RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN HOST COMMUNITIES AND INTERNALLY DISPLACED PERSONS IN UKRAINE

Monitoring report on the project "Overcoming the negative effects of stigma of internally displaced persons, including the community of Crimean Tatars and the Roma community in Kharkiv"

Review of trends and dynamics
Outlook of the situation
INTRODUCTION

In summer 2014 the first cases of discrimination of internally displaced persons (IDPs) and media publications that negatively characterize IDPs were recorded in Ukraine. These cases have been clear violations of IDPs rights, they complicated IDPs’ adaptation to the new communities and created reasons for conflicts in the stable regions of Ukraine.

To study the situation in this area from January 16 to March 7, 2015 CrimeaSOS social initiative with support of United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) Regional Representation in Belarus, Moldova and Ukraine, and Canada Fund for Local Initiatives conducted a monitoring of the relationships between host communities and IDPs in five regions of Ukraine: Kyiv, Kherson, Kharkiv, Lviv, Vinnytsia.

The objective of the monitoring has been assessment of the situation and main trends in the field of IDPs adaptation to their new living conditions, estimating the scale of stigmatization and discrimination of IDPs and ethnic minorities in areas of employment, shelter/apartment renting, and attitude to IDP children in educational institutions; as well as development of appropriate recommendations.

Monitoring has consisted of two parts: (1) monitoring of publications about IDPs in mass media; (2) monitoring of the attitude of host communities to IDPs. Media was studied as a means for formation of public opinion and as its indicator. Quantity and general context of publications about IDPs in regional and central media have been analyzed.

The attitude of local population to IDPs was studied by the means of expert interviews with the representatives of state authorities, non-governmental organizations, and representatives of small and medium-sized business. Surveys have been also conducted among IDPs and members of host communities. During the monitoring period 67 media have been monitored and 900 respondents have been interviewed.

The monitoring has been conducted by: Kateryna Bervinova, Kateryna Kosenko, Ali Memetov, Sevil Kaneeva, Ludmila Shevchenko, Olga Koreshkova, Yan Avseyushkin, Evgeniy Bondarenko, Mikhail Lebed, Alexandr Markivsky. The project has been supervised by: Vitaly Zakharuch, Alim Aliyev, Alla Studilko, Victoria Babiy, Svetlana Oleynikova, Eugenia Andreyuk, Tamila Tasheva.

SUMMARY

For the reporting period it was found out that the general attitude of the respective local populations towards IDPs has a neutral and/or positive character. However, during the research it was established that the stereotypes about IDPs in host communities had already been formed, and on certain conditions the situation may change dramatically. Such conditions may be: the deterioration of the political situation in the communities, aggravation of the economic crisis along with reduction/non-allocation of additional resources for IDPs, escalation of armed conflict, increase of IDP population, and finally the degradation of living standards due to the ongoing armed conflict.

Publications in the mass media about IDPs mainly contain neutral or statistical information; neutral context dominates, positive context is less popular. Negative publications with discriminatory context are rare. In reporting on internal displacement there are tendencies that reinforce negative stereotypes about IDPs.

Within relations between local population and displaced persons neutral and/or positive attitudes to IDPs prevail. Nevertheless, there are a number of stereotypes in the area of housing/apartment renting and employment that complicate IDPs adaptation.

1 List of monitored media see in Appendix 1. Neutral context is the one that does not provoke either positive or negative attitude to IDPs.

2 Surveys of the representatives of IDPs are not of sociological character, but illustrative and serve as markers highlighting the problems outlined elsewhere in this report.
RECOMMENDATIONS

For mass media:

• to report the issues of forced displacement taking into account various aspects, including success stories of IDPs adaptation, examples of IDPs contribution to development of local communities and mutually beneficial cooperation;
• to perceive the IDPs’ situation from different angles, considering opinions of different stakeholders and actors, reporting on conflict situations between IDPs and local communities, as well as reporting on the social-economic situation in the region;
• to indicate the place of residence of a victim or a suspect only in case of urgency in the materials of criminal chronicle, and respect the presumption of innocence;
• to use correct international legal terminology.

For non-government organizations assisting IDPs:

• to change the main focus of programs from emergency humanitarian assistance to long-term development of communities in IDPs programs;
• to develop the potential of IDPs by implementing the programs, supporting self-employment and small and medium-sized business;
• to maintain and develop IDPs communities and encourage the dialogue between IDPs and local population;
• to pay special attention to vulnerable categories of IDPs, particularly ethnic minorities.

For state authorities working with IDPs:

• to take measures for the satisfaction of basic humanitarian needs and security of IDPs, in particular to provide the safe evacuation of IDPs and temporary accommodation;
• to make decisions and to develop measures that are both aimed at long-term solutions to IDPs problems, and to their socialization and adaptation;
• to avoid adoption of legislation discriminating IDPs, either positively or negatively;
• to allocate additional resources to IDPs without reducing living standards of local communities while developing programs of IDPs assistance;
• to pay special attention to vulnerable categories of IDPs, particularly ethnic minorities.
CHAPTER 1
RESULTS OF MEDIA MONITORING

During the monitoring open discrimination of internally displaced persons has not been identified in the publications of the monitored mass media. Most publications have neutral and/or positive context about IDPs. Materials with negative context are not widespread in media.

Typical articles about IDPs during the reporting period:
• "More than 60% of refugees are women and children"; UkrInform, 23 February, 2015;
• "Poroshenko has simplified the procedure of entering in the inheritance for IDPs from Donbas and Crimea"; Zahid.Net, 2 March, 2015;
• "The term of registration of IDPs is prolonged"; Vgoru, 22 January, 2015.

Negative publications about IDPs (June-August 2014):
• "Refugees who have been sheltered in the sanatorium near Kiev, tore off a Ukrainian flag"; Fakty, 9 August, 2014;
• "In Truskavets a young refugee from Donbas took a photo showing his middle finger to the heroes of Heavenly Hundred"; Ukraina Bez Cenzury, 12 August 2014;
• "A new profession appeared - refugees"; Delovaya Stolica, 25 July, 2014;
• "Alena Cynthila: Why male IDPs don’t go to protect Donbas"; Podrobnosti, 29 July, 2014;
• "Don’t ask how they left Slavyansk and do not say "refugee""; Vesti, 6 May, 2014.

