Since the Russian Federation’s invasion of Ukraine on 24 February, major attacks have been reported across the country, including in the capital, Kyiv, resulting in widespread destruction of infrastructure, loss of life, and displacement.

On 1-2 May, the United Nations and ICRC helped facilitate the evacuation of 101 civilians from the Azovstal steel plant in Mariupol and 58 persons from Mangush (Donetsk region). In coordination with this operation, IOM Ukraine assisted with the evacuation of civilians in Zaporizhzhia. Alongside these efforts, the Governor of Luhansk region urged the population to evacuate from Severodonetsk, Rubizhne, Lysychansk, and Hirskie. Meanwhile, the evacuation from Popasna was suspended after the shelling of two evacuation buses on 29 April and the disappearance of all persons on board. The route of the evacuation train following from Pokrovsk was changed on 3 May and the train will follow to Lviv instead of Chop.

OHCHR is reporting that between 24 February and 2 May, there have been 6,546 civilian casualties, including 3,193 people killed, though these figures are likely to be considerably higher (source: OCHA). Although civilians in conflict-affected areas remain in dire need of basic goods and social services, ongoing fighting continues to deter evacuations.

On 28 April, IOM launched its Revised Flash Appeal for Ukraine and Neighbouring Countries, which requests USD 514 million over the course of nine months to meet the needs of 12.8 million Internally Displaced Persons (IDP), refugees, migrants, third country nationals (TCNs) and other vulnerable populations, as well as hosting communities in Ukraine and its neighbouring countries, including Belarus, Hungary, Moldova, Poland, Romania, and Slovakia. Inside the country, over 7.7 million people have been displaced (60% women, 40% men) — an increase of 1,220,000 (19%) compared to figures from 16 March (IOM Displacement Report Round III). As the crisis evolves, displacement and mobility patterns continue to change, requiring scaled up and integrated interventions that address both emerging and existing needs.

Interventions carried out through IOM’s Revised Flash Appeal are in line and complementary to the revised Ukraine Flash Appeal (OHCA, April 2022) and Regional Refugee Response Plan (UNHCR, April 2022). As a member of the Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC), IOM will continue to work closely with partner agencies to ensure robust coordination during the implementation of all proposed activities, including UN agencies, international and local organizations, civil society, and government counterparts in Ukraine, neighbouring and other affected countries.
In 

Ukraine

, IOM was involved in providing support to the civilians evacuated from Mariupol to Zaporizhzhia through the United Nations and ICRC. On 2 May, IOM supported the UN operation through the provision of 1,600 mattresses, 1,600 blankets, 1,600 solar lamps, and 1,600 family hygiene kits, for distribution to the evacuated civilians in Zaporizhzhia. Needs remain in terms of hygiene supplies and support to collective centres, but also for cash-based interventions and protection.

In 

Hungary

, IOM runs an accommodation facility – the Red Star Hostel – and manages Airbnb bookings. From 26 April to 2 May, four Ghanaians, four Nigerians, and one Ukrainian checked in at the Red Star Hostel while over 20 crisis-affected persons were provided accommodation through the Airbnb partnership. Among the those hosted through the Airbnb partnership, there were 11 Ukrainian nationals, seven were Nigerian nationals, and three were nationals of Zimbabwe.

In 

Ukraine

, IOM continues to provide support to conflict-affected persons to meet their immediate basic needs through multi-purpose cash assistance (MPCA). As of 5 May, the mission has assisted 46,000 displaced person and further registrations are underway, in coordination with local authorities.

In 

Poland

, three Psychosocial Mobile Teams working in six long term stay centres in Warsaw have been providing direct assistance. During the reporting period, IOM provided psychological first aid (PFA) sessions for 47 adults and 10 children, individual psychosocial counselling to 53 adults and 21 children, and group sessions to 10 female adults and 16 children. Meanwhile, the mission provided social counselling to 50 female adults and community engagement activities for 121 adults and 116 children (e.g., artistic activities, sports). The mission is steadily expanding its support to conflict-affected population and continues to receive numerous requests for support.

In 

Moldova

, IOM continues to provide health checks for Ukrainian refugees and TCNs transiting Moldova by land and air. At Palanca transportation hub, IOM Moldova conducted pre-embarkation health checks (PECs) for 631 passengers traveling through the Green Corridor to Husi, Romania, with 132 persons receiving medical treatment prior to departure. In addition, PECs were conducted for 50 TCNs prior to their return to Azerbaijan, and for 167 persons scheduled for charter flights to Germany and Austria. Twenty-five beneficiaries with medical needs were provided with treatment and stabilized before their departure.

In 

Slovakia

, IOM released its second DTM survey on 3 May. From 9 March to 21 April, IOM conducted 481 displacement patterns, needs, and intentions interviews with Ukrainian refugees and TCNs at two border crossing points, Vyšné Nemecké, Ub’la, the Michalovce Registration Centre, Gabčíkovo Reception Centre and Červená Hviezda Hotspot in Košice. Out of the 481 respondents, 99 per cent were Ukrainian refugees and 1 per cent TCNs, mainly from Uzbekistan and Algeria. The top four regions of origin for refugees were Kharkiv (22 per cent), Kyiv (20 per cent), Donetsk (15 per cent) and Dnipropetrovsk (11 per cent).

In 

Ukraine

, IOM continues to provide support to conflict-affected persons to meet their immediate basic needs through multi-purpose cash assistance (MPCA). As of 5 May, the mission has assisted 46,000 displaced person and further registrations are underway, in coordination with local authorities.

