



International Organization for Migration (IOM)
The UN Migration Agency

IOM's ASSISTANCE TO CONFLICT-AFFECTED PEOPLE IN UKRAINE

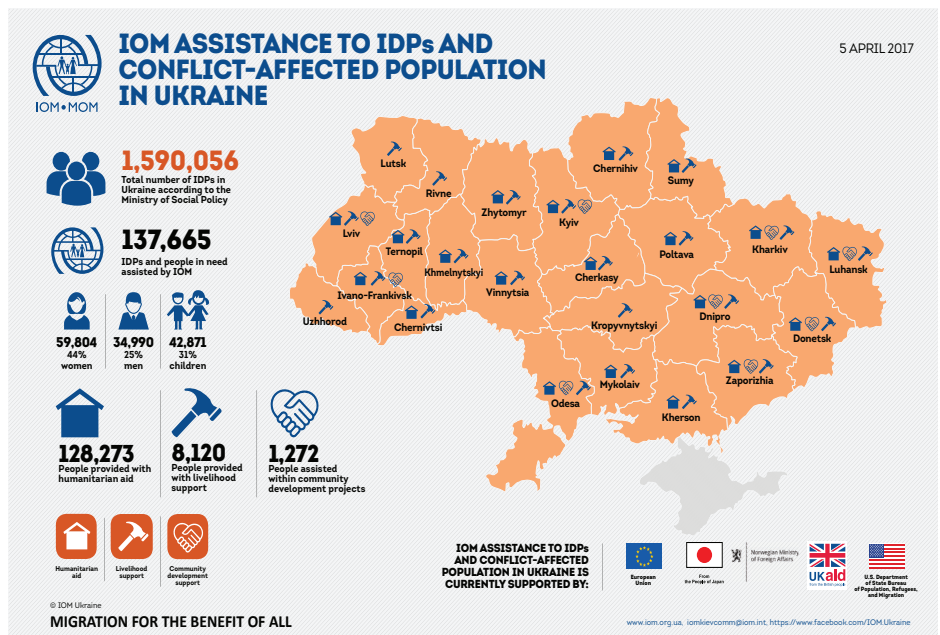
MONTHLY REPORT

Migration for the Benefit of All

MARCH 2017

HIGHLIGHTS

- The total number of internally displaced persons (IDPs) from Crimea and eastern Ukraine is **1,590,056** as of 3 April 2017, according to the Ministry of Social Policy of Ukraine.
- IOM assisted over **137,000** vulnerable IDPs and conflict-affected people in 24 regions of Ukraine.
- Lack of funds made **40%** of vulnerable IDPs IOM assisted with cash in Ukraine refuse medical treatment, according to the **post-distribution monitoring of IOM's project** in 13 regions of Ukraine.



Enlarged version of the map on [page 7](#)

IOM's RESPONSE TO DATE

IOM EXPANDS ITS LIVELIHOOD SUPPORT TO CONFLICT-AFFECTED PEOPLE

Since the beginning of the year, another 2,300 IDPs and members of IDP-host communities have been supported with micro-business, self-employment and professional orientation training across the country. Over 1,300 people have already successfully defended their business plans and are now in the process of receiving grants for vocational training or assets which will help them to have new or expand their current income opportunities. The continuation of IOM's livelihood support programme for IDPs and conflict-affected people in Ukraine is made possible with funding from the European Union and the U.K. Department for International Development (DFID).



IOM partner NGO staff plays with a baby while baby's mother, an IDP, defends her business plan



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From 2014 to 2016, with the support of different donors, IOM has already provided business training for over 5,500 IDPs and local community members, with in-kind equipment grants and vocational training for more than 3,300 beneficiaries. 60% of IOM's livelihoods programme beneficiaries are women.



