



International Organization for Migration (IOM)  
The UN Migration Agency

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

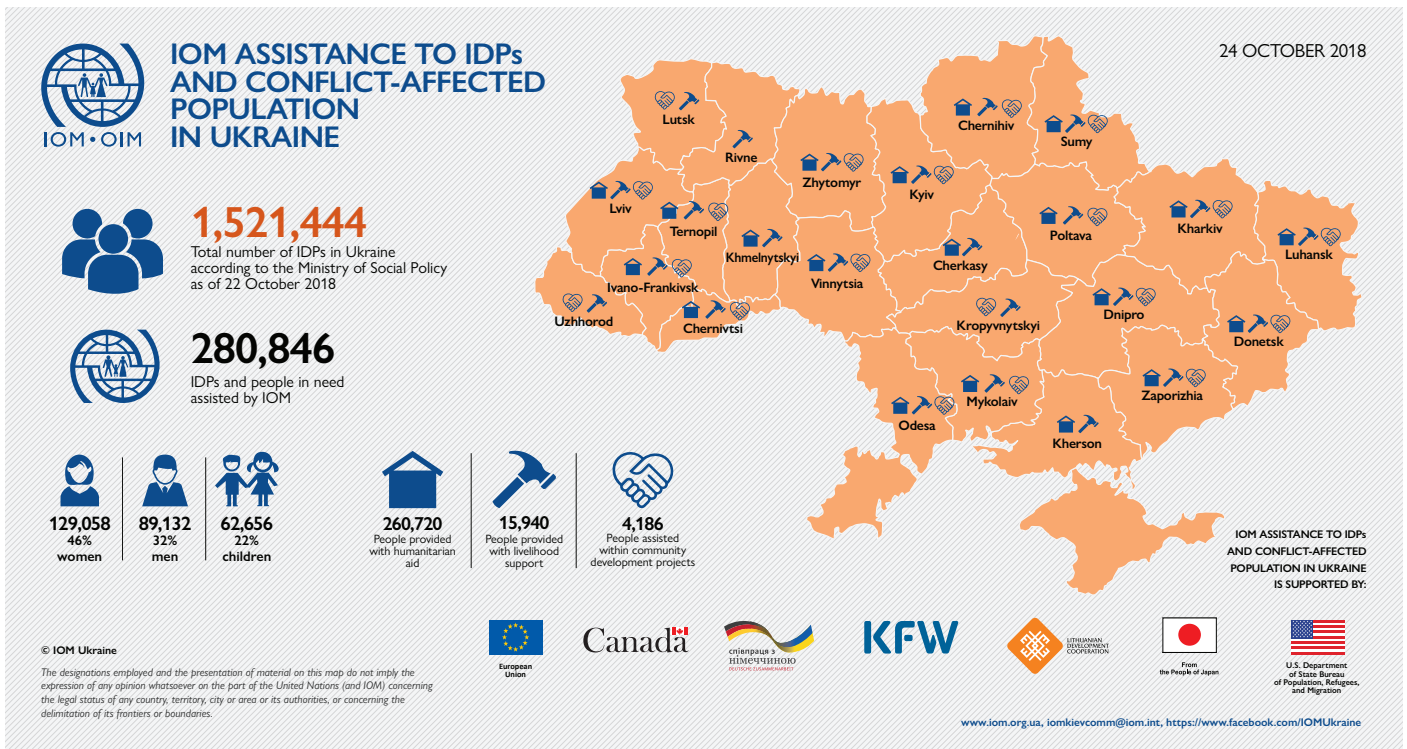
BI-MONTHLY REPORT

Migration for the Benefit of All

SEPTEMBER–OCTOBER 2018

## HIGHLIGHTS

- The total number of internally displaced persons (IDPs) from Crimea and eastern Ukraine is **1,521,444** as of 22 October 2018, according to the Ministry of Social Policy of Ukraine.
- IOM assisted over **280,000** vulnerable IDPs and conflict-affected people in 24 regions of Ukraine.
- As of 23 October, the 2018 Ukraine Humanitarian Response Plan was funded at **31%**.
- Since January 2017 to October 2018, **57** incidents of education facility damages have been recorded in Ukraine's Eastern Conflict Area, directly affecting nearly **5,600** children, UN OCHA reports.



## IOM GRANTEES SHOWCASE THEIR WARES AT A TOP FAIR IN KYIV

Fifty IOM-supported micro-entrepreneurs from among internally displaced and conflict-affected people presented their products at a popular 'Ulrichnaya Eda' (Street Food) festival held from 13 to 14 October 2018 in Ukraine's capital Kyiv. The event, featuring dainties and handmade souvenirs, attracts



Photo: IOM / Volodymyr Shuvayev, 2018



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over 15,000 visitors on average. The fair organizers provided the market space for IOM grantees free-of-charge to sell their honey, chocolate, cookies, natural yogurts, cosmetics, handmade toys, bags and pottery. Starting from the outbreak of the crisis in 2014 and until now, the UN Migration Agency has helped over 8,000 IDPs and conflict-affected people in Ukraine to start their own business or get self-employed. Almost twice as many received business and

career development training from IOM Ukraine. The UN Migration Agency also established the National Business Exchange Platform, an online and offline resource uniting up to 4,500 entrepreneurs from among IDPs and host community members in order to facilitate their collaboration, business development and new jobs creation. "While the protracted conflict, now into its fifth year, continues to trigger major challenges for the Ukrainian

economy and stretch resources, the donor and international communities' involvement is crucial to continue addressing the needs of millions of conflict-affected people," said IOM Ukraine's Chief of Mission, Dr Thomas Lothar Weiss. "At the same time, the role of Ukrainian civil society and private sector in the integration of IDPs is vital. We are extremely grateful to the business partners who join corporate social responsibility initiatives aimed to support vulnerable migrants in Ukraine."



