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- IOM and 7 Belarus Red Cross regional branches
- Top 5 intended destination countries: Ukraine, Russian Federation, Germany, Spain, Poland

804 INTERVIEWS



30% MALE



70% FEMALE

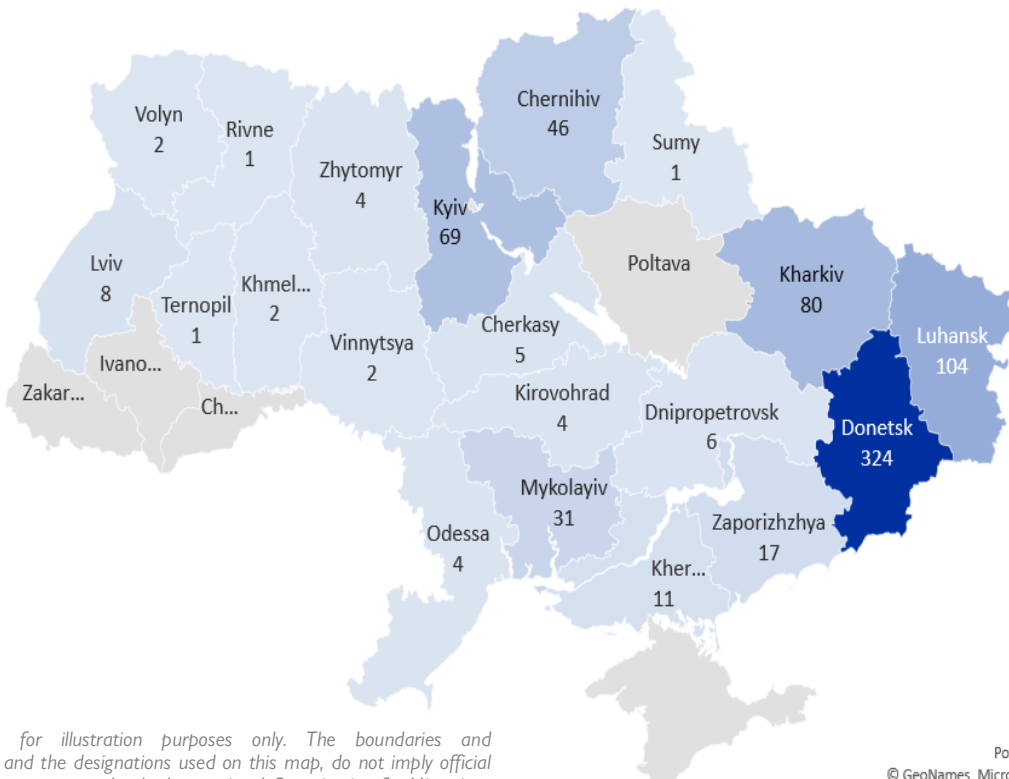
Since February 2022, an increased number of Ukrainian nationals and Third-Country Nationals (TCNs) entered Belarus. As of 1st of July 2022, the Belarusian State Border Committee has reported 35,013 arrivals from Ukraine since 24 Feb 2022. The largest number entered from Ukraine (15,834) and from Poland (16,333), followed by those entered from Lithuania (2,404) and Latvia (442). Simultaneously, the Belarusian authorities report that 32,217 Ukrainian passport holders left Belarus between 24 February and 31 May 2022.

DEMOGRAPHIC PROFILE

This report is based on 804 interviews conducted by IOM Belarus in collaboration with the Belarusian Red Cross between 04 June and 02 July 2022 in Minsk (capital), Minsk (region), and in the regions of Vitsyebsk, Mahilyow, Hrodna, Brest, and Homel. This is the first preliminary report and results should be taken as indicative (see p.5 for methodology).

