

# IOM UKRAINE

## CRISIS RESPONSE PLAN

### 1 January – 31 December 2020

#### SITUATION OVERVIEW

The conflict in eastern Ukraine has entered its sixth year and is characterised by frequent military escalations and ceasefire violations disrupting lives of millions civilians exposed to active hostilities along the 427-kilometre ‘contact line’, destabilising the situation in the entire country, and having a negative impact on geopolitical security and stability of the region. According to Ministry of Social Policy of Ukraine, approximately 1.4 million persons are registered as internally displaced; additionally, protection partners estimate that 5.2 million people bear the brunt of the armed conflict in eastern Ukraine of them 3.5 million require humanitarian assistance and protection.

The conflict implicates long-term consequences as critical infrastructure (health-care facilities, living quarters, schools, roads) is damaged, and essential services are frequently disrupted (water supply interruptions, power outages). Aside of the destruction of the infrastructure, the conflict has prompted new social risks that are likely to have long-term, generational effects. These consequences are especially dire for children living in the conflict zone, survivors of GBV and victims of human trafficking. The 2017 study Hidden Burden of Conflict reveals high burden of key mental disorders including post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), depression and anxiety among IDPs in Ukraine, particularly women. Particularly fragile group in this conflict is elderly population, who make up 30% of all people in need, the highest proportion in the world.

According to the World Bank Study, the conflict has “paralyzed economic activity in Ukraine’s eastern industrial heartland.” Disruptions in industry, transport and small- and medium- size enterprise activity have led to widespread job loss and a crisis of investor confidence has undermined business development. Due to the results of the PDM of multipurpose cash assistance in Donetsk and Luhansk (GCA) carried out in August 2019, the average income per person in the targeted sample is lower than the minimum subsistence level in Ukraine set at UAH 1,936 per person per month for July 2019. The latest IOM’s National Monitoring System Survey on Internally Displaced Persons (NMS), June 2019, presented that the monthly income per one IDP household member was UAH 3,039, that is still low compared with the actual subsistence level calculated by the Ministry of Social Policy of Ukraine (UAH 3,761).

Because of the absence of a functioning market and banking system in Donetsk and Luhansk NGCA, as well as of the chronically depressed economy, the de facto administration struggles to provide essential social services and a high number of the vulnerable households are relying on humanitarian support. The ongoing return process has resulted in many previously displaced households returning to urban centers that had been nearly completely uninhabited since the early stages of the conflict. This influx further strains the limited resources of social institutions and weakens their ability to provide services. According to the latest data presented in the NMS Report, Round 14, 21% of individuals were identified as IDPs that returned and currently reside in NGCA. The majority of respondents (76%) indicated that the reason behind their return was the possession of private property and no need to pay rent.

#### IOM’s RESPONSE

Since April 2014, in coordination with the Government of Ukraine, IOM has assisted **over 440,000 IDPs, returnees and members of the host communities in 24 regions of Ukraine** to address their most urgent needs and support socio-economic recovery. From the onset of conflict, IOM has implemented various activities in eastern Ukraine through its Emergency and Stabilisation Programme, established in response to the increase in humanitarian needs of conflict-affected populations in Luhansk and Donetsk regions GCA and NGCA.

Implemented activities aimed to contribute towards supporting vulnerable households to meet their urgent and basic needs, build cohesion within conflict-affected communities and areas experiencing high levels of IDPs and/or returnees, support socio-economic recovery, increase capacities of civil society, as well as monitor migration flows including the challenges and needs of IDP and returnee households.

The IOM response effectively integrates the humanitarian response with recovery efforts, bridging the gap between humanitarian and development assistance to ensure sustainability of implemented interventions and support socio-economic recovery of conflict-affected individuals and their communities. IOM's crisis response also integrates wider migration issues under the framework of IOM's Migration Crisis Operational Framework (MCOF) and the Progressive Resolution of Displacement Situations (PRDS). IOM is strongly committed to continue complementing the Government of Ukraine's efforts through a country-wide needs-based response that applies a flexible, adjustable and cost-effective approach to all the interventions.

In line with IOM's Institutional Framework for Addressing GBV in Crises (GBViC Framework), IOM Ukraine is committed to ensuring that gender-specific needs and risks are identified and addressed throughout all activities, prioritising the most vulnerable groups. IOM is also committed to enforcing essential actions for mitigating the risk of gender-based violence (GBV) and further ensuring that the principles of do no harm, safety and non-discrimination guide any activity of the project.

