



International Organization for Migration (IOM)
The UN Migration Agency

Migration for the Benefit of All

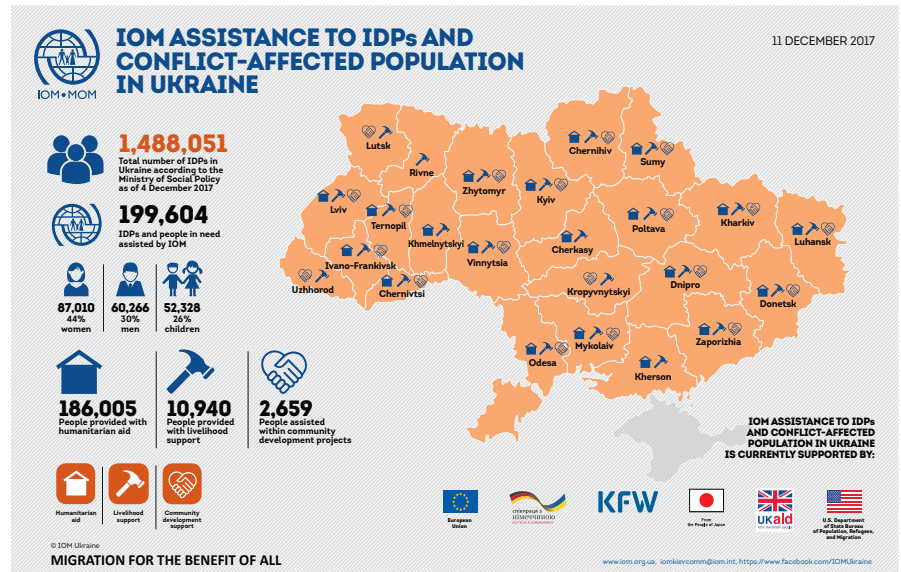
IOM's ASSISTANCE TO CONFLICT-AFFECTED PEOPLE IN UKRAINE

BI-MONTHLY REPORT

NOVEMBER-DECEMBER 2017

HIGHLIGHTS

- The total number of internally displaced persons (IDPs) from Crimea and Eastern Ukraine is **1,488,051** as of 4 December 2017, according to the Ministry of Social Policy of Ukraine.
- IOM assisted nearly **200,000** vulnerable IDPs and conflict-affected people in 24 regions of Ukraine.
- Some **3.4 million** men, women, and children are locked in a dire humanitarian situation in eastern Ukraine. Over 30% of those affected are elderly and 60% are women and children. More than **400,000** people need food assistance, according to UN OCHA.
- The humanitarian organizations are appealing for **USD 187 million** through [the Ukraine 2018 Humanitarian Response Plan](#) to help some **2.3 million** persons most in need.



IOM SURVEY REVEALS GROWING HUMANITARIAN NEEDS IN UKRAINE'S EASTERN CONFLICT AREA



People travelling between government controlled to non-government controlled area of eastern Ukraine are loading onto a bus at the Mayorsk checkpoint

The increasingly high needs of conflict-affected individuals and returnees to the non-government controlled area (NGCA) is evident from the many communities that remain cut off from markets, social services, as well as housing and employment opportunities. According to the latest round of the survey on the situation of internally displaced persons in Ukraine, the National Monitoring System (NMS), conducted by IOM with funding from the European Union, there has been an increase in the flow of returning internally displaced persons (IDPs) to the NGCA*.



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Three and a half years into the conflict, 16 per cent of respondents surveyed in September, stated they returned to their original place of residence, a three per cent increase from the previous round conducted in June 2017. The vast majority of surveyed returnees (70%) cited their property in the NGCA and no need to pay for rent as the reason for their return. Over half of the IDPs returning are over the age of 60, and 61 per cent rely on a pension as their main source of income, which heightens their vulnerability as the pension is linked to their IDP status and residence in the government controlled area (GCA). As highlighted in previous NMS reports, paying rent has been a constant barrier to IDP integration and a push for IDPs to return to their original place of residence despite the continuous shelling and lack of prospects. With the average monthly income rising to UAH 2,340 (USD 87) per IDP household member, it is still well below the subsistence level at UAH 3,035 (USD 113) calculated by the Ministry of Social Policy in July 2017. References to lack of employment opportunities in the GCA were also common factors in a household's decision to return to the NGCA.

