



METHODOLOGICAL NOTE

GENERAL POPULATION SURVEY  
UKRAINE

### INTRODUCTION AND OBJECTIVES

Starting on 24 February 2022, the Russian Federation (RF) launched a large-scale invasion of Ukraine, triggering an unprecedented humanitarian crisis across Ukraine. Since 9 March 2022, the IOM's Data and Analytics Unit began systematically conducting a representative assessment of the general population in Ukraine to gather information on displacement, mobility flows, intentions, and conditions to inform targeted assistance to the war-affected population.

Over the course of March 2022 to January 2023, the IOM's Data and Analytics successfully carried out 12 rounds of the General Population Survey. Initially conducted bi-monthly and later transitioning to a monthly frequency, the results were extrapolated at both national and macro-regional levels. As of May 2023, the survey methodology underwent adaptation to generate quarterly representative data at the oblast level, thus facilitating localized analysis.

The General Population Survey is a highly representative assessment with 20,000 random respondents interviewed, providing population data and enabling an assessment of the geographic distribution of the war-affected populations across the country.

This phase is supplemented with around 6,000 follow-up interviews with IDPs, returnees, and residents (non-displaced), offering insights into displacement, returns, mobility intentions, and needs.

The survey objectives are as follows:

1. To assess population stocks for current location and produce population estimates at different levels of administrative and territorial divisions within the country.
2. To analyse intentions and measure mobility flows and trajectories among population groups and locations.
3. To identify humanitarian and recovery needs, including initial insights into durable solutions and vulnerabilities related to displacement among population groups and locations, as well as elements of social cohesion.

This methodological note outlines the assessment methodology and sampling design for rounds 14 and 15 of the survey.

### SURVEY METHODOLOGY

The General Population Survey is a repeated cross-sectional study where a similar set of questions is asked to an independent sample of respondents in each survey round. In the first cycle of the study lasting 12 rounds, the sample was constructed using the random digit dial approach (RDD), with 2,000 unique and anonymous respondents aged 18 and over from among the population of Ukraine residing in the areas/regions under the control of the Government of Ukraine. It had an overall sample error of 2.00% [Confidence Level 95%] with the extrapolation of the results to the national and macro-regional levels. Starting from the 13th round, the sampling approach has been revised to enhance precision in estimating the population figures for internally displaced persons (IDPs), returnees and non-displaced at the oblast level, marking the second research cycle.

The RDD is applied again in the second stage to construct a sample, relying on the contacts and consents to re-contact gathered within the first survey stage. It facilitated the sample frame formation and stratified the second stage sampling by population groups (IDPs, returnees and non-displaced) at the oblast level. For information regarding the sample breakdown and sample error at both the oblast and macro-region level, kindly consult Table 1 and Table 2 located on page 3.

### GEOGRAPHICAL COVERAGE

People residing in the Autonomous Republic of Crimea (ARC) or the occupied areas of Donetsk and Luhansk Oblasts were not included in the survey. The data collected in Donetsk, Zaporizka, Luhansk, and Khersonska Oblasts Estimates are likely under-represented as a result of coverage being limited to government-controlled areas

### SAMPLING

The re-designed sample methodology in the GPS second cycle envisions the implementation of the screening interviews with 20,000 respondents and in-depth follow-up interviews with up to 6,000 survey participants identified during the screener stage. The screening stage gathers information on the general population displacement statuses, adult population gender and age distribution, and their geographical locations. Within the screening, the RDD method is applied to construct a sample of 20,000 unique and anonymous respondents aged 18 and over. To ensure sample formation, a random number generator is applied to construct phone numbers serving as a sample frame. It is developed by combining three-digit mobile phone prefixes with randomly generated seven-digit phone numbers, proportional to the national market share of the key mobile network operators in Ukraine. The data obtained from the screener stage are used to form the sample in 24 oblasts and Kyiv city.

The main survey stage is focused on collecting in-depth information and profiling the displaced population regarding their needs, socio-economic situation, mobility intentions and household composition, allowing for comparative analysis with non-displaced populations. At this stage, the sample is stratified across IDPs, returnees, and non-displaced (strata) distributed by oblasts with sample size being proportional to the population size of each group at the oblast level.

### COLLECTION METHODS

All the interviews are conducted anonymously, with respondents giving their consent prior to the interview. Structured questionnaires were utilized, and computer-assisted telephone interview (CATI) techniques were employed to directly enter the results into a data entry program. The modified sampling design involved a two-stage approach. The first stage aimed to produce the population figures and assess the geographic distribution of IDPs and returnees.

