**UKRAINE**

**the following information is provided by the Ministry of Social Policy of Ukraine and the Ministry for Reintegration of Temporarily Occupied Territories of Ukraine in response to the Questionnaire of the Special Rapporteur on the human rights of internally displaced persons**

**UN Human Rights Council**

* *factors affecting the internal displacement of persons (climate change, violence, including criminal violence);*
* *integration and/or reintegration of IDPs into the communities in which they settle or return;*
* *barriers to implementation and catalysts for the protection of IDP rights*

Before 24 February 2022, almost 1.5 million internally displaced persons (hereinafter referred to as IDPs) were registered in the Unified Information Base of Internally Displaced Persons; as of 29 May 2023, almost 4.87 million IDPs (4,868,340 IDPs) were registered.

It is also worth mentioning the data of a representative rapid assessment of the total population of Ukraine conducted by the UN International Organization for Migration at the end of 2022. In its reports, in particular, for August 2022, IOM notes 6.9 million IDPs in Ukraine. This number includes both officially registered IDPs and those who are independently resolving the issue of arranging their lives in a new place of residence after displacement.

The full-scale invasion of the Russian Federation on the territory of Ukraine caused a mass displacement of the population from the territories that came under occupation and where hostilities are (were) taking place. People, saving their lives and health, as well as the lives and health of their loved ones, moved en masse and continue to move to safer territories of Ukraine and abroad.

The approach of winter cold in October-December 2022 caused a new wave of displacement of the population from the territories of active and possible hostilities, as well as temporarily occupied and de-occupied territories of Ukraine, in particular, Kharkiv, Kherson, Mykolaiv, Luhansk, Donetsk and Zaporizhzhia regions.

Meanwhile, in accordance with the order of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine No. 679 of August 2, 2022, the mandatory evacuation of the civilian population from Donetsk region continues. Also, according to the order of the Head of the Kharkiv Regional Military Administration of April 27, 2023 No. 81V, the mandatory evacuation of the civilian population from certain settlements of the Kupiansk district of Kharkiv region continues. The evacuation of the population from areas of active hostilities directly affects the increase in the number of IDPs (108,065 civilians were evacuated in total, from 1 August 2022 to 1 May 2023)

In addition, the de-occupation of settlements that began in September 2022 in the Kharkiv, Kherson, Mykolaiv, Donetsk and Luhansk regions can be one of the factors of the increase in the number of IDPs.

After de-occupation, the population that suffered the horrors of occupation was able to move freely from such territories to safer places of residence.

Currently, the Government is taking measures to restore life in the de-occupied territories. At the same time, the destruction of the housing stock, civil and critical infrastructure, the loss of sources of income or work, the impossibility in the shortest possible time to ensure the proper implementation of the rights and interests of the population in the territories where active hostilities have been taking place for a long time, as well as massive missile strikes by the Russian Federation continue to influence the internal displacement of the population in Ukraine.

At the same time, the decrease in the standard of living in the occupied territories, the approach to the areas of hostilities, the danger of staying in such territories, the lack of opportunity to receive basic services cause the population of the occupied territories to move to the territories under the control of the Government of Ukraine in the future, which ultimately leads to the increase in the number IDPs.

In order to respond to these challenges, the Ministry for Reintegration together with experts from civil and international organisations with the support of the Council of Europe project "Internal Displacement in Ukraine: Development of Durable Solutions. Phase II", a new State Policy Strategy on Internal Displacement for the period up to 2025 and an operational plan for its implementation have been developed.

On April 7, 2023, the order of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine No 312 approved the Strategy of State Policy on Internal Displacement for the period until 2025 (hereinafter referred to as the Strategy) and the operational plan of measures for the implementation in 2023-2025 of the Strategy of State Policy on Internal Displacement for the period until 2025 (hereinafter referred to as the Operational Plan).

The new Strategy envisages state support for IDPs at all stages – from evacuation, during the process of social adaptation in a new place, to the moment of return to the place of permanent residence.

Thus, the Government shall focus on 5 strategic goals specified in the Strategy:

* strengthening the state's capacity to respond to the challenges of internal displacement and ensuring the implementation of state policy in the specified area;
* creation of conditions for the safe movement of people from settlements located in the area of military (combat) operations, and meeting their humanitarian needs;
* facilitating the adaptation of IDPs at their new place of residence immediately after internal displacement;
* promoting the integration of IDPs through the creation of conditions for potential development, capacity building in host territorial communities;
* support for safe return to the previously left place of residence and reintegration.

Implementation of the tasks and measures of the Strategy and its Operational Plan by all responsible executing entities will create prerequisites for solving the problem issues of internal displacement in Ukraine.

At the same time, taking into account the limited resources of the state, the continued participation and support of international partners in various directions of the implementation of the state's policy on internal displacement will serve as an additional driving force on the way to solving the issues of internally displaced persons.

IDPs are also identified as one of the target groups of the National Action Plan for the Implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 1325 on Women, Peace and Security for the period up to 2025, approved by the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine on 28 October 2020 No. 1544 (as amended).

In particular, the National Plan provides for the creation of favourable conditions in territorial communities for the reception of IDPs

* taking into account the number of IDPs received and the amount of damage and destruction in the territorial community as a result of hostilities or rocket and bomb/artillery attacks;
* expanding opportunities to support self-employment and entrepreneurship of women, including IDPs;
* analysing employment sectors and formats, taking into account regional peculiarities for the employment of IDPs;
* maintaining statistics on crimes against life and health, sexual freedom and inviolability, honour and dignity of a person in the conflict by such key indicators as gender, age, place of residence, and attitude towards certain groups (Roma minority, IDPs, persons with disabilities, children).

One of the most pressing needs is to address the issue of IDPs’ accommodation. To address this issue the accommodation allowance was introduced as a response to the massive displacement of people who fled their place of residence after 24 February 2022.

The assistance is provided from March 2022 for each IDP whose information is included in the Unified Information Database on Internally Displaced Persons and who has submitted an application, in the following amounts:

* for persons with disabilities and children – 3 000 UAH;
* for others – 2 000 UAH.

In addition, in order to support persons affected by the armed aggression of the Russian Federation, the Government of Ukraine together with the United Nations Population Fund have established Centres for Assistance to Survivors in Ukraine, where people who have fled the area of active hostilities or temporarily occupied territories can receive comprehensive social and psychological support. The centres provide the following services:

* primary psychological counselling to normalise the psycho-emotional state;
* consultations with social workers on the rights and available support for IDPs;
* consultations with lawyers of the free legal aid system;
* specialised social and psychological counselling is provided in cases of violence (in cooperation with the mobile team of social and psychological assistance to victims of violence).