



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

Counselling at Uzhhorod BCP, April 2025. © Neeka.

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 April 2025, cross-border population mobility remained relatively stable compared to March 2025, with some 100K more crossings, also closely mirroring patterns in the April 2024. Like in the preceding year, in April 2025, there was a greater net inflow, with 69,000 more people entering Ukraine than leaving the country. This increase is largely attributed to the Easter holidays.

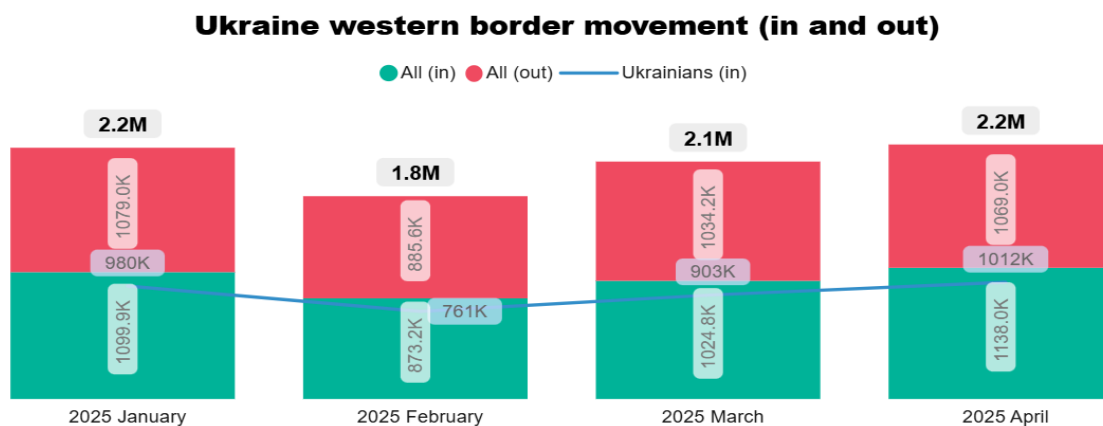


Figure 1: Number of people crossing international borders with Poland, Slovakia, Hungary and Romania. The figure does not include data on border crossings with Moldova. Source: State Border Guard Service (SBGS) of Ukraine.

## 2. Key monitoring findings

### *Departing Ukraine*

In the reporting period, 1,875 departing people were interviewed: 72% of respondents were female and 10% were older people above the age of 60 years. 3% reported to be living with a disability.

- **First-time departures:** 19% of respondents reported leaving Ukraine for the first time, marking a slight decrease compared to March 2025 (20%).
- **Purpose for departing Ukraine:** As in March, the most frequently cited purpose for leaving Ukraine was visiting relatives, at 38%, an increase by 4% compared to March. The percentage of individuals returning to countries where they have temporary protection rose to 15%, a 2% increase. Similarly, 11% cited seeking safety abroad, up by 2%. Other reported purposes included business travel (11%) and vacation (14%). Departures for medical treatment and education stood at 2% and 3% respectively.
- **Reasons to leave Ukraine:** The deterioration of the security situation remained the main reason for leaving the country throughout all of 2024 and 2025, including in April mentioned by 98% of departing respondents. Occupation of the area of residence was the second most reported reason for departing by 6% of respondents. Such departures were from Khersonska, Zaporizka, Donetska, and Luhanska oblasts. 2.6% departed due to risk of conscription, while lack of adequate housing and damaged public infrastructure was noted as a reason for departure by a total of 3% of respondents. Other factors, including energy-related ones, were mentioned by less than 1% of respondents.
- **Internal displacement as factor for departure:** 9% of respondents indicated that they were internally displaced before deciding to move abroad—a figure that has remained relatively stable throughout January to April 2025. Of those, almost one third reported that internal displacement influenced their decision to leave the country.
- **Intended duration of stay abroad:** Consistent with previous patterns, uncertainty over the duration of stay abroad is reported by a majority of respondents at 64%, a slight decrease of 4% from March. Short-term stays of up to three months was reported by 22%, of whom 6% planned to stay even less than one month. 10% reported plans to stay between 3 to 12 months, while 4% said they left permanently.
- **Intention to return should the situation stabilize:** 68% of respondents had an intention to return to Ukraine should the situation stabilize – a slight decrease of 6% compared to March 2025. The proportion of those uncertain about returning increased by 5%, reaching 28%. 4% said they did not intend to return. Improvements in the security situation (58%), access to livelihoods and employment (19%), and improvement in the overall energy situation (18%) were mentioned as the three main factors that would influence a return decision. Of note, there was a notable 11% decrease in the share of respondents who cited improvement in the security situation as the main factor influencing their decision to return. Only 1% of respondents stated that the reduction or closure of assistance programmes in the host country would influence their decision to return.

