

Displacement patterns, needs and intentions surveys, 9 March – 8 April 2022



2 entry BCPs
2 exit BCP
3 Transit locations
10 Temporary and private accommodations

169 interviews

37% female **63% male**

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 08 April, Moldovan authorities have reported 406,662 arrivals from Ukraine, of whom 370,805 are Ukrainian refugees and 35,857 third-country nationals (TCNs) (Source: [General Inspectorate for Border Police](#), Republic of Moldova).

This report is based on 169 surveys done by IOM and UN Women with third-country nationals (non-Ukrainian and non-Moldovan citizens) between 09 March and 8 April 2022. Check p. 4 for more on the methodology.

Socio-demographic profile

Ukrainian refugees represent 97 per cent of the total sample of surveys collected between 9 March and 8 April 2022 (97% among those in transit, 94% among those in centres). The remaining 3 per cent of the sample is made of Moldovan citizens and TCNs. In particular, TCNs are 2.2 per cent among those interviewed in transit locations and 3.8 per cent among those met in centres and private accommodations.

Out of the total 169 TCNs, one quarter (25%) was a citizen of the Russian Federation, followed by respondents from Azerbaijan (18%), Armenia (15%), Georgia (7%), Israel (5%), Belarus (4%) and others (27%).

64% travelling in a group
36% travelling alone

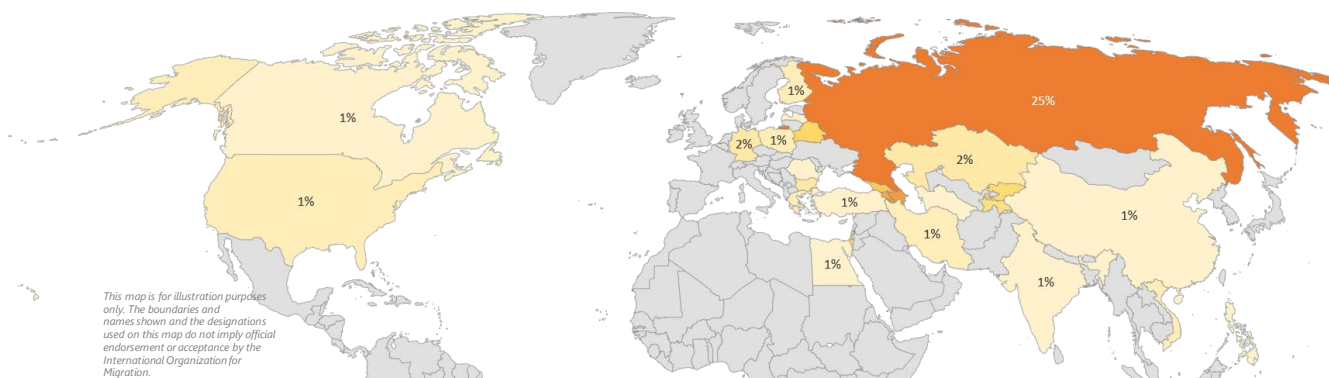
36% at least 1 child in the group

14% of groups with at least 1 elderly (60+ years)

11% at least 1 person with serious health condition

Surveys	Ukrainian		Moldovan citizens	TCNs	% TCNs
	Total	refugees			
In transit	6,536	6,349	46	141	2.2%
In centres	933	886	19	28	3.0%
Total	7,469	7,235	65	169	2.3%

Countries of origin – TCN's respondents



This map is for illustration purposes only. The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the International Organization for Migration.

