



**UNHCR UKRAINE BORDER MONITORING
AT INTERNATIONAL BORDER CROSSING POINTS**
(Borders between Ukraine, the EU and Moldova)
November 2024

Border monitor provides a consultation at Uzhhorod BCP, November 2024. © 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)

The gradual decline in cross-border movement that set in in September continued in November 2024, with outbound movements slightly outpacing inbound movements. The State Border Guard Service of Ukraine (SBGS) reported a net outflow of 14,000 people in November, compared to 45,000 in September and 25,000 in October. Lower cross-border mobility aligns with trends observed in 2023 with the advent of winter months.

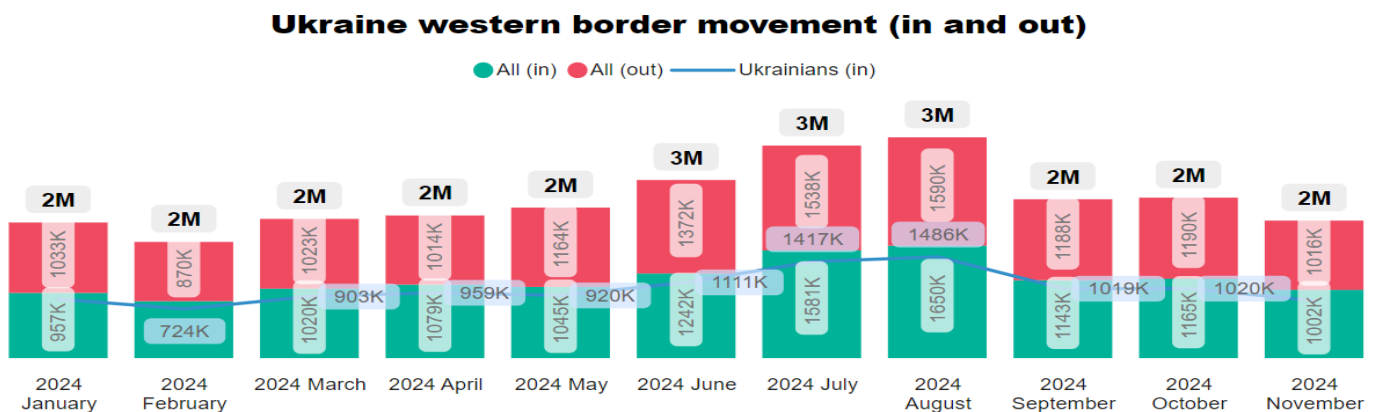


Figure 1: Number of people crossing international borders with Poland, Slovakia, Hungary and Romania. The figure does not include data on border crossings with Moldova. Source: State Border Guard Service (SBGS) of Ukraine.

2. Key monitoring findings

- **The first-time departures** decreased in November 2024, accounting for 18% of surveyed individuals who left the country compared to 25% in October 2024. This is the lowest share of first-time departures throughout 2024 thus far.
- **Reasons for departures.** In November 2024, 99% of surveyed respondents cited the deterioration of the security situation as a key reason for departure. Concerns over access to energy-related services, electricity, heating and water, as well as housing-related concerns rose as main reasons for departure in November, likely due to the colder temperatures with winter arriving.
- **Duration of stay abroad.** In November 2024, of those surveyed at the borders upon their departure, 65% said they were uncertain about the period of stay abroad. This is the highest share of respondents expressing such uncertainty in fall, with 57% and 60% respectively expressing such uncertainty in September and October 2024.
- **Intentions to return.** Over one third of respondents (38%) remain uncertain about their plans to return to Ukraine, a relatively consistent share throughout the fall period. Among those not planning to return the share was highest in August 2024, at 10%, but has since decreased in subsequent months, reaching 4% in November. The vast majority of those surveyed intend to return to Ukraine, reported by 58% in November 2024. Improvements in the security situation, access to energy-related services and access to employment are the three main factors reported influencing such a return decision.

