

We hope that this finds you and your colleagues, families and loved ones well. This newsletter will introduce you to our new Director General and also provide you an insight into the work of IOM in Austria and the world. We wish you an interesting read!



We are delighted to inform you that Amy E. Pope of the United States of America has begun her five-year term as the eleventh Director General of IOM. The first woman to become Director General in IOM's 72-year history, DG Pope was elected on 15 May 2023 during the Sixth Special Session of the IOM Council in Geneva. DG Pope expressed her sincere gratitude to Mr. António Vitorino for his stewardship of IOM over the past five years and paid tribute to his commitment to the Organization. Before joining IOM, DG Pope served as the Senior Advisor on Migration to US President Biden and as the Deputy Homeland Security Advisor to President Obama. Welcome DG Pope!

On 18 and 19 September, the SDG Summit took place during the UN General Assembly in New York City. The sobering picture of the reversal of progress towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals is a wake-up call demanding Member States to redouble their efforts and utilize every available solution to overcome the multiple crises facing our communities.

None of today's challenges, from climate change to conflict, can be tackled effectively without considering human mobility. Evidence shows that migration supports sustainable development, and that people on the move can be part of the solution. The SDG Summit was the venue for Member States, local governments, youth and others to identify concrete commitments to ensure that human mobility is a central element of the Rescue Plan for the SDGs.

Building on the SDG Summit, IOM hosted the second session of the 2023 [International Dialogue on Migration](#) (IDM) on 5-6 October. The IDM is IOM's flagship initiative that brings together migration stakeholders at a global level to discuss the opportunities and challenges migration presents. This session challenged participants to think about "The Future of Human Mobility and Climate Change". In this context, IOM facilitated virtual regional dialogues to strengthen regional cooperation and create communities of practice in each region, in which also Austrian stakeholders participated.

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IOM Austria records an increase of migrants in vulnerable situations in 2023: Tailored assistance in their voluntary return from Austria is indispensable

As outlined by the recently published [IOM Return and Reintegration Key Highlights 2022](#), there has been a significant global increase of persons in vulnerable situations who were assisted in their voluntary return by IOM. Compared to the year before, the total number rose by 70 per cent to 7,561 migrants. In part, this increase is due to the general growth in return numbers.

This global trend is also reflected in the figures in Austria. In the first half year of 2023, 87 migrants in vulnerable situations returned voluntarily from Austria to their countries of origin with the assistance of IOM. The largest number (16 people) returned to Georgia, followed by the Republic of Moldova (9), the Russian Federation and Serbia (both 7 migrants) as well as Azerbaijan (6).

Out of 87 assisted returnees in vulnerable situations, 43 had health needs, 24 were children with single parents, 11 were older people (over 65 years old). In addition, 8 migrants with other vulnerabilities and one unaccompanied child were assisted. The larger part of assisted voluntary returnees in situations of vulnerability were male (60.92%).

One recent example for IOM Austria's work in assisting migrants in vulnerable situations was the support of a single mother and her three small children in their voluntary return from Vienna to Ulaanbaatar in Mongolia. In addition to having to take care of her children and a lot of luggage, the mother was also pregnant. During the journey, an IOM Austria staff accompanied the family as operational escort to make sure that the family of four could return in a safe and dignified manner.