## EMERGENCY HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE

Funding Required: **\$17,655,000**

Target number of individuals: **95,725**

IOM will continue to target its assistance in a responsive and timely manner to meet the most urgent humanitarian needs present in eastern Ukraine, while simultaneously contributing to increasing the resilience of households in conflict-affected communities. In particular, IOM plans to continue emergency assistance through the distribution of winterisation support WASH interventions, multi-purpose cash distributions, livelihood support, provision of mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS), prevention of trafficking in persons and rehabilitation of critical social infrastructure. IOM's emergency response will target vulnerable households and communities in the NGCA as well as those in close proximity to the contact line in the GCA.

Activities planned within IOM's emergency humanitarian assistance have been coordinated, reviewed and approved within the relevant clusters and contribute towards the achievement of the strategic objectives of Ukraine's Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP) for 2020, namely responding to protection and assistance needs and improving the resilience of IDPs and conflict-affected populations.

### **SHELTER/NON-FOOD ITEMS (NFI)**

**Funding required: \$7,505,000**

**Target number of individuals: 37,900**

Based on Shelter Cluster estimations 55,000 homes incurred various forms of damage on both sides of the contact line during five years of the conflict. The extent of damage in NGCA remains unknown due to restricted humanitarian access that prevents the systematic verification of the degree and number of damaged houses. PDM results showed that 39% of the respondents identified home insulation as a winterisation need for 2019/2020. Specifically, the need for insulation of walls (40%), replacement of windows (35%), roof repair (25%) was highlighted. In addition to individual households, many social institutions in NGCA are unable to function due to damage to the facilities and lack of essential equipment required to provide the necessary services. With limited operational capacity , institutions are severely reducing their ability to provide the essential care to the most vulnerable.

In line with the latest data published in IOM's National Monitoring System Report (June 2019) on Internally Displaced Persons (NMS), the elderly, persons with disabilities and single-headed households (in most cases female-headed) remain particularly vulnerable. In regards to the elderly, women are disproportionately affected as figures show, the share of women residing in NGCA was 58%, among which 53% were aged over 60. With low pensions and little savings, pensioners are particularly at risk, specifically during winter, as their income is insufficient to purchase their winter heating needs.

To contribute to the efforts in addressing immediate humanitarian needs of vulnerable IDPs, returnees and conflict-affected populations, **IOM will facilitate access to essential winterisation NFIs** in accordance to Shelter Cluster recommendations **covering areas of Donetsk and Luhansk (NGCA)**. Specific locations for NFI distribution, rehabilitation works of the key social institutions and medium and heavy rehabilitations will be selected based on IOM assessments in coordination with relevant authorities, humanitarian actors and implementing partners.

### **FOOD SECURITY AND LIVELIHOODS**

**Funding required: \$5,000,000**

**Target number of individuals: 3,425**

Despite the fact that economy in Ukraine is growing and industrial production has stabilised throughout the country, as a result of the conflict, the economy in the Donbas region continues to deteriorate, resulting in limited investments in the region's industries and few employment opportunities. As highlighted in the NMS report, 39% of returnees who assessed their financial situation indicated that they had 'enough funds for food only' and 45% reported having 'enough funds for basic needs', with 4% having to limit their expenses even for food. As mentioned in the Food Security and Livelihood

Dashboard, January – March 2019, food access is heavily dependent on cash income. Food expenditure increased in Donetsk region (GCA) in 2019 and is equal to UAH 3,951 (app. US\$ 163), while in Luhansk region (GCA) it remains the same – UAH 2,567.

Based on IOM implementation experience and observations in the field, many vulnerable households would not need to rely on humanitarian assistance if given support to start or resume a micro business for family subsistence or to allow to set aside sufficient money for hygiene products, medicines and other essential goods. Since 2018, IOM is providing livelihood support in Donetsk region (NGCA) as a pilot which resulted in holding of 13 self-employment trainings and distribution of 173 in-kind grants.