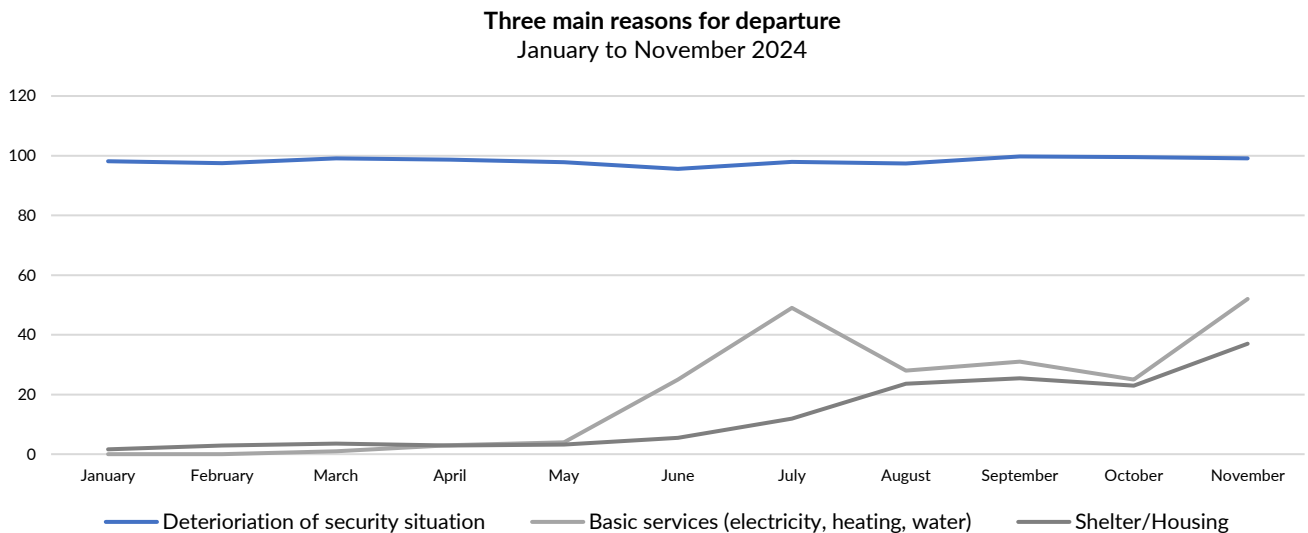


Figure 2: Data based on UNHCR border monitoring 2024

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

- Smuggling cases continue to be reported. The SBGS published over 15 cases of smuggling-related detentions and arrests, involving individuals organizing irregular border crossings for men of conscription age. In some instances, smugglers were found to be collaborating with border guards. Of note, in November 2024, the SBGS reported on first smuggling cases along the Belarusian border.
- Several cases of intercepted attempts of men of conscription age to cross the border were reported on the SBGS website. These attempts were primarily made by groups of two or more individuals, with attempts of individual decreasing.
- In November 2024, the SBGS publicly reported only one [case](#) in which border crossing was denied involving a couple of a man of conscription age and a woman with a disability. In previous months, more such cases of marriages to a person with disability for purposes of border crossing by men of conscription age were reported.

SOUNDBITES FROM THE BORDERS

- Border monitors observed that the primary reasons for denials of border crossings for men of conscription age include discrepancies between military documents and information in the Oberih system/Reserve application.
- Border monitors also observed a pattern of departures specifically linked to attacks, notably of family with children.
- Border monitors noted a pattern as part of the ongoing winter-related departures that people surveyed at borders note that they accompany their elderly relatives (parents or grandparents) abroad due to the energy-related concerns in the winter season.

4. Support provided at the border crossings in November 2024

In November 2024, UNHCR partners, R2P, NEEKA and TTA, conducted **258 monitoring visits to the BCPs** with Poland, Slovakia, Hungary, Romania and Moldova. During these visits, UNHCR's partners provided different forms of support to **1,702 individuals** who crossed the border. This support included a range of services, including 1,614 instances of protection counselling and 188 instances of legal assistance, while 43 persons received social accompaniment and 3 persons were provided with transportation services.

Overall, from January to November 2024, UNHCR partners supported more than **15,630 individuals** crossing the borders.