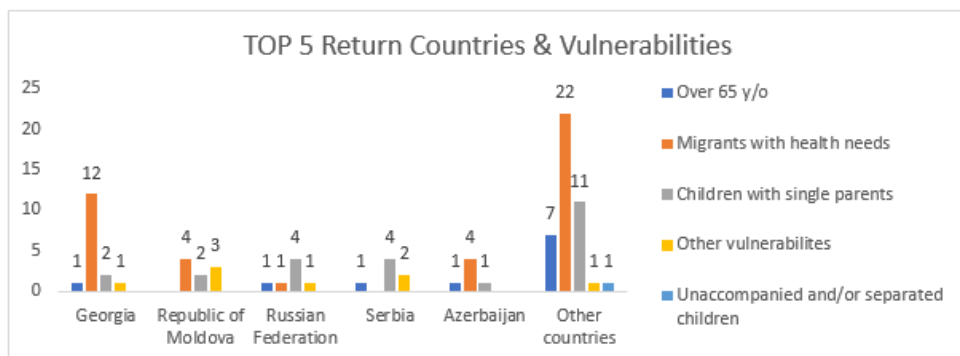
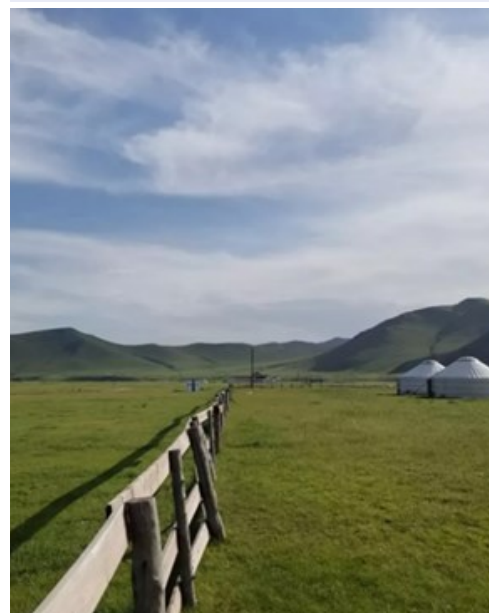
Since there were no direct flights to Mongolia, the family needed to travel via Istanbul. Transit assistance organized by IOM was provided so that they could smoothly reach the gate for the connecting flight to Ulaanbaatar.

"The trip to Ulaanbaatar was both tiring and rewarding. The woman expressed great gratitude for IOM's support. Her balanced nature, the children's curiosity, the airport assistance in Istanbul and Ulaanbaatar and the joy of seeing her reunite with her sister made this trip an unforgettable experience." – IOM Austria staff Katharina Klüber.



Above: IOM Austria Operations staff Katharina Klüber (right) with a colleague who welcomed the single mother with her children in Ulaanbaatar.
© IOM Austria 2023

Below: Astonishing landscape in Mongolia.
© IOM Austria 2023



The support of the Austrian return and reintegration system is co-financed by the Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund (AMIF) of the European Union and the Austrian Federal Ministry of the Interior.



 **Federal Ministry
Republic of Austria
Interior**

COUNTER TRAFFICKING (CT)

“I Lend My Voice”– IOM global campaign to stand with survivors of human trafficking

With an estimated fifty million people trapped in modern slavery in 2021, it is crucial to increase awareness and strengthen counter-trafficking efforts. In partnership with American TV Host and Producer Jeannie Mai, and with the generous participation of celebrities such as Diego Tinoco and Leona Lewis, IOM aims to amplify the stories of survivors*, generate support, and raise funds to help victims and reduce the risk of trafficking. By sharing powerful narratives, IOM aims to shed light on the harsh experiences faced by trafficked persons, inspire action, and foster empathy.

Everyone can make a difference by learning to spot signs of trafficking, safely reporting them, and supporting survivors. Join IOM in sharing stories, accessing prevention resources, and supporting trafficking victims and survivors.

The campaign will raise funds for the IOM Global Assistance Fund, which provides assistance to trafficked persons and migrants at risk of trafficking. Learn more about the campaign on campaigns.iom.int. Details on IOM Austria's activities in the area of counter-trafficking are available on our [website](#).