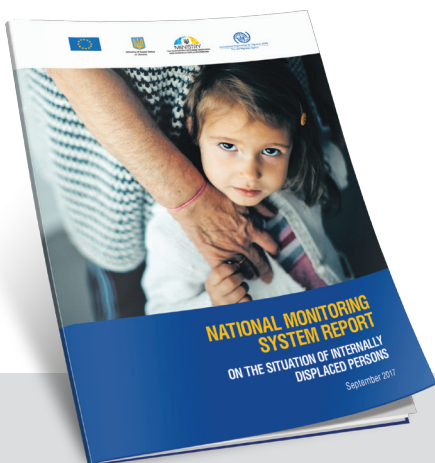


Deputy Minister of Temporarily Occupied Territories and IDPs of Ukraine, Mr. Heorhii Tuka, and IOM Ukraine's Emergency and Stabilization Programme Coordinator, Ms. Ester Ruiz de Azua, presenting NMS results

According to the financial self-assessment, 60 per cent of surveyed returnees reported that they have funds only enough for food; this is a significantly larger share than IDPs in the GCA, at 38 per cent. "With unstable access to deliver humanitarian aid to the NGCA, it remains of paramount importance to ensure that support is provided to the most vulnerable individuals throughout eastern Ukraine," said Dr. Thomas Lothar Weiss, Chief of Mission at IOM Ukraine. With 85 per cent of returnees intending to remain in the NGCA at least for the next three months, the needs will only continue to grow. "IOM Ukraine has assisted nearly 200,000 IDPs and conflict-affected people since the start of the conflict.

Being empowered by comprehensive assessments, such as the National Monitoring System Report, as well seeing the needs of our beneficiaries on the ground, IOM will continue to provide humanitarian aid and recovery support to the most vulnerable populations in eastern Ukraine, especially those near the contact line," added Dr. Weiss.

* IOM has been conducting surveys on the situation of IDPs in Ukraine on a regular basis since March 2016. In the latest round, conducted in September 2017, 1,025 IDPs were interviewed face-to-face and 4,204 IDPs registered by the Ministry of Social Policy of Ukraine were interviewed by phone across the country.



Read the latest NMS report at

http://www.iom.org.ua/sites/default/files/nms_round_7_september_2017_eng_0.pdf



IOM, UNHCR AND NGO FORUM JOINTLY ASSESS SITUATION IN THE DONBAS

The International Organization for Migration (IOM) – the UN Migration Agency, the UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR), and NGO Forum arranged a joint visit to the government controlled area of the Donetsk Region. The Ambassadors of Norway and Denmark, Deputy Heads of Mission of the Embassies of Sweden and Lithuania, as well as representatives of the Embassy of Poland joined to assess the needs of conflict-affected people, and monitor the impact of humanitarian and recovery interventions of the respective members of the Humanitarian Country Team.

The delegation visited Kramatorsk, Sloviansk, Sviatohirsk, Mayorsk, Bakhmut, Toretsk and Druzhkivka to meet with local activists and NGOs, internally displaced persons (IDPs), returnees, and residents of the 'grey zone' between the two sides. The latter group crossed the contact line to share their stories, the pain and fear, but also their hopes and experiences of resilience with the diplomats and representatives of the international organizations. Among the IDPs and locals who met with the delegation were beneficiaries of IOM's livelihood and cash assistance projects, funded by the European Union, the British Embassy in Kyiv, and the U.S. Department of State Bureau on Population, Refugees, and Migration. The diplomats also met with the members of initiative groups participating in IOM's social cohesion project at libraries which have been renovated or are currently in the process of refurbishment, with funding from the Government of Japan.

Despite the proximity to the conflict zone and the enormous challenges they are facing, people continue to think about the future. IOM grantee, Dmytro,



H.E. Mr. Ole T. Horpestad, Ambassador of Norway to Ukraine, speaking with an elderly lady at the Mayorsk checkpoint



Dmytro, an IDP, received business training and equipment from IOM to support the production of washing and cleaning powder in Sloviansk

an IDP who produces washing and cleaning powder, dreams about the equipment that would allow him to sell his products not in small carton boxes, but in 3-5 kg packages. A local resident of Sloviansk and the owner of an IOM-sup-

ported pottery factory, Evhen wants to enter the EU market and says he needs help with establishing business contacts. Lyudmyla, a beneficiary of the IOM cash assistance project, is a returnee to Toretsk, a town which is now almost cut off