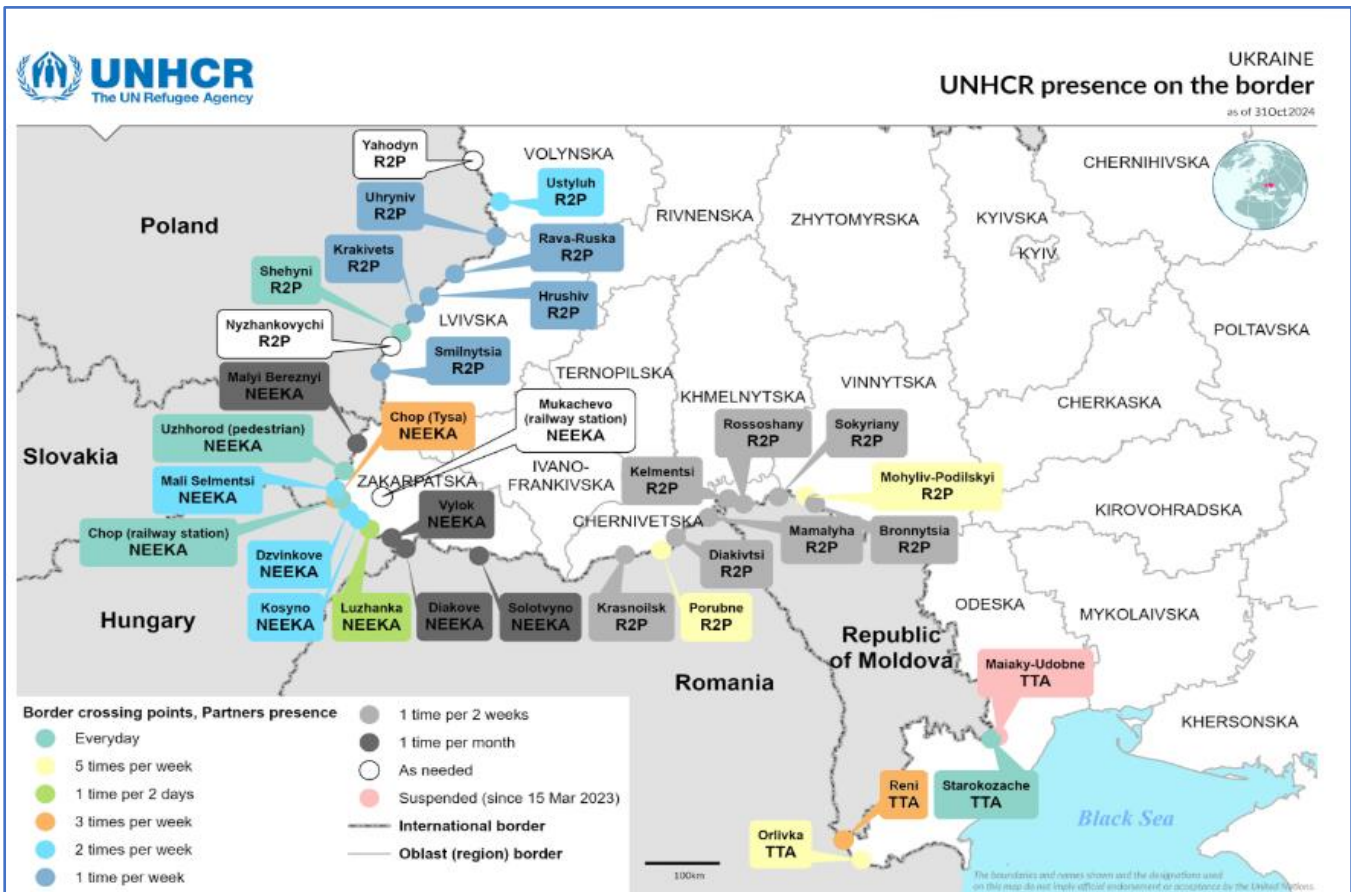
Note on Methodology

From January to November 2024, a total of 30,545 people were surveyed by UNHCR partners at the borders. In November 2024, UNHCR partners surveyed 2,120 people (comprising 66% females 18-59 years of age, 18% males 18-59 years of age, 6% females 60+ years of age, 11% males 60+ years of age and 1% 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 August 2024 [here](#), September 2024 [here](#), October 2024 [here](#)
- Visit Ukraine’s Operational Data Portal for more information products [here](#).
- Visit UNHCR Ukraine’s Website [here](#).

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