Negative publications (January-March 2015):
• "In Cherkasy region IDPs pompously celebrated the annexation under Russian flags"; Zahid.Net, 25 July, 2014;
• "Alena Cynthila: Why male IDPs don’t go to protect Donbas"; Podrobnosti, 29 July, 2014;
• "Don’t ask how they left Slavyansk and do not say "refugee""; Vesti, 6 May, 2014.

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At the same time there are a number of trends in the reporting of forced displacement issues which negatively affect the relationships between the IDPs communities and the local population.

The majority of publications contains statistical information and has an overall neutral context. The largest part of publications about IDPs provides general information. During the reporting period, mass media have taken a neutral stand of observer in the relationship between IDPs and local population, reporting statistics and factual information.

In spring 2014, just after Crimea occupation and the outbreak of hostilities in eastern Ukraine local communities has actively helped IDPs and hosted them. Negative stereotypes about IDPs started to form in summer 2014 following the first conflicts of interests between local population and IDPs and a number of negative publications in mass media, part of which has been based on false information. Subsequently, some stereotypes regarding IDPs strengthened and started to define the relationships with local population. During the reporting period, mass media have taken a neutral stand of an observer in the relationship between IDPs and local population, reporting statistics and factual information.

Coverage of IDP’s topic is interconnected with escalation of hostilities in eastern Ukraine and intensification of repression in Crimea. As presented in the graph below, after conclusion of Minsk Agreement and the enforcement of a cease-fire agreement, a number of publications about IDPs decreases in all regions.

3 Those publications that report life stories, positive examples of adaptation of IDPs and interaction between IDPs and the local community, promote dialogue and mutual aid has been regarded within positive context. On the other end of the spectrum, articles within negative context ascribe general negative qualities to the whole IDPs population or accuse them of the problems of the local community openly or hidden, causing hostility between communities. Negative context includes both open and hidden negative publications.
Media portrays IDPs as those in need of humanitarian assistance from the government, volunteers, international organizations and as victims of the current conflict and political situation in Ukraine. In this way, out of the studied publications 177 articles contain information about assistance to IDPs, depicting them as passive recipients of help, and only 16 publications depict IDPs as an active subjects that affect their lives and host communities.

Another problematic issue is limited resources, which are claimed by both local population and IDPs. In some publications IDPs are indicated as the cause for rising rental and prices for products, as well as unemployment and deterioration of social protection of the local population. This problem is a reason of a conflict between «newcomers» and local population, and biased publications contribute to aggravation of the conflict.

In some publications the problem of forced displacement is used to criticize the current government and for the purposed of political propaganda. In these publications the focus is on the drawbacks of the governmental system of IDPs assistance and its insufficient qualitative and quantitative deliverables. This much complicates the dialogue, provokes prejudices and distrust of authorities. The problem is also incorrect presentation of criminal chronicle provoking bias against certain categories of citizens.

Incorrect terminology is often used in media - internally displaced persons are called refugees. During the reporting period in 53 publications the term «refugee» has been used. The term refugee is defined in Article 1 of Convention relating to the status of refugees: [refugee is a person who] owing to well-founded fear of being persecuted for reasons of race, religion, nationality, membership of a particular social group or political opinion, is outside the country of his nationality and is unable or, owing to such fear, is unwilling to avail himself of the protection of that country.

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Conclusions

The overall positive and neutral context prevails in the publications about IDPs. Materials with negative and discriminatory context are rare, but nevertheless, there are negative trends that reinforce negative stereotypes and stigmatization of IDPs, such as presentation of IDPs as passive recipients of aid, IDPs as a cause of rising prices and unemployment, hidden political propaganda and incorrect presentation of criminal news and the use of incorrect terminology.
CHAPTER 1. Results of media monitoring

TREND 1. IDPs as passive recipients of assistance

✓ “The government will increase expenses for IDPs up to six fold”; Vinnytsya OK, 24 February, 2015;
✓ “How much money have been spent in the Kharkiv region for IDPs”, Kharkiv city web-site “057.ua”, 11 February, 2015;
✓ “IDPs and refugees received a new “portion” of humanitarian aid”; Kherson Vesti, 6 February, 2015.

Publications with a positive context
✓ “Vinnitsia business - IDPs in charge”; TV-channel VITA, 4 February, 2015;
✓ “A refugee from Luhansk will teach English to volunteers from Vinnitsia for free”; RIA “20 hvylin”, 27 January, 2014.

TREND 2. IDPs as a cause of price increase, unemployment and lack of social protection services

✓ “Demand for jobs in Lviv is three times higher than offers”, Zahid.Net, 28 January, 2015;
✓ “In Kharkiv the number of persons willing to receive a subsidy increased twice”, Gorodskoy Dozor, 28 January, 2015;
✓ “Kharkiv has become the most expensive city in Ukraine during the last year. Results of research”, Gorodskoy Dozor, 12 January, 2015;
✓ “The capital’s residents complain about acute shortage of places in the capital’s kindergartens and scold electronic queue”; Segodnya, 10 February, 2015.

TREND 3. Hidden political propaganda and incorrect presentation of criminal news

✓ “Kherson officials “throw around” IDPs, as a gypsy throws the sun”; “Hryvna”, 16 February, 2015;
✓ “The authorities have withdrawn from the solution of the problems of refugees from Donbas”, Korrespondent.Net, 3 March, 2015;
✓ “Natalie Korolevskaya: There are more than a million of displaced persons in the country, and the government is still “thinking” how to help them”, TV Agency “Novosti”, 20 February, 2015.

