



Ukraine. Volodymyr is 87 years old. He has problems with his heart. Recently, he received comprehensive medical assistance at the IOM mobile clinic in a small village in Lviv Region. He underwent an electrocardiogram and ultrasound and received a consultation with a cardiologist.

Access to health care is one of the critical needs of displaced and war-affected population. In Lviv region, IOM mobile clinics rolled out in April 2022, once the local health care system was not able to cope anymore with the influx of people who needed urgent assistance. Most of the visitors to the IOM mobile clinics are the elderly - displaced and locals, whose health was affected by age and the war. IOM brings medical services closer to the elderly, especially Ukraine's vulnerable.

Read in this annual report about IOM's health assistance to crisis-affected population, such as in Ukraine and neighbouring countries, as well as health promotion and assistance to migrants across South-Eastern Europe, Eastern Europe and Central Asia during the year 2022.

Also in this report, we are presenting the new and innovative health and border management projects in Central Asia focusing on health security at Points of Entry.

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FOREWORD

The year of 2022 was marked by a conflict which led to one of the largest mass displacements since World War II—the Russian invasion in Ukraine on 24 February 2022. Relentless fighting has had devastating consequences on the physical and mental health of millions of people in Ukraine and in neighbouring countries. IOM teams in Ukraine and the neighbouring Republic of Moldova—who is hosting the largest percentage of Ukrainian refugees and third-country nationals displaced from Ukraine compared to its population size—have scaled up and done tremendous work over the past year to provide health services and mental health and psychosocial support. As this refugee crisis is marked by a high prevalence of non-communicable diseases, specialised medical services like cancer care and treatment as well as haemodialysis, have been supported in Moldova.

At the same time, it is important not to forget ongoing public health issues in the region—such as tuberculosis and HIV, as well as scaling up health security and pandemic preparedness based on the experiences gained during the COVID-19 pandemic. This is being addressed in projects mainly in the Central Asian region. At the same time, there are emerging issues being addressed, such as looking at the intersection of health and environment/climate change, aiming for more disability inclusion and better understanding mental health issues and concerns not only of displaced and crisis-affected populations, but also of migrant workers.

Health has been center stage since COVID-19 and it continues to be so in the ongoing crisis and public health response. This importance is most visible in the budget for health projects, which shows a steep rise and also points at the tremendously increased workload on this topic. The migration health team of the Regional Office Vienna would therefore like to thank all IOM staff in the missions, partners and donors who contributed to promoting migration health in 2022. We also take this opportunity to thank Evelyn Rainer from IOM Austria, who supported the team during November and December as well as Anisa Bisma Rashid, who did a nine-months internship at the IOM Regional Office in Vienna. She has supported in producing this Annual Report, in addition to other tasks.

The 2022 RO Vienna MHD Annual Report will be the last one before my retirement in June this year. I am thrilled to see how the migration health portfolio has expanded and thrived in the past years, since I joined the IOM Regional Office in Vienna in 2015. While communicable diseases remain an issue, the topics of the future are e-health, addressing anti-microbial resistance, health consequences of climate change, the greening of health facilities, further ensuring pandemic preparedness and working with governments on models to fully include migrants under their health and social protection schemes—to name but a few.

I wish my successor Dr Chiaki Ito, as well as Ursula Wagner, who will continue in her role as Regional Migration Health Coordinator, all the best for taking this on.

Sincerely Yours,

Dr Jaime Calderon,
Regional Migration Health Advisor



THE REGIONAL MIGRATION HEALTH DIVISION TEAM (FROM LEFT TO RIGHT): ANISA RASHID, JAIME CALDERON, URSULA WAGNER

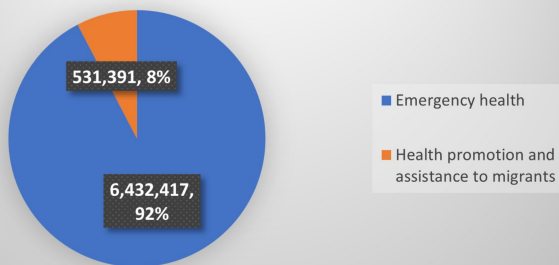
Migration Health Budget in 2022

In 2022, there were **14 migration health projects** as well as **18 cross-thematic projects**, where migration health is a secondary project, carried out across South-Eastern Europe, Eastern Europe and Central Asia (SEEECA). The below data reflect the standalone migration health projects in the field of “Health Promotion and Assistance to Migrants” (MA) and “Migration Health Assistance to Crisis-affected Populations” or emergency health (MP).

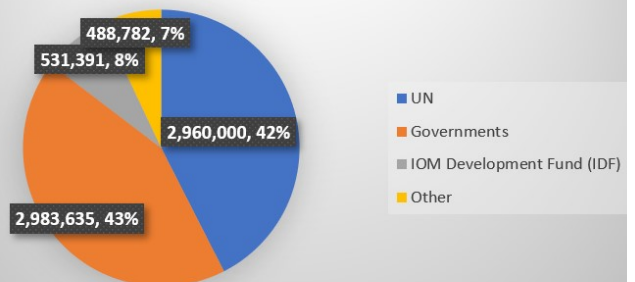
The **total budget** for these 14 migration health projects was **6,963,800 USD** in 11 countries. The vast majority of the funding went to emergency health projects, mainly the **Ukraine crisis response**.

Major donors are **governments** (United States, Switzerland, Austria, Korea) and the **United Nations** (OCHA) as well as the **IOM Development Fund**.

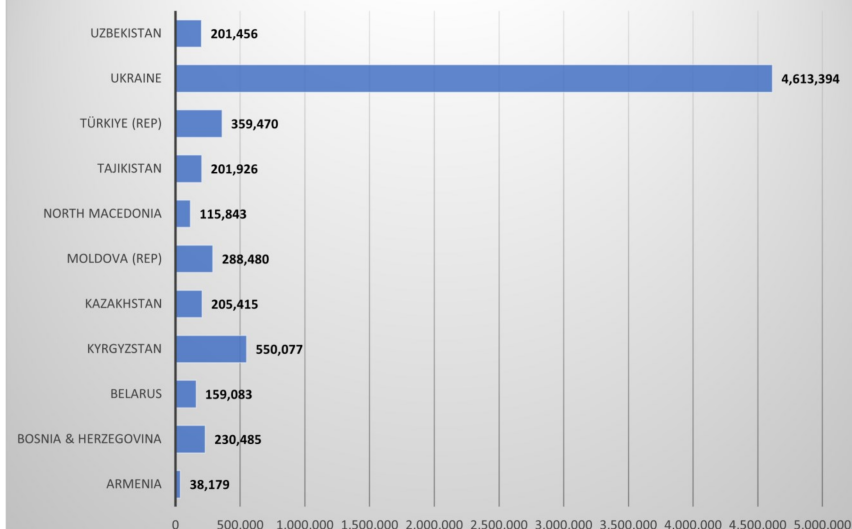
Budget for health projects - emergency health vs. health promotion/assistance to migrants in 2022 (in USD)



Budget for health projects in SEEECA per donor in 2022 (in USD)



Budget for health projects per Mission in 2022 (in USD)



Budget for health projects in SEEECA 2016-2022 (in USD)



The budget for migration health projects has been significantly increasing over the past years, sparked by the COVID-19 pandemic and the Ukraine crisis, which have a strong impact on the region.

The figures on this page reflect the standalone migration health projects, and do not cover health activities within broader assistance projects, which are led under general emergency response.

