

HIGHLIGHTS

Since the start of the war, IOM has provided humanitarian assistance to **519 persons** fleeing Ukraine and protection assistance to **60 persons**.

573 people benefited from Assisted Voluntary Return and Reintegration (AVRR) programme in 2022.

IOM published its **first DTM report for Belarus**, showing that an estimated **6,632 Ukrainian refugees and 896 third country nationals (TCNs)** are present in the territory of Belarus.

According to the DTM report, TCNs in Belarus mainly come from Cuba, Iraq and the Syrian Arab Republic, while Ukrainian refugees come from Donetsk, Luhansk, Kharkiv, Kyiv and Chernihiv regions.

The IOM-supported hotline on safe migration and combatting human trafficking received over **603 requests (25.2 per cent of the total number of queries)** for information on entry to, transit through, and exit from Belarus from Ukrainian refugees and TCNs fleeing the war in Ukraine since 24 February.

SITUATION OVERVIEW

Since 24 February, **41,360 people have entered the country** (902 Belarusians, 40,214 Ukrainians, and 244 third country nationals), as reported by the State Border Committee of Belarus.

While there have been gaps in the data, particularly on where arrivals stay in Belarus and on their needs, these gaps are now being addressed with the roll out of IOM's DTM methodology in partnership with the Belarusian Red Cross (BRC). Improved data collection and analysis will allow for a stronger evidence base for humanitarian actors to respond to the needs of these arrivals.

The first DTM report on displacement patterns, needs and intentions of Ukrainian nationals and TCNs has been published. It analyses 804 interviews conducted between 4 June and 2 July with Ukrainian nationals and TCNs, which included both persons that fled Ukraine after 24 February 2022 and other migrants already present in Belarus.

70 per cent of the interviewed refugees and TCNs were female. 92 per cent of the respondents were Ukrainian nationals, most of them arrived from Donetsk (42%), Luhansk (14%), Kharkiv (11%), Kyiv (9%) and Chernihiv (6%) regions. 67 per cent of all 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.

CONTACTS

CURRENT RESPONSE ACTIVITIES

IOM staff are present at IOM's permanent office in Minsk and have a presence in Gomel, from where field staff coordinate the Ukraine response through the provision of vulnerability screenings, identifications, referrals and mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS) counselling. In the reporting period, three project sites were established in Mogilev, Vitebsk and Brest to ensure comprehensive and timely assistance to refugees and migrants fleeing Ukraine.

IOM staff screen the vulnerabilities of all refugees and migrants from Ukraine who approach the organization. In the reporting period, 82 people approached IOM for assistance. Since the start of the war, needs of 682 people were assessed. The main needs identified are food, hygiene items, footwear and clothes, medical support, including mental health and psychosocial support services (MHPSS), as well as employment generation activities.

IOM Belarus provides the following types of assistance to people fleeing Ukraine:

- food;
- hygiene items;
- clothing, and footwear;
- accommodation support;
- medical assistance;
- psychosocial support;
- transportation services across Belarus;
- employment-related support;
- reintegration support for victims of human trafficking;
- voluntary return for third country nationals.

HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE

In the reporting period, 134 beneficiaries received several forms of humanitarian assistance from IOM:

- 105 food kits were delivered to refugees from Ukraine;
- 105 hygiene kits were distributed to beneficiaries;
- 27 beneficiaries received clothes and footwear;
- 4 families received antistress toys for children;
- 1 family was provided with accommodation support;
- 10 people received vouchers for medicines;
- Medicine and medical supplies were procured for 2 vulnerable beneficiaries;
- 2 people were referred to medical institutions for further treatment;
- Psychosocial support and consultations were provided to 3 people and 1 person received an additional consultation;
- 13 people were provided with information and counselling support and referrals to other institutions and organizations for best solutions.

Since IOM established a system of direct assistance provision to refugees and migrants fleeing Ukraine in mid-May, the organization has assisted 519 people through several forms of humanitarian aid:

- 366 food kits were delivered to refugees from Ukraine;
- 366 hygiene kits were distributed to beneficiaries;
- 118 beneficiaries received clothes and footwear;
- 4 beneficiaries were provided with accommodation support;
- 70 people received vouchers for medicines;
- Medicine and medical supplies were procured for 7 vulnerable beneficiaries;
- 9 people were referred to medical institutions for further treatment;
- 10 people received transportation support;
- Psychosocial support was provided to 45 people and 24 people received additional consultations;
- 68 people were provided with information and counselling support and referrals to other institutions and organizations for best solutions.

In addition to the Ukraine response, assistance was provided to other migrants, mainly those approaching IOM for consultations and those with requests for voluntary return to their countries of origin. Those who did not have shelter were accommodated in the hostel and provided with food and hygiene kits on a regular basis.

PROTECTION

In addition to humanitarian assistance, IOM also supports refugees and migrants fleeing Ukraine with protection assistance, including securing employment in Belarus and voluntary return to the countries of origin for third country nationals.

In the reporting period, 17 beneficiaries received protection assistance:

- 1 person benefitted from IOM's payment to secure an employment permit;
- 15 persons were assisted with the payment of employment-related translation certified by a notary;
- 1 person was assisted with the payment of vocational training in cosmetology services.

