

HIGHLIGHTS

According to IOM's Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM), as of 2 July, there are approximately **6,632 Ukrainian refugees and 896 third country nationals (TCNs)** present in Belarus.

Since the start of the war, IOM has provided humanitarian assistance to **920 persons** fleeing Ukraine and protection assistance to **87 Ukraine nationals and 4 TCNs**.

Since 24 February, the IOM-supported hotline on safe migration and combatting human trafficking received over **860 requests** (27.7 per cent of the total number of queries) concerning migration issues and the assistance available in Belarus from refugees and TCNs fleeing Ukraine .

In 2022, IOM Belarus provided voluntary return assistance to **582 migrants**.

SITUATION OVERVIEW

Since 24 February, **50,174** Ukrainian nationals have entered Belarus, as reported by the [State Border Committee of Belarus](#).

According to the assessments within IOM's [DTM report](#) as of 2 July, there are **6,632** Ukrainian refugees and **896** TCNs remaining in the territory of Belarus.



Ukrainian refugee who fled Mariupol welcomes IOM staff in her dormitory in Vitebsk, Belarus © IOM 2022

CONTACTS

CURRENT RESPONSE ACTIVITIES

IOM staff continue their activities targeting migrants and refugees, including vulnerability screenings, referrals and assistance provision, in five out of six regions of Belarus – Minsk, Gomel, Mogilev, Vitebsk and Brest.

In the reporting period, 100 people approached IOM for assistance. This brings the **total number of people who approached IOM for support since the start of the war to 1,039 individuals**. They were screened on potential vulnerabilities; their needs were assessed, and necessary assistance was provided or planned.

HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE

In view of the approaching cold weather, current humanitarian efforts are focused on winterization needs, meaning warm clothes, shoes, blankets and heaters are being procured and handed over to beneficiaries.

As the school year started on 1 September, in August, IOM Belarus prepared school kits with stationery for migrant children.

During the reporting period, 119 beneficiaries received several forms of humanitarian assistance from IOM:

- 77 food kits were delivered to refugees from Ukraine;
- 77 hygiene kits were distributed to beneficiaries;
- 37 beneficiaries received clothes, footwear, school kits and household items;
- Psychosocial support was provided to 3 people;
- 55 people received vouchers for medicine, while medication was procured for 4 vulnerable beneficiaries and 3 people were referred to a medical institution for further treatment;
- 4 people were provided with information, counselling support and referrals to other institutions and organizations for case management.

Since IOM established a system of direct assistance provision to refugees and migrants fleeing Ukraine in mid-May, the organization has assisted 920 people through several forms of humanitarian aid:

- 649 food kits were delivered to refugees from Ukraine;
- 649 hygiene kits were distributed to beneficiaries;
- 196 beneficiaries received clothes, footwear and household items;
- 13 beneficiaries were provided with accommodation support;
- 15 people received transportation support;
- 148 people received vouchers for medicines;
- Medicine and medical supplies were procured for 19 vulnerable beneficiaries;
- 14 people were referred to medical institutions for further treatment;
- Psychosocial support was provided to 63 people and 29 people received additional consultations;
- 118 people were provided with information and counselling support and referrals to other institutions and organizations for best solutions.



IOM staff hands over a box with household items to the Ukrainian refugee to furnish her dormitory room © IOM 2022



Tatsiana, refugee from Mariupol, holds a medical voucher with which she will be able to buy medicines in a number of pharmacies in Belarus © IOM 2022

In the reporting period, IOM provided shelter support to three stranded migrants. Additionally, emergency food and hygiene kits were provided to three stranded migrants from Egypt and China, who approached IOM at its project site in Brest region. IOM staff in Brest conducted consultations with migrants to identify possible solutions for their specific needs.

PROTECTION

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

In the reporting period, **seven persons were assisted with the payment of employment-related translations**, certified by a notary.

In total, 87 people have benefitted from employment facilitation and legal aid services:

- IOM paid the state fees for 26 employment permits;
- 48 people received employment-related assistance and legal aid (payment for services);
- 2 persons were assisted with medical check-ups for employment;
- 11 individuals were assisted through IOM sponsorship for vocational training.

Since 24 February, four TCNs who fled Ukraine have been provided with voluntary humanitarian return to their countries of origin.

In the reporting period, voluntary return assistance was provided to five people. In total, in 2022, IOM Belarus provided assistance with voluntary return to 582 persons – either within the Assisted Voluntary Return and Reintegration (AVRR) programme or through voluntary humanitarian return. The beneficiaries returned to 30 countries of origin, including Iraq, Cuba, Sri-Lanka, Türkiye, Guinea, Nigeria, India, Russian Federation, Cameroon, Egypt, Benin, Senegal, Somalia, Republic of Congo, Democratic Republic of Congo, Ghana, Turkmenistan, Tajikistan, Burkina-Faso, Pakistan, Kyrgyzstan, Moldova, Iran, Algeria, Kenya, Georgia, Norway, Uzbekistan, Ethiopia, Cote d'Ivoire.



Map of return countries of the AVRR beneficiaries in 2022

COOPERATION WITH PARTNERS

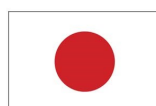
IOM's NGO partner, the Belarusian Movement of Medical Workers (BMMW), continued its activities in Gomel, Brest, Vitebsk and Mogilev regions providing consultations to Ukrainian refugees and migrants and referring them for further assistance.

To ensure that information about IOM's assistance reaches potential beneficiaries, IOM supports the hotline on safe migration and combatting human trafficking, which is maintained by its partner NGO, the "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 16 to 29 August, the hotline provided 84 consultations to refugees and TCNs fleeing Ukraine on migration issues and available assistance in Belarus, amounting to 32.9 per cent of all the consultations provided. Overall, since 24 February, **the hotline has provided 860 consultations to people fleeing Ukraine.**

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