Migration Health—Key Indicators in 2022



129,200

of basic medical consultations provided by IOM



14,800

of referrals to higher levels of care



16,700

of specialised medical consultations



155,000

of persons reached with health promotion activities including risk communication relating to outbreaks and health risks



123

of communities reached



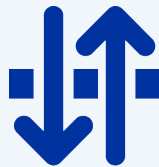
32,000

of MHPSS activities provided through mobile clinics or through static health facilities



6,500

of health worker trained



70

of Points of Entry (POE) supported



42

of mobile medical teams



12,900,000

of total amount of funding for emergency health components of projects (USD)



17

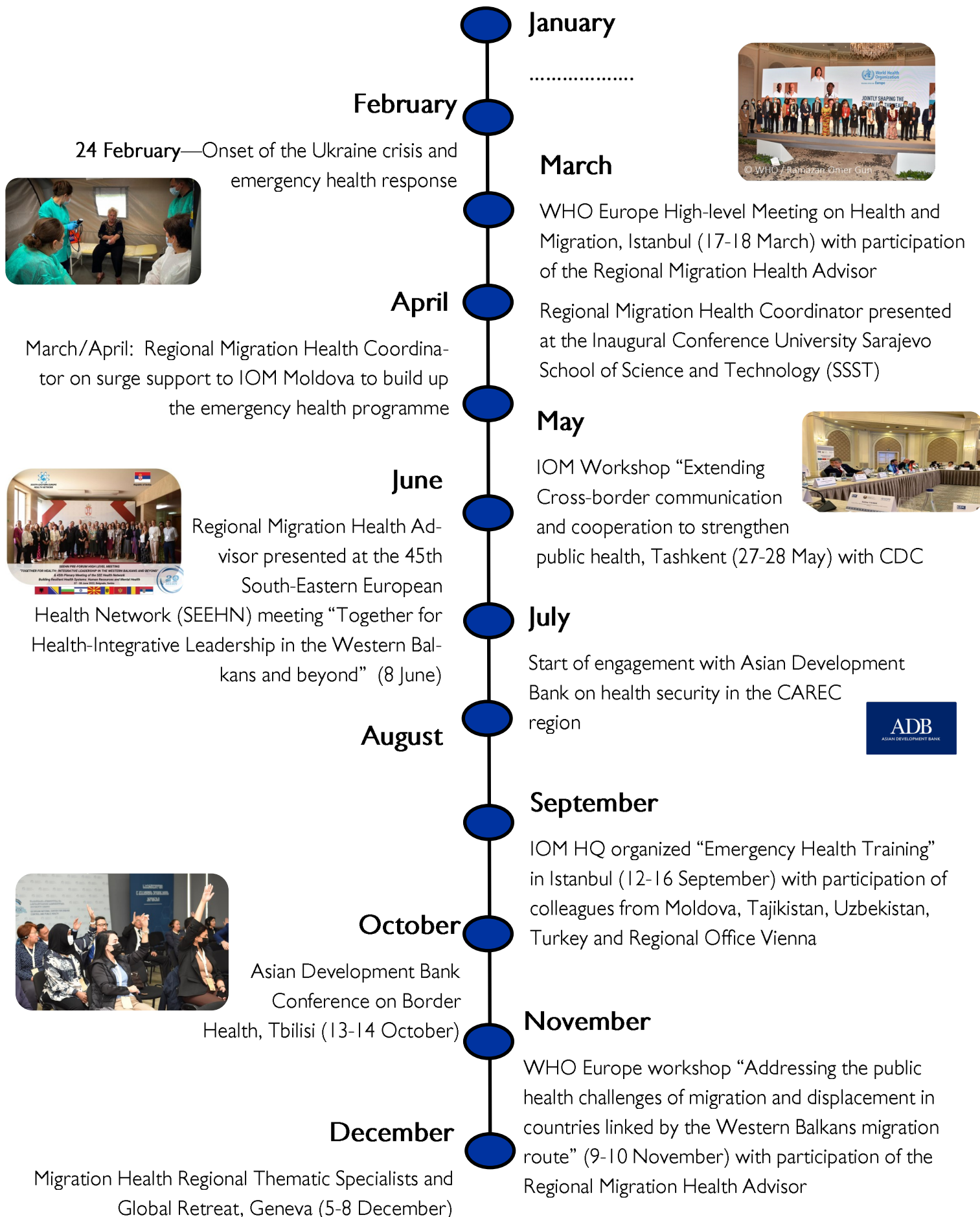
of national NGOs engaged in the emergency response



42

of mission personnel working on health programming

Migration Health 2022 Highlights



Ukraine crisis response

The Russian Federation's 24 February invasion of Ukraine has negatively affected people's health and seriously impacted the health sector by impeding access to routine and emergency services, damaging and destroying medical facilities and overwhelming the remaining ones. In addition, health professionals have been displaced and supply chains for essential medicines and supplies disrupted.

Almost everyone is affected: Ukrainians who have remained in their hometowns despite the war, Ukrainians and third-country nationals who have been forcibly displaced within and across borders, and host communities in Ukraine and in neighbouring countries.

IOM's health programmes ensure access to health care for the most affected, whether displaced or not. Among other things, services include mobile teams to offer care in hard-to-reach areas, activities to address rising mental health concerns and issues, and facilitating medical requirements for travel and resettlement. Along with



DESTRUCTION OF CIVILIAN INFRASTRUCTURE IN LUHANSK REGION © IOM UKRAINE 2022

shelter, key non-food items, transportation, supply chain, and other essential forms of humanitarian assistance, IOM has been working around the clock to provide health services to war-affected women, children and men.

“Doctors operate by candlelight and without anesthetics, while time and time again vital civilian infrastructure – heating plants, power stations, hospitals – are smashed to pieces.”

IOM Director General António Vitorino, who visited war-stricken Ukraine in September 2022

As of November 2022, there were **715 confirmed attacks on health facilities in Ukraine**. Hospitals are in dire need of reliable equipment to effectively assist the local population and displaced people. As the war continues, people living with disabilities, those with chronic illnesses and older persons find themselves in increasingly vulnerable situations due to disruptions to treatments and issues accessing appropriate health services. This can have devastating effects on the resilience and recovery capacity of communities inside and outside of Ukraine in the medium and long term. As health systems in neighbouring countries have also been stretched to accommodate the arrival of millions of refugees, the preventive, diagnostic and therapeutic needs of host communities and newly arrived people are at risk of being unmet, exacerbating the effects of communicable and non-communicable diseases. Inside Ukraine, IOM has deployed mobile medical teams to improve access to curative, preventive and promotive

health services and, if needed, provide referrals for specialized care.

Over the **longer term**, while continuing to meet acute needs, IOM will focus on **building human and institutional capacity** to ensure that war-affected people have sustainable access to essential health care. In September 2022, IOM committed to supporting the protection and equitable provision of health assistance and services and helping restore core public health functions in Ukraine in line with the **national Recovery Plan** through the signature of a Cooperation Agreement with the Ukrainian Ministry of Health. To this end, IOM has started concentrating its efforts on durable solutions such as: rehabilitating hospitals and local clinics, training national health actors, donating critical equipment and supplies, and initiating community-based surveillance.

48,374 MEDICAL CONSULTATIONS THROUGH MOBILE CLINICS (UKRAINE)

Mobile clinics provide primary health care services and mental health psychological support (MHPPS), including referral to specialists, to internally displaced persons and host communities all across Ukraine and have expanded in capacity since the start of the war. Staffed by health professionals, each mobile clinic has one doctor, a nurse, and



MEDICINE PROCUREMENT AND DISTRIBUTION (UKRAINE)

In Chernivtsi, IOM delivered aid to a clinic that provides services to locals and displaced people hosted in nine collective centres. This assistance includes the most popular medicines, such as antibiotics, rapid painkillers, and items used to treat common diseases.



