



International Organization for Migration (IOM)  
The UN Migration Agency

# IOM's ASSISTANCE TO CONFLICT-AFFECTED PEOPLE IN UKRAINE

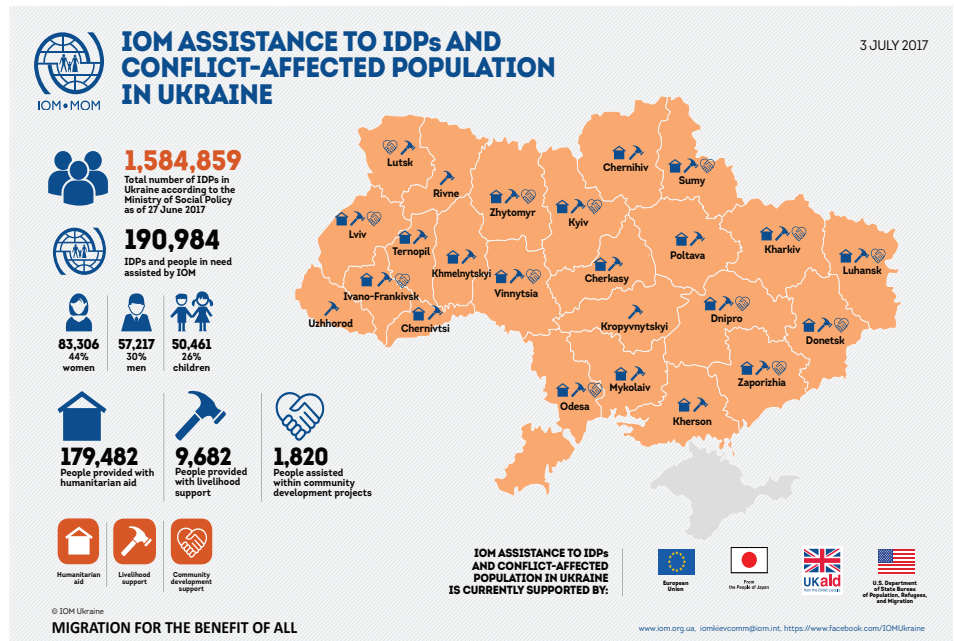
MONTHLY REPORT

Migration for the Benefit of All

JUNE 2017

## HIGHLIGHTS

- The total number of internally displaced persons (IDPs) from Crimea and Eastern Ukraine is **1,584,859** as of 27 June 2017, according to the Ministry of Social Policy of Ukraine.
- IOM assisted over **190,000** vulnerable IDPs and conflict-affected people in 24 regions of Ukraine.
- IOM has finalized the April-June survey within its National Monitoring System on the Situation of IDPs in Ukraine. Survey results on the socio-economic situation of IDPs, their main needs and movements are being analysed and will be published at [www.iom.org.ua](http://www.iom.org.ua) soon.



## IOM's RESPONSE TO DATE

# IDP HOST COMMUNITY UNITES AROUND CHILDREN'S NEEDS

Drohobych, a cozy old town in Lviv Region, was the first to hold social cohesion activities in the framework of the EU-funded project «Supporting Recovery and Sustainable Solutions for Internally Displaced Persons and the Conflict-Affected Population in Ukraine».

The Drohobych community hosts internally displaced persons (IDPs) from both the Donbas and Crimea. On 22 June 2017, displaced persons and local residents joined the first social cohesion event organized by an IOM-trained initiative group.



*IDP and local kids enjoying the event in Drohobych*



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Children playing one of the games facilitated by a psychologist

The social cohesion event in Drohobych – *The Day of Healthy Children* – took place on Sambirska Street, where the majority of IDPs live, and included games for children, sports activities, and a quest with the theme “town knowledge”. These events were followed by a drawing competition “Drohobych through Kids’ Eyes”, which attracted a hundred children.

A psychologist, an expert in working with IDPs and families of demobilized persons, facilitated various games for children both from displaced or local families who live in the same neighbourhood, but rarely interact with each other.

“This project was the very first in Drohobych to unite different community structures – civil activists, state bodies, volunteers and NGOs. We are really grateful to IOM for uniting us and



Drawing competition attracted about a hundred young artists



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having an opportunity to learn about each other's experiences," says Natalia Kopychin, head of Drohobych initiative group. "As for the event, we have not had such an activity for children for quite a long time. The kids were really happy! A week after the event, we were still receiving positive feedback. Children and their parents want to know when the next event will happen."