**IOM will support economic empowerment of returnees (IDPs who returned and are currently living in the NGCA) and conflict-affected populations by providing livelihood and in-kind grants for self-employment in NGCA and GCA.** Considering the number of restrictions on implementation of livelihood activities in NGCA and the revised procedure of obtaining permission to implement humanitarian activities, IOM will focus primarily on supporting vulnerable households to meet their basic needs and reduce overall dependency on aid through provision of self-sustenance grants. In less restricted GCA territories, IOM's full livelihoods support packages will be provided for identified communities.

## WATER SANITATION AND HYGIENE (WASH)

**Funding required: \$3,000,000**

**Target number of individuals: 40,950**

Humanitarian needs assessments consistently identify WASH as a gap both at a household and institutional level. Specifically, IOM data reported that over half of social institutions located in NGCA (54%) have no money to buy hygiene items, while 23% of institutions assessed indicated that they 'had limited access and limited or no money at all to buy sanitation and hygiene consumables'. The complex economic situation in Ukraine and years of ongoing conflict and continued embargo has substantially affected the markets and subsequent availability of goods in NGCA. This particularly affects products that are not considered essential as they impact a less visible portion of society, as with the availability of adult diapers. Given the lack of funding and limited availability in NGCA, 100% of surveyed institutions expressed the need for support in the form of diapers for adults in the future.

**IOM will support WASH and infrastructure rehabilitation in social institutions and key community sites located in Donetsk and Luhansk NGCA.** Further rehabilitation to be undertaken will increase capacities of social institutions where the most vulnerable reside – including geriatric centres, hospitals and clinics, and centres for persons with disabilities – and allow the resumption of basic service provision in selected communities. In addition, **IOM aims to provide diapers (both for children and people with disabilities) and tailored hygiene kits for specific target groups** (standardized kits, for households and social institutions). Hygiene kits will be procured, stockpiled and distributed to **vulnerable households and social institutions**. Separate stock will be kept in the event of localised conflict escalation resulting in acute needs.

## MULTIPURPOSE CASH ASSISTANCE

**Funding required: \$1,150,000**

**Target number of individuals: 3,150**

Capitalizing on IOM's extensive experience implementing cash-based interventions and strong partnership with Ukrpost, multi-purpose cash transfers will provide beneficiaries with the flexibility to prioritize their most pressing and urgent needs. According to IOM's Post Distribution Monitoring (PDM) reports from June 2018, 100 per cent of the cash assistance provided to vulnerable conflict-affected populations was utilized to cover the most critical household needs. When asked how households spent the assistance, the majority reported that they have spent it for savings (27%, healthcare (15%), food (15%) and winterization needs (11%). To the extent possible, and in coordination with other humanitarian actors active in the area, as well as with relevant local counterparts, locations will be selected prioritizing areas that are hosting the most vulnerable IDPs and conflict-affected populations.

Many communities located along the contact line are suffering of discontinued transportation services from the villages to the main towns, and therefore IDPs, returnees and conflict-affected populations face difficulties with access to basic services

such as markets and goods, proper healthcare and other administrative services. Moreover, during winter most of the communities in Eastern Conflict Area suffer access constraints because of the heavy snow and lack of services available to clean the roads. This situation affects the capacity of the community members to move within the same locations, to access services and to continue economic activities, which during the winter tend to stagnate.

In line with recommendations of the Cash Working Group, **IOM, as one of the largest cash assistance providers in Ukraine, will support the most vulnerable categories of IDPs with multi-purpose cash transfers to cover their basic needs, maintain their living standards in displacement areas and improve access to public services and adequate shelter in Luhansk and Donetsk GCA.**

#### AWARENESS RAISING, REHABILITATION AND THE REINTEGRATION OF VICTIMS OF TRAFFICKING (VOTs)

**Funding required: \$1,000,000**

**Target number of individuals: 10,300**

**(A total of 312,000 individuals to be reached through awareness-raising campaign)**

IDPs and conflict-affected populations, especially women and children, remain particularly vulnerable to the risks of human trafficking. However, the problem remains largely invisible and under-addressed due to limited resources to assess the situation, identify, refer and assist victims. With migration traditionally being a coping mechanism for Ukrainians, conflict and economic crisis prompted additional risks and rendered the population more susceptible to unsafe (irregular) migration and trafficking.