A business training conducted by an IOM partner NGO in Ivano-Frankivsk, Western Ukraine



Sweets and eco-friendly toys were among micro-business ideas of IOM's livelihood programme participants in Zhytomyr



IOM LIVELIHOOD SUPPORT TO IDPs AND CONFLICT-AFFECTED POPULATION IN UKRAINE

5 APRIL 2017



8,120 IDPs and local community members have been supported by IOM with micro-business and self-employment training



4,900 women (60%)



3,220 men (40%)



6,460 IDPs (80%)



1,660 local community members (20%)



4,693 beneficiaries have been supported with grants for micro-business, self-employment or vocational training



2,793 women (60%)



1,900 men (40%)



471 vocational training (10%)



588 micro-business (11%)



3,634 self-employment (79%)



384 retail (8%)



525 agriculture (11%)

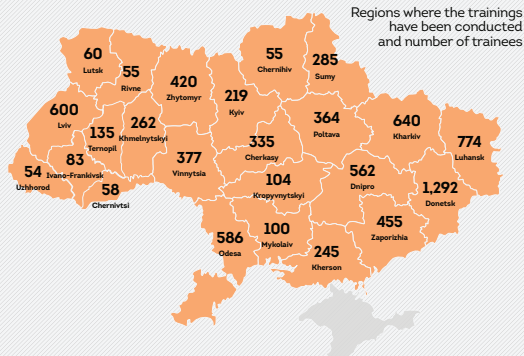


695 production (15%)



3,089 services (65%)

MIGRATION FOR THE BENEFIT OF ALL



LIVELIHOOD SUPPORT TO IDPs AND CONFLICT-AFFECTED POPULATION IN UKRAINE IS CURRENTLY SUPPORTED BY:



www.iom.org.ua, <https://www.facebook.com/IOM.Ukraine>



COMMUNITIES IN EASTERN UKRAINE RECEIVE FURTHER RECOVERY SUPPORT FROM IOM



Head of Donetsk Regional State Administration Pavlo Zhebrivskiy presented a 'vyshyvanka' to the Ambassador of Japan Shigeki Sumi at the IOM-organized community festival in Sviatohirsk. The shirt, created by a young artist from Kramatorsk, has traditional Donbas embroidery and signs from the Japanese alphabet

On 31 March, the Government of Ukraine and the Embassy of Japan announced a number of Japan-funded projects for 2017, which will provide recovery support to the eastern regions of Ukraine. Total funding amounts to USD 3.9 mln, with almost one million allocated for a new community development project to be implemented by IOM.

At the end of March, communities from Donetsk and Luhansk regions that have already benefited from IOM's initiatives funded by the Gov-

ernment of Japan, celebrated the completion of the project at the festival in Sviatohirsk. The Communities' Festival brought together some 250 participants, who shared their best practices in social cohesion, brainstormed on how to make their communities' social cohesion plans sustainable and long-lasting, and enjoyed the performances by talented dancers and singers from the Donbas, as well as by masters from the Ukraine – Japan Centre, among them Volodymyr Lazutkin (Japanese flute player), Ole-

na Hrebenuk (opera singer), Hitoshi Nakamura (Japanese calligrapher).

"Ukraine and Japan are very far apart, but our people share the same values and same spirit," H.E. Mr. Shigeki Sumi, the Ambassador of Japan, said opening the festival.

Head of the Donetsk Regional State Administration Mr. Pavlo Zhebrivskiy noted that projects like the one IOM has been implementing are helping people to become more open to the world and to each other. "Joint initiatives of the Japanese Government



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A symbolic ceremony of 'cranes' released into the sky was held after the opening of the youth creativity centre in Bilokurakyne, Luhansk Region, renovated with funding from Japan

and IOM are very valuable as they contribute to the creation of passionate activists' groups, teach them how to work in a team and build an atmosphere of trust and honesty. With this knowledge, people will start developing new projects, not only with funding from donors, but also with public or business funds," added Mr. Zhebrivskiy.

Over the past year, in total 20 communities in Luhansk and Donetsk regions have benefited from the Japan-funded social cohesion project. Twelve social institutions, namely municipal and district libraries, cultural centres, as well as children and youth's creativity centres, were renovated. The project has been beneficial for some 30,000 people who took part in social cohesion activities and are attending renovated social infrastructure objects.

In the framework of a new Japan-funded IOM project, starting this



Children perform at the opening of the renovated library in Lyman, Donetsk Region

spring, those 20 communities will be further supported in their social cohesion activities. Additionally, nine new communities will be selected to receive support in

the refurbishment of social infrastructure and implementation of their plans on building trust and promoting dialogue between community members.