5,117 REACHED THROUGH HEALTH PROMOTION (UKRAINE)

Risk Communication and Community Engagement (RCCE): IOM, through RCCE, reaches out to the broader community through awareness-raising mechanisms, such as distributing flyers and sharing of key messages through social media platforms about disease prevention and protection against winter diseases.



Implementing partners include Sheptytsky Hospital, UK-MED, Med-Ok, and Medcover, whose teams coordinate and operate throughout Ukraine.

EMERGENCY HEALTH RESPONSE IN UKRAINE AND NEIGHBOURING COUNTRIES:

6,000 MEDICAL PRACTITIONERS TRAINED (UKRAINE)

Capacity for over 6,000 medical practitioners has been developed, allowing these qualified experts to reach individuals in need more effectively. In collaboration with UK-Med, IOM provides different types of trainings to emergency doctors, paramedics, specialized surgeons and Chemical, Biological and Radio Nuclear (CBRN) specialists. Training topics were: CBRN, Civilian and Advanced trauma first aid, Colorectal Surgery, and Patient Monitoring.



17,450 PRE-EMBARKATION HEALTH CHECKS PROVIDED (MOLDOVA)

IOM Moldova, through its mobile medical teams and implementing partners, conducted 17,450 pre-embarkation health checks (PECs) for Ukrainian refugees and third-country nationals travelling to the EU member states and associated countries by bus or plane. Some of them have severe medical conditions



that require stabilisation and hospitalisation prior to travel and medical escorts during the entire journey.

503 PATIENTS CONTINUED ONCOLOGY TREATMENT AND DIALYSIS (MOLDOVA)

IOM, with support from the Japanese government, donated the most urgent medicines and medical consumables used in cancer treatment to ensure the continuity of oncological treatment for refugees and TCNs fleeing Ukraine. Paid dialysis sessions were also provided.



412 VOUCHERS FOR MEDICATIONS DISTRIBUTED TO UKRAINIANS (BELARUS)

IOM Belarus distributed vouchers to Ukrainian refugees for use to access medicines in affiliated pharmacies. The Mission also provided psychosocial support, medical supplies, and referrals for higher care.



17,000 PSYCHOLOGICAL CONSULTATIONS PROVIDED (UKRAINE)

In Ukraine, IOM has collaborated with the Ministry of Health, national health authorities, and implementing partners to offer mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS). Since the beginning of the war, psychosocial teams and psychologists operating in mobile clinics have delivered approximately 17,000 mental consultations.

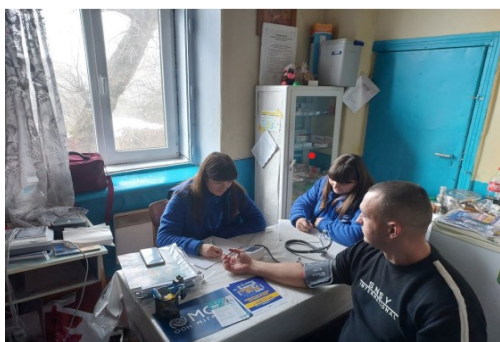
A toll-free psychological support and counselling hotline was scaled up immediately after the start of the war.



10 WAYS IOM SUPPORTED HEALTH CARE FOR CONFLICT-AFFECTED UKRAINIANS AND THIRD-COUNTRY NATIONALS IN 2022

15,350 SPECIALIZED MEDICAL CONSULTATIONS CONDUCTED (UKRAINE)

IOM's Health Emergency Response for Ukraine comprises Primary Health Care (life-saving response, referrals and capacity building). However, some secondary-level specialized consultations were available and referrals to hospitals in the case of an emergency. Specialized medical care includes specialist consultations from cardiologists, gynaecologists, etc and use of specialized diagnostic equipment like ultrasound scanning and clinical laboratory testing.



17,000 PSYCHOLOGICAL CONSULTATIONS PROVIDED (MOLDOVA)

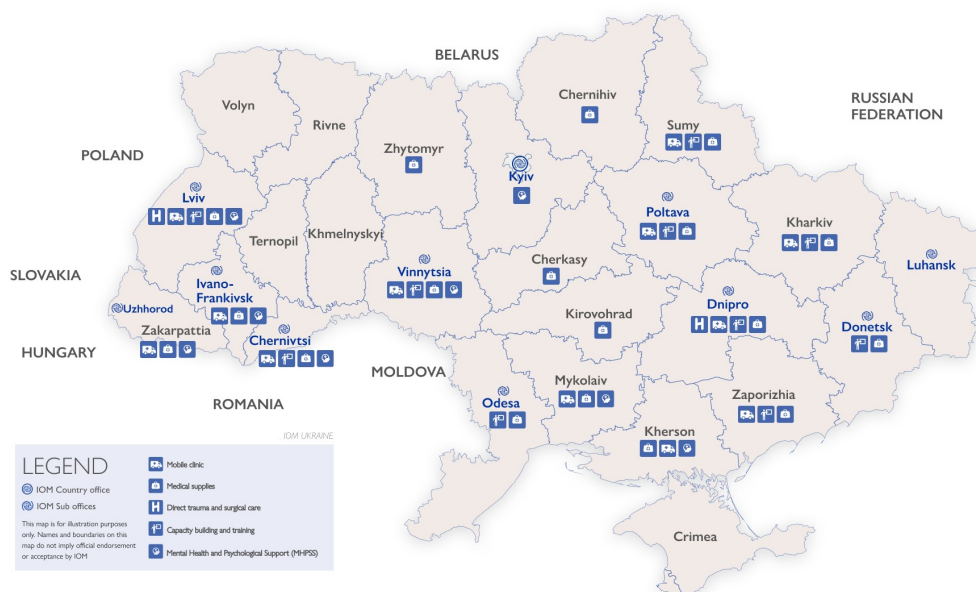
IOM started providing mental health and psychosocial support in Refugee Accommodation Centers (RACs) in Chisinau early on in the crisis. The network was expanded to cover many regions of the country to provide 17,000 individual and group counselling sessions, recreational and socio-relational activities and referrals. In addition, first-line responders from within IOM and partners were trained on Psychological First Aid (PFA).



EMERGENCY HEALTH RESPONSE IN UKRAINE

Supported by the Office For Coordination of Human Affairs (OCHA), Government of Japan, Government of Norway, German Federal Foreign Office (GFFO) and a private donor

Since 2014, IOM has been addressing the health needs of crisis-affected populations in Western Ukraine, including provision of mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS). After 24 February 2022, IOM quickly scaled up its operations through experienced emergency health surge support. IOM's health interventions in Ukraine enable millions of Internally Displaced populations (IDPs) and host communities to access life-saving health services. IOM works in close collaboration with the UN agencies and implementing partners to support the Ukrainian Ministry of Health and regional health authorities.

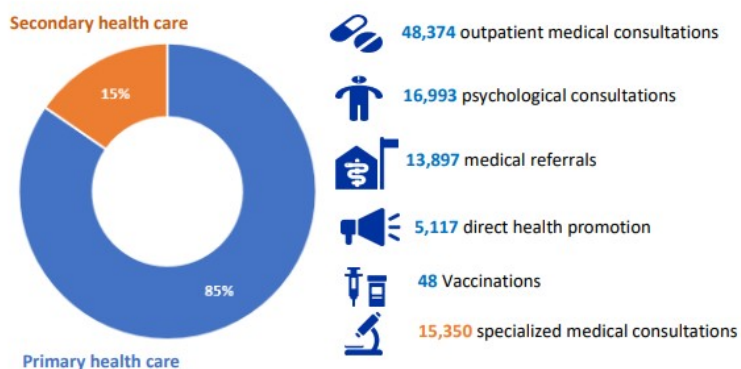


IOM OPERATIONAL PRESENCE ON EMERGENCY HEALTH IN UKRAINE

IOM Ukraine has been providing comprehensive health services since the start of the Russian invasion, spanning both primary and secondary health care, health promotion and mental health and psychosocial support.

