



UKRAINE CRISIS 2022:

# 6 MONTHS OF RESPONSE

*An IOM team conducts a needs assessment in Trostianets, Sumy Region, Northern Ukraine. © IOM 2022/Marco Chimenton*

# SITUATION OVERVIEW



Ukrainian refugees and Third Country Nationals (TCNs) arrive at the Palanca border point in Moldova. ©IOM 2022/Muse Mohammed.

## KEY FIGURES



**17.7M**

PEOPLE IN NEED  
(08 August 2022, OCHA)



**6.6M**

INTERNALLY  
DISPLACED PEOPLE  
(23 July 2022, IOM DTM)



**6.6M**

REFUGEES  
(17 August 2022, UNHCR)



**303k**

TCNs  
(entered Moldova, Romania,  
Slovakia, Hungary, and Poland as  
of 10 August 2022, IOM DTM)

24 August marks six months since the start of the full-scale war in Ukraine, which began in February 2022 and triggered the largest displacement within Europe since the Second World War. This date also marks 31 years since Ukraine gained its independence from the Soviet Union.

Six months into the full-scale war, it is now estimated that [6.6 million Ukrainians have fled the country](#), and an additional [6.6 million are internally displaced within the country](#). This represents a displacement of nearly one-third of the country's population, making it one of the largest human displacement crises in the world today. As of 15 August, the UN Human Rights Monitoring Mission in Ukraine has verified over [13,000 civilian casualties \(5,514 people killed and 7,698 injured\) since the start of the war](#), with the actual number believed to be significantly higher. The majority of casualties have occurred in eastern Ukraine, specifically Donetsk and Luhansk regions, which have faced some of the most intense shelling and fighting of the war.

Including those who have been displaced, suffered injury, or otherwise been affected as a result of the full-scale invasion, it is estimated that there are now more than [17.7 million people, representing nearly one-quarter of the population, in need of humanitarian assistance](#). These estimates include the Ukrainians who have remained in their home communities but whose lives have nevertheless been severely disrupted. They are staying in damaged homes, basements, and bomb shelters; they have lost livelihoods and their access to essential services as infrastructure and supply chains have been decimated across the country.

Persons with specific vulnerabilities, including older persons, unaccompanied and separated children, and persons with disabilities have faced particular hardship, as have the estimated almost half a million third-country nationals (TCNs) who were living in Ukraine when the fighting escalated. Around 300,000 TCNs have left Ukraine since the crisis began, with many forced to overcome a frequently shifting security situation, complicated transit routes, and conflicting or unclear information.

The heaviest fighting continues to be centred in Eastern and Southern Ukraine, though at the beginning of the war, the front line also spread across the north, causing heavy damage in areas like Chernihiv and Sumy, and almost reaching the capital city, Kyiv. Through many parts of the country, deadly artillery and missile attacks continue in civilian occupied areas, putting lives in danger and damaging critical infrastructure. Millions are without access to many necessities for life such as water, food, healthcare, sanitation, gas, and electricity. Destruction of property, infrastructure, and livelihoods continues to lead to displacement, increased vulnerabilities and loss of life. Shelling and other fighting near critical infrastructure, including Europe's largest nuclear power plant, risk further catastrophe.

### Financing the response



**\$ 298 MILLION**  
received to date out of

**\$ 514 MILLION**  
required

IOM is deeply grateful to the governments, organizations, and individuals who have contributed to its Ukraine crisis response. In addition to funding raised against the [IOM Flash Appeal](#), thanks to the flexibility and understanding of its donors IOM has been able to repurpose and reprogramme previously existing funding to adapt to changing realities in Ukraine. This flexibility has allowed IOM to rapidly scale up its activities and respond to needs on the ground as they evolve.

With the ubiquitous sound of air sirens booming overhead as air strikes and shelling intermittently continue in much of the country, the people inside Ukraine have gone without a moment's peace over the last half-year, and face an uncertain future ahead. In addition to the physical effects, six months of war have put an enormous burden on the mental health of people inside Ukraine as well as those who have fled. According to the Ukrainian Ministry of Health, approximately **15 million people are in need of psychological support as a result of the war.**

The full-scale invasion has had far-reaching effects across both the region and the world. Historically, Ukraine has been one of the largest exporters of grain, and the Russian Federation has been one of the most important suppliers of

fertilizer. Disruptions to these supply chains have exacerbated food shortages, creating what the World Food Programme describes as an “unprecedented global food crisis,” [sending food prices climbing around the world and pushing food-vulnerable countries towards disaster.](#)

This report offers a picture of how the first six months of war have impacted the lives of Ukrainians, TCNs and host communities, and how IOM staff have worked tirelessly to mobilize life-saving interventions to help meet the needs of those affected by the war. It concludes by looking forward to continued acute needs on the horizon, as well as the importance of working towards sustainable solutions over the medium-term.

## BETTER RESPONSE THROUGH BETTER DATA

Since the start of the war, IOM has not only worked to provide direct assistance to affected populations but has also provided a better understanding of these individuals' situations in order to inform the response by IOM, governments, and the international community. IOM's Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM) programme seeks to understand where affected people are, their most urgent needs, and their intentions for the coming period. Since the start of the Russian invasion, **IOM has conducted more than 50,000 surveys across Ukraine and the region,** providing crucial insights to inform evidence-based humanitarian actions and policy.