### DATA WEIGHING

The survey data is weighted using an oblast-level and population group weighting scheme computed based on the first phase with 20,000 responses to address coverage and non-response biases. Initial weights are calculated for each survey participant based on their selection probability at the oblast level, considering their displacement status (IDPs, returnees, or general population). Subsequently, adjustments are made to the weights to account for non-response among survey participants. By comparing the expected and actual number of respondents within each region and group, necessary adjustments are made to ensure representative results while accounting for non-response biases.



### THE QUESTIONNAIRE

The General Population Survey questionnaire consists of a series of structured questions covering a wide range of topics relevant to various population groups in Ukraine. The survey collects information on respondents' sociodemographic characteristics, displacement status, mobility intentions and behaviours, living conditions, access to basic services, health and well-being, livelihoods, and received assistance.

Additionally, the survey gathers unique data on displaced individuals' preferences regarding settlement options (integration, resettlement within the country, return), informing planning for durable solutions.

To support effective programming for displaced populations' pathways towards durable solutions, a new set of questions was introduced based on the Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC) Framework for Durable Solutions for IDPs, considering the protracted nature of displacement and return.

Lastly, regular survey implementation allows for comparative analysis over time, including data disaggregation by sex, age, individual and family vulnerabilities, and more.

### POPULATION GROUPS ESTIMATION

Since the start of the full-scale invasion, estimates of the total population present in Ukraine have improved, impacting the comparability of population estimates between some rounds of IOM's survey. Starting from Round 14 population estimates are based on a newly available United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) population baseline for Ukraine valid as of July 2023 (est. a total population of 33,000,000, excluding the Autonomous Republic of Crimea and Sevastopol), also utilized to underpin high-level humanitarian coordination and planning by key UN actors and partners.

The stock estimates for IDPs and returnees are determined based on their proportions within the surveyed population, utilizing the Common Operational Datasets on Population Statistics (COD-PS)

as the total population baseline for Ukraine, which stands at 35 million as of July 2023. However, data for the Autonomous Republic of Crimea and the city of Sevastopol, comprising a total of 2.3 million people, are excluded from the analysis.

Minors are assumed to travel with their parents/guardians, which ensures that the estimates are extrapolated using the total population figure rather than considering only adults.

Once the total number of each group is estimated at the national level, macro-regional and oblast breakdowns are assessed by multiplying the national estimates by the proportion of respondents within each group residing in each macro-region or oblast..

### POPULATION GROUPS IDENTIFICATION

The estimation of population groups by displacement status relies on theoretical concepts for analysis purposes.

1. The [IOM Glossary on Migration](#) defines **Internally Displaced Persons** (IDPs) as persons or groups of persons who have been forced or obliged to flee, or to leave their homes or places of habitual residence, in particular as a result of or in order to avoid the effects of armed conflict, situations of generalized violence, violations of human rights or natural or human-made disasters, and who have not crossed an internationally recognized State border. Operationally, in this exercise, IDPs are defined as the individuals who have been forced to flee or to leave their homes or who are staying outside their habitual residence due to the full-scale invasion in February 2022 (including all the de-facto IDPs), regardless of whether they hold registered IDP status.

2. The IOM glossary defines return as "the act or process of going back or being taken back to the point of departure". Return can occur within a country's territorial borders, or between a country of destination or transit and a country of origin.

For the purposes of this study, the terms "**return**" and "**returnee**" are used without prejudice to status and refer to all people who have returned to their habitual residence after a significant period of displacement (minimum of two weeks since February 2022), whether from abroad or from internal displacement within Ukraine.. This definition excludes those who have come back to Ukraine from abroad but who have not returned to their places of habitual residence in the country.

3. The **non-displaced** population includes people residing in their habitual residence who have not left it due to the ongoing war for a period of two weeks or more, as well as people who are temporarily outside their place of habitual residence for reasons not in connection with the ongoing full-scale war.

The identification of population groups uses a composite variable from reported data to determine their shares within the surveyed general population. For more comprehensive information about how the population groups are identified empirically, refer to *Figure 1* on page 3.

