

IOM PROVIDES UKRAINIAN BORDER GUARDS WITH PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT

Early April, IOM handed over the desperately needed Personal Protective Equipment (PPEs), as well as disinfection equipment and liquids, to the State Border Guard Service of Ukraine. Sprayers, disposable protective masks, protective gloves, glasses and suits will be used by the border guards for processing Ukrainian nationals entering from abroad and civilians crossing the entry-exit points at the line of contact in eastern Ukraine once the latter are re-opened.



“My admiration goes to the Ukrainian services and personnel actively working to maintain the continuity of important functions in the country. Providing protective equipment to the State Border Guard Service is part of IOM’s response supporting the Government of Ukraine in their efforts to protect the citizens from this pandemic. We stand with Ukraine during this unprecedented crisis,” said Anh Nguyen, Chief of Mission at IOM Ukraine.

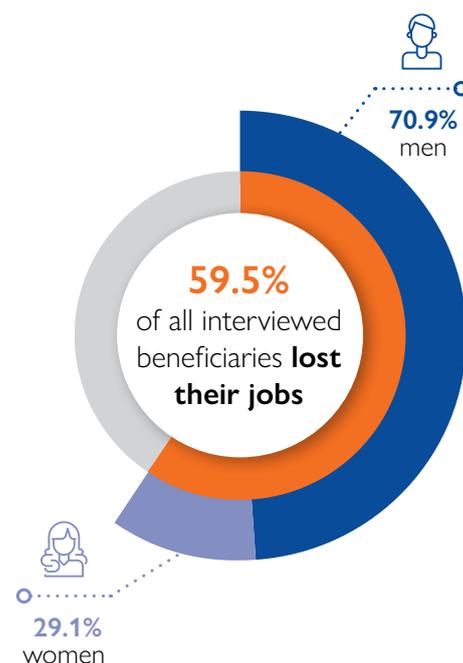
The procurement of the equipment was possible through utilizing funds from IOM Ukraine’s projects funded by the European Union and the Government of Japan.

SMALL ENTREPRENEURS FROM AMONG VULNERABLE MIGRANTS FACE ORDEAL

To assess the influence of the COVID-19 pandemic and quarantine on the needs of the former victims of trafficking (VoTs) IOM partner NGOs interviewed VoTs who received the reintegration assistance from IOM during December 2019 — March 2020. As revealed by the respondents, 59.5 per cent of them have already lost their jobs. Among the key reasons, respondents named the inability to commute without private vehicles and halted passenger transportation across the country during the quarantine. Respondents also highlighted the inability of their clients to pay for goods and services.

The survey covered 306 respondents (104 women and 202 men), which is 59 per cent of the total number of VoTs assisted by IOM in December 2019 — March 2020.

IOM and the Government of Canada will provide additional support to the most vulnerable beneficiaries of the economic empowerment programme for former victims of trafficking who had to stop their small businesses due to the quarantine and economic slowdown.



Read more at: <https://bit.ly/3a2YyF4>

EASTERN CONFLICT AREA IN FOCUS OF IOM UKRAINE'S COVID-19 RESPONSE

In the seventh year of conflict in eastern Ukraine, about **3.4 million people** are in dire need of humanitarian assistance and protection; **1.9 million** of whom live in the non-government-controlled areas. Now they have a new challenge: COVID-19.

IOM is mobilizing resources to help those most affected by the long-lasting conflict and the latest health emergency. IOM assessed the conditions of water, hygiene and sanitation infrastructure in key community sites in Boikivskiy (Telmanivskiy), Starobeshevskiy and Novoazovskiy districts of Donetsk Region for planned repair works. IOM is targeting the most water-scarce and densely populated areas to ensure uninterrupted water supply to the people.

IOM also printed **75,000 posters** with WHO recommendations on COVID-19 prevention to be distributed among the health, social, education and other facilities of the area.

Early April, IOM delivered **5,000 packs of diapers for children** which will be distributed among vulnerable households in Yenakieve, Boikivskiy (Telmanivskiy) district, Novoazovskiy, Yasynuvatskiy districts of Donetsk Region. The assistance was funded by the U.S Department of State Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration (PRM).



AFFECTED MIGRANTS AND THEIR FAMILIES CALL IOM HOTLINE

IOM Ukraine provides returning migrants, Ukrainians stranded abroad because of COVID-19 outbreak, and their families in Ukraine, with access to timely and accurate information and referrals through the **National Counter-Trafficking and Migrant Advice Hotline 527**. More than **1,000** such consultations were provided in March 2020.



- Two Ukrainian students were stuck in Norway. Their visas have expired, and they did not have the means for further stay. Neither could they leave due to restrictions of cross-border movement. The students were hosted by a family of university tutors, but they were afraid of deportation or of other sanctions.
- A woman whose husband was staying in Poland with a visa valid until 30 March 2020 called the hotline to ask for advice, as the man neither had means nor opportunities to get to the border, due to traffic restrictions.
- Mother of a 15-year-old studying in Poland called. The school was closed due to the quarantine, so she would like her daughter to come home. The woman has no foreign passport. How her minor daughter can cross the Ukrainian border so the mother would be able to meet her at the border?

IOM GRANTEES CONTRIBUTE TO COVID-19 PREVENTION

With the outbreak of COVID-19 pandemic and the introduction of the quarantine in Ukraine, many grantees of IOM livelihood projects from among vulnerable migrants, displaced persons and veterans started sewing masks* in an attempt to earn at least something while traditional products of their ateliers and workshops are not in demand, and at the same time to support their communities.

Denys Antipov, a veteran who received equipment from IOM within the EU-funded project on veterans' reintegration, has been producing toys and souvenirs. With the outbreak of COVID-19 pandemic, his workshop started producing protective face shields. "Tough times, lack of orders and income make you think faster. We are the veterans, and this is yet another mobilization for us," says Denys. He sells protective face shields through the Internet and offers wholesale prices to medical staff and veterans. "Such a shield cannot provide a 100% guarantee that you won't be infected, but in combination with other protective equipment, such as masks, it will be useful. And it will definitely prevent you from touching your face," says Denys. Just a few weeks after the new product launch his company has produced several thousand shields.



The IOM Mission in Ukraine assists the Government of Ukraine to mitigate the COVID-19 impact in coordination with the UN Country Team and in line with [IOM's Global Strategic Preparedness and Response Plan for COVID-19](#). To learn more and contribute please contact us at iomkievcomm@iom.int.

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