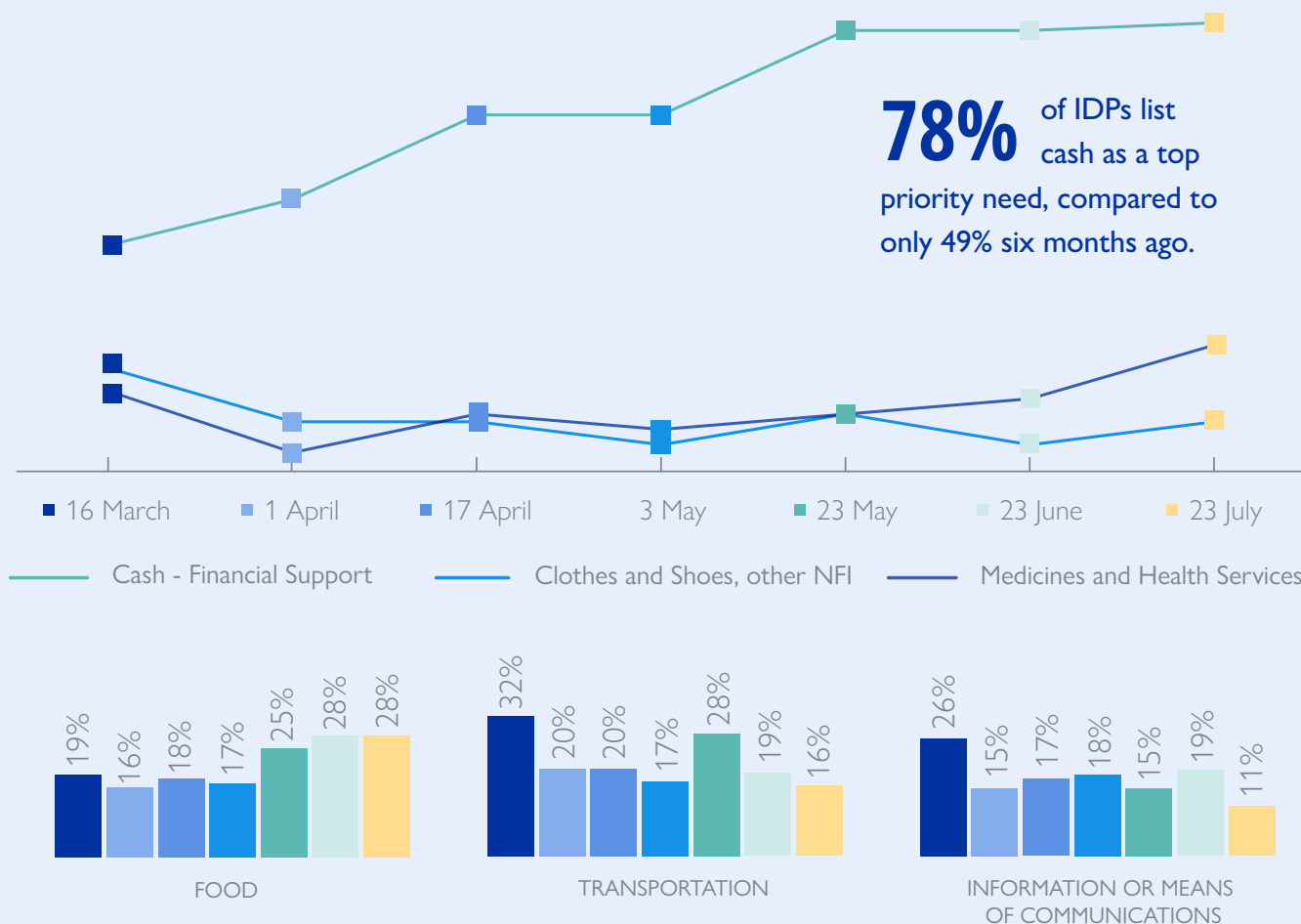
Inside Ukraine, IOM has implemented seven rounds of a representative general population survey between March and July 2022, tracking internal displacement and mobility flows and gathering insights into the situation and needs of vulnerable population groups across thematic areas. IOM has also built a field presence and a network of key informants across 20 regions of Ukraine and the capital city, monitoring the recorded presence of IDPs at municipality level.

Furthermore IOM has conducted a number of studies in neighbouring countries, including of those fleeing from the war and those entering or re-entering Ukraine.

Through IOM's assessments, governments and the humanitarian community are able to identify the needs, movements, and intentions of affected persons. For example, as shown in the diagram below, the most recent round of population surveys completed in July 2022 indicates that displaced persons in Ukraine are increasingly identifying cash (financial assistance) as an immediate need, with 78% of people citing it as a top priority in July 2022, compared to 49% of respondents in mid-March. Data also shows increased demand for food over time. Tracking these changes in sentiment over time can help IOM and other actors see how factors like depletion of household savings from protracted loss of livelihood activities are affecting the population and allow for targeted interventions to address the most pressing needs.

More information, including datasets and analytical reports on the Ukraine crisis, is available [here](#).

## The evolving needs of internally displaced persons



# OVERVIEW OF ACHIEVEMENTS

## INSIDE UKRAINE



*\*Figures are estimated as of 18 August 2022. Total does not include individuals reached through information provision campaigns.*

*This map is for illustration purposes only. Names and boundaries on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by IOM.*

# OVERVIEW OF ACHIEVEMENTS

## IN SELECTED NEIGHBORING COUNTRIES



\*Figures are estimated as of 18 August 2022. Total does not include individuals reached through information provision campaigns.

This map is for illustration purposes only. Names and boundaries on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by IOM.

# RESPONDING QUICKLY AND RAMPING UP

With a longstanding operational footprint in the region and significant humanitarian operations in Ukraine since 2014, IOM was exceptionally well-positioned to rapidly scale-up its activities in order to provide support to both the systems and people who were affected by the sudden onset of the crisis. Even before the war escalated on 24 February, IOM had multiple contingency plans in place to be able to react quickly in support of people in need.

In the first days of the war, IOM capitalized on its presence and programming in Eastern Ukraine, adapting long-term interventions and capacity to provide life-saving support. Teams in Poland, Slovakia, Hungary, Romania and the Republic of Moldova worked in coordination with governments to facilitate safe movements of people from border crossing points into capital cities. To provide relief to systems overburdened by huge numbers of people crossing into Moldova, IOM quickly established a "Green Corridor" to help people move from Moldova into Romania, where existing infrastructure was better equipped to handle the strain from such large flows of people. IOM also worked with governments, including under the EU Solidarity Platform, to facilitate voluntary transfers of affected individuals to countries across Europe, helping people, often amongst the most vulnerable, get where they want to go and to countries eager to accept them.

