



Rava Ruska BCP, May 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)

Cross-border mobility trends from January to May 2025 mirror those of 2024, with slight increases in the overall cross-border mobility during this period in 2025 with 300,000 more entries and 100,000 more exits than in 2024. In May 2025, like in 2024, outbound movements surpassed inbound flows. However, the net outflow in May 2025 (82,000) was overall lower than the year before (119,000).

#### Ukraine western border movement (in and out)

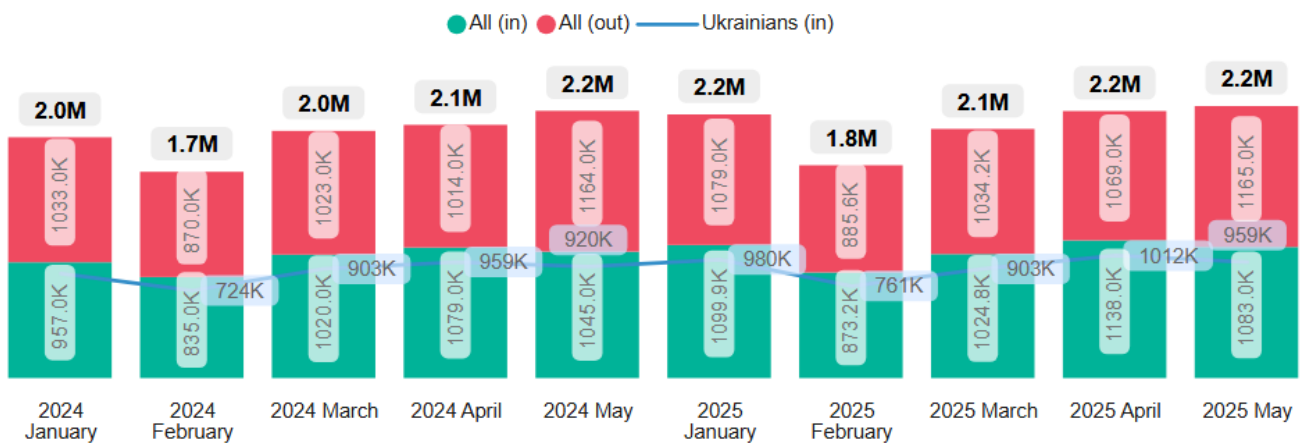


Figure 1: Number of people crossing international borders with Poland, Slovakia, Hungary and Romania. The figure does not include data on border crossings with Moldova. Source: State Border Guard Service (SBGS) of Ukraine.

## 2. Key monitoring findings

### *Departing Ukraine*

Interviews were conducted with 1,420 departing individuals. Of the respondents, 69% were women, 11% were people aged over 60 years, and 3% reported living with a disability.

- **First-time departures:** As the previous month, 19% of those departing reportedly left the country for the first time, slightly above the average observed during the first five months of 2025 at 18%.
- **Purpose for departing Ukraine:** In May 2025, 30% of respondents departed with the purpose to visit family, down by 8% compared to April, while 17% departed to return to the country in which they are granted temporary protection, an increase by 2% compared to April. 13% said they were seeking safety abroad, also an increase by two per cent. Other reasons included business travel (13%) and vacation (15%). Departures for medical treatment and education stood at two and four per cent respectively.
- **Reasons for leaving Ukraine:** In May 2025, the deterioration of the security situation continued to be the prime factor for people to leave reported at 98%, followed by concerns over the occupation of homes reported by 7% of respondents, a slight increase by one per cent compared to April. The risk of conscription was also mentioned more frequently, reported by 3.1% (up by 0.5% from April). Additionally, 1.3% cited the lack of adequate housing as a factor for departure. Other factors, including those related to energy access, were mentioned by less than 1% of respondents.
- **Internal displacement as a factor for departure:** In May 2025, the share of internally displaced persons (IDPs) departing abroad remained consistent with previous months, reported at 10%. The proportion of respondents indicating that internal displacement influenced their decision to leave the country—reported by nearly 30%, remained under-average (average reported at 36% for January to May 2025).
- **Intended duration of stay abroad:** Consistent with reporting in previous months, most respondents (71%) reported uncertainty about their duration of stay abroad, slightly above average reported at 69% for the first five months of the year. Those planning to stay abroad for a period between one month and one year accounted for 20%, while 3% intended to stay abroad less than one month. Respondents planning to remain abroad permanently rose to 7% (up from 4% in April).
- **Intention to return should the situation stabilize:** In May, 57% of respondents reportedly intended to return to Ukraine should the situation stabilize, a downward trend from 68% in April and 74% in March. In contrast, the proportion of those who are uncertain about returning increased by 10% compared to April, reaching 38% in May. The share of those not intending to return remained stable at 4%. Improvements in the security situation (54%), access to livelihoods and employment (22%), and improvements in the overall energy situation (21%) were top three factors that would influence the decision to return. The reduction of assistance programs in hosting countries continued to be mentioned by few respondents (1%) as a factor influencing their decision to return.

