

# POPULATION STATISTICS AND SURVEYS ON REFUGEES FROM UKRAINE:

## *LESSONS LEARNT FROM UNHCR's WORK AND OPPORTUNITIES FOR STATISTICAL COLLABORATION*

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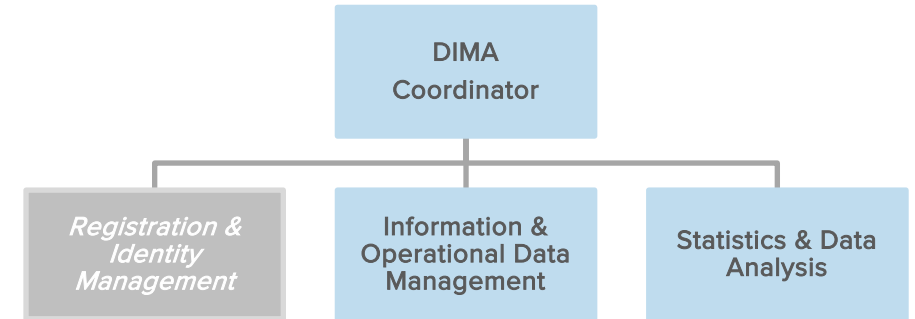
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# 1) WHO WE ARE

- In 2019, UNHCR launched a [Data Transformation Strategy 2020 – 2025](#), elevating data as a corporate priority and strategic asset.
- In addition to creating UNHCR’s Global Data Service (GDS), the strategy established the [Data, Identity Management and Analysis Unit \(DIMA\)](#) as [Regional Data Hub](#) at Bureau level, centralizing in one team data functions of UNHCR.
- DIMAs operates at regional level, providing [information / identity management and statistical support](#) to all Bureau units as well as to all country operations in Europe, while overseeing and ensuring respect of global UNHCR data standards and norms.

## Regional Bureau for Europe – DIMA Unit Structure



*“Our vision is that by 2025, UNHCR is a trusted leader on data and information related to refugees and other affected populations, thereby enabling actions that protect, include and empower”\**

\* UNHCR Data Transformation Strategy 2020-2025 (click [here](#))

## 2) CONTEXT

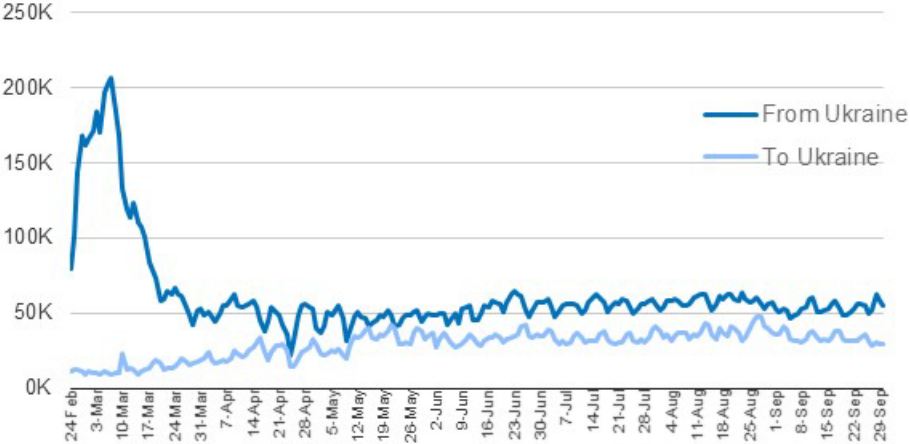
- The international armed conflict in Ukraine has created one of largest and fastest growing forced displacements crisis in the world.
- So far, more than **14 million** people have been displaced from their home (nearly **one-third** of the estimated total population), seeking protection within Ukraine or in neighboring countries.
- As of early October, over **6.2 million** people remain displaced by the war within Ukraine and over **7.7 million** refugees from Ukraine are recorded across Europe, including **4.3 million** registered for temporary protection or similar national protection schemes.
- From the onset, UNHCR has been working together with national authorities to provide timely and reliable information on the **magnitude, profile, needs** and **intentions** of refugees. This information has been crucial to inform the inter-agency humanitarian response in support of host Governments.
- Given the magnitude and continuous flow of population movements, data collection and analysis around the magnitude and situation of refugees has faced important challenges, leading to the need to **adapt** approaches, **explore** new sources and use **innovative** methodologies as the situation evolves.

