

## HIGHLIGHTS

There are approximately **6,632 Ukrainian refugees and 896 third country nationals (TCNs)** present in the territory of Belarus according to IOM's DTM report. IOM assisted **574 people** stranded in Belarus to return home in 2022 within the Assisted Voluntary Return and Reintegration (AVRR) programme.

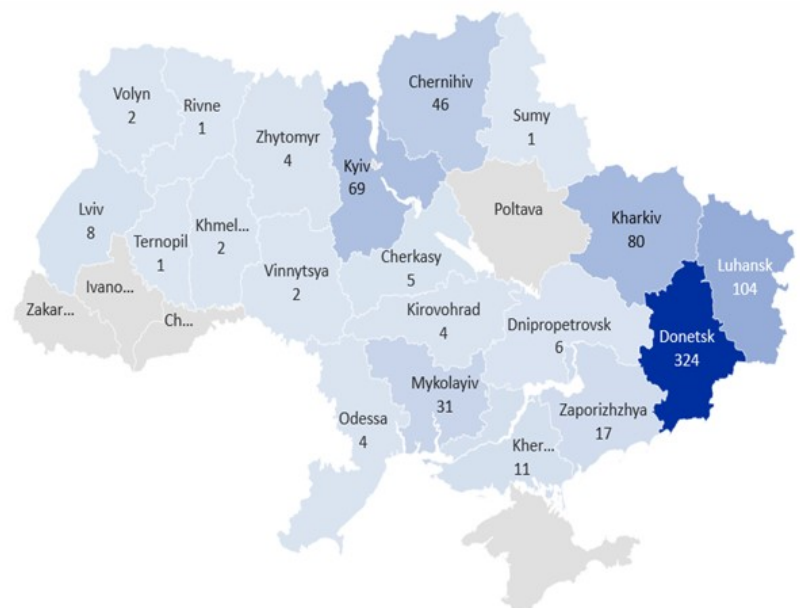
Since the start of the war, IOM has provided humanitarian assistance to **677 persons** fleeing Ukraine and protection assistance to **71 Ukraine nationals and 4 TCNs**. The IOM-supported hotline on safe migration and combatting human trafficking received over **696 requests (26.6 per cent of the total number of queries)** from refugees and TCNs fleeing Ukraine about migration issues and assistance available in Belarus since 24 February.

## SITUATION OVERVIEW

Since 24 February, **44,649 people** have entered the country (902 Belarusians, 43,503 Ukrainians, and 244 third country nationals), as reported by the State Border Committee of Belarus.

Gaps in data are being addressed by the roll out of IOM's Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM), implemented in cooperation with the Ministry of Interior of Belarus and the Belarusian Red Cross (BRC). The country's first DTM report was published in July based on 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.

Seventy per cent of the interviewed refugees and TCNs were female. Ninety-two per cent of the respondents were Ukrainian nationals, most of whom had arrived from Donetsk (42 per cent), Luhansk (14 per cent), Kharkiv (11 per cent), Kyiv (9 per cent) and Chernihiv (6 per cent) regions. Sixty-seven per cent of the respondents entered Belarus directly from Ukraine, 17 per cent entered from the Russian Federation, 14 per cent entered from Poland, and the remaining 2 per cent entered from Latvia and Lithuania.



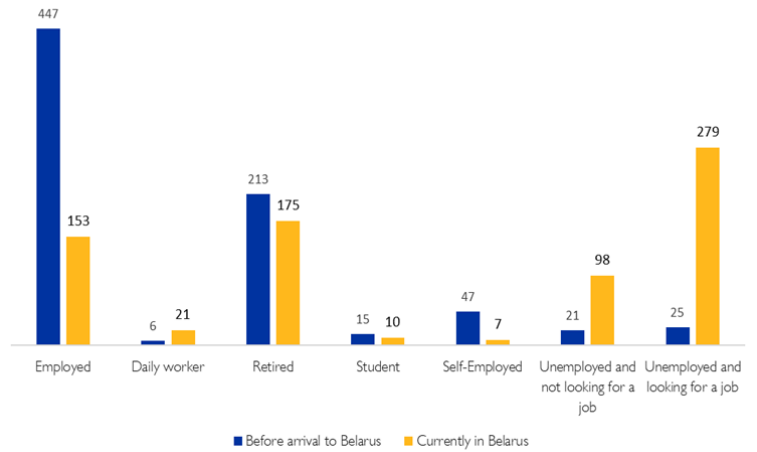
Regions of origin of DTM survey respondents from Ukraine

## CONTACTS

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

In terms of employment profile, only six of the respondents were unemployed before leaving Ukraine, whilst almost a half (49 per cent) had professional or technical occupations, such as lawyers, doctors, engineers, and metal workers. When asked about their desired occupation in Belarus, 12 per cent of respondents indicated that they did not want to work. Fifty-one respondents out of 153 currently employed in Belarus (33 per cent) had to change their occupation field upon arriving to Belarus.

