

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

Process of border monitoring at Uhryniv BCP, August 2024. © Right to Protection.

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)**

In August 2024, the overall upward cross-border movement continued with a further rise of in- and outbound movements from July. In August, the inflow outweighed outbound movement with a net inflow of 60,000 people reported. This pattern reflects a continuation of trends observed in July 2024 and mirrors the movement dynamics of summer 2023.

**Ukraine western border movement (in and out)**

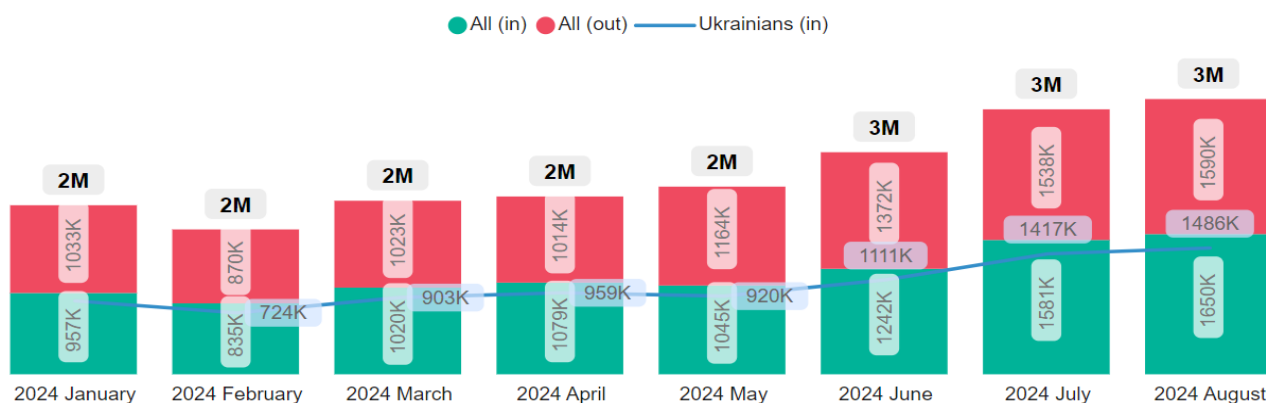


Figure 1: Number of people crossing international borders with Poland, Slovakia, Hungary and Romania. The figure does not include data on border crossings with Moldova. Source: State Border Guard Service (SBGS) of Ukraine.

## 2. Key monitoring findings

Key trends observed in August 2024:

- **Reasons for departures:** As in the two preceding months, in August 2024, security- and energy-related concerns were the two main factors contributing to departures. While nearly all respondents continued to refer to security concerns, energy-related concerns dropped to 28% (from 49% in July).
- **First-time departure:** From January to August 2024, an average of 28% of respondents said they were leaving Ukraine for the first time since the onset of the full-scale invasion by Russia. A peak likely attributed to the deteriorating security situation was observed in May when 35% of respondents left Ukraine for the first time. By August, the proportion of first-time departures decreased to 21%.
- **Duration of stay abroad:** From January to August 2024, an average of 48% of respondents were unsure about the duration of their intended stay abroad. Starting July, the share of respondents expressing such uncertainty started to grow to 58% (from 41% in June) and further rose in August 2024 to 71% of respondents who were unsure how long they would remain outside Ukraine.
- **Return considerations:** From January to August 2024, an average of 79% of respondents stated their intention to return should the situation stabilize. While this share has been relatively steady in the first half of 2024, an initial decline to 67% was reported in July that continued in August to 65%. At the same time, the percentage of those unsure about return grew from 14% in January to 25% in August.

