



UN counts nearly 1.8 million displaced because of conflict in Ukraine

12 March 2015 – Ukrinform

There are almost 1.8 million Ukrainian refugees and internally displaced persons today. Such figures were released by the press service of the UN on its Twitter page. According to the UN, the number of people internally displaced by the conflict in Ukraine has now reached the 1.1 million mark, while the total number of Ukrainians who have sought asylum, residence permits or other forms of legal stay in neighbouring countries now stands at 674,300, including 542,800 in Russia and 80,700 in Belarus.

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IOM, EU launch hotline for IDPs in Ukraine

17 March 2015 – International Organization for Migration

In Kyiv the European Union and IOM have launched a toll-free hotline to provide practical information to internally displaced persons (IDPs) in Ukraine. As the number of IDPs has exceeded 1.1 million people, many of them are in desperate need of reliable information on where to find accommodation, which social payments are available to them and how to register, how to restore their documents, and what humanitarian assistance programmes are running in the region of their displacement and other sorts of assistance. The hotline will also provide referral opportunities to potential victims of trafficking, victims of gender-based, sexual and other forms of violence.

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Over 21,000 vulnerable internally displaced persons in Ukraine enabled to buy clothes, medication and other essentials with cash provided by the EU

6 March 2015- International Organization for Migration, Mission in Ukraine

The European Union has provided assistance to ensure immediate support to internally displaced persons (IDPs) arriving from the areas affected by the crisis in Eastern Ukraine to Kharkiv Region, which currently serves as a safe haven for over 130,000 people according to the official data. Through the European Commission's Humanitarian Aid and Civil Protection Department (ECHO) initiative, implemented in cooperation with the International Organization for Migration (IOM), between December 2014 and February 2015, 6,500 families, or over 21,000 beneficiaries in total, received one-time unconditional cash assistance of EUR 235 in the national currency per household for basic winter needs – warm clothing, utilities, heating, etc. The project focused on the most vulnerable households: with the disabled or the elderly and families with children.

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Ukrainian refugees face dwindling options in Poland

23 March 2015 – IRIN

During nearly a year of conflict between Russian-backed separatists and Ukrainian government forces in Eastern Ukraine, neighbouring Poland has received less than 3,000 of the 674,000 Ukrainians that have fled the country. However, the Polish Office for Foreigners, which processes asylum application, has so far not granted refugee status to any of the 2,765 Ukrainians who submitted applications in 2014 and the first two months of 2015. As many as 1,700 Ukrainian asylum seekers are still awaiting refugee status decisions, while 645 have already been rejected.

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New report highlights mounting scale of Ukrainian IDP crisis

17 March 2015 – Ukraine Today

Ukrainian human rights group Postup has released a new report highlighting the mounting challenges created by the growing number of internally displaced people (IDPs) as a result of the conflict in Eastern Ukraine. A report published on 16 March claims that existing Ukrainian legislation is insufficient to deal with the scale of the problem. Particular problems include obstacles to the registration of IDPs and delays in the payment of social support.

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Russian citizens allowed to enter Ukraine only through interstate or international checkpoints

16 March 2015 – National Radio Company of Ukraine

From March 16, Ukraine closed 7 local checkpoints on the border with Russia. According to the State Border Guard Service of Ukraine, Russian citizens, residing in frontier regions, may enter Ukraine only through 24 interstate or international checkpoints. Internal passports and birth certificates for children up to 14 years from now on are invalid for entering Ukraine.

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Ukraine to introduce electronic visas – Foreign Minister

12 March 2015 – Interfax

This was announced by the Minister of Foreign Affairs Pavlo Klimkin, who has also informed about an upcoming reform of the Ministry “in line with the best European practices.” “We will introduce electronic visas in the very near future,” said Mr. Klimkin.

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Ukraine, Romania agree to set up joint checkpoints on their border – President Poroshenko

18 March 2015 – Interfax

The presidents of Ukraine and Romania have agreed to set up joint checkpoints on the Ukraine-Romania border, Ukrainian President Petro Poroshenko said. "We have made several practical steps that will make our citizens' life easier. We have agreed that significant progress will be made in local border traffic. We hope and have already tasked our ministers to simplify the border crossing regime through the mechanism of local border movement," President Poroshenko said at a briefing in Kyiv on 17 March after talks with his Romanian counterpart Klaus Iohannis.

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EaP Civil Society Forum: new publication assesses European Integration for Eastern Partnership Countries

16 March 2015 – EU Neighbourhood Info

The Eastern Partnership Civil Society Forum (EaP CSF) has released the latest 2014 edition of its European Integration Index for Eastern Partnership Countries. Measuring the annual trajectory of EaP countries towards the European integration, the 2014 edition shows a mixed set of results: Moldova and to an even greater degree Georgia continued steady progress in integration with the EU, while Armenia and Ukraine experienced a stop-start trajectory, and a range of internal and external challenges.

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Compiled by IOM Ukraine Communications team