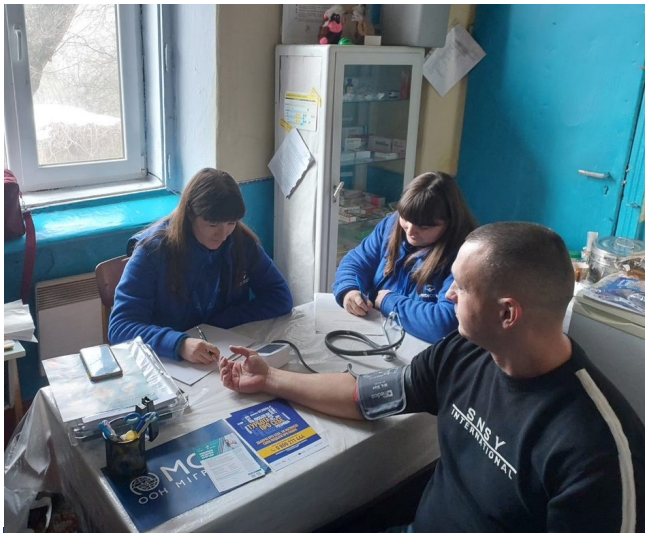
Mobile clinics

In 2022, IOM provided healthcare services in the Western, Central and the Eastern regions, including hard-to-reach settlements of Staryi Saltiv and Husarivka in the Kharkiv Region and the severely affected town of Trostianets and Semerenky in the Sumy Region. IOM improved access to primary, secondary, and tertiary health care by deploying mobile medical teams to provide curative, preventive, and promotive health services, including trauma care, referral, and psychological counselling. This was achieved through implementing partners, including Sheptytsky Hospital, UK-MED, Med-Ok, CAMz and Medicover and their 19 teams operating in ten regions: Lviv, Vinnytsia, Poltava, Chernivtsi, Sumy, Kharkiv, Uzhgorod, Ivano-Frankiv, Dnipro and Zaporizhzhia.



EMERGENCY HEALTH RESPONSE IN UKRAINE IN 2022

In 2022, 84,429 persons (Male: 29,513; Female: 54,916) were provided with primary healthcare services, including psychological consultations/counselling. 15,350 (Male: 3,400; Female: 11,950) received specialized consultations. The specialists in the mobile clinics include cardiologists, endocrinologists, and gynaecologists. The services provided include clinical laboratory testing/procedure, gynecological services, cytology, and ultrasound scan services.



DOCTOR ATTENDING A PATIENT IN CHERNIVTSI © IOM UKRAINE 2022

Risk Communication and Community Engagement (RCCE)

IOM, through its IPs, reached out to the community through different awareness-raising message mechanisms, including distribution of posters and flyers, sharing of key messages through social media platforms. In 2022, over 500 flyers about disease prevention and protection against diseases were distributed, and over 773 community members were reached through social media groups.

Capacity Building (health)

IOM supported capacity development and skills training for all partners. In response to the needs for knowledge and skills to deal with trauma, injuries and other war-related hazards, including radio nuclear threats, IOM, in collaboration with its IP UK-Med provided various trainings to emergency doctors, paramedics, specialized surgeons and CBRN specialists across various regions (Chernivtsi, Odesa, Donetsk, Zaporizhia, Kharkiv, Poltava, Sumy, Vinnytsia, Lviv and Dnipro). Main training topics were: CBRN (Chemical, Biological and Radio Nuclear), Civilian and Advanced trauma first aid, Colorectal Surgery, Patient Monitoring, Pneumatic CAAT, and plastic surgery. In addition to training, UK-Med provided surgical mentoring and on-the-job training to surgeons at Lviv Emergency Hospital.

Medical supplies

IOM supported the Ministry of Health in procuring, storing, and distributing life-saving supplies to meet the health needs of people most affected by the crisis. Since April 2022, IOM has donated medical supplies total worth UAH 39,144,945 (USD: 1,057,971), covering pharma products from the MoH priority list of medicines, external fixation devices, automated infusion pumps and WHO-recommended non-communicable diseases (NCDs), inter-agency emergency health (IEH) and first aid kits to 109 health facilities and government institutions from 18 Oblasts across Ukraine.

Mental Health and Psychosocial Support

The war in Ukraine and the resulting displacement of millions of people have negatively impacted the mental health and psychosocial well-being of individuals and communities across the country and region. Long-term psychological consequences may impact families, relationships, and people's general ability to trust, cooperate and productively contribute to society. Ukrainian Minister of Health, Viktor Liashko, estimates that approximately 15 million Ukrainians will need psychological support due to the war. Access to MHPSS services is crucial to strengthen individual and collective resilience and mitigate the risk of severe and long-lasting consequences.

IOM implements a range of MHPSS activities that support people in Ukraine, including IDPs, returnees, third-country nationals and host communities, to regain a sense of safety and human security, increase self and community efficacy, encourage the creation or reactivation of social networks, and develop tools for affected communities to deal with the past and ongoing stressors. This includes programming within three main categories:

- individual **consultations** provided by specialists through the **IOM Emotional Support Hotline** and the mobile clinics run by IOM and its implementing partners;
- **awareness raising and community-based psychosocial activities;**
- and **capacity building activities** for volunteers, government partners, and healthcare professionals.



PSYCHOSOCIAL SUPPORT TO A FAMILY IN UKRAINE @ IOM 2022

EMERGENCY HEALTH RESPONSE IN THE REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA

Supported by the Service for Foreign Policy Instruments (FPI), European Neighbourhood Policy and Enlargement Negotiations (DG NEAR), Government of Japan, German Federal Foreign Office, Government of Austria, and Government of France and the US State Department's Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration (PRM).

The Republic of Moldova is hosting the largest share of Ukrainian refugees compared to its population. While more than 700,000 people have entered the country from Ukraine since 24 February (among them ten per cent third country nationals/TCNs), almost 90,000 people fleeing the war decided to stay, among them seven per cent TCNs. IOM Moldova quickly scaled up its emergency response, putting in place not only health assistance for people in transit, but also ensuring access to life-saving and critical health services such as cancer care and dialysis, and managed to expand mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS) across the country.

Key Achievements in 2022

- 17,600 Mental Health and Psychosocial Support Sessions
- 17,450 pre-departure health checks
- 838 persons with chronic conditions stabilized prior to travel
- 503 exceptional medical care and treatment (cancer care and dialysis)

SINCE 24 FEBRUARY, AS OF 1 JANUARY:



Mental Health and Psychosocial Support

IOM Moldova is one of the most active UN agencies in the provision of MHPSS services that include a large spectrum: psychological counselling, socio-relational activities, capacity building for the first-line responders and provides unique mental health specialized services such as mental health crisis centres, sheltered housing, group placement for elderly and combined disabilities, addiction recovery programs and mobile team interventions. IOM signed a collaboration project agreement with the Mental Health Community Center. In 2022, a total of 17,600 individual counselling, group sessions, social and recreational activities, and referrals were provided. In addition, 500 frontline responders were trained in Psychological First Aid (PFA),

basic communication, stress management, and MHPSS skills.