SPECIAL REPORT

IOM-SUPPORTED HOTLINE PROVIDES CONFLICT-AFFECTED PEOPLE WITH QUALITY INFORMATION SERVICES



Donbas SOS hotline operators answer some 100 calls daily

In 2017, IOM continued supporting a toll-free IDP advice hotline run by the NGO Donbas SOS. The hotline helps displaced people and conflict-affected population to receive reliable information on a wide range of queries they have. IOM has been cooperating with the Donbas SOS since 2015 in the framework of EU-funded projects.

Currently, six hotline operators provide free information services to some 100 persons daily. Donbas SOS provides helpful information to IDPs and conflict-affected people in order to address legal and social is-

ssues they might have, learn about humanitarian aid distributions, get contacts of the organizations that provide target assistance to people in need, etc. Most of the calls come from the major IDP-hosting regions and the conflict-affected zone – Donetsk (government-controlled area – GCA), Luhansk (GCA), Kyiv, Kharkiv, Dnipropetrovsk and Zaporizhia regions as well as from the non-government-controlled area (NGCA). “The queries we receive have not changed much over time. Now we have fewer requests for clothes comparing to the first year of the

conflict. However, needs in better housing and issues related to the suspension of social payments remain the main subjects of queries,” says Donbas SOS expert on humanitarian issues Nelli. She explains that some queries are season-related. “In winter, when prices for heating skyrocketed, people began to call asking where they could get food assistance because they were spending all their income on utility bills and had to cut expenses for food. Also we had many requests from the conflict zone for provision of coal and wood for heating.”



IDP advice hotline poster

The hotline also receives a lot of queries about IDP registration and documentation, as well as the procedures for crossing the check points. Many people ask where they could get assistance for purchasing medicines and paying for medical treatment. "Many of them have a very complicated condition, for example chronic diseases or cancer," Nelli explains. Young generation of conflict-affected Ukrainians has other type of problems. "Students still need guidance on how to validate