### *Arriving and returning to Ukraine*

In the reporting period, 423 people arriving or returning to Ukraine were interviewed. Of the respondents, 81% were women, 10% were aged over 60, and one per cent reported living with a disability.

- **Duration of stay in Ukraine:** Of those surveyed, 69% intended to stay in Ukraine for less than one month (increase by 4% from April), reflecting a continued trend of pendular movements. The share of those uncertain about the duration of their stay stood at 14%, down by 6%. Those returning permanently accounted for 6%, a 2% increase from the previous month and at par with the average reported during the first five months of 2025.
- **Reasons for arriving/returning to Ukraine:** 34% of respondents said they returned as they wanted to be at home, while an additional 26% reported for family-related reasons, remaining the two main reasons for people coming to Ukraine. Other reasons included checking on property and lack of access to medical services in host countries, reported at 17% and 16% respectively. 3% of respondents returned for accessing state assistance and services, while access to the labour market and uncertainty regarding their legal status abroad were reported by 1% each.
- **Intended destination oblast:** In May 2025, 34% of respondents indicated Odeska oblast as their destination, replacing Kyiv city and oblast as the top return locations during the first four months of the year. In May, 22% of respondents intend to return to Kyiv city and oblast, 14% to Kharkivska and 13% to Dnipropetrovska oblasts.

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

- The State Border Guard Service (SBGS) continues to publicly report on apprehensions and detentions related to smuggling, including attempts by men of conscription age to cross the border in an irregular manner.
- The SBGS also reported three fatal incidents when attempting to irregularly cross the border: [one death by drowning](#) and [two due to hypothermia](#).
- Third country nationals were also identified attempting to irregularly cross borders: in one [case](#), nine Afghan nationals crossed from Belarus and were detained.
- The SBGS informed about the continuous collaboration with the [border police of Moldova](#) and [Poland](#) with whom meetings were held to exchange experiences, discuss common challenges, and further strengthen the already strong cooperation between the respective border authorities.

### 4. Support provided at the border crossings in May 2025

In May 2025, UNHCR partners, R2P, NEEKA and TTA, conducted **240 monitoring visits to the BCPs** with Poland, Slovakia, Hungary, Romania and Moldova. During these visits, UNHCR's partners provided different forms of support to **748 individuals** who crossed the border. This support included a range of services, including counselling of 693 people, the provision of legal assistance to 81 people, while 13 persons received social accompaniment and 10 persons were provided with transportation services.