TREND 4. Reporting criminal news with a focus on the place of residence of suspects or victims

✓ “In Kramatorsk people are afraid that a million hryvnas from Lviv will “get lost” on the way”, Lvivskiy Portal, 13 February, 2015;
✓ “A resident of Luhansk region has killed a citizen of Kharkiv and disappeared in the ATO zone”; TV Agency “Novosti”, 27 January, 2015;
✓ “Refugees from the Donbas were forcefully recruited into Israeli brothels”; Vysokiy Zamok, 20 January, 2015.

Information about humanitarian aid
✓ “Lviv has received humanitarian aid from Ukrainian Stuttgart for 120 thousand UAH”; Zahid.Net, 19 February 2015;
✓ “UN has paid 2.2 million UAH to displaced persons from Donbas at Vinnytsia region”; Real, 15 February, 2015;
✓ “European Commission will allocate € 1.5 million to assist IDPs from Donbas, who have moved to Dnipropetrovsk region”, Censor.Net, 26 February, 2015.

EQuote: European Commission will allocate € 1.5 million to assist IDPs from Donbas, that moved to Dnipropetrovsk region. [...] “European Commission will finance a project, with the cost - 1.5 million euros. Within the project internally displaced persons in the Dnipropetrovsk region will receive housing, as well as social, medical and legal assistance,” - says the statement.
CHAPTER 2
RESULTS OF STUDY OF THE ATTITUDE OF LOCAL POPULATION TO IDPS

Analysis of surveys and interviews of representatives of state authorities, non-governmental organizations, private enterprises and representatives of local communities show that neutral and positive attitudes to IDPs prevail. Out of 500 interviewed representatives of host communities from five regions 81% expressed positive or neutral attitudes toward IDPs. The majority of IDPs feel themselves accepted by local communities and do not face any discrimination from their host communities. From more than 200 interviewed representatives of IDPs, 75% have expressed the view that they do not feel negative attitude and discrimination.

It is worth mentioning that when there were expressions of negative attitudes to IDPs/ethnic minorities or opinions about incorrect behavior of IDPs, the additional question has been posed, “Have you personally been faced with such behavior” or “are there IDPs among your acquaintances”. Most respondents answered “no”. It indicates that the opinion of host communities is formed by media, social networks, friends, acquaintances and rumors.

Nevertheless, within general neutral attitude to IDPs a number of stereotypes about IDPs that already existed have been identified during the monitoring, and created a background for conflicts and discrimination. Several areas have been identified in which discrimination of IDPs and negative attitude towards them is widespread.

The identified stereotypes of the local population in relation to IDPs:

1) all IDPs support separatism in the Donetsk and Luhansk regions;

Due to the armed conflict in eastern Ukraine there is negative attitude to IDPs, supporting separatism in the Donetsk and Luhansk regions, and sometimes this attitude extends to the whole IDPs population. At the same time pro-Russian IDPs are intolerant to pro-Ukrainian community. Under the certain circumstances this causes conflicts and provokes stereotype of pro-Russian sentiments to all IDPs. Out of 500 interviewed representatives of the local population, 13% said that their attitude to IDPs depends on IDPs themselves: if they support Ukraine, and behave properly, then the attitude towards them is good; if IDPs behave improperly, then the attitude towards them is negative.

In the Lviv, Kyiv and Kherson regions the different attitude towards IDPs from Crimea and from Eastern Ukraine has been identified: the attitudes to the first are much better than to the second. IDPs from Crimea are perceived as people who left because of political views, while IDPs from Eastern Ukraine are accused of stating the war.

2) IDPs “take away” social benefits, they are dependents and cause of inflation and unemployment;

While interviews of representatives of local communities and experts, the opinion has been expressed that the government “spends money on IDPs, instead of helping us”. Such views are especially relevant in regard to healthcare, education, and the availability of vacancies.

Along with this, another widespread opinion is that among IDPs there are a lot of people who do not want to work, but only want to live on the expense of the state and other people. In Kyiv, these stereotypes are aggravated by the IDPs with a high income, representatives of big business and owners of expensive property.

3) men from Eastern Ukraine must protect “their lands”;

The common opinion of the representatives of the local population is that it is wrong to generalize all the IDPs population and treat everyone in the same way. Being positive on the one hand, this trend, however, increases the negative attitude toward ‘bad’ IDPs. The category of “bad” IDPs does not have clearly defined boundaries, and includes primarily pro-Russian IDPs and men.

In the regions where percentage of mobilized local men is high, a common opinion of the local population is that male IDPs must protect “their lands” rather than stay in secure regions. During the monitoring such attitudes have been identified in Vinnytsia and Vinnytsia region, and in Lviv and Lviv region. Out of 500 interviewed representatives of local communities about their attitude to IDPs 8% replied that men-IDPs must protect their land. In Vinnytsia such opinion has been shared by 20% of respondents.

Common attitude to IDPs

“We are all human beings and we need to live somewhere, but they have difficulties now, so we have to host them in our towns, where it is peaceful”, Nina, Vinnytsia;

“There are IDPs from Donbas among my colleagues. They are normal people, just like everyone else. Just by chance I have learnt that they are from the Eastern Ukraine. If I haven’t seen their passports I wouldn’t believe it. There are too many fairy tales about them. I offered them some help, but thanked me, but refused. So we shouldn’t listen to gossips, but we should look at people”, Oleg, Kyiv;

“IDPs are people just like us – they have 2 arms, 2 legs. They are not people to envy—they lost everything, do not have any confidence in the future. I help them a bit – with food, cloths. Without ordinary people, without volunteers, these IDPs would be in a very bad situation.\n
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And the fact that they are separatists is false. Maybe someone just wants to set up locals against IDPs, and they are spreading rumors”, Eugene, Kyiv;  
✓ “I am personally acquainted with a woman-IDP - our grandchildren are friends. I feel sorry for these people - they ran away from the war, but here people look daggers at them ... we’re excited by gossips, they fuel hatred. We are all the same polite and well-mannered, or louts and loafers”, Natalia, Vorzel, Kyiv region;  
✓ “When a child fell ill and was taken to the hospital, many have helped: volunteers, doctors, CrimeaSOS employees. We did get the MRI for free. We felt and moral support and sympathy”, Lyudmila, IDP, Kherson.

