

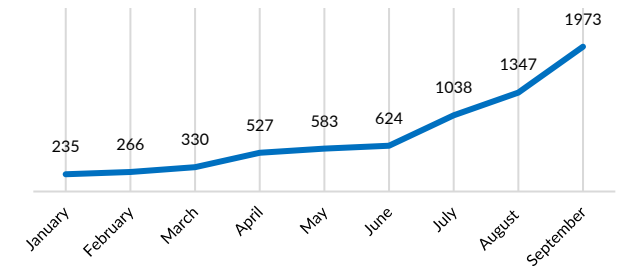
Since August 2024, the number of Ukrainians arriving from the temporarily occupied territories (TOT), Belarus or the Russian Federation through the border crossing point (BCP) Mokraný-Domanove between Belarus and Ukraine has increased following the closure of the humanitarian corridor between the Russian Federation and Ukraine in Sum'ska 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 regularly 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 July to September 2025, 4,358 Ukrainians arrived through the Domanove corridor, including 462 children (11%). Q3 arrivals constitute 63% of all arrivals in 2025 thus far (6,923 people). Arrival through this corridor requires valid Ukrainian documents, which may include return certificates, typically obtained at the Ukrainian consulate in Minsk.
- While there has been a month-by-month increase in arrivals since the beginning of 2025, Q3 has seen the steepest rise in arrivals. This is mainly due to seasonal conditions more conducive to travel as well as the temporary closure of the Belarus–Poland border in September.
- 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.

Border crossings by month
January to September 2025



Key monitoring findings:

In Q3 of 2025, border monitors conducted 520 interviews with arrivals through the Domanove corridor, i.e. with 12% of all arrivals during this period.

- 83% of respondents were female.
- 44% of respondents were above 60 years old.
- 13% of respondents were travelling with children.

Most respondents, 90%, travelled from temporarily occupied territories (TOT) of Ukraine (primarily from Kherson and Zaporizhzhia oblasts, followed by Donetsk oblast). 6% of respondents travelled from the Russian Federation (RF) and 4% from Belarus.

Situation at the BCP: The Mokraný-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.

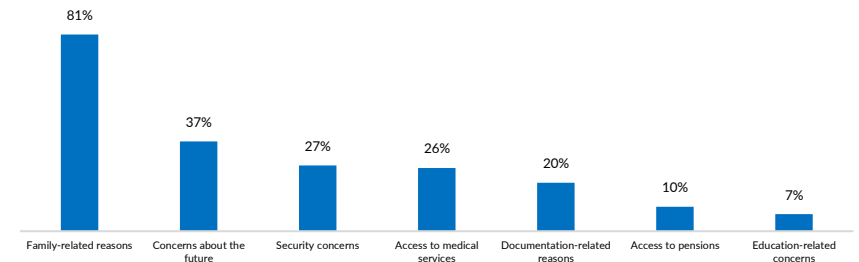
- During this process, families are kept together, and children await the completion of interviews with their parents.
- The BCP is equipped with wheelchairs and a golf cart driven by a social worker to assist people with disabilities and older people cross the border, alongside trolleys for luggage.
- Following the assessment of the border crossing conditions, state authorities, in coordination with humanitarian actors have started to enhance the reception conditions, both at the waiting area at the BCP and the service area just outside the BCP.

Main reasons for movement: Family reunification and other family-related reasons are the most cited reason (81%) 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 37% of respondents, while 27% noted the deteriorating security situation in the TOTs as a key factor. Access to medical services and to documentation needs were factors for 26% and 20% of respondents. 10% and 7% respectively noted access to pensions 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 8% of respondents.

Duration of stay and intentions: In Q3 of 2025, on average, 45% of arrivals intended to stay permanently (8% decrease compared to first half of 2025), with the highest share reported in September at 50%. 7% of respondents were undecided about the duration of stay, while 48% of respondents planned to resolve and address different needs during their short- to medium-term stay in Ukraine. Among respondents who were uncertain about the period of their stay or planned short- to medium-term stays, 83% intended to return to the TOTs after resolving documentation, pension or family-related issues, while 17% planned to move onward to other countries.

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 only 1% of respondents needed alternative accommodation.

Main reasons for movement
July to September 2025



Planned duration of stay in Ukraine
For arrivals from July to September 2025