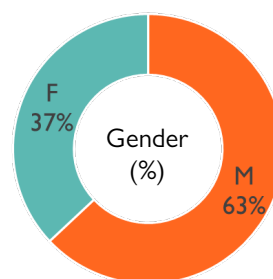
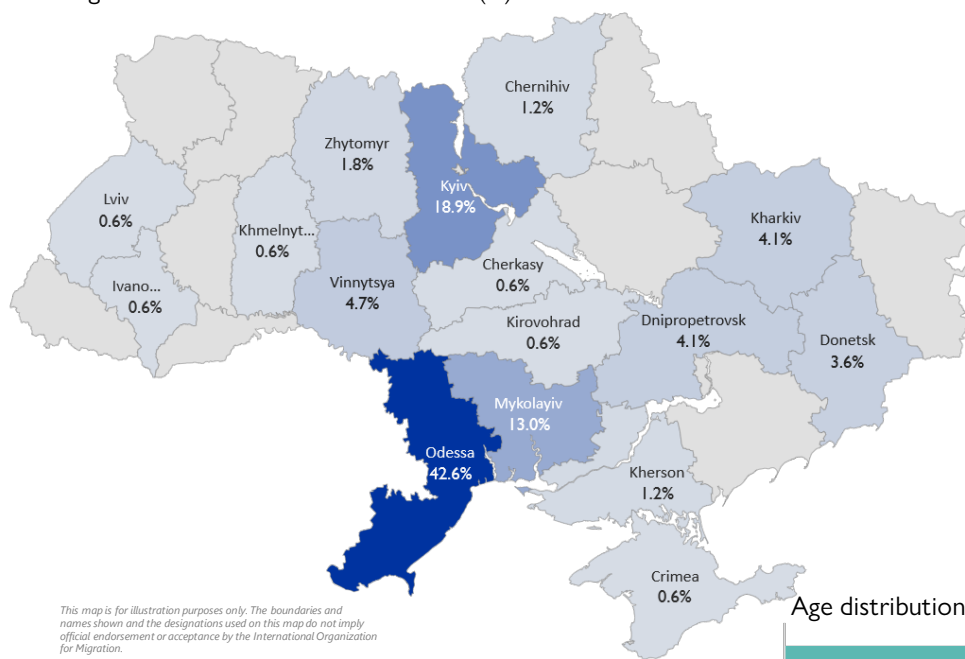
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The top regions of habitual residence reported by TCNs in the sample were Odesa (43%), Kyiv (19%) and Mykolaiv (13%), followed by Vinnytsia (5%), Dnipropetrovsk (4%) and others (16%). Among those interviewed in centres and private accommodation, the share of persons coming from Odesa was higher (54% compared to 40% for those met in transit at entry or exit border crossings), showing the intention to remain close to their city and oblast of habitual residence also among TCNs as it has been observed among Ukrainian refugees (for more information see here).

Most TCNs originated from urban areas (88%) and the remaining 12 per cent from rural areas.

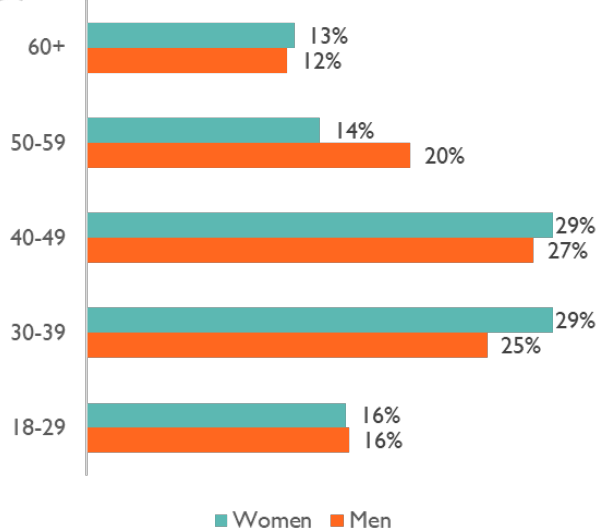
Contrary to what has been observed among Ukrainian refugees, most TCNs are men: 63 per cent of the respondents were male (63% among those in transit, 61% among those in centres), while the remaining 37 per cent were female. This is may due to the fact that the prohibition to leave the country is valid only for Ukrainian men between 18 and 60 and that the migrant population residing in Ukraine before February 2022 was prevalently male.

Regions of habitual residence – TCNs (%)



More than half of all TCNs (54%) in the sample were between 30 and 49 years old, followed by those between 50 and 59 years old (18%), those with 60 years or more (12%) and those between 18 and 29 years old (16%). The age profile of male and female respondents was quite similar: on average was 43 years old for both men and women in the sample. .

Age distribution of TCNs, by gender (%)



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About 36 per cent of the respondents reported to be travelling alone, while the majority was travelling with a group of mostly family members but also of co-workers (11% of those in a group). The share of those travelling alone was higher among men (44%) than among women (22%). Overall, the average group is of 3 persons: besides those travelling alone, 43 per cent of the respondents was travelling in a group of 2 to 4 persons, followed by 21 per cent travelling with groups of 5 persons or more.