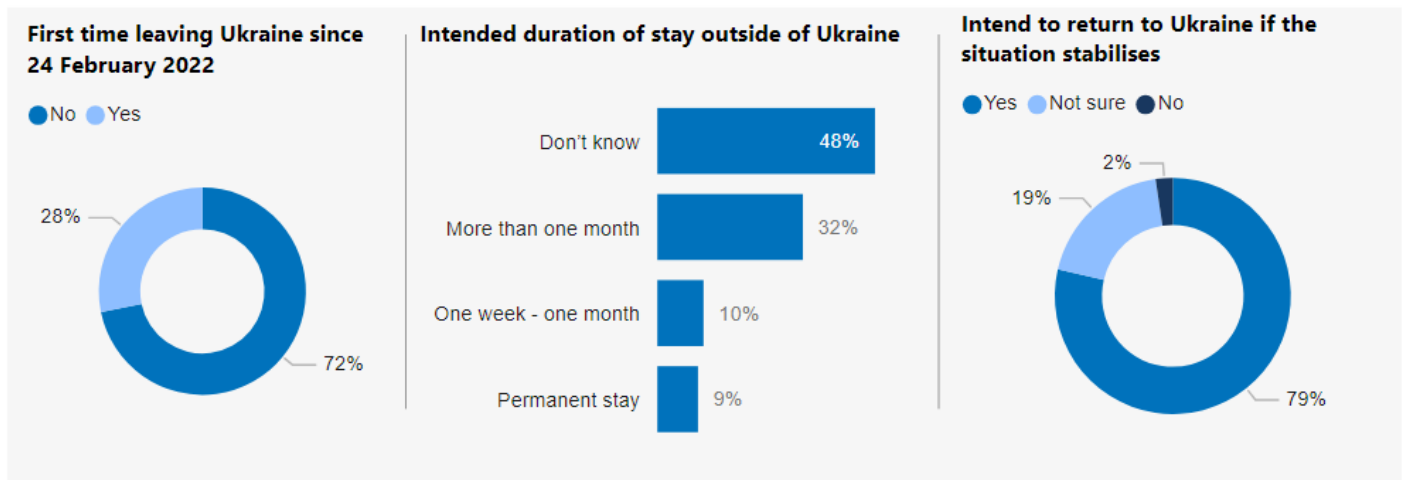


Figure 2: January to August 2024. Data based on UNHCR border monitoring 2024.

The following graph illustrates the correlation between individuals with and without a temporary protection status (TP) entering and exiting Ukraine in August 2024. The data suggests that the vast majority of those entering Ukraine hold TP status (96%). In contrast, 67% of those leaving Ukraine do not have TP status. According to monitors, both in- and outbound movements in summer months are primarily associated with temporary population movements, such as visiting home, relatives and friends (for inward movement) and seasonal work, vacations, and holidays (for outward movement), including for TP holders.

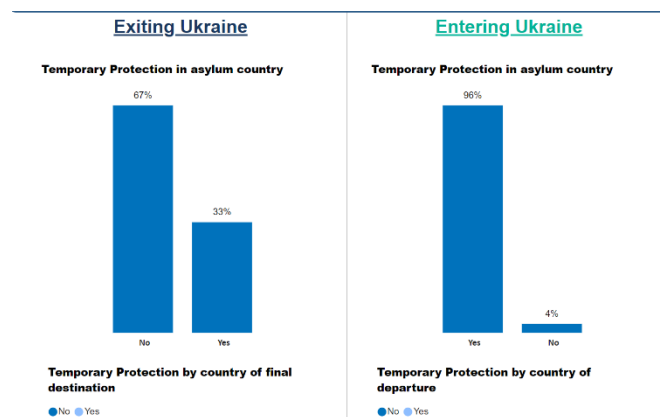


Figure 3: August 2024. Data based on UNHCR border monitoring.

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

- **Attempts of groups of men to cross the border illegally continue.** Numerous cases have been mentioned on the official website of the State Border Guard Service of Ukraine (SBGS) about attempts of men of conscription age to cross through the green border with a notable decrease in attempts to do so in groups. A particularly noticeable case was published on August 7: The SBGS reported [one of the highest recorded numbers](#) of men attempting to cross the border illegally. The smugglers expected to receive UAH 150,000 (approximately USD 3,650) from each of 48 men intending to cross the border in irregular manner.
- **The trend of false marriages involving men of conscription age and women with disabilities continues.** On 15 August, the SBGS [reported](#) a denial to cross borders to a couple following a basic interview at the border in which questions of the validity of the marriage between a man of conscription age and a women with a disability emerged.
- **Human trafficking risks remains.** A [case](#) involving a female organizer of a human trafficking scheme was revealed. Young women in vulnerable situation were contracted to work with “respectable clients” abroad. The arrest took place when attempting to cross the borders.

## SOUNDBITES FROM THE BORDERS

- According to monitors, men of conscription age continue to face difficulties crossing the border. This primarily affects those without valid grounds for crossing and those who have not yet updated their military documents in accordance with the new mobilization provisions effective as of July 18, 2024.
- Border monitors report additional challenges in crossing the border to Poland and to Romania. People crossing the border into Poland without proof of sufficient funds in their bank account faced difficulties entering Poland, while people crossing the border into Romania without the required confirmation of technical maintenance of their private vehicles were also confronted with difficulties. In the majority, these returned to Ukraine.

## 4. Support provided at the border crossings in August 2024

In August 2024, UNHCR partners, R2P, NEEKA and TTA, conducted **247 monitoring visits to the BCPs** with Poland, Slovakia, Hungary, Romania and Moldova. During these visits, UNHCR’s partners provided different forms of support to **1,613 individuals** who crossed the border. This support included a range of services, including 1,529 instances of protection counselling and 184 instances of legal assistance, while 55 persons received social accompaniment and 1 individual received transportation services.