** To ensure the privacy and security of survivors, all stories are data-based narratives from consolidated data of survivors identified by IOM and partners.*



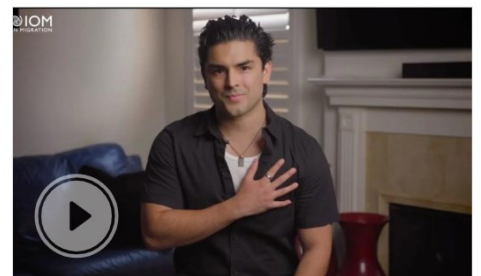
VIDEO | 27 Jul 2023

I am Jeannie Mai and I Lend My Voice



VIDEO | 26 Jul 2023

I am Leona Lewis and I Lend My Voice



VIDEO | 26 Jul 2023

I am Diego Tinoco and I Lend My Voice

Vienna Conference on Combatting Trafficking in Human Beings 19 October 2023

The annual event of the Austrian Task Force on Combatting Trafficking in Human Beings will be held under the title “Boundaries and Frontiers in Human Trafficking”. The hybrid event will be held in the Vienna School of International Studies and online. Interpretation is available for English and German.

IOM Austria is co-hosting an afternoon workshop with the victim assistance organization MEN VIA on “Boundaries of Responsibility: Solidarity against Labour Exploitation” (German only). If you are interested in attending the event online, you are kindly requested to register [here](#) by 16 October 2023.

Vienna Conference on Combatting
Trafficking in Human Beings

**BOUNDARIES AND
FRONTIERS IN HUMAN
TRAFFICKING**

19 October 2023

Vienna School of International Studies



Project WIR IV - Workshops on Integration and Encounters

The [WIR project](#) consists of a series of workshops for young people with migration biographies on topics such as experiences of discrimination, identity, belonging and gender. Participants create a film in the thematic range of the workshops. Another component of the project is a training and mentoring for so-called multipliers: Former workshop participants learn to conduct their own workshops in schools – they thus act as role models and inspire other teenagers to get involved in topics of social inclusion.

This year's media workshops took place in June and July under the guidance of media expert Calimaat (Camil Bahtijarević) and graphic designer Billûr Yildirim. The experts offered workshops on designing film posters as well as filmic design (storyboard drafting, scene design, camera and light settings, etc.). The young participants had the opportunity to familiarize themselves with the various techniques and discover new talents. In parallel, they developed various scripts for their short film in small groups.

After having reviewed the scripts, the participants decided to continue working with a story about everyday racism in the form of a comedy about mistaken identity. Realizing their idea as a film and poster design was hard work but by the end of the workshop, all the scenes had been shot! The participants are now looking forward to presenting their short film to the public and sharing anecdotes about its creation with the audience during the Closing Event.

This year's Closing Event will take place on **13 October 2023 from 18:00h-21:00h at SkyDome - Wiener Hilfswerk**, Schottenfeldgasse 29, 1070 Vienna. If you are interested in attending the event, please register under the following link (in German): <https://tinyurl.com/39yjk5rw>. We are looking forward to seeing you there!

Following the workshop series, eight adolescents with a migration background were trained as multipliers in a one-day training on “Designing and Moderating Workshops” in September 2023. Supported by an IOM mentor, they will prepare and hold their own workshops in schools. In the training, participants shared their expectations in being multipliers and had the opportunity to practice speaking in front of a group.

They already defined topics for their upcoming workshops, such as “*Future Dreams & Dealing with Expectations in Society*” and “*Identity & Belonging*”, which WIR IV multipliers will hold in secondary schools in Vienna in October and November 2023. We will keep you posted!



IOM mentor Mia discusses dealing with nervousity when holding a workshop with multipliers. © IOM 2023



SURVEY REPORT

DISPLACED PERSONS FROM UKRAINE IN AUSTRIA

Risk Factors in the Area of Housing

IOM Survey Report on displaced persons from Ukraine in Austria identifies potential risk factors for experiencing violence, exploitation or abuse in the context of housing

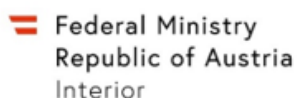
In early 2023, IOM Austria, in cooperation with the Austrian Federal Ministry of the Interior and the Austrian Integration Fund, conducted an online survey among 552 displaced persons from Ukraine. The aim was to collect data on the living and housing situation of displaced persons from Ukraine residing in Austria in order to identify potential risks of experiencing violence, exploitation or abuse. The fact that a significant proportion of displaced persons from Ukraine lives in private accommodation presents particular challenges and potential vulnerabilities. According to our survey, two thirds (65%) live in private accommodation. 66 per cent of these are renting, whilst the other 27 per cent are accommodated by friends, relatives or people not known to them before arrival.

