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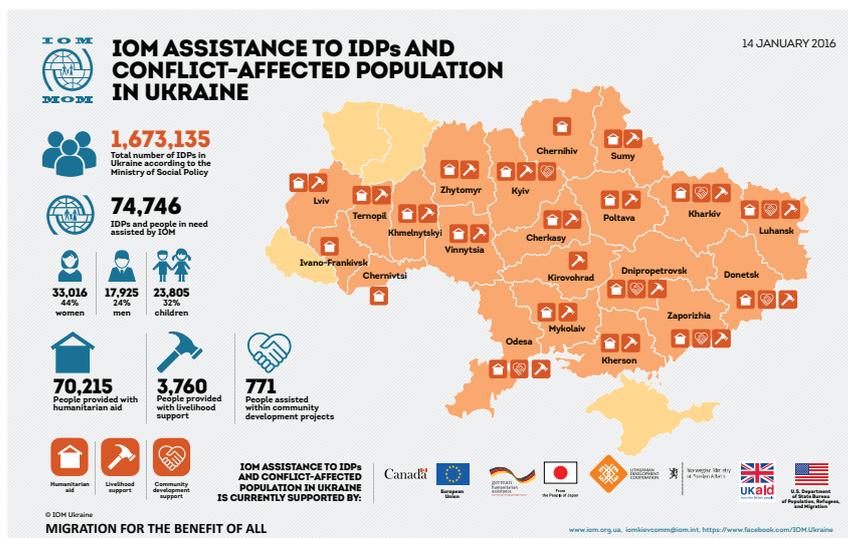
IOM's ASSISTANCE TO CONFLICT-AFFECTED PEOPLE IN UKRAINE

BIMONTHLY REPORT

DECEMBER 2015 – JANUARY 2016

HIGHLIGHTS

- The total number of internally displaced persons (IDPs) from Crimea and Eastern Ukraine reached **1,673,135** as of 28 December 2015, according to the Ministry of Social Policy of Ukraine.
- IOM assisted almost **75,000** vulnerable IDPs and conflict-affected people in 21 regions of Ukraine.
- IOM started aid delivery in non-government-controlled areas.
- About **8 per cent** of eastern Ukraine is either affected or suspected to be affected by landmines and improvised explosive devices as well as explosive remnants of war, according to the Landmine Monitor Report 2015.



Enlarged version of the map on [page 5](#)

IOM's RESPONSE TO DATE

IOM EXPANDS HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO NON-GOVERNMENT-CONTROLLED AREAS

As part of a PRM-funded project aiming to provide humanitarian aid to the most affected population in the government- and non-government-controlled areas (GCAs and NGCAs) of Ukraine, on 17 December 2015, IOM's first convoy reached Luhansk carrying almost 3,500 household and specialized hygiene kits and 2,750 winterization kits. This assistance consists of such urgently needed items as blankets, water buckets, detergents, toothbrushes and toothpaste, diapers, sanitary pads and other hygiene products. Over 500 hygiene kits and several dozen winterization kits were



Trucks with IOM aid on the road to Luhansk

distributed swiftly thereafter in the NGCAs, targeting two geriatric centers, one center for the rehabilitation of disable children, and 24 households with extremely low income.

Additional kits will be distributed in January and February 2016. IOM's immediate assistance to the most vulnerable people of Luhansk Region

will continue through direct hygiene non-food item/or winterization support to collective centres and persons in conflict-affected areas on both sides of the contact line.

The current activities target over 3,000 of the most vulnerable IDP households and several key collective centers in conflict-affected areas of Luhansk Re-

gion, including families with extremely low income, elderly, disabled people and particularly children, families with many children and single parents with insufficient income, who are in need of assistance.

IOM plans to continue and expand its assistance in NGCAs and across the contact line in the months to come.

JAPANESE CALLIGRAPHY FOR PEACE IN UKRAINE

Two master classes on Japanese calligraphy took place in Artemivsk and Severodonetsk within the Japan-funded IOM project supporting community stabilization in the Donbas. The classes were conducted by Mr. Hitoshi Nakamura, a master from the Ukraine-Japan Centre. The events were attended by local community members and IDPs. "Peace", "Love", and "Ukraine" were among the hieroglyphs they were eager to learn.



