1. MOVEMENTS

Ukraine western border movement (in and out)

Since July 2023, there have been more people entering Ukraine than leaving the country. In August 2023, a net inflow of 103,000 individuals into Ukraine was recorded. Since January 2023, data from the State Border Guard Service of Ukraine shows that there has been a net outflow of 161,000 individuals from Ukraine.
2. BORDER MONITORING FINDINGS

Individuals interviewed from a number of Ukrainian oblasts, including Donetsk, Cherkaska, Zaporizka, Kharkivska, Mykolayivska, and Odeska, cited ruined or damaged infrastructure as their main reason for leaving Ukraine.

The proportion of people interviewed by Border Monitoring Teams who reported that they were leaving Ukraine to find safety abroad continued to decrease in August (50% of respondents, compared to 65% during the first quarter of 2023). The main reason for leaving the country among respondents seeking safety abroad remained security concerns (93%), while the lack of shelter or basic utilities remain marginal reasons for departure (up to 2%). The majority of respondents continued to express their intention to return to Ukraine once the security situation in the country improves (91%).

The primary motivations for return cited by respondents entering Ukraine are reunifying with family, improved security in their home region, and lack of access to healthcare in hosting countries.

3. UNHCR ASSISTANCE PROVIDED AT THE BORDER

A total of 1,425 individuals crossing the border received support from UNHCR partners. This support was primarily legal aid, protection counseling, social assistance, and transportation services. In July-August 2023, the five most common requests for legal information and assistance at International Border Crossing Points (IBCPs) relate to:

- **Documentation for children**: There are recurring concerns about individuals crossing the border with children who only have birth certificates, not passports for travelling abroad. Border guards in Poland are reportedly denying entry to these children, even when they come from regions with ongoing military hostilities.
- **Men accompanying persons with disabilities**: Across all border regions, men accompanying persons with disabilities often lack the necessary documents to cross the border and are therefore not permitted to exit Ukraine.
- **Third country nationals without visas**: There are reported cases across all regions of third country nationals (attempting flee the war in Ukraine, denied entry in neighboring countries for lack of Schengen visa).
- **Returning Ukrainians**: Individuals entering Ukraine often seek information about obtaining passports for travelling abroad, restoring lost or damaged documents, and information about social assistance in Ukraine (pensions, cash assistance, employment). They also seek information about the potential suspension of social payments in their country of asylum if they stay in Ukraine for an extended duration.
- **Women in the medical or pharmaceutical professions**: Women in the medical and pharmaceutical professions who have recently returned to Ukraine are concerned about the upcoming mandatory military registration on 1 October 1, 2023, and possible travel restrictions out of Ukraine.

In August 2023 UNHCR distributed 175 laptops to the Western and Southern Detachments of the State Border Guard Service aiming to enhance border crossing conditions for people on the move. In August, UNHCR and IOM conducted training sessions for the State Border Guard Service in Uzhhorod, Mukachevo, Lviv and Lutsk focused on combatting human trafficking risks and enhancing the ability to identify and support unaccompanied and separated children at the border.
Number of people interviewed in August 2023: **3,633**

In mid-March 2022, UNHCR deployed border monitoring teams to provide assistance to people crossing the border with EU countries (Poland, Slovakia, Hungary, Romania) and Moldova. These teams provide legal assistance, protection counselling, social support and transport services to people on the move on a regular basis.

Protection monitoring teams conduct individual interviews with people who are exiting and entering Ukraine through the monitored border crossing. The purpose of these interviews is to gather information about the individual’s circumstances, reasons for moving and their protection needs.

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.

The individual interviews with people crossing the border and the monitoring process started systematically from early April 2022. This indicates that the monitoring is ongoing and continues.

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.