Out of the total 804 respondents, 92 per cent were Ukrainian nationals and 8 per cent other TCNs present in Belarus, mainly from Cuba, Iraq, and the Syrian Arab Republic.¹ The top 5 regions (oblasts) of origin in Ukraine were Donetsk (43%), Luhansk (14%), Kharkiv (11%), Kyiv (9%) and Chernihiv (6%). Sixty-seven per cent of the respondents entered Belarus directly from Ukraine, 17 per cent from the Russian Federation, 14 per cent from Poland, and the remaining 2 per cent from Latvia and Lithuania.

Fig.1 Regions of origin of respondents from Ukraine



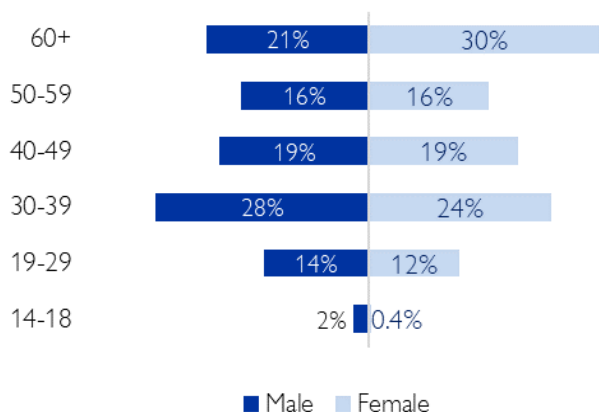
This map is for illustration purposes only. The boundaries and names shown, and the designations used on this map, do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the International Organization for Migration.

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¹ Some respondents were in Belarus before 24 February 2022. See more on methodology at p.5

Women represented 70 per cent of the sample. Thirty per cent of women interviewed were aged over 60 years, compared to 21 per cent of men in the same age group. The share of men in the age group 30-39 years (28% of all men interviewed) was higher than the share of women of the same age group (24%).

Fig.2 Sex and age disaggregation of respondents



The largest part of the respondents had obtained upper secondary (professional) education (42%), whilst 2 per cent had received primary school education only, and 29 per cent had received tertiary education,.

Tab.1 Education of respondents

Primary education	2%
Lower Secondary education	17%
Upper Secondary / Vocational education	42%
Post-secondary non-tertiary education	9%
Tertiary education	29%
PhD and more	0.1%
Other type of non-formal education	0.5%
None	1%

EMPLOYMENT PROFILE

In terms of employment profile, only 6 of respondents were unemployed before leaving Ukraine, whilst almost a half (49%) were having high-qualified, crafts or technical occupations, such as lawyers, doctors, engineers and plant and metal workers. When asked about their desired occupation in Belarus, 12 per cent of respondents indicated they did not want to work. 51 respondent out of 153 currently employed in Belarus (33%) had to change the occupation field in Belarus.

Fig. 3 Employment status of all respondents before arrival and current employment status in Belarus

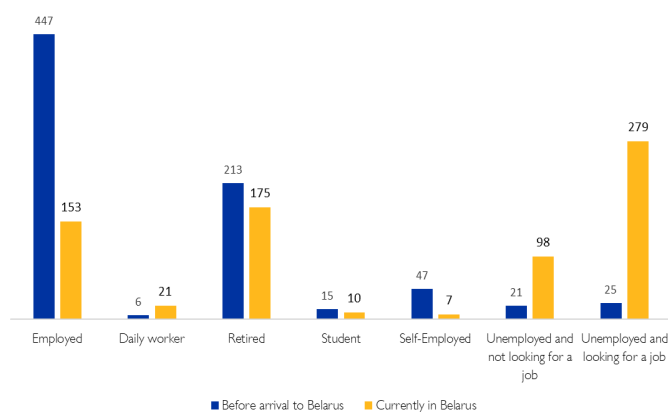


Fig. 4 Occupations in which respondents (intending to stay in Belarus) would like to work



Two per cent of respondents expressed readiness to accept any job available in Belarus. Compared to their previous occupation, 10 women out of all respondents are currently on maternity leave or taking care of children (care giving partner). Therefore, they are currently not working in Belarus.