# 3) POPULATION STATISTICS

## Measuring refugees' flows

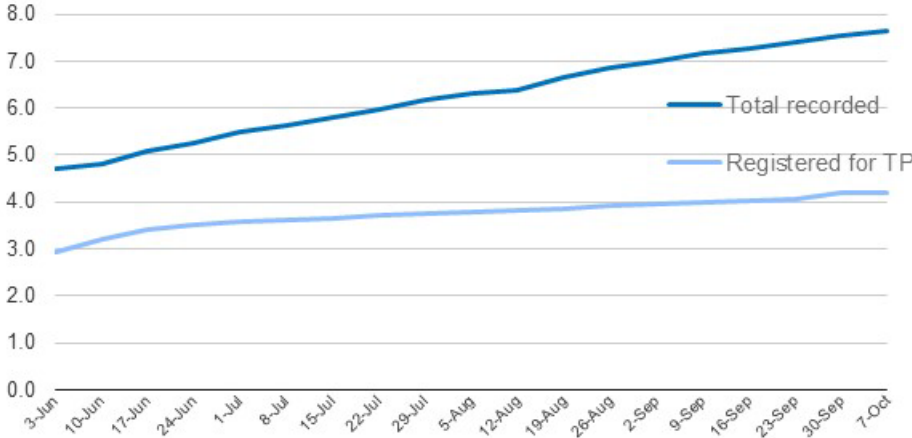
- **What:** number of cross-border movements of Ukrainian and third-country nationals registered from / to Ukraine to / from all neighboring counties
- **Source:** data provided by national authorities (border police, migration and asylum authorities, line ministries, etc.) and compiled by UNHCR country offices & Regional Bureau for Europe
- **When:** from the onset of the emergency (24-Feb) and updated on a daily basis (as per availability)

FLOW FIGURES: DAILY BORDER CROSSINGS FROM / TO UKRAINE



Source: UNHCR Operational Data Portal - Ukraine Refugee Situation © UNHCR. The UN Refugee Agency

STOCK FIGURES: REFUGEES FROM UKRAINE RECORDED IN EUROPE



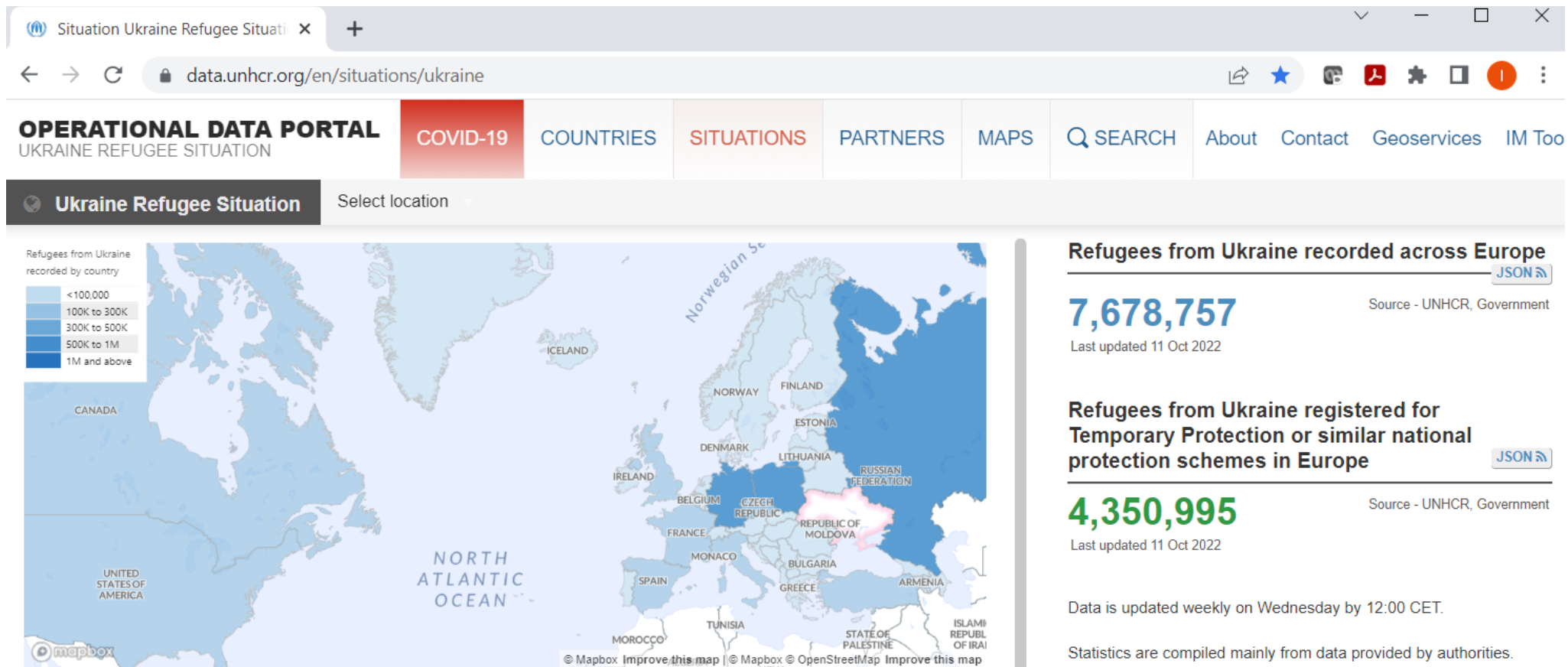
Source: UNHCR Operational Data Portal - Ukraine Refugee Situation © UNHCR. The UN Refugee Agency