In the earliest days of the conflict, IOM worked closely with local organizations

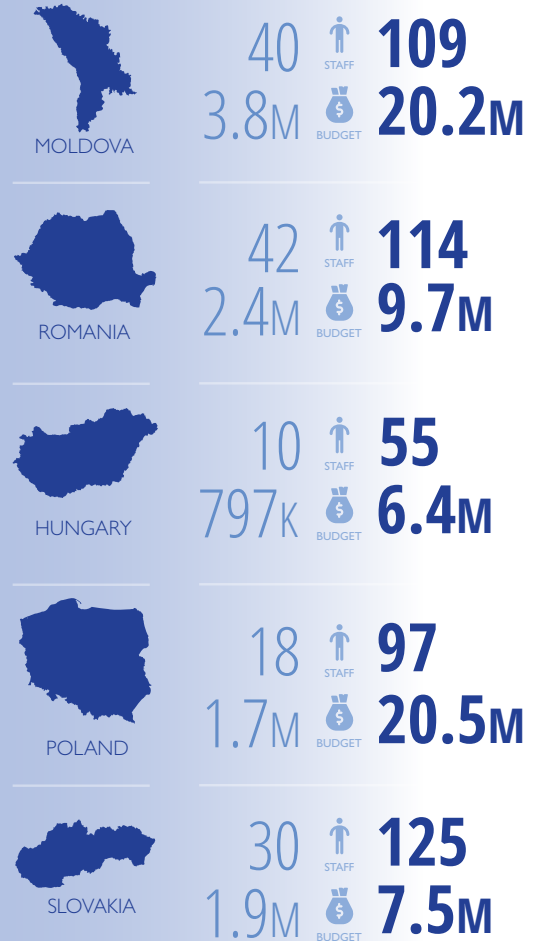
and governments in all neighbouring countries to support the arriving people with critical information and humanitarian assistance, as well as to ensure the monitoring and reporting of flows, screening for vulnerabilities and needs related to physical and psychological health, and working to ensure smooth, safe, and orderly

movement. This work included the rapid training of government officials and local humanitarian responders on identification and referral of persons needing specific care, including survivors of trafficking and gender-based violence (GBV), unaccompanied and separated children (UASC), persons with disabilities, and persons living with chronic medical conditions (non-communicable diseases, tuberculosis, and HIV, among others). IOM's strong and longstanding relationship with border authorities in the region, who faced up to 15 times the volume of normal border flows, enabled rapid technical assistance and equipment to help manage this extraordinary situation while ensuring sensitivity to particular vulnerabilities of the population fleeing the war. IOM also worked with border authorities to provide emergency non-food items for distribution to those persons in need.



## CAPACITY AND BUDGET

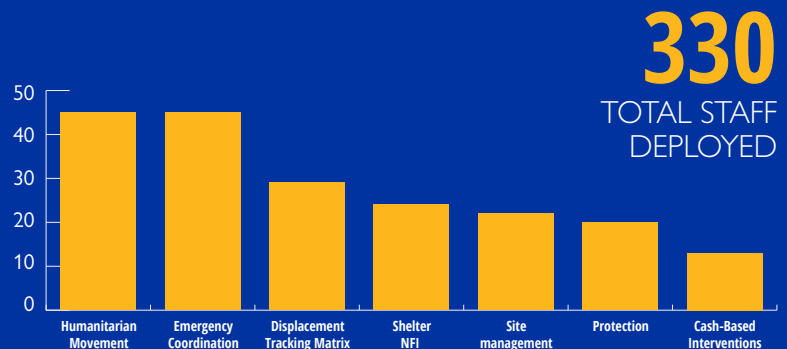
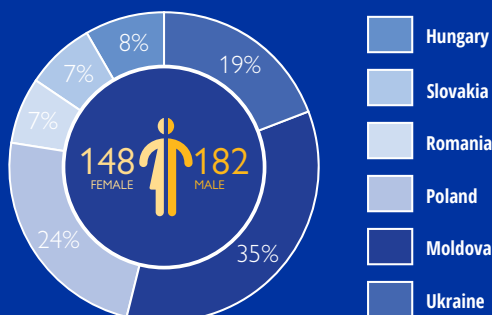
BEFORE THE WAR & AFTER SIX MONTHS



\*Estimates of budgets from before the war are based on 2021 operating budgets.

As shown in the graphics below, IOM's missions in Ukraine and neighbouring countries also quickly ramped up their capacity and have continued to do so in the following months. Rapid response teams and surge staffing have deployed across the region, with 330 IOM staff having been deployed since 21 February from IOM missions worldwide to support operations in Ukraine and neighbouring countries. IOM expanded capacity significantly to manage increased operational demands, bringing on local and international talent, establishing new sub-offices, and growing a large network of local partners already on the ground. **In Ukraine alone, IOM's network of more than 50 implementing partners and 10 sub-offices have enabled operational presence in every region of the country.**

## Surge staffing support



## Supporting the internally displaced to find community and build resilience

Internally displaced persons (IDPs) are those who have been forced to flee their homes or place of habitual residence in Ukraine and have had to find shelter in regions or communities within the country. It is estimated that following six months of war, nearly 6.6 million people have been displaced internally within Ukraine.

For these individuals, although they remain in their own country, their displacement has nonetheless dramatically impacted their life. For many, meeting even the most basic needs can be a challenge as savings diminish, livelihoods and markets are disrupted, and finding work has become extremely difficult. According to the most recent household survey carried out by IOM DTM, **nearly 60 per cent of the population lost their jobs due to the war.** This deterioration of the economy has led to a dramatic rise in the number of people who have been left with no choice but to turn to humanitarian assistance to survive. For those who are internally displaced, in unfamiliar communities, and often severed from other social networks, these needs become particularly pronounced. IOM is working to help both provide immediate assistance to these vulnerable populations, but also build more durable solutions for integrating and establishing new livelihoods of these individuals within new communities.

