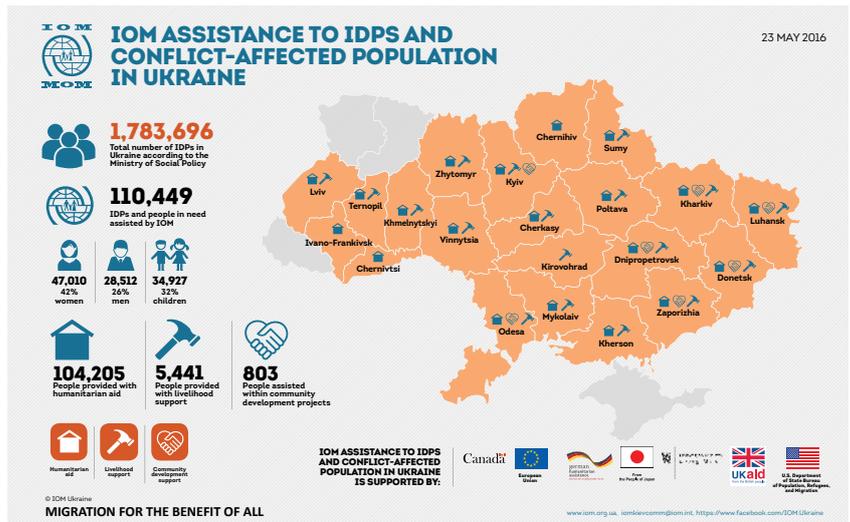


## HIGHLIGHTS

- The total number of internally displaced persons (IDPs) from Crimea and Eastern Ukraine reached **1,783,696** as of 23 May 2016, according to the Ministry of Social Policy of Ukraine.
- IOM assisted over **110,000** vulnerable IDPs and conflict-affected people in 21 regions of Ukraine.
- **Forty-two (42) per cent** of IDPs have to cut down expenses even for food, **37 per cent** of IDPs are able to buy only food, IOM [survey](#) reveals.
- Only **9 per cent** of USD 25.8 million required for the Humanitarian Response Plan 2016 is funded, according to OCHA.



## IOM's RESPONSE TO DATE

# CASH FOR WORK ASSISTANCE TO VULNERABLE IDPS AND CONFLICT-AFFECTED COMMUNITIES IN UKRAINE

In mid-April, IOM launched a Cash-for-Work initiative, funded by the U.S. Department of State Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration (PRM), involving 400 vulnerable IDPs and host community members in activities meant to enhance the municipal environment and infrastructure in nine villages and towns close to the contact line.

The initial and successful pilot project in Dymyrov (from May 2016 – Myrnohrad, Donetsk Oblast) targeting 50 beneficiaries, was immediately followed by a similar activity in



IDPs helping to clean public space in the town of Dymyrov, Donetsk Oblast



According to an IOM survey, only about one-third of IDPs in Ukraine are employed. The IOM “Cash for Work” programme provides IDPs with income opportunities, at the same time helping to address the problems of host communities

Selidove (Donetsk Oblast) involving 52 people.

The project is implemented by the Polish Centre for International Aid (PCPM) and the Ukrainian NGO “Ukrainian Horizons”.

According to Dmytro Leontyev, a representative of “Ukrainian Horizons”, the project remarkably contributes to providing basic support to the most vulnerable IDPs and host community members: “The activities involve dif-

ferent people with different stories and social status, who are all facing the consequences of the conflict and are united by their willingness to change their life for the better,” Dmytro says.

Through this initiative, IOM has also sought to involve some IDPs and community members who were not initially covered by other assistance programmes for various reasons, but emerged as vulnerable and in need of assistance per the project’s scrupulous selection process.

According to official data, around 24,000 people are registered as IDPs in Dmytrov, increasing by 50% its pre-crisis population of approximately 50,000. This is why the head of the Dmytrov Population Self-Organization Coordinating Committee, Vyacheslav Syrota, stressed how, beyond providing material support to the most vulnerable, with this intervention IOM “is also indirectly contributing to much needed social cohesion by improving integration of IDPs into the town’s community”.

