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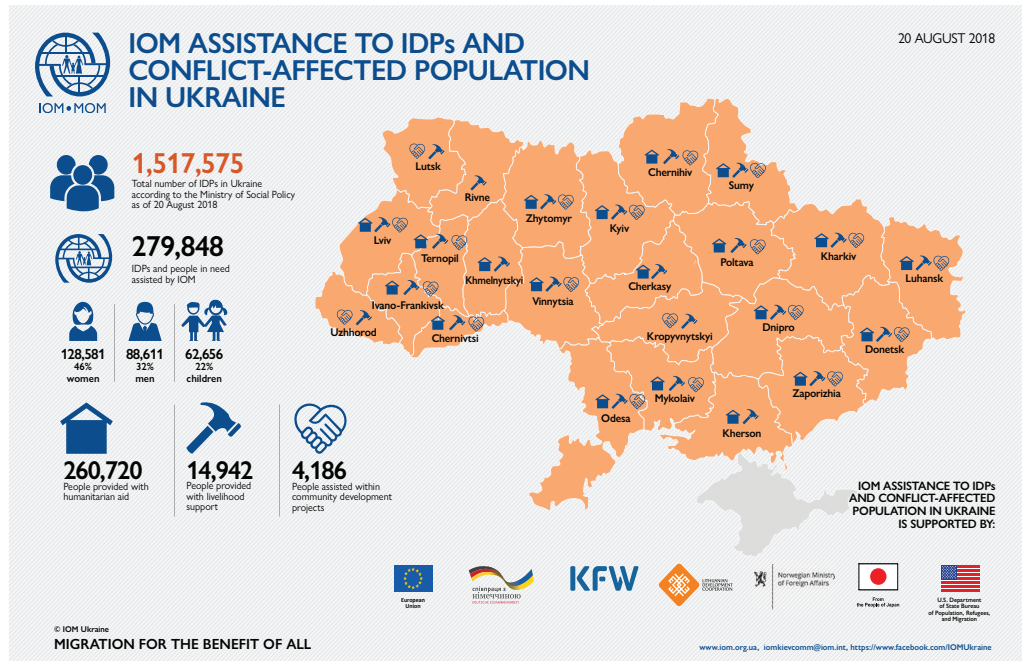
IOM's ASSISTANCE TO CONFLICT-AFFECTED PEOPLE IN UKRAINE

BI-MONTHLY REPORT

JULY–AUGUST 2018

HIGHLIGHTS

- The total number of internally displaced persons (IDPs) from Crimea and eastern Ukraine is **1,517,575** as of 20 August 2018, according to the Ministry of Social Policy of Ukraine.
- IOM assisted almost **280,000** vulnerable IDPs and conflict-affected people in 24 regions of Ukraine.
- As of 15 August, the 2018 Ukraine Humanitarian Response Plan was funded at **28%**.
- With over a million crossings of the contact line a month, civilians continue to wait in long queues in eastern Ukraine. As temperatures reach over 35 degrees on some days, the lack of cooling spaces and healthcare facilities particularly impacts vulnerable groups such as elderly, children, pregnant women, and people with disabilities.



EMPLOYMENT REMAINS A CHALLENGE FOR IDPs: IOM PRESENTS TENTH ROUND OF ITS REGULAR SURVEY



Mr. Mykola Shambir, Deputy Minister of Social Policy of Ukraine, Dr. Thomas Lothar Weiss, IOM Ukraine Chief of Mission, and Mr. Heorhii Tuka, Deputy Minister of Temporarily Occupied Territories and IDPs of Ukraine, presenting the survey

Into the fifth year of the conflict in eastern Ukraine, 1.5 million people are registered as internally displaced persons (IDPs). Uprooted, they face economic and social challenges building their lives in new places and communities.

Eighty per cent of IDPs, recently surveyed by IOM, the UN Migration Agency, in the framework of the EU-funded project, claimed that they fully or partly integrated into their new communities. Most surveyed IDPs showed a high level of satisfaction with the accessibility of all basic social services. ▶



At the same time, the employment situation for IDPs deteriorates. In June, 42 per cent of surveyed IDPs were employed, which reflects a six per cent drop from March this year. Among the general population of Ukraine aged 15–70 years, the share of employed persons amounts to 56 per cent according to the latest available data. A total of 11 per cent of IDPs are actively looking for a job and ready to start working within a two-week period. Those looking for jobs overwhelmingly report difficulties securing appropriate work. Challenges include low pay for available vacancies, lack of vacancies corresponding to their qualifications, and discrimination by employers on the basis of their age or IDP status. Among surveyed IDPs, 19 per cent are retired persons or pensioners, 17 per cent are engaged in housework, looking after children or other persons in the household, 6 per cent are persons with disabilities, 3 per cent are students and 2 per cent are unemployed but not seeking employment.