However, the displacement, uncertainty, and living under constant fear of physical threat for the previous six months has often impacted the mental, physical, and emotional wellbeing of people in Ukraine. From the beginning of the war, IOM has engaged with the Ministry of Health, national health authorities, and implementing partners to provide IDPs and host populations with life-saving health services, including mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS) services.

Olha, a psychologist with the IOM mobile medical clinic in the Lviv Region, has been providing psychosocial support to people in need since the start of the full-scale invasion. “At the beginning of the war, people were in a critical state. They didn’t sleep or eat for days at a time, hiding in basements; they had to endure long and difficult

journeys to reach safety, completely exhausted, both physically and emotionally... In the midst of all this chaos, people weren’t able to process what they were going through,” explains Olha.

IOM’s MHPSS services assist those struggling with feelings of distress, helping them to cope with the severely disruptive events they have endured in recent months. IOM has provided training for hundreds of staff working in Ukraine on psychological first aid and how to identify and support those most in need. Psychosocial teams and psychologists working in mobile clinics have also provided nearly 6,000 individual counselling and psychotherapy consultations since 24 February. These mobile approaches bring care to people where they are, including in hard-to-reach areas. For those internally displaced, who may be separated from their normal support networks, mental health services and counselling are especially critical particularly if individuals are struggling with feelings of uncertainty over where they will go or what they will do next.

While psychosocial support is available to address an array of needs, IOM psychologists have observed that feelings of loneliness and isolation are widespread among the displaced. Many families in Ukraine have been separated by the war, with some members going abroad and others displaced within the country or choosing to remain at home. IOM psychologists like Olha attempt to help those displaced and empower them to find new opportunities for growth, volunteering, and establishing new routines to enable them to form new connections and build new communities. “Everything depends on one’s attitude,” explains a couple from Kharkiv, who fled home and now reside in a school in Lviv Region along with 80 other IDPs. “Before, we had a narrow family circle, whereas now we have a wide one. We find new things to do every day: take a walk to the lake, go to church, help others.”



Psychologists at mobile clinics disseminate information on the IOM Emotional Support Hotline. © IOM2022/Alisa Kurychova

CONTINUED

**...Psychosocial teams and psychologists working in mobile clinics have provided individual counselling and psychotherapy to nearly 6,000 people since 24 February.**

Psychologists working with IOM's implementing partner Sheptytsky Hospital now regularly conduct individual, family, and group counselling with both displaced and local children, teenagers, couples, men, women, and older people. During group counselling sessions, people can learn how to cope with stress and understand the ways in which their mental and physical health are connected. Consultations are carried out in a safe, private, and comfortable space in IDP centres or IOM mobile clinics. Since 24 February, IOM has also been expanding its Emotional Support Hotline to reach more people calling from more countries and in more languages, including Arabic, Bangla, English, Ukrainian, and Russian.

In addition, IOM is scaling up its community-based Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS) programme in order to improve the well-being of people affected by the war through psychosocial mobile teams. IOM supported local psychosocial initiatives such as art activities for children in Zakaparttia and cultural tours for displaced children in Lviv oblast where displaced children and their parents were given a chance to connect and go on day visits to historical sites in the oblast that currently hosts them.

*To learn more about the work that Olha and other mental health professionals with IOM are doing to support those affected by the conflict, read more [here](#).*

*If you have been affected by the war and need support, please call the [IOM Emotional Support Hotline](#).*

НАДІЯ  
ВІРА  
СТРАХ  
ПІДТРИМКА  
СОРОМ  
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РОЗМОВА

**ТУРБОТА ПРО СЕБЕ**

**ДБАЮЧИ ПРО СЕБЕ. ТИ МАТИМЕШ СИЛУ ПОДБАТИ ПРО ІНШИХ**

ГАРЯЧА ЛІНІЯ ЕМОЦІЙНОЇ ПІДТРИМКИ МОМ  
**0 800 211 444**

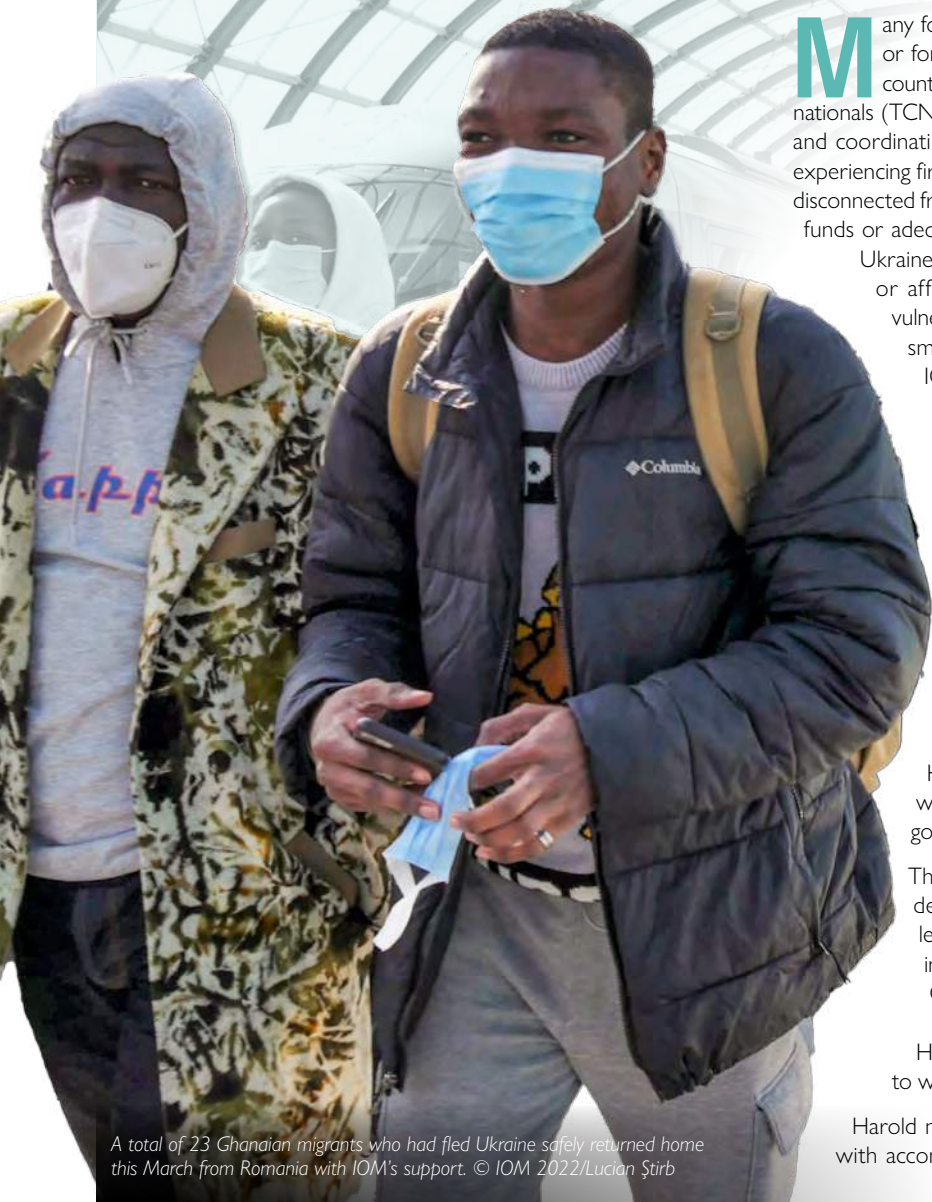
БЕЗКОШТОВНА ТА АНОНІМНА ДОПОМОГА ФАХОВИХ ПСИХОЛОГІВ  
З 9:00 ДО 18:00 В РОБОЧІ ДНІ ТА З 10:00 ДО 17:00 У ВИХІДНІ