IOM Ukraine's caseload also shows that out of all trafficking survivors assisted in 2017, 90% were trafficked and exploited in the period of the conflict and respective crisis. The NMS survey published in August 2018 (Round 10) indicates that 8% of IDP household reported encountering at least one situation involving deceit by the employer or forced labour since the beginning of the conflict. Throughout the period from 2017 until July 2019 IOM identified and assisted more than 100 IDPs and other conflict-affected people who fell victims to human trafficking.

In order to mitigate growing risks of human trafficking, **IOM aims to enhance identification and referral of victims of trafficking among the conflict-affected populations, with a particular attention to those living in proximity to the contact line, and to ensure victims' access to comprehensive rehabilitation and reintegration assistance tailored to their individual needs.** IOM will leverage protection partner networks and capacities of the state-led National Referral Mechanism in the conflict area to offer assistance in safe and confidential manner. Concurrently, IOM will carry out preventive measures raising awareness about risks of trafficking and exploitation and providing contacts of the currently operating helplines available to the vulnerable population. IOM's activities will also include legal aid, medical care, mental health and psychosocial support, financial support, vocational training, and other types of assistance to victims of trafficking.

## RECOVERY EFFORTS

**Funding Required: \$33,000,00**

**Target number of individuals: 171,515**

IOM remains committed to building greater connectivity between humanitarian and development efforts through implementing a comprehensive set of activities aimed at supporting transition and recovery in Ukraine. Bridging the gap between humanitarian and development interventions is critical to simultaneously address the urgent and longer-term needs of conflict-affected communities in eastern Ukraine in line with the Humanitarian-Development-Peace Nexus approach.

Continuous assistance to bolster economic activity and enhance social cohesion within conflict-affected communities is essential to reduce vulnerability and support self-sufficiency among the affected populations. Moreover, addressing drivers of displacement and promoting solutions for displaced populations through longer-term, development-oriented programming is paramount to create conducive environments for durable solutions. IOM continues to implement comprehensive programmes that aim to foster social cohesion, bolster socio-economic recovery and strengthen the resilience within communities to cope with the effects of the conflict.

### **IMPROVING LIVING CONDITIONS OF IDPs**

**Funding required: \$22,100,000**

**Target number of individuals: 900**

According to the NMS survey (2019), IOM observed that most displaced people have been staying at their current place of residence for more than three years. Since 2014 the majority of IDPs have chosen to stay within Luhansk and Donetsk regions, government-controlled area. Some of the remaining challenges for improving living conditions of IDPs are access to housing, access to social services, employment, and integration in host communities.

In line with the latest findings of the NMS, the most problematic issue identified by IDPs was a lack of housing (41%). In addition, the main conditions for successful integration indicated by IDPs throughout all rounds of the NMS were housing, regular income and employment. **In response, IOM will continue to contribute to the Government of Ukraine's efforts on improving living conditions for IDPs and returnees facilitating their integration and reintegration in their communities. In particular, IOM aims to improve housing conditions for IDPs in eastern Ukraine.**

**The availability and quality of critical infrastructure is essential to provide adequate services to help community members cope with challenges posed by the conflict. IOM will support communities through the rehabilitation of critical infrastructure which will be able to address the needs of increased population numbers.** IOM will encourage IDPs and conflict-affected communities to conduct social cohesion events to promote understanding between the host communities, minorities, IDPs and other socially vulnerable groups. Provision of up-to-date information regarding available medical, legal, psychosocial support and services available within the targeted communities will be done by IOM through mapping exercises in the communities. IOM will particularly focus on ensuring that information is accessible to women and vulnerable community members.

### **SOCIAL RECOVERY AND COMMUNITY RESILIENCE THROUGH MENTAL HEALTH AND PSYCHOSOCIAL SUPPORT (MHPSS)**

**Funding required: \$1,500,000**

**Target number of individuals: 41,240**

The conflict in eastern Ukraine continues to severely disrupt community relations and social bonds. Trust and tolerance within conflict-affected communities remain low, increasing the potential for community tensions to escalate into conflict. Moreover, the lack of services provided to support psychological wellbeing reduces individuals' abilities to cope and

recover from the tragic events experienced. The “Scoping Study: conflict in Ukraine – coordinating peacebuilding, recovery and development: response efforts” (World Bank, 2018), found that Psychosocial support is one of the key gaps in programming in eastern Ukraine.