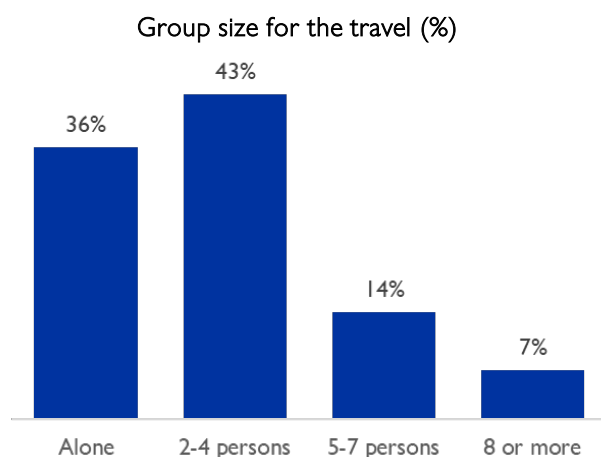
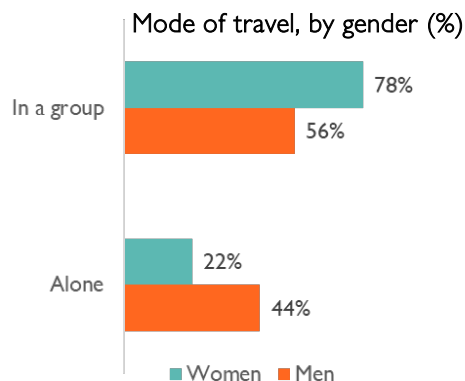
About 36 per cent of TCNs in the sample was travelling with at least one child (31% in transit, 61% in centres) and the share of women travelling with children was more than the double of that of men (56% vs 25%).

Also, 14 per cent was travelling with at least one elderly person (10% in transit, 36% in centres) and about 11 per cent was travelling with a person with a serious health condition: 9 per cent of those met in transit reported to be travelling with at least one family member with a chronic disease or a disability, while the share was up to 21 per cent among those met in centres. No pregnant women or wounded persons were reported among the respondents and their co-travellers.

Main intended destinations

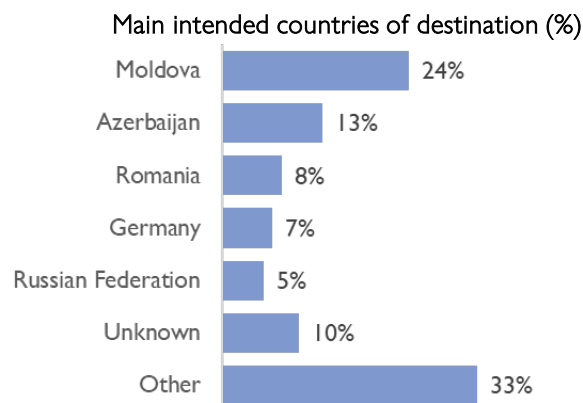
About one quarter of the TCNs met by enumerators declared they were intending to remain in the Republic of Moldova (24%), while the rest of the sample almost evenly distributed among those who intended to return to the origin country and those who said they were willing to reach another European country (Romania 8%, Germany 7%, Poland 4% and many other countries with fewer shares). The final destination was unknown at the time of the survey for 10 per cent of respondents.

The share of those intending to remain in the country was far higher among those met in the reception centres and in private accommodation (43%) than among those met in transit locations at entry or exit (21%). Among those met in transit and intending to reach another country, 48 per cent declared they were transiting through the Republic of Moldova within the same day, while the rest mentioned they expected short stays in the country of 3 days on average. About 19 per cent of them could not tell how long she/he



would have remained in the country. Among those intending to stay in the country, about 61 per cent could not tell for how long, with the rest declaring to be willing to remain for about 12 days on average.

The average length of stay in the country so far for those met in centres and private accommodation was of 15 days; none of these that was intending to reach the origin country or another destination could tell for how long they would remain in the country.