**MOM**  
ООН МІГРАЦІЯ

*IOM's emotional support hotline was expanded to help more people in need of psychological support.  
© IOM 2022/Gema Cortes*



## New beginnings for third country nationals



Many foreign nationals who were in Ukraine to work, study, or for other reasons, were forced to flee to neighbouring countries, when the full-scale war began. These third country nationals (TCNs) often require support in obtaining documentation and coordinating any onward travel. In addition to witnessing and experiencing first-hand the horrors of the war, many find themselves disconnected from support networks and stranded without sufficient funds or adequate information. Many embassies and consulates in Ukraine were shut down and have been unable to coordinate or afford onward transport. These factors make them vulnerable to discrimination, violence, human trafficking and smuggling, and other human rights abuses. According to IOM data, more than 300,000 TCNs have left Ukraine and arrived in Poland, Slovakia, Romania, Hungary, and the Republic of Moldova.

Harold, a 23-year-old man from Colombia, is one such person. “I was so excited when I first moved to Ukraine. I hated the cold but loved the country,” Harold said. “We have many violence-related restrictions in Colombia, so I was happy that I could finally walk the streets carefree and enjoy some much-needed freedom.” Harold came to Ukraine in search of affordable university studies, choosing to study Russian and Ukrainian to support his integration into the local society. While studying, Harold worked in digital marketing to provide himself with a decent living. “Everything was going well, life was good,” he recalled.

That all changed when, hearing air raid sirens, Harold decided to search for safety outside of the country, leaving behind his belongings and everything else he had, including his passport. He reached out to some fellow Colombians who recounted being stuck at border crossing points for days, being forced to sleep on floors. Harold’s sister and her son went to Moldova, choosing to wait there in the hopes that the war would end soon.

Harold made it safely to Romania where IOM provided him with accommodation and helped him acquire documentation

allowing him to travel back to his home country. Prior to his departure, he considered his options, including staying in his home country for a while to give some relief to his worried parents. At the same time, Harold worried for the well-being of his sister and nephew, and for the safety of his many Ukrainian friends who stayed in the country to fight.

Along with Harold, IOM has provided support to tens of thousands of TCNs inside of Ukraine and in neighbouring countries. IOM provides transport services both out of Ukraine and from neighbouring countries onward. TCNs and other groups traveling, often with limited documentation and resources, are particularly vulnerable to violence, exploitation and abuse. This makes it critical that these individuals receive IOM’s protection screening – identifying unaccompanied and separated minors, victims of trafficking, and other special cases that need to receive appropriate support. Since the full-scale escalation of the war, IOM has screened thousands of people across the response, including TCNs, to help ensure that these vulnerable groups are transiting freely and safely. Additionally, IOM assists and enables access to healthcare services for TCNs who are often otherwise left out of the national healthcare systems where they find themselves – allowing these populations to receive the care they need.

*“I was so excited when I first moved to Ukraine. I hated the cold but loved the country.”*

IOM staff are supporting TCNs who were caught in the war and now wish to return to their country of origin. IOM offices throughout Europe work to arrange cost-free travel, provide health screenings to ensure they are fit-for-travel and medical escorts when necessary, and offer accommodation, and other humanitarian and protection support during their journeys. As TCNs are often forced to flee with little notice and carrying few belongings, local IOM offices offer services upon arrival to help facilitate reintegration and address any acute needs. IOM’s well-established work in this field and global operational footprint have facilitated prompt support to those affected by the crisis in Ukraine regardless of where they call home.

To learn more about Harold’s journey and the work of IOM in supporting other third-country nationals, read more [here](#).

A total of 23 Ghanaian migrants who had fled Ukraine safely returned home this March from Romania with IOM’s support. © IOM 2022/Lucian Ştirb

## Bringing light to people remaining in war-affected areas

**D**ue to the need to care for family members, health limitations, lack of resources, uncertainty of where to go, or simply a desire to stay in one's own home, civilians often choose or are forced to remain in areas affected by violence, despite the danger. IOM and partners have worked tirelessly to reach vulnerable populations who remain in some of the hardest hit parts of the country.

