

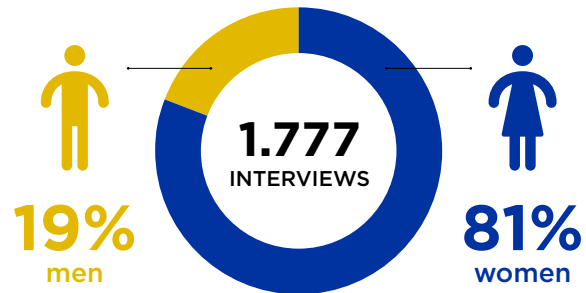
DISPLACEMENT SURVEY: UKRAINIAN REFUGEES AND THIRD-COUNTRY NATIONALS

DISPLACEMENT PATTERNS, NEEDS AND INTENTIONS SURVEY, 9-17 MARCH 2022



INTERVIEW CONDUCTED AT:

- 2** entry border crossings
- 2** exit border crossings
- 3** transit locations
- 10** temporary placement centres and private accommodations



Since 24 February 2022, increasing numbers of refugees and third-country nationals entering the Republic of Moldova have been registered amid the war in Ukraine. As of 17 March, Moldovan authorities have reported 350,938 arrivals from Ukraine, of whom 317,581 are Ukrainian refugees and 33,357 third-country nationals (TCNs).

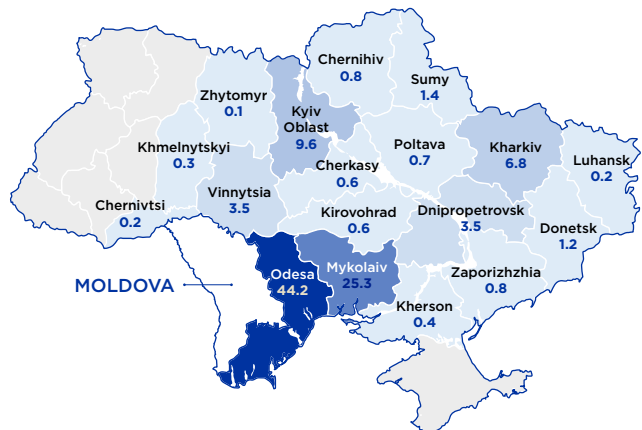
This report is based on a survey of displacement patterns, needs and intentions commissioned by the International Organization for Migration (IOM) in partnership with UN Women. Face-to-face surveys were conducted by trained enumerators from CBS-AXA Research at entry, exit, transit points and accommodation centres with Ukrainian refugees and third-country nationals. Data were collected and stored through a mobile application. This report presents a short analysis based on the 1,777 interviews conducted between 9 and 17 March 2022, out of which 1,683 were interviewed at four Moldovan border crossing points – Otaci and Palanca (at entry), and Leuseni and Giurgiulesti (at exit) – as well as in three transit locations – MoldExpo, the Ukrainian Consulate, and a bus station in Chisinau, the capital city. Additionally, 94 interviews were conducted in temporary placement centres and private accommodations, using an extended questionnaire based on Displacement Tracking Matrix tool.

SOCIO-DEMOGRAPHIC PROFILE

Of the 1,777 respondents, 97 per cent were Ukrainian and 3 per cent were third-country nationals, mainly from Azerbaijan (35%), the Russian Federation (15%), Georgia (6%), Belarus (2%) and Armenia (2%). **Their top six regions of origin were: Odesa (44%), Mykolaiv (25%), Kyiv (10%),**

Kharkiv (7%), Dnipropetrovsk (4%) and Vinnytsia (4%). Among those interviewed in centres and private accommodation, the share coming from Odesa was highest (69% compared to 43% for those met in transit at entry or exit border crossings), showing the intention to remain close to their city and oblast of origin.

Map 1. Distribution of refugees by region of origin (%)



The share of refugees originating from urban areas was higher among those in transit than among those in settlement centres (92% and 85%, respectively).

Women and girls account for 81 per cent of all refugees.