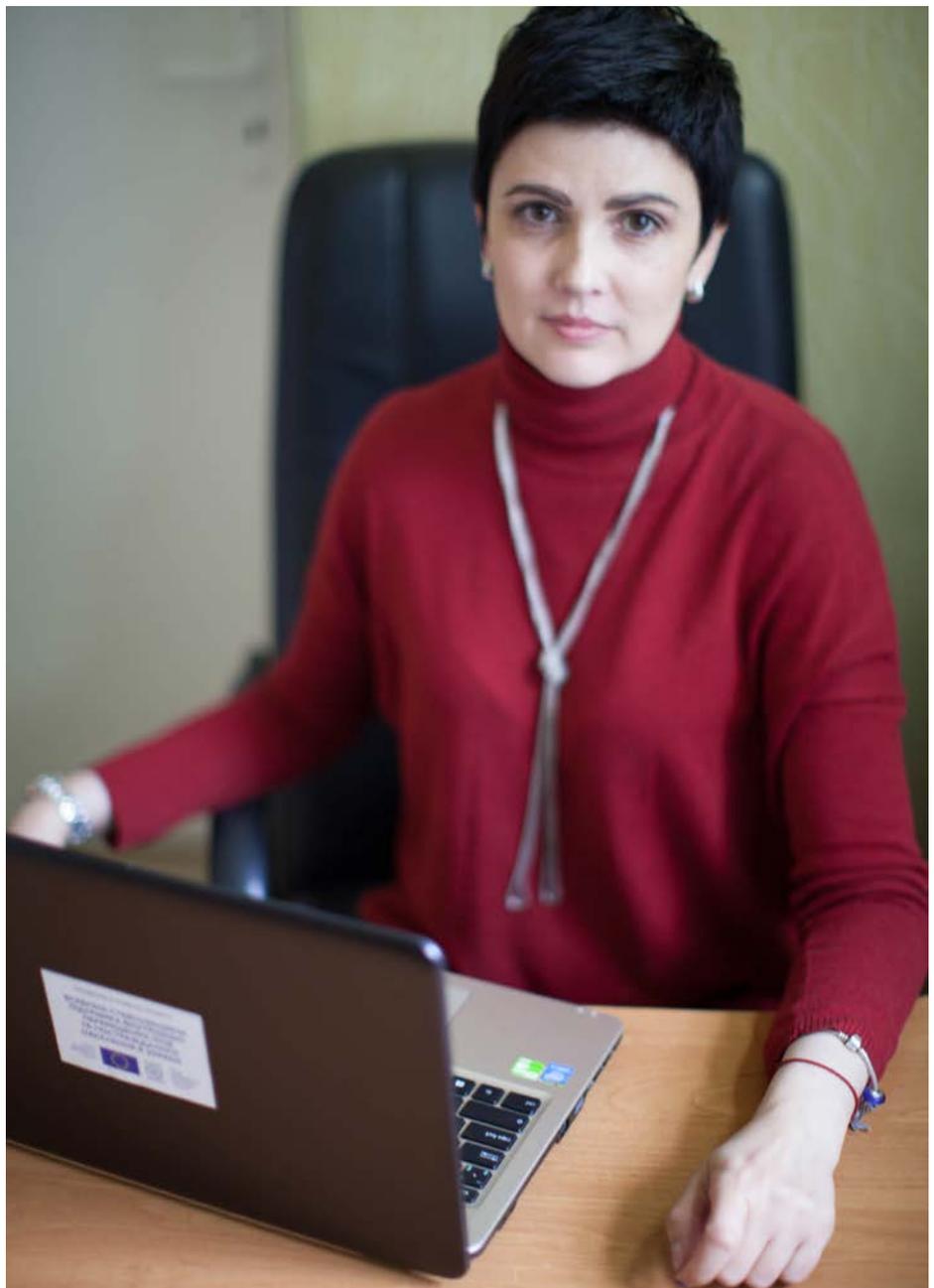
## LIFE STORY

# “CHILDREN ARE THE FIRST VICTIMS OF POST-TRAUMATIC STRESS” DISPLACED PSYCHOLOGIST COUNSELS OTHER IDPs

Nadiia, a Luhansk private psychologist in her past life, now has a small office at the state-owned Youth Friendly Clinic in the centre of Zaporizhia, Eastern Ukraine. When her official working day is over, she can use this office for private consultations. With a laptop provided by IOM as a part of the assistance package, she also offers counselling sessions via Skype. Some of Nadiia's clients are contacting her from her native Luhansk. “The signboard with my contacts is still there, it wasn't damaged, so people keep calling,” Nadiia says. Her regular clients, who used to turn to Nadiia for assistance during the over 10 years that her centre in Luhansk was open, are also availing themselves of the Skype sessions. People displaced from the Donbas to Zaporizhia sometimes show up to Nadiia's office.

“My clients are not talking about the conflict directly,” explains the psychologist. “They have complaints about sleep disorders, apathy, and lack of interest in life.”

