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UKRAINE



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# Data for Durable Solutions: Ukraine

## Symposium Summary Report and Way Forward

Kyiv, 30-31 March 2023

### BACKGROUND

On 30 and 31 March 2023, under the aegis of the United Nations Resident Coordinator's office in Ukraine (RCO), the International Organization of Migration (IOM), Mission in Ukraine, convened a two-day symposium in Kyiv on Data for Durable Solutions to Internal Displacement in Ukraine.

One year on from the Russian Federation's full-scale invasion of Ukraine, the estimated number of internally displaced people (IDPs) within the country is lower than the estimated number of those who have already returned to their places of habitual residence.<sup>1</sup> With strong official data systems in the country complemented by operational data from multiple actors, developing a common framework of understanding of data for durable solutions policy and programming is more than timely. With a strong relevance for the in-country response, the symposium was well aligned with global discussions on frameworks for durable solutions, including the latest proposed recommendations of the Inter-Agency Data for Solutions to Internal Displacement (DSID) Taskforce to the United Nations Special Adviser on Solutions to Internal Displacement.

Opened by the UN Resident Coordinator and moderated by the RCO Durable Solutions Advisor, the Data for Solutions Symposium welcomed 82 registered participants, representing 29 organizations including four key institutions of the Government of Ukraine (GoU) – namely, the Ministry of Social Policy, the Ministry of Reintegration of Temporarily Occupied Territories, the Reforms Delivery Office of the Cabinet of Ministers, and the Ministry of Digital Transformation. Among key participants were also the IOM Ukraine Chief of Mission, IOM Regional Director for South Eastern Europe and Central Asia (SEECA), as well as experts from UNDP, UNHCR and other agencies of the United Nations Country Team, relevant donors, national and international research actors, as well as international and national non-governmental organisations (INGOs).

Prepared on the basis of the work of an inter-agency group of rapporteurs, this report outlines the challenges and opportunities identified by participants in an effort to establish a joint approach and a way forward<sup>2</sup>. The report documents a joint commitment of participants to work collaboratively towards a shared, evidence-based understanding for recovery and durable solutions (DS) programming in Ukraine, reflecting the consultative sessions held during the two-day workshop.<sup>3</sup>

<sup>1</sup> IOM General Population Survey, February 2023. Available [here](#)

<sup>2</sup> This report was prepared based on reflections compiled by the following rapporteurs: Ruben Nijs (UNHCR), Martine Jahre (UNDP), Prithvi Patel (DTM), Shannon Hayes (DSID Inter-Agency Task Force), Karolina Krelanova (IOM), Gemma Robson (REACH) and Romesh Silva (UNFPA)

<sup>3</sup> The two-day workshop sessions were moderated by the Durable Solutions Advisor at the Resident Coordinator's Office, Ukraine; Data for Solutions to Internal Displacement Taskforce Co-Chair, as well as representatives from IOM, UNDP, UNHCR, REACH, and UNFPA.



## OBJECTIVES

The first day of the symposium<sup>4</sup> focused on identifying the key information by the GoU and other key actors implementing DS programming in the country ('What data are needed by response actors to design, target, and monitor DS programming?'). The second day aimed to facilitate initial technical discussions on approaches and harmonization, referencing global frameworks to address the question: 'How do we collect and analyse Data for Solutions in Ukraine?'

The workshop aimed to address the following objectives :

<b>1</b>	<b>Understand information/data needs of the GoU so as to better support Ukraine's Recovery Plan</b>
<b>2</b>	<b>Ascertain programming data needs and priorities for DS activities in Ukraine among humanitarian and development actors</b>
<b>3</b>	<b>Identify data gaps and build consensus among data actors on common methodologies and approaches</b>
<b>4</b>	<b>Outline a joint commitment to a harmonized approach in support of the GoU</b>
<b>5</b>	<b>Articulate shared priorities around data to support the development of the United Nations Ukraine Durable Solutions Strategy drafted by the RCO</b>

## SUMMARY OF KEY CONSIDERATIONS

The following key themes emerged from contributions of high-level panelists in the opening remarks, and subsequent discussion with a broad range of stakeholders, representing the GoU, United Nations' agencies, national organizations, academics, technical experts and programming and policy actors.