Negative attitude towards IDPs. Differing attitude to IDPs from Crimea and Eastern Ukraine

✓ “Bad. Let them go to defend their territory. It was they who lost Donbas, and now they are crying”, Alexander, Vinnytsia;  
✓ “Those who were true Ukrainians, they left eastern Ukraine immediately, and now only bad people come, those who shouted: “Russia”, “Putin, send troops!” – Parasites from which it is necessary to get rid of”, Dmitry, Vinnytsia;  
✓ “I treat them negatively and do not understand how they can come to Kyiv, go to restaurants, nightclubs, and demand for assistance. In the meantime, the men from all over Ukraine go to the ATO as volunteers”; Anton, Kyiv;  
✓ “My attitude to IDPs is ambiguous. I feel empathy to children and women, and I am willing to help them in any possible way. But men must protect their land, and not hide behind the young men from the other regions who are sent to fight in the ATO zone. I can not treat such IDPs well”, Natalia, Kherson.

IDPs “take away” social benefits. IDPs are perceived as dependents

✓ “[I have] a negative attitude toward them, because when they moved to our city, the residents started to experience problems with finding work and apartments. As community, we are not ready to accept such a number of IDPs, without harmful effect to local population”, Vladimir, Vinnytsia;  
✓ “As a human being, I do not have anything against IDPs. But, in connecting with their massive arrival, rental payments for apartments have increased tremendously. Today it is impossible to find a room for 2,5 thousand UAH, and this happens in the city, where the average rental is 2-2,5”, Petr, Vinnytsia;  
✓ “I have bad opinion about IDPs. Just look at the cars with Donetsk and Luhansk identification numbers – for all my life I will not earn for such a car. And then they demand assistance from the government! I also would like to have some assistance – soon I will not have anything to feed my children...”, Denys, Kyiv;  
✓ “[there are...] other IDPs – on cool cars pass through the city, break rules, and behave as they want! One such guy at “Cruzak” will Donetsk identification numbers has recently cut in front of my car, been rude, cursed me and then threatened that would eliminate me. There are such “IDPs” also”, Petr, Kyiv;  
✓ “Recently, I try not to say that I’m an IDP. Earlier I got sympathy, sometimes even complete strangers offered assistance. Now more and more locals say that they are already fed up with our problems. As if we are to blame ... Some accuse us of being dependents. I don’t believe anymore that things will change. I feel sad and anxious ... “, Iryna, IDP, lives in Kyiv.

Attitude to men IDPs

✓ “Men should not run away, but they must join the army and defend their lands. Why only our men must fight there?”, Aliona, Vinnytsia;  
✓ “Let women come here, let men fight there. They run to warm places, while our guys protect their lands”, Victoria, Vinnytsia;  
✓ “I feel sympathy to women and children. I despise the men, who come to peaceful regions. I will never help them”, Svetlana, Myrnoe village, Kherson region.

Discrimination in the sphere of apartment renting

At the present moment, the majority of IDPs live in private accommodation: at relatives/acquaintances or rent apartments on their own expenses. According to unofficial data, around 10 % of IDPs population lives in collective centers. In the field of apartment renting there is high level of distrust to IDPs due to the fact that they are considered as: 1) insolvent; 2) potentially unreliable (‘some IDPs lived here before you, and stole expensive furniture and household appliances’); 3) as unprofitable customers (‘will leave without warning’); 4) owners fear for their apartments (according to the apartments’ owners, authorities may start to advocate interests of IDPs and they would be somehow deprived of their ownership). In Kyiv and Lviv, interviewed realtors reported that majority of landlords (according to some realtors, up to 80 %) have prejudices and caution toward IDPs. In Kherson, according to an interviewed realtor, if one out of ten IDPs families manages to rent an apartment – it is success;  
During an anonymous survey in Kyiv out of 63 interviewed IDPs, 57 % said they have experienced discrimination in apartment renting. Some added that they got refusal or increase of rental payment when it appeared that they are from Donbas;  
In Kherson 62 % of interviewed IDPs responded that they face difficulties in finding an apartment for rent; 30 % of them have financial problems, 28 % got refusal in renting due to “propiska” (registration) in the cities of ATO zone and 4 % were denied of tenancy because of children;  
According to IDPs, a rental payment is often higher than salary. IDPs also face denial in tenancy, because according to owners and realtors they can steal or spoil property and can leave to their home town at any time without payment.

Discrimination in the sphere of apartment renting

✓ “People, living in Vinnytsia have different attitude towards renting a flat to internally displaced persons. On the one hand, they do not want to have a deal with IDPs, as they are afraid that the latter will not manage to pay. Others just do not trust them and are afraid that they will return back to their homes”, Natalia, realtor, Vinnytsia;
“Nowadays, 70% of clients are persons from Donbas. Nevertheless, 80% of owners of real estate, if they learn that a person is from Donbas or see his registration, simply refuse. The problem appeared on September – October 2014, in the summer such situations did not emerge”, Artem, realtor, Kharkiv; 

“We have been working at Kyiv real estate market for more than 10 years. There have never been situation of such a great number of myths, biases and unrealistic fears. At the very beginning locals felt sympathy for IDPs from Crimea, and from eastern Ukraine, and could even rent a lower price accommodation. In the summer my brokers started to experience problems with this category of clients. We had situations when tenants posed a condition ‘anyone except persons from Donetsk’. Several times tenants after acquaintance with potential clients denied because, a client had been an IDP. Nowadays, with formed negative image of these clients, there is a stable demand for such clients – around 20% of owners of real estate are ready to have IDPs as a leaseholder”, Alexandra, director of real estate agency, Kyiv; 

“It has been very problematic to rent an apartment in Kiev. Even during the first visit to the flat, the owners denied me without explanation having seen a residence permit in the passport. Others tried to rent their huts for exorbitant prices, while we are in a desperate situation – we need to live somewhere. When I found an appropriate accommodation, I had to cheat – a lease agreement was concluded by my friend with the Kyiv registration in the passport”, Andrey, IDP, lives in Kyiv; 

“While looking for an accommodation, we faced with high prices and denials from tenants after they have learnt about out propiska (registration). The main explanation was that we would steal everything and leave at any moment or do not pay the rent. Our friends helped us to find an apartment”, Alla, IDP, lives in Kherson. 