The average age is 44 for men and 40 for women. The breakdown of adult refugees by age cohorts reveals that 60 per cent of women are aged 30–49 years compared to 52 per cent of men in the same age groups. Among male refugees, 4 in 10 are elderly, compared to 1 in 10 elderly women refugees. The share of young adults (aged 18–29) is higher

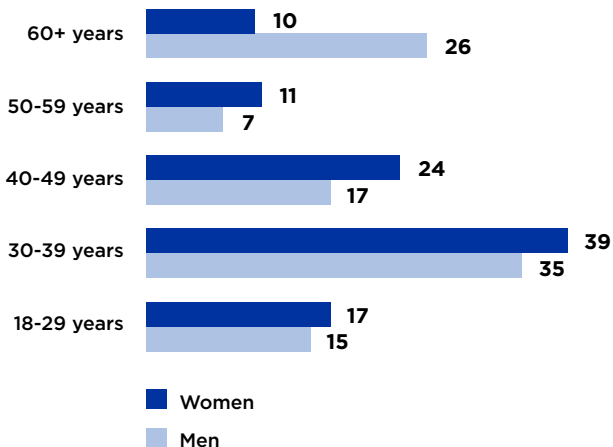
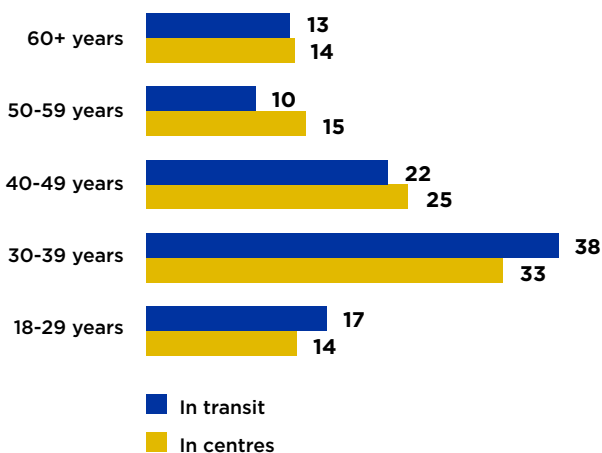


Figure 2. Age distribution of respondents, by place of interview (%)



The vast majority of respondents declare to be travelling with a group (87%), mostly comprised of family members (79%). Those travelling alone represent 13 per cent for all refugees, 5 per cent of whom were met in centres and 14 per cent in transit at entry or exit points. Family groups tend to be slightly bigger among those met in centres than among those in transit (50% vs. 45%).

Most respondents are travelling with at least one child under the age of 18: 88 per cent among those in centres and 80 per cent among those in transit locations. On average, every third refugee is travelling with at least one elderly person aged 60 and above. Additionally, 20 per cent are also travelling with pets.

87%
travelling in a group

13%
travelling alone

80%
have at least 1 child in the group
among those in transit

88%
have at least 1 child in the group
among those in centres

About 23 per cent of respondents in transit locations reported to be travelling with or to have a serious health condition (chronic diseases, disability, wounded). Among those met in centres and private accommodation, 22 per cent reported having at least one person with a disability; 32 per cent include at least one person with a chronic disease; 1 per cent have a pregnant woman; and 1 per cent are travelling with an injured or wounded person.

1 out of 3
groups have an elderly person (aged 60+)

23%
have at least 1 person with serious health condition
among those in transit

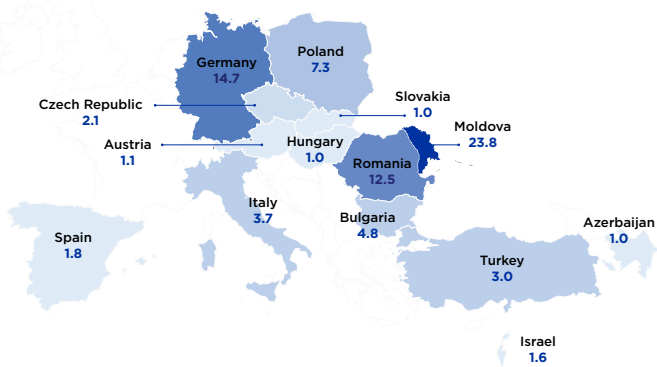
22%
have at least 1 person with a disability
among those in centres

1%
have at least 1 pregnant woman
among those in centres

MAIN INTENDED DESTINATIONS

For every fifth refugee, the main intended destination is the Republic of Moldova, followed by Germany (15%), Romania (13%), Poland (7%), Bulgaria (5%), Italy (4%), Turkey (3%) and other European countries. Among those met in transit, 22 per cent said they intend to remain in the Republic of Moldova, followed by Germany (15%), Romania (13%), Poland (8%), Bulgaria (5%) and others. Conversely, 63 per cent of those met in centres and private accommodation declare to be willing to remain in the Republic of Moldova, with smaller shares intending to reach Germany (5%), and significantly higher numbers planning to travel to Azerbaijan (7%). The final destination was unknown at the time of the survey for 11 per cent of respondents.

