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MULTI-SECTORAL COMMUNITY-DRIVEN ACTION TO MITIGATE THE EXACERBATING IMPACT OF COVID-19 PANDEMIC ON MAIN DRIVERS OF INSTABILITY IN CONFLICT-AFFECTED AREAS OF UKRAINE

The IOM project “Multi-Sectoral Community-Driven Action to Mitigate the Exacerbating Impact of COVID-19 Pandemic on Main Drivers of Instability in Conflict-Affected Areas of Ukraine”, funded by the Government of Japan, started in March 2021 and will last until March 2022. The project will mitigate the exacerbating impact of COVID-19 on main drivers of instability in eastern Ukraine by supporting multi-sectoral community-driven initiatives to increase the cohesion, self-sufficiency and resilience of conflict-affected communities. In particular, IOM will rehabilitate critical community infrastructure, identified on the principle of participatory decision-making. Tailored social protection assistance will be provided to victims of trafficking as well as to men, women, boys and girls at risk of trafficking and exploitation. Vocational boost grants will be available for the young people, owners of start-ups and existing businesses will also be able to benefit from a grant programme.

TARGET GROUPS:

80,000 members of four communities located in Luhansk and Donetsk regions, including, among others, internally displaced youth, host community members aged 18-35 with special emphasis on women and persons with disabilities, survivors of trafficking in persons, exploitation and abuse, and persons at risk residing in Donetsk, Luhansk and neighbouring regions.

LOCATIONS:

Donetsk and Luhansk regions, government-controlled areas, and neighbouring regions

TARGETS AND KEY ACTIVITIES:



Social cohesion in target communities is strengthened through the promotion of inclusive governance and participatory decision-making

- **4** Community Initiative Groups (CIGs) in target locations will be established and 60 CIGs members will benefit from the capacity building activities
- **40** social cohesion initiatives will be organized by the CIGs
- **4** community-driven projects for the rehabilitation/upgrading of social infrastructure will be implemented



Most vulnerable individuals in target communities and neighbouring locations are less prone to adopting negative coping strategies

- **300** individuals most vulnerable to protection risks will receive comprehensive tailored assistance
- **4** multidisciplinary protection trainings will be conducted to identify and refer vulnerable population for protection assistance
- **100** local protection practitioners including social, medical and legal service providers as well as local NGO specialists, law enforcement officials and border guards will be trained



The socioeconomic impact of protracted instability and COVID-19 in target communities is mitigated

- **20** start-up grants will be provided to social enterprises
- **32** scale-up grants will be provided to existing businesses
- **60** young people will receive vocational boost grants for professional courses and IT equipment
- **60** young people will improve their awareness about safe migration and the risks of abusive and fraudulent practices in recruitment processes