

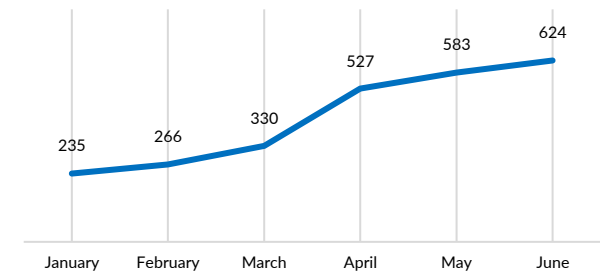
Since August 2024, the number Ukrainians arriving from the temporarily occupied territories (TOT), Belarus or the Russian Federation through the border crossing point (BCP) Mokransy-Domanove between Belarus and Ukraine has increased following the closure of the humanitarian corridor between the Russian Federation and Ukraine in Sumska oblast. This BCP is officially closed but accepts arrivals of Ukrainians with relevant documents.

UNHCR has an established monitoring presence through its partner Right to Protection (R2P) at the Domanove BCP to conduct protection interviews with people arriving to understand their travel routes, experiences, intentions and needs, as well as to provide basic protection support and referrals as needed. Other entities present at the BCP include the local social service department, a representative of the Office of the Ombudsperson, and NGOs (Helping to Leave, Caritas Volyn, and Pluriton).

Key border crossing trends:

- From January to June 2025, 2,565 Ukrainians arrived through the Domanove corridor, including 233 children (9%). Arrival through this corridor requires valid Ukrainian documents, which may include return certificates, typically obtained at the Ukrainian consulate in Minsk.
- Since the beginning of 2025, a gradual monthly increase in arrivals was observed, with the starkest increase of nearly 200 people noted in April. Overall, the near tripling of arrivals from January to June is largely due to weather conditions.
- Arrival to the BCP is only possible by vehicles. People mostly use transport service providers that conduct group transfers. The duration of the travel depends on the place of origin and is reported to last 2 to 3 days, excluding transit time in Minsk for documentation, which can last up to 3 weeks.

Border crossings by month
January to June 2025



Key monitoring findings:

In first half of 2025, border monitors conducted 519 interviews with arrivals through the Domanove corridor, i.e. with 20% of all arrivals during this period.

- 81% of respondents were female.
- 60% of respondents were above 60 years old.
- Just over 9% of respondents were travelling with children.

The vast majority of respondents, 89%, travelled from temporary occupied territories (TOT) of Ukraine (primarily from Kherson and Zaporizhzhia oblasts, followed by Donetsk oblast). 6% of respondents travelled from Belarus and 5% from the Russian Federation (RF).

Situation at the BCP: The Mokransy-Domanove BCP is officially closed and not operational for regular two-way border crossings. It currently only accepts arrivals of Ukrainians with valid documents, including return certificates. At the BCP, the entry interviews with various state services can vary from half an hour to several hours.

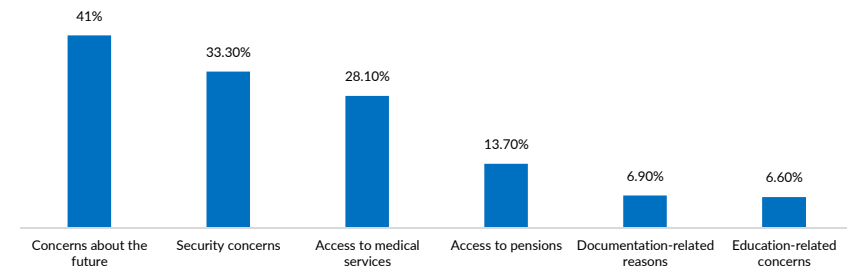
- During this process, families are kept together, and children await the completion of interviews with their parents.
- The BCP is equipped with wheelchairs and a golf cart driven by a social worker to assist people with disabilities and older people cross the border, alongside trolleys for luggage.
- There is a waiting area at the BCP, which requires some enhancements notably for the increasing number of arrivals. A respective assessment is currently ongoing.

Main reasons for movement: Family reunification and other family-related reasons are the most cited reason (77.5%) for travelling from the TOT, Belarus or the RF through this corridor. Concerns about the future in the TOTs were also a significant factor for 41% of respondents, while one third noted the deteriorating security situation in the TOTs as a key factor. Access to medical services and to pensions were factors for 28% and 14% of respondents. 7% each noted documentation needs and education-related concerns as factors influencing their travel decision. Other factors, including fear of persecution, pressure to obtain Russian documents, and fear of conscription, were reported by a combined total of 5% of respondents.

Duration of stay and intentions: Overall, 52% of arrivals during the first half of the year intended to stay permanently, with the share of those with permanent stay intentions gradually decreasing from January to May. 8% of respondents were undecided about the duration of stay, while 40% of respondents planned to resolve and address different needs during their short- to medium-term stay in Ukraine. 37% of respondents planned to return to the TOTs after resolving documentation- or pension-related issues. A smaller share of respondents (almost 4%) intended to move onward to other countries. Others were undecided about their plans at the time of the interview.

Situation upon arrival: Outside of the BCP, the local social protection department, a representative of the Ombudsman's office as well as four NGOs, including R2P, offer their services and support to arrivals, including information, counselling, legal assistance, as well as cash, sim-cards and train tickets for some vulnerable individuals among arrivals. A representative of the local social protection department issues a document confirming the date of crossing that people may use to apply for IDP registration at the place of final destination. NGO-run transport (provided by Helping to Leave and Caritas Volyn) helps people to reach the main transit point in Kovel (90 km from the BCP), from where people move onwards, with the majority reporting to be travelling to stay with relatives, while 4% of respondents needed alternative accommodation.

Main reasons for movement
January to June 2025



Planned duration of stay in Ukraine
For arrivals from January to June 2025