### LIMITATIONS AND CONSTRAINTS

The exact proportion of excluded populations is unknown, and certain considerations must be made when interpreting the results. Those currently residing outside Ukraine were not interviewed due to active exclusion. Moreover, when estimating population figures, it is assumed that minors (under 18) are accompanied by their parents or guardians. The sample frame used for the survey was limited to adults with mobile phones, which could potentially introduce biases in the data. During the survey period, the functionality of phone networks across Ukraine might have varied, leading to some numbers having a higher likelihood of receiving calls than others. Furthermore, residents in areas with high infrastructure damage may be underrepresented in the sample (including mobile networks connectivity issues), potentially leading to an underestimation of their needs.

Additionally, residents in the Autonomous Republic of Crimea and areas under temporary military control by the Russian Federation (Donetska, Luhanska, Khersonska, and Zaporizka Oblasts) were not included in the interviews due to lack of Ukrainian operator phone coverage.

Lastly, estimates of displaced population stocks are solely based on respondents' self-assessments regarding their location, and displacement situation. These estimates reflect the calculated value based on available population data in the country at the time of the survey implementation.



TABLE 1: SAMPLE ALLOCATION AND NUMBER OF INTERVIEWS PER OBLAST AND MACROREGIONS – ROUND 14

Macro-region*	Oblast	First stage				Second stage			
		Total interviews (Male)	Total interviews (Female)	Total interviews	Interviews share	Total interviews (Male)	Total interviews (Female)	Total interviews	Interviews share %
EAST	Dnipropetrovska	801	1,301	2,102	11%	191	348	539	10%
	Donetska	144	212	356	2%	37	72	109	5%
	Zaporizka	238	362	600	3%	77	118	195	3%
	Luhanska	2	1	3	0%	0	1	1	0%
SOUTH	Kharkivska	558	896	1,454	7%	181	344	525	7%
	Mykolaivska	224	384	608	3%	65	126	191	3%
	Odeska	493	836	1,329	7%	105	224	329	6%
	Khersonska	85	136	221	1%	24	41	65	1%
WEST	Ivano-Frankivska	271	347	618	3%	49	70	119	3%
	Volynska	193	323	516	3%	28	63	91	4%
	Zakarpatska	157	266	423	2%	33	52	85	2%
	Lvivska	525	739	1,264	6%	92	165	257	6%
	Rivnenska	213	338	551	3%	29	70	99	3%
	Ternopil'ska	168	259	427	2%	26	56	82	2%
NORTH	Chernivetska	168	201	369	2%	35	47	82	2%
	Khmeln'ytska	260	331	591	3%	44	72	116	3%
	Zhytomyrska	260	402	662	3%	49	101	150	3%
	Kyivska	713	914	1,627	8%	214	308	522	7%
CENTRE	Sumska	220	396	616	3%	44	99	143	3%
	Chernihiv'ska	230	434	664	3%	49	99	148	3%
	Vinn'ytska	368	513	881	4%	67	112	179	4%
	Kirovohradska	214	329	543	3%	37	76	113	3%
Kyiv	Poltavska	354	509	863	4%	76	121	197	4%
	Cherkaska	268	440	708	4%	53	103	156	3%
	Kyiv	783	1,068	1,851	9%	245	402	647	9%
	Other	3	6	9	0%	0	0	0	0%
	Residence location unknown	61	83	144	1%	1	7	8	1%
<b>Total sample</b>		<b>7,974</b>	<b>12,026</b>	<b>20,000</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>1,851</b>	<b>3,297</b>	<b>5,148</b>	<b>100%</b>

\*: A macro-region is a territorial unit comprised of multiple oblasts (regions), as defined by the Law of Ukraine "On the Principles of State Regional Policy" (Article 1, item 2).