## Measuring refugees' stock

- **What:** estimated number of individual refugees who have fled Ukraine since 24-Feb and are currently present in European countries. If official estimate is not available, total registrations for Temporary Protection or similar national protection schemes is used.
- **Source:** data provided by national authorities and compiled by UNHCR country offices & Regional Bureau for Europe
- **When:** since flows started to stabilized (5-Jun) and updated on a weekly basis (as per availability)



# Dissemination of data in a timely manner



The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations.

The escalation of the international armed conflict in Ukraine has caused civilian casualties and destruction of civilian infrastructure, forcing people to flee their homes seeking safety, protection and assistance. Millions of refugees from Ukraine have crossed borders into neighbouring countries, and many more have been forced to move inside the country. They are in need of protection and support. In light of the emergency and the scale of humanitarian needs, an inter-agency regional refugee response is being carried out, in support of the efforts of refugee-hosting countries. The Regional Refugee Response Plan brings together UN, NGO and other relevant partners and focuses on supporting host country governments to ensure safe access to territory for refugees and third-country nationals fleeing from Ukraine, in line with international standards. It also prioritizes the provision of critical protection services and humanitarian assistance.

## Refugees from Ukraine recorded across Europe

[JSON](#)

**7,678,757**

Source - UNHCR, Government

Last updated 11 Oct 2022

## Refugees from Ukraine registered for Temporary Protection or similar national protection schemes in Europe

[JSON](#)

**4,350,995**

Source - UNHCR, Government

Last updated 11 Oct 2022

Data is updated weekly on Wednesday by 12:00 CET.

Statistics are compiled mainly from data provided by authorities. While every effort has been made to ensure that all statistical information is verified, figures represent an estimate. Triangulation of information and sources is performed on a continuous basis. Therefore, amendments to figures may occur, including retroactively.

## Explanatory Note

Before using the information in this portal, please read this [Explanatory Note](#).

## Good practices & lessons learnt

- ✓ **Collective efforts** between Governments and UNHCR to capture and share data on border crossings from the very onset of the emergency
- ✓ **Timely consolidation and dissemination** so data could turn into actions and inform response plans and urgent interventions
- ✓ **Adaptation capacity** to re-focus from flows to stock when the context and information needs changed
- ✓ **Harmonized approach** in the EU region (Temporary Protection directive) facilitated stock estimation
- ✓ **Detailed documentation** to explain scope and limitations of the different estimates
- ✓ Set-up of **statistical quality assurance processes** from the beginning, including triangulation of information and sources (e.g. social media data)

## Challenges & areas to improve

- ▣ Gaps in terms of **disaggregated statistics** (e.g. gender, age) due to different or incomplete reporting criteria
- ▣ Flow data based on cross-border movements, which doesn't equal individuals, with potential for **double-counting**
- ▣ Difficulty to track flows of **secondary movements** within Schengen area
- ▣ Ongoing displacement coupled with **pendular movements** creates a challenge to assess magnitude and sustainability of returns
- ▣ **Different sources and methods** for stock estimation among countries (e.g. estimation based on net balance between arrivals / departures vs. estimation based on registration for different legal status)
- ▣ Refugees from Ukraine applied to **different legal status**, for which data are not consistently provided in order to allow estimation of stock

