



**UNHCR UKRAINE BORDER MONITORING
AT INTERNATIONAL BORDER CROSSING POINTS
(Borders between Ukraine, the EU and Moldova)
March 2025**

Line of cars before Uhryniv BCP, March 2025. © R2P.

Since mid-March 2022, UNHCR and its local NGO partners Right to Protection (R2P), NEEKA, and The Tenth of April (TTA), have conducted border monitoring at 30 border crossing points between Ukraine and Poland, Slovakia, Hungary, Romania and Moldova. The border monitoring teams provide information, legal assistance, protection counselling and social support to people leaving Ukraine to seek international protection as well as to those returning to Ukraine.

1. Overview: Cross-Border Movements (in and out)

In the first quarter of 2025, some 6 million individuals crossed the Ukrainian border. Compared to the same period in 2024, an increase in cross-border mobility by some 300K is observed. However, the cross-border mobility patterns during the first three months of the year largely mirrored those of 2024, with a notably decrease in cross-border movements in February followed by an uptake in March. In March 2025, a net outflow was recorded, with 9,000 more individuals leaving the country than entering it.

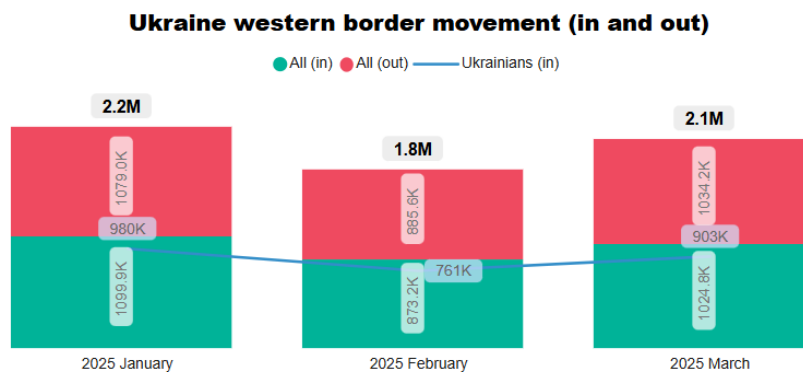


Figure 1: Number of people crossing international borders with Poland, Slovakia, Hungary and Romania. The figure does not include data on border crossings with Moldova. Source: State Border Guard Service (SBGS) of Ukraine.

2. Key monitoring findings

Departing Ukraine

In March 2025, 1,571 people were interviewed departing Ukraine. 72% of respondents were female and 11% were older people above the age of 60 years. 3% reported to be living with a disability.

- **First-time departures:** In March, 20% of respondents reported to be leaving the country for the first time, a 4% increase compared to the previous month.
- **Purpose of departing Ukraine:** Visiting family members abroad remained the most common purpose for travel in March (34% of respondents). The percentage of those leaving to seek safety abroad (9%) and of those reporting to be returning to the country where they hold temporary protection status (13%) decreased by 4% each compared to March. The share of those traveling for vacation showed an increase by 4% to 18%, while the proportion citing business missions remained stable at 15%.
- **Reasons to leave Ukraine:** The deterioration of the security situation remained the main reason for leaving the country throughout the first quarter of 2025 and was reported by 97% of respondents who departed in March. Occupation of the area of residence was mentioned as a reason for departing by 6% of respondents from Zaporizka, Donetsk, and Luhanska oblasts. Other reasons were cited by fewer than 5% of respondents: conscription risks and damaged public infrastructure were each mentioned by 1.9%, while factors such as the lack of electricity, heating, and water, as well as limited access to social services and adequate housing, were each reported by less than 1%.
- **Internal displacement as factor for departure:** The share of internally displaced persons leaving the country remained relatively stable throughout the first quarter of 2025. In March, 9% of respondents said they were internally displaced. Of those, 42% said that their displacement had influenced their decision to leave the country.
- **Intended duration of stay abroad:** The majority of respondents (68%) remained uncertain about the length of their stay abroad, a slight decrease of 3% compared to the previous month. 19% indicated an intended stay of one month to one year, 7% planned to remain abroad permanently, and 6% expected to stay abroad for less than a month.
- **Intention to return should the situation stabilize:** A total of 74% of respondents intended to return to Ukraine should the situation stabilize, marking an increase compared to the first two months of 2025 (45% in January and 62% in February). 23% of respondents remained uncertain about their decision to return and 3% did not intend to return. Improvement in the security situation was cited as a main factor influencing return decisions (69%), followed by access to employment (11%) and a stabilization in the energy situation (10%). 4% of respondents said that the cut or closure of assistance programmes in host country would influence their decision to return as well. Compared to the previous month, the relevance of security considerations has significantly risen (by 16%), while access to employment and stabilization of the energy situation was cited less frequently by respondents in March than before.

