



International Organization for Migration (IOM)
The UN Migration Agency

IOM's ASSISTANCE TO CONFLICT-AFFECTED PEOPLE IN UKRAINE

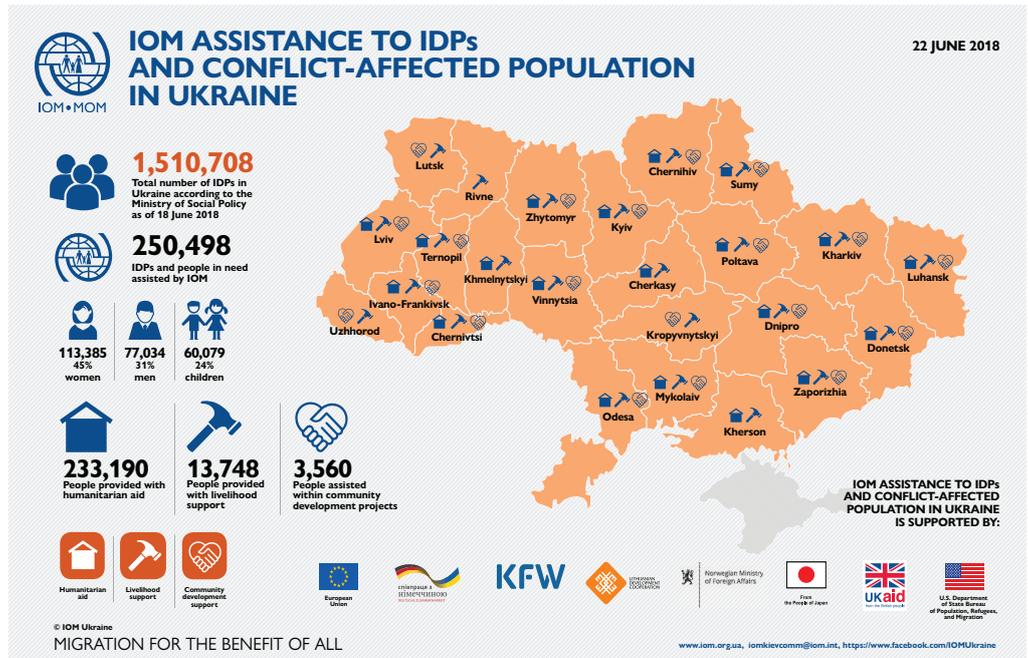
MONTHLY REPORT

Migration for the Benefit of All

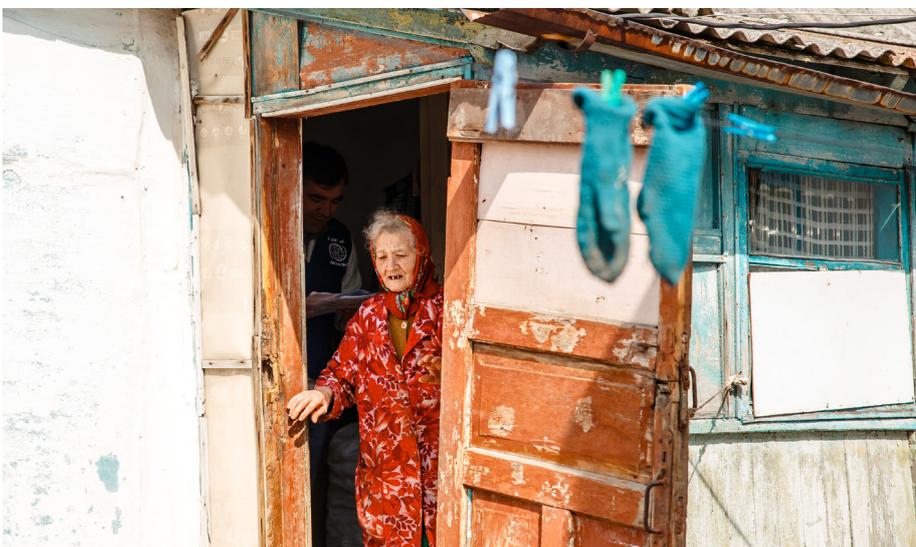
JUNE 2018

HIGHLIGHTS

- From the beginning of the conflict in the east of Ukraine to 15 May 2018, at least **3,023** civilians have been killed and between **7,000** and **9,000** were injured, according to OHCHR.
- As of 22 June, the 2018 Ukraine Humanitarian Response Plan was funded at **19%**.
- The total number of internally displaced persons (IDPs) from Crimea and eastern Ukraine is **1,510,708** as of 18 June 2018, according to the Ministry of Social Policy of Ukraine.
- IOM assisted **250,000** vulnerable IDPs and conflict-affected people in 24 regions of Ukraine.