Natalia is a 40-year-old mother who lives in Kharkiv, an area that has seen some of the most intense fighting of the war. She is staying in a dark, overcrowded cellar alongside several members of her family and dozens of others hiding from near-constant air raids occurring nearby. "We were under very fierce shelling. We had nowhere to run, so we went down to the shelter," Natalia explains. "We have experienced a lot of things here – births, caring for pregnant women, children and a person suffering a heart attack."

Even as the war intensifies, assistance from IOM is being delivered to help those like Natalia who are living in shelters that were not initially designed to accommodate people. Beyond the necessities like food and medicine, these people are often desperate for news from their family. In addition to providing mattresses, blankets, hygiene and kitchen items, IOM also provides solar lamps which can charge mobile devices. This



Hospitals receiving solar lamps from IOM in Chernihiv region.  
© NGO "Ukrainian Prism" 2022

constant source of electricity enables those who are displaced to hear their loved ones' voices once again.

Since 24 February, IOM has delivered more than 71,000 solar lamps to affected communities in 10 regions of Ukraine as part of broad delivery of non-food assistance to people in need. In total, more than 700,000 items have been distributed to 24 different regions across Ukraine, much of this with the support of a growing network of over 50 implementing partners and financial and in-kind contributions from donors around the world.

Delivery of such a huge amount of humanitarian assistance into a warzone has been made possible thanks to a massive supply-chain operation mobilized by IOM in the first days of the conflict. IOM established a complex cross-border operation spanning land, air, and sea to bring life-saving items to the most conflict-affected people across Ukraine. This network includes **14 warehouses inside Ukraine and three in neighbouring countries with almost 25,000 m<sup>3</sup> of space** to hold critical items for distribution. IOM has directly facilitated 620 of the estimated 1,250 total trucks that have carried humanitarian assistance from the United Nations into Ukraine and has helped facilitate the timely movement of humanitarian goods across borders through its work with authorities in Ukraine and surrounding countries. IOM's work facilitating movement of goods across the border has not only been crucial to addressing humanitarian needs in the first six months of the war but will also be essential going forward as the country faces a harsh winter and, further down the line, the enormous challenge of reconstruction.

To learn more about IOM's efforts to deliver critical items in war-affected areas, read more [here](#).



"We have experienced a lot of things here – births, caring for pregnant women, children and a person suffering a heart attack."

Chernihiv Region resident whose house has been destroyed.  
© NGO "Ukrainian Prism" 2022

## Supporting refugees in search of home



Before the war in Ukraine broke out, Mariia was living a quiet life with her husband in the countryside.  
©IOM 2022/Barbora Kratochvilova and Kristina Tokac.

Since the start of the war, **around 10.6 million border crossings leaving Ukraine to neighbouring countries have occurred**, with an estimated 6.6 million Ukrainian refugees currently residing in neighbouring countries.

Refugees often face unique challenges and vulnerabilities when compared to those who remain in their country. Confronted with learning a new language and culture, and unsure of how long they may need to remain within their country of refuge, it can be difficult for them to secure stable employment, access social services, and enrol children in school. IOM has welcomed the decision by the European Union to enact the Temporary Protection Directive for people affected by the crisis in Ukraine and works to support national governments in ensuring that Ukrainian refugees and eligible TCNs have access to health care, shelter, education, social and protection-related services, and employment. IOM has worked to find innovative solutions to address these challenges and allow refugees to begin rebuilding their lives.

Mariia, a 25-year-old public relations manager from Kyiv, was living in a quiet village on the outskirts of Cherkasy when the war began. She opened her home to allow as many as 17 guests at a time to take shelter

there. When word came that Russian troops may head towards her village, Mariia and those staying in her home decided it was time to leave the country. Heavily pregnant and with only a small backpack of essentials, Mariia separated from her husband at the Moldovan border. Through tears, she recalls the words she said to her husband when they parted at the border: "If something happens, I will name our son in your honour."

After long queues, Mariia finally entered Moldova, ultimately moving through several countries before ending her journey in Slovakia. As Mariia was travelling alone and required regular doctor appointments, finding stable and safe housing, as well as access to antenatal and postnatal healthcare was critically important for her. Mariia was able to stay in an apartment in Bratislava, Slovakia at no cost, while longer-term solutions were sought out thanks to a partnership between IOM and the Airbnb.org short-term housing project. The apartment's central location and IOM support made it easy for Mariia to access essential services:

More than 97,000 safe nights have been provided through the IOM and Airbnb partnership.

"IOM staff helped me with all my questions concerning health care and how to receive temporary refuge," she says.

Innovative projects such as providing cost-free accommodation to fleeing Ukrainians through the Airbnb.org short-term housing projects have provided moments of respite for refugees and other affected individuals like Mariia in Romania, Poland, the Republic of Moldova, Hungary, and the Slovak Republic. In total across the region, this project has provided more than 97,000 safe nights for those fleeing, including Ukrainian refugees and TCNs.

To learn more about Mariia's journey, read more [here](#).



Mariia is one of over 450,000 people who fled Ukraine into Moldova.  
©IOM 2022/Alissa Everett

## Specialized help for people with specific needs

**W**hile the war in Ukraine has affected the entire country, children, including unaccompanied and separated children, older people, and people with disabilities and chronic medical conditions are particularly vulnerable. The Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities estimates that *around 2.7 million people with disabilities, particularly among older people, are at risk inside Ukraine*. In the context of war, many face particular risks from gender-based violence and trafficking, and both those at risk and survivors need specialized support.

Disabled and elderly people have often become separated from their normal social networks and caregivers during the war and may find themselves without access to life-sustaining medication and medical devices, oxygen supplies, food, water, and support for daily living. It is paramount that specific care needs, social services and ongoing treatments be continued for these individuals. IOM has worked diligently to reach this particularly vulnerable population, helping ensure that no one is left behind.