Based on the August 2019 Multi-Sectoral Needs Assessment conducted by REACH, around 27% of the respondents living within 20 km from the Line of Contact (LoC), and 13% of those living within 0-5 km, mentioned MHPSS as one of their needs. Around 75% of the respondents were female, whose age was above 50 in more than half of the cases. Approximately half of the respondents, who specified a need for PSS, mentioned shelling, landmines/ERW contamination as major security concerns. Based on the above assessment, the lack of PSS was also reported by some of the schools in locations within 0-20km of the LoC. MHPSS Working Group meetings held in June 2019 in Severodonetsk and Kramatorsk highlighted the need for long-term, planned individual psychological support for children, as no decrease in the number children affected by psychological violence was observed, with around 2000 children receiving the status of affected by psychological violence every month in Luhansk region alone. The Working Group also stressed the insufficiency of human resources to tackle the issue. At the same time, the meeting records also indicate that parents of the affected children require support of a psychologist. Moreover, people who were deprived of their liberty due to the military conflict and relatives of people missing due to the conflict also require continued MHPSS. In response, **IOM aims to contribute to the revitalization of conflict-affected communities through integrated MHPSS support for IDPs, returnees and other community members and community-driven social cohesion activities to promote integration and further reconciliation**, with particular attention to the needs of the most vulnerable groups.

Meanwhile the Health Cluster Ukraine Bulletin for January-February 2019 states that MHPSS remains one of the most requested forms of assistance from conflict-affected people, pointing out insufficient mental health specialists and health care workers available along the 20 km of the LoC and the urgent need to train health care workers and mental health specialists in managing acute distress in populations affected by the conflict. **IOM plans to conduct advanced training and refresher trainings for identified local MHPSS specialists and implement focused support activities and referrals in cooperation with international experts. In cooperation with the local authorities, IOM will create MHPSS centres in the communities where these are not currently available, to ensure the availability of MHPSS services for conflict-affected populations.**

## ENHANCING CAPACITY OF THE COMMUNITIES TO PREVENT AND RESPOND TO GENDER BASED VIOLENCE (GBV)

**Funding required: \$1,000,000**

**Target number of individuals: 51,875**

The presence of Ukrainian armed forces and armed groups in populated areas increases the risk of sexual violence against civilians. The deterioration of the economic situation, particularly in conflict-affected regions, combined with the destruction of community ties caused by the conflict and displacement, have compelled some people to use harmful survival strategies and coping mechanisms that may increase the risk of sexual violence and trafficking. National legislation and legal practice regarding the prosecution of sexual violence is limited and is not fully in line with international standards and practice. Due to a number of gaps in legislation and a lack of capacity, acts of sexual violence are often recorded by law enforcement as other crimes such as bodily injury. Lawyers, police officers, prosecutors and judges lack knowledge of how to document, investigate and consider cases of conflict-related sexual violence, as well as with regards to allegations of ill-treatment and torture. Consequently, victims of sexual violence are often confronted with inaction from state authorities or armed groups who exercise control over certain areas.

According to the analytical report ‘Gender-based violence in the conflict-affected regions of Ukraine’ by the Ukrainian Center for Social Reforms published in 2018 there is no common practice to seek assistance from specialized institutions in cases of violence. Amongst the main causes for not applying for assistance are unawareness of the availability of the services, absence of proper institutions in communities and mistrust in service personnel.

According to the data within the ‘Emergency protection-based support to conflict affected older women and men in the GCAs locations of Donetsk and Luhansk Oblasts’ presented by HelpAge on 19 of September 2018, 20,5% of older people aged over 60 were subjected to at least one type of violence and abuse. Of them 96,9% reported emotional and psychological abuse, 0,9% reported gender-based violence, 0,4% - physical violence and 0,2% reported sexual type of

violence. Among the elderly who subjected to at least one type of violence, share of women were 75,9%.

**IOM will contribute towards national efforts to prevent and respond to gender-based violence through trainings for local officials and community members, community led-initiative and information campaigns.** Conflict-affected community members in the Donbas will be better informed on GBV issues, including the importance of gender sensitivity in family and community activities, through activities conducted by Community Initiative Groups under IOM supervision and guidance. Moreover, IOM will carry out an awareness-raising campaign to inform on the right to a life free of violence and about existing helplines and complaint procedures.