Arriving and returning to Ukraine

In March 2025, 386 people arriving or returning to Ukraine were interviewed. 88% of respondents were female and 12% were older people above the age of 60 years. 4% reported to be living with a disability.

- **Duration of stay in Ukraine:** Short-term returns of up to one month continued to prevail, accounting for 61% of all returns, a decrease by 7% compared to February 2025. At the same time, the proportion of respondents uncertain about the duration of their stay increased by 8% to 28%. 8% reported to return permanently.
- **Reasons for arriving/returning to Ukraine:** 68% of those interviewed were returning to Ukraine to visit relatives (39%) and due to homesickness (29%). Other significant reasons for returning include checking on property (12%) and lack of access to medical services in host countries (11%). 5% returned to Ukraine to access state assistance and services.
- **Intended destination oblast:** The main destination points have remained consistent since the previous reporting month, with Kyiv and Kyivska oblast cited by 30% of respondents, followed by Dnipropetrovska oblast at 16% and Kharkivska oblast at 10%.

3. Public information by the State Border Guard Service of Ukraine on cross-border movements

- In March 2025, the State Border Guard Service (SBGS) of Ukraine [published](#) news regarding the deployment of additional forces in Zakarpattia, specifically in the Mukachevo region, to strengthen border security along the Ukrainian-Romanian and Ukrainian-Hungarian borders. The enhanced patrols will incorporate advanced technologies, such as drones and aircraft, to more effectively combat illegal activities.
- The State Border Guard Service (SBGS) continues to publish updates regarding smuggling-related detentions, arrests, and intercepted attempts by men of conscription age seeking to cross the border. The majority of reported cases concerned crossing attempts by groups of men. Typically, men were required to pay an advance of up to \$1,000, with additional payment of up to \$10,000 upon a successful crossing. In [two separate](#) incidents, men of conscription age attempted to illegally cross the border through mountainous terrain. After two days of searching for a crossing point, they were forced to call emergency services and were subsequently diagnosed with hypothermia.

4. Support provided at the border crossings in March 2025

In March 2025, UNHCR partners, R2P, NEEKA and TTA, conducted **243 monitoring visits to the BCPs** with Poland, Slovakia, Hungary, Romania and Moldova. During these visits, UNHCR's partners provided different forms of support to **908 individuals** who crossed the border. This support included a range of services, including counselling of 822 people, the provision of legal assistance to 94 people, while 31 persons received social accompaniment and 12 persons were provided with transportation services.