# 4) HOUSEHOLD SURVEYS

## Measuring and monitoring refugees' intentions

- **Purpose:** provide timely and accurate information on perceptions and intentions of refugees from Ukraine across Europe, and the main enabling factors in the countries of asylum and country of origin influencing their decisions.
- **Methods:**
  - ✓ **CATI:** representative sample based on UNHCR's enrolment database for cash assistance in countries neighboring Ukraine
  - ✓ **CAWI:** using IPSOS SA's online panels of Ukrainians that left the country since 24-Feb and are currently residing across Europe
  - ✓ **CAPI:** for specific host countries, through random selection of respondents in different locations (collective sites, assistance points, etc.)
  - ✓ **FGDs:** to complement quantitative results and ensure the centrality of refugees' voices in discussions about their future
- **Thematic focus:** demographics, situation in place of origin, socio-economic situation in host country, intentions
- **Frequency:** regular rounds; first done in mid-May to mid-Jun and second done in mid-Aug to mid-Sep





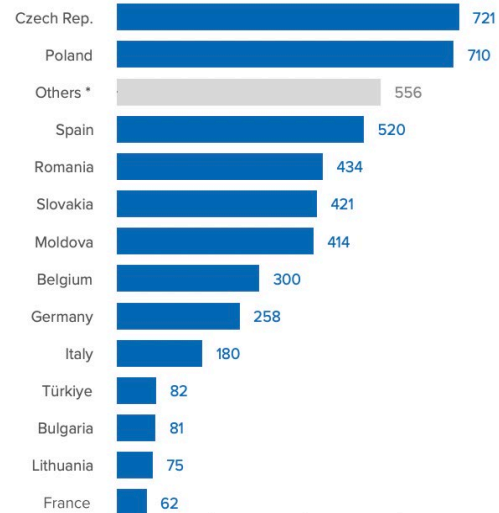
# Some of the main results from the second round of intentions surveys

**+4,800** household surveyed. **89%** of respondents were females, and **74%** left Ukraine in the first 2 months of the crisis.

## SAMPLE CHARACTERISTICS



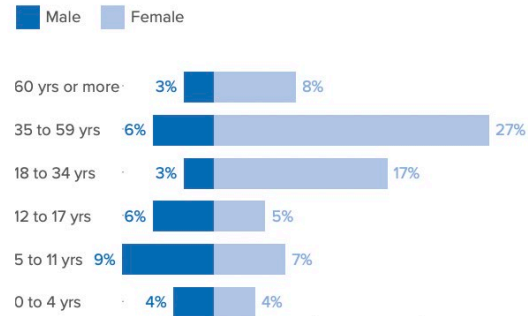
## COMPLETED SURVEYS PER COUNTRY



\* Includes other 28 European countries as well as Canada and the United States of America.

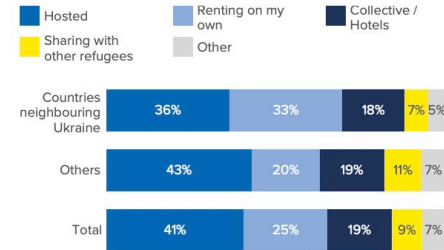
**87%** of household members are women and children. **70%** of respondents have completed university or higher studies, and **63%** were employed or self-employed in Ukraine.

## HOUSEHOLD COMPOSITION



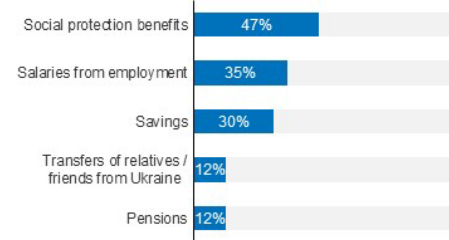
**79%** of respondents have registered for temporary protection or refugee status. **41%** were staying in hosted accommodation.

## ACCOMMODATION IN HOST COUNTRIES



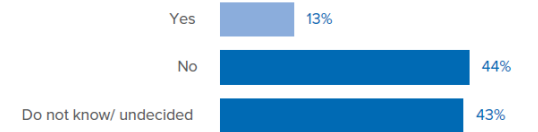
Only **28%** of respondents were currently employed / self-employed. **47%** reported social protection benefits / cash assistance as one of the main income sources.

## INCOME SOURCES \*

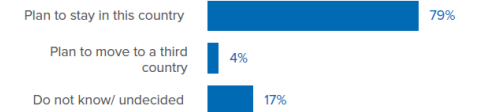


While **81%** refugees surveyed hope to return to Ukraine one day, for the time being, the majority plan to continue to stay in their current host country.