## SUPPORT TO IMPROVE SERVICES AT THE CHECKPOINTS ALONG THE CONTACT LINE

**Funding required: \$500,000**

**Target number of individuals: 500**

**(In addition to one million individuals crossing the checkpoints monthly)**

Throughout 2019, an average of 1.13 million persons crossed the contact line monthly. Civilians queuing at the entry-exit checkpoints are exposed to a wide range of serious protection, health and security concerns including mines, shelling, and exposure to extreme temperatures.

Conflict dynamics, lack of rule of law and increased socio-economic vulnerabilities of people residing in conflict-affected areas present a favourable environment for impunity and conducive ground for criminal acts, increasing the potential for civilians to fall victim to various human rights violations, including human trafficking. Human rights organizations have documented several cases of violence, labour exploitation as well as exposure to protection concerns due to inadequate facilities at the checkpoints.

**In response, IOM will continue contributing to the Government of Ukraine's efforts to improve conditions for and safety of civilians at the entry-exit checkpoints on the GCA side.** IOM will support the State Border Guard Services (SBGS) to improve their operational capacity through the provision of necessary equipment and enhance knowledge on countering trafficking in human beings, anti-corruption, (humanitarian) border management and dialogue.

## IMPROVING ACCESS TO BASIC HEALTH-CARE SERVICES FOR IDPs AND CONFLICT-AFFECTED POPULATIONS

**Funding required: \$800,000**

**Target number of individuals: 7,000**

The ongoing conflict in eastern Ukraine has become a big obstacle for local populations to access basic and emergency health care services which has significantly increased morbidity and mortality figures in Ukraine. Non-communicable disease is top of the list causing mortality in the country, amounting to 86% of total death. Among them cardiovascular disease is the topmost. In the conflict affected area of Ukraine more than 50% of people aged 50 and over are suffering from hypertension and almost 50,000 of the population is suffering from diabetes in NGCA. Both uncontrolled hypertension and diabetes are causing an increased number of heart damage cases. In line with IOM's latest NMS report, June 2019, women represented 58% of surveyed household members among which 53% were aged over 60 years old. The surveyed returnee population was significantly older than the IDP population: 59.4 years compared to 37.5 years, based on combined data.

Disabled and elderly people, who make up the majority of the population within 5 to 15 km of the contact line, are also the most vulnerable as most of the health care facilities are unable to provide specialized health care services such as cardiac care. In addition, this population group is prone to suffer from non-communicable illnesses such as cardiac diseases and not able to travel to further locations where they can receive proper cardiac care. Therefore, it is necessary to increase the screening and emergency cardiac care capacity of existing health care facilities close to the contact line.

According to IOM's NMS report, June 2019, one the most frequently mentioned purpose of visit to the GCA for returnees and other NGCA residents was buying medicines (15%). According to the PDM report on rehabilitation works in the social institutions in Donetsk region (NGCA), medical facilities reported to be in a need of medicines and medical equipment.

In line with the Right to Protection Report 'Crossing the Line of Contact', January – March 2019, access to health care at the five Exit-Entry Check Points (EECPs) is also very limited, which is disturbing as the majority of people crossing the 'contact line' are older people. Only during the first four months of 2019, 25 persons died at the EECPs due to health complications. Medical assistance at the checkpoints is provided by humanitarian actors and is available during limited hours. According to the Heath Cluster Advocacy Paper on 'Access to Health Care', waiting time for the arrival of a public ambulance is up to 30 minutes.

Limited access to voluntary testing for HIV/AIDS and tuberculosis and long-distance travel to receive the necessary care further increase the vulnerability of individuals living in eastern Ukraine. The health-care facilities in Donetsk and Luhansk regions face significant challenges including a lack of medical staff, ambulances, and (in the areas closer to the contact line) shortages of medications, electric outages without generator back-up and disruption to water supplies.