The data collected were analysed using IOM's Determinants of Migrant Vulnerability Model in order to promote a broad understanding of possible risk factors. The model looks at risk factors (which contribute to vulnerability) and protective factors (which increase resilience) and how they interact. The survey collected data on a range of individual factors (such as sex, age, educational level), household/family factors (such as number of children, income level) and a number of community factors (such as social networks, access to information).

Several likely protective factors could be identified such as legal status, level of education, work experience, language skills, well-established networks amongst displaced persons from Ukraine and others. These are significant protective factors since it means that individuals enjoy rights, are better able to understand and advocate for those rights, tend to have more resources, to be more likely to have work opportunities, are more informed and are able to reach out to others for support. However, we are concerned with a group of persons that tends to be at a higher risk of potential vulnerability as it consists of female single-headed households with children. Potential risks of vulnerabilities are further increased by the respondents' weak financial situation. This creates a number of additional likely risk factors in the area of housing such as assumed or actual dependence on the housing provider and interpersonal conflicts between household members caused by challenging living conditions. Added to this is a lack of information about support structures and services, particularly on employment and housing, as well as a lack of information on support in the event of violence, exploitation or abuse.

Keeping in mind that the results cannot be generalized to a larger population because the sample is not representative, we nevertheless recommend addressing two key risk factors: the precarious financial situation and lack of information about support structures. Certain policy decisions and interventions have the potential to convert these likely risk factors into protective factors, and the overall resilience of the population in question could be significantly improved. Further details can be found in the Survey Report.

For further information, please see our [website](#). The survey report is available here: [Displaced Persons from Ukraine in Austria. Risk Factors in the Area of Housing](#). Heilemann, S., 2023, International Organization for Migration (IOM), Vienna.





EMN Austria Annual Report on Migration and Asylum 2022

In August, EMN Austria published the [EMN Austria Annual Report on Migration and Asylum 2022](#). It offers a comprehensive overview of Austria's migration and asylum-related developments and discussions spanning from January to December 2022. Notably, the dominant issue of last year was the Ukrainian conflict, necessitating the implementation of new regulations, such as the Regulation on Displaced Persons, and adjustments to existing systems, particularly within the realm of integration. Additionally, a comprehensive reform of the pertinent legal frameworks introduced modifications and streamlining of labor migration processes, alongside measures designed to alleviate Austria's skilled labor shortage. Moreover, the surge in international protection applications and the subsequent strain on basic care capacity played a prominent role in media coverage during this period.

EMN Austria National Conference on 26 September 2023 Opportunities and Challenges in the Management of the EU's External Borders

The management of the EU's external borders and the Schengen system have been high on the political agenda in EU Member States and at the EU level for several years. This year's EMN Austria National Conference provided room for discussion on the effective and humanitarian protection of the EU's external borders, shortcomings of the Schengen system, sustainable solutions for maritime borders (Search & Rescue) and preventing "instrumentalization of migration". Distinguished speakers shared their expertise as well as recent policy and legal developments of the EU's external borders. Selected policy makers, practitioners and experts discussed the management of the EU's external borders from a practical perspective and fostered a discussion on cooperation and capacity building in third countries in the areas of migration management, return and readmissions.

The conference was organized in close cooperation with the Austrian Federal Ministry of the Interior and held under the Chatham House Rule. More information is available [here](#).



Opening of the conference. © IOM 2023



 **Federal Ministry
Republic of Austria**
Interior

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and the Austrian Federal Ministry of the Interior.*