



## Ukraine ranks fourth in the list of countries facing internal displacement

11 May 2016 – Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre (IDMC)

Some 41 million people in the world are internally displaced. The leaders in this sad list are Yemen, Syria, Iraq, and Ukraine, states the recent report by the Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC) and the Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre (IDMC).

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## Ukraine conflict: more cases of trafficking and torture than previously thought

18 May 2016 – Deutsche Welle

Human rights groups have received thousands of reports of ill treatment from both the uncontrolled and government-controlled areas in the ongoing conflict. German broadcaster "Deutschlandfunk" reported that more than 4,000 cases of ill treatment and trafficking have been documented by human rights organizations during the ongoing Ukrainian conflict. The figure is likely to be even higher, however, with civilians as well as members of military associations among the victims.

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## United States announces more than USD 28 million in additional humanitarian assistance for Ukraine crisis

20 May 2016 – U.S. Department of State

Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for Population, Refugees, and Migration (PRM), Nancy Izzo Jackson and United States Agency for International Development (USAID) Deputy Assistant Administrator Robert Jenkins announced in Kyiv that the United States is providing more than \$28 million in additional U.S. humanitarian assistance.

Of this, USD 12 million is from USAID's Office of U.S. Foreign Disaster Assistance, which will be provided to UNICEF, the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, and a number of international NGOs, for shelter assistance, water and sanitation programmes, cash benefits to help displaced families, small livelihoods projects, and humanitarian coordination and information management.

USD 5 million is from the Office of Food for Peace for the UN World Food Programme to address immediate food needs of the most vulnerable and food insecure population among IDPs, returnees and conflict-affected people, such as female-headed households, the elderly and disabled.

The funding announced also includes more than USD 11 million from PRM that will support the International Organization for Migration, the United Nations Population Fund, and other international humanitarian organizations.

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## Japan provides USD 13.64 million to restore Donbas

16 May 2016 – UNIAN

Japan has provided USD 13.64 million to international organizations to support the recovery of the Donetsk and Luhansk regions, which have suffered from hostilities, Vice Prime Minister of Ukraine, Minister of Regional Development, Construction, Housing and Utilities Services Hennadii Zubko informed. Mr. Zubko said that the funds will be transferred to the United Nations and the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC). IOM will receive USD 1 million.

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## Vatican envoy: Ukrainian refugees just want to go back home

3 May 2016 – Catholic News Agency (CNA)

Msgr. Dal Toso, Secretary of the Pontifical Council Cor Unum, visited Ukraine on 24-27 April, following the extraordinary collection for the country launched by Pope Francis. As the Pontifical Council Cor Unum has been entrusted by the Pope to deliver the funds, Msgr. Dal Toso travelled to Ukraine to get acquainted with the situation. During his days in Kyiv, Msgr. Dal Toso met with the top officials of the Greek Catholic and Latin Church in Ukraine, but also with the representatives of other Christian denominations, including the Russian Patriarchate. He also had meetings with officials of the United Nations and was able to visit a place where internal displaced people are gathered. According to Msgr. Dal Toso, "there is a humanitarian side in the Ukraine crisis. This side is not very much considered, but it is the most painful one."

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## Prompt introduction of visa-free regime is a common goal of Ukraine and the European Commission

12 May 2016 – President of Ukraine Press Office

President of Ukraine Petro Poroshenko had a meeting with European Commissioner for Migration, Home Affairs and Citizenship Dimitris Avramopoulos. The commissioner informed the president about how the European Union's institutions are considering the European Commission's legislative proposal for the abolition of visas. The parties agreed to coordinate joint actions in order to ensure prompt approval of a positive decision. The parties agreed on the importance of ensuring the entry into force of the Association Agreement between Ukraine and the EU as soon as possible.

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## Visa-free travel for Ukrainians to Canada? Not quite...

