since 24 February 2022. Surveys are collected, among others, in selected exit and transit locations, and in information and collective centres, identified to be the most frequently used by refugees and TCNs returning to Ukraine.

In Hungary, surveys were conducted in Ukrainian, Russian and English by IOM's DTM trained teams of enumerators on a mobile application. The interviews are anonymous and carried out one-on-one with respondents, provided they consent to be interviewed after a brief introduction. Enumerators trained on ethics of data collection, information provision and protection principles, approached people crossing back to Ukraine, to verify their willingness to conduct the survey, which was only addressed

to adults (18+).

The survey form was designed by IOM to capture the main displacement patterns for refugees and TCNs crossing back to Ukraine following the outbreak of the war. It analyses the demographic profiles of respondents and of the group they are travelling with, if any; it asks about intentions relatively to the permanence in Ukraine; and it gathers information regarding a set of main needs.

Various settings were identified to conduct surveys (*see page 1 for specific locations*), to maximise the number of interviews, and reach out to different profiles of individuals.

Among the limitations encountered during data collection were the reduced time to carry out surveys at transit points and the presence of only eight enumerators.

To address the aforesaid shortcomings, and cover different viewpoints, a mixed sampling strategy guided the data collection exercise. Consequently, this analysis does not proportionally represent the whole population and results cannot be deemed representative of a full picture of mobility towards Ukraine from Hungary.



DTM Enumerators attending an information provision training at the IOM offices in Budapest, Hungary. © IOM Hungary 2023

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