Pre-departure medical checks

IOM ensures that refugees and TCNs assisted with transfers undergo pre-departure medical checks, are referred to secondary and tertiary healthcare, and costs of medication, treatment, and transportation to health facilities for exceptional medical cases are covered. Almost 17,450 Ukrainian refugees and TCNs received travel health assistance. Pre-departure travel health risk assessments, and fitness to travel health check-ups for the absence of symptoms of communicable diseases were provided to 2,090 Ukrainian refugees moving to EU member states, 1,322 TCNs returning to their country of origin and 15,049 Ukrainian individuals moving by land to Romania. In total, 838 individuals received pre-departure stabilization treatment, and 216 were hospitalized prior to their movement. IOM provides medical escort services for refugees and TCNs with significant medical conditions to ensure that individuals' health needs are attended to during all phases of their journey under IOM's care, from pre-departure to handover upon arrival. In 2022, 201 refugees and TCNs were assisted by a medical escort during their travel to destinations.



IOM MEDICAL DOCTOR ATTENDING A REFUGEE CHILD © IOM MOLDOVA 2022

SPOTLIGHT: CANCER CARE AND DIALYSIS FOR UKRAINIAN REFUGEES

The Ukraine crisis not only sparked as one of the largest displacements since World War II, it is also marked as the refugee crisis with high needs for management of non-communicable diseases, particularly cancer and diabetes. To address the problem, IOM Moldova procured cancer medicines and supported the cost for diagnosis and treatment of displaced Ukrainians with cancer in Moldova. More than 500 Ukrainian refugees benefitted from these activities in 2022. Since the beginning of the escalation of conflict in Ukraine, IOM has continuously worked alongside the Moldovan Government in preparedness and response measures at Moldova’s Points of Entry, Refugee Accommodation Centers (RACs), and Health facilities.

IOM Moldova is among the three agencies that contribute to the strengthening of the Moldovan health system through the provision of essential health services such as cancer care and treatment and dialysis services for Ukrainian refugees and Third Country Nationals (TCNs).

- IOM signed a service agreement with the Institute of Oncology to set the terms for providing cancer care and treatment for Ukrainian refugees and TCNs and a Project Implementation Agreement with the National Health Insurance Company on the provision of dialysis sessions for Ukrainian refugees. Both agreements were coordinated with the MoH and the WHO. Two doctors of the Institute of Oncology were contracted to manage the referral mechanism and to keep on track with the reporting and financial aspects.
- IOM donated essential medical equipment and specialized medicines to the Institute of Oncology to assure the continuity of oncological diagnosis and treatment for Ukrainian refugees and TCNs in the Republic of Moldova. IOM supports the Ministry of Health and Oncology Institute through the direct coverage of costs for exceptional medical expenses

these beneficiaries.

A total of 503 beneficiaries received exceptional medical care and treatment for cancer and dialysis sessions. IOM also procures medicines and medical equipment for health facilities, such as the Clinical Hospital of the Ministry of Health, the Oncology Institute and the Medical Department within the General Inspectorate of Border Police.



Cancer care and treatment provided with IOM support for Ukrainian cancer patients.

INTERVIEW WITH A CANCER PATIENT FROM UKRAINE WHO RECEIVES TREATMENT THROUGH IOM'S PROGRAMME © IOM MOLDOVA 2022

400 posters and 10,000 communications materials on the provision of cancer care and treatment and dialysis were distributed in 12 RACs in Chisinau, Balti, Ungheni, and Orhei, across communities and Transnistria region.

- An international consultant conducted a needs assessment for the Institute of Oncology, with a focus on ongoing diagnostic and cancer treatment services, as well as breast cancer diagnostics. The needs assessment included an analysis of policies, operating procedures, and service delivery within the relevant structures of the Institute, with a view to assessing the existing technical-material base, human resources, and the ability of the institution to cope with the emergency.



DONATION OF CANCER MEDICINES TO THE ONCOLOGICAL INSTITUTE © IOM MOLDOVA

Non-Communicable Diseases and Risk Factors

TAJKISTAN

Title: Returned Tajik Migrants: Promoting a Multi-Stakeholder response to Mental Health and Disability Issues (MA.0498)

Donor: IOM Development Fund (IDF)

Budget: USD 300,000.00

Duration: November 2020 – October 2023

The Republic of Tajikistan is one of the most remittance-dependent countries in the world with many Tajik migrants contributing individually to the Tajik economy. These migrants face different challenges during and after migration, including workplace health and safety, poor living conditions and a lack of access to health services both in host countries and once they return to Tajikistan. These challenges lead to losses in lives and livelihoods. At the

same time, migrants' health needs are not reflected in national health-related policy documents due to a lack of scientific evidence on the link between the migration of the Tajik citizens and their health status. The project contributes to improving migrants' access to health and social services by building knowledge on disability and mental health issues among returned Tajik migrants, engaging stakeholders, civil society, academia and private sector to discuss addressing gender based needs of migrants with disability and mental health issues, and initiates cross border collaboration to promote inclusive policy that respects migrant's rights to health.

In 2022, IOM Tajikistan jointly with the Ministry of Health and Social Protection accomplished the following achievements:

Disability

- The **technical working group on migration and disability** met twice.
- The **research on disability among Tajik migrant workers** was conducted: Fieldwork and data collection with migrant workers, who returned from labour migration in the Russian Federation and Kazakhstan in the past three years, was finalised. The quantitative survey was conducted in collaboration with the Japanese International Cooperation Agency (JICA), who did a representative survey on persons with disability across the country. The report is under review.

Mental health

- A **technical working group on mental health and migration** was established and met four times to discuss the priorities and the focus of the research.
- The **research on mental health issues** among Tajik migrant workers, who returned from labour migration, was conducted:
 - The methodology of the research on mental health among returned Tajik migrant workers was developed by the IOM International Consultant jointly with IOM and approved by the Tajik health authorities.
 - The desk review and qualitative research on mental health among Tajik migrant workers were carried out. The scarcity of data on the mental health needs of Central Asian migrant workers underlines the necessity of this project and of developing mental health strategies inclusive of migrants. Field work for the qualitative research was organized jointly with the local research agency "M Vector", and male and female migrant workers were interviewed in different provinces with high volumes of labor migration.
 - IOM Tajikistan plans to present the research report "*Mental Health Problems of Tajik Returned Labour Migrants And Their Experiences Seeking Mental Health Care And Psychosocial Support*" in 2023.



TECHNICAL WORKING GROUP ON MENTAL HEALTH MEETING WITH THE RESEARCH CONSULTANT © IOM TAJIKISTAN 2022

KYRGYZSTAN

Title: **Kyrgyzstan: Enhancing Migrants' Awareness on Air Pollution and Moving Towards a "Healthy City Vision" in Bishkek (MA.0514)**

Donor: **IOM Development Fund (IDF)**

Budget: **USD 300,000.00**

Duration: **July 2021—July 2023**

Air pollution is a pressing public health issue in the big cities of Kyrgyzstan. The health consequences of air pollution include respiratory and infectious diseases, heart disease, stroke and lung cancer and can exacerbate other underlying conditions. The capital, Bishkek, which is the largest hub for internal and international migrants, has repeatedly ranked as the most polluted city in the world. The project aims at adopting the WHO Healthy City Vision approach in Bishkek and enhancing the awareness of migrants and stakeholders on the impacts air pollution has on the health of migrant communities living in Bishkek.

Most internal and many international migrants live in the new settlements at the outskirts of the city, which are not adequately connected to the city's infrastructure. A lack of access to gas and heating systems forces them to use low-quality coal and inappropriate materials like textiles or tires as fuel for heating, which further exacerbates air pollution.