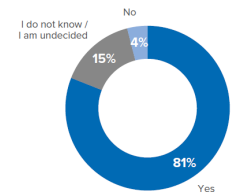
## INTENTION TO RETURN IN NEXT 3 MONTHS



## NOT INTENDING OR UNDECIDED TO RETURN: PLANS FOR NEXT 3 MONTHS



## HOPE TO RETURN ONE DAY



## Good practices & lessons learnt

- ✓ **Mixed modes** of data collection allowed to expand coverage and improved representativeness. Overall distribution by age and gender of surveyed individuals matches the one reflected in administrative data available for some countries.
- ✓ High degree of **digital connectivity and response rates** among refugees facilitates remote data collection methods
- ✓ **Qualitative data** has been key to support interpretation of results and identify specific challenges and solutions raised by refugees themselves
- ✓ **Alignment of questionnaires** to those used in similar exercises in other refugee situations (i.e. Syria situation) considerably improved quality (tested questions) and comparability
- ✓ Non-response rate **adjustments** and population-based **weights** are essential to avoid biasing aggregate results given large differences in refugees' distribution among Europe

## Challenges & areas to improve

- ▣ **Lack of complete sampling frame** for all target population limits the coverage / representativeness of any survey
- ▣ Trade-off between length of survey needed to provide in-depth analyses and **feasible length** when conducting phone or online surveys
- ▣ **Socio-economic modules** needs to be adapted to changes in context and needs as displacement prolongs over time; options to align to statistical standards within the region (i.e. EU-SILC, EU-LFS)
- ▣ **Similar information needs** of international organizations and national governments, with opportunities to look for synergies and collaboration, and avoid survey fatigue among refugee population

## 5) OPPORTUNITIES FOR STATISTICAL COLLABORATION

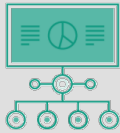
- The forced displacement crisis in and from Ukraine has drawn global and regional attention and response, largely supported by a **considerable availability of data** generated from the very onset and initial months of the crisis.
- UNHCR's regional and country offices have expanded their data capacities and activities and **strengthened collaboration** with national Governments for joint data collection and analysis, such as:

- ✓ Collaboration with national authorities in **Spain and Estonia** for intention surveys
- ✓ Joint analysis of data from local authorities in **Romania**
- ✓ Joint site assessments exercise with **Slovakia's** government
- ✓ Exchanges of data with **Slovakia's** NSO and ongoing discussions for joint activities
- ✓ Joint profiling exercise of refugees in Abruzzo region along with **Italy's** national authorities
- ✓ Technical collaboration with ISTAT for a planned socio-economic survey in **Italy**
- ✓ Joint work with UNDP, WB and government for a planned socio-economic assessment in **Moldova**
- ✓ DIMA participation in **EGRISS'** sub-group on promotion and dissemination of international recommendations and commitment to co-led different activities in Europe

- There is a great **opportunity** to build upon this growing interest around refugee statistics to expand collaboration opportunities, including all different groups of refugees, internally displaced and stateless persons in the region

## Collaboration approach among UNHCR's DIMA, regional and national statistical / data stakeholders

**Objective:** work together with regional and national statistical counterparts to produce trusted, reliable and useful statistics and information on refugees and asylum-seekers (and other forcibly displaced populations)



Joint data collection and analysis, and ensure data is shared openly and on a timely manner

- Joint socio-economic surveys / assessments (efficiency in resources and expertise)
- Joint data analysis integrating different sources (admin data with humanitarian surveys)
- Seek synergies with the Joint Data Centre on Forced Displacement (JDC)



Promote **responsible approaches** on data collection, sharing and use, including data protection

- Principles of **official statistics** and **"do no harm"** for the collection, production and dissemination of official statistics on refugees and other forcibly displaced populations
- Promote and build capacity to monitor compliance with regional and country-specific data protection policies and standards
- Promote open sharing of **microdata**



Inclusion in **national statistical systems** following international recommendations and standards

- Support exchange of good practices around refugee inclusion in data systems
- Regional cooperation to harmonize definitions and reporting needs for administrative data
- Advocacy for inclusion of refugees in national census (20230 round recommendations?)

## Relevant links

- Operational Data Portal for Ukraine Situation: <https://data.unhcr.org/en/situations/ukraine>
- Operational Data Portal for South Eastern Europe: <https://data.unhcr.org/en/situations/southeasterneurope>
- Operational Data Portal for Mediterranean Situation: <https://data.unhcr.org/en/situations/mediterranean>
- Regional Intentions Report #1: <https://data.unhcr.org/en/documents/details/94176>
- Regional Intentions Report#2: <https://data.unhcr.org/en/documents/details/95767>

## Get in contact

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***THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION!***