GROUP PROFILE

Approximately 26 per cent of respondents reported that they or someone in their group had a serious health condition (chronic diseases) whilst 10 per cent of respondents said they or someone in their group had a disability. Thirty-eight per cent of respondents indicated that they were travelling with at least 1 child.

Seventy per cent of all respondents travelled in a group, whereas 28 per cent had at least one child in their group.



70%
travelling in
a group
30%
travelling
alone



10% travelling
with at least
one person
with a
disability



27% travelling
with at least
one elderly
person (60+
years)



26% travelling
with at least
one person with
a serious health
condition



1% travelling
with at least
one pregnant
woman

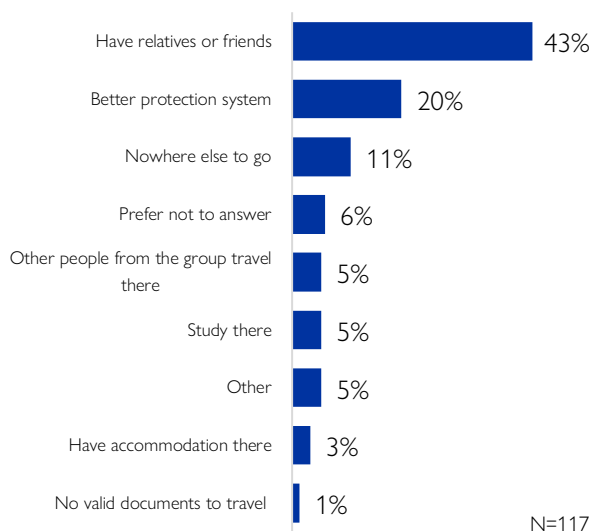


38% with at
least one
child in the
group

INTENTION TO TRAVEL ONWARDS

Only a relatively small part of the respondents intended to travel onwards. Among the 15 per cent of the sample reporting the intention of onward travel, 26 per cent indicated Ukraine as the final destination, followed by Russian Federation (25%), Germany (15%), Spain (11%), and Poland (9%). Almost half of respondents selected their destination because they had relatives or friends there (43%).

Fig. 5 Reasons to choose the country of destination



INTENTION TO REMAIN IN BELARUS

Eighty per cent of the respondents declared the intention to remain in Belarus. Approximately, 35 per cent of the Ukrainian nationals declared an intention to return to their country of origin when it would be possible and safe. However, 37 per cent of the Ukrainian Nationals responded they do not plan to return to Ukraine.