**IOM aims to increase access to basic health care for IDPs and conflict-affected communities close to the contact line both GCA and NGCA through provision of specialized medical equipment in primary health-care facilities and provision of cash assistance to reimburse transportation costs to address health-care needs.**

## ENHANCING ECONOMIC RECOVERY AND INVESTMENT IN LOCAL BUSINESSES

**Funding required: \$5,600,000**

**Target number of individuals: 70,000**

The unemployment rate in Eastern Ukraine has increased since the onset hostilities and the continued flow of Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) created additional pressure on the labor market. In Donetsk region (GCA) the unemployment rate in the beginning of the year 2019 reached 14.5%. Lack of vacancies in general and low pay for the available ones were mentioned among the problems faced by the IDPs who were actively seeking employment. In the beginning of the conflict, by order of the Ministry of Education and Science of Ukraine, for the safety of staff and students, such universities as Donetsk National Technical University were transferred from the cities of Donetsk and Luhansk to various towns of Donetsk and Luhansk regions (GCA) where employment prospects for the graduates are very limited. According to the latest data published by International Labour Organization, as of April 2017 the level of unemployment among youth in Ukraine is 21.6%. High numbers of unemployment young people further contributes to increasing instability in communities, as economically inactive youth is prone to vulnerability and marginalization.

IOM's experience implementing various livelihood programmes highlights the need to provide targeted support for women to become fully engaged in economic activity. In the previous phases of IOM's DfID-funded livelihood programme, the number of women applying for micro-enterprise and business scale-up grants was limited. In discussion with beneficiaries, lack of confidence, and poor communication and representation skills prevent women from seeking to grow their existing businesses or apply for larger grants. Among IDPs actively looking for employment, 85 are women. The majority of IDPs who are actively looking for employment (64%) mentioned that lack of vacancies was one the most common difficulties they faced with, especially in rural areas.

**IOM aims to continue providing IDPs and host community members with opportunities to initiate new or expand existing livelihood activities by linking technical training and business counselling support with grants for self-employment startups, micro-business initiatives and scaling-up of existing businesses. To stimulate local businesses and strengthen supply of vital goods and services in communities most affected by the crisis, IOM will improve living conditions of community members by creating employment and income generation opportunities through provision of support to small and medium enterprises (SME). IOM will work in close coordination with the Government of Ukraine, more specifically, the Ministry of Social Policy and State Employment Services.**

## NATIONAL MONITORING SYSTEM OF UKRAINE

**Funding required: \$1,500,000**

Since March 2016, IOM has been implementing a research project titled "The National Monitoring System on the Situation of Internally Displaced Persons" (NMS) on a regular basis. The NMS is based on IOM's Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM)

approach. This complex research tool is aimed at tracking and monitoring population displacement.

The aim of the NMS is to collect and analyze information on socio-economic characteristics of IDPs and their households as well as the challenges they face. The NMS methodology ensures data collection in 24 regions of Ukraine and the city of Kyiv using a variety of methods and multiple sources, including sample surveys conducted via face-to-face and telephone interviews with IDPs and key informants (KI), interviews with people crossing the contact line, focus group discussions (FGD) with KI, IDPs, and returnees.

The NMS tools include indicators related to access and availability of services for women, girls and other at-risk groups which allows for a deeper analysis of the impact of displacement and specific challenges experienced by vulnerable groups within the displaced populations. The results of the NMS have shown that the main issues faced by IDP are material wellbeing, housing, labour market integration and building of social interaction with members of the host communities they have been displaced to.

Capacity building of national and local authorities that provide support to IDPs and conflict affected population on strategic planning and methodology, sample design, questionnaire development, data collection, data processing and report preparation will be conducted by IOM through number of sessions and field visits. In addition, in view of the ongoing decentralization process in Ukraine, IOM will set up offices in the premises of local branches of the Ministry of Temporary Occupied Territories and Internally Displaced Persons to ensure collection of quantitative and qualitative data in the field further analyzing of which will help to develop effective action plan to address identified gaps.

**IOM will continue assessing the situation of IDP and returnee households through surveys in all regions of Ukraine and specifically within eastern Ukraine and along the contact line and will keep contributing to build capacity of local institutions.** This will contribute to coordination of the humanitarian and recovery efforts made by the state authorities and humanitarian actors and inform government actions on IDPs. Data protection principles and respect for confidentiality will continue to be ensured throughout all stages of the NMS from data collection to the dissemination of the findings.

## IOM PARTNERSHIPS

IOM has built solid relationships with local authorities of Ukraine and signed numerous agreements and memoranda to solve critical issues related to IDP and vulnerable conflict-affected populations. IOM's Emergency and Stabilization Programme includes an extensive in-country network of over 55 NGO partners and works in close cooperation with government, local, regional authorities and civil society.