In total, 56 people have already benefitted from employment facilitation and legal aid services:

- 23 state fees for employment permits were paid for by IOM;
- 25 persons received employment-related assistance and legal aid (payment for services);
- 8 persons were assisted through IOM sponsorship for vocational training.

Four TCNs who fled Ukraine have been provided with voluntary humanitarian return to their countries of origin since 24 February 2022.

On 21-22 July, IOM staff visited Brest to provide the field staff working on the Ukraine response with a protection services training. The available IOM protection assistance includes MHPSS, referrals to health establishments, voluntary humanitarian return for third country nationals, transportation support, reintegration assistance for victims of human trafficking, and – importantly – employment generation and inclusion support. Working meetings with two NGOs, “Business Women Club” and Brest branch of the Belarusian Red Cross, were also held to ensure a referral pathway for IOM's protection services for Ukraine nationals and TCNs fleeing the war.

ASSISTED VOLUNTARY RETURN AND REINTEGRATION (AVRR)

In the reporting period, IOM assisted 26 people with voluntary return to their countries of origin.

In total, as of 22 July, **IOM Belarus has provided AVRR support to 573 migrants** (402 males and 171 females), including 134 children, in 2022. Migrants returned to the following countries: Iraq, Cuba, Sri Lanka, Guinea, Nigeria, Republic of Türkiye, Ghana, Egypt, India, the Russian Federation, Cameroon, Somalia, Republic of Congo, Turkmenistan, Tajikistan, Pakistan, Democratic Republic of Congo, Burkina-Faso, Kyrgyzstan, Moldova, Iran, Kenya, Algeria, Georgia, Norway, Benin, Uzbekistan, Ethiopia and Côte d'Ivoire.



IOM staff brings bags with food and hygiene items to refugees from Ukraine © IOM 2022

The EU-funded project through which IOM Belarus has been providing AVRR assistance ended on 17 July 2022. **Since the launch of the project in 2018, IOM Belarus has provided 1,076 migrants with AVRR support.**

Although the project ended recently, IOM continues to observe an influx of migrants inquiring about AVRR support from different parts of the country. To ensure uninterrupted service provision to the vulnerable migrants, IOM Belarus is exploring opportunities to fund AVRR support services.

COOPERATION WITH PARTNERS

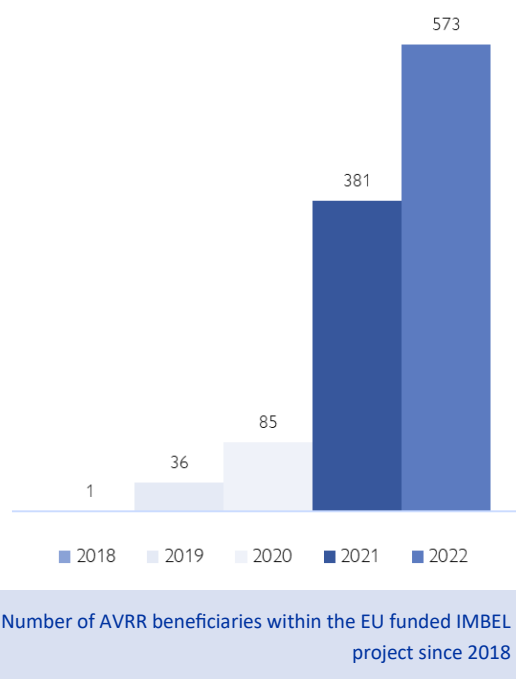
IOM's DTM was launched in Belarus in June, with the involvement of the BRC and with the support of the Ministry of the Interior. In the reporting period, the **first DTM report was published** covering 4 June to 2 July. The report **covers profiles of the respondents, their intentions, needs and estimated presence.**

According to the report, there are **an estimated 6,632 Ukrainian nationals and 896 TCNs remaining in Belarus.** The largest number of Ukrainian nationals is reported in Gomel and Minsk regions, while Vitebsk is the area with the highest concentration of TCNs. DTM activities are continued aiming at producing the next report by the end of August 2022.

To ensure that information about IOM's assistance reaches its potential beneficiaries, IOM supports the hotline on safe migration and combatting human trafficking maintained by the partner NGO, "Business Women Club". The toll-free hotline provides consultations on various issues related to travel and stay abroad, such as employment, movement restrictions related to COVID-19, education abroad, visa issues, and useful contact information, among other areas. Since the start of the war in Ukraine, the hotline has played a crucial role in referring refugees and migrants to available in-country services, particularly those provided by IOM. From 5-18 July, the hotline provided 84 consultations on entry to, transit through, and exit from Belarus with relation to the war in Ukraine and assistance available for migrants and refugees, amounting to 36.4 per cent of all the consultations provided. Overall, since 24 February, **the hotline provided 603 consultations for people fleeing Ukraine.**

In cooperation with the Belarusian Movement of Medical Workers (BMMW), **three additional project sites were established** in Vitebsk, Mogilev and Brest. IOM staff provide direct assistance to Ukrainian refugees and other migrants who approach the organization.

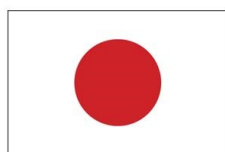
Cooperation with IOM's NGO partner BMMW continued in Gomel region. In particular, the NGO provided consultations to Ukrainian refugees on the best solutions for further movement and referred 16 people to IOM for further assistance.



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