Fig. 6 Reasons to stay in Belarus

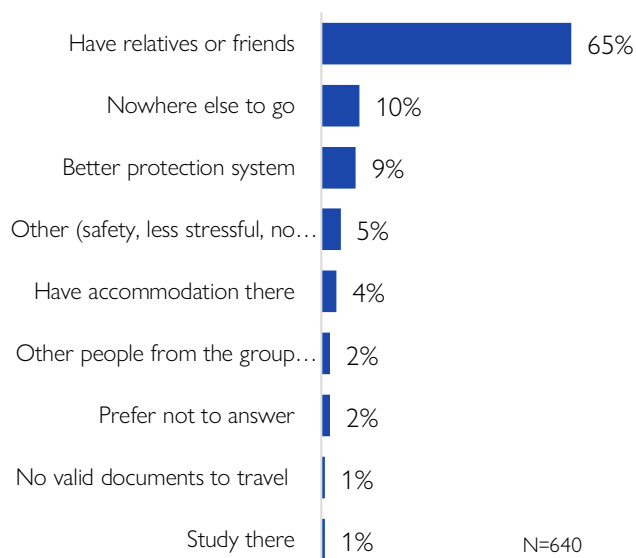
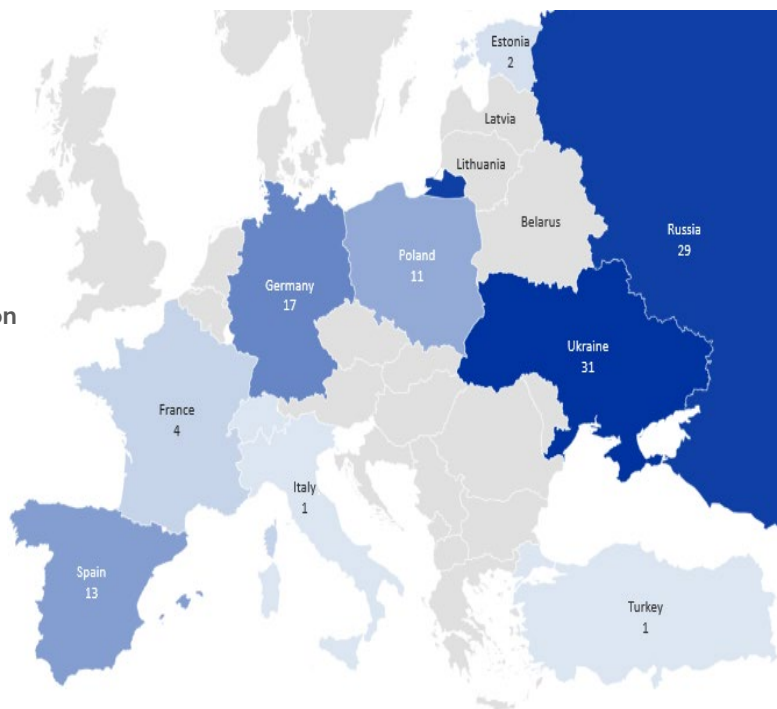


Fig. 4 Intended country of destination



Intentions of Ukrainian nationals to return to Ukraine

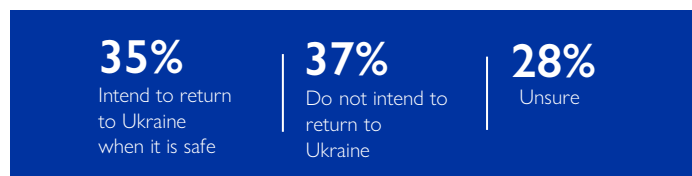
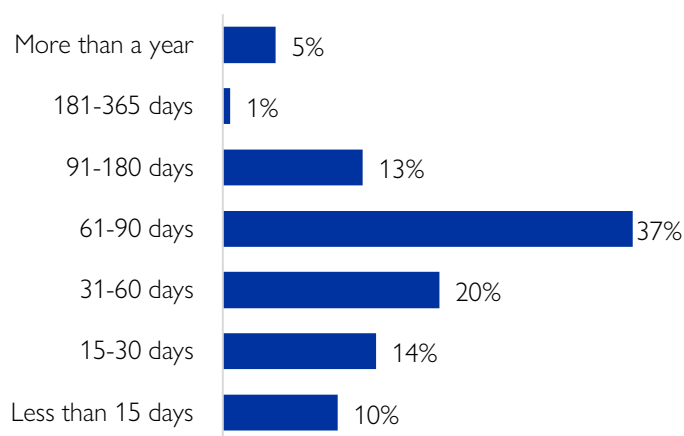


Fig. 7 Period of stay in Belarus



The most common period of stay of the respondents in Belarus is 61-90 days, which indicates the increase of arrivals to the country starting from March 2022.

Stays longer than 3 months were more frequent among TCNs residing in the country before February 2022.

The most common reason for staying was that they had relatives or friends in Belarus; whereas 10 per cent declared they had nowhere else to go.