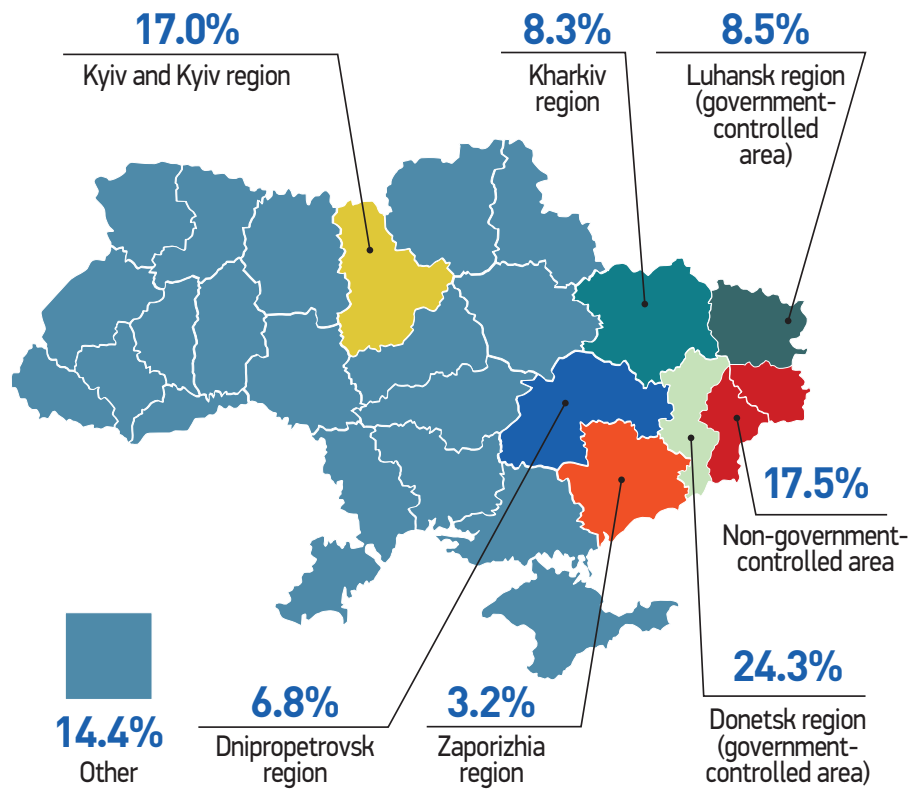


2,632
number
of calls
in March 2017

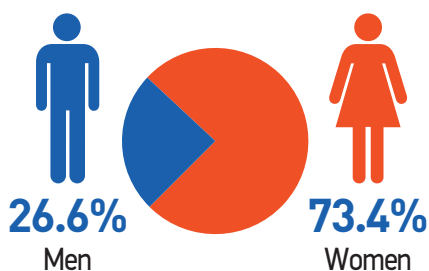


3,625
number
of queries
in March 2017

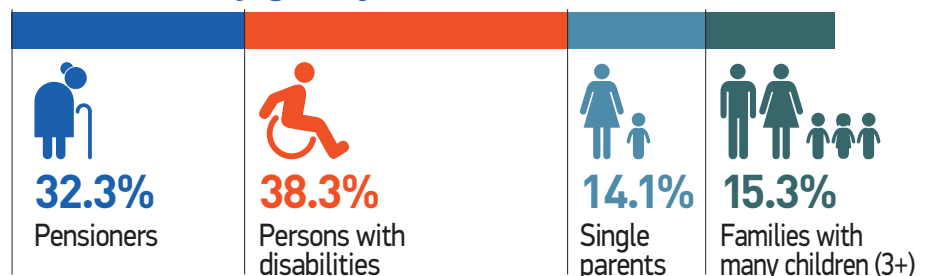
Regional breakdown



Gender distribution



Vulnerability group distribution





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the school certificates issued by the self-proclaimed authorities in NGCA, pass external independent evaluations, get a place in a dormitory and get registered to receive social benefits.”

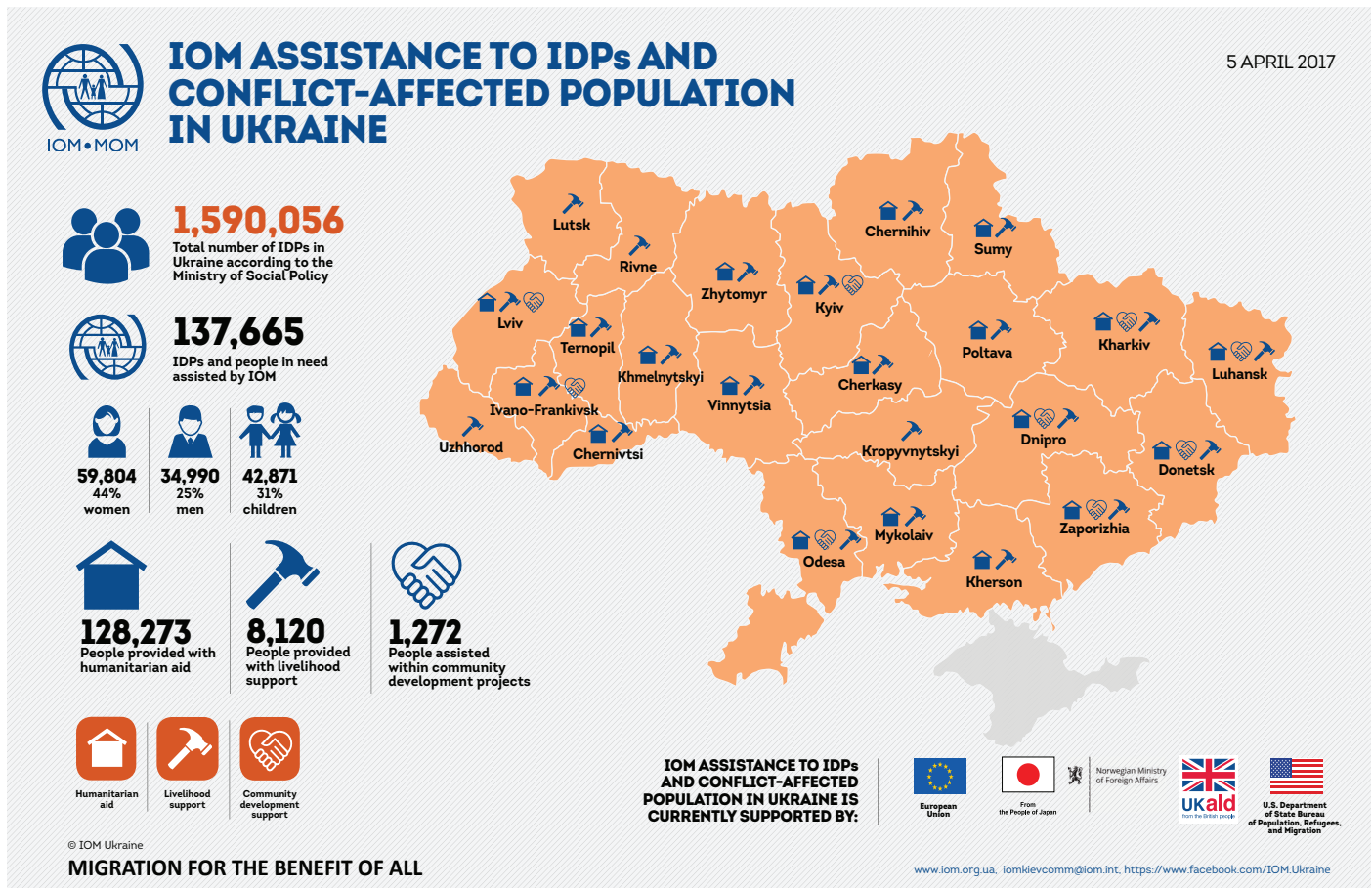
According to Nelli, the hotline recently started receiving calls regarding employment abroad from IDPs who have been moving around Ukraine for some time in search of job opportunities but could not find anything stable.

