

5.35 MILLION INTERNALLY DISPLACED PEOPLE IN UKRAINE

18.3 MILLION PEOPLE FLED UKRAINE

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

As of 7 February 2023, Slovak authorities have reported **1,194,921** arrivals from Ukraine, out of which **1,100,789** were Ukrainian refugees and **94,132** TCNs and EU nationals.

Source of data for the period of 24 Feb. 2022 – 7 Feb. 2023: [IOM](#), [UNHCR](#), Ministry of Interior of the Slovak Republic.



A YOUNG FAMILY FROM KRIVROY ROG IN UKRAINE ARRIVED IN SLOVAKIA IN THE FALL OF 2022. IOM FRONTLINE TEAM HAS PROVIDED THE FAMILY WITH THE NECESSARY HYGIENE PRODUCTS AND DIAPERS FOR THEIR BABY AT THE MICHALOVCE TRANSIT CENTRE.

KEY FACTS OF IOM RESPONSE:



19,667 PEOPLE

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



644 TRUCKS

with 13,524 tons of humanitarian aid were dispatched through IOM supply chain from Slovakia to Ukraine



857 PARTICIPANTS

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



667 PEOPLE

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



6,993 PEOPLE

in emergency situation have benefited from mental health and psychosocial support



615 PEOPLE

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

NEWS:

IOM ASSISTED 615 PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES AND SPECIFIC NEEDS WITH EMERGENCY CASH ASSISTANCE

Since the war broke out in Ukraine, Slovakia has become a destination country for thousands of Ukrainian people, including women, children, older people, people with disabilities, and specific needs.

Many war-affected people fled their homes only with basic needs and lacking financial means. Some people's health conditions required permanent care, and some deteriorated during the arduous journey or when they arrived in Slovakia. To make sure the basic needs of the most vulnerable group of people on the run are met, IOM provided cash assistance to support the family carers of people with disabilities from Ukraine and people with specific needs for six months.

So far, IOM Slovakia provided cash assistance to 615 vulnerable families. Of these people receiving assistance, 195 were carers of people with disability, and 420 were persons with specific needs →



IOM FRONTLINE WORKER ADVISING PEOPLE WITH VISUAL IMPAIRMENT FROM UKRAINE AND THEIR ASSISTANT ABOUT NECESSARY TRAVEL INFORMATION.



In line with the Slovak government programme, IOM provided 508 EUR for carers of adult people with disabilities and 300 EUR for families with people with specific needs for six months through bank transfer or via prepaid card to those people who did not have a bank account in Slovakia.

For example, IOM assistance was provided to people caring for people affected by multiple sclerosis, cerebral paralysis, stroke, or people who are wheelchair-bound due to a disability. IOM also provided cash assistance to adult Ukrainian nationals with specific needs who are being treated for a range of health conditions, including cancer and diabetes. They were of urgent help with medicines, medical appliances, and assistance items, or immediate medical interventions.

- One such person receiving assistance is a 79 years old pensioner who partially lost his vision and his worsened health condition would deteriorate to losing full sight and becoming blind. His doctor recommended immediate eye surgery. A local non-profit organization referred this elderly man to IOM. IOM assessed him for relevant criteria and subsequently assisted him with financial support from which he covered the cost of his surgery. Without this timely intervention, he would have lost his sight, as confirmed his attending doctor.

IOM IS COMMITTED TO PROTECTION OF MIGRANTS: ANOTHER 58 PROFESSIONALS TRAINED IN THE PREVENTION OF SEXUAL EXPLOITATION AND ABUSE

During December 2022 and January 2023, the IOM team organized seven trainings on the Prevention of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA) for professionals working with Ukrainian people, including the management of Gabcikovo Accommodation Facility, employees from Mareena, Ministry of Interior of the Slovak Republic and IOM staff members.

During these two months, 58 participants learned what sexual exploitation, abuse, and harassment are and what are the differences. Moreover, IOM raised their awareness on how to recognize the mistreatment and its impacts both on survivors but also on the whole community.

As a result, participants can now better understand their position of power and the way it can lead to various forms of exploitation, abuse, and harassment. Once the training was over, participants were provided with important contacts which they can use to report cases safely and discreetly.



TRAININGS ARE AN ESSENTIAL COMPONENT OF THE IOM RESPONSE TO THE CRISIS IN UKRAINE. PSEA TRAINING IN JANUARY 2023 IN BRATISLAVA.

