

5.91 MILLION INTERNALLY DISPLACED PERSONS IN UKRAINE.

17.4 MILLION PEOPLE FLED UKRAINE

Since 24 February 2022, an increasing number of Ukrainian refugees and third-country nationals (TCNs) entering neighboring countries has been registered as a result of the war in Ukraine.

As of 10 January 2023, Slovak authorities have reported **1,118,665** arrivals from Ukraine, out of which **1,030,445** were Ukrainian refugees and **55,667** TCNs and EU nationals.

Source of data for the period of 24 Feb. 2022 – 10 Jan. 2023: [IOM](#), [UNHCR](#), Ministry of Interior of the Slovak Republic.



A WOMAN ARRIVED FROM ODESSA TO SPEND WINTER SEASON IN SLOVAKIA. SHE BENEFITED FROM LEGAL CONSULTATION AND HUMANITARIAN AID PROVIDED BY THE IOM FRONTLINE TEAM AT THE MICHALOVCE REGISTRATION CENTRE.

KEY FACTS OF IOM RESPONSE:



18,259 PEOPLE

benefited from IOM immediate assistance at borders and centres and from IOM remote counselling



620 TRUCKS

with 13,020 tons of humanitarian aid were dispatched through IOM supply chain from Slovakia to Ukraine



778 PARTICIPANTS

of IOM trainings for frontline workers and other professionals involved in services for people from Ukraine



586 PEOPLE

fleeing the war in Ukraine have benefited from temporary accommodation or housing in Slovakia



5,027 PEOPLE

in emergency situation have benefited from mental health and psychosocial support



614 BENEFICIARIES

received IOM cash assistance for carers of people with disabilities and for people with specific needs

NEWS:

IOM SLOVAKIA DISTRIBUTES FOOD AID TO PEOPLE IN NEED FLEEING THE WAR IN UKRAINE

IOM helps distributing food aid to people who fled the war in Ukraine. Every day, approximately 60 parcels of non-perishable food items are provided or directly delivered to these families and individuals in need who found a temporary refuge in Michalovce and in the surrounding.

One of the clients is Anna (32), who used to live in Kyiv before the outbreak of the war, but since March 2022 she has been displaced in Slovakia. Anna lives in Strážske with her son Marko, who is only 10 months old. She is one of the hundreds of beneficiaries who rely on this assistance.

“Food aid means a lot for us. It is our financial and moral support.



FOOD AID IS DELIVERED MAINLY TO MOTHERS WITH CHILDREN, FAMILIES OR TO ELDERLY PEOPLE.



I don't have a job because my son is just a baby. I am here alone with him," Anna clarifies her life circumstances.

A food parcel, which comes from the Slovak Food Bank and other donors, contains flour, oil, pasta, rice, instant soup, milk, fresh vegetables or bread. IOM distributes food from a warehouse in Michalovce to the Social Food Dispensary and also directly to the families and individuals in the city and surrounding every day.

In order to transfer food aid to people as effectively as possible, different non-governmental organizations cooperate. Slovak Union of the Hearing Impaired in Michalovce finds and contacts people who might be interested in receiving this sort of help and then participates in food delivery. Philanthropy of the Michalovce-Košice Orthodox Eparchy also takes care of Social Food Dispensary in Michalovce where people can come and pick up the food aid parcel by themselves.

From the beginning of December 2022 to 10 January 2023 all partners in this assistance distributed 2,599 food parcels.

IOM AND IPČKO HELP TEENAGERS WHO FLED THE WAR TO REESTABLISH TRUST AND CREATE A SAFE ENVIRONMENT

People fleeing war and conflicts might be of need of assistance to cope with the new and old situations they might have experienced in their war-torn country and on their run to a place of refuge. They are often challenged to build their social life from scratch.

To help war-affected people from Ukraine, IPčko as IOM's implementing partner provides mental health and psychosocial support to teenagers, adults and elderly people who fled this war and are currently living in the Gabčíkovo Accommodation Facility. To reestablish trust, create a safe environment and build community engagement, regular psychosocial and community activities including art therapy, music therapy and virtual reality take place in the facility.