IDPs and local residents of conflict-affected cities of Donetsk and Luhansk regions enjoyed a break from their difficult daily lives

LIFE STORY

DISPLACED SOCIOLOGIST OPENS OWN BUSINESS AND CREATES JOBS FOR TWO DOZEN IDPs AND LOCALS



Starting from scratch and having only a tablet, Halyna faced challenges transferring questionnaires into electronic format. A laptop provided as part of the IOM livelihood programme was of great help

A year-and-a-half after she had to flee home, Halyna, a sociologist from the frontline city of Mariupol, runs a public opinion research company of 26 employees, which currently implements nine projects.

Halyna left Mariupol, Donetsk Region, with her husband and two children in May 2014 when the clashes started in the city. “We did not want to hide somewhere in a basement, so we stayed outside of the city for three months, hearing muffled explosions far away and going back from time to time to check on our flat and relatives,” she recalls.

On one of the nights when the family was home, shooting began in the area. “We were lying on the floor, after turning up Sponge Bob as loud as possible to block out the sounds from the street. There was not a light on in any of the neighboring houses. After two hours of this, I got tired, stood up and went to cook some cream of wheat. My husband thought I was crazy. The neighbours were taking shelter in their bathtubs, you know, and I was cooking. I fed the children and went to bed. I realized that I could not take it anymore,” Halyna recounts these tense days.

By late summer, their friends and relatives started to call them from Mariupol, telling them that everything was quiet and that they could come back. The family decided to try returning, and went to Mariupol for a few days at the end of August 2014. “When you realize that your children will learn how to go down to the bomb shelter, and see everything with your own eyes, you instantly start to doubt and see things differently. Therefore, we decided to leave the city for the second time.

Having stuffed the car to the brim, the family left the city at dawn. Halyna explains, “We took everything we could fit into the car. The children sat on the pillows and blankets. However, we somehow had not taken into account that the autumn would come. We had taken pans, pots, blankets, children’s clothes, dishes, and a microwave, which was stuffed with children’s shoes.”

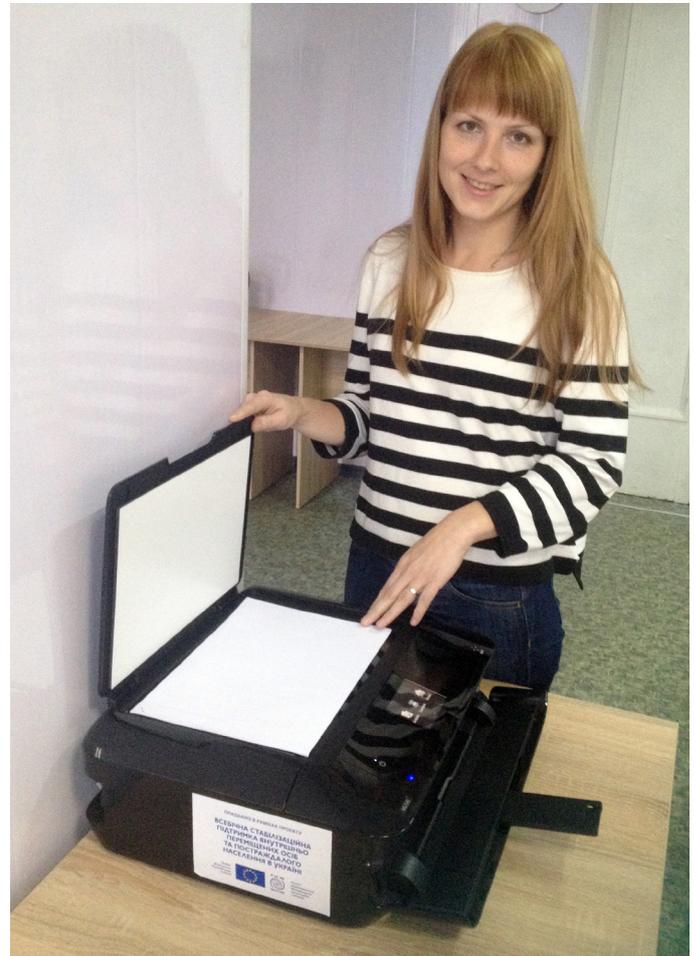
The family first stayed a few days in Zaporizhia, but soon Halyna and her husband realized that it would be better to move to Kharkiv, where they had relatives. The family entered the city under the cloak of darkness. Godparents met them and took them to their new apartment. “It was already midnight. We closed the door, and suddenly the fireworks began. I started crying. ‘They also shoot here,’ I thought. Then my husband told me: ‘Look out of the window. These are fireworks.’”

