



International Organization for Migration (IOM)
The UN Migration Agency

IOM's ASSISTANCE TO CONFLICT-AFFECTED PEOPLE IN UKRAINE

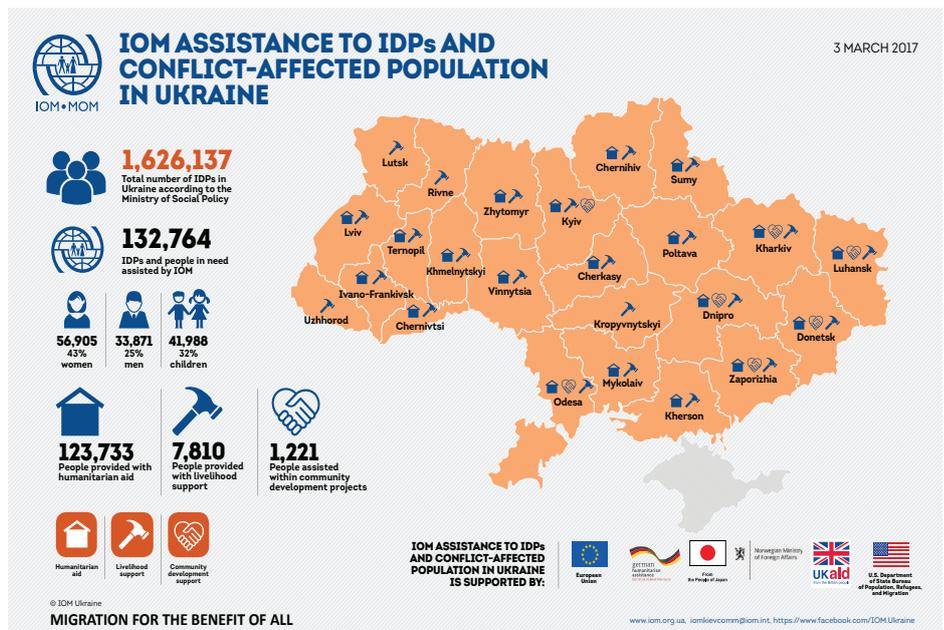
MONTHLY REPORT

Migration for the Benefit of All

FEBRUARY 2017

HIGHLIGHTS

- The total number of internally displaced persons (IDPs) from Crimea and eastern Ukraine is **1,626,137** as of 27 February 2017, according to the Ministry of Social Policy of Ukraine.
- IOM assisted over **132,000** vulnerable IDPs and conflict-affected people in 24 regions of Ukraine.
- Vulnerable IDP households in average spend **39%** of their income on rent and utilities, according to the post-distribution monitoring of IOM's cash assistance project in 13 regions of Ukraine.



Enlarged version of the map on [page 4](#)

IOM's RESPONSE TO DATE

VULNERABLE HOUSEHOLDS IN DONETSK REGION WITHSTAND THE HARSH WINTER WITH IOM'S HELP

IOM provided coal to the most vulnerable families in the non-government-controlled areas of Donetsk Region to help them heating their homes during the harsh winter period. In total, IOM will distribute coal to 4,000 families with members who have disabilities or chronic diseases, as well as to elderly who live alone and have extremely low income. This is made possible with funding from ECHO, the U.S. (PRM), and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Norway. Each family is provided with three tons of high quality anthracite coal, which, despite the traditional presence



A truck is loaded with coal for vulnerable families



Babushka Valia (at the centre) watches the coal being delivered to her home

of coal mines in the area, still remains unaffordable to many. "I receive a pension of 2,000 rubles per month, but need at least 3,000 for one ton of coal. The one you brought is of really good quality, not easy to find in the market," said Raisa, one of the IOM beneficiaries in Donetsk Region.

Though the heating pipeline is quite developed in eastern Ukraine, it only reaches the most urbanized areas, while the peripheries and more remote locations lack the infrastructure, and residents must resort to burning coal or wood.