By the end of June, IOM has identified 27 communities in 14 regions of Ukraine for implementing social cohesion activities within the EU-funded project. Community development training sessions took place in 20 of these communities.

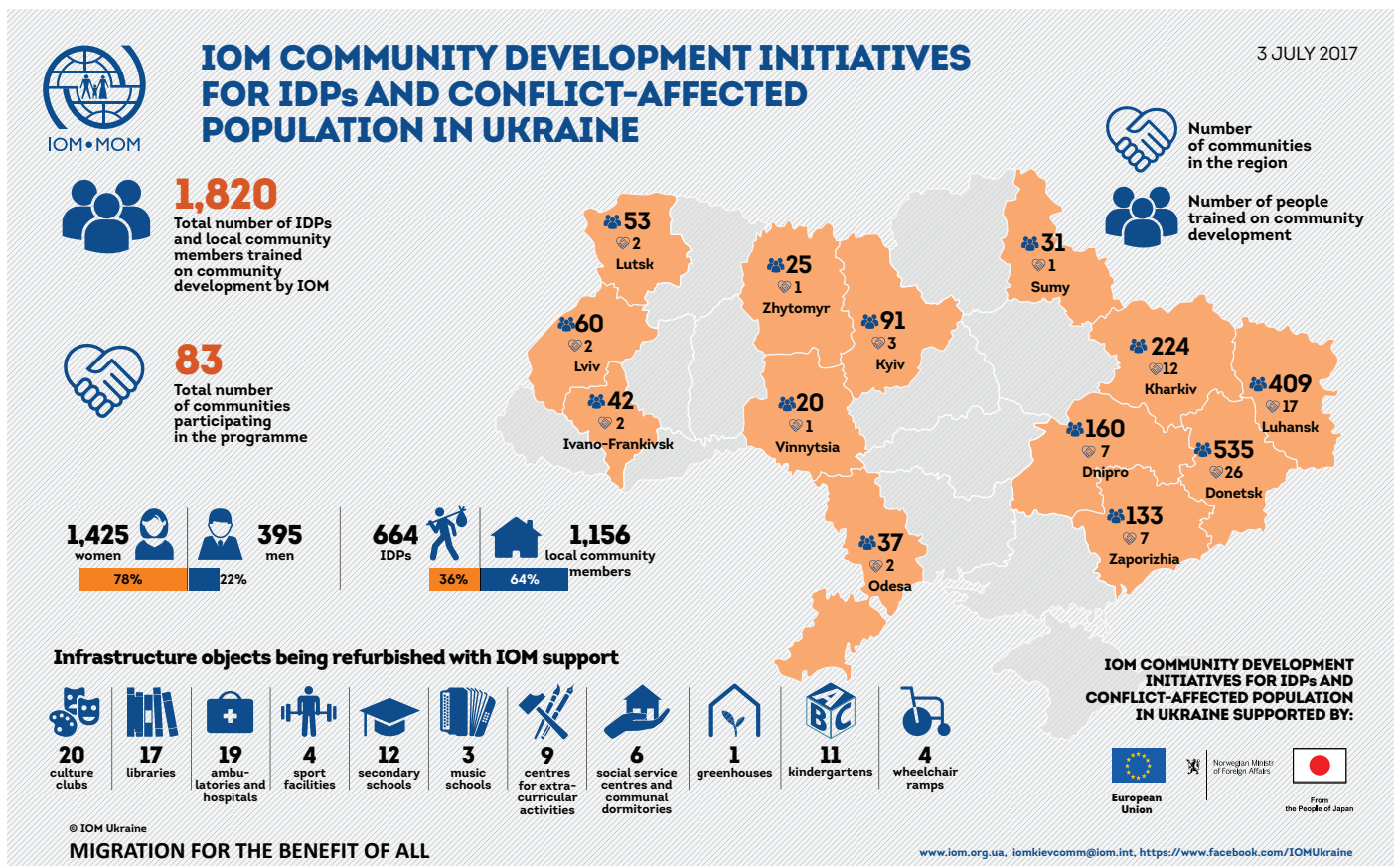
After each training, the community develops a plan for social cohesion events, aimed at facilitating engagement of displaced persons and other vulnerable groups – people with disabilities, ethnic



