



IOM UKRAINE

MEDIA ROUND-UP

International Organization for Migration
MIGRATION FOR THE BENEFIT OF ALL

November 2017

IOM survey reveals growing humanitarian needs in Ukraine's Eastern Conflict Area

28 November 2017 – UN News Centre

New UN Migration Agency data shows a steady stream of displaced people moving back across the contact line between the Government and non-government-controlled areas, increasing local vulnerabilities. Three and a half years into the conflict, 16 per cent of respondents surveyed in September stated they returned to their original place of residence, a three per cent increase on the previous round.

Seventy per cent of surveyed returnees said they were going back to their homes, where they do not have to pay rent as they do elsewhere. Over half of the internally displaced persons (IDPs) returning are over the age of 60, and most are pensioners. This heightens their vulnerability as the pension is linked to their IDP status and residence in the government-controlled area.

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UN: Ukraine ranks 9th highest in number of IDPs

28 November 2017 – UNIAN

Neal Walker, the United Nations Resident Coordinator in Ukraine, said Ukraine is home to the ninth largest number of internally displaced persons (IDPs). Speaking at a press conference in Kyiv, he said that 1.6 million internally displaced persons were registered in Ukraine. Approximately 800,000 IDPs permanently reside in government controlled territories, excluding those IDPs who constantly cross the contact line back and forth.

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President Poroshenko: We united the European Union around the idea of a peacekeeping mission in the Donbas

24 November 2017 – President of Ukraine Official Website

President Petro Poroshenko announced that the Ukrainian delegation at the Eastern Partnership Summit managed to unite the positions of the EU countries around the peacekeeping mission in the Donbas.

"We actively promote this position in the UN General Assembly and today we managed to include this position in the final resolution of the Eastern Partnership Summit," the President said.

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New faces on Ukraine's borders with IOM support

24 November 2017 – ReliefWeb

Six hundred (600) newly recruited Ukrainian border guards officially started their service at Boryspil airport, Kyiv Central Railway Station and the Krakovets border-crossing point on the Ukraine-Poland border. The new staff were recruited under the New Face of the Border project implemented by the State Border Guard Service (SBGS) of Ukraine, with support from IOM – the UN Migration Agency, and the US Department of State.

"Today we mark an important milestone for the Ukrainian State Border Guard Service, as IOM is honoured to contribute to the establishment of a new transparent recruitment system that allows young professionals, with a good command of English and highest ethical and technical standards, to join the State Border Service," said Dr. Thomas Lothar Weiss, IOM Ukraine Chief of Mission.

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Ukraine strengthens protection of border with Slovakia due to intensification of irregular migration

15 November 2017 – KyivPost

The State Border Guard Service (SBGS) of Ukraine has decided to strengthen the protection of the Ukrainian-Slovak border due to an increase in irregular migration. "Additional reserves have been sent to the respective detachment," the SBGS press service informed.

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Ukraine and Moldova to open new border checkpoints on Transdnistrian section

29 November 2017 – KyivPost

Moldova and Ukraine are preparing to establish new joint checkpoints on the border, including on its Transdnistrian section, the press service of the Moldovan government reported. The issue was discussed at a meeting between Moldovan and Ukrainian Prime Ministers Pavel Filip and Volodymyr Groysman. The meeting was held on the sidelines of the Tbilisi Belt and Road Forum 2017.

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Poland to issue about a million work permits to Ukrainians by the end of the year

6 November 2017 – Ukrinform

Polish consular offices in Ukraine might issue a record number of residence and work permits this year, about 900,000. Polish Foreign Minister, Witold Waszczykowski, stated this during his visit to Lviv. "Last year was a record year, approximately 1.127 million visas, including 650,000 work permits, were issued. This year will be similar. As for the work permits, their number will be about 900,000," Mr. Waszczykowski said.

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Gdansk mayor says Ukrainians make up half of all migrants in Poland

29 November 2017 – UNIAN

Ukrainians account for half of all migrants in the Republic of Poland, according to Deputy Mayor of Gdansk Wieslaw Bielawski. "I'm excited about Ukrainians, I love them! Ukraine has absolutely fantastic prospects. Ukrainians are wonderful people. We are trying to integrate and engage them," he said at a briefing at the Mayors' Summit in Kyiv.

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UAE, Ukraine sign visa-free agreement

2 November 2017 – Khaleej Times

Following the negotiations between Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice President and Prime Minister of the UAE and Ruler of Dubai, and President of Ukraine Petro Poroshenko, the two countries have agreed upon a visa-free regime.

UAE and Ukrainian passport holders will now no longer need visas to travel to each other's countries. A Memorandum of Understanding was signed between the two countries towards the same effect.

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Ukraine and Saudi Arabia agreed to simplify visa regime

1 November 2017 – President of Ukraine Official Website

President Petro Poroshenko informed the public on the achievement of "important arrangements on simplifying visa regime" between Ukraine and Saudi Arabia.

"I was surprised to find out that visas to Saudi Arabia are the most expensive for Ukrainians and, accordingly, visas to Ukraine are the most expensive for Saudis," the Head of State noted.

He said that during the meeting with the King of Saudi Arabia, agreements were reached on reducing the visa fees and moving towards facilitation of person-to-person contacts, business cooperation and intensification of tourism.

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Israeli newspaper reports on 'soaring irregular migration from Ukraine'

7 November 2017 – Hamodia

While Israel continues to struggle with the problem of some 50,000 illegal migrants from Africa, almost 22,000 asylum seekers from Ukraine and Georgia have been added to the files of the Interior Ministry over the past two years, according to The Times of Israel. Entering the country as tourists, they then apply to stay on as refugees, claiming that it's too dangerous to return home, due to fighting in eastern Ukraine or a political turmoil in Georgia.

A new report from the nonprofit Hotline for Refugees and Migrants says that these people are being funneled into the country by shady outfits that charge people in Ukraine and Georgia thousands of dollars for so-called "work opportunities" in Israel.

To date, Israel has granted asylum status to zero applicants from Ukraine and Georgia.

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Compiled by IOM Ukraine Communications team