[Read more about IOM assistance in Gabčíkovo.](#)

Psychologists and social workers of IPčko have been providing their counselling and assistance in all eight regions of Slovakia. Their services include psychological first aid, individual and group psychological counselling, socio-relational activities or psychoeducational sessions.

To date, more than 5,000 people in emergency situation have benefited from this mental health and psychosocial support.

[Read more about mental health and psychosocial support.](#)



A SESSION WITH PSYCHOSOCIAL AND COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES, INCLUDING VIRTUAL REALITY, TOOK PLACE IN DECEMBER 2022 WITH 10 PARTICIPANTS.

STORY:

CONSTANT FEAR AND HARSH CONDITIONS MADE A COUPLE LEAVE KYIV, NOW THEY FOUND SAFETY IN SLOVAKIA

Larysa and her husband Serhii were living a tranquil life in Kyiv having a small tourist agency for 25 years. On 24 February 2022 the war broke out. The life of this couple changed from the scratch. In one day they lost jobs, dreams, certainty and stability of their lives.



After the outbreak of the war, Larysa and Serhii became full-time volunteers. For eight months they were assisting internal refugees within Ukraine who were coming to the capital city to seek help. Their volunteering organization was distributing food, hygiene kits, warm clothes and basic information about options displaced people had in Kyiv. "Everyone was in shock at the beginning of the war. We were all improvising," Larysa recalls spring months of the last year.

"I wanted to enlist to the army and go to the frontline, but I am older than the age limit," Serhii thinks of beginnings of the war. "People fleeing war zones needed to get to the borders, mostly to Poland and Slovakia. So I decided to help them with transfer. I was driving them from Kyiv on my own car," Serhii remembers the sleepless nights he spent driving around Ukraine. He kept transferring people for a couple of months in a row without a break.

Everything changed once again with the upcoming winter. Energy supplies became unstable. "In Kyiv, we don't have regular supply of electricity, water or central heating. What's more, there is occasional bombing. We don't even have any proper shelter that would protect us in case of explosion. Another problem is my heart disease, I take loads of medicines and this year was very bad for my health. The life in such conditions is unbearable," Larysa explains the reasons why she and her husband decided to leave Ukraine, while showing a suitcase full of medicines she has to take.

In a situation like this, the couple decided to go to Slovakia and start a new life abroad until the war is over. Larysa and Serhii sold their car in Uzhhorod and crossed Slovak borders. "That's where we found out about Housing Assistance Programme in Kosice of IOM Slovakia. We were relieved that immediately we had a place to go and stay for some time. We needed to feel safe for a while. We are grateful for this feeling now," Serhii concludes.

PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES FROM UKRAINE CAN NOW BENEFIT FROM USING WHEELCHAIRS IN THE MICHALOVCE REGISTRATION CENTRE

In December 2022, IOM Slovakia delivered two wheelchairs for disabled people who fled the war in Ukraine and look for assistance in the Michalovce Registration Centre. In number of cases disabled people were forced to travel without a wheelchair or their health status suddenly worsed during their transfer. IOM frontline team at the centre can now offer them a help with a wheel chair.

Since the beginning of the war in Ukraine, IOM donated more than 200 defibrillators, wheelchairs, walking aids, resuscitation figurine and crutches to help address health issues of people on the run.



TWO WHEELCHAIRS TO HELP PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES WITH TRANSFER ARE AVAILABLE FOR ASSISTANCE IN THE MICHALOVCE REGISTRATION CENTRE.

WINTER CLOTHES HELP PEOPLE IN NEED ON SLOVAK-UKRAINIAN BORDER

Freezing weather, snow, rain and harsh weather conditions make border crossing much harder for people fleeing the war in Ukraine. On Slovak-Ukrainian points of entries in Ubla and Vysne Nemecke, in Michalovce Registration Centre and in Hotspot Kosice, IOM donated winter clothes for those who need it.

