

Since the COVID-19 outbreak began, IOM has been working with Member States and partners globally to prepare and respond to the pandemic consequences, with operational and technical support in the areas of migration and health. In Ukraine, building on its existing capacity, IOM is reprogramming existing and mobilizing new resources to assist the Government of Ukraine (GoU) to respond to the COVID-19 outbreak, with operational and technical support in the area of migration and health.

## HIGHLIGHTS OF IOM UKRAINE COVID-19 RESPONSE TO DATE:



### COORDINATION AND PARTNERSHIPS

■ Technical support to the Government on assistance and protection of Ukrainians stranded abroad due to COVID-19 travel restrictions. IOM partnered with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA) of Ukraine and provided technical support and recommendations as well as direct assistance to the most vulnerable Ukrainians stranded abroad because of COVID-19 mobility restrictions.

Almost **19,000 Ukrainians** stranded abroad because of COVID-19 travel restrictions have **registered for the MFA's Protection Programme**, of them, many have no means to cover their essential needs (food, rent, and medicines, among others). This can lead to increased vulnerability and may even push them into situations of exploitation or abuse.



### RISK COMMUNICATION AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT (RCCE)

■ 75,000 posters with WHO recommendations on COVID-19 prevention were printed and delivered to the medical facilities and communities located in the non-government controlled areas in eastern Ukraine<sup>1</sup>.  
■ Access to timely and accurate information and referrals for returning migrants, Ukrainians stranded abroad because of the COVID-19 outbreak, and their families in Ukraine. Since March 2020, the IOM-supported National Toll-Free Counter-Trafficking and Migrant Advice Hotline receives on average 1,000 calls per month related to COVID-19, the current border crossing regime and movements restrictions.

**Advocacy Messages Addressing COVID-19 Impact on Human Mobility** were developed and shared with the Government of Ukraine and other stakeholders.



### POINTS OF ENTRY (PoE)

■ Provision of urgently needed Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) to the State Border Guards of Ukraine which comprised of 140 protective suits; 153 protective goggles; 12,100 pairs of medical gloves; 7,450 FFP2 respirators; 15,000 disposable protective masks; 45 contactless thermometers; 360 hand sanitizer bottles; 20 backpack hydraulic sprayers; 336 protective face visors; and 150 chlorine-based disinfectants. Sprayers, contactless thermometers, disposable protective masks, protective gloves, glasses and suits are used by the border guards for processing Ukrainian nationals entering from abroad and civilians crossing the entry-exit points at the line of contact in eastern Ukraine.



### INFECTION PREVENTION AND CONTROL

■ Provision of PPE and disinfectant to the State Migration Service to protect their staff and migrants at the Migrant Accommodation Centres in Chernihiv, Mykolayiv and Volyn oblasts.  
■ Procurement and installation of 154 handwashing stations in key social institutions such as health-care centres, social care centres, centres for homeless in the Eastern Conflict Area<sup>2</sup>.  
Information, Education and Communication (IEC) materials on correct handwashing and other hygiene practices were provided to each targeted institution to ensure users' awareness on basic infection risk mitigation measures. Hygiene kits were also provided to ensure that the handwashing stations could be sanitised regularly.

<sup>1</sup> Non-government controlled areas of Donetsk Oblast  
<sup>2</sup> Government-controlled areas of Donetsk Oblast



## PROTECTION

- Webinars on primary psychological support in crisis conducted for 30 mental health and psychosocial support workers, previously trained within the EU-funded Veterans' Reintegration project and working with local communities. The trained psychologists support their community members with webinars and counselling on countering stress and panic. From 5 April to 22 April, 23 webinars were conducted for 198 persons.

- One-time financial assistance provided to 153 most vulnerable former victims of

At the end of April 2020, the number of **unemployed registered in Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts** increased by 68 per cent and by 34 per cent respectively, compared to the end of April 2019.

trafficking (95 women, 58 men) identified and included into IOM Reintegration Programme before the pandemic outbreak. At least 400 victims of trafficking to be additionally assisted until the end of 2020.

- As crises such as the COVID-19 pandemic increase communities' vulnerability

to exploitation, IOM conducted a counter-trafficking awareness-raising campaign in Kyiv metro to inform Ukrainians about the risks and available IOM hotline services. In May–June 2020, an estimated 1.3 million metro passengers saw IOM's counter-trafficking posters displayed in 715 metro carriages.



## ADDRESSING SOCIOECONOMIC IMPACT

- Five rapid assessments of the COVID-19 impact on IOM's beneficiaries — former victims of trafficking, returning migrants, IDPs, returnees and communities along the contact line. Findings are used to inform IOM's response and recovery planning.

- One-off financial support was provided to 32 former victims of trafficking (26 women, 6 men), who started micro-businesses before the pandemic with IOM support but had to stop due to quarantine restrictions losing the only

**IOM Survey of Micro-Businesses in Eastern Ukraine, May 2020:** 41% of the respondents reported that their business was not functioning, and 55% of businesses that had remained operational during COVID-19 reported a decrease in demand for goods/services with a subsequent loss of between 25–40% income in the second month of quarantine.

source of income for them and their families.

- One-off in-kind support was provided to 68 IOM livelihood beneficiaries<sup>3</sup> to

develop teleworking capacities and/or to reorganize their activities allowing them to continue their activity during the COVID-19 crisis.