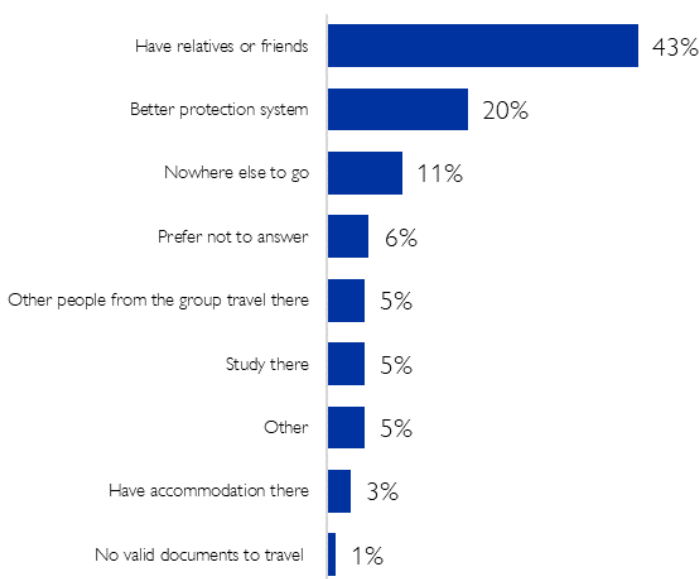
Primary education	2%
Lower Secondary education	17%
Upper Secondary / Vocational education	42%
Post-secondary non-tertiary education	9%
Tertiary education	29%
PhD and more	0.1%
Other type of non-formal education	0.5%
None	1%