The street where majority of IDPs live transformed into a dance floor

minorities, single parents, families with many children, and demobilized persons and their families – in the daily life of the community and fostering their involvement in community development. Since 2014, IOM, with funding from the EU, and Governments of Norway, and Japan, has supported development initiatives in over 80 communities

hosting IDPs across Ukraine. In addition to training on social cohesion and community development, and respective events, IOM's programme also included refurbishment of over 100 social infrastructure objects which are now accessible to all community members and better equipped for hosting future social cohesion events.





### LIFE STORY

# OPPORTUNITIES FOR MICRO-ENTREPRENEURS



*U.S. Ambassador Marie Yovanovitch (right) speaking with entrepreneurs from all over Ukraine at the Business Fair and Forum*

On 24 June, over 100 IOM-supported micro-entrepreneurs representing a variety of business spheres from different regions of Ukraine gathered in Kyiv for the BizFair – Business Fair & Forum – an event organized by IOM and funded by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) to mark the 10-year anniversary of the IOM Micro-Enterprise Development Programme which seeks to empower migrants and people in need of support. Half of the fair participants were IDPs, assisted in the framework of IOM's livelihoods support projects since 2014.

“Over a decade, more than 5,500 people, including internally displaced persons, conflict-affected people and human trafficking survivors, have benefitted from the IOM Programme, establishing micro-enterprises or getting self-employed in the spheres of agriculture, production, construction, and services,” said Manfred Profazi, Chief of the IOM Mission in Ukraine. “We are extremely proud that these people not only became more self-reliant and economically independent with our support, but are now contributing to the life of their communities through

the creation of additional work places and provision of services and goods their communities need and appreciate,” he added. The donors, who have supported this IOM Programme over the past 10 years, include the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Norway, the Government of Canada, the United Kingdom Department for International Development (DFID), the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA), the European Union, and the Government of Japan.



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One of the BizFair participants, Natalia, was not only selling her products, but also sharing her success stories at the forum, which was part of the event. Before the conflict, she lived in Donetsk and successfully managed a small business, an auto parts store. In 2014, fearing for her child's safety, she fled Donetsk to look for shelter in Odesa. Displacement posed a number of daunting challenges for Natalia – the largest was finding employment as she needed to provide for her family. From a local NGO that was assisting internally displaced population within an IOM project, funded by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Norway, Natalia learnt about an opportunity to participate in business training and apply for micro-funding to start her own business. She applied right away as she instantly realized that this could be an opportunity to discard her most pressing problems. Natalia completed the business training and developed a business plan to start up a granola production line. She says that she spent sleepless nights doing her homework, researching the market and analyzing competitors: "I took it very seriously and developed a strong business strategy before making my final pitch".

A thorough approach to planning brought her measurable results almost immediately. Natalia was awarded a grant and used it to purchase and install all the necessary production and packaging equipment. Natalia named her company "[Zlachno](#)" (which means 'grains' in Ukrainian), and her granola and snacks quickly became popular in Odesa and nationwide. Natalia uses only natural ingredients but keeps the price low as most of the ingredients, such as dry fruits, she makes



*Natalia shared her experience of a successful start-up with other entrepreneurs*



*Natalia takes great care in packaging and presenting her products*

herself. Now "Zlachno" produces six types of granola which is sold on-line, in local food stores and cafes, as well as at food festivals. "I never stop trying new recipes, as well as marketing and sales tactics to expand my business," says Natalia, who plans to expand her product range and start offering

customers gingerbread and whole-grain, granola cups with yogurt. Natalia changed her life and most importantly, helps others to change theirs. "Zlachno" offered jobs to two more internally displaced persons since their launch in 2015. "This is how I show that investing in people multiplies success," says Natalia.



### 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.

### FOR FURTHER INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT:

**Ms. Varvara Zhluktenko, IOM Ukraine's Communications Officer,**  
[vzhluktenko@iom.int](mailto:vzhluktenko@iom.int), +38 044 568 50 15, +38 067 447 97 92

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



European Union



From the People of Japan



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**