Halyna immediately found a job with a market research company. She was leaving for work at 5 am and returning at 11 pm, continuing to work on questionnaires at home. “I spent nine months at this pace, because I had to feed my family. Anyway, it was okay. We survived. I wore my jogging shoes the entire winter. Then my relatives sent me boots and woolen socks, it was wonderful,” says Halyna.

At some point, she began to calculate how much she earned. Taking into account the commuting and food expenses, the amount appeared to be quite small, so Halyna started thinking about freelance work.

She called some Kyiv colleagues, and they immediately suggested collaborating, since they were interested in hiring interviewers in Kharkiv. Halyna started to look for sociologists and assistants with whom she could work, but started largely on her own.

“My first project was on IDP job-seekers. However, it was terribly difficult, because I did not have a computer, only a tablet. I was tired, I was falling asleep on my feet on occa-



A printer for Halyna’s office was also purchased by IOM with funds provided by the EU

sion, but I kept working. Since this work was not immediately remunerated, I went to the pawnshop many times. I knew that the next day I was going to be paid, but we needed something to eat at that very moment. I am not the kind of person who clings to material trappings, so it was not so difficult for me to get rid of them,” says Halyna.

One day, running all over the city in search of IDPs, Halyna saw a poster advertising an EU-funded IOM self-employment project. “My first thought was: ‘Excellent! That is where I can find IDPs!’ At that time, I had to interview 25 IDPs, and for me it was big money,” recalls Halyna.

Filling in the questionnaires, she began to think more about the training: “That is when I understood that it was possible for me to implement my own projects and offer market research services in Kharkiv. I realized that

with good employees and orders I might be able to set up a successful business. On the contrary, without employees I would run around with surveys on my own for the rest of my life.”