- **Common priorities and consensus on durable solutions:** The GoU representatives highlighted their focus on ensuring the quality of life of IDPs and supporting their independence as a central tenant of their priorities for durable solutions to internal displacement. This perspective aligns with the global frameworks including the Inter Agency Standing Committee (IASC) framework on Durable Solutions and the more recent t DSID framework. Creating conditions which can support sustainable returns for IDPs as well as integration for IDPs unable or unwilling to return was articulated as a cross-cutting priority area, with both return and integration emphasized as areas of attention and need.
- **High level commitment to data for solutions:** High-level representatives from the GoU as well as the United Nations demonstrated a commitment to the role of data as a precondition for relevant and effective programming. Moreover, the consultative and interactive nature of the sessions fostered an open discussion around needs and gaps, and provided a clear insight into GoU priorities, challenges and opportunities.
- **Whole-of-government approach to solutions:** Representatives from the GoU unanimously agreed that recovery and solutions to displacement are cross-sectoral, rendering it the responsibility of all line-ministries. The shared objective towards finding long-term solutions to displacement was reiterated. It noted that effort for recovery and solutions to displacement should not be unilateral or ministerial but requires a whole-of-government approach.
- **A joined-up approach to data for solutions:** Beyond a whole-of-government approach, there is a need to facilitate the harmonization of technical approaches between the GoU and international humanitarian, reconstruction and development partners. Planning for durable solutions should be based on a Humanitarian-Peace-Development Nexus approach that involves both the GoU and its international partners.

<sup>4</sup> For a detailed overview of the structure of the event, please refer to Annex 3 (Agenda).



- **Data-rich context:** Ukraine is a data rich environment in terms of both official and operational data. The Ministries of Social Policy, Reintegration of Temporary Occupied Territories, Digital Transformation, Cabinet of Ministries, United Nations Agencies, INGOs and research institutes recognised and highlighted the various data initiatives and databases that they use and manage. However, a current challenge is that these data systems are not yet aligned, interoperable and coordinated. This siloed approach reduces the potential of Ukraine's data rich landscape. The symposium highlighted the untapped potential of increased alignment and integration of data systems across government and international partners for durable solutions. The challenges of data governance in the context of a rapidly changing situation, the prevailing realities of martial law, the technical challenges of data harmonization and interoperability between data systems that cross multiple governing bodies and a wide range of international efforts across the humanitarian response, rehabilitation and development should be acknowledged, as well as the desire to consider an increased use of official statistics to inform DS policy and programming and a gradual harmonization of approaches.
- **Government/national coordination of data for solutions:** While notable information and data gaps do exist, there are already a variety of data sources that can and should be used to inform solutions programming, especially official data owned and managed by the GoU. Ministries, while having different mandates, often rely on similar datasets to inform their planning. Of note was the proposal by a representative of the Ministry of Digitalization to consider the creation of a shared data repository available to all ministries and government entities to inform solutions and recovery programming through better coordination and consolidation of the already existing information.

## DATA NEEDS, GAPS AND PRIORITIES FOR SOLUTIONS POLICY AND PROGRAMMING IN UKRAINE

The event highlighted a consensus amongst all GoU representatives on the centrality of data for the planning and development of rehabilitation programming and policies. The Ministry of Social Policy, for instance, highlighted that high-quality and up to date data are crucial for the effectiveness of targeted government social protection programs.

### *Information needs for DS programming*

1. Gaps in **population data**, including the number of IDPs and tracking of internal movements represent a key, universally recognized obstacle to programming for solutions. Reliable data at hromada/subnational level were highlighted as lacking, particularly in terms of information on origin and potential return of IDPs which are presently not shared. Similarly, basic data describing the demographic profile and socio-economic status of the displaced are also needed.
2. **Lack of complete, comprehensive data on numbers of de-facto IDPs** in addition to registered IDPs emerged as an important barrier to programming. For more accurate IDP numbers, and to distinguish between needs/vulnerabilities of registered IDPs and de-facto IDPs, the participating experts agreed that understanding the barriers to registration is crucial for vulnerability targeting.
3. **The discrepancy between datasets enumerating returns and the number of Ukrainians reported displaced abroad** was noted as a key barrier to understanding the fundamental shifts in population demographics in Ukraine since February 2022.
4. To compensate for **added pressure on locally available social services** in areas hosting displaced population, hromada-level information on the demand for and availability of basic services such as temporary and permanent housing, social and educational infrastructures, etc. is needed. Location level information on housing demand and supply was cited in particular as essential for not only to support returning IDPs but also those who may attempt local integration. It is necessary to have a comprehensive picture of the key sectors related to social support and services in a determined area (hromada level) including the available social infrastructures, their functionality and use.
5. **Data facilitating economic integration in locations of displacement**, such as employment sector data are also needed. The GoU representatives especially highlighted the need for geographic location level data for labour market analysis, including the readiness of IDPs to seek employment, and their needs for vocational training, or an analysis that matches skills of IDPs with the opportunities present in a location/prioritised sector of employment.



The current disruption to the SSSU's routine labour force survey programme poses major challenges to understanding the economics of labour supply and demand. Hence, interim solutions that leverage existing administrative data systems and ongoing humanitarian needs assessment surveys are needed.

6. Data on **social cohesion and monitoring of decision-making factors, intentions and sentiments** across population groups will be required to support to reintegration of returnees and local integration of IDPs (and also returns in locations in which IDPs may be judged for having left during the war). In addition to reiterating the importance of data in shaping planning and decision-making within the response, GoU representatives also recognized the importance of data in ensuring that IDP decision-making is informed and that information on

living conditions and job opportunities are at the heart of IDPs' decision-making process to facilitate the achievement of durable solutions.