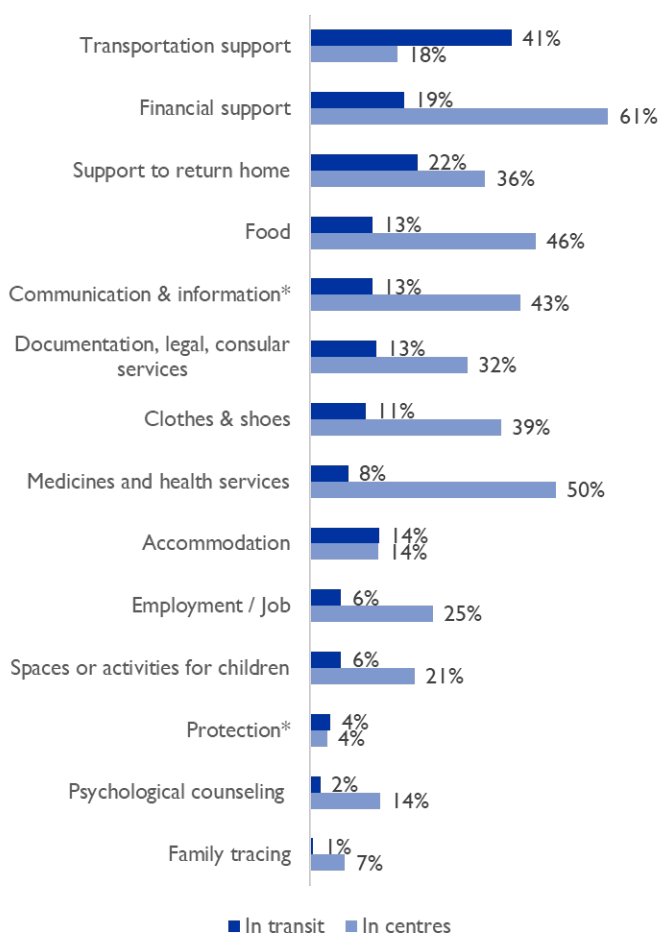
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Coherently, the main reason for choosing the intended destination among the TCNs in the sample was the presence of family members, friends or both in the country (48%), followed by those who thought that the protection system was better there (16%) and those who declared to have an accommodation there (10%).

Main needs at entry and in centers

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.

Main needs at the moment (%)



Among the most pressing immediate needs of those in transit were support with transportation (41% vs. 18% for those met in centres). Support to return home was mentioned by 22 per cent of those met in transit and 36 per cent of those met in centres. Overall, those met in centres reported higher levels of positive responses for a wide range of needs: financial support (62%), medicines and health care (50%), food (46%), general information (46%).

Finally, the survey asked if TCNs had experienced any unfair or unequal treatment that could be related to their nationality, ethnicity or gender since they left their usual place of residence in Ukraine. Most (92%) respondents reported negatively, while 2.4 per cent reported they have experienced unfair or unequal treatment, 2.4 per cent could not tell and 3 per cent preferred not to reply.

Note

This report is based on a survey of displacement patterns, needs and intentions commissioned by 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. In the first month of data collection (09 March-8 April 2022), 7,469 interviews were conducted, out of which 6,536 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, 933 interviews were conducted in temporary centres and private accommodations, using an extended questionnaire based on the Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM) tool.

IOM's DTM is a system to track and monitor displacement and population mobility. The survey form was designed to capture the main displacement patterns – origin country and region – for refugees of any nationality fleeing from Ukraine because of the war. It captures the demographic profiles of respondents and of the group they are travelling with, if any; it asks about intentions relative to the intended destinations; it gathers information regarding a set of main needs that the respondents expressed as more pressing at the moment of the interview. An extended version of the questionnaire was developed in partnership with UN Women to better understand the profile, education and employment background, access and awareness of essential services women refugees met in locations of stay – in reception centres or private accommodation solutions.

Only adults (18+) were approached, and the questionnaire was proposed only to migrants and refugees who arrived in the Republic of Moldova after 24 February 2022. Respondents were approached in a simple random sample by enumerators at selected entry, exit and transit locations. In border crossing point areas, both persons entering/exiting by car and by foot were interviewed. In centres and private accommodations, respondents were interviewed using a mixed mode approach through computer-assisted personal interviews and phone interviews.

* It includes support to communicate with others in Ukraine and elsewhere

* It includes protection from instances of violence, harassment, theft, exploitation and reporting of incidents, grievances, assaults.