Discrimination in the sphere of employment

There is no clearly identified trend in the sphere of employment. A number of interviewed employers claimed that it’s not so important who gets a job, «the main issue for the candidates is to suit the operational criteria.» According to them it does not matter either IDPs or locals work for them. However, IDPs face discrimination in this sphere. Though some displaced persons interpret any refusals in jobs - even with lack of working experience or different qualification - as discrimination on the basis of place of origin. In Kyiv while interviews with IDPs (40 IDPs, living in Kyiv and Kyiv region), 25% faced discrimination in the field of employment. In Kherson, out of 55 respondents, 23% have faced with extremely negative attitude from employees and got refusals in employment because of origin from ATO zone.

The opinion that IDPs require higher wages, and that they are unreliable are widespread in local communities. In Kyiv many in the host community share the belief that it is impossible to find a job because of the IDPs influx. On the other hand, IDPs often agree to the jobs that considered as not prestigious, low-paid or unqualified.

Discrimination in the sphere of employment

“I do not hire displaced persons at my construction site – I have had experience. They come demanding higher salaries, but themselves, they do not have any skills, they are not disciplined, and they disappear after the first preliminary payment - and that would be the last that would ever be seen”, Viktor, engineer, Kyiv  

“I have three car wash stations. It is a problem to find good workers. From summer 2014 guys displaced from Eastern Ukraine work here. They are excellent workers, very responsible. I even helped them with accommodation – in order to let them keep working”, Andrey, businessman, Vinnytsia  

“I do not select personnel in accordance to place or origin or status. I select those persons that want to work at my company, and are ready for such work, have required experience and education. This is the first I look at”, Stanislava, IDP, lives in Kyiv

“We moved to Kyiv from Donetsk in summer, in August. It did not take me long to find a job – there have been many vacancies in emergency. I did not experience biased attitudes or discrimination. On the contrary, Ministry of Public Health obliged heads of medical institutions to facilitate the employment of displaced personnel from ATO zone. The team welcomed me”, Viktoria, IDP, lives in Vinnytsia  

“I have had difficulties with finding a job. I got a refusal when came to one of local organizations. Afterwards I was explained that the director ordered not to hire displaced persons from ATO zone”, Stanislava, IDP, lives in Vinnytsia  

Attitude to IDP children in educational institutions

According to the Commissioner of the President of Ukraine on peaceful settlement of the situation in Luhansk and Donetsk regions, Iryna Herashenko, more than 60% of displaced persons from the conflict zone in Donbas are women and children. According to the Commissioner of the President of Ukraine on children rights, during the armed conflict in the Donetsk and Luhansk regions, 65 children have been killed, 127 have been injured. Some IDP children have posttraumatic syndrome and suffer from psychological disorders after what they have experienced. 

Due to the fact that children largely replicate the behavior of their parents, children reflect stereotypes of society, and IDP children experience negative attitude from their peers. The monitoring showed that the trend is not uniform and the situation in classes depends on teachers and on systematic work by pedagogues and psychologists.

Nowadays, the government does not allocate additional resources on education of IDP children, and new classes and groups have not been formed. Due to this reason, some school classes are overcrowded. Consequently the problematic issue for this sphere is positive discrimination of IDPs: the situation when IDPs are admitted to educational institutions out of order or are exempted from paying financial contributions to schools.

This conflict has emerged autumn 2014 when IDP children have been admitted to kindergartens out-of-turn. Thus, as of 02 February 2015 in Kharkov 12,000 children are registered for kindergartens for 2015, for 2016 – 6000. IDP children, as an exception, are admitted kindergartens out of electronic queue. As of 01
CHAPTER 2. Results of study of the attitude of host communities to IDPs

September 2014 there have been 900 IDP children in Kharkiv kindergartens, on 05 February 2015 – there are 1200. On condition that positive discrimination continues, the tensions between IDPs and host communities will continue to have positive discrimination.

According to teachers interviewed, nowadays they need not only to help new pupils to adapt to a new class, but also to avoid ‘political confrontation’: A psychologist from a Kyiv school where around 80 IDP children study told that the main reasons for conflicts between children are material and domestic problems of IDPs, talks and biased opinions (heard from parents), misunderstanding and mistrust.

In Kyiv during the monitoring, 28 IDP families with children of different ages have been interviewed. 92 % reported that they do not face any difficulties, and that children are adapted to new teams and have many children. The main problem for IDPs from eastern Ukraine and Crimea is the Ukrainian language of studies and instructions. 7 % experienced bullying and other conflicts which had been solved.

In Kyiv, 46 children of different ages, among them 9 IDPs were interviewed. All nine IDP children responded “good”, “very good” to the question “how you have been welcomed in a new class”. To the question “Have you been offended in the school due to the reason that you are IDP?”, the response was “no”. Local children wrote “it is interesting to communicate with them” and “we are friends, we have much in common”. But six students answered “I treat them with suspicion; I do not understand them; I don’t pay attention to them; I am indifferent to them”. One of the respondents wrote “I do not like them at all”, another one - “I don’t like that he [IDP] is aggressive and angry”.

