

SME BOOST:

ECONOMIC INTEGRATION OF INTERNALLY DISPLACED PEOPLE AND BUSINESS RECOVERY

ABOUT THE PROGRAMME

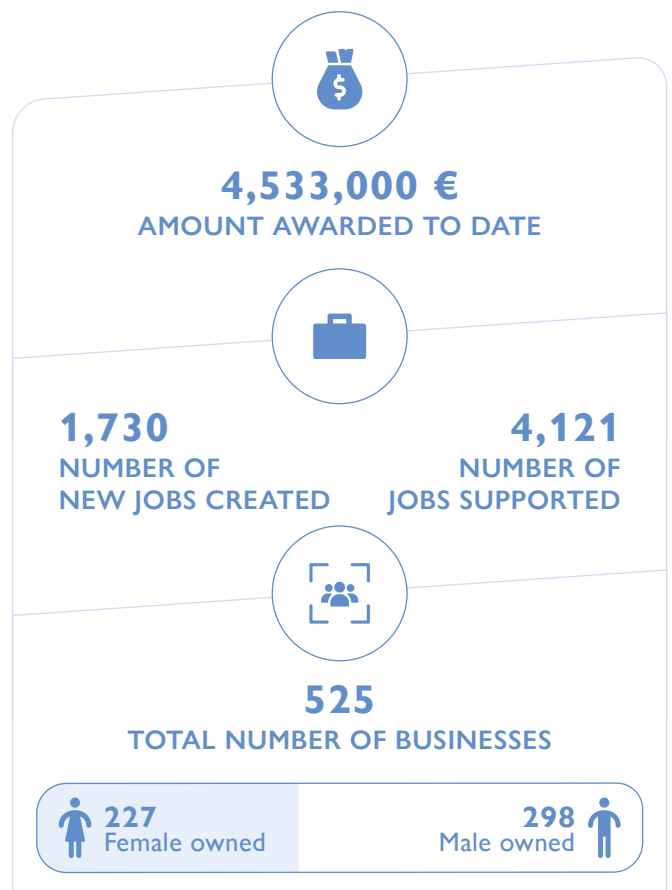
SME Boost contributes to Ukraine's economic recovery by providing support to micro and small enterprises that have been displaced or otherwise affected by the war. In doing so, SME Boost contributes to economic resilience, job growth, and development of micro and small businesses throughout the country.

Through the project, IOM supports micro and small enterprises with financial grants, consultancy services, technical support, as well as learning events geared towards re-establishing, adapting, and growing business activity, mitigating the impact of the war, retaining existing jobs, and creating new work opportunities.

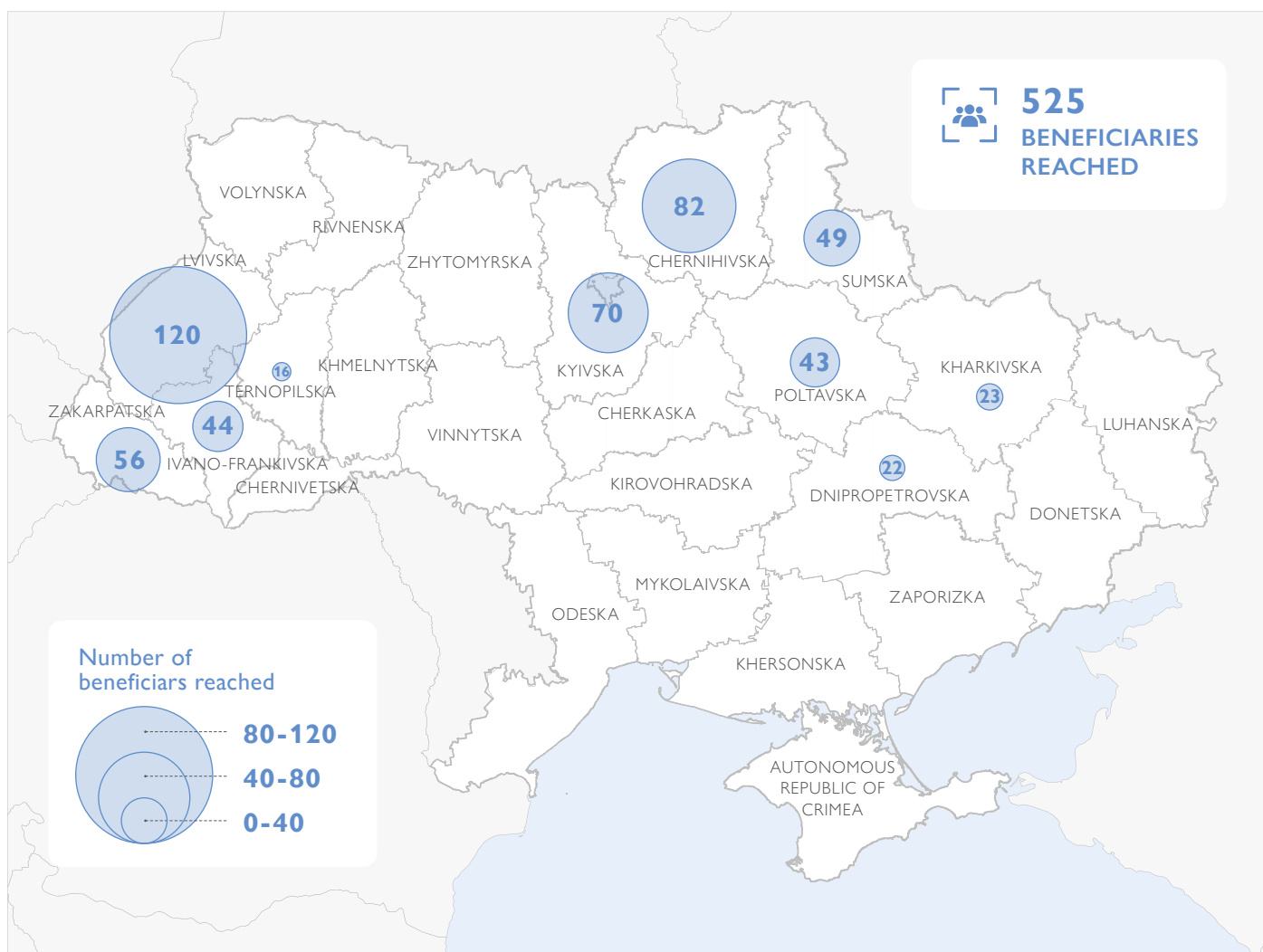
IOM also recognizes the incredible role Ukrainian diaspora can play in supporting business recovery and development. Through SME Boost, and in collaboration with Ukrainian government partners, IOM works with diaspora groups to open new trade and export opportunities for Ukrainian micro and small businesses, thus contributing to the country's economic growth and communities' wellbeing.