### *Arriving and returning to Ukraine*

In the reporting period, 364 people arriving or returning to Ukraine were interviewed. 89% of respondents were female and 10% were older people. 3% reported to be living with a disability.

- **Duration of stay in Ukraine:** Short-term stays of less than one month remained the most reported duration of stay in Ukraine at 65%. Meanwhile, 20% of respondents reported being uncertain about the duration of their stay— 8% decrease compared to March. A notable increase was also observed among those planning to stay for one to three months, rising to 11% (3% in March). The share of those who returned to Ukraine permanently was reported at 4%.
- **Reasons for arriving/returning to Ukraine:** Among those interviewed, 53% were returning to Ukraine primarily to visit relatives (31%) or due to homesickness (22%) – down from 68% reported in March. Other significant reasons included checking on property and lack of access to medical services in host countries – both mentioned by 19% of surveyed individuals. Additionally, 3% of respondents returned to Ukraine to access state assistance and services; access to labour market and due to uncertainty regarding their status abroad—each reason mentioned by 1%.

- **Intended destination oblast:** Kyiv city and Kyivska oblast remain the top final destinations for arrivals, mentioned by 29% of respondents. Another top 3 locations were Odeska oblast (25%), Dnipropetrovska oblast (12%) and Mykolaivska oblast (11%).

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

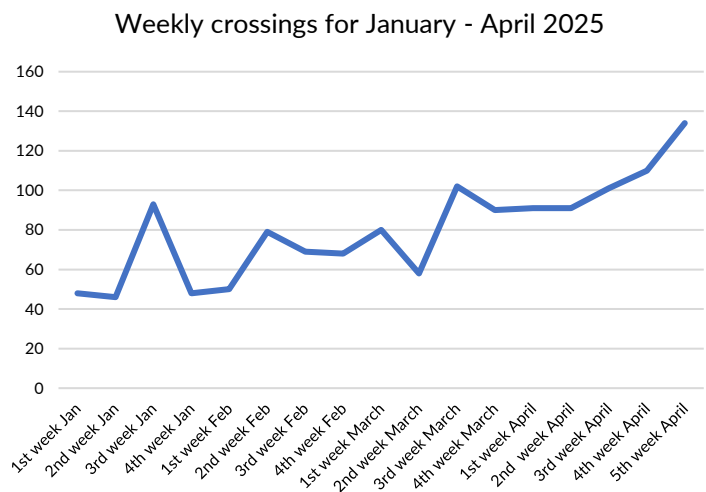
- In mid-April 2025, the State Border Guard Service (SBGS) of Ukraine [reported](#) a significant increase (by almost 20%) in cross-border mobility. This surge was attributed to the Easter holidays, with a similar increase anticipated following the holiday period.
- The SBGS also continues to report on smuggling-related arrests and detentions as well as intercepted attempts of men of conscription age to cross the border. Some cases involved minors and foreigners, and border guards themselves, acting as facilitators for irregular crossings. One [case](#) reported that a Polish citizen was sentenced to five years in prison for repeatedly smuggling men of conscription age. Another notable [case](#) involved a group of men of conscription age attempting to illegally cross the border. Among them was a citizen of the Russian Federation, whose lack of necessary identification documents prompted his attempt to cross the border illegally.