## NEW PROGRAMMES TO MITIGATE THE IMPACT OF COVID-19

By December 2020, with funding from the U.S. Department of State Bureau of Population, Refugees and Migration (PRM), IOM Ukraine will support estimated **14,000 vulnerable men and women in the Eastern Conflict Area** by:

- Improving access to essential water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) facilities and provision of hygiene items to social institutions and medical facilities;

- Providing multipurpose cash support to the most vulnerable families;

- Offering livelihood grants to entrepreneurs whose business was impacted by COVID-19;

- Addressing mental health and psychosocial issues exacerbated by the pandemic;

- Mitigating risks of trafficking and exploitation among the conflict-affected populations.



IOM replaces an old borehole pump in Dersove, an isolated village near the contact line, Donetsk Oblast (NGCA)  
Photo: IOM/Polina Perfilieva

<sup>3</sup> Support was provided to beneficiaries of IOM's ongoing economic empowerment programme for veterans.

In March–July 2020, IOM Ukraine has conducted two rounds of assessments to estimate the impact of COVID-19 and quarantine measures on vulnerable migrants and conflict-affected populations. Surveys were informed by beneficiaries of IOM Ukraine's programmes who received assistance in 2016–2020. Key findings of the second round of surveys are presented below.

## IOM UKRAINE EXPRESS SURVEY OF MICRO-ENTERPRISES IN EASTERN UKRAINE (MAY 2020)



### EMPLOYMENT

■ **Increase of unemployment rates:** At the end of April 2020, the number of unemployed registered in Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts increased by 68% and by 34% respectively, compared to the end of April 2019. At the same time, the number of open vacancies in April 2020 in both oblasts was 64% and 14% lower, respectively, compared to the same period in 2019.



### BUSINESSES

■ **Increased economic vulnerability of IDPs due to their displacement circumstances:** Forty-one per cent (41%) of the respondents reported that their business was not functioning. IDP-owned enterprises appeared to be at a greater risk of closure due to restrictions, with 49% not continuing their operations as opposed to 36% of host community businesses.

■ **Business Closure:** Among the businesses which had to shut down their operations, 29% said they would not be able to reopen

without external support even after the quarantine restrictions were partially lifted.

■ **Micro-enterprise owners' income:** In April, monthly sales within the lower-income group (sales between UAH5,000 and UAH50,000) decreased by 25%, while within the higher-income group (sales between UAH51,000 and UAH250,000) they decreased by 44%. **On average, each enterprise had to dismiss one in three employees.**



### FOOD SECURITY

■ **Limited income among IDPs:** Half of the IDPs (50%) surveyed in the region assessed their financial situation as "enough funds only for food" or "have to limit expenses even for food" once other essential costs such as rent and medicine had been covered.

■ **Food prices:** switched to cheaper food, 20% used savings to purchase food, 19% reduced spending on other essential items to purchase food, 16% reduced their food consumption and 13% borrowed money to purchase food.



### INFECTION PREVENTION AND CONTROL

■ **Limited access to PPE:** Around 60% of the respondents reported challenges with access to key COVID-19 PPE.

■ **Hygiene items:** 55% of the respondents noted an increase in prices for hygiene items.

## COVID-19 IMPACT ON TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS AND VULNERABLE MIGRANTS IN UKRAINE



### EMPLOYMENT AND LIVELIHOODS

■ **84.2% of former victims of trafficking reported that their financial state has worsened since the lockdown,** only 6% said they seized new opportunities and even improved their financial conditions, and for 9.8% the situation remained unchanged.

■ With the introduction of stringent quarantine measures in Ukraine, **50.3% of the respondents lost their source of**

**income,** of them 66.7% men and 33.3% women. Women were mainly self-employed and provided such services as manicure, pedicure, or cooked semi-finished products. Most men who lost their jobs worked in construction or provided repair services. Workers employed in agriculture were the least affected by the COVID-19 restrictions.



### NEEDS

■ The most crucial need for the trafficking survivors (28.7%) is the **financial aid**, which they would use to cover the basic needs (food, hygiene items, medicines, and especially to pay for rent and utilities).

■ **Medical needs** are the second most urgent (22%). Further 16.3% of the respondents require **psychological assistance.**

■ Other needs include **professional equipment** (14.1%) for income-generating activities, **vocational education and training** (13.6%), as well as **legal counselling** (6.3%) regarding self-employment and businesses.

As evidenced by the surveys, assistance to vulnerable migrants, trafficking survivors, IDPs, conflict-affected populations is required to ensure that the response to a health emergency caused by COVID-19 also considers its economic impact and builds the resilience of the individuals most affected by the crisis.

## COVID-19 RESPONSE OF IOM UKRAINE IS SUPPORTED BY:



Canada

Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs



IOM counter-trafficking posters in Kyiv metro

Photo: IOM / Volodymyr Shuvayev

## IOM UKRAINE COVID-19 RESPONSE FUNDING REQUIREMENTS

IOM is actively seeking additional financial support from donor partners to address challenges posed by COVID-19 and support the efforts of the Government of Ukraine to stabilize the economy and plan the sustainable recovery.

Response Pillar	Needs (in USD)
✕ COORDINATION AND PARTNERSHIPS	100,000
🚶 TRACKING MOBILITY IMPACTS OF COVID-19	165,000
📢 RISK COMMUNICATION AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT (RCCE)	550,000
📄 POINTS OF ENTRY (PoE)	1,900,000
🛡️ INFECTION PREVENTION AND CONTROL	2,000,000
📦 LOGISTICS, PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY MANAGEMENT	3,000,000
🏠 CASE MANAGEMENT AND CONTINUITY OF ESSENTIAL SERVICES	20,000
🏠 PROTECTION	3,600,000
👤 ADDRESSING SOCIOECONOMIC IMPACT	5,800,000
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>17,135,000</b>

For additional details on each funding area and strategic priorities, please see the [IOM UKRAINE STRATEGIC PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE PLAN COVID-19](#).

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