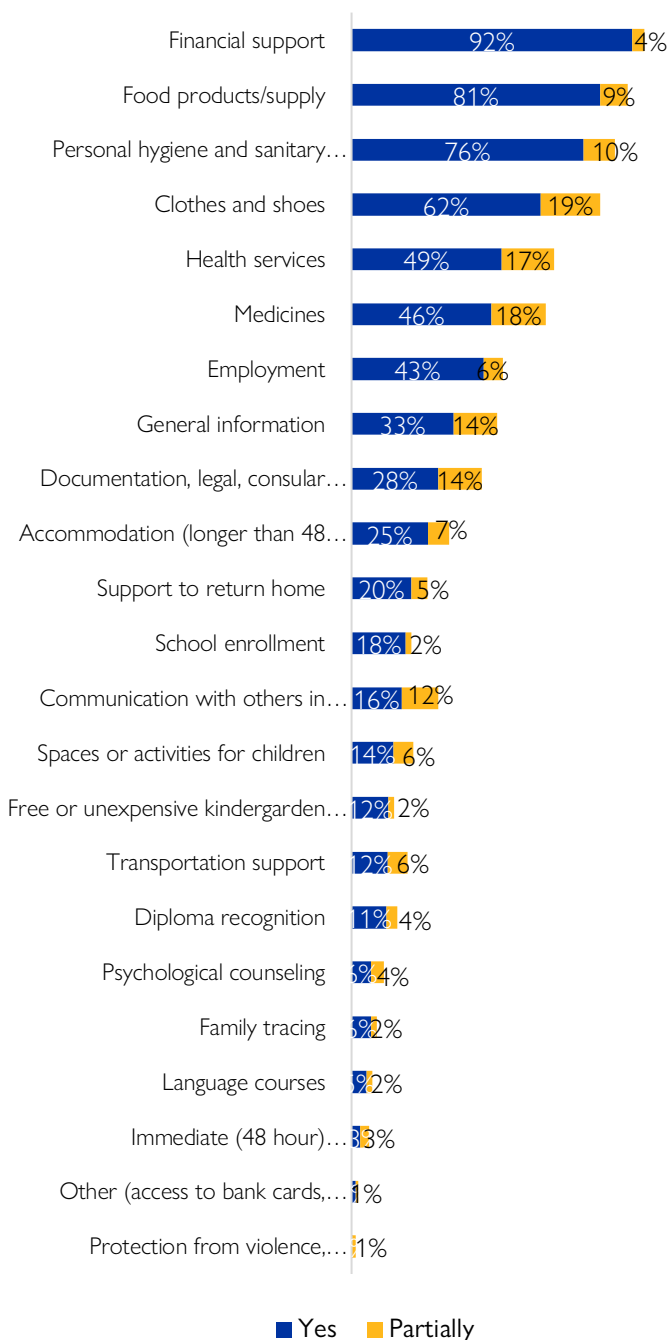
REPORTED NEEDS

Figure 8 presents the reported needs of those intending to remain in Belarus, and Figure 9 relates to those intending to travel onwards.

The main reported needs for those intending to stay in Belarus were financial support (92%), food products (81%), personal hygiene and sanitary supplies (76%), clothes and shoes (62%) and access to health care (49%). Almost half of the respondents reported the need of medicines supply, whilst 43 per cent were in search of employment. Among other needs these respondents also stressed the need to have access to their bank cards, pensions (for elderly people) and education opportunities (for school graduates).

The lack of enough financial means are reported as the main issue for 81 per cent of the respondents who intended to leave Belarus by the time of the interview.