“Sometimes it is not possible to immediately address a query. In such a situation we provide case management services,” Nelli tells. “Some time ago we received a call from the Staryi Aidar village in Luhansk Region informing that children in this community have to cross daily 3 to 5 km on foot in order to get to the school located in the neighbouring village, as the bus connection was interrupted in 2014 when the conflict started. Currently, we are work-

ing closely with local authorities to solve this issue.”

The hotline team has gained big experience and knowledge of the vulnerable population's issues and needs. All the queries are registered electronically and monthly statistics are provided to IOM. This helps the International Organization for Migration to better understand the needs of IDPs and conflict-affected population for further planning of its crisis response activities.

IOM's RESPONSE MAP





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BACKGROUND ON THE CRISIS

In April 2014, armed groups in the Donbas region of eastern Ukraine (Donetsk and Luhansk) began to seize buildings and arms. As a result of ongoing fighting between armed groups and government forces, as well as the events which occurred in the Autonomous Republic of Crimea (ARC) in March 2014, many people have been forced to flee their homes and have become increasingly vulnerable. Most leave with few belongings and are in need of shelter, food and non-food assistance, as their savings are often meager, social benefits take time to re-register, and livelihoods options may be restricted. Concurrently, while grassroots volunteer organizations, civil society and host communities have provided a robust response to the immediate needs of IDPs, the economic crisis in Ukraine has hampered opportunities for more durable solutions, in part through employment and community stabilization. Those staying in the Donbas, particularly in areas affected by fighting along the contact line, face imminent security threats. The provision of basic services has been disrupted, supplies are increasingly limited, and economic activity has been crippled. Ongoing daily ceasefire violations continue to be reported.

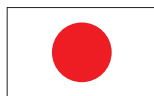
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IOM's ASSISTANCE TO CONFLICT-AFFECTED PEOPLE IN UKRAINE IS CURRENTLY SUPPORTED BY:



European Union



From the People of Japan



Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs



UKaid
from the British people



U.S. Department of State Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration

In line with IOM's global strategy, the IOM Mission in Ukraine aims at advancing the understanding of the opportunities and challenges of migration in the Ukrainian context. Maximizing those opportunities and minimizing the challenges presented by migratory movements are the guiding principles of all activities and programmes the Mission engages in.

IOM Ukraine fights trafficking in human beings, assists the Government in addressing the needs of internally displaced persons and dealing with irregular migration, improving its migration management system, and creating migrant-inclusive health practices and policies. At the same time, IOM Ukraine engages in harnessing the development potential of migration, disseminating migration information and managing migration movements and integration of ethnic minorities, promoting the benefits of cultural diversity, and counteracting xenophobia and intolerance.

During the 20 years of its presence in Ukraine, IOM has assisted about 500,000 migrants (Ukrainians and other nationalities), IDPs, potential migrants, victims of trafficking and other vulnerable groups, directly or through its project partners.

Views and opinions expressed in this publication do not necessarily reflect the view of IOM or its member states