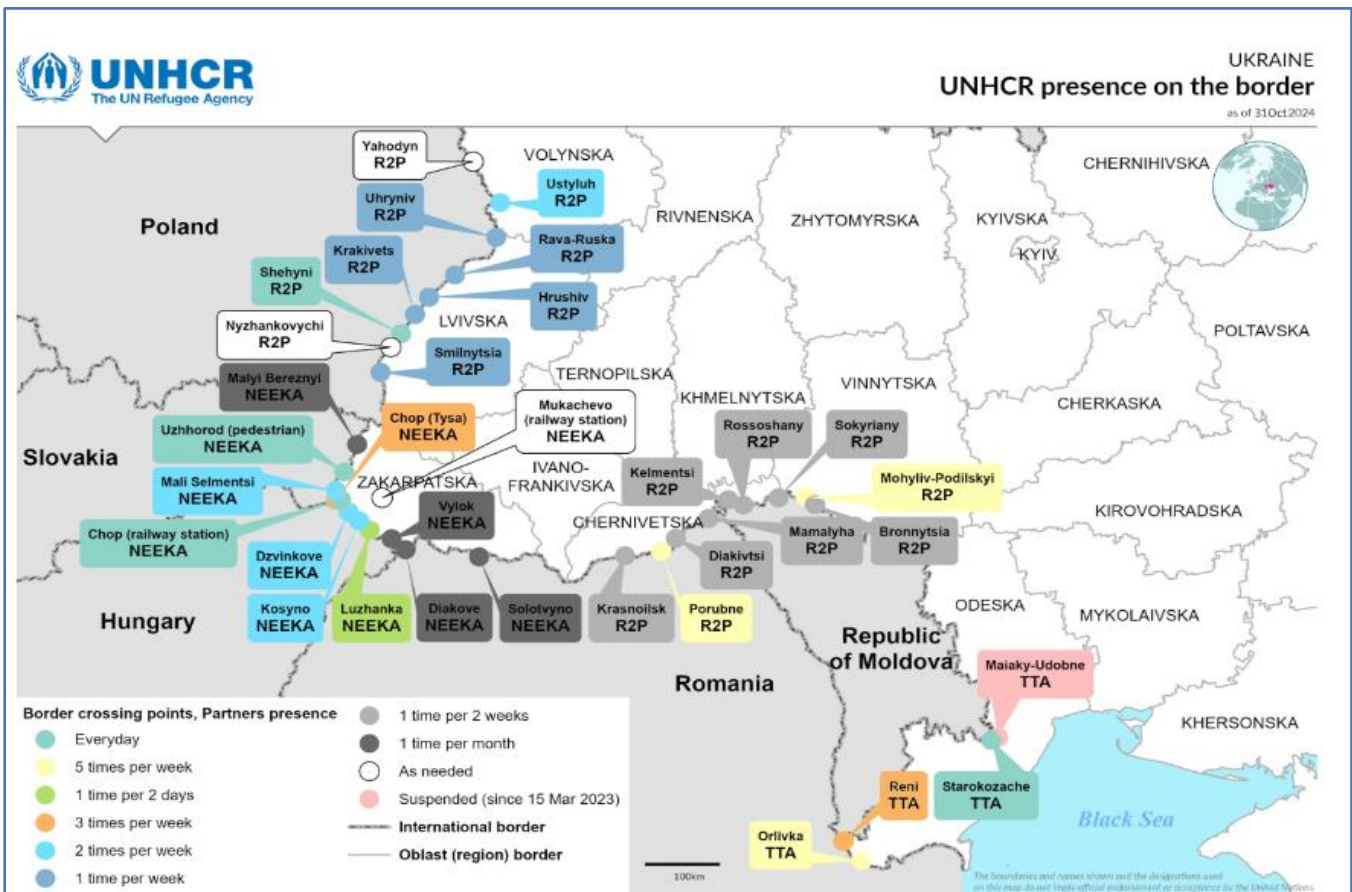
Note on Methodology

In March 2025, UNHCR partners surveyed 1,957 people (comprising 71% females 18-59 years of age, 18% males 18-59 years of age, 4% females 60+ years of age, 7% males 60+ years of age and 2% persons with disabilities).

Since mid-March 2022, UNHCR has deployed border monitoring teams through local NGO partners to provide information and assistance to people crossing the border with EU countries (Poland, Slovakia, Hungary, Romania) and Moldova. These teams provide information, legal assistance, protection counselling and social support to people leaving Ukraine to seek international protection, as well as to those returning to the country.

Border monitoring teams conduct individual interviews with people who are exiting and entering Ukraine. The purpose of these interviews is to gather information about the individual circumstances, reasons for moving and their protection needs. The border monitoring methodology is focused on assessing and responding to the protection and humanitarian needs of people crossing the border between Ukraine and the EU countries and Moldova. By conducting interviews, gathering data, and providing necessary support, the goal is to enhance protection measures and ensure the well-being of those who are on the move.

The monitoring findings are based on individual interviews conducted with people crossing the border, both those entering and exiting Ukraine and other observations made by the border monitors.



FOR MORE INFORMATION:

- See Border Snapshot for December 2024 [here](#), January 2025 [here](#), February 2025 [here](#).
- Visit Ukraine's Operational Data Portal for more information products [here](#).
- Visit UNHCR Ukraine's Website [here](#).

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