Key achievements in 2022:

- Publication of the assessment undertaken "Air Pollution and its Health Impacts on Internal Migrants in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan". This scoping study assesses the factors influencing air quality in the view of residents, including internal migrants living in residential neighbourhoods, during the heating season and throughout the year, and the impacts of these factors on their health.



- Community trainings and lectures on air pollution and health in 30 selected residential neighbourhoods, and implementation of an information campaign for communities of migrants, stakeholders and residents of Bishkek through social media

Launch of the process of constructing environmentally friendly and small infrastructure projects for creating green space and positive opportunities in residential areas.

Plan of greening for all target residential areas. And Municipality Task Force Groups are formed in every district.

- High-level roundtable to present the Healthy City Vision Programme.

"Before, we had no sewage system, we struggled with waste disposal, and there was no street lighting either. Now we have sewers installed, we are slowly solving the waste problem... After the training, our activists started raising awareness among people in the neighbourhood and emphasized that clean air also depended on us. Many people lack knowledge about the current environmental issues, but if we all work together, the impact will be much greater."

Sulosun Resident, Kolmo Neighbourhood



MEETING OF RESIDENTS IN BISHKEK TO SHARE KNOWLEDGE FROM AN IOM TRAINING © IOM KYRGYZSTAN 20222

HEALTH AND BORDER MANAGEMENT IN CENTRAL ASIA

CENTRAL ASIA

Title: Enhancing the Health and Border Management in Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan to respond to COVID-19 and other communicable diseases (MP.0370)

Donor: Centres for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)

Key Project Achievements in 2022

- 29 PoE assessed and PoE assessment reports finalized in Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan
- 20 trainings on border health and health security for national partners conducted
- Workshop on health, border, and migration mobility for the Uzbekistan national partners in Tashkent
- Regional event “Extending Cross Border Cooperation and Communication” in Tashkent (Uzbekistan) on 27-28 May conducted

IOM has been working on border health with the financial and technical support of the US Center for Disease Control since 2020. The project is in its second phase now. In 2022 several activities were conducted within the project:



The need assessments at the points of entry (PoE) were completed in all involved countries. In total, 29 PoE were assessed: 10 PoE in Kazakhstan, 6 PoE in Kyrgyzstan, 11 PoE in Tajikistan and 8 PoE in Uzbekistan. The reports were finalized and approved by CDC for Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan. Kazakhstan plan to finalize report in 2023. Based on the need assessment, equipment for the points of entry was purchased and the handover in Kyrgyzstan and Uzbekistan was conducted.

From 23 February till 18 March 2022, an IOM Expert on Emergency Health and Border health visited Dushanbe to provide technical support to IOM Tajikistan and IOM Uzbekistan in addressing emergency health issues due to the crises situation in Afghanistan and support in implementing the border health project. In addition, the IOM HQ expert conducted the workshop on health, border, and migration mobility for the Uzbekistan national partners in Tashkent. In total, 30 people took part in the workshop.

On 2-3 March two days **training on cross border coordination and communication** was conducted for the members of the multisectoral team in Tajikistan and on line participants from other CA countries. Training materials were developed jointly with CDC Atlanta. In total, 32 participants increased their knowledge on border health: 22 national specialists from Tajikistan, 7 national specialists from Uzbekistan, 2 people from Kyrgyzstan and one person from Kazakhstan.

In 2022 IOM in CA conducted 20 trainings for the national partners and covered 371 specialists (health and non health) at the points of entry. Training materials on emergency health response at the points of entry were institutionalized in the Republic of Kyrgyzstan, Republic of Tajikistan and Republic of Uzbekistan.

Regional workshop “Extending Cross Border Cooperation and Communication”

On 27-28 May 2022, IOM Tajikistan, jointly with IOM Uzbekistan and other IOM CA offices, in partnership with IOM RO Vienna and IOM HQ with the technical support of the CDC Atlanta and in coordination with WHO Europe, conducted the regional event “Extending Cross Border Cooperation and Communication” in Tashkent (Uzbekistan). The concept note, agenda, presentations, and scenarios for the simulation exercises were developed by IOM Tajikistan jointly with CDC Atlanta, IOM RO Vienna and IOM HQ. The Regional Central Asian (CA) event gathered **72 participants (48m/24f)** from Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan. WHO Europe presented on the topic of International Health Regulations. CDC Atlanta and CDC Central Asia along with IOM experts from IOM RO Vienna and IOM HQ facilitated sessions and made presentations.

During the regional event, the participants drafted a road map on cross-border coordination and communication and the joint recommendations of regional workshop on “Extending Cross-Border Cooperation and Communication to Strengthen Public Health in Central Asia (Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan)”. The materials of the regional event—the agenda, concept paper, joint recommendations and draft road map—were

shared with the involved CA ministries (i.e., Ministries of Health, border service and custom service, Ministry of Transport, Committee on veterinary and food safety, etc.). It was agreed that road map will be finalized on country level and presented during the next regional event.

At the end of the 2022 IOM received additional 100,000USD for continuation of the border health activi-



REGIONAL WORKSHOP IN TASHKENT MAY 2022 © IOM 2022

ties. A second regional workshop on cross-border communication and coordination is planned for May 2023 in Dushanbe, and additional trainings will be conducted in Kazakhstan.

Asian Development Bank Conference in Tbilisi, Georgia

From 11-13 October 2022, The Asian Development Bank (ADB) along with the CAREC Secretariat organised a meeting on opportunities presented by digitization, innovation and regional health cooperation. IOM co-facilitated together with ADB and WHO and contributed to inputs of the breakout sessions in pillar 4: border health and migration) given IOMs experience and activities in border and migrant health in the region. The session covered three sub-topics: (a) cross-border health security, (b) border health, and (c) health and financial protection for labour migrants. IOM showcased the CDC funded regional border health work during the “Market place poster session”.



2ND MEETING OF THE CAREC WORKING GROUP ON HEALTH IN TBLISI, GEORGIA © ADB 2022

HEALTH AND BORDER MANAGEMENT IN CENTRAL ASIA

KYRGYZSTAN

Title: Enhancing Health and Border Management in Kyrgyzstan to respond to COVID-19 and Other Communicable Diseases (MP.0587)

Donor: KOICA

Budget: USD 500,000

Duration: September 2022 - June 2023

The project contributes to the efforts of the Government of the Kyrgyz Republic to reduce the spread of COVID-19 and other communicable diseases by strengthening overall health management (prevention, detection, and response to health threats) at the borders' Points of Entry. The project is in line with the National Programme of the Government of the Kyrgyz Republic "Healthy Person—Prosperous Country, 2019-2030" and supports the Decree of the

President of the Kyrgyz Republic "On Urgent Measures for the Development of Health Care System and Improving the Quality of Life and Health of the Population of the Kyrgyz Republic".

In 2022, IOM Kyrgyzstan carried out preparatory work for the project's implementation, especially the procurement of vehicles, which will be equipped to become ambulances, official uniforms of the Department of Diseases Prevention and State Sanitary and Epidemiological Surveillance on Transport under the Ministry of Health (CSSEST), and other medical equipment. IOM developed technical specifications for all items (uniforms and medical equipment) to be procured. The Ministry of Health approved the technical specifications, and IOM has initiated the tendering process.

IOM held regular meetings with the Ministry of Health and CSSEST to ensure good cooperation between IOM and the national partners. IOM Kyrgyzstan's Chief of Mission discussed cooperation on this project on 15 September and 20 October 2022.

Two full scale SIMEX will be conducted in spring 2023 upon procuring the vehicles and medical equipment so that the items can be utilized during the SIMEX.