IOM BRINGS UP THE SITUATION OF CONFLICT-AFFECTED PEOPLE IN UKRAINE WITH THE REGIONAL DIRECTOR'S VISIT



Elderly beneficiary of IOM humanitarian aid residing in Avdiivka, Donetsk Region

The conflict in the east of Ukraine has escalated in May, causing destruction and victims among both military and civilians, and aggravating the suffering of conflict-affected people both sides of the contact line.

Argentina Szabados, IOM Regional Director for South-Eastern Europe, Eastern Europe and Central Asia, visited Ukraine from 4 to 9 June to reiterate the UN Migration Agency commitment to further support conflict-affected communities through humanitarian aid, self-employment training and grants, initiatives aimed at social cohesion and peacebuilding, as well as through rehabilitation of social infrastructure. She met ►



with IOM staff, partners, donors and beneficiaries in Kyiv and in the field.

“Ukraine is the largest displacement crisis in Europe since the Balkan wars,” said Argentina Szabados. “Now in its fifth year, with thousands dead and 1.5 million displaced, it is scandalous that this conflict remains largely forgotten.”

“Almost one-third of conflict-affected people in Ukraine, including displaced persons, returnees, and residents of Ukraine’s eastern conflict area, are elderly, who have very scarce or no resources to take care of themselves and ensure they have enough food, fuels, winter clothing or medicines, as well as to repair their houses damaged by shelling,” she added.

Despite all this, the crisis response efforts in Ukraine remain underfunded, with the Humanitarian Response Plan for last year funded by 37 per cent and the one for the current year covered only at 19 per cent as of June.

Since the annexation of Crimea and outbreak of the conflict in 2014, IOM has assisted over 245,000 internally displaced persons and conflict-affected people in Ukraine.

At the meeting with Argentina Szabados, Vadym Chernysh, Minister for Temporary Occupied Territories and Internally Displaced Persons of Ukraine, thanked IOM for supporting people who fled the conflict as well as members of communities which host them. “For successful conflict prevention and peacebuilding, it is of crucial importance to assist the most vulnerable people among both displaced and local populations, and we appreciate IOM’s continuous and active involvement in this work,” said Minister Chernysh.

As highlighted by Evhen Vilinskyi, First Deputy Head of Donetsk Regional State Administration, there are no reasons to expect that those displaced by the conflict will be able to return to their homes in the nearest future. “We will



IOM Regional Director Argentina Szabados visits IOM-supported sewing courses in Kramatorsk, Donetsk Region