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Delegation visits the factory of IOM grantee Dmytro



IOM grantee, Evhen, shows pottery he produces to H.E. Mr. Ruben Madsen, Ambassador of Denmark to Ukraine



Meeting with a group of returnees and residents of the "grey zone" in Toretsk



H.E. Mr. Ruben Madsen, Ambassador of Denmark to Ukraine (left), and Dr. Thomas Lothar Weiss, Chief of Mission at IOM Ukraine (right), at the medical tent, Mayorsk checkpoint

from the main road system. Lyudmyla and her husband have five children, their youngest is 1.5 years old, and her main concern is to be able to cover medicine, clothing, and educational expenses for the children. The future for this woman is to see her children grow up healthy and receiving a proper education, hopefully in an environment that is not affected by the conflict one day.

"Entering its fourth year, the humanitarian crisis in eastern Ukraine is protracted, complex and largely forgotten by international media and the international community," said Dr. Thomas Lothar Weiss, Chief Mission at IOM Ukraine. "High prices for food, rent and utilities, medicines and winter clothing remain a challenge for the most vulnerable IDPs, particularly elderly people and children. The integration of IDPs in host communities also remains challenging." Dr. Weiss added that IOM is grateful to all donors who have been supporting the humanitarian response. "More support is critically needed now as IOM and its partners from the Humanitarian Country Team remain committed to providing humanitarian and recovery assistance, including through livelihoods, to millions of Ukrainians," said IOM Ukraine's Chief of Mission.



IOM BRINGS UKRAINIAN BUSINESSES TOGETHER ON AN INTERACTIVE PLATFORM



The presentation of the National Business Exchange Platform in Kyiv attracted over one hundred participants

The International Organization for Migration (IOM), Mission in Ukraine officially launched the National Business Exchange Platform in Kyiv. The Platform, funded by the British Embassy in Ukraine, is a web-resource for self-employed persons and owners of small businesses. It contains a directory of established entrepreneurs from all over Ukraine, business opportunities, educational materials, and business-related news.

“Since 2014, IOM supported almost 6,000 conflict-affected people with grants for vocational trainings, self-employment, and micro-entrepreneurship,” said Dr. Thomas Lothar Weiss, Chief of Mission at IOM Ukraine. “We wanted to further support our beneficiaries in their business activities and created a space where they could connect, communicate and unite with other entrepreneurs to develop, grow and expand their businesses. We now see that the Business Exchange Platform has become more than just a networking and

educational resource – it also supports business communities and strengthens trust within the Ukrainian business environment.”

The National Business Exchange Platform is hosted and maintained by the IOM implementing partner, Business Community Club NGO. Registering is free-of-charge for everybody interested and can be accessed via the Business Community Club’s website: <https://bc-club.org.ua/biznes-platforma/platform.html>. In addition to online tools and resources, registered users have the opportunity to visit educational events and trainings on business development, to exchange experiences and best practices, to establish useful contacts, discuss challenges, and gain practical guidance on business improvement from leading experts.

“For the people forced to flee their own homes, it is not easy to find a new job or start their own business – especially when skills, knowledge or start-up capital may be missing,” said Her Excellency

Ms. Judith Gough, British Ambassador to Ukraine. “These are true not only for displaced persons, but also for members of hosting communities and ex-combatants. We do realize how important it is to be able to provide for yourself and your family; and the difference a helping hand can make in tough circumstances.”

With its economic empowerment programme and the newly established Business Exchange Platform, IOM aims to support more people like Oleksandr. He arrived in the city of Vinnytsia in winter 2015 with only two bags, after being forced to leave his native Luhansk. With money he borrowed from his family, he bought a compressor and two staplers to start a furniture upholstery business in a garage. Later he took part in an IOM-supported business training, successfully defended his business plan and received equipment enabling him to expand his business and hire employees.