Between November 2021 and August 2023, IOM has supported more than 525 micro and small enterprises and created 1,730 new jobs.

SME BOOST ACHIEVEMENTS



WHERE WE WORK



HUMAN-INTEREST STORIES AT A GLANCE



Thanks to IOM I was able to restart my business in Zakarpattia where I am helping other displaced people like myself with employment

- Sviatoslav

The Ukrainian company Mureli, is a brand that creates exclusive leather goods and sells them in the USA and Europe. The business was based in Vyshhorod city, Kyiv Region, near the Kyiv suburbs heavily affected by hostilities in the first weeks of the Russian invasion.



Ukraine is our home, which we dream to rebuild, and I want to be part of this process

- Anastasiia

This family bakery that survived the blockade in the city of Chernihiv has reopened to delight its citizens again. The grant helped its owner, Anastasiia, rehabilitate partially damaged premises and install new equipment which allowed her to expand the assortment.



The grant helped me replace damaged equipment with a new one and restart production of roofing which is so critical in rebuilding of our city

- Artem

Artem from Chernihiv and his small team of 14 people is working as a roofing and fencing contractor, rehabilitating damaged houses left after months of war.



Today's event is very important for Ukraine and its economy. So that we export not only raw materials, but also products with added value. This was a comprehensive workshop for small producers who continue to work even during war

- Producer of honey from Poltava

Two-day workshop on e-commerce and export promotion for craft producers from Poltava region.



SME BOOST MULTI-STAGE ASSESSMENT AND SELECTION PROCESS

1 EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (EOI)

IOM announces calls for the EOI, listing selection criteria and inviting interested enterprises to submit their applications through the online application system

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2 ELIGIBILITY

Applications are screened against eligibility criteria, admissible applications are identified

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3 SHORTLISTING

Eligible applications are assessed and scored on desirable criteria by the selection team. Applications that meet qualifying score are shortlisted for the next stage. Shortlisted candidates are informed about the outcome and provided with the instructions for the business plan development

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4 PRE-QUALIFICATION

Shortlisted applicants develop and present their business plans to the selection team on-line. Additional on-site verification visits are carried out to the enterprise if/when required. Based on the assessment best proposals are pre-qualified for funding

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5 AWARD DECISION AND CONTRACT SIGNATURE

Conditions of grant use are discussed with the pre-qualified candidates and the Enterprise Development Agreements that clearly outline milestones for grant use and reporting are signed

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6 IMPLEMENTATION AND MONITORING

IOM closely monitors use of grant installments, conducts verification visits, impact assessment, evaluation, and records lessons learnt

SME BOOST ACHIEVEMENTS AT A GLANCE

EMPLOYMENT

- 76% of the jobs created are full-time
- 67% of the businesses confirmed that the financial grant they received from IOM enabled them to retain staff who they would have otherwise had to let go
- 37% of the business owners have confirmed that financial grant enabled them to increase the average salary offered to employees

REVENUE AND PRODUCTIVITY

- 93% of businesses increased their productivity
- 72% of business owners have reported income increase
- 97% of businesses confirmed their capacity to operate in the long-term

PRODUCT DEVELOPMENT AND LOCAL MARKET ENRICHMENT

- 48% of businesses reported expanding range of services they deliver
- 24% of business owners reported production of products of higher quality

SOCIO-ECONOMIC IMPACT

- 66% of the business owners reported positive shifts in the socio-economic conditions of their families

SATISFACTION WITH THE PROGRAMME

- 100% of business owners reported that financial grants were fully utilized and were the most suitable form of assistance
- Most businesses achieved their business plans and highlighted the overall support and monitoring conducted before and during implementation as positive contributors towards these results
- 55% of business owners qualified the process to receive the financial grant as easy, while 36% qualified it as average and 9% as difficult

MAIN BEST PRACTICES AND STRENGTHS HIGHLIGHTED BY BENEFICIARIES

- 67% reported sufficiency of the grant to re-start the business
- 62% reported that the team was helpful throughout the process of implementation
- 48% appreciated the guidance in the development of the business plans

INCLUSIVITY AND ACCESSIBILITY OF THE PROGRAMME

- User-friendly on-line application process
- Rigorous assessment and due diligence of businesses that minimizes fraud
- Open and competitive grant award procedure
- Engaging on-line business pitching environment
- Dedicated project team that provides businesses continuous support throughout project implementation from agreement signing to financial reporting
- Continuous monitoring and evaluation that ensures result-oriented programme management
- Flexible and adaptive to different needs and priorities on the community, regional and sectoral levels