***Information provided by the Ministry of Veterans Affairs of Ukraine in connection with the preparation by the Special Rapporteur on the human rights of internally displaced persons of the thematic report to the Human Rights Council on the protection of internally displaced persons with disabilities***

According to the information provided by the Ministry of Social Policy of Ukraine, as of February 3, 2020, there are 1 439 839 internally displaced persons (hereinafter referred to as IDP) registered from Donetsk and Lugansk regions, as well as from the Autonomous Republic of Crimea and Sevastopol, 51 223 of them being persons with disabilities. The largest number of IDPs with disabilities is registered in Donetsk region – 17 773, Luhansk region – 8 205, Kharkiv region – 4 074, Dnipropetrovsk region – 3 038 and in the city of Kyiv – 4 954.

Unfortunately, statistics on the number of IDPs with disabilities by disability categories and subcategories are not kept. The record on children with disabilities is not kept separately.

Due to their increased vulnerability IDPs with disabilities are much more likely to be affected by disruptions in the functioning of infrastructure and support services. In low-resource settings, persons with disabilities are more likely to be discriminated against. Women with disabilities are particularly disadvantaged.

It should be noted that none of the groups of the population is safe from the devastating consequences of the hostilities in eastern Ukraine. However, the actual vulnerability of a particular group is determined by its socio-economic situation, ability to access resources to get assistance. For persons with disabilities who are deprived of access to care and support services, getting basic services turns into a disproportionately more severe suffering.

Thus, with a view to financially support the IDPs, the Procedure for providing a monthly targeted assistance to cover living expenses, including housing and communal service, for people who are moving from the temporarily occupied territory of Ukraine and areas of the anti-terrorist operation (hereinafter referred to as the Procedure) was approved by the Decree of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine dated October 1, 2014 No. 505.

In line with subparagraph 6 of paragraph 2 of the Procedure, allowance to persons with disabilities of group I and other persons who, according to the conclusion of the medical advisory commission, are not capable of self-care and need constant assistance, can be delivered upon their written request by “Ukrposhta” (JSC Ukrainian Postal Service) to the actual place of residence of such persons.

According to paragraph 3 of the Procedure, the allowance for internally displaced persons is assigned to the family and paid to one of its members subject to the provision of a written consent (of no prescribed format) by other family members to have financial assistance paid to that family member (hereinafter referred to as the authorized representative of the family) in the following amounts:

* for persons with disabilities of group I and children with disabilities –

130 % of the subsistence minimum for persons who became disabled for work;

* for persons with disabilities of group II – 115 % of the subsistence minimum for persons who became disabled for work;
* for persons with disabilities of group III – subsistence minimum for persons who became disabled for work;
* for able-bodied persons – 442 UAH per person (family member).

The total amount of the family allowance is calculated as the sum of the assistance for each family member and cannot exceed 3 000 UAH; for a family with one person with disabilities or a child with disabilities – 3 400 UAH, for a family with many children – 5 000 UAH. The total amount of allowance for a family, which includes two or more persons with disabilities (children with disabilities), is not limited to the maximum size.

An important program document that is designed to comprehensively address the problems of IDPs, in particular IDPs with disabilities, is the Strategy for the Integration of Internally Displaced Persons and the implementation of long-term solutions for internal displacement for the period until 2020 (hereinafter referred to as the Strategy), approved by the Government of Ukraine (Order of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine of l5 November 2017 No. 909-p.).

The purpose of the Strategy is the social and economic integration of IDPs and the implementation of long-term solutions for the realisation and protection of their rights, freedoms and legitimate interests with the view to increase their self-sufficiency and independence, taking into account the interests of the host territorial communities, as well as establishment of effective interaction of the IDPs with the host territorial communities, state authorities and local self-government on the basis of partnership, the result of which is the achievement of social unity.

With the view to implement the Strategy, the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine by its Order of November 21, 2018, No. 944-p approved the Action Plan on the implementation of the Strategy (hereinafter – the Action Plan), which includes, in particular, aspects of analyzing IDPs’ housing needs, developing and guaranteeing IDPs’ rights to access to social security services and employment measures.

The Action Plan envisages capacity-building of employment, professional retraining and advanced training of IDPs; development of educational programs in adaptational, social and cultural, psychological, as well as legal areas; implementation of a budget program on the psychological rehabilitation of IDPs with disabilities, taking into account gender and age-related peculiarities (needs) etc.

The joint implementation by all state authorities of the Action Plan will help solve major systemic problems in the field of IDPs’ integration, implement long-term solutions as regards the internal displacement and ensure the realization and protection of IDPs’ rights, taking into account the interests of host communities.

In addition, with the view to resolve housing issues of IDPs, in particular, IDPs with disabilities, the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine by its Decree of October 7, 2017, No. 769 approved the Procedure and conditions for granting a subsidy from the state budget to the local budgets for the implementation of measures to support the territories adversely affected by the armed conflict in eastern Ukraine (hereinafter – the Procedure and conditions), which define the mechanism of granting a subsidy from the state budget to the local budgets for the implementation of measures to support the territories adversely affected by the armed conflict in eastern Ukraine (hereinafter – the subsidy), provided by the State Budget of Ukraine for the corresponding year.

Thus, the Law of Ukraine On the State Budget of Ukraine for 2020 provides for 20 million UAH for development expenditures under the budget program "Subsidy from the state budget to local budgets for the implementation of measures to support territories adversely affected by the armed conflict in eastern Ukraine".

In addition, in order to introduce a mechanism for the allocation and provision of housing for temporary residence of IDPs, taking into account the criteria of their vulnerability, the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine adopted its Decree of June 26, 2019, No. 582 On Approval of the Procedure for Setting up a Housing Fund for Temporary Residence of IDPs and the Procedure for Providing for Temporary Use of Residential Premises from Housing Fund for Temporary Residence of IDPs (hereinafter – Decree No. 582).

Pursuant to Decree No. 582, families with persons with disabilities have additional preferences in the allocation of temporary accommodation.

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