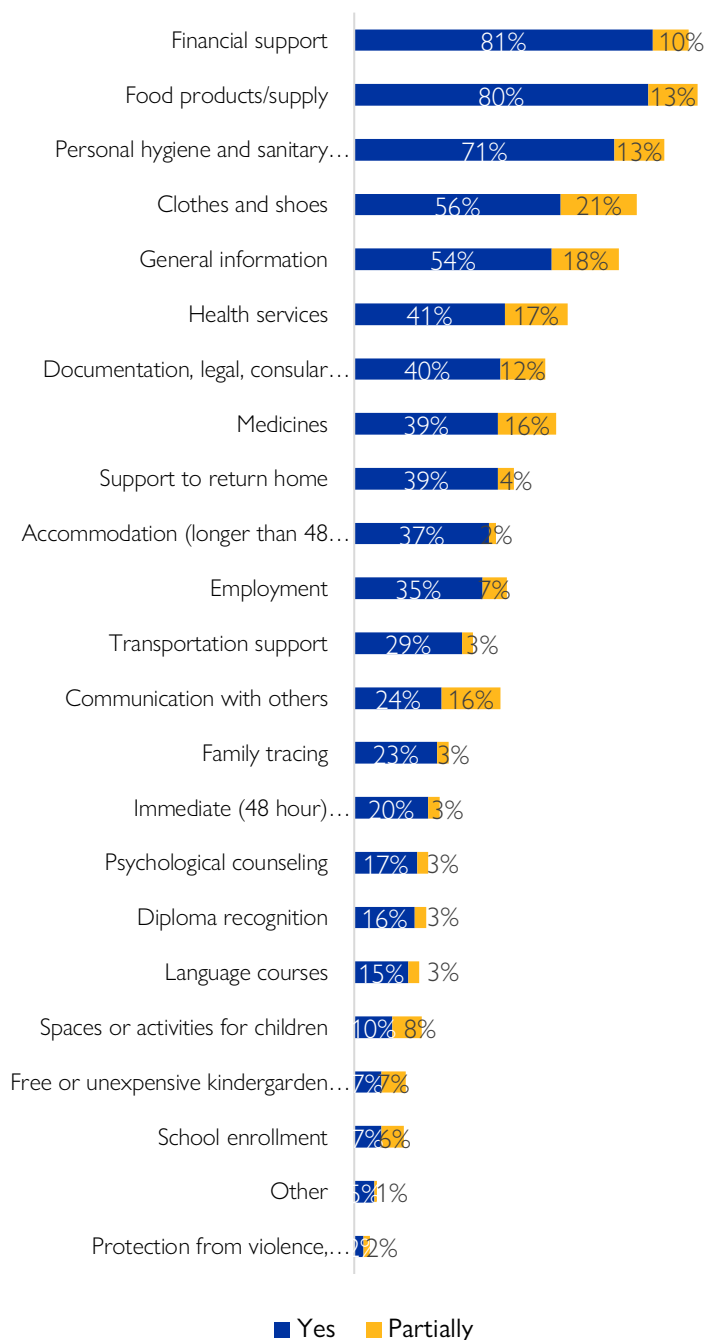
Fig. 8 Reported needs of those intending to stay in Belarus



Whereas financial support, food, hygiene products and clothes/shoes were reported as top needs by both groups of respondents (intending to leave or to remain in Belarus), the need for general information on their stay, access to health services and problems concerning valid documentation and legal/consular services comprises a substantial part of needs of the respondents that would like to continue their journey or to return to the country of origin – respectively 54 per cent, 41 per cent and 40 per cent of them. Almost the half of those who plan to stay in Belarus experience problems to find work (43%).

By the time of the data collection, about 749 respondents (out of a total of 804) had already received humanitarian assistance in Belarus – mainly, food supplies, personal hygiene and sanitary products, clothes and shoes (mainly, from the Belarus Red Cross and IOM).

Fig. 9 Reported needs of those intending to travel onwards



ESTIMATED PRESENCE IN BELARUS

This survey established the presence of an estimated number of 6,632 Ukrainian nationals in Belarus, based on the answers of the respondents. Additional number of 896 of TCNs has been reported too.

Table 2 shows the intended destination and presence within Belarus based on where the interview was conducted. The largest number of Ukrainian Nationals is reported in the town of Homel and within the region (in proximity to the Ukrainian border): 4775, whereas Vitsyebsk would be the area with highest concentration of Third Countries Nationals. Only 20 of the TCNs interviewed declared an intention to remain in the country.

