

## Switzerland boosts funding support to IOM's Ukraine response

**BERNE, SWITZERLAND [15<sup>th</sup> June, 2022]** – The International Organization for Migration (IOM) has received new funding from the Swiss government towards IOM's [Ukraine Flash Appeal](#) to support the Ukraine response. The funding (CHF 5 million) by the State Secretariat for Migration (SEM) will enable IOM to provide critical humanitarian assistance to people fleeing the war in Ukraine and arriving in neighbouring countries

“The scale and unpredictability of the situation requires immediate and ongoing humanitarian assistance,” said Berta Fernández-Alfaro, IOM’s Chief of Mission in Switzerland. “IOM aims to provide lifesaving assistance and ensure accessibility of basic services to those individuals, including refugees and third-country nationals as well as vulnerable individuals most exposed to risk.”

“Particular emphasis will be given to women, children, older persons and persons living with disabilities or chronic diseases, and persons of diverse Sexual Orientation, Gender Identity and Expression, and Sex Characteristics,” she added.

Countries neighbouring Ukraine continue to encounter strains on shelter, reception and transit capacities, and many of the most vulnerable people fleeing Ukraine face the risk of exploitation and other abuses.

Significant in-kind contributions by local communities and international donors have tackled urgent needs but gaps remain in comprehensive support and information available to those impacted by the war.

The Swiss contribution to the flash appeal will allow IOM to meet the varied needs of those individuals and ensure rapid support for protection, shelter, site management support and humanitarian border management in Poland, Romania, Slovakia, Hungary, and the Czech Republic.

“The Swiss State Secretariat for Migration is proud to support IOM’s response to help those fleeing the war in Ukraine, who are seeking protection and shelter in neighbouring EU-countries. In this sense, Switzerland expresses its solidarity with the people in need and the hosting communities”, said Christine Schraner Burgener, the SEM’s State Secretary. “This project is the first supported under the Framework Credit on Migration of the second Swiss Contribution to selected EU Member States. We look forward to our cooperation with IOM.”

IOM will work closely with governmental authorities including the border guards, the ministry of interior, the office for foreigners as well as local authorities and the private sector to deliver assistance in the targeted countries and ensure robust coordination during the implementation of its activities. IOM will also liaise with other UN partners and civil society, as well as other IOM missions in countries of origin of third-country nationals to coordinate the delivery of this targeted assistance.

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**About IOM:** The International Organization for Migration (IOM) is an international, intergovernmental organization founded in 1951 to help displaced persons, refugees and migrants in Europe. Currently, IOM has 151 Member States and 12 other Member States have observer status. As a leading international organization in the field of migration, IOM is working in partnership with governments and migrants to address migration issues. IOM's mission and activities are based on the principle that humane and organized migration benefits both migrants and society. It covers a wide range of migration issues in all areas of the world.