TABLE 2: SAMPLE ALLOCATION AND NUMBER OF INTERVIEWS PER OBLAST AND MACROREGIONS – ROUND 15

Macro-region*	Oblast	First stage				Second stage			
		Total interviews (Male)	Total interviews (Female)	Total interviews	Interviews share %	Total interviews (Male)	Total interviews (Female)	Total interviews	Interviews share %
EAST	Dnipropetrovska	803	1,285	2,088	10%	173	376	549	11%
	Donetska	125	219	344	2%	38	88	126	2%
	Zaporizka	245	402	647	3%	68	127	195	4%
	Luhanska	0	1	1	0%	0	1	1	0%
SOUTH	Kharkivska	595	859	1,454	7%	184	315	499	10%
	Mykolaivska	255	406	661	3%	61	130	191	4%
	Odeska	499	754	1,253	6%	100	193	293	6%
	Khersonska	103	118	221	1%	40	49	89	2%
WEST	Ivano-Frankivska	262	375	637	3%	43	80	123	2%
	Volynska	238	314	552	3%	36	66	102	2%
	Zakarpatska	153	254	407	2%	24	47	71	1%
	Lvivska	511	677	1,188	6%	97	158	255	5%
	Rivnenska	210	306	516	3%	30	57	87	2%
	Ternopil'ska	215	229	444	2%	37	37	74	1%
NORTH	Chernivetska	147	201	348	2%	26	51	77	2%
	Khmeln'ytska	258	356	614	3%	49	76	125	2%
	Zhytomyrska	266	400	666	3%	45	92	137	3%
	Kyivska	713	926	1,639	8%	186	309	495	10%
CENTRE	Sumska	231	401	632	3%	44	104	148	3%
	Chernihiv'ska	242	403	645	3%	58	110	168	3%
	Vinn'ytska	344	541	885	4%	57	128	185	4%
	Kirovohradska	228	341	569	3%	44	70	114	2%
Kyiv	Poltavska	320	532	852	4%	65	122	187	4%
	Cherkaska	296	429	726**	4%	55	98	153	3%
	Kyiv	781	1,112	1,893	9%	223	392	615	12%
	Other	1	4	5	0%	0	0	0	0%
	Residence location unknown	46	67	113	1%	0	1	0	0%
<b>Total sample</b>		<b>8,087</b>	<b>11,912</b>	<b>20,000</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>1,783</b>	<b>3,276</b>	<b>5,060</b>	<b>100%</b>

\*\* One respondent participating in the screener did not report gender

TABLE 1: SAMPLE ALLOCATION AND NUMBER OF INTERVIEWS PER OBLAST AND MACROREGIONS – ROUND 14

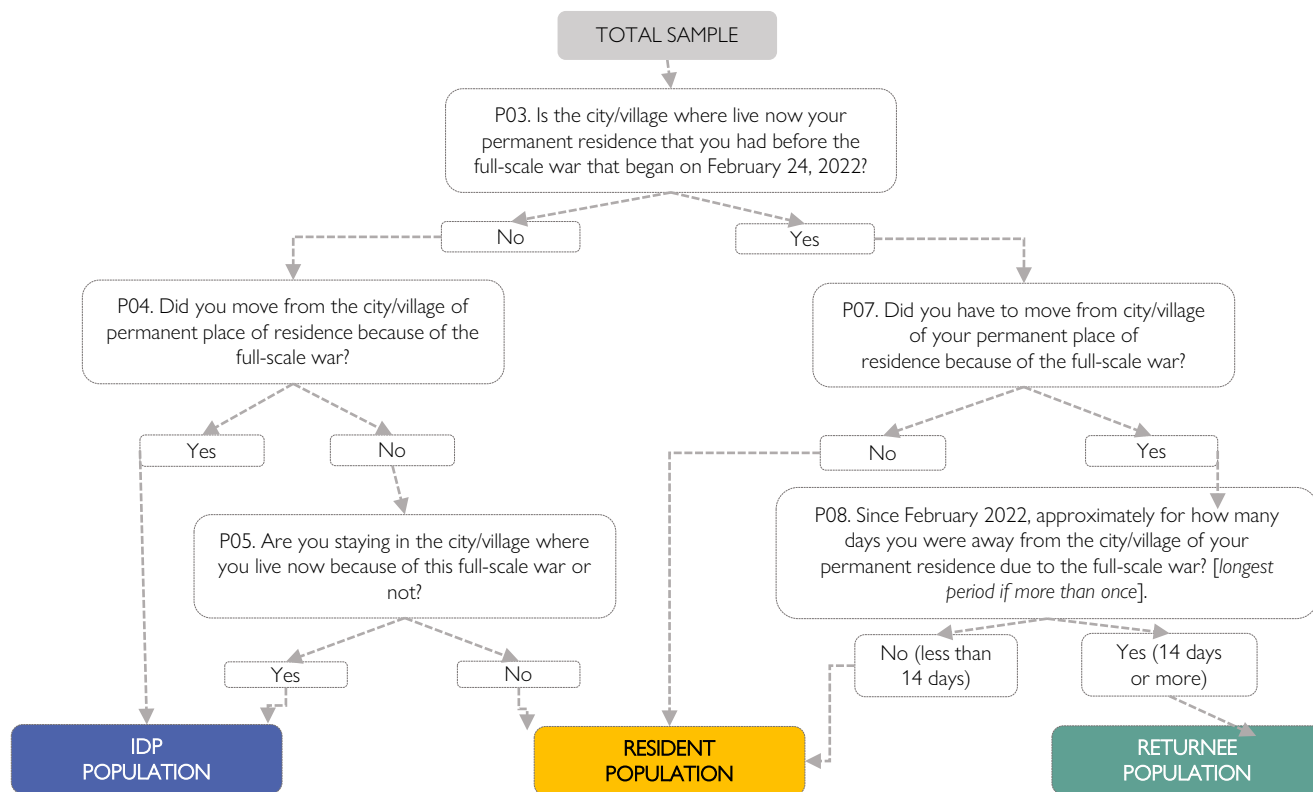
Macro-region	First stage CL 95%	Second stage CL 95%	Oblast	First stage	Second stage
				CL 95%	CL 95%
EAST	1.5%	2.6%	Dnipropetrovska	2.1%	4.2%
			Donetska	5.2%	9.4%
			Zaporizka	3.9%	6.9%
			Luhanska	N/A	N/A
			Kharkivska	2.6%	4.2%
SOUTH	2.1%	4.1%	Mykolaivska	3.8%	7.1%
			Odeska	2.7%	5.5%
			Khersonska	6.8%	12.7%
			Ivano-Frankivska	3.9%	8.4%
			Volynska	4.2%	9.8%
WEST	1.4%	3.1%	Zakarpatska	4.7%	10.4%
			Lvivska	2.7%	5.8%
			Rivnenska	4.2%	9.8%
			Ternopilska	4.7%	10.5%
			Chernivetska	4.8%	10.1%
NORTH	1.7%	3.1%	Khmelnyska	3.9%	8.6%
			Zhytomyrska	3.8%	7.5%
			Kyivska	2.5%	4.3%
			Sumska	4.2%	8.8%
			Chernihivska	4.0%	7.8%
CENTRE	1.8%	3.8%	Vinnyska	3.3%	7.2%
			Kirovohradska	4.1%	8.5%
			Poltavska	3.4%	6.8%
			Cherkaska	3.8%	8.3%
			Kyiv	2.2%	3.8%
<b>UKRAINE</b>	<b>0.7%</b>	<b>1.4%</b>	<b>UKRAINE</b>	<b>1.4%</b>	<b>0.7%</b>