Nadiia notes that two years after the conflict erupted and the people started fleeing, many are still in stress. However, she continues, even in peaceful times quite a few people in Ukraine were able to admit their need for psychological assistance and sought for professional help. In times of displacement and



Nadiia with her new laptop, part of the assistance package provided by IOM

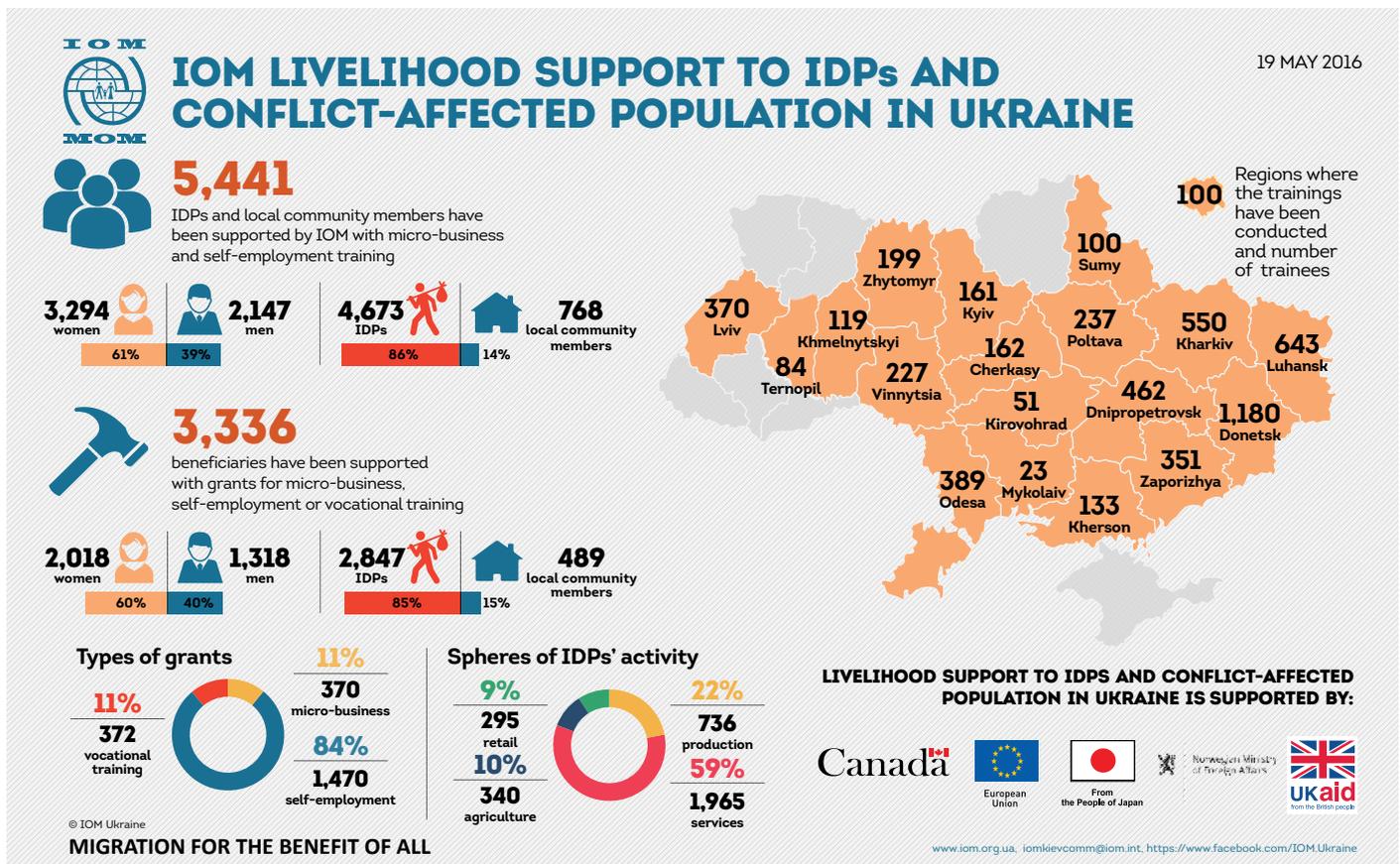
burdensome uncertainty, with basic needs such as housing, clothing, and jobs, in many cases not fully addressed, people hardly pay attention to their emotional condition.

What made things different about half a year ago is the effect of post-traumatic stress on children. "Problems with studying, stuttering and other troubles make parents worry, so they start looking for a psycholo-

gist to help their children. Of course, when such families come to my office, it often turns out that the parents also need psychological assistance," says Nadiia.

Nadiia is one of almost 3,000 IDPs supported by IOM with grants for self-employment or vocational training. As a psychologist, she sees the value of the livelihoods project not only in providing business training or

equipment for self-employment, but also in helping build the self-confidence of participants and providing a platform for them to build networks with their peers. Nadiia sees a continued need for psychological counseling for the conflict-affected population, and her personal experience shows that if a specialist can build trust, even hesitant and vulnerable people will seek support.



### 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:



From the People of Japan



Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs



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 exploring and promoting regular channels for Ukrainian labour migrants, 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 over 450,000 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**