Given the remoteness of many locations and the physical or financial inability of most beneficiaries to transport the coal, IOM opted for home-to-home distributions. The small trucks can only carry coal for two families per round, but this allows to minimize the beneficiaries' efforts and/or the expenses. "I had my eightieth birthday long time ago," says babushka Valia, another beneficiary of IOM's coal assistance. "I am almost

totally blind and must walk around with these sticks, because I cannot even afford buying crutches. I live alone with my son, who is completely blind and needs all the little assistance I am still able to give him. Thank you very much for bringing coal to our house. I will have to spend only 300 rubles to have someone transfer it to my barn. You can tell it is of good quality, burns very well and will keep us warm."

IOM's coal distributions were compounded by parallel efforts to provide other winterization aid, such as blankets and bed linen – to those facilities in the non-government-controlled areas where social care is extended to the most vulnerable, including disabled people, the elderly, families with many children and very low income, single parents, etc. The winterization aid was one of the numerous actions undertaken by IOM to improve access to basic non-food items for the vulnerable residents in the non-government-controlled areas of Donetsk Region, as well as in the government-controlled areas close to the contact line.

IOM KICKSTARTS NEW CASH ASSISTANCE PROJECT

In February, 2,500 beneficiaries of IOM's cash assistance project funded by the U.S. Department of State Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration (PRM), received money to cover their most urgent needs. In total, approximately 5,700 vulnerable conflict-affected persons, including local population, IDPs and returnees, residing in Donetsk and Luhansk regions along the contact line, will receive cash assistance from IOM till June 2017. Elderly people, families with three or more children, people with disabilities, and single-headed families will be provided with UAH 1,980 (USD 74) per person. The cash aid will be provided in two rounds with assistance of the Ukrainian state post service Ukrposhta.



IOM's beneficiary receiving aid at a post office in Svitlodarsk, Donetsk Region



LIFE STORY

PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES IN FOCUS OF IOM'S AID



Photo: Volodymyr Shuvayev for IOM

Oksana (right) looks after her daughter and mother, having to live on her husband's salary and low social benefits

"Any assistance is important for us because our pensions are very small and we can hardly cover our needs," tells Nina Kuzminichna, an elderly woman from Novotoshkivske village, Luhansk Region. She lives together with her husband in a small one-room flat. Seven years ago, her husband lost both legs and a hand in an accident, and now he is bedridden. "I spend the biggest part of the money we have on medicines and items for the care of my husband. We always need hygiene items, especially diapers," Nina Kuzminichna says.

Winter is the hardest time for the elderly couple because their expenses increase significantly during the cold season. Novo-

toshkivske lacks a central heating system and the villagers heat their houses with coal. The price of coal and wood is disproportionally high compared to the meager pensions and social benefits people receive. Hence, families like Nina Kuzminichna's, become especially vulnerable in winter.

This year, the family benefited from hygiene and winterization assistance, provided by IOM with funding from the European Commission's Humanitarian Aid and Civil Protection department (ECHO). IOM's assistance consisted of two rounds of distributions – the first in December 2016 and the second in February 2017 – of hygiene and winterization supplies, meant to cover

a household's need for approximately six months in total. The first round included warm blankets, bed linen and hygiene items, the second round was a top-up distribution of hygiene consumables. "Our house is very modest, but I am trying to keep it clean and cozy, things you brought help me to do it. Also IOM's aid is useful for looking after my husband," Nina Kuzminichna explains.

Oksana is another IOM beneficiary from Novotoshkivske. She is the mother of two girls, the older one has a disability and needs a wheelchair to move around. The situation of the family has worsened in the recent years, as Oksana's mother has suffered several blood strokes. Now the young woman has to take care of her as well.

Despite Oksana's husband works in a coal mine, his salary and the social benefits they receive for the child with disability still hardly cover family's basic expenses. "Since we live on a stringent budget, IOM's assistance is a significant contribution for our family," the woman says.