### 4. Arrivals from the temporarily occupied territories through BCP Domanove

Since August 2024, the number Ukrainians arriving from the temporarily occupied territories (TOT), Belarus or the Russian Federation through the border crossing point (BCP) “Domanove” between Ukraine and Belarus increased following the closure of the humanitarian corridor in Sumska oblast. UNHCR has systematized its monitoring presence as of January 2025.

In March and April 2025, according to the information of local authorities in Volynska oblast, 857 people, including 58 children, arrived through this BCP. On average, 95 individuals per week arrived during March and April of 2025. In comparison, in January and February 2025, a total of 501 people arrived. The increase in arrivals is likely owing to improved weather conditions.

For individuals traveling from the TOT, it typically takes 2 to 3 days to reach this corridor, with some isolated cases in which the travel time reportedly extended up to 5 days. The border crossing process, including screenings by law enforcement on both sides of the BCP, usually takes 4 to 5 hours and has remained unchanged.



Data obtained from Social Protection Department in Volynska oblast.

- **Profile of respondents.** In March and April 2025, border monitors surveyed 189 individuals out of the total 857 arrivals (22%). Of the surveyed individuals, 146 (77%) were female, more than half of whom—86 individuals—were of older age.
- **Areas of departure.** Reportedly, 91% of respondents were traveling from the TOT, 4% more than in January-February. Additionally, 3% were traveling from Belarus (down by 6% from January-February), and 5% were coming from the Russian Federation.
- **Reasons for travelling:** The vast majority of travellers cited family unity as the primary reason for traveling to Ukraine at 80%. In January-February, 55% cited this reason. Security concerns and uncertainties about the future in the occupied territories were cited by 44% and 47%, respectively. Lack of medical services (38%) was another significant factor mentioned. Access to pension benefits (14%) and the need to renew Ukrainian documents (8%) were mentioned less frequently, showing decreases of 7% and 2%, respectively,

compared to the first two months of the year. Other reasons, such as lack of access to education, persecution, and the risk of forced Russian documentation or conscription, were mentioned by less than 5% each.

- **Intentions:** While the majority of respondents plan to stay permanently in Ukraine (56%), this represents a notable decrease of some 20% compared to the January-February reporting period. 25% indicated they planned to stay for more than 4 weeks, and 12% planned to stay for less than 4 weeks. Among these two groups, the majority intend to return to the TOT after visiting relatives or addressing other matters, such as inheritance registration and access to pensions. Out of the 189 respondents, 7 mentioned plans to proceed further to EU countries: Germany (4), Austria, Poland, and Slovakia (1 each). 6% were uncertain about the duration of their stay.

Monitors reported a few instances in which respondents either witnessed or personally faced denials to cross the border on the Belarusian side. In these instances, individuals were referred to the Ukrainian consulate to obtain a certificate confirming their Ukrainian citizenship and right to proceed to Ukraine. In one case, a man received the certificate and was able to cross the border, while in another, a group of 10 people faced a denial, and their subsequent situation remains unknown. Typically, in situations of denials of border crossings, documents were either incomplete for border crossing or the documents were damaged.

### 5. Support provided at the border crossings in April 2025

In April 2025, UNHCR partners, R2P, NEEKA and TTA, conducted **260 monitoring visits to the BCPs** with Poland, Slovakia, Hungary, Romania and Moldova. During these visits, UNHCR's partners provided different forms of support to **773 individuals** who crossed the border. This support included a range of services, including counselling of 691 people, the provision of legal assistance to 117 people, while 39 persons received social accompaniment, five persons were provided with transportation services.

