

CONCEPT NOTE
Council of Europe Project
Internal Displacement in Ukraine: Building Solutions - Phase 2
January 2021 – December 2022

Project description:

Despite the significant progress made by the Council of Europe in the human rights protection of IDPs in Ukraine for the last five years, there are still a number of gaps to be addressed in light of changing political and societal dynamics.

Continued action in the field by the Council of Europe is clearly expected, requested and needed until the Ukraine Action Plan comes to a close at the end of 2022. The follow-up Project for 2021-2022 is built on the changing overall policy of the Ukrainian authorities towards the “temporarily occupied territories”. Peaceful de-occupation, re-integration and strengthening relations with the population living on the Non-Government Controlled Areas (NGCA) is now declared a priority by diverse policy-makers. Through already established working relations of mutual trust with a large variety of actors, the Council of Europe will play a significant role in furthering peaceful long-term actions on this front.

The dynamics and profile of internal displacement in Ukraine has profoundly changed in the last five years. This demands acute understanding, know-how and capacities from local and national authorities to further support the long-term integration of IDPs.

Humanitarian actors are transferring a large part of their functions and responsibilities to the State actors at local and national levels. This transition has already revealed the very limited capacities of local communities in taking over such comprehensive tasks. To a large extent, they still lack evidence-based data and professional long-term approaches to forge durable solutions for victims of the conflict at large.

The follow-up Project will, therefore, in line with requests and actualities on the ground, address not only the situation of IDPs but the wider conflict-affected population. Persons living on the NGCA who cross the contact line to access services and legal remedies, as well as IDPs who are still not successfully integrated into host communities, are the groups of special concern in 2021 and beyond.

The Project will encompass three major components:

I. Advancing the scope and implementation of the legal and regulatory framework on the protection and restoration of human rights of IDPs and other conflict-affected civilian population

Building on the achievements already made, the Project will further support efficient legislative and regulatory tools regarding access to justice, housing and property rights and recognition of civil statuses. This is to be accurately designed and set up by national and local stakeholders in line with international and European standards and the relevant case law of the ECtHR. The Project will also support the Ukrainian Government in its endeavours to ensure sustainable funding for diverse housing solutions for IDPs and conflict-affected population.

Introducing a comprehensive framework addressing restitution/compensation for damaged housing will be critical. Notably, the Project will contribute to creating a unified register of destroyed and damaged housing and other property.

The Project will raise awareness on the tools of protection and restoration of human rights and compensation to the victims of armed conflict among lawyers, judges, civil servants and other relevant actors. The HELP course on *Transitional Justice and*

Human Rights will be adapted to Ukrainian realities and widely disseminated in Ukrainian.

II. Strengthening local authorities in responding to the needs of IDPs and conflict-affected population

The Project will assist national and local authorities in setting up practical indicators and tools to measure the progress and success of the overall integration of IDPs in host communities.

The Project will define up to 5 local communities in different regions of Ukraine. In cooperation with local partners the Project will pilot needs-based instruments and assessments for IDPs and other conflict-affected people. The Project will use a tailored approach to strengthen the capacities of displaced institutions, local authorities and civil society networks, including through in-demand equipment, expertise and trainings. This will form the basis for improving the existing system of social and psychological support to IDPs and conflict-affected population. The progress achieved will be carefully analysed and shared with national and local partners to ensure multiplying effects.

The Project will promote gender equality and meaningful participation of representatives of vulnerable groups. Improvements in the field of gender mainstreaming in local integration policies and practices as well as meaningful contribution of women to IDP-focused matters will be further expanded, including via peer to peer capacity building and knowledge sharing in pilot host communities.

III. Facilitating the integration of IDPs by promoting and implementing target digital solutions

The Project will foster digitalization initiatives concerning IDPs and other people still suffering from the armed conflict and forced displacement.

Development of online prototypes and solutions to the current challenges in this field will facilitate the access of IDPs and other conflict-affected population to social housing and property rights including relevant services and legal remedies.

National and local partners address the Project to assist in programming various online tools for IDPs. The Project will provide its expertise and technical assistance to advance the unified database on IDPs and facilitate its use at local level. The Project will also focus on the development of digital tools to register destroyed and damaged housing.

The Project will facilitate the introduction and implementation of online instruments for IDPs and other conflict-affected civilians considering *inter alia* COVID-19 related challenges.

A key feature of Project activities will be the active participation of IDPs themselves and gender-sensitive approaches. A strong engagement and contribution of IDPs, displaced professionals and women in the overall activities will be ensured.

Proposed budget for January 2021 – December 2022 –Euro