



“Durable solutions for internally displaced persons: a way forward”

25 November 2019

Report

Participants: UN Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator, OCHA, UNHCR, IOM, Members of Parliament, Ministry for Social Policy, Ministry for Veterans Affairs, Temporarily Occupied Territories and IDPs, Ministry of Justice, State Youth Fund for Construction, Mariupol City Council, Deputy Major of Kryvyi Rih, Council of Europe, NRC, R2P, DRC, Stabilization Support Services, Tenth of April, Group of Influence, Zmina, Proliska, ECHO.

Objective: to present translation into Ukrainian of the IASC Framework on Durable Solutions for Internally Displaced Persons, to launch the discussion around the elaboration of a new governmental Strategy on durable solutions for IDPs, involving there humanitarian and development actors as well as IDP communities.

Organizers: UNHCR, NRC and OCHA

Introduction

During opening remarks, *Ms. Osnat Lubrani*, UN Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator, emphasized on the urgent need in durable solutions for IDPs, who live in uncertainty for more than 5 years. It was highlighted that the durable solutions require a proper framework and whole of government approach, leaving no one behind. *Mr. Oleksiy Ilyashenko*, the Deputy Minister for Veterans Affairs, Temporarily Occupied Territories and IDPs, identified four priorities in relation to the conflict: housing and state register on damaged/destroyed property; civilian victims; protection of children and their families and addressing needs requiring assistance from international organizations. It was mentioned that the state assistance should cover not only IDPs, but also somehow residents of the Non-Government Controlled Areas (NGCAs). In this regard, cooperation with international organizations is of extreme importance. *Mr. Sergiy Nizhynsky*, the Deputy Minister for Social Policy, focused on statistical data¹ and by-laws regulating payment of social benefits, including subsidies, to IDPs. He stated that IDP integration is among the Ministry’s priorities and ensured that all IDP pensioners would receive their pensions.

Panel discussions

The *first panel* discussed the Government’s view regarding integration and durable solutions strategy towards IDPs. *Mr. Ruslan Gorbenko*, Deputy Head of the Parliamentary Committee on Human Rights,

¹ 1423000 IDP in total, including 197200 children, 717000 pensioners and 51000 persons with disabilities.

expressed the Committee's intention to facilitate ending of internal displacement through widening housing opportunities and ensuring access to voting rights in local elections in close cooperation with the Ministry for Veterans Affairs, Temporarily Occupied Territories and IDPs. Ms. Natalia Korolevska, Deputy Head of the Parliamentary Committee on Social Policy, called the Parliament and Government to put an end to the discriminatory treatment of IDPs in comparison with other categories of Ukrainian citizens and find a political will to adopt a program on durable solutions. She announced that draft law #2083-d has been registered and it would introduce a mechanism on paying pensions to the NGCA residents. Mr. Sergiy Mokrenyuk, Head of the Division on Crimea, Ministry for Veteran Affairs, Temporarily Occupied Territories and IDPs, focused on facilitating access to health and education services to the residents of NGCAs and need in complex information strategy describing existing opportunities for conflict-affected population. It was again highlighted that durable solutions require strategic approach based on assessing three-five years' perspective.

During the *second session* Kristina Nechaeva, NRC Protection and Advocacy Coordinator, presented key milestones of IASC Framework on durable solutions for IDPs and called the Ministries to consider them during elaboration of the new IDP Durable Solutions Strategy.

The *third panel* focused on sharing experience from the perspective of international organizations and NGOs. Lidiia Kuzmenko, UNHCR Associate Legal Officer, focused on the need to apply the whole of the government approach in the process of elaboration of a comprehensive durable solutions strategy. Any document needs to be supported by necessary budgetary allocations. Isaac Robinson, DRC Program Manager, emphasized that any legal framework would never be perfect, but it defines a way towards further elaboration and in any case requires proper funding. Ms. Tetyana Durnyeva, Executive Director of NGO "Group of Influence" stressed on the importance of voting rights for IDP integration into local communities. It was highlighted that participation in local elections is a considerable part of participation in public affairs and gives a sense of involvement. Ms. Tetyana Kutas, Community Outreach Worker of NGO "The Tenth of April" informed about the activities of the Coalition of IDP communities (in four southern regions of Ukraine) and progress they made in advocating for housing opportunities. One of the achievements was conducting housing needs assessment in Odesa region, which would be used for evidence-based advocacy. Ms. Ganna Dudinska, Legal Officer in Radnyky project, shared experience of creating IDP councils in Kharkiv, Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts. These councils act as advisory and mediating bodies with respective city councils/local self-government bodies. Mr. Victor Munteanu from UNDP focused on social cohesion activities in the oblasts of eastern Ukraine linked to safety nets and security, employment and livelihood opportunities.

Last panel discussed recommendations on achieving sustainable housing solutions elaborated during the Cities of Solidarity Forum in October 2019. Mr. Ruslan Kalinin, Adviser to the Minister for Veterans, Temporarily Occupied Territories and IDPs, shared the Ministry's plans on using the available housing subvention till the end of the year (79 million UAH). Distribution among different regions is difficult, since application process is not easy, scoring system must be applicable and the most vulnerable groups of the displaced population would be the primary beneficiaries (whereas hosting community might be left behind). He underlined that in order to diversify housing approaches, the Ministry had been elaborating a draft State targeted program on housing for IDPs, which would be shared for the public discussion. Mr. Sergiy Komnatny, Head of Derzhmolodzhytlo, described modalities of the Affordable Housing program and 3% preferential loans and their increased funding for 2020. It was noted that many IDPs are interested in such programs and Derzhmolodzhytlo would advocate for further popularization of the program. Mr. Kostyantyn Bielikov, Deputy Major of Kryvyi Rih, shared experience on providing temporary housing for IDPs, who resided in modular settlements and dormitories supported by KfW. He called on the Ministry of Veterans Affairs, TOT and IDPs to organize an extended workshop with heads of cities to elaborate amendments to housing legal

framework. Ms. Svetlana Stenda from the Mariupol City Council shared experience on housing opportunities for “new residents of Mariupol”, including social dormitories, reconstruction of buildings with further transfer to IDP housing and program on purchasing housing to IDPs at the secondary market. Ms. Elina Shyshkina from R2P presented main findings and recommendations of R2P report on collective centres across Ukraine, highlighting a need in searching individual housing solutions for their residents due to their vulnerability and support from the local authorities.

Next Steps

As a follow up to the event, the following action points are to be considered:

- Distributing the publication of the translated IASC Framework on Durable Solutions for the Internally Displaced Persons with central and local authorities, as well as with civil society organizations. It shall also be placed at the web-page of UNHCR, [Humanitarian Response Info](#) and distributed through the mailing lists of the Protection Cluster, Resident Coordinator Office (RCO) and OCHA.
- Share the recommendations elaborated during the Cities of Solidarity Forum at UNHCR’s web-page, [Humanitarian Response Info](#) through the Protection Cluster’s, RCO and OCHA’s mailing lists, as well as by official letters to the central state authorities and oblast authorities.
- Consider conducting next “Cities of Solidarity” event in the format of the meeting suggested by the Mayor of Kryvyi Rig as extended practical consultations between the Ministry of Veterans Affairs, TOT and IDPs and heads/deputy heads of cities hosting large numbers of IDPs in order to elaborate practical steps for the implementation of housing solutions.
- Support the Government in the elaboration of the new Durable Solutions Strategy
- Support the Government in the elaboration of the housing program for IDPs.

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