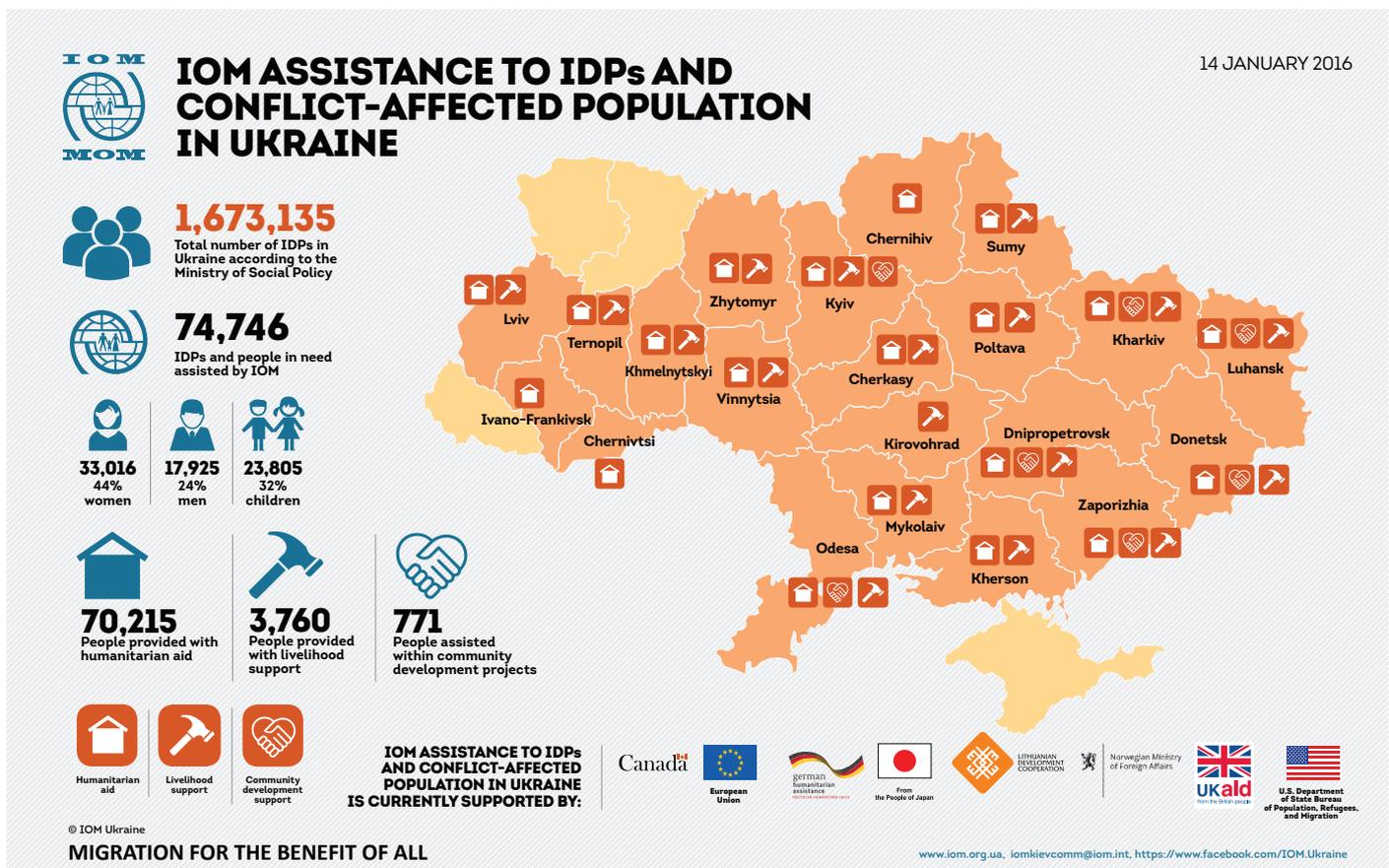
“IOM’s project gave me a necessary push and helped me to pull myself together. Being an IDP, I was not able to get a bank loan for buying a laptop. So, after I was trained on how to develop a business plan, defending my business idea, I had a sole purpose – give me a laptop! Soon, I started a private enterprise and things got rolling. I opened an office, secured new projects, and hired staff. Now, I have what I wanted. I received an important part of my office equipment – a laptop and a printer – thanks to IOM.”

Currently, the sociologist is running nine projects. She is cooperating with a number of pollsters, like the Kyiv In-

ternational Sociology Institute (KISI), Razumkov Centre, GfK, and companies from Sweden and Belgium. “Now I have two full-time workers and 24 contract interviewers, amongst whom are eight IDPs. I am lucky that my work speaks for itself and customers come to me. I do not even have a business card! But I have people who I feel comfortable working with, and there is an understanding that everything is possible if you really want it and if you set your goals right,” says Halyna.

As of mid-January 2016, over 3,700 IDPs and local community members have been supported with business training from IOM. Among them, over 1,900 people have been supported with grants for micro-business or self-employment and have received or are in process of receiving different types of equipment to provide for themselves.

IOM's RESPONSE MAP



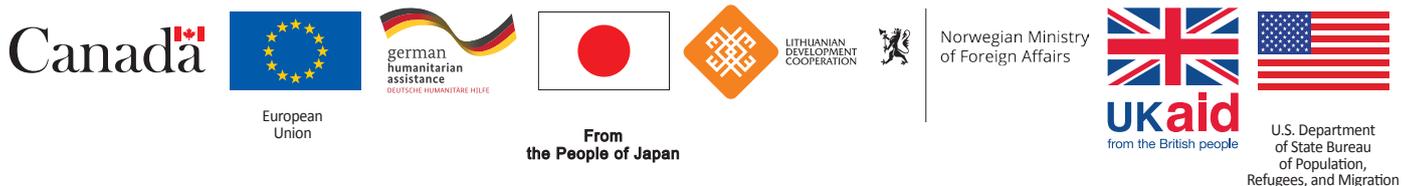
BACKGROUND ON THE CRISIS

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, people have been forced to flee their homes and have become increasingly vulnerable. Most have left 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 their capacity to provide humanitarian assistance and more durable solutions, in part through employment and community stabilization. Those staying in the Donbas, particularly in areas affected by fighting, 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:



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 19 years of its presence in Ukraine, IOM has assisted over 400,000 migrants (Ukrainians and other nationalities), 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