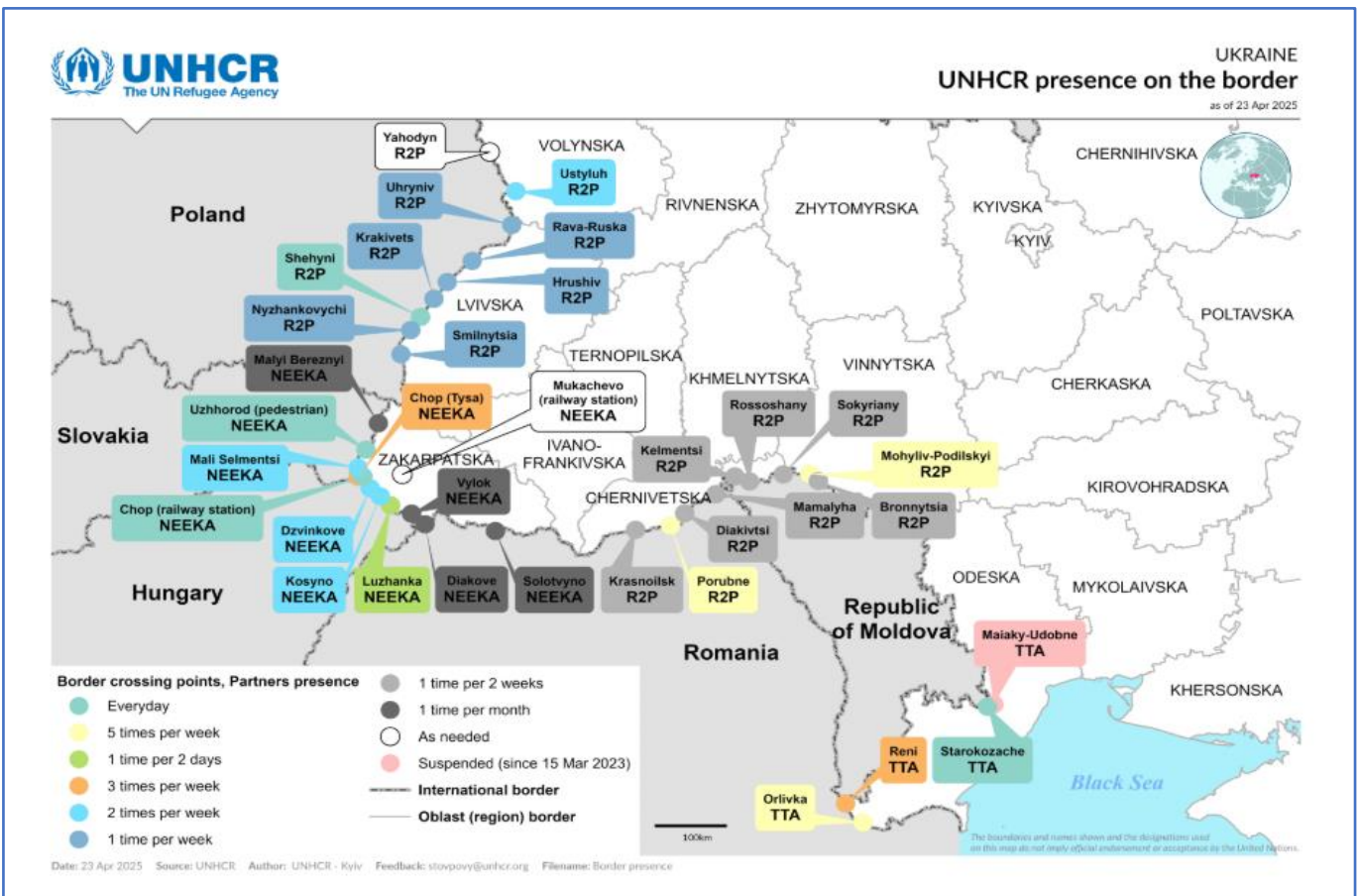
### Note on Methodology

In April 2025, UNHCR partners surveyed 2 239 people (comprising 70% females 18-59 years of age, 19% males 18-59 years of age, 4% females 60+ years of age, 6% 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 January 2025 [here](#), February 2025 [here](#), March 2025 [here](#).
- Visit Ukraine's Operational Data Portal for more information products [here](#).
- Visit UNHCR Ukraine's Website [here](#).

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