CASH-BASED INTERVENTIONS

In 

Ukraine

, IOM continues to provide support to conflict-affected persons to meet their immediate basic needs through multi-purpose cash assistance (MPCA). As of 5 May, the mission has assisted 46,000 displaced person and further registrations are underway, in coordination with local authorities.

HEALTH

In 

Ukraine

, IOM continues to expand its support for conflict-affected persons in Ukraine. Four mobile medical clinics are providing primary health care services to internally displaced persons and host communities in Lviv oblast. Since 18 April, 231 medical consultations and 200 MHPSS consultations have been provided across 23 locations, including Brukhovichi, Sokal, Saposchin, Zhovkva, Volia, and Vysotska villages. IOM and UK-Med are exploring a partnership to provide primary and secondary health care services to conflict affected populations in Ukraine.
Interviewers asked about the most urgent needs of both groups and families. For respondents traveling with family, the most urgent needs were food and information support (66 per cent of interviews mentioned these areas). The third most urgent need was transportation, stated by just under two thirds of the respondents (64 per cent). Other pressing needs reported by over half of respondents were accommodation (63 per cent), financial support (63 per cent) and clothes and NFIs (61 per cent).

In Romania, to date, IOM has conducted 2,768 surveys with support from 23 enumerators deployed at nine locations across the country, including BCPs, transit and reception centers, train stations, and Ukrainian embassies, among other locations. The Displacement Tracking Matrix team has now expanded their operations to Craiova and Constanta.

HUMANITARIAN TRANSPORT

In Moldova, IOM organized a joint transfer flight of 166 of the most vulnerable refugees from Ukraine to Germany and Austria on 27 April. The mission supported the transfer of 119 refugees to Stuttgart, Germany and 47 refugees to Vienna, Austria. Of the 166 persons, 20 refugees had mobility issues and required wheelchairs. The mission provided pre-embarkation health checks, medical escorts, pre-embarkation briefing, personal protective equipment (PPE), baggage handling, ground transportation, snack packs, and airport assistance.

In Germany, from 24 February to 29 April, IOM provided support to 17 Ukrainian refugees with their transfer to the United States within the Lautenberg Programme. The mission continues to provide counselling for both Ukrainians and TCNs in Germany and neighboring countries about available resettlement support to the United States, and also provides pre-departure assistance, including medical assessments, COVID-19 tests, and accommodation, for all transfer to the United States.

PROTECTION

In Poland, IOM continues to assist conflict-affected persons with PESEL (Universal Electronic System for Registration of the Population) assistance at the National Stadium in Warsaw. Alongside support with filling out applications, IOM also provides information on IOM Poland’s available services and distributes “Be Safe” leaflets on safe migration. The most common types of cases in May included: unaccompanied minors; persons without shelter; persons in need of psychological aid; persons excluded from services that should be available to them; and persons that are not eligible for a PESEL number. This month, IOM provided support to 6,279 persons, including 4,454 women and 1,398 men (4,226 adults and 2,010 children). Among these, 90 cases included persons with disabilities. Overall, 5,659 persons assisted were Ukrainian refugees and 95 persons were TCNs.

In Hungary, IOM is providing support to vulnerable people in Szatmar County (border area) and in the city of Budapest. From 26 April to 2 May, the mission conducted 50 vulnerability screenings with 19 women, 10 men, 13 girls and 8 boys. About 50 new protection cases were identified and referred to additional assistance while 350 persons were provided with information and counselling on available services.

In Slovakia, from 27 April to 3 May, IOM provided direct legal assistance, referrals, and information to 370 beneficiaries through strategically located information points. During the same period, the mission provided legal counselling to 348 beneficiaries through its Migration Information Centre (MIC). From 24 February to 3 May, IOM provided information and legal counselling to 2,503 beneficiaries through MIC, including 1,315 Ukrainian refugees and 1,188 TCNs.

HUMANITARIAN BORDER MANAGEMENT

In Moldova, IOM works closely with the Border Police to support the processing of and assistance to incoming conflict-affected persons. On 28 April, the mission provided over 37,000 information leaflets and brochures to the Border Police to strengthen access to crucial information for refugees and TCNs transiting official border crossing points. On 30 April, IOM conducted assessments at three border crossing points between Moldova and Romania, namely Sculeni, Costesti-Stanca, and Lipcani, to assess the WASH and technical infrastructure and gather information on further needs.

SUPPORT FOR THIRD COUNTRY NATIONALS

In Germany, as of 29 April, there were 14 applications for support by TCNs, with a total of 19 beneficiaries assisted to Armenia, Kyrgyzstan, Nigeria, Tajikistan, Vietnam, and Uzbekistan. A digital TCN training session was given to return counsellors across Germany; 90 persons attended the training session on 27 April, with a focus on eligibility criteria. A second third country national training is planned for 6 May.
In Slovakia, Kosice warehouse hosted three visits last week, including one with BHA-USAID, one with the Ambassador of Japan to Slovakia, and one with Amazon.

In Slovakia, from 27 April to 3 May, 69 trucks (1104 metric tons of goods) arrived at IOM’s Kosice warehouse. From this and pre-existing supplies, IOM managed to ship 52 trucks of goods to Ukraine, equating to a volume of 816 metric tons.

On the global level, 11 of 12 flights carrying in-kind donations from Canada have landed in Hungary and Poland (333,500 relief items total). The items are transferring through Kosice and Rzeszow warehouses on the way to Ukraine.

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