Map 2. Main intended countries of destination (%)



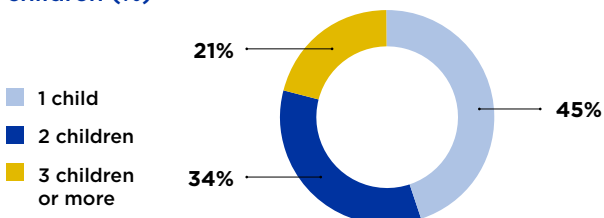
Accordingly, those met in transit locations intended to spend approximately two or three days on average in the Republic of Moldova, hosted by relatives (33%) or friends (24%), in an organized reception centre (25%) or in private accommodation (12%). Those met in the centres and private accommodations had already spent about nine days in the country and reported that they think they will remain for approximately one month, mostly intending to remain in their current location (71%) during that period.

Women refugees' situation

Most refugees fleeing Ukraine are women and children. On the journey to refuge, women are shouldering an immense childcare responsibility compounded by family separation, trauma, limited financial resources, lack of clothing, food, personal hygiene supplies and other basic needs.

Of the 12 per cent of women who report to be travelling alone, most are aged 60 and above (27%) or are young women aged 18–30 (22%). Among those travelling with a group, 83 per cent of women met in transit locations and centres are travelling with family and 14 per cent with relatives.

Figure 3. Women with children, by number of children (%)

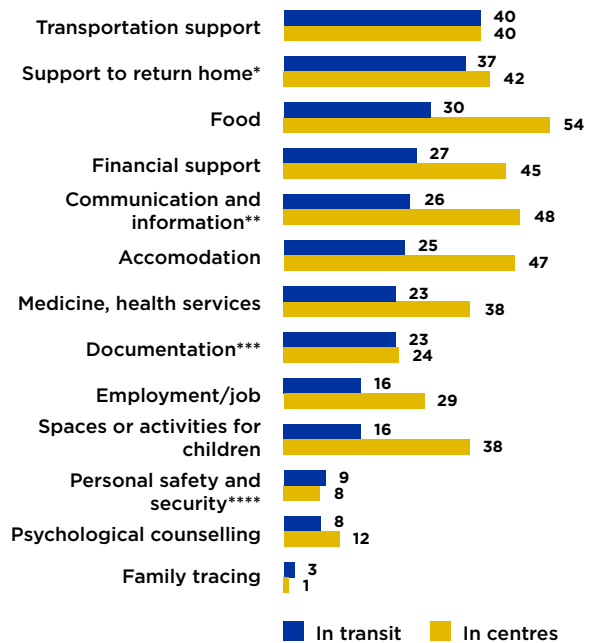


Some 83 per cent of women are travelling with at least one child below the age of 18, the majority having one child (44%) or two (34%). Among women met in centres, every second woman was travelling with two children, while in the case of those met in transit locations, one in three were accompanied by two children. On average, there are 190 children aged below the age of 18 per 100 women refugees.

MAIN NEEDS AT ENTRY POINTS AND IN CENTRES

The survey asked about the main needs in the Republic of Moldova for respondents met at entry border crossing points into the country and for those hosted in temporary centres and private accommodations.

Figure 4. Main needs at the moment, by place of interview (%)



* This refers to the intention to be able to return to their location of origin as soon as the security situation in Ukraine will allow.
 ** Includes support to communicate with others in Ukraine and elsewhere.
 *** Includes legal and consular services.
 **** Includes protection from instances of violence, harassment, theft, exploitation and reporting of incidents, grievances or assaults.

Among the most pressing immediate needs were support with transportation (40%), support to return home (37 versus 42% for those met in centres), and food in 30 per cent of cases among refugees met in transit locations and up to 54 per cent among those hosted in centres. In addition, the need for financial support was reported by all refugees, mainly by those hosted in centres and private accommodations (45%).

Medicine and health services were reported by 23 per cent of those in transit and about 38 per cent of refugees met in centres as the most pressing needs at the time of the interview. One in four refugees who were in transit also expressed the need for accommodation, while half of those met in centres and private units also reported the need for another accommodation.

Note: It is the first fact sheet that summarizes the results of displacement survey initiated by IOM in partnership with UN Women to assess the needs and vulnerabilities of refugees.