IOM frontline team have been distributing these clothes since December 2022 and to date, more than 100 pieces of winter clothing have already helped mostly to elderly people and to women with children on borders facing winter conditions. Since the outbreak of the war, IOM Slovakia has distributed more than twenty-nine thousand items of clothing in various towns in Slovakia.



IOM DISTRIBUTES WINTER CLOTHES TO PEOPLE IN NEED FLEEING UKRAINE, IOM PROVIDES THIS ASSISTANCE IN UBLA, VYSNE NEMECKE, MICHALOVCE AND KOSICE.

IOM IMPROVES LIVING CONDITIONS OF WAR-AFFECTED PEOPLE WITH KITCHEN AND HYGIENE SETS

In December 2022, IOM donated 30 kitchen sets to people who fled the war in Ukraine and who are now accommodated in Housing Assistance Programme in Kosice. When fleeing the war, people usually do not pack kitchen equipment with them. Donated kitchen sets can serve a whole family, allowing people to independently prepare, serve and store their own food according to their needs.

In addition, IOM distributed in Kosice another 20 hygiene kits with shampoos, tooth pastes, brushes and other hygiene items for men.



THESE KITCHEN SETS CONSIST OF COOKING POTS, FRYING PANS, TEA POTS, FORKS, KNIVES, SPOONS AND PLATES.

HUMANITARIAN AID WITH HYGIENE KITS COVERS BASIC NEEDS OF PEOPLE FLEEING THE WAR IN UKRAINE

In November and December 2022, IOM Slovakia delivered to the central warehouse of Caritas Slovakia more than 6,500 hygiene kits for women, men, children and also 280 packs of diapers for babies.

Basic hygiene items often help displaced people from Ukraine who fled their home with only a few belongings, mothers with children without income and elderly people who are dependent on any help. Hygiene kits can also help to reduce living costs of people starting a new life in a new country.

These hygiene kits will be distributed from the warehouse of Caritas to different community centers. People fleeing war will be able to benefit from these hygiene kits in different regions and towns: Bratislava, Zilina, Ruzomberok, Dolny Kubin and Presov. [Read more about IOM humanitarian aid in Ukraine and Slovakia.](#)



ON THE PHOTO: HYGIENE KITS FOR CARITAS SLOVAKIA. SINCE THE BEGINNING OF THE WAR IN UKRAINE, IOM SLOVAKIA HAS DISTRIBUTED 17,000 HYGIENE KITS.

IOM ACTIVITIES

DIRECT ASSISTANCE

Direct assistance and response to immediate refugee needs at border points of entry and dedicated registration centres.



A MOTHER WITH HER DAUGHTER (16) WERE FORCED TO FLEE THEIR HOME AND ESCAPE THE WAR, THEY BECAME INTERNALLY DISPLACED PERSONS LIVING IN UZHOROD. SHE ARRIVED IN THE KOSICE HOTSPOT AND AN IOM CONSULTANT ASSISTED HER WITH INFORMATION ON HOW TO APPLY FOR TEMPORARY REFUGEE STATUS, OPTIONS FOR WORK IN SLOVAKIA, FREE ACCOMMODATION AND SLOVAK LANGUAGE COURSES.

REMOTE ASSISTANCE

Legal, social and job counselling and referrals to Ukrainian refugees as well as to third country nationals through IOM's Migration Information Centre infoline and email.

HUMANITARIAN AID

Provision of emergency humanitarian aid to people in need in Ukraine and people fleeing Ukraine.

PROTECTION

Capacity building on counter-trafficking, prevention of sexual exploitation, gender-based violence and other topics for frontline workers, healthcare professionals, volunteers etc.

EMERGENCY MULTI-PURPOSE CASH ASSISTANCE

Provision of allowance for persons taking care of adult Ukrainian citizens with disabilities and for adult Ukrainian citizens with specific needs, currently living in Slovakia.

MENTAL HEALTH AND PSYCHOSOCIAL SUPPORT

Provision of mental health and psychosocial support to people fleeing the war and currently living in Slovakia.