The average income for an IDP has also continued to fall since December 2017. By June it had fallen to less than UAH 2,100, or USD 77, per month. This is less than the national subsistence level calculated by the Ministry of Social



Most questions from the media attending the survey presentation were related to the issue of social payments to IDPs

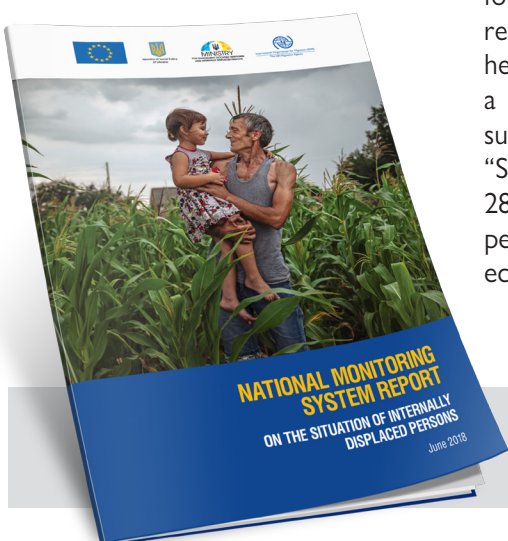
Policy of Ukraine, which stood at more than UAH 3,300 in June 2018.

“The decrease in income, which might be related to the decline in employment, deepens IDP’s vulnerability in the long-term,” said IOM Ukraine’s Chief of Mission, Dr. Thomas Lothar Weiss. The survey data demonstrates that healthcare has become unaffordable for many IDPs due to the cost of medicine and services. Approximately one third of IDPs have not seen a doctor in over a year, and a lack of money is commonly noted as a reason for this. This round of survey also reflects the fact that reducing essential health expenditures is often used as a coping strategy by those IDPs who suffer from a lack of food.

“Since 2014, IOM has assisted nearly 280,000 IDPs and conflict-affected people within its humanitarian, economic empowerment and social

cohesion programmes and we are committed to continue. The National Monitoring System Report is a powerful tool used by the Government and humanitarian organizations to develop their programming. Data presented in the Report helps us to assess and address the needs of vulnerable people in real time,” said Dr. Weiss.

IOM has been conducting surveys on the situation of IDPs in Ukraine on a regular basis since March 2016. The research presents integrated data of face-to-face and telephone interviews with IDPs, returnees, key informants and people crossing the contact line as well as focus groups discussions. In the latest, 10th round, conducted in June 2018, a total of 2,406 respondents were interviewed face-to-face, and 4,006 by telephone.



Read the latest NMS report at

http://www.iom.org.ua/sites/default/files/nms_round_10_eng_press.pdf



EVERY CLOUD HAS A SILVER LINING

DISPLACED BUSINESSWOMAN OPENS BRIDAL FASHION BUSINESS



Photo: IOM / Muse Mohammed, 2018

Tatiana gladly provides space at her showroom for clothing, shoe and fashion jewellery designers who are also IDPs

When you walk into Tatiana's wedding dress shop on a fashionable street in Ukraine's bustling capital Kyiv, you meet a strong, confident businesswoman, surrounded by fine design, focused on making brides-to-be happy. You'd never imagine the terror she experienced that caused her to flee her home.

Four years ago she was running a travel business in Donetsk, Eastern Ukraine. Then in April 2014 armed groups in Donetsk began to seize buildings and arms. Fighting between these groups and government forces caused severe insecurity for everyone living in the conflict zone.



Photo: IOM / Muse Mohammed, 2018

▶ **Tatiana's son is her biggest motivation**



Photo: IOM / Muse Mohammed, 2018

Dream team united by tough experience and joint plans: Lyudmyla, the designer, Tatiana, the director, and Anna, the art director

Things came to a head when one day armed men entered Tatiana's office and 'confiscated' her business. The ordeal convinced her to buy a train ticket later that afternoon. She fled to Kyiv the following day.

Rebuilding life in the capital was not easy for her at first, struggling to find stable work and adjusting to the new environment, as Tatiana was surrounded by people who have been insulated from the ongoing conflict. "They just don't seem to get it," she says. "Many of them have been living a happy life, able to continue planning for their future, whereas I was just happy to make it through the day."

However, every cloud has a silver lining. In about a year after moving

to the capital, Tatiana had her son. Also, she eventually befriended Lyudmyla, a wedding dress designer who was also displaced from the conflict. After seeing her friend fall on hard times, two women decided to open a business together designing and selling dresses. Since then the business has expanded through grants from IOM, funded by the EU and Germany, and also includes an art director who was also displaced from the conflict. As the business grows, Tatiana is not only glad for her personal security but gets a real sense of satisfaction from the work. "There is something really special when you see a woman walk out of here with a dress saying 'that's the

one for me' and just knowing you played a part in that."

To this day, she still holds onto the train ticket she bought to leave her home in Donetsk as a reminder of how far she's come and to be appreciative of the good moments in life. "Sometimes I sort my documents and see this ticket. Then I recall everything. I keep the ticket in order not to forget anything, in order to remember what we went through and cherish everything we have now. I know my plans for tomorrow, for the day after tomorrow, for the next year. But I also have a plan for today, and if I have completed it, I am happy. If I wake up tomorrow, I will manage everything."



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. Many 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. Daily ceasefire violations continue to be reported.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT:

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



European Union



співпраця з
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DEUTSCHE ZUSAMMENARBEIT



LITHUANIAN
DEVELOPMENT
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Norwegian Ministry
of Foreign Affairs



From
the People of Japan



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 22 years of its presence in Ukraine, IOM has assisted over 500,000 migrants (Ukrainians and other nationalities), IDPs, 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.