



Note for the File

Event	TCN Working Group Meeting
Date and Place	29.04.2022 12:00, Teams
Attended by	See participant list below
NFF prepared by	Natalie Payne, IOM Poland

Overview:

- Focus on AVR and Humanitarian Return activities undertaken by IOM to support TCNs who wish to return to their country of origin / country of nationality

Participant List:

- Agnieszka Matejczuk, SIP
- Jacek Białas HFPC
- Khaled Khaled
- Marta Staniszevska
- Kasia Błasińska
- Mame Faye-Rexhepi
- Francisco Yermo
- LeClair, Alden
- Aga Macura
- Jessica Caplin
- Kaja Wislinska
- Caterina Franchi
- Michał Zawistowski
- Natalia Warcholak
- PAYNE Natalie (IOM Poland)
- PIECHOWSKA Emilia (IOM Poland)
- Kamila Dembińska, KIK
- Maria Ossolińska, KIK
- Konstanty Sawchenko (IOM Poland)

General updates:

- Reminder that IOM Poland's TCN Office Hours will take place on Wednesdays from 14-17. TCNs should book the time slot calling: +48 724 078 537.

- Reminder of accommodation schemes to support TCNs, including the IOM-AirBNB agreement.
- Useful information on the Polish Asylum procedure has been shared by WG member Przemek Bednarz. It is complimentary to the information shared previously on regularizing TCN's status by Jessica Caplin (UNHCR) and Emilia Piechowska (IOM Poland). The information will be added to the WG SharePoint folder and will be distributed along with the minutes from this meeting.
- A master file on applicable conditions for stay and services for Ukrainian Nationals and TCNs in EU member states, prepared by IOM RO Brussels, will also be shared with participants. The document was compiled with open-source information from both governmental and non-governmental sources. The file is a 'living document' that is intended to be updated regularly. A version of the document, accurate and up-to-date as of 03.05.2022 will be distributed along with the minutes of this meeting.

Options for Humanitarian Return of TCNs Konstanty Sawchenko, IOM Poland

- The provision of assistance in the voluntary return (AVR) is available for migrants who, for various reasons, are unable to return to their home country independently, particularly those in situation of vulnerability (such as victims of trafficking, unaccompanied migrant children, victims of abuse and gender based violence, person with disabilities and medical needs, etc).
- Previously, the AVR program was addressed to citizens of countries outside the European Union who have been refused refugee status, subsidiary protection or tolerated residence permit or who stay in Poland without a valid visa or other document entitling to legal residence. Voluntary returns for those who evacuated Ukraine have been extended to those with both legal as well as irregular stay
- While many embassies are able to arrange the evacuation and repatriation of their nationals, IOM Poland has been approached by both individuals and consular representatives to ask for help facilitating return
- Individuals and embassies can ask for more information on AVR/Humanitarian Return and make an application via:
 - Number: [+48 \(22\) 628 24 13](tel:+48226282413); [+48 \(22\) 623 81 88](tel:+48226238188)
 - Email: iomwarsawavr@iom.int
 - AVR website - [IOM | Application](#). Information and application materials are available in various languages
- Counselling is provided to migrants to ensure their decision to return is informed and voluntary
- IOM assists with the obtention of documents and where necessary notarized translations, which can be a time-consuming process. IOM also liaises with governments and consulates of the country of return to facilitate reentry
- IOM makes and covers the costs of travel arrangements
- Can provide temporary accommodation, cover basic needs (food, hygiene kits, cash allowance up to 800zł per person)
- IOM has no involvement with forced returns



- Reintegration is a big part of returns activities, rules vary depending on country of citizenship, all beneficiaries are eligible for a cash allowance plus in-kind assistance in some cases. Reintegration assistance is often coordinated with the IOM office in the country of return
- Returns have been suspended to specific countries if they have been deemed unsafe, such as Ukraine, Afghanistan, and Iraq. The ban on returns to Ethiopia was recently lifted.

Humanitarian Return Statistics

- Georgia - 2
- Azerbaijan - 197 (192 through one organized repatriation)
- Kenya - 1
- Lebanon - 20
- So far, Humanitarian Return is primarily organized for individuals