IOM has signed Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs) with migration-related ministries and services in Ukraine, as well as concluded local partnership arrangements with 82 conflict-affected communities. Strong relationships have been developed between IOM and the Government of Ukraine through close collaboration with relevant ministries, including MoSP, and the Ministry of Temporary Occupied Territories and IDPs. Partnerships aim to develop common programmes and projects to expand cooperation in the broad range of work such as countering human trafficking, assisting IDPs, facilitating safe and regular labour migration, supporting reintegration of Ukrainians returning from abroad, assisting national minorities, promoting cultural diversity, and the integration of migrants.

IOM is a member of the United Nations Country Team (UNCT), Humanitarian Country Team (HCT) and United Nations Eastern Team (UNET) and actively participates in meetings of the Inter-Cluster Coordination Group, Shelter/NFI, Food Security and Livelihoods, Protection and WASH clusters, and Cash Working Group, among other coordinating bodies. In addition, IOM is co-chairing, jointly with UNHCR, the coordination platform for the UNDAF 2018–2022 Pillar IV on human security, social cohesion and recovery with a particular focus on eastern Ukraine, which focuses on joint UN efforts strengthening social cohesion and building resilience of communities, IDPs and the most vulnerable populations affected by the conflict in the east.

## IOM CRISIS RESPONSE ACHIEVEMENTS

APRIL 2014 TO OCTOBER 2019

### EMERGENCY RESPONSE

**441,197** IDPs and other conflict-affected individuals assisted by IOM. Among them:

**167,647** persons assisted with improved access to **WASH** services

**19,391** IDPs and local community members assisted **within collective centres and social institutions** with NFIs and minor refurbishment

**128,767** IDPs and conflict-affected people assisted with **NFIs** (winterization items, shoes, blankets, bed linen, etc.), **legal counselling, psychosocial support, etc.**

**91,789** IDPs and local community members assisted with **cash payments**

### RECOVERY

**Nearly 17,239** IDPs and local community members have been supported with **micro-business and self-employment trainings**

**10,294** beneficiaries supported with **grants** for micro-business, self-employment or vocational training

**5,264** IDPs and local community members **trained on community development** (gender awareness, fundraising, etc.)

**141** communities participating in **social cohesion initiatives**

**115** **infrastructure objects** refurbished (libraries, houses of culture, etc.)

# IOM CRISIS RESPONSE SUMMARY

| PROJECT  | LOCATION     | TOTAL BEN-EFICIARIES       | FUNDS REQUIRED (USD) |
|--|--------------|----------------------------|----------------------|
| <b>Shelter/Non-Food Items (NFI)</b>  | NGCA         | 37,900                     | 7,505,000            |
| <b>Food Security and Livelihoods</b>   | GCA and NGCA | 3,425                      | 5,000,000            |
| <b>Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH)</b>  | GCA and NGCA | 40,950                     | 3,000,000            |
| <b>Multipurpose Cash Assistance</b>  | GCA          | 3,150                      | 1,150,000            |
| <b>Awareness raising, rehabilitation and reintegration of Victims of Trafficking (VoTs)</b>            | GCA          | 10,300                     | 1,000,000            |
| <b>Improving living conditions of IDPs</b>   | GCA          | 900                        | 22,100,000           |
| <b>Social recovery and community resilience through Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS)</b> | GCA          | 41,240                     | 1,500,000            |
| <b>Enhancing capacity of the communities to prevent and respond to Gender Based Violence (GBV)</b>     | GCA          | 51,875                     | 1,000,000            |
| <b>Support to improve services at the checkpoints along the contact line</b>                           | GCA          | 500                        | 500,000              |
| <b>Improving access to basic health-care services for IDPs and conflict-affected populations</b>       | GCA and NGCA | 7,000                      | 800,000              |
| <b>Enhancing economic recovery and investment in local businesses</b>                                  | GCA          | 70,000                     | 5,600,000            |
| <b>National Monitoring System of Ukraine</b>   | GCA          |                            | 1,500,000            |
| <b>TOTAL</b>   |              | <b>267,240<sup>1</sup></b> | <b>50,655,000</b>    |

## CONTACTS

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<sup>1</sup> Figure represents the number of unique beneficiaries supported by IOM. Individuals benefited from various kinds of support provided by IOM will be counted only once.