STORY:

MAKEUP ARTIST AND HER DAUGHTER BEGAN A NEW LIFE IN SLOVAKIA JUST WITH ONE SUITCASE

Yuliia (41) and her daughter Eva (11) lived in Dnipro, when the war broke out. Yuliia did not want to leave Ukraine. *“I could not imagine leaving my family and my homeland. I felt like I would betray them,”* she remembers. Uncertain about the future, Yuliia recalls moments when they were hiding in the bathroom, checking the phone for notifications regarding sirens. The decision to leave Ukraine came when she struggled to find basic groceries in stores.



YULIIA AND EVA.

What is more, little Eva had a kidney transplant a couple of years ago, taking immunocompromising medicine since then. On a day when Yuliia and Eva started packing, Eva got a health breakdown. Yuliia understood that the situation would only get worse: *“All we took was medicine for my child and some warm clothes. Everything that we fit into one suitcase.”*

Leaving Ukraine was hard for them. *“I was calling my mother and friends, saying goodbye. I cannot even describe the pain in words.”*

Yuliia and Eva travelled by train with other fleeing families. One of them had friends in Slovakia who shelter them in their house. *“I cannot even describe my state of mind. People threw themselves at helping us – it was a relieving feeling.”*

However, due to Eva’s health, they were visiting doctors for check-ups frequently. Moreover, they had to visit a specialist in Bratislava. *“We went through all the examinations from scratch, travelling back and forth to Bratislava to receive the medication for Eva. Because of that, I lost my job. We decided to move.”* This is when Yuliia found information about IOM assistance with temporary accommodation. Thanks to the ongoing partnership with the Airbnb and their support, IOM provided them with a one-bedroom flat in Bratislava.

Yuliia is now finishing her accredited courses wishing to start working for a beauty center. At the same time, she is attending Slovak language courses organized by IOM Slovakia.

While Yuliia has managed to build up a new life, she constantly thinks about everyone who stayed back in Ukraine. *“We pray for Ukraine, for everyone, so that everything will be good. So that it all ends soon.”*

IOM ACTIVITIES

DIRECT ASSISTANCE

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



IOM FRONTLINE WORKER AT THE MICHALOVCE TRANSIT CENTRE ASSISTING A MAN WHO HAS ARRIVED FROM RIVNE IN UKRAINE WITH HIS FAMILY. HE IS GOING TO GO TO KOSICE WHERE HIS SON WILL STUDY AT A UNIVERSITY. HE WAS INTERESTED IN THE ASSISTANCE WITH ACCOMMODATION, LANGUAGE COURSES, WINTER CLOTHES AND HYGIENIC SUPPLIES.

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 people fleeing the war in Ukraine with temporary accommodation in partnership with the Airbnb and in the Housing Assistance Programme in Kosice.

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 – 7 February 2023:

6,183 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 centres.

13,484 PEOPLE ASSISTED REMOTELY

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

596,395 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.

422 PROFESSIONALS TRAINED IN COUNTER-TRAFFICKING

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

615 PEOPLE RECEIVED 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.

6,993 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.

77 CLASSES OF SLOVAK LANGUAGE COURSES

Over 1,600 Ukrainian citizens have learnt Slovak language in 35 classes in an online format and in 42 in-person classes in Bratislava, Gabčíkovo, Trenčín, Prešov and Kosice.

13,524 TONS OF HUMANITARIAN AID

IOM shipped 644 trucks with essential goods from its warehouses to people in need in Ukraine, equating to a volume of 13,524 tons

1 BREASTFEEDING AND BABY CARE ROOM EQUIPPED

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

13,531 HYGIENE & BABY KITS FOR PEOPLE ON THE RUN

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

667 BENEFICIARIES OF ACCOMMODATION

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

2,632 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 centres. From the very first days IOM has assisted on sites to more than **6,183 people** fleeing Ukraine and arriving in Slovakia, including Ukrainian refugees and TCNs. IOM is actively present at the following border crossing points, registration and transit centres and sites:



POINTS OF ENTRY:

1. Ubla
2. Vysne Nemecke

CENTRES:

3. Transit Centre in Michalovce
4. IOM Migration Information Centre in Kosice
Hotspot 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.

CONTACT US:

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     IOM Slovakia

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