Attitude to IDP children in educational institutions

✓ “There are no specific differences in school life of IDPs and their classmates from Kyiv. We are concerned that children who have experienced traumatizing events have basic need in security. Teachers do everything possible to prevent conflict situations and confrontations between children in order to prevent re-traumatization”, Natalia, a teacher, Kyiv;
✓ “We have five IDP children; some have been studying since September. Nowadays they are well-adapted, they are very good. At our center, all the classes are taught in Ukrainian, and due to this IDP children had difficulties at the very beginning”, Svetlana, one of director of child’s development center, Vinnytsia;
✓ “I work in the school and there are children from Donbas in my class. It is terrible when a chair falls by accident, and a child falls at the floor and starts to scream”, Inna, teacher, Vinnytsia;
✓ “There are two IDP children among my pupils – at 9th and 11th grades. To be honest, I had not thought of it, until I was said that they were IDPs. I did not notice any xenophobia towards them from other classes”, Aliona, a teacher, Kharkiv;
✓ “All of our three children have been admitted to a kindergarten and a school in the summer. We did not experience any problems. I found a kindergarten close to the flat we lease, the groups were overcrowded, but we were admitted. Regarding the school, we selected a school with emphases on English, that’s why my child passed entrance exams. But this is a standard procedure for all children, not only for IDPs”, Natalia, IDP, Kyiv;
✓ “Lera skipped quite a long period. It had been very difficult for her to leave home, and we had hoped that the new class would welcome her. But we were mistaken: she had a rough time of it, because children got used to each other in the new class. And here was a new pupil. They first treated her with suspicion, and then became aggressive when they learnt from where she had come. She was insulted and offended in other ways. It was not difficult for her to study, but she was morally suppressed. She did not have many friends in the class. Now the situation has improved”, Sergey, IDP, Vinnytsia.

Attitude of local population to the representatives of the Roma and Roma IDPs

Attitude to Roma is negative and discriminatory, regardless of whether they are IDPs or not. The displacement of Roma from the area of armed conflict in Ukraine started in May 2014 after the warlord Igor Girkin and “popular mayor” of Slaviansk Vyacheslav Ponomariov, called upon the population to “clean” the city from drug dealers. Almost immediately, Roma community of Slaviansk and its suburbs have been forced to flee their homes, Donetsk Roma community followed their lead.

According to International Charitable organization “Roma Women’s Fund "Chrikli"", more than 9 000 Romas left the Donetsk region. The majority left to the neighboring regions. In May 2014 about 10 % of applications of the volunteer initiative "Station Kharkiv" were Romas. In the first and a half month after the outbreak of hostilities in 2014 organizations helping Romas - “Chachimo” and “Station Kharkov” registered 486 Roma IDPs. Almost half of families have three and more children (46 %), the high percentage of children before one year (21 % of all Roma children). 46 % of adults Roma IDPs did not have education, 23 % had unfinished secondary education, 15 % had secondary education, 8 % has secondary professional education. 42 % of IDPs of this category did not have passports; some had never had any documents. At the beginning of 2015, with escalation of the conflict, there was no influx of Roma IDPs.

Despite the unifying factor of joint grievance, a barrier between the Romas and local population has only been reinforced. There have been recorded refusals in social and humanitarian assistance, settlements and other services to Roma IDPs. According to «Chachimo» and "Station Kharkov" 67 % of Roma IDPs in their first days in Kharkiv region were induced to sleep at the streets, train stations and in tents in the forest. According to the organization "Youth Human Right Group – Kharkiv" open conflicts and hatred between Roma IDPs and the local population took place in villages Budy and Vysokyj, Kharkiv region. In Budy, someone threw a smoke bomb to the window of hospital, where Roma IDPs lived. This caused a heart attack of infant (he was saved by doctors). In village Vysokyj, the locals attempted to evict Roma IDPs with the help of police from the camping when they ran out of money for rental payment.

Romas face discrimination in apartment renting. There is a mistrust and intolerance on the cases to the Romas as tenants. According to NGO “Chachimo” they have had cases of denial in tenancy. The other time, the local administration of a district of Volchansk refused to provide temporary shelter to IDPs when they learnt that IDPs were Romas. In Kharkiv the hotel “Express” at the railway station did not accept Romas telling them that “we do not settle gipsies”.

CHAPTER 2. Results of study of the attitude of host communities to IDPs

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According to the International charitable organization ‘Roma Women’s Fund ‘Chirikli’ in one of the villages in the Kyiv region, residents forbade Roma IDPs to take water from the well; in the other village the elderly at the request of the local population hired a bus and took out all the Roma IDPs - more than 55 people.

In general, in comparison with other categories of IDPs, the Roma are in the most vulnerable position. Among other reasons - absence of documents preventing them from getting state social payments, discrimination in employment and stigmatized attitude by state institutions are the most serious factors complicating the situation.

According to a survey of the local population in Kherson, only 8% of interviewed have the positive attitude to the Roma population. The majority of respondents expressed condemnation, aggression and even fear to Roma. In Vinnytsia, out of 15 interviewed representatives of local population only 4 have positive attitude to the Roma population.

**Attitude to Roma IDPs**

- "I have not had Roma IDPs for may be three months. Before that I used to have a lot of clients Roma IDPs, but almost all lessors do not want to rent an accommodation to Roma because of intolerance. I had a situation, when three persons rented a flat first, and then when owner came to visit the flat, there have been more than fifteen persons. That’s why Roma face huge problems with finding accommodation", Aliona, realtor, Kharkiv;
- "I moved on May 25 with my wife and four children. When we were leaving, shelling was going. We were not able to leave on our own, and we got assistance from the pastor. Two months we lived in an accommodation with comfortable conditions in Volnochanski. With the start of academic year we moved to Kharkiv to a private house. The locals, Red Cross and Station Kharkiv helped us. In Slaviansk I used to have a kiosk in the market, and worked there. In Kharkiv I do not work due to unemployment. The house was provided to us by our relatives – the conditions are harsh, the toilet is outside and so on. We do not plan to return to Slaviansk: our small house is ruined; we do not have money to rebuild it. Many people like you come to visit us, only interview us, but no one wants to help us", a representative of Roma IDPs, Kharkiv;
- "At the end of May, my husband brought me with children to Kharkiv. We had lived in Alchevsk. It is very difficult now. We have a stove in our house. As you see we do not have firewood. We stoke the stove with things we do not need. My husband goes to the forest and collects some wood there. But we lack it, and we have an infant. But everything else is fine – there are many organizations which assist us with products and clothes", a representative of Roma IDPs, Kharkiv;
- "Gypsies are very specific peoples, it is necessary to take into regard the family, its traditions and upbringing. If to treat them normally and with understanding, they will treat you the same", Olga, Genichensk, Kherson region;
- "My attitude to them is very negative, they are not used to work", Olena, Kherson;
- "I always try to help to army and to IDPs. But I have a biased attitude to gypsy. Ten years ago I was cheated by them", Olga, Kharkiv;
- "I have negative attitude to them. I am afraid of them. They are not good people", Svetlana, Vinnytsia.

