

MULTI-CHILD FAMILIES IN YENAKIEVE, DONETSK REGION, RECEIVE DIAPERS

Yenakieve, Donetsk Region, used to be a busy industrial town with mines, metallurgy, food and construction materials processing plants. Now the majority of those plants are closed due to the conflict which erupted in 2014. Similar to most locations in Ukraine's Eastern Conflict Area, people lack employment opportunities and poverty levels remain very high. In 2015, many buildings were damaged by fire. Hostilities are still taking place near neighbouring Horlivka. How does it feel to raise children under the double strain of the ongoing conflict and COVID-19 pandemic? During door-to-door

diaper deliveries, the IOM field team talked to several mothers in Yenakieve.

Yuliia is a mother of three. Her eldest is seven years old, while the youngest is seven months old. The family used to live in the village of Spartak, right next to Donetsk airport, but their house was destroyed and in 2015, they had to move to a dormitory in Yenakieve. Together with her husband Viktor, Yuliia made repairs in their dormitory room — replaced the old pipes, insulated the ceiling and the window. A painter-plasterer by training, the woman worked at a steel mill, and now she is on maternity leave. ▶



Yuliia with her daughter Dasha in the dormitory kitchen, shared by four households

HIGHLIGHTS

- **The total number of IDPs from Crimea and eastern Ukraine is 1,448,234** as of 24 June 2020, according to the Ministry of Social Policy of Ukraine.
- **IOM has assisted over 509,000 vulnerable IDPs and conflict-affected people** in 24 regions of Ukraine since 2014.
- On 10 June, **Ukraine reopened two entry-exit crossing points (EECPs)** at the contact line after those were closed for almost three months due to the COVID-19 quarantine measures, however, interruptions in the EECPs' work continue.
- According to OCHA in Ukraine, **more than half of the families living near the contact line cannot access health care.**
- **Forty-nine per cent (49%) of IDP-owned businesses in Donetsk and Luhansk regions (GCA) had to stop their operations,** an [IOM survey](#) revealed. Among the companies owned by host community members, this share was lower at 36 per cent.

Yuliia says that earlier the family income was enough to survive, but hard times have come with the COVID-19 pandemic. Prices for children's goods jumped and some of the needed items disappeared from the market. The family savings melted when Yuliia and Dasha, the youngest baby, were hospitalized for two weeks. The hospital ward was in poor condition, and the family had to buy all the medicines themselves. In such conditions, even a pack of diapers is a huge help.

Kateryna's place is noisy. Her four children are full of energy. "This active play makes it harder for me to get them to bed," says Kateryna, yet looking at her kids with love and admiration. Although they face hardship, her children fill her with joy at all times. Families like Kateryna's have not received health services for two months. First, they could not see a doctor because for two weeks the local children's hospital was closed on suspicion of COVID-19 infections, and then the doctors were too busy. The social payments which Kateryna receives as a mother of four are barely enough. "There is a need for food," she says. "Sometimes we have to choose whether to buy food, detergents or diapers."

Oksana lives in an apartment building. She is on maternity leave, taking care of her two sons. Vladyslav is two years, while Stanislav is 7 months old. In the area they live in, power and water cuts make it more difficult to maintain hygiene. "One pack of diapers will be enough for a week. This is significant assistance," Oksana says. Over the last months, she complains, some children's goods have been difficult to find in local stores.



Kateryna and her children at their home



Oksana holding her son Stanislav, signing for the diapers receipt

Over 2,250 children from large families and children with disabilities receive diapers from IOM in non-government-controlled areas of Donetsk Region. Delivery of diapers is a part of assistance to conflict-affected people in Donetsk and Luhansk regions living on both sides of the contact line. Funded by the U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Population, Refugees and Migration (PRM), the project also includes coal distribution and rehabilitation works in social institutions, multipurpose cash assistance, micro-enterprise grants, and large-scale surveys on the situation of internally displaced persons in Ukraine.

IOM CONTINUES TO SUPPORT MICRO-BUSINESSES IN CONFLICT-AFFECTED COMMUNITIES

Auto repair, beauty services, IT, construction, agriculture, retail, clothing manufacture — IOM grantees work in a variety of spheres. Some of them are experienced entrepreneurs, while some recently drafted their first business plan. Men and women, IDPs and host community members — 169 vulnerable residents of government-controlled areas of Donetsk and Luhansk regions were supported with much-needed assets for their micro-businesses within the IOM project funded by the U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Population, Refugees and Migration (PRM). Micro-enterprises operating in proximity to the contact line and most affected by the armed conflict were prioritized.

Most of the beneficiaries have already started using the IOM-provided assets which came in especially handy at the time of the COVID-19 pandemic. As revealed by a recent IOM survey, due to their pre-existing vulnerabilities, IDP entrepreneurs appear more at risk of being unable to recover from the economic shock of COVID-19 related restrictions. Female-owned businesses in Donetsk and Luhansk regions are under greater strain as well.