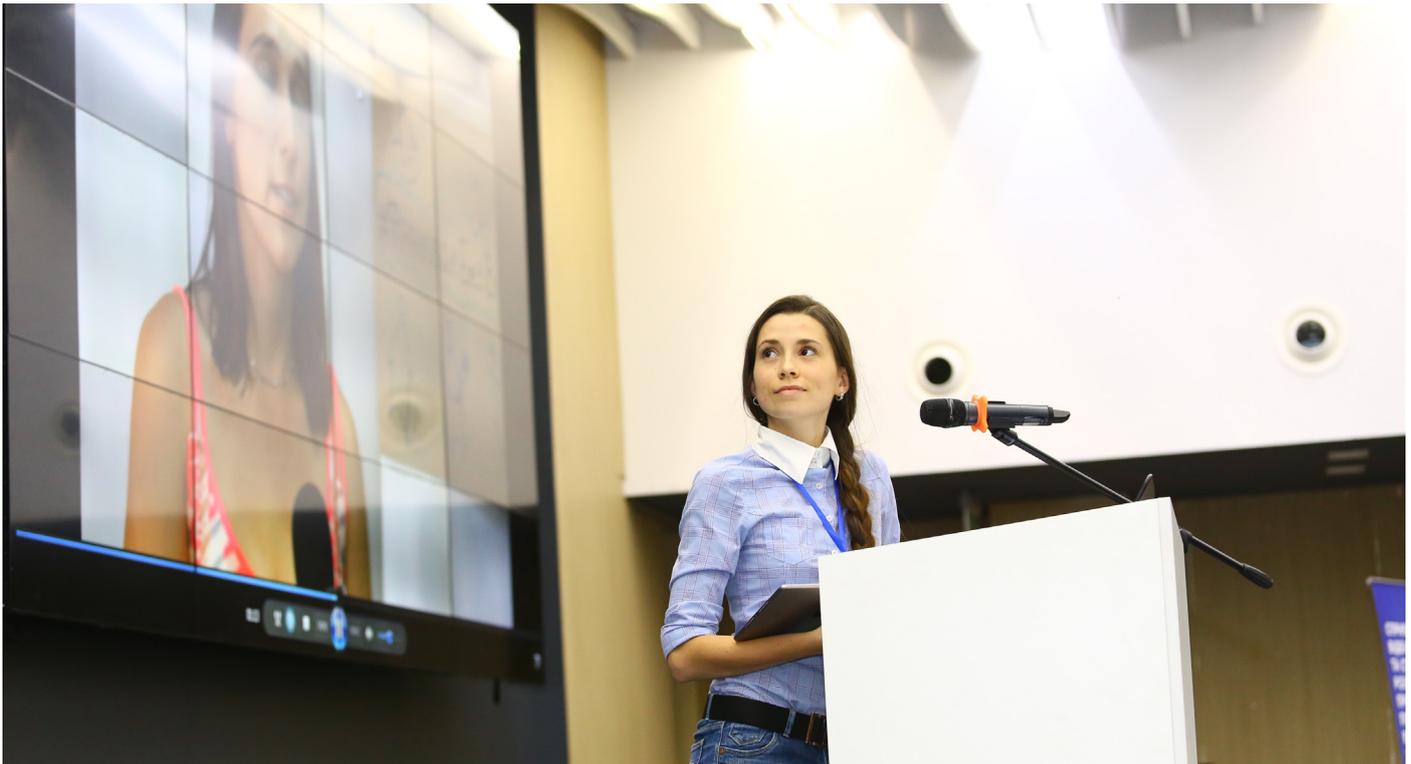
further need to work hard on assistance to conflict-affected people and we are grateful to IOM for the excellent cooperation benefitting displaced people and host communities,” he said. Argentina Szabados was able to witness the resilience of Ukrainian conflict-affected people while meeting with IOM beneficiaries in Donetsk Region. “People who went through extremely traumatizing experiences and whose stories are really heartbreaking were able to start their lives from scratch, developing successful businesses or being employed in their new

communities. IOM provided them with additional resources – assets and some training – but it is our beneficiaries’ motivation and courage that makes the result so impressive.”

“The international community’s involvement is vital both in assisting the most vulnerable people in need and supporting millions of conflict-affected Ukrainians, while strengthening resilience and recovery at local levels. The people of Ukraine must be able to get back on their feet and build a future filled with hope,” said Argentina Szabados. “It is time to act.”



DISPLACED PEOPLE AS A DRIVING FORCE FOR CHANGE: IOM SUPPORTS SOCIAL COHESION IN UKRAINE



Member of the IOM project initiative group from Ivano-Frankivsk sharing their best social cohesion practices

The social aspect of IDP integration is gaining in importance, regular surveys conducted by IOM, the UN Migration Agency, reveal. Currently 47 per cent of IDPs mention that they need to have their family and friends with them in order to successfully integrate in a new community.

Since the beginning of the conflict in the east of Ukraine, IOM, funded by its donors, has been comprehensively addressing the needs of conflict-affected people through livelihood opportunities and community development initiatives. "We aim to offer IDPs and local communities alike a platform to make new friends, exchange ideas and unite efforts for ▶



Forty-nine initiative groups were awarded for successfully participating in the project



their mutual benefit,” said Dr. Thomas Lothar Weiss, IOM Ukraine Chief of Mission.

On 1 June, IOM gathered in Kyiv over 150 IDPs, representatives of local communities and NGO activists, as well as government officials, to share their best community development practices and lay ground for further joint programmes aimed to create an inclusive and multicultural environment. The conference was funded by the European Union and marked the completion of the project component which supported 49 communities across Ukraine in conducting over 5,500 events such as outdoor festivals, master classes, concerts and amateur theatre plays engaging over 46,000 participants.

“The EU and IOM projects provide excellent opportunities for social cohesion all over the country,” said Mykola Shambir, Deputy Minister of Social Policy of Ukraine. “A person who feels in their community like home is a driving force for great positive change,” he added.

According to Helga Pender, Project Manager at the EU Delegation to Ukraine, the European Union is



Initiative groups and local NGOs brainstorming on the sustainable development of their communities

committed to further assisting displaced persons and IDP host communities in Ukraine. “Past experience has shown that civic engagement and community activism has a double beneficial effect. It

not only helps people build social capital in communities, but also helps those involved to overcome their trauma and feel empowered as they contribute to positive change,” Helga Pender said.