**Attitude to Crimean Tatars and Crimean Tatars IDPs**

The attitude to the Crimean Tatars IDPs is general tolerant in the society. The Crimean Tatars are perceived positively as ones who oppose the occupation of Crimea, and made a choice to leave Crimea because of their political views.

During the interviews of the representatives of the local population in Kherson, only 5 out of 60 respondents expressed extremely negative attitude towards this category of IDPs. In Lviv, during the same survey 51 out of 60 respondents expressed a positive attitude to the Crimean Tatars. In Vinnytsia out of 20 locals interviewed, 60% have positive attitude to the Crimean Tatars.

In Vinnytsia and Lviv the construction of mosques are planned. In Vinnytsia 30 representatives of local population have been interviewed on this issue. 50% do not have anything against the construction of the mosque, 36% are against; 13,3 % are not interested in this issue. In Lviv, out of 40 interviewed persons at this issue, 31 have been for the building of the mosque.

In Kyiv 29 Crimean Tatars IDPs have been interviewed. No one has faced direct discrimination. 90% pointed out the problem of credit cards being blocked. However, some stereotypes about the Crimean Tatars have been reported, such as reversion attitude toward Muslims, skepticism to food preferences. The actual problem for the Crimean Tatars is preservation of their cultural identity, and the fear of assimilation due to the historical memory of the 1944 deportation. Sometimes this leads to difficulties in adaptation to a new location.

Despite the overall positive attitude to the Crimean Tatars, a critical situation has emerged around the community of orthodox Crimean Tatars in Nova Greblya village in the Vinnytsia region. The conflict on everyday issues aggravated by difference in culture and religions arisen between the local community and the community of the Crimean Tatar IDPs. 141 displaced persons live in Nova Greblya. They have been provided the building of a former dormitory, which had been renovated for IDPs. In summer when IDPs just arrived the locals welcomed them, collected assistance for them, planted potatoes, made reparations in the dormitory. However, the relations between two communities started to worsen. The Crimean Tatar community has been closed and the communication with the local population was limited. That created rumors in the village and negative attitude. So, there is a post office in the building of dormitory, the locals always crossed the territory where IDPs live in order to get to the post. The Crimean Tatars are discontented with that. According to host community, they were offended when someone saw that the clothes the locals had brought to IDPs were thrown away and when they did not collect the potatoes, the locals planted for IDPs. Crimean Tatar children started to skip classes, because they are prohibited to visit school on Fridays, at the other days they need to go home for a pray after the fourth lesson. Children are forbidden to go to drawing and singing classes. A village club where all the celebrations take place is situated opposite to the dormitory of the Crimean Tatars. IDPs are irritated with constant noise, and just before New Year this provoked fighting between locals and IDPs. The similar incident took place at the beginning of March 2015. Together with that the local community becomes more and more hostile to IDPs living in the village.

15 residents of the village and several representatives of state institutions have been interviewed within the
monitoring. 40% of the locals have the negative attitude to displaced persons. The common opinion is that locals do not want the Crimean Tatars to live in the village, are afraid to live with them. ‘They should go back to Crimea. After what happened just before New Year, we do not need them here’. 4 persons expressed opinion: ‘they can live here, but they must treat us as human beings, not as now, when they want us to live in accordance with their customs.’ Other persons interviewed had neutral opinion.

At the moment, the situation requires a prompt intervention in order to prevent aggravation of conflict.

**Attitude to Crimean Tatars IDPs**

- “They can stay here and make themselves at home, but they should keep in mind that they are at our home”, Olga, Vinnytsia;
- “They are good, well-wishing people, they appreciate its culture and consider themselves an inalienable part of Ukraine. They are very friendly and solidary peoples”, Nikolay, Kherson;
- “My attitude is positive, because surprisingly, they are one of a few who defend the position that Crimea is Ukraine”, Julia, Kherson region;
- “The Crimean Tatars violated rights of inhabitants of Crimea (seizure of land), they violate laws (as Ukrainian as Russians), they are not respectful of Slavic people”, Yury, Kherson;
- “We love Crimean Tatar cuisine and respect the Crimean Tatars for their active positions on Crimea”, Denys and Maksim, Kyiv;
- “We have good relations with other inhabitants of dormitory, we often talk with each other. Our women share our traditional recipes, we help each other. We have been given benefits by the college and we rent these rooms here. The initial agreement was that we would live here until end of February, but now we have signed another agreement, and we will continue to live here. We negotiate on our own, and pay for everything ourselves. We earn money in the way everyone can. Other Crimean Tatars who live in the city, with who we contact rent private apartments. At the very beginning there have been difficulties with rental of apartments: tenants did not want to rent apartments, were afraid that the Crimean Tatars would not pay. But nowadays we have a good reputation, the locals see that we work and now everything is ok”, Eldar, Crimean Tatar IDP, lives in Vinnytsia;
- “Local inhabitants treat us so well that there is a risk of full assimilation, and this is bad”, Crimean Tatar-IDP, lives in Kyiv.

