



International Organization for Migration (IOM)  
The UN Migration Agency

# IOM UKRAINE QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

October – December 2017



## MISSION HIGHLIGHTS

- IOM Ukraine has welcomed a [new Chief of Mission](#) – [Dr. Thomas Lothar Weiss](#), a national of Germany, who has previously served as IOM Chief of Mission in Iraq, Mexico, Zimbabwe and Zambia, as well as Regional Director of the IOM Regional Mission for the Baltic and Nordic states.

“Ukraine is an extremely important member state of the UN Migration Agency,” said Dr. Weiss. “We are grateful to all the partners, donors, and government stakeholders who have been supporting IOM during the two decades of our work in Ukraine. We look forward to continuing our emergency response alleviating the suffering of the most vulnerable people affected by the ongoing crisis in the East, and are also ready to expanding our regular programming in support of the Government of Ukraine, the Ukrainian people as well as all migrants in the country. If properly managed, migration can benefit migrants and societies at large – we are here to assist Ukraine in nurturing the positive aspects and capitalizing on the opportunities of migration.”



*Pictured: Dr. Thomas Lothar Weiss and a beneficiary of IOM's winterization assistance in Ukraine's Eastern Conflict Area*

- As of December 2017, IOM has assisted **nearly 200,000** internally displaced persons (IDPs) and **conflict-affected people** in 24 regions of Ukraine. They were provided with humanitarian aid and cash assistance, livelihoods support, or assisted within IOM's social cohesion and community development initiatives.
- Between January – November 2017, IOM Ukraine identified and assisted **1,190 victims of trafficking**, who suffered from forced labour and sexual exploitation in 23 different countries, including Ukraine.

## UN Migration Agency recognizes anti-trafficking heroes in Ukraine

Children in conflict with law and juvenile probation officers, a police investigator, residents of a Kyiv region village, and Government representatives were among the recipients of the Seventh Combating Human Trafficking Awards, honoured at a ceremony held in the Ukrainian capital, Kyiv, by the International Organization for Migration (IOM) – the UN Migration Agency.

The ceremony was organized with the generous support from the American people through the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID). It was opened by IOM Ukraine Counter-Trafficking Goodwill Ambassador and Eurovision 2016 winner, Jamala, and IOM Ukraine Chief of Mission, Dr. Thomas Lothar Weiss. “Many of the trafficking survivors IOM Ukraine has supported were trafficked and exploited in the years of conflict since 2014,” said Dr. Thomas Lothar Weiss. “We know that human trafficking evolves and perpetrators flourish in times of conflict and crisis. And while the conflict is going on we must speak about the very real risks of human trafficking and emphasize the collective responsibility to fight the crime.”

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## IOM supported 600 new Ukrainian border guards recruited through a transparent selection process



In November, 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 Ukrainian-Polish border. The new border guards were recruited under the *New Face of the Border* project implemented by the State Border Guard Service of Ukraine (SBGS), with support from IOM and the U.S. Department of State. Within this project, the IOM Mission in Ukraine designed and implemented a new recruitment system for the State Border Guard Service of Ukraine to select and hire border guards through an objective, transparent and impartial process. Out of more than 2,550 applicants, over 1,500 were young civilians and another nearly 1,000 were currently or previously serving border guards. The new recruits received intensive training, organized with the support of IOM and the U.S. Department of State. The project will continue through the coming year and will expand to introduce similar recruitment processes in view of staffing the border crossing points in the airports of Lviv, Odesa, Dnipro, and Kharkiv, as well as at the Ukrainian-Poland border (Yagodyn, Shehyni and Rava-Ruska).

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

According to the [latest round of the survey](#) on the situation of internally displaced persons in Ukraine, the *National Monitoring System (NMS)*, conducted by IOM with funding from the European Union, there has been an increase in the flow of returning internally displaced persons (IDPs) to the NGCA.

Three and a half years into the conflict, 16 per cent of respondents surveyed this September, stated they returned to their original place of residence, a three per cent increase from the previous round conducted in June 2017. The vast majority of surveyed returnees (70%) cited their property in the NGCA and no need to pay for rent as the reason for their return.

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## Ambassador of Japan visits IOM-supported communities

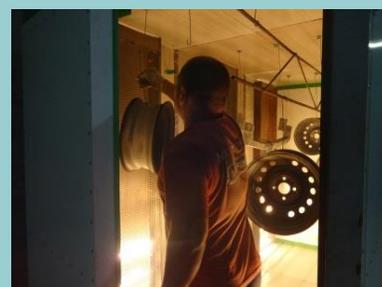
On 30-31 October 2017, the Ambassador of Japan, H.E. Mr. Shigeki Sumi, visited Donetsk and Luhansk regions to take part in the ceremonies of sakura trees planting in the framework of the countrywide campaign “2,500 sakuras” dedicated to the celebration of the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of diplomatic relations between Ukraine and Japan. Under its Japan-funded social cohesion project, IOM distributed 165 sakura trees among Donetsk and Luhansk region communities, who wanted to join the Year of Japan celebrations in Ukraine.



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## Equipped with confidence

IOM helped Victor, a former truck driver and victim of trafficking, to open a powder coating shop. Even though he went through a harrowing human trafficking experience, Victor is a real-life example of resilience and of the importance of providing income generating opportunities within IOM's reintegration programming.



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