TEMPORARY ACCOMMODATION

Assistance to persons fleeing the war in Ukraine with temporary accommodation in partnership with the Airbnb.

DATA COLLECTION

Data collection on displacement, people's needs and intentions to better understand mobility dynamics in the region and strengthen the response to the crisis.

IOM RESPONSE IN NUMBERS:

Results are for the period of 24 February 2022 – 10 January 2023:

5,908 PEOPLE ASSISTED ONSITE

IOM provided in person assistance, referrals, information on temporary refuge and on different life aspects in Slovakia to refugees at border crossing points and dedicated registration centres.

12,351 PEOPLE ASSISTED REMOTELY

IOM's Migration Information Centre (MIC) provided information and legal, social and job counselling to Ukrainians and non-EU nationals through infoline, email and other channels.

553,873 WEBSITE VISITORS

People were searching for the useful information on entry and stay in Slovakia available in Ukrainian, Slovak, English and Russian at the MIC website www.mic.iom.sk.

384 PROFESSIONALS TRAINED IN COUNTER-TRAFFICKING

IOM conducted twenty four trainings for frontline and healthcare workers and other professionals involved in provision of services for refugees and TCNs.

614 BENEFICIARIES OF CASH ASSISTANCE

IOM provided cash assistance to people who are taking full-time care of adult Ukrainian citizens with disabilities and to adult Ukrainian citizens with specific needs.

5,027 PEOPLE PROVIDED WITH PSYCHOLOGICAL SUPPORT

People received psychological first aid, individual psychological counselling or specialized referrals, and participated in group sessions or socio-relational activities.

54 CLASSES OF SLOVAK LANGUAGE COURSES

Over 1,160 Ukrainian citizens have learnt Slovak language in 30 classes in an online format and in 24 in-person classes in Bratislava, Gabčíkovo, Presov and Kosice.

13,020 TONS OF HUMANITARIAN AID

IOM shipped 620 trucks with essential goods from its warehouses to people in need in Ukraine, equating to a volume of 13,020 tons.

1 BREASTFEEDING AND BABY CARE ROOM EQUIPPED

IOM secured dignified and private space for mothers and their babies when crossing the border in Vysne Nemecke and equipped a dedicated room with vital supplies.

16,920 HYGIENE & BABY KITS FOR PEOPLE ON THE RUN

IOM delivered kits for people in need in Michalovce, Kosice, Zakovce with further distribution to 5 different places, Nitra, Gabčíkovo, Bratislava and to other spots.

586 BENEFICIARIES OF ACCOMMODATION

IOM assisted persons mainly in vulnerable situation to find and secure temporary accommodation in Airbnb facilities or housing in Slovakia.

1,935 SURVEYS

IOM conducted data collection across key sites through interviews with Ukrainian refugees and TCNs about their needs and intentions.

WHERE YOU CAN FIND US:

Since the outbreak of the war, IOM helps every day at the Slovak-Ukrainian border and in the dedicated registration centres. From the very first days IOM has assisted on sites to more than **5,908 people** fleeing Ukraine and arriving in Slovakia, including Ukrainian refugees and TCNs. IOM is actively present at the following border crossing points, registration centres and sites:



POINTS OF ENTRY:

1. Ubla
2. Vysne Nemecke

CENTRES:

3. Registration Centre in Michalovce
4. IOM Migration Information Centre in Kosice
Hotspot Cervena Hviezda in Kosice
5. Accommodation Facility in Gabcikovo
6. IOM Migration Information Centre in Bratislava

IOM INFOLINES

INFORMATION AND ASSISTANCE FOR PEOPLE ARRIVING FROM UKRAINE TO SLOVAKIA

Info line: 0850 211 478 (from the territory of the Slovak Republic)

From abroad: +421 2 5263 0023, +421 55 625 8662

Telegram/Signal: +421 908 767 853 (voice calls only)

Email: mic@iom.int

Website: www.mic.iom.sk

Online support available in Ukrainian, Slovak, English, and Russian.

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