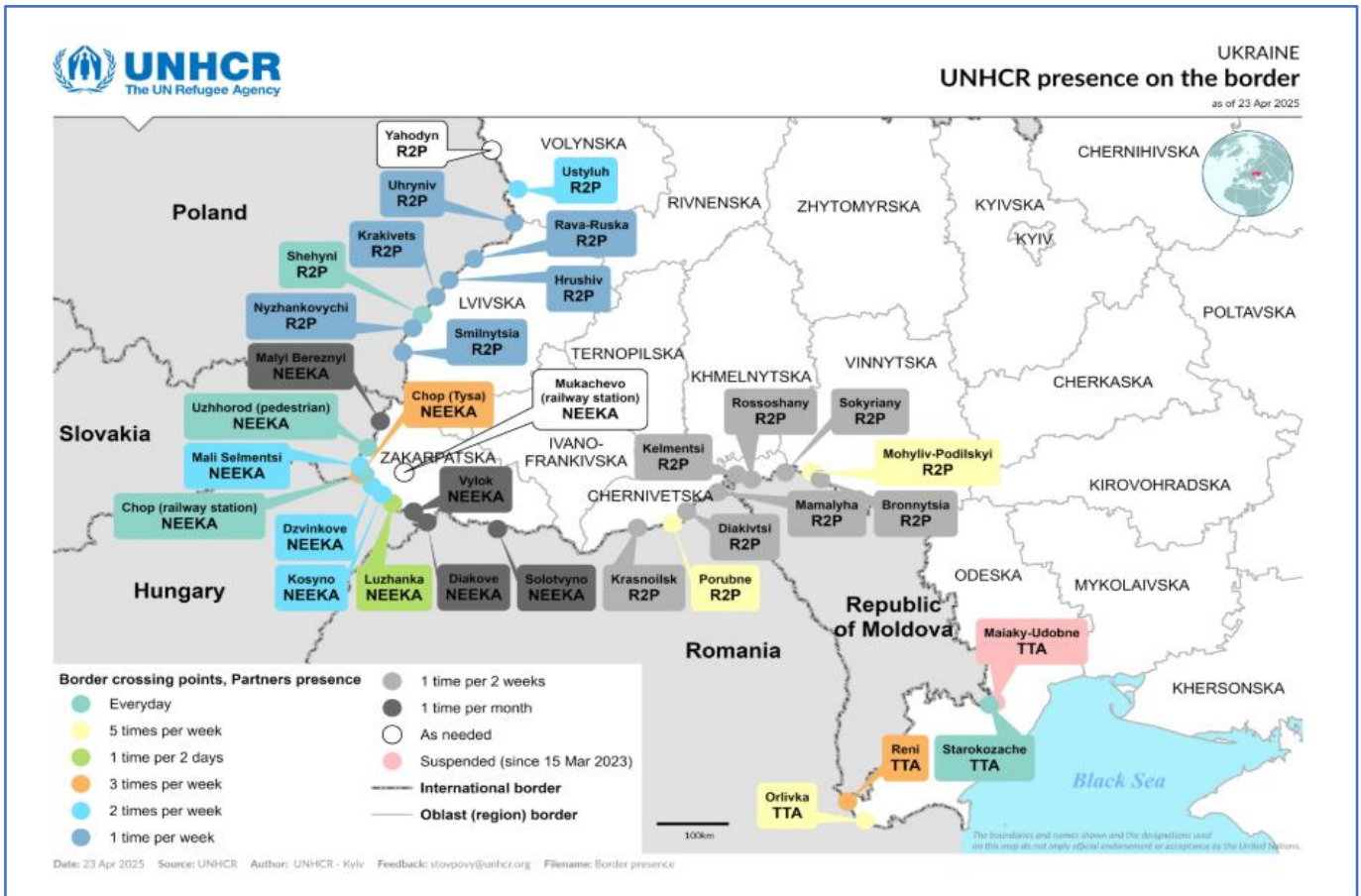
### Note on Methodology

In May 2025, UNHCR partners surveyed 1,843 people (comprising of 68% women aged 18-59 years, 22% men aged 18-59, 4% women aged over 60, 7% men aged over 60, 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 February 2025 [here](#), March 2025 [here](#), April 2025 [here](#)
- Visit Ukraine's Operational Data Portal for more information products [here](#).
- Visit UNHCR Ukraine's Website [here](#).

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