Iryna and Kostiantyn, both 65 years old, came from the hard-hit Kharkiv region. Unable to repeatedly climb up and down the stairs from their 10th floor apartment to shelter in the basement, the couple fled for safety to western Ukraine. “The near-constant shelling and planes overhead – it was very scary. We packed at night and got into the first train. It took us 27 hours to get here,” the couple explains. IOM provided a place in dormitories in Lviv with floors designated to specifically support displaced families, including those with children, older people, and living with disabilities. Iryna and Kostiantyn explain, “We were nervous that we would not be allowed to live in the dormitory with our dogs. But everyone enjoys playing with them. We were lucky.”

IOM provides a range of specialized and general support to the many vulnerable people affected by the conflict unable to secure livelihoods and unable to care for themselves. In Slovakia, IOM provides cash-based assistance to family members that provide full-time care for Ukrainian adults living with disabilities. This programme, which mirrors an approach used by the Slovak government, not only helps address the needs of the most vulnerable, but supports entire families to meet basic needs.

*...around 2.7 million people with disabilities, particularly among older people, are at risk inside Ukraine.*

Inside Ukraine, where approximately 77 per cent of IDPs identify cash as a priority need, **IOM has provided multi-purpose cash assistance to more than 83,000 of the most vulnerable people**. Programmes offering cash-based assistance also exist and are rolling out in some neighbouring countries. Using a cash-based modality offers a number of benefits in places with functioning markets. It helps ensure that IOM supports meeting the immediate needs of people in a way that is most suited to their preferences and which offers agency to those whose lives have been uprooted. Looking forward, IOM will continue to rapidly scale up its cash-based interventions in both Ukraine and surrounding countries in line with growing needs.

To learn more about Iryna and Kostiantyn, and others IOM has supported in the conflict, read more [here](#).

Iryna and Kostiantyn live in one of the dormitories in Stryi, Lviv Region, where several floors are designated for displaced families © IOM 2022/Alisa Kyrychova

## Host communities in neighbouring countries



Andrii, Oksana and their three daughters live in two rooms at a housing facility of a natural reserve, which was turned into an accommodation centre for internally displaced persons. ©IOM 2022/Ivan Riznyk



IOM officer assessing needs at a temporary accommodation center in Vinnytsia. ©IOM 2022/Gema Cortes

**A**s a result of the sudden displacement of more than 6 million refugees from Ukraine, many governments and residents of neighbouring countries have generously opened their housing, healthcare, education, and social service systems to welcome those fleeing from the war. The support and generosity of national governments and local communities has allowed displaced Ukrainians and eligible TCNs to not only find shelter and safety, but also start rebuilding their lives.

Shortly after the conflict began, the European Union (EU) announced for the first time in its history, the activation of the Temporary Protection Directive, which is designed to give large groups of people protected status and ensure they are not sent back to danger. It provides Ukrainians and eligible TCNs who have fled the war with the right to stay in the EU for up to a year (with a possibility to extend for up to three years), and thereby access to housing, healthcare, education and other social services and benefits. Some European countries further afield from Ukraine have also sought to welcome Ukrainian refugees. Through the EU Solidarity Mechanism, IOM has worked with EU countries to facilitate movements and support people with health checks to help the EU fulfil its pledge of receiving more than 17,870 refugees through this mechanism.

Newly arrived refugees often have questions about their rights and available services. To help orient new refugees and eligible TCNs, IOM has worked with host community members to set up resource and information centres at border areas and capitals in neighbouring countries.

Workers at these centres support newly arrived migrants by providing critical information which can help ease anxieties and find the resources they need.

One such example is in Slovakia, where IOM has been operating a Migration Information Centre (MIC) in Košice, a city near the border of western Ukraine, since 2006. When the war began, efforts at the MIC were immediately scaled up, and legal consultants have been present at the borders providing information on the country of Slovakia, as well as legal, social and employment advice, since the earliest days of the war. The MIC also provides support on-site and remotely through email, hotlines and in-person appointments. Since the start of the war, the Košice MIC has provided support to more than 6,800 Ukrainians, helping vulnerable populations transition into the community hosting them in Slovakia.

One of the most important parts of MICs is that they are well-established on basis of trust between those working and those seeking help. MICs often rely on volunteers support from host communities, but also staff from amongst the population in need to facilitate a more approachable and trustworthy relationship. Host communities may feel strained from new arrivals as available resources can be limited, but arrivals bring with them skills, knowledge, culture, and many other opportunities to contribute and innovate in these societies. Initiatives like the MIC promote the inclusion of refugees within their new communities, helping match their skills to the needs of local labour markets.

As the war continues, it will be critical for the international community to support inclusion and self-sufficiency of refugees, mitigating exploitation and ensuring their needs are met in a sustainable way. As these refugees integrate into existing systems, this will also allow them to contribute their abilities to host communities, thereby reducing risk of tensions.

*Since the start of the war, the Košice MIC has provided support to more than 6,800 Ukrainians, helping vulnerable populations transition into the community hosting them in Slovakia.*

# THE NEXT 6 MONTHS



IOM delivers aid to Irpin, Kyiv Region. ©IOM 2022/Viktoria Zhabokrytska

*Looking ahead, the future of the war in Ukraine remains uncertain. IOM recognizes that the needs in the next six months are likely to look different than the needs of the previous six months as the war increasingly shifts towards one of a protracted nature. Affected people have already expressed a wide and dynamic array of prioritized needs and challenges and it will be critical that humanitarian operations remain poised to adapt. At the same time, the longer-term needs of displaced Ukrainians and host communities supporting them will also need to be addressed in a sustainable manner, be it through technical assistance to normalize humanitarian services or to enable self-reliance for those affected.*

## Continued life-saving response

In the near term, it is expected that acute vulnerabilities and humanitarian needs will remain high and likely even increase. As the war continues and with the savings of some Ukrainian families dwindling, many people may soon find they lack resources to cover their basic needs. Additionally, with winter approaching, it will put a greater strain on families who do not have access to heat, proper clothing, healthcare necessities, or appropriate shelter. Temporary housing solutions for many IDPs may not be winter-ready and so colder temperatures could bring further displacements as individuals seek suitable shelter. IOM will continue to scale up its operations to support vulnerable people in Ukraine, and support families to prepare for the challenges ahead.