Overall, from January to August 2024, UNHCR partners supported **11,154 individuals** crossing the borders.

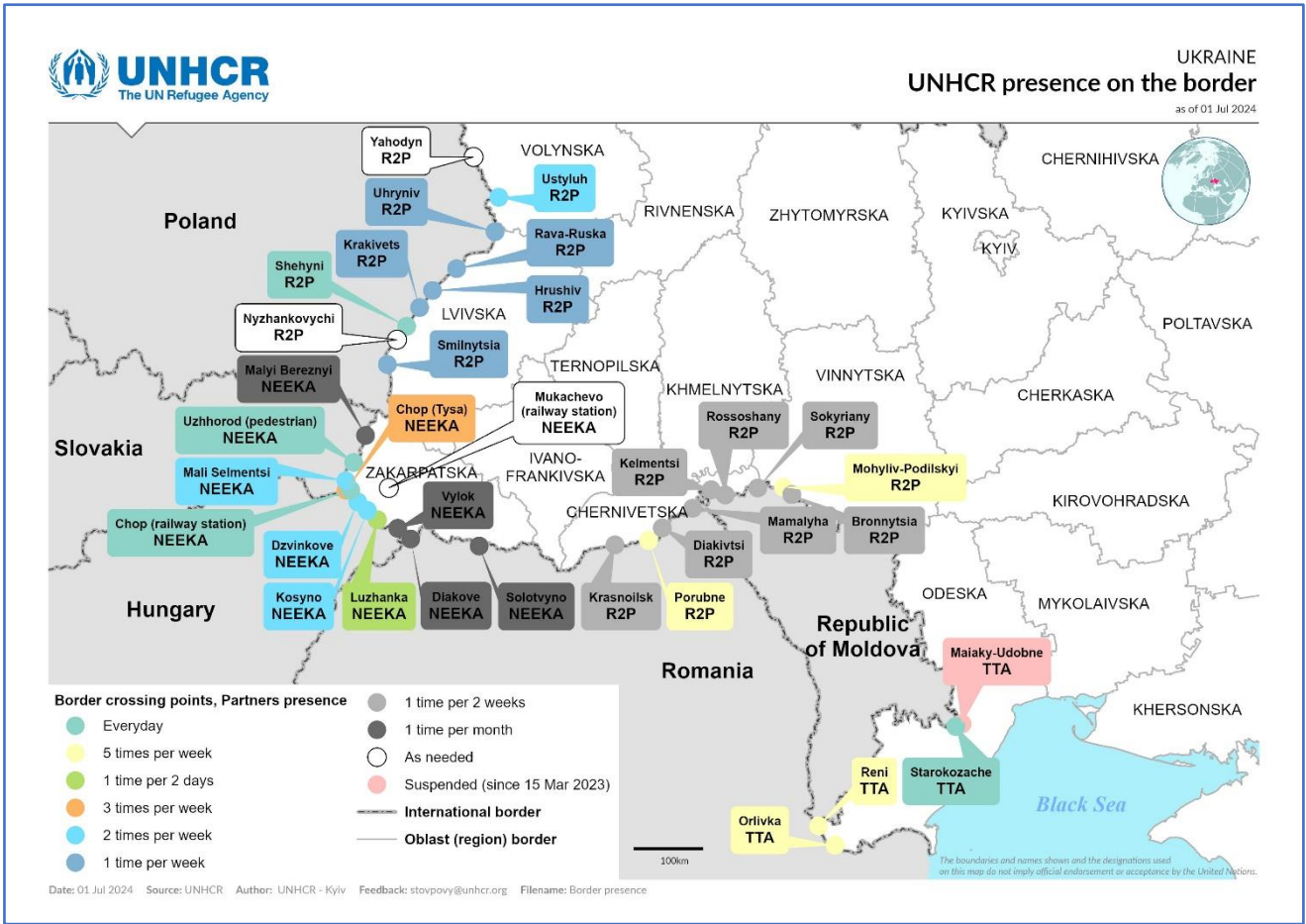
### Note on Methodology

From January to August 2024, a total of 24,038 people were surveyed by UNHCR partners at the borders. In August 2024, UNHCR partners surveyed 2,214 people (comprising 72% females 18-59 years of age, 13% males 18-59 years of age, 7% females 60+ years of age, 3% males 60+ years of age and 2% 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 May 2024 [here](#), June 2024 [here](#), July 2024 [here](#).
- Visit Ukraine's Operational Data Portal for more information products [here](#).
- Visit UNHCR Ukraine's Website [here](#).

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