Regions of origin of DTM survey respondents from Ukraine

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

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

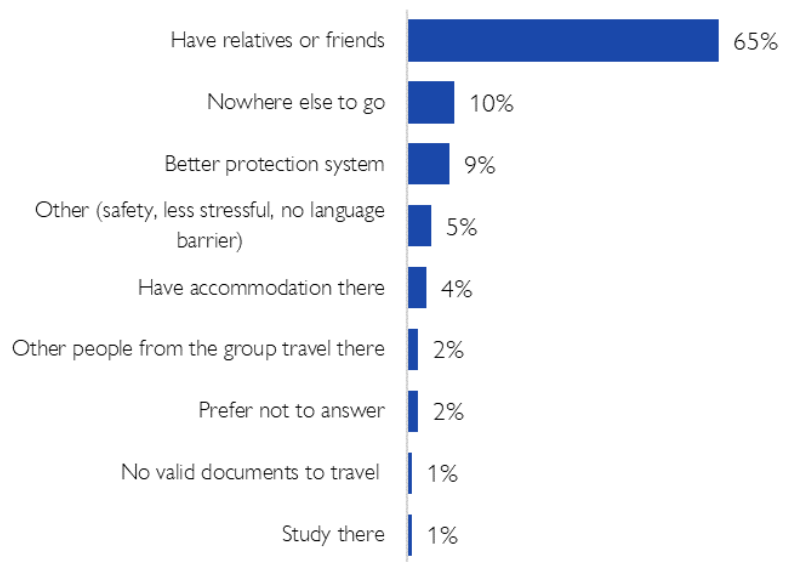


Reasons to choose the country of destination

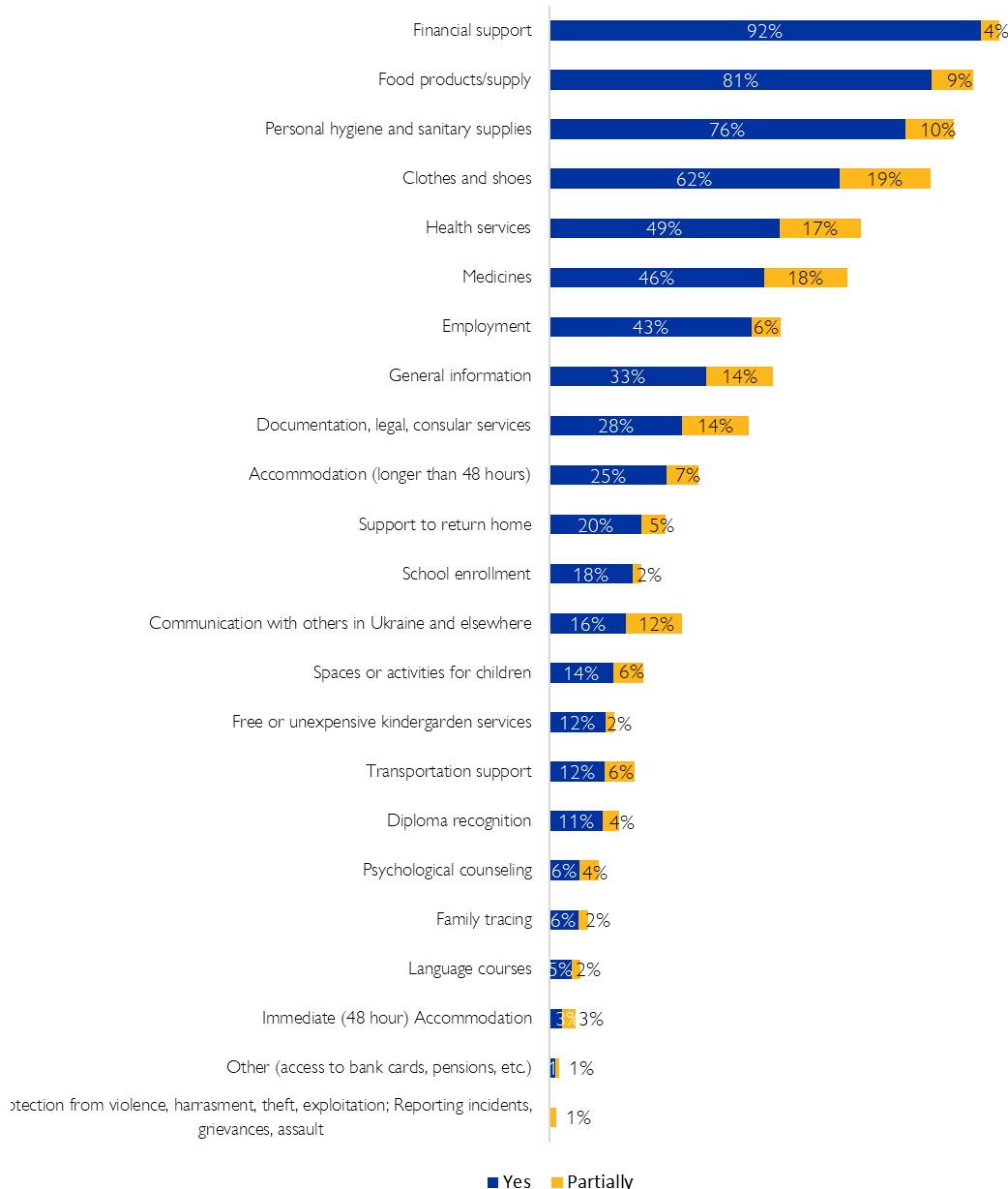
Intended country of destination

Eighty per cent of the respondents declared their 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 that they do not plan to return to Ukraine.

The main reported needs for those intending to stay in Belarus were financial support, food products, personal hygiene and sanitary supplies, clothes and shoes and access to healthcare. Almost half of the respondents reported the need for medicine, whilst 43 per cent were in search of employment. Respondents also stressed the need for access to their bank cards, pensions (for elderly people) and higher education opportunities.



Reasons to stay in Belarus



Reported needs of those intending to stay in Belarus

## CURRENT RESPONSE ACTIVITIES

As refugees and migrants in Belarus are spread across the country, IOM staff are present in five out of six regions of Belarus (Minsk, Gomel, Mogilev, Vitebsk and Brest) conducting vulnerability screenings, referrals and ensuring comprehensive and timely assistance.

In the reporting period, 170 people approached IOM for assistance. They were screened on potential vulnerabilities, their needs were assessed and necessary assistance was provided or planned.

In total, since the start of the war, 852 people approached IOM for support.

### HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE

In the reporting period, 158 beneficiaries received several forms of humanitarian assistance from IOM:

- 126 food kits were delivered to refugees from Ukraine;
- 126 hygiene kits were distributed to beneficiaries;
- 13 beneficiaries received clothes, footwear and household items;
- 10 people received vouchers for medicines;
- Medicaments were procured for 3 vulnerable beneficiaries;
- 1 person was referred to a medical institution for further treatment;
- Psychosocial support were provided to 9 people;
- 4 people received transportation support;
- 33 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 677 people through several forms of humanitarian aid:

- 492 food kits were delivered to refugees from Ukraine;
- 492 hygiene kits were distributed to beneficiaries;
- 131 beneficiaries received clothes, footwear and household items;
- 4 beneficiaries were provided with accommodation support;
- 80 people received vouchers for medicines;
- Medicine and medical supplies were procured for 10 vulnerable beneficiaries;
- 10 people were referred to medical institutions for further treatment;
- 14 people received transportation support;
- Psychosocial support was provided to 54 people and 26 people received additional consultations;
- 101 people were provided with information and counselling support and referrals to other institutions and organizations for best solutions.



IOM staff hands over bags with food items © IOM



IOM staff hands over bags with food items © IOM



Additionally, five stranded migrants from other countries, whom IOM is assisting with finding the most appropriate durable solutions, were supported with food items.

## 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, 14 beneficiaries received protection assistance:**

- 3 persons benefitted from IOM's payment to secure an employment permits;
- 9 persons were assisted with the payment of employment-related translation certified by a notary;
- 2 persons were assisted with the payment of vocational trainings in make-up services and industrial climbing.

**In total, 71 people have already benefitted from employment facilitation and legal aid services:**

- 26 state fees for employment permits were paid for by IOM;
- 34 persons received employment-related assistance and legal aid (payment for services);
- 11 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 1-2 August, IOM Belarus staff visited Vitebsk to provide the IOM 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 employment generation and inclusion support.

## ASSISTED VOLUNTARY RETURN AND REINTEGRATION (AVRR)

The EU-funded project through which IOM Belarus had been providing AVRR assistance ended on 17 July 2022. **In 2022, 573 vulnerable migrants returned to their countries of origin or legal residence** through the programme, totalling to 1,076 returnees since the launch of the project in 2018.

IOM continues to receive requests for AVRR support and seeks opportunities to fund especially vulnerable persons on a case-by-case basis. In particular, IOM Belarus sends requests for assistance to the Humanitarian Assistance to Stranded Migrants (HASM) Fund led by IOM Headquarters to ensure voluntary humanitarian return for migrants stranded in Belarus. Within the reporting period, one student stranded in Belarus since 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic returned to Turkmenistan with the assistance of IOM Belarus and support of the HASM Fund. Another four requests for voluntary humanitarian return from Belarus have received HASM approval with the return taking place in the end of August 2022.



Beneficiary of the AVRR programme awaits departure at Minsk National Airport © IOM

## COOPERATION WITH PARTNERS

IOM's DTM programme was launched in Belarus in June, with the involvement of the BRC and with the support of the Ministry of Interior. After the first DTM report was published in July, enumerators continued conducting further interviews with migrants and refugees to ensure more precise data. It is expected that the next report will be published by the end of August 2022.

On 2 August 2022, IOM took part in the meeting of the Refugee Coordination Forum (RCF) established at the national level to support the Ukraine response. While the RCF is chaired by UNHCR, IOM is the key humanitarian partner coordinating activities in response to the war in Ukraine. IOM presented a monthly activities update and its first DTM report.

Cooperation with IOM's NGO partner BMMW continued in Gomel, Brest, Vitebsk and Mogilev regions. In particular, the NGO provided consultations to Ukrainian refugees on the best solutions for further movement and referred 68 people to IOM for further assistance.

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 19 July to 1 August, the hotline provided 93 consultations to refugees and TCNs fleeing Ukraine on migration issues and assistance available in Belarus, amounting to 40.8 per cent of all the consultations provided. Overall, since 24 February, **the hotline provided 696 consultations for people fleeing Ukraine.**

Some of the most popular requests from Ukrainian refugees are:



How can relatives from Ukraine enter Belarus?

How can Ukrainian nationals apply for a pension in Belarus?

How can Ukrainians enter Belarus from the Russian Federation?

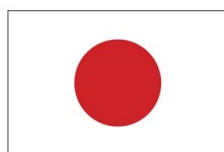
What type of assistance can Ukrainian refugees get in Belarus and how?

How can Ukrainians obtain refugee status in Belarus?

## IOM ACTIVITIES ARE SUPPORTED BY:



Funded by the  
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From  
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Norwegian Ministry  
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