As winter approaches, planning and preparation for large-scale winterization efforts have already begun. In areas both inside Ukraine and in neighbouring countries where shelter options are limited, IOM will work to ensure that homes are properly heated and insulated from the elements, that collective shelters are rehabilitated or refurbished, and that populations have access to adequate clothing and sources of heat. Within Ukraine, much of this support requires the mobilization of large-scale supply chains for common goods (insulation, heating appliances, solid fuel, and winter Non-Food Items) and contracts for repairs to reach the most vulnerable in every region of the country. Using its international procurement and logistic apparatus, IOM will help meet the needs of the broader humanitarian community through the establishment of a common pipeline for supplies. In the coming weeks and months, IOM will put significant efforts to expand efforts on installation, maintenance, and repairs on water and heating systems and infrastructure to ensure that needs are met as people remain on the move and displacements continue, due to the ongoing war. In neighbouring countries, collective shelters still require support to be habitable in the winter weather, and there will be a need to complement these interventions with alternative options for rental assistance, heating and utilities for those in need. The physical challenges of plunging resources, dwindling savings, loss of seasonal work, and ongoing displacement will put greater strains on individuals and families.

Over the next few months, IOM will expand its cash-based programming to support those in need to procure the daily necessities needed for survival. Given the rapidly changing dynamics of the war and access to services and markets will be unpredictable, cash-based interventions (CBI) serve as a cornerstone for flexible programming to reach displaced populations both in and outside of Ukraine, and allow family units to fill gaps based on their own assessment of their own needs. IOM will continue to monitor needs and displacements through frequent DTM assessments of the affected population, to ensure its programming remains reactive to the humanitarian situation on the ground, providing financial or in-kind assistance and services wherever they are needed most.

## Facilitating inclusion in neighbouring countries

National education, healthcare and social service systems in neighbouring countries have generously supported many Ukrainians and eligible TCNs who have fled the war, but the unexpected influx of people has placed strains on national systems. While humanitarian support continues to enable shelter and basic needs, IOM will work with displaced populations, local governments, and community leaders to develop innovative solutions which strengthen existing systems and encourage self-sufficiency. This includes supporting longer-term housing solutions, improving access to education, health and labour markets, providing social protection, and facilitating inclusion within hosting cities and communities.

Building on current and past programming for migrant inclusion, IOM country offices are expanding inclusion capabilities through technical assistance and direct service provision. Information, referral and service centres enable Ukrainians and TCNs to find solutions to their day-to-day problems and make decisions about their future. With an estimated 90% of refugees being women and children, this includes access to education, health, housing and economic opportunity. Language courses remain a high priority request from refugees, while information, counselling and referrals, provided by phone, internet or in-person, continue to expand across neighbouring countries to cover the largest hosting municipalities. Moreover, governments continue to establish legal mechanisms to operationalize the Temporary Protection Directive (TPD) and request support to implement new services and protection measures.

## Enabling Return and Recovery in Ukraine

Spontaneous returns and movements into and within Ukraine continue daily. In the long term, IOM will focus on enabling an environment for safe returns, recovery, and local integration of IDPs for those who cannot return. Many who were internally displaced or are returning to areas which are not their traditional place of residence inside Ukraine, may have lost the social

and economic services and infrastructure. IOM Ukraine is working with national and local government as well as partners to leverage its considerable multisectoral capacity to address housing recovery and economic revitalization. As the context and needs in Ukraine vary from region to region and city to city, IOM Ukraine is taking an Area Based Approach (ABA), designing its interventions and assistance to address the needs most present in each town and city to enable return and recovery. In hard hit areas like Butcha, Irpin, Homestol, and Dnipro and surrounding areas, IOM has already begun to distribute shelter repair and recovery kits, support critical services such as health, and simultaneously open up grants for business recovery and asset recuperation in order to allow for economic stabilization and livelihood opportunities to resume. Programming to support the mental and physical health for those affected by the war will also be critical as individuals and communities begin to adapt to new routines and new realities as a result of the war.

Striking an appropriate balance and simultaneously addressing acute humanitarian needs and enabling recovery will be essential as the war and its effects drag on potentially for the next six-months and beyond.

*After six months of war, displacement, and the ensuing chaos, the lives of many people in Ukraine have been forever changed. Families have been separated, homes have been destroyed, and entire communities have been uprooted. In the face of such hardship, Ukrainians have shown incredible adaptability and resilience as they rebuild their lives and homes, integrate into new communities, and care for themselves, loved ones, and neighbours. In the months and years ahead, IOM will continue to provide and adapt its programming to support individuals and communities who have been affected by violence to find durable solutions, rebuild and establish resilience to meet the challenges ahead.*

## Responding across the broader European context

While IOM's operations in relation to the Ukraine crisis have primarily focused on Ukraine and the neighbouring countries, IOM has offices across Europe. Amongst these, 16 Country Offices had programming on migrant inclusion prior to the crisis that helped welcome and support Ukrainian refugees. Additionally, offices in several countries began programming specifically responding to the crisis; for example, the **Government of Ireland funded an IOM programme in which 45,478 people have received support to register for temporary protection** under the TPD. IOM will continue to support those affected by the conflict wherever they are, including as increasing numbers of people undertake voluntary transfers and choose to settle for longer periods.



Ukrainian refugees arrive at the train station in Rzeszów, Poland  
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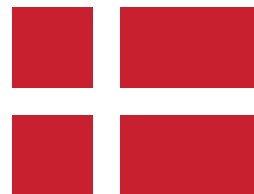
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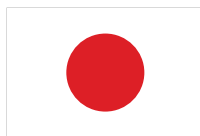


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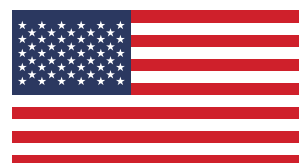
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