TAJIKISTAN

Action supported by the **Comprehensive Action Plan for Afghanistan and neighbouring countries** (funded by Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation) and "Humanitarian support to crisis-affected Afghan nationals in Pakistan, Iran and Tajikistan" (funded by the Government of Italy)

According to International Health Regulations (IHR) emergency health preparedness at the points of entry (PoE) is a core component of the public health security. Following the IHR recommendations, the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan signed the Decree #416 (30 September 2021) on the operating of the sanitary quarantine points (SQPs). The Ministry of Health and Social Protection is responsible for ensuring health security at the territory of the Republic at the PoE and in cross-border communities.

In cooperation with the Ministry of Health and Social Protection and in coordination with the Border Force Troops, IOM built a modular facility for the SQP at the PoE "Ruzvay".

The sanitary quarantine point facility has 100 square meters of space. It has rooms for the health staff, diagnosis, storage and a sanitary block. The two isolation rooms (separately for men and women) for travellers with suspect symptoms of communicable diseases have separate entrances. In addition, IOM established water tower for 10 tonnes that provide uninterrupted water supply not only for the SQP, but also to non-health staff at the PoE.



SANITARY QUARANTINE POINT FACILITY AT POINT OF ENTRY "RUZVAY" © IOM TAJIKISTAN

COVID-19 RESPONSE WESTERN BALKANS

NORTH MACEDONIA

Title: Supporting COVID-19 Prevention Measures in Migrant Centers (MP.0545)
Donor: Council of Europe Development Bank
Budget: USD 250,000.00
Duration: May 2021 — May 2022

This project actively contributed to the institutional efforts in responding to migration-related challenges in North Macedonia. The project supported the country's ongoing efforts in responding to the COVID-19 pandemic and in ensuring the protection of vulnerable categories of migrants, including asylum seekers and potential victims of human trafficking and victims of human trafficking through activities at Reception Center (RC) Vizbegovo.

Tailored assistance was provided for 147 vulnerable migrants (121 male, 36 female), including: 5 persons with physical disability (4 male, 1 female), 18 children (14 boys – among them 3 unaccompanied—and 4 girls), 21 potential victims of human trafficking, 3 males with mental disability, 5 victims of gender based violence, and other vulnerabilities. The following activities were implemented:

- 860 medical assistance (including COVID-19 screenings of migrants and asylum seekers) at the RC Vizbegovo.
- 291 direct assistances based on individual needs for medical and other care for vulnerable categories of migrants.
- Education and tutoring activities for three children accommodated in RC Vizbegovo.
- Procurement of medical and other equipment for the Reception Centre.
- Support in disinfection of premises through external service provider.



COVID-19 SCREENING AT OUTPATIENT CLINIC AT RECEPTION CENTER VIZBEGOVO © IOM NORTH MACEDONIA 2022

BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA

Title: COVID-19 Prevention and Response Measures within the Migration Response in Bosnia and Herzegovina (MP.0546)
Donor: Council of Europe Development Bank
Budget: USD 350,000.00
Duration: May 2021 — January 2023

In response to the challenges faced by the Government of Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH) in addressing the COVID-19 pandemic in its communities, this IOM project aimed to improve access to prevention and vaccination services against COVID-19 for migrants, asylum seekers and refugees in temporary reception centres (TRCs) across BiH, particularly women, unaccompanied children, the elderly and persons with disabilities or with critical medical conditions:

- **4,500 migrants** were reached with **information on COVID-19**, resulting in **1,445 migrants vaccinated** against COVID-19.
- Site improvements ensured the **full functionality of preventive and symptomatic isolation zones in all TRCs**.
- **Gender-sensitive Non-Food Items** were distributed to vulnerable migrants in outside and in TRCs.
- **The medical laboratory in Mostar**, which plays an essential role in the COVID-19 diagnosis for local and migrant populations, was refurbished.
- **Policy dialogue on COVID-19 response in Bosnia and Herzegovina** including migration perspective was strengthened through bringing together over 60 participants from public health, academia, civil society and international organizations at a conference on health of migrants in October 2022.



OPENING OF THE LABORATORY IN MOSTAR © IOM BIH 2022

COMMUNICABLE DISEASES

MOLDOVA

Title: Enhancing Gender-Sensitive Tuberculosis Detection, Surveillance, Treatment and Prevention Among Mobile Populations from the Republic of Moldova (MA.0494)

Donor: IOM Development Fund (IDF)

Budget: USD 300,000

Duration: November 2020 – October 2022

The project's goal was to contribute to good migration and health governance in the Republic of Moldova by developing effective migrant-centred and evidence-based policies, and mainstreaming gender and migrant-sensitive Tuberculosis (TB) interventions throughout the Moldovan National TB Programme while contributing to empowering TB-affected migrants and their families as development actors. By supporting these efforts, the project contributed to generating a comprehensive and holistic understanding of the migrant and gender-specific barriers to accessing TB medical care and improving the formulation and implementation of effective, evidence-based, and gender-sensitive migrant health actions.



AWARENESS RAISING ACTIVITY ON WORLD TB DAY © IOM MOLDOVA 2022

Key achievements of the project:

- A **migration module** for processing health statistics on TB prevalence, disaggregated by gender and migration status was made available in the Information Monitoring and Evaluation system of TB patients in the Republic of Moldova (SIME TB). The system was adjusted to ensure proper monitoring and maintenance support.
- A **study visit** was conducted to the Latvian WHO Collaborating Centre for Research and Training in Management of Multidrug-Resistant Tuberculosis of the Centre of Tuberculosis and Lung Diseases in Riga East University hospital. Participants learned how to scale up existing approaches and familiarized themselves with best practices in using a people-oriented model of TB care, including care for migrants, to achieve better diagnosis and treatment outcomes.
- **Three national information and community-**

based awareness-raising campaigns were carried out targeting health workers, migrant women, men, and refugees fleeing Ukraine. The Information Education Communication materials and video scripts were distributed during the campaigns on 18 December 2021, for Migrant's Day, and 24 March 2021 and 2022 for World TB Day. Students of the Medical University in Chisinau did flashmobs, including at Refugee Accommodation Centers (RACs).

Three Training of Trainers for 40 women TB caretakers and TB survivors to create peer/community support groups were conducted. IOM provided stipends to the three most active TB caretakers and TB survivors to act for three months as TB ambassadors, supporting them to host ten community support group meetings.

A **gender-focused qualitative study on healthcare-seeking behavior and access to tuberculosis treatment among mobile populations** from the Republic of Moldova was published and printed.



LUCRĂRI ÎN STRĂINĂȚATE SAU INTENȚIONAT SĂ PLECEȚI LA MUNCĂ?
CUM SĂ MĂNINȚĂȚI PRINȚIPALII PARTENI. Asigurați-vă că aveți o adresă de email în țara de destinație și că aveți acces la internet pentru a comunica cu familia și prietenii din țara de origine.

TUBERCULOZA NU A DISPĂRUT
Tuberculoza este o boală infectioasă care poate fi prevenită și tratată. Este important să vă feriți de boli și să vă feriți de boli. Dacă aveți simptome, consultați un medic și luați medicamentele prescrise corect și la timp.

CUM SE MANIFESTĂ TUBERCULOZA?
Simptomele pot fi: tuse, spută, pierdere în greutate, febră, transpirații nocturne, durere în piept, hemoptizie, pierdere în greutate, febră, transpirații nocturne, durere în piept, hemoptizie.

CUM AM ÎNCĂ LUCĂM ÎNTR-UN MEDIU DE LUCRU ÎN CĂRTEA DE TUBERCULOZA?
Este important să vă feriți de boli și să vă feriți de boli. Dacă aveți simptome, consultați un medic și luați medicamentele prescrise corect și la timp.