METHODOLOGY

The 804 interviews that this report is based on were collected by a team of 48 enumerators deployed in all six regions of Belarus: Minsk region (and Minsk city), Vitsyebsk, Mahilyow, Hrodna, Brest, and Homel in coordination with the Belarus Red Cross and the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Belarus. The survey covered Ukrainian nationals and TCNs, which included both persons that fled Ukraine after 24 February 2022 and other migrants already present in Belarus. The interviews have been conducted in Russian mainly, but also in English (specifically with TCNs respondents), and in certain cases in Arabic. Prior to the start of the survey, all enumerators were trained by IOM on DTM, Kobo application, IOM approach to migrants' protection, ethics of data collection and provision of information. The questionnaire was available in Russian and English, and the preferred language of questioning was determined by the interviewee.

A third of all interviews were conducted in Homel, intersection point located in proximity to the state borders with both Ukraine and the Russian Federation. The other two points of higher concentration of Ukrainians and other TCNs where interviews were collected were in the region of Minsk and Brest.

Tab. 3 Belarus' oblasts (regions) where interviews were conducted

Oblast	Number
Homel	263
Minsk (oblast)	152
Brest	141
Vitsyebsk	82
Hrodna	72
Mahilyow	48
Minsk (city)	46

LIMITATIONS

Border crossing points (BCPs) on Ukraine-Belarus border suspended their operations. Therefore, it was not possible to target respondents immediately after their entry in Belarus from the borders and the sampling framework was not based on verified figures of refugees from Ukraine and other TCNs entering through the various BCPs.

Not all enumerators spoke the language of the individual they were interviewing. In these cases, translation support was provided by IOM (when approaching Arabic and Spanish speakers). All responses were checked for any systematic issues by enumerators and this process did not identify major problems. The fact that the largest part of interviewed respondents reside within privately owned accommodations (with relatives/friends) is the major limitation in reaching out to respondents. However, in order to reach the target audience of the survey, enumerators relied on Belarus Red Cross humanitarian aid delivery networks, IOM programming serves and aid delivery networks, as well as coordination with the Departments of citizenship and migration under Departments of internal Affairs of the Regional Executive Committees.

Tab. 2 Estimated number of Ukrainian nationals and TCNs present

Ukrainian nationals		Ukrainian nationals who left Belarus (since February 2022)	
Homel Oblast	4755	Homel Oblast	585
Minsk (city)	935	Brest Oblast	427
rest Oblast	361	Vitsyebsk Oblast	81
Vitsyebsk Oblast	227	Mnsk (oblast)	41
Minsk (oblast)	128	Minsk (city)	22
Hrodna Oblast	128	Hrodna Oblast	3
Mahilyow Oblast	98	Mahilyow Oblast	0
Total	6632	Total	1159
TCNs present		TCNs left	
Vitsyebsk Oblast	360	Homel Oblast	89
Minsk (oblast)	223	Vitsyebsk Oblast	30
Homel Oblast	200	Brest Oblast	29
Brest Oblast	75	Minsk (city)	23
Minsk (city)	35	Minsk (oblast)	10
Mahilyow Oblast	3	Hrodna Oblast	7
Hrodna Oblast	0	Mahilyow Oblast	0
Total	896	Total	188

Tab. 4 Type of location where interviews

Location type	Number
Other (BRC offices, IOM office, medical and social institutions, etc.)	638
Hotel	44
Host family accommodation	42
Rented house/apartment	38
Rent-free house/apartment	13
Collective centre	12
Transit centre*	9
Bus station	4
Border crossing point	2
Train station	2

* two temporary sites in Vitsyebsk oblast.

The types of locations chosen for interviews included mainly Belarus Red Cross offices and IOM office in the capital city Minsk, and in all six regions (oblasts) of the country. Other targeted locations were various types of accommodations provided to Ukrainians and other TCNs (see above), but also within a number of transit points: bus stations, train stations, and transit centres.