**Situation in village Nova Greblya, Vinnytsia region**

- “I do not care that they live here. It is only an advantage for my shop – I have more customers. But sometimes they behave wrongly, may be it is not for me to judge them. But there have been situation when a child shot the other child in the head with that gun, and parents reacted as if nothing happened. They did not allow police. Parents should not behave like this”, Mikhail, an inhabitant of the village;
- “Why do they live here? For us to be afraid to walk during the night? I once crossed the park with my husband, and someone ran towards us from different directions with flashlights, we were frightened and ran away. No one knows what they wanted to do, they are walking with huge knives. May be they wanted to kill us…”, Ludmila, an inhabitant of the village;
- “We are Christians, and if someone needs assistance, it is not a sin to help. But I will say to you: when they arrived we helped as much as everyone could. Those clothes that we gave to them, they threw away, and they did not dig potatoes we planted for them”, an inhabitant of the village;
- “I have negative attitude towards them. Here, in the village, we do not know they earn money. I know that it is not good to count others people’s money, but there are rumors… They go somewhere every morning. It is difficult to live with them, without knowing what they do”, an inhabitant of the village.

**Attitude to other vulnerable categories of IDPs**

The vulnerable category of IDPs, especially in the Kherson region is persons released from prisons, with residence in Crimea. Due to the lack of documents, they can not return to their places of residence. The procedure of documents renewal is very long, the cost of it is around 350 UAH, and the persons released from prisons have to spend from several weeks to several months in Kherson. From 1 January, 2015 the funding for the Centre for the registration of homeless in Kherson, which was involved in the restoration of documents has been cut for 2015.

This category of IDPs often experiences negative attitudes and discrimination by local population and governmental structures, in which they apply for assistance.

**Attitude to IDPs released from prisons**

- “To stay on the street - is to push one’s luck. Since the government does not see this problem – it forces us to violate the law”, IDP, stays in Kherson.

**Conclusions**

The positive relations between IDPs and the host communities in times of armed conflict is a guarantee of stability of the society. As a result of the monitoring, at the present moment IDPs are well-taken by local communities, and they are treated in a neutral or positive way. Together with that, a number of stereotypes about IDPs have been formed, which can provoke the increase of hostility between two groups under certain circumstances.

Moreover, some groups of IDPs are subject to negative attitudes by the host communities, among them: Roma population; IDP men of military mobilization age; IDPs released from prisons. In the sphere of apartment renting, the level of mistrust to IDPs is high; and there are a great number of refusals in tenancy on the basis of region of origin. In the sphere of education there is a trend of positive discrimination of IDPs by state institutions, that creates a conflict situations with the host communities.
GENERAL CONCLUSIONS

The current situation with the relations between IDPs and host communities is stable; the attitude of local population has positive and neutral character.

However, there is a number of negative stereotypes towards IDPs, that had already existed in the society, and the changes in the general situation can turn the situation into extremely negative. In this way, at the final stages of the monitoring (end of February – beginning of March 2015) with the economic crisis and inflation, the tendencies of ignorance of IDPs problems become more evident in Kyiv. There is a risk that the problems of the relations between IDPs and the local population will be aggravated by the economic crisis.

The other factors worsening the relations between IDPs and host communities are discriminatory legal acts and measures taken by the government as well as the absence of the overall strategy on the issue, legal acts and decisions that creates privileges to IDPs to the prejudice of local population.

The sudden increase of IDPs population also puts in a risk the relations between the communities. At the beginning of the monitoring (16 January, 2015), according to UNHCR, the official number of IDPs have been 633 523, on March 3, 2015 the number of IDPs have been 1 100 000. Such a rapid increase of the IDPs population in such a short period of time may lead to the confrontation between different groups of the population, up to open confrontation. The preconditions for that are observed within IDPs and host communities.
APPENDIX 1

LIST OF MEDIA MONITORED

Internet-holding *Ukrainskaya Pravda*
Information agency *Ukrinform*
Information agency *UNIAN*
Information agency *UNN*
Radio Free Europe/ Radio Liberty
Internet portal *Censor.net*
Internet portal *Correspondent*
Internet portal *Vesti*
Internet portal *Segodnya*
Internet portal *Levi Bereg*
Internet portal *Novoe Vremya*
News agency *112.ua*
Internet portal *Comments.ua*
Gromadske radio
Internet portal *TNS*

*Media, Kherson*

Newspaper *Vgoru*
Internet portal *Ridna Khersonshina*
Internet portal *Novosti Khersona*
Kherson regional state administration website
Internet portal *Kherson Vesti*
Internet edition *Naberezhnaya*
Internet edition *Kherson.In*
Internet edition *Khersoncy*
Southern information company

*Media, Lviv*

Internet edition *Lvivskyi Portal*
Internet portal *Zahid.Net*
Internet portal *ZIK*
Internet edition *Lvivska Poshta*
Newspaper *Express*
Lvivska gazeta
Internet edition *Tvoe Misto*
Internet edition *Vysoky Zamok*

*Media, Kharkiv*

TV agency *Novosti*
TV Channel *7Channel* program
*Kharkiv izvestiya*
TV Channel *R*
Media group *Objective*, TV Channel *Simon*
Kharkiv regional state
telecommunication company
TV Channel *Pervaya Stolica plus*
Internet edition *Glagol*
Information agency *Status Quo*
Information agency *MediaPort*
Kharkiv city website *057.ua*
Internet edition *Gorodskoy Dozor*
Newspaper *Kharkiv izvestiya*
Newspaper *Vechernyi Kharkiv*

*Media, Vinnytsa*

Vinnytsia regional state administration website
TV channel *Vintera*
TV channel *Vita*
Internet edition *Vinnytsia ok*
Newspaper *Misto*
RIA *20 hvylin*
Internet edition *Vlasno*
Internet edition *Real*
Internet edition *Vinnytsia.info*
Internet edition *Moya Vinnytsia*
TV channel *33 channel*
Internet edition *lilenews.com*
Internet edition *Vesti Vinnytsia*
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Author of report: Eugenia Andreyuk
Proofreading: Yan Avseushkin, Brian Kerr
Project coordinator: Svitlana Oleinikova
Design and layout: Anastaslia Dryzhak

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