TUBERCULOZA ESTE O BOALĂ CARE POATE FI VINDECATĂ
Tuberculoza este o boală infectioasă care poate fi prevenită și tratată. Este important să vă feriți de boli și să vă feriți de boli. Dacă aveți simptome, consultați un medic și luați medicamentele prescrise corect și la timp.

TUBERCULOZA NU ESTE UN IMPEDIMENT ÎN SARACINĂ
Tuberculoza nu este un impediment în sarcină. Este important să vă feriți de boli și să vă feriți de boli. Dacă aveți simptome, consultați un medic și luați medicamentele prescrise corect și la timp.

TUBERCULOZA POATE FI VINDECATĂ! ÎN MOLDOVA DIAGNOSTICUL ȘI TRATAMENTUL TUBERCULOZEI SUNT GRATUȚI.
Tuberculoza este o boală infectioasă care poate fi prevenită și tratată. Este important să vă feriți de boli și să vă feriți de boli. Dacă aveți simptome, consultați un medic și luați medicamentele prescrise corect și la timp.



IOM—WHO Interregional workshop on gender-sensitive TB control and care among the refugees and migrant population, Moldova 13-14 October 2022

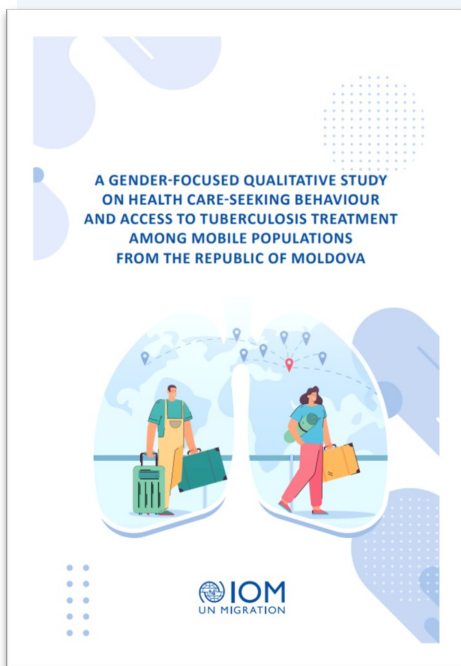
The objectives of the workshop convened by IOM and WHO were to: a) provide an updated overview of TB-related policies and best practices, with a special focus on screening for TB in male and female refugees and migrants and cross-border collaboration; b) provide orientation on cost-effective TB screening; c) strengthen inter-country communication; and d) identify areas for further research and evidence-building.



OPENING PANEL OF THE TUBERCULOSIS CONFERENCE © IOM MOLDOVA 2022

The workshop also served a platform to present the gender-focused qualitative study on TB.

Participants from National Tuberculosis Programmes across Eastern European countries discussed the different challenges and practices of cross-border TB control and care, also in the light of the Ukraine refugee crisis. The workshop was attended by national and international health experts from countries with high to intermediate TB incidence in the WHO European Region. The workshop's recommendations, reports and frameworks will serve as a basis for the formulation of pertinent interventions to the relevant state and civil society actors on TB prevention and control among refugees and migrant populations.



UZBEKISTAN

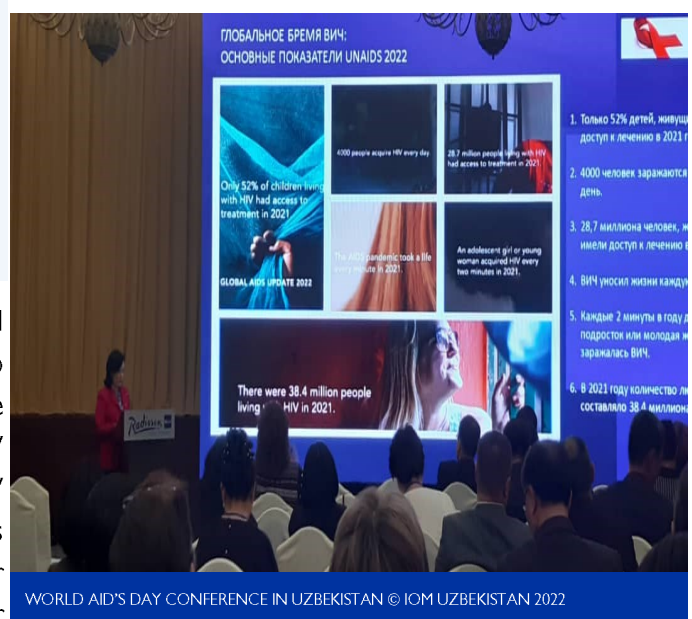
Title: Enhancing Access to HIV Prevention and Treatment for Migrants and their Families in Uzbekistan (MA.0532)

Donor: IOM Development Fund (IDF)

Budget: USD 300,000.00

Duration: December 2022 - November 2024

IOM launched its first HIV project in Uzbekistan on World AIDS Day on 1 December 2022, which will contribute to the Government of Uzbekistan efforts to counter the spread of HIV through a migrant-inclusive approach HIV policy development and increasing awareness levels on HIV risks, increasing prevention and treatment among migrants and their family members, as well as delivering training for healthcare providers. The project aims to achieve a better understanding of the risks of HIV among migrants and their families, as well as enhanced access to gender and age responsive referral to HIV services and treatment, safeguarding the rights of the target groups.



WORLD AIDS DAY CONFERENCE IN UZBEKISTAN © IOM UZBEKISTAN 2022

COMMUNICABLE DISEASES

BELARUS

Title: Belarus: Supporting National Capacities in Migration Health Focusing on Communicable Diseases (MA.0528)

Donor: IOM Development Fund

Budget: USD 300,000.00

Duration: January 2022 — December 2023

The project aims to support the Government of Belarus in aligning migration health policies and programmes with empirical data and best international practices, focusing on preventing infectious diseases through a multisectoral and gender-sensitive approach. To contribute to the achievement of the project objective, the project aims to generate evidence on migrants' health needs related to communicable diseases, conduct multisectoral capacity building activities for national authorities, and promote the inclusion of migrants into national public health programmes.

Since the start of the project, the following key achievements have been made:

- An **inter-ministerial Steering Committee (SC)** was established, representing a wide range of national stakeholders (state authorities and non-governmental organizations) and the first SC meeting was conducted.
- Strong **collaborative partnership** with the main stakeholders has been solidified by keeping the issue of migrants' health on the national agenda. High interest in the issue of migration and health has been supported by providing members of the inter-ministerial Steering Committee of the project with an opportunity to make inputs into the study on migrants' health by providing relevant information to the research database. The issue of migration and health in Belarus was also discussed during high-level thematic meetings, like joint UN – Belarus Government World AIDS Day on 1 December 2022.
- The **research concept**, including methodology and research tools for the study on migrants' health, have been developed in collaboration with MHD RO Vienna and MHD Research. Ethical clearance of the nationwide research was obtained from the Scientific Research Committee of the Ministry of Health. The final draft of the **desk review and data collection for the**

empirical study were completed in December 2022.

Based on the results of the research on migration and health, consultations started with national health authorities on the development of **standard operating procedures** for the **referral of migrants to COVID-19 vaccination**.

IOM **training modules on migration and health** were selected in consultation with the main stakeholders for adaptation to the Belarusian context, editing, translating and disseminating for training purposes.



IOM BELARUS CHIEF OF MISSION MAHYM ORAZMUHAMMEDOVA AND DEPUTY MINISTER OF HEALTHCARE ALEKSANDAR TARASENKO AT THE COORDINATION COUNCIL MEETING IN JUNE 2022 © IOM BELARUS 2022

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