Oleksandr eventually opened a furniture production company, and de- ▶



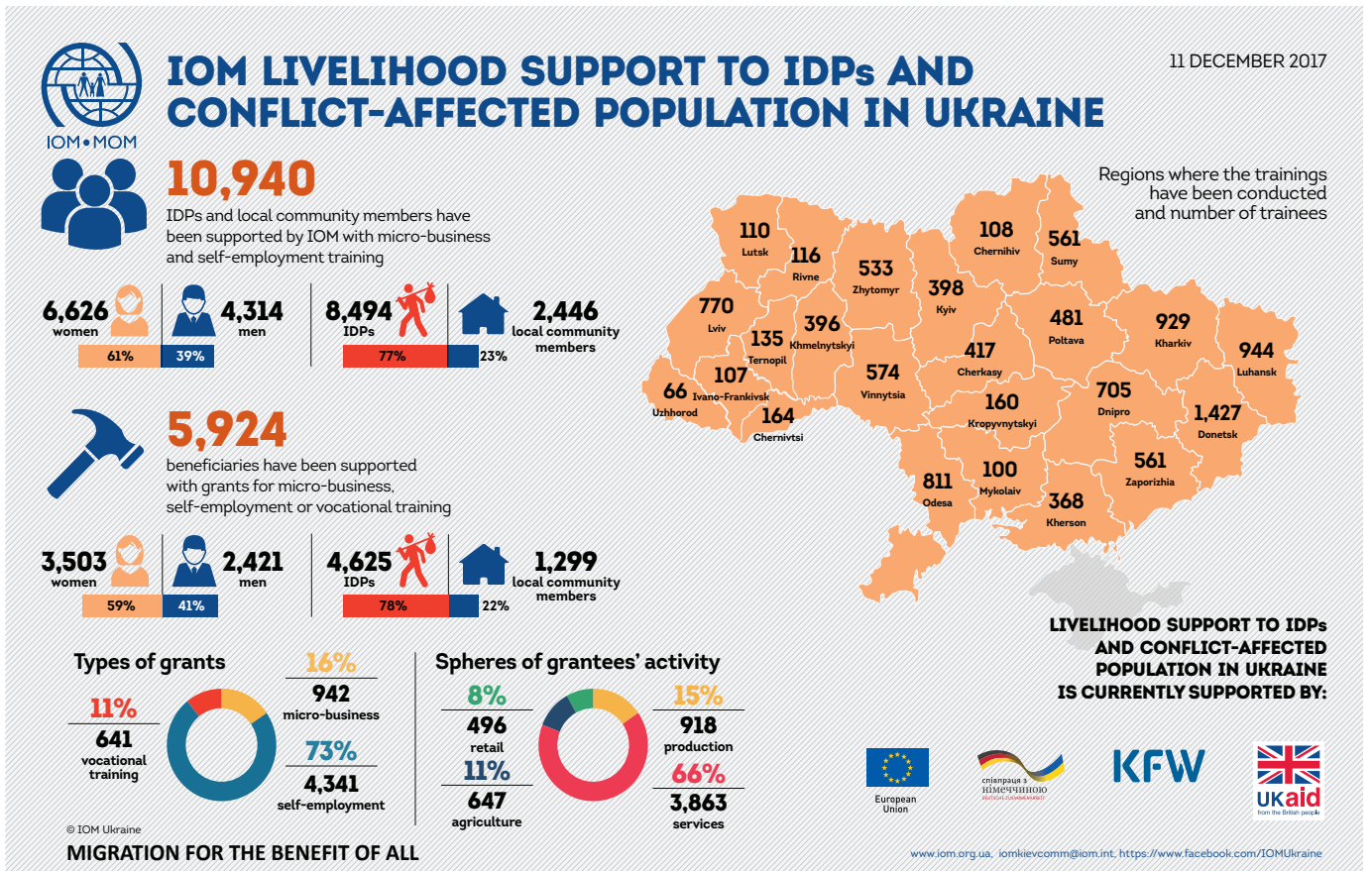
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spite being busy with his business, regularly volunteers at IOM's local partner NGO. At one of the events, he met Viktor, an IDP from Donetsk Region and another IOM-supported beneficiary, who had an eco-wood furniture business near Vinnytsia. The men decided to join forces and create aesthetically pleasing high-quality furniture. "Co-sharing equipment is a great opportunity for any business, but for IDPs who often lack resources in a new community it is especially relevant," said Oleksandr. "And of course, learning from each other and new ideas born in partnership are often even more important than funds," he added.



Oleksandr, an IDP and IOM beneficiary, sharing his experience of business development and finding new partners at the Business Exchange Platform presentation





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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



співпраця з
німеччиною
DEUTSCHE ZUSAMMENARBEIT



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