7. Acknowledging the data-rich environment and existing sophisticated data systems, GoU representatives stressed the need for **better analysis to support the use of data in policy and programmatic decision-making**.
8. To foster recovery and DS programming, a **localized, area-level approach** to data which is led and coordinated at national level is essential to **operationalize** implementation and target needs at local/hromada level. In the context of the current martial law, participants noted **the need for more cohesive and coordinated data governance** that enables responsible sharing of data between government and international partners.

## KEY ELEMENTS OF RESPONSE TO IDENTIFIED NEEDS

In response to needs identified, technical and programmatic experts in attendance reached the below conclusions:

- **Primacy of the Government's leadership and needs:** The technical data actors in attendance agreed on the importance of deferring to the Government of Ukraine for leadership on data for solutions to internal displacement. In producing operational data alongside official statistics, participants agreed on the need to focus on the GoU's needs as a key data user.
- **Interoperability and joint analysis:** A key challenge relates to the lack of interoperability between official and operational datasets and the need to bolster joint analysis and information sharing. Present experts additionally identified a lack of crosscutting analysis as a key bottleneck, particularly in terms of preventing data validation, triangulation, and utilization.
- **A joint data for solutions to internal displacement framework:** Participants recognized the need to commence the work towards a (formal or informal) joint analytical framework suitable for implementation in the context of Ukraine. Per the outcomes of discussions in interactive sessions, participants agreed that some consensus on key definitions and figures exists, while concerns remain related to the need for streamlining of key population categories of reference<sup>5</sup>. Technical experts also agreed that beyond focus on those displaced or returned from displacement, conflict affected population who are non-displaced should be included in any durable solutions analysis. It was also agreed that data pertaining to "returns", "local integration" and "resettlement" required that IDP populations be aggregated to the administrative settlement level for comparability.

<sup>5</sup> see Annex 4



# Main Outcomes and Ways Forward



The event highlighted common perspectives among participants representing 30 organizations and demonstrated convergence around key issues, data gaps, as well as approaches to their resolution, cementing a consensus on the way forward. The following key components of a joint approach were identified, articulated, and validated.

## Data partnerships and joint commitment:

Recognizing the need to ensure proper institutional arrangements such as Memoranda of Understanding (MoU) between United Nations agencies and GoU actors on data collection, coordination, analysis and sharing for solutions, policy, programming and action. This also includes alignment on data sharing and adherence to data responsibility and relevant data protection principles. United Nations agencies and actors can also provide data analysis capabilities, resources, or other relevant support to strengthen these partnerships. A joint effort is needed to design a unified data system that is well positioned for joint analysis, encouraging use, with on-ramps for the GoU, demonstrating a commitment to build on this key point moving forward.



## Government-led/national ownership data for solutions:

While value-added and contributions from humanitarian and development actors are key, the recovery and solutions process, including data aspects, should be led by the GoU, and coordination pathways between the government and the humanitarian/development sector are essential to obtain positive results in this sense. Government leadership is critical as government consolidated data systems need to be at the core, both in terms of leveraging the power of GoU consolidated administrative data systems, and in terms of prioritizing their preservation, maintenance and resilience.

## Resident Coordinator Office to champion data for solutions in Ukraine:

Participants agreed on recognizing and jointly supporting the leadership of the United Nations RCO in Ukraine in coordinating and continuing the Data for Solutions workstream. This is essential to avoid parallel coordination and duplication of data.

## Data coordination for better analysis and utilization:

Participants highlighted the need to prioritize better use of data, underpinned by linking datasets and through stronger partnerships on Data for Durable Solutions. Also from a technical point of view, the participants recognized the need to continue the work (within existing fora/platforms in Ukraine, such as the Assessment and Analysis Working Group) undertaken in the workshop such as the Evidence Mapping of Tools in Ukraine against global DS indicators<sup>6</sup> and the data harmonization on definitions and population categories that can strengthen the operational use to support programmes.

## Utilize and strengthen existing durable solutions mechanism in Ukraine:

It was also agreed that there is no need for developing a new Data for Solutions Working Group as such, but rather strengthen existing data forums to interweave Data for Solutions priorities into the work of the Durable Solutions Steering Group in Ukraine and the Assessment and Analytics WG of the ICCG, as well as the Data Taskforce under the HCT. There was an emphasis on better use of these to improve both the quality and optimal use of the existing amount of data available.

## Mainstreaming data for solutions:

GoU representatives and participants recognized the importance of incorporating and mainstreaming data points for solutions, on returns/local integration/resettlement, in all sectoral working plans of the Ukraine Recovery Plan, to the extent possible.

## Continuity and the D4S community of practice in Ukraine:

It was recommended to create a “Data for Solutions Ukraine Network” with workshop participants to form an informed community of technical and programmatic actors representing the ownership and priorities of multiple stakeholders (UN agencies, national actors and INGOs) which is integrated within the existing framework in order to continue the technical discussions that were initiated during the workshop.