# U.S. AMBASSADOR MEETS IOM BENEFICIARIES IN EASTERN UKRAINE

The U.S. Ambassador to Ukraine Marie Yovanovitch visited conflict-affected areas of Donetsk and Luhansk regions, where she met with displaced people, local residents, and people travelling across the contact line. Ambassador Yovanovitch also discussed the situation with local authorities and humanitarian agencies working in the area. In particular, she visited Stanytsia Luhanska, the only entry-exit checkpoint in Luhansk Region, which works in pedestrian regime only.

"I was impressed by the work of IOM, the UN Migration Agency, UNHCR, the UN Refugee Agency, International Committee of the Red Cross and local organizations serving Ukrainians on the frontlines of the conflict. The U.S. is proud to support their work," said Ambassador Yovanovitch after visiting Stanytsia Luhanska.

In Kramatorsk, Donetsk Region, Marie Yovanovitch met with the beneficiaries of the U.S.-funded IOM cash assistance project and people supported by IOM Ukraine with business training and equipment for self-employment and micro-entrepreneurship.

Iryna (pictured, left), a single mother of three, moved from Krasnyi Luch, Luhansk Region, to Kramatorsk in 2014. The woman rented a market stall, brought her own refrigerator and started to sell fast food. With an IOM grant, Iryna is planning to open a snack bar serving meat dumplings ("pelmeni") and increase her income.

Olena (pictured, centre-left) also has three children. She is a resident of Pivnichne near Toretsk. Her



income is limited, comprising of social benefits she receives after loss of her husband and a small salary she earns as a cleaner in a

local medical facility. With cash assistance received from IOM Ukraine, Olena was able to repair the children's room.



## LIFE TAKES OVER

### IOM-SUPPORTED MOTHER OF FOUR RAISES KIDS AND RUNS OWN BUSINESS



Photo: IOM / Muse Mohammed, 2018

The June 2014 shelling of Donetsk, an industrial city of more than 900,000 in eastern Ukraine, was the catalyst for Tetiana to flee with her husband and newborn child.

It was a wrenching decision for the scientist and expert in artificial intelligence: her father was dying of cancer but the safety of young Maria was the priority.

Just one year earlier, Tetiana was utterly content. She'd raised two daughters to adulthood on her own before meeting Volodymyr, a single father of two sons. They fell in love and married. Within months Tetiana was pregnant. Then their world was turned upside down. ▶



Photo: IOM / Muse Mohammed, 2018



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"I was a researcher, lectured and had private lessons," she recalled. "I did not live in luxury, but I could afford everything I needed."

"A month after Maria was born, we came to Myrnohrad, where my husband worked at a coal mine and had a private house with basic conditions. We took clothing for Maria, a baby chair and a crib. That crib is more than 23-years-old now! My two elder daughters grew up in it. Then all my friends used it for their kids," she said.

In the rush to pack, Tetiana focused on the needs of her infant daughter. "I took only spare underwear, shorts, and a blouse. We thought that we would return to Donetsk in a month or two... Of course, we had no doubts that we should take the crib with us."

The first months were tough. The mine where Volodymyr worked delayed paying his salary and the city's water supply was cut for almost six months. The lack of basic supplies and her father's failing health lead her to start buying diapers online and selling them at consumer prices to generate a small income. This initiative collapsed when her corporate partner fled with her savings and money loaned by friends. "That was my point zero. I had a severe depression; if not (for) my baby, I don't know if I would ever survive. I had a feeling that my whole life was taken away from me," she said.

"Then I somehow managed to collect myself. I received social payments



Photo: IOM / Muse Mohammed, 2018

and invested them in hygiene items for sale. I rented a shop which had no heating at that time. My husband worked at the mine from 6 a.m. to 4 p.m., and I was working in the shop, with my baby sleeping on the chairs." Tetiana now runs two small shops employing four other displaced women with support from IOM, funded by the European Union, and contributes some of her goods to charity for vulnerable local people. She also found more use for the family crib; a new daughter has arrived since they were displaced.

"I invest all my energy in my business. When I was pregnant with my fourth

daughter, Aleksandra, I was regularly visiting other shops, trying to learn how to better present goods," she said. "I was arranging our shop together with Volodymyr, and Aleksandra was born just a week after we opened it."

Today, baby Aleksandra has replaced Maria in the crib, which has become a symbol of rebirth and perseverance. "My best memories are related with this crib. It was bought in 1995 in a used goods shop," she said. "My three daughters grew up in it, and now it belongs to the fourth one. You can see that it is a bit tired, as I move it all over the house so the baby would always be with me and stay safe."



**This story is a part of IOM's global interactive project "Holding On", which marks the 20th anniversary of the Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement. The project showcases the stories of internally displaced people by asking them to reflect on their most cherished possessions. Check more stories from Ukraine and worldwide at <http://holding-on.iom.int>.**



### 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:



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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.*