Dmytro is an IDP from Horlivka. After the conflict outbreak, his family fled to the village of Novoluhanske, Donetsk Region. He used to run a small pet store and produce pet food, but now an



After shelling, Dmytro restored his garage and hives by himself

apiary became his only business. "In beekeeping, the experience is important, we study all the time," says Dmytro. "My wife laughs that during the first year in the apiary we managed to make all possible mistakes of beekeepers, but it gets better every year."

In 2018, the family suffered from the ongoing hostilities again: the garage and half of the beehives were destroyed by shelling. Dmytro had to restore everything himself. Today Dmytro has 75 hives bringing about 2.5 tons of honey a year. Some honey is sold at the local market or ordered by his fellow villagers, while some orders come from other regions and towns. Pollen, royal jelly, propolis and other bee products are also in demand. Crafting hives is much cheaper than

buying ready-made ones, Dmytro calculated. He requested five different woodworking machines as a grant from IOM. In addition to beekeeping, he plans to produce custom-built furniture.

Liudmyla runs a grocery store in the village of Shcherbynivka, Donetsk Region. A few years ago, she was just a saleswoman there. Once the owner of the store announced that she was moving and wanted to close her business, Liudmyla and her husband, despite many doubts, decided to take a chance. "Who else but me," thought the woman. "I know buyers and suppliers, I understand the paperwork and the product storage regulations." All family savings were invested to buy out the store.

“Now I’m the director, the seller and technical staff here. Of course, I get tired, because I’m on my feet all day long, almost with no days-off,” says Liudmyla. A product accounting system and a cash register would simplify her work and make it more efficient. She could not afford this equipment herself and applied for it as a grant from IOM.

Liudmyla is not an experienced PC user, so her friends assisted her to fill in the grant application form, which turned out to be quite simple. However, she was quite confident in defending her business plan — she knows her business through and through.

“This is a big step in the development of our store,” says Liudmyla. “With the new accounting system, I will have more time to expand the range.” She plans to open an additional department with household goods and chemicals



New accounting system makes running her grocery store much easier, says Liudmyla

and hire a new seller. Liudmyla dreams that her daughter, who now works at a mine, will become a new saleswoman. She wants the store to become a profitable, a true family business.

Since 2014, more than 11,000 vulnerable and conflict-affected people were supported with self-sustenance, self-employment, micro-enterprise and scale-up grants and vocational courses within IOM livelihood programmes.

“TOGETHER TO SUCCESS”: YOUNG PEOPLE FROM DONETSK AND LUHANSK REGIONS ARE INVITED TO ONLINE SUMMER SCHOOL



IOM global experience shows that armed conflicts and economic crises make people more vulnerable to human trafficking, and young people are one of the risk groups.

An annual IOM Ukraine summer school for youth, conducted since 2014, proved its efficiency in supporting young activists, boosting local initiatives and raising awareness of human trafficking. The school provides an opportunity to learn more about safe migration, human trafficking prevention, diversity and

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tolerance, civic responsibility, healthy lifestyle, improve their leadership and communication skills.

Like many other aspects of IOM programming, in 2020 the summer school "Together to Success" was recalibrated due to the novel coronavirus pandemic and quarantine. This year, for the first time, the school will be held online. It will take place from 10 to 16 August. Active young people aged 18 to 25 living in Donetsk and Luhansk regions were encouraged to apply. All participants will receive

a starter kit with all the necessary materials for the trainings, T-shirts and other branded items. Upon completion of all trainings, youth will have a unique chance to get small grants to run social projects in their communities.

The Youth Online School "Together to Success" 2020 is a part of the IOM project "Addressing Urgent Humanitarian and Socioeconomic Needs of IDPs and Conflict-Affected Populations Along the Line of Contact in Eastern Ukraine", funded by the

Government of Japan. The project will support the socioeconomic recovery of internally displaced persons (IDPs) and conflict-affected populations living near the contact line through a study on youth employment, as well as through job fairs, professional courses and further in-kind boost grants for career development. The project will also improve access to health care of vulnerable populations through the provision of essential medical equipment to five health care facilities and five entry-exit checkpoints located close to the contact line.

IOM ASSISTANCE TO IDPs AND CONFLICT-AFFECTED POPULATION IN UKRAINE

24 JUNE 2020

1,448,234
Total number of IDPs in Ukraine according to the Ministry of Social Policy as of 24 June 2020

509,437
IDPs and people in need assisted by IOM

232,682
46% women

151,905
30% men

124,850
24% children

486,217
People provided with humanitarian aid

17,956
People provided with livelihood support

5,264
People assisted within community development projects

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ukraine.iom.int, iomkievcomm@iom.int, https://www.facebook.com/IOMUkraine

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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. Many are in need of shelter, food and non-food assistance, as their savings are often meager, social benefits take time to reregister, 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 life threats. The provision of basic services has been disrupted, supplies are increasingly limited, and economic activity has been crippled. Daily ceasefire violations continue to be reported.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT:

Ms. Varvara Zhluktenko, IOM Ukraine's Communications Officer,
vzhluktenko@iom.int +38 044 568 50 15 +38 067 447 97 92

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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 24 years of its presence in Ukraine, IOM has assisted over 700,000 migrants (Ukrainians and other nationalities), IDPs, victims of trafficking and other vulnerable groups, directly or through its project partners.

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