

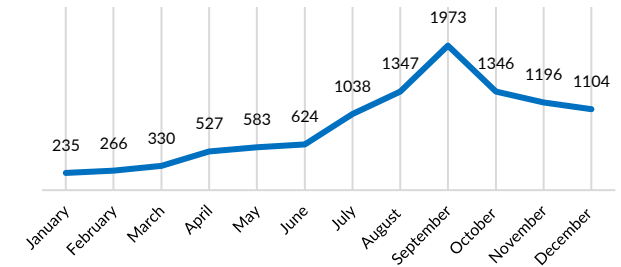
Since August 2024, the number Ukrainians arriving from the temporarily occupied territories (TOT), Belarus or the Russian Federation through the border crossing point (BCP) Mokransky-Domanove between Belarus and Ukraine has increased following the closure of the humanitarian corridor between the Russian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

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), in addition to the law enforcement bodies.

Key border crossing trends:

- In October-December 2025, 3,646 Ukrainians arrived through the Domanove corridor, including 207 children (almost 6%). Overall, in 2025, 10,569 people arrived through this corridor. Q4 arrivals constitute 34%. Arrival through this corridor requires valid Ukrainian documents, which may include return certificates, typically obtained at the Ukrainian consulate in Minsk.
- Following the starkest rise in arrivals in September 2025, a steady decline in arrivals was observed from October onward. This decrease is largely due to seasonal weather conditions, which make travel more challenging and are expected to continue affecting arrivals during the winter months.
- The duration of the travel depends on the place of origin and is reported to last between 2 to 3 days. At the same time, in individual cases, travels lasting up to 6 days was reported.

Border crossings by month
January to December 2025



Key monitoring findings:

In Q4 of 2025, border monitors conducted 466 interviews with people arriving through the Domanove corridor, i.e. with almost 13% of all arrivals during this period.

- 74% of respondents were female.
- 55% of respondents were above 60 years old.
- 8% of respondents were travelling with children.

Most respondents, 95%, travelled from the temporarily occupied territories (TOT) of Ukraine (primarily from Kherson and Zaporizhzhia oblasts, followed by Donetsk oblast). 3% of respondents travelled from the Russian Federation (RF) and 2% from Belarus.

Situation at the BCP: The Mokransky-Domanove BCP is officially closed and not operational for regular two-way border crossings. It 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.

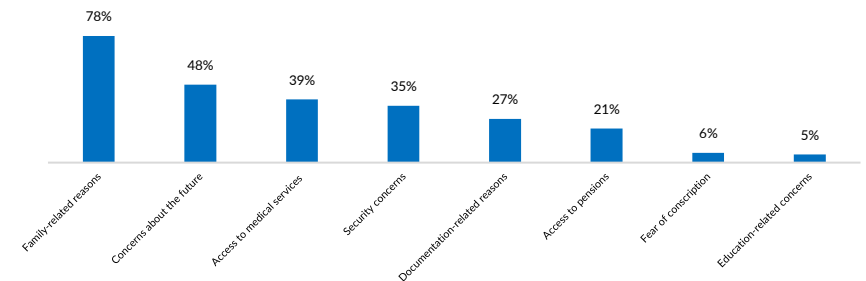
- During this process, families are kept together, and children await the completion of interviews with their parents.
- The BCP is equipped with wheelchairs and a golf cart driven by a social worker to assist people with disabilities and older people cross the border, alongside trolleys for luggage.
- In Q4 of 2025, following coordinated efforts by governmental authorities and humanitarian actors to improve reception conditions, the waiting area at the BCP was upgraded and the service area outside the BCP is now fully operational.

Main reasons for movement: In Q4 of 2025 family reunification and other family-related reasons are the most cited reason (78%) for travelling from the TOT, Belarus or the RF through this corridor. Concerns about the future in the TOTs were second significant factor for 48% of respondents, followed by the need to access medical services (39%). Deterioration of the security situation in the TOTs were cited by 35% of respondents. Documentation needs and access to pensions were reported by 27% and 21% respectively. Fear of conscription (6%) and education-related concerns (5%) were also mentioned. Other factors, including pressure to obtain Russian documentation and persecution by occupation authorities were reported by less than 1% of respondents each.

Duration of stay and intentions: In Q4 of 2025, on average, 48% of arrivals intended to stay permanently (3% increase compared to Q3 of 2025), with the highest share reported in November at 54%. 9% of respondents were undecided about the duration of stay, with the highest share in December – 20%. 42% of respondents planned to resolve and address different needs during their short- to medium-term stay in Ukraine (6% decrease compared to Q3 of 2025). Among respondents who were uncertain about the period of their stay or planned short- to medium-term stays, 84% intended to return to the TOTs after resolving documentation, pension or family-related issues, while 16% planned to move onward to other countries.

Situation upon arrival: Outside of the BCP, a representative of the Ombudsman's office as well as four NGOs, including R2P, stay in one building, offering 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 2% of respondents needed alternative accommodation.

Main reasons for movement
October to December 2025



Planned duration of stay in Ukraine
For arrivals from October to December 2025