A vivid example of how displaced persons become part of their new communities and take on a leadership role is Valerii Polischuk, and IDP from Crimea who now resides in Dolsk village, Volyn Region, north-western Ukraine. IOM supported Valerii with a modern boiler to heat his greenhouse, and later he became a member of the IOM social cohesion project initiative group. Last autumn he was elected a deputy of the amalgamated territorial community. Valerii took part in a local lake cleaning; he also chairs the village committee on culture and acquaints locals with Crimean traditions. “It’s not just that we became part of the community, we grew roots here,” he says.



To watch the video about Valerii and other participants of the EU-funded IOM social cohesion project, please visit our YouTube channel: <https://bit.ly/2KjBxl6>



LORD OF CLAY

IOM HELPS DISPLACED MINER IN DEVELOPING HIS CRAFTS BUSINESS

Dmytro welcomes us amid tons of half-ready pottery stored in a village house he is renting at the outskirts of the city of Sloviansk, some 70 kilometres from the so-called contact line in eastern Ukraine. A former coal miner and a displaced person from Donetsk, he looks at home here, extremely busy and full of plans.

After moving to Sloviansk several years ago, Dmytro did not hesitate about his new profession. Pottery has been a traditional product and 'brand' of Sloviansk since the times of the Soviet Union. There were several big industrial factories, which also produced housewares as an additional business. When the main factories were shut down, people who worked at these manufacturers opened their own small private factories. Currently there are dozens of them working in the city, so the competition is high. "It was not easy to enter this market," confessed Dmytro. "It is also not easy to work now, but I aim to further develop my business, expand the product line and find more opportunities for sales."

He started his business with simple products such as moneyboxes, and then proceeded with garden sculptures and houseware. "How did you manage



Dmytro giving a tour of his pottery factory



Some of the products to be sold at an upcoming fair

to learn making all this?" we ask, and Dmytro replies, "With my hands! The most important thing is to have a strong will and keep trying and trying and trying. Then you succeed!"

IOM was able to support Dmytro with funding from the British Embassy in Ukraine. He was provided with a

laptop and colour printer, allowing him to produce decorative panels, which are among Dmytro's bestselling products. Dmytro's wife works together with him. They sell their pottery to wholesale dealers from Poltava, Kyiv, Rivne and Kmelnytskyi at extremely low prices. For instance, a cup costs ▶



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Dmytro demonstrates a decorative panel produced using the laptop and printer provided by IOM

just nine hryvnias (USD 0.3). Dmytro also participates regularly in various fairs organized across Ukraine. This summer the biggest event for him will be the well-known fair Sorochynskyy Yarmarok, to be held at the end of August in the native village of the famous XIX century writer Mykola Hohol (Nikolai Gogol). "We need to expand our business and buy some premises instead of this house we rent, but so far budget constraints prevent us from fulfilling our plans," says Dmytro. However, he is not afraid of difficulties. As a former coal miner now successfully working with clay, he seems to be taking power from the Donbas soil and returning his energy in full to his native region.



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

11 JUNE 2018



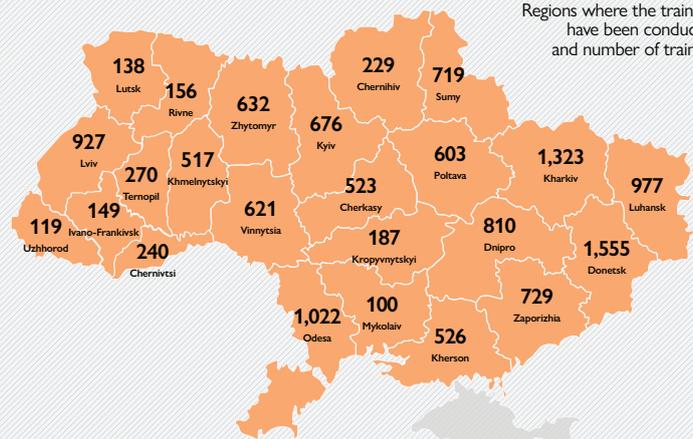
13,748

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



7,129

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



Regions where the trainings have been conducted and number of trainees

Types of grants

11%
815
vocational training



17%

1,187
micro-business
72%
5,127
self-employment

Spheres of grantees' activity

8%
587
retail
10%
745
agriculture



16%
1,114
production
66%
4,683
services

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



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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. Daily ceasefire violations continue to be reported.

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



LITHUANIAN
DEVELOPMENT
COOPERATION



Norwegian Ministry
of Foreign Affairs



From
the People of Japan



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 21 years of its presence in Ukraine, IOM has assisted over 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.