31 May 2016 – Ukraine Today

Ukraine's Embassy in Ottawa has dispelled rumours of a possible change in Canadian legislation. The governing Liberal Party of Canada didn't pass a resolution on visa-free travel for Ukrainians during the convention in Winnipeg, Canada, on 26-29 May, Ukraine's Embassy to Canada informs. The document, which was supported by the Liberal Party of Canada's Saskatchewan branch, was to be voted on by the delegates in order to be included in the Liberal Party's parliamentary policy. "The fact that such a draft document was under consideration is highly important," says Marko Shevchenko, Ukrainian Embassy Counsellor.

Canada's Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Department pointed out that Ukraine has yet to meet the visa cancellation criteria.

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## Putin approves simplified residence permits for refugees

2 May 2016 – The Moscow Times

President Vladimir Putin has signed a new law to help refugees quickly receive Russian residency. Starting from August, refugees will no longer have to endure a mandatory year-long interim period before receiving a residence permit. "The permits will give refugees the right to allocated housing and ability to obtain a mortgage," said Yekaterina Yegorova, Deputy Head of Russia's Federal Migration Service (FMS).

The programme is largely aimed at Ukrainian refugees within Russia. Candidates must be part of the state's voluntary resettlement programme, or must have arrived in the country "urgently and en masse," news agency Interfax reported. More than 150,000 people have joined the voluntary resettlement programme since 2014, according to FMS data.

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## Crime in Russia rises due to Donbas refugees – security official

5 May 2016 – RIA Novosti

According to Russia's Security Council, crime in the country's Southern Federal District is on the rise due to the large amount of unemployed refugees from eastern Ukraine. "Crime is growing because of the increase of the migrants arriving in the country. The presence of 73,000 unemployed refugees from eastern Ukraine is making the criminal situation worse," stated Security Council Secretary Nikolai Patrushev.

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## Flow of Ukrainian migrants to Belarus decreased, but didn't stop – Belarus Interior Ministry

9 May 2016 – Interfax Ukraine

The flow of Ukrainian citizens arriving in Belarus from the conflict zone in the Donbas decreased this year, but did not stop, Sergei Kasinsky, the head of the Department on Refugees and Shelter of the Belarusian Interior Ministry's Citizenship and Migration Department, informed.

"There are a total of some 47,000 Ukrainians in our country who have permanent or temporary residence permits," he said.

According to Mr. Kasinsky's information, 900 citizens of Ukraine sought protective status with the Belarusian Interior Ministry in 2014. Approximately 1,200 sought such status in 2015 and some 200 sought it in the first quarter of this year.

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## 167 people received asylum in Ukraine last year

18 May 2016 - GordonUA

In 2015, 167 people received asylum in Ukraine, the head of the State Migration Service, Maksym Sokoliuk, reported. "In total, 167 people received refugee status or complementary protection", he said. He could not specify how many out of them received political asylum.

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## Black and Baltic Sea border agencies to jointly counter security threats

2 May 2016 – EU Neighbourhood Info Centre

Border officials from Ukraine, Turkey, Bulgaria, Georgia, Romania, Moldova, Poland and Latvia participated in a conference for border control agencies from the Baltic-Black Sea region, which was held in the south Ukrainian city of Odesa on 28 April. The event discussed the countries' cooperation towards preventing the uncontrolled expansion of the migration crisis along the EU's eastern borders. Representatives of the EU agency for the Management of Operational Cooperation at the External Borders of the Member States of the European Union (Frontex), EU Assistance Mission (EUAM) in Ukraine, EU Border Assistance Mission to Ukraine and Moldova (EUBAM), as well as the International Organization for Migration attended the conference.

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## Presentation of the study “#EngagEUkraine. Engagement of Ukrainians in Poland and Germany”

25 May 2016 – Institute of European Policy

The Institut für Europäische Politik (IEP) presented the study “#EngagEUkraine. Engagement of Ukrainians in Poland and Germany” within the framework of the project “Ukrainians in Poland and Germany – Civic and Political Engagement, Expectations, and Courses of Action”. The goal of the joint research project together with the Institute of Public Affairs, Warsaw, was, to map different types of civil engagement of Ukrainians living in Poland and Germany.

Please find further information on the project's [website](#)

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Compiled by IOM Ukraine Communications team