TABLE 2: SAMPLE ALLOCATION AND NUMBER OF INTERVIEWS PER OBLAST AND MACROREGIONS – ROUND 15

Macro-region	First stage CL 95%	Second stage CL 95%	Oblast	First stage	Second stage
				CL 95%	CL 95%
EAST	1.5%	2.6%	Dnipropetrovska	2.1%	4.2%
			Donetska	5.2%	9.4%
			Zaporizka	3.9%	6.9%
			Luhanska	N/A	N/A
			Kharkivska	2.6%	4.2%
SOUTH	2.1%	4.1%	Mykolaivska	3.8%	7.1%
			Odeska	2.7%	5.5%
			Khersonska	6.8%	12.7%
			Ivano-Frankivska	3.9%	8.4%
			Volynska	4.2%	9.8%
WEST	1.4%	3.1%	Zakarpatska	4.7%	10.4%
			Lvivska	2.7%	5.8%
			Rivnenska	4.2%	9.8%
			Ternopilska	4.7%	10.5%
			Chernivetska	4.8%	10.1%
NORTH	1.7%	3.1%	Khmelnyska	3.9%	8.6%
			Zhytomyrska	3.8%	7.5%
			Kyivska	2.5%	4.3%
			Sumska	4.2%	8.8%
			Chernihivska	4.0%	7.8%
CENTRE	1.8%	3.8%	Vinnyska	3.3%	7.2%
			Kirovohradska	4.1%	8.5%
			Poltavska	3.4%	6.8%
			Cherkaska	3.8%	8.3%
			Kyiv	2.2%	3.8%
<b>UKRAINE</b>	<b>0.7%</b>	<b>1.4%</b>	<b>UKRAINE</b>	<b>1.4%</b>	<b>0.7%</b>

N.B: A macro-region is a territorial unit comprised of multiple oblasts (regions), as defined by the Law of Ukraine "On the Principles of State Regional Policy" (Article 1, item 2).

FIGURE 1: POPULATION GROUPS IDENTIFICATION METHODOLOGY



N.B: The scheme does not consider the answers for respondents who are undecided on the answer (hard to answer and refusals).