According to UN OCHA, some 2.2 million people in eastern Ukraine are currently in need of essential and life-saving health care services, while, overall, their health conditions are directly or indirectly negatively affected by the protracted conflict. Over one million of them are elderly people above 60 years of age with at



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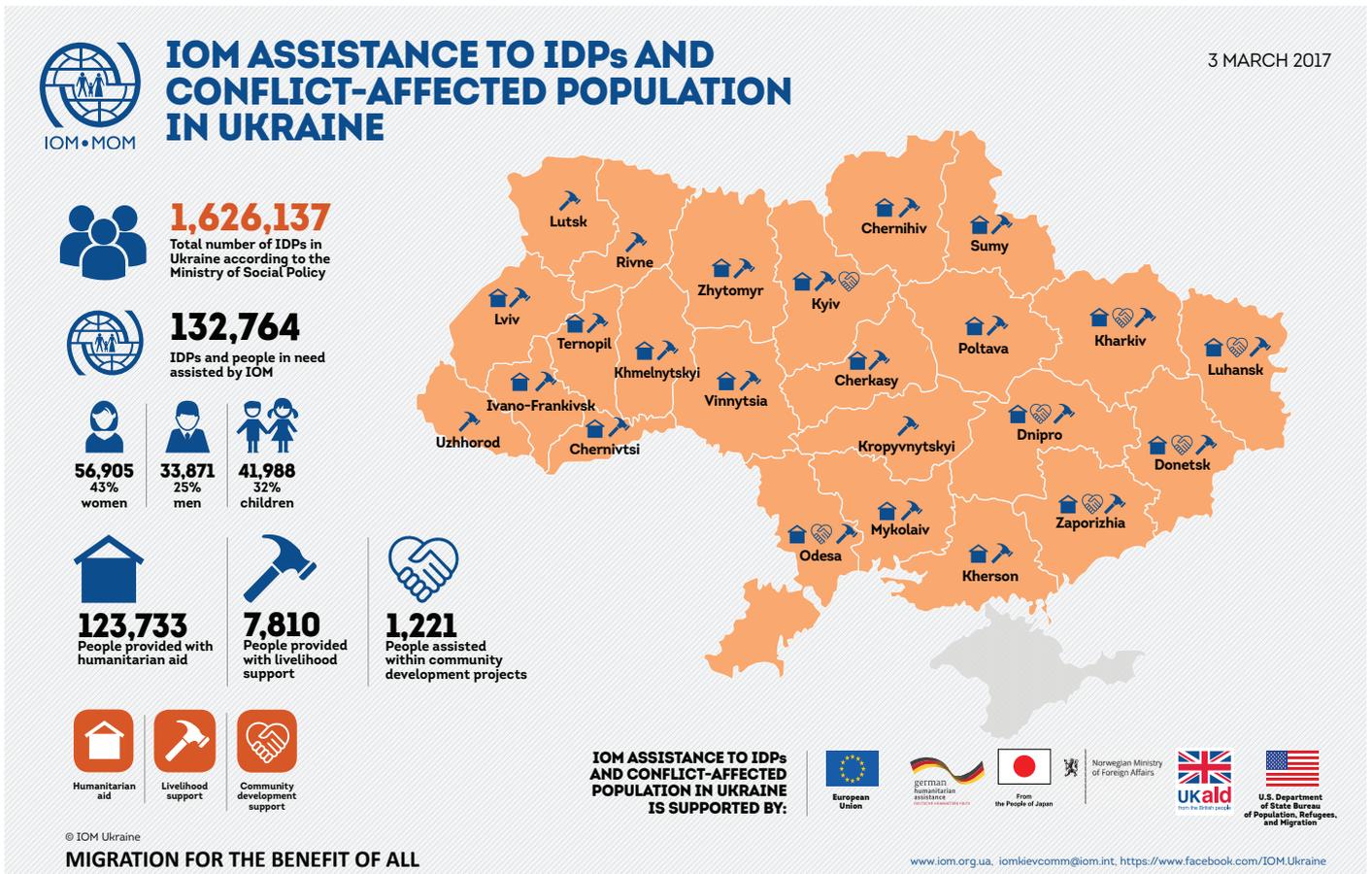
least one chronic illness. At least 200,000 people suffer from functional limitations, disabilities and injuries. According to IOM's assessments in conflict-affected areas, the need for hygiene supplies – especially for women, children, newborns and other vulnerable individuals such as the elderly, people with disabilities, etc. – is still crucial to respond to their basic needs.

Nina Kuzhminichna, whose husband is bedridden, stalwartly bears all the hardships of conflict



Photo: Volodymyr Shuvayev for IOM

IOM's RESPONSE MAP





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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



german humanitarian assistance
DEUTSCHE HUMANITÄRE HILFE



From the People of Japan



Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs



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 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