



Permanent Mission of Ukraine
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The Permanent Mission of Ukraine to the United Nations Office and other International Organizations in Geneva presents its compliments to the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights and, referring to the Office's letter of 15 December 2021 has the honour to transmit herewith the information provided by the Ministry for Reintegration of the Temporary Occupied Territories of Ukraine in connection with the preparation by the Special Rapporteur on the human rights of internally displaced persons of a thematic report with the focus on the right of IDPs to participate in elections.

The Permanent Mission of Ukraine to the United Nations Office and other International Organizations in Geneva avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights the assurances of its highest consideration.

Enclosed: as stated, on 3 pages.



J. F.
Geneva, 4 February 2022

**Office of the United Nations
High Commissioner for Human Rights**

Geneva

geneva.mfa.gov.ua

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Since 2014 the armed aggression of the Russian Federation and the temporary occupation of parts of the country have caused large-scale internal displacement in the country - almost 1.5 million people have changed their place of residence, of which 175 thousand are children, 725 thousand are pensioners and 51,6 thousand - persons with disabilities.

Regarding the integration of IDPs

As a result, Ukraine faces new social challenges that require immediate solutions, in particular, concerning social protection of internally displaced persons (hereinafter referred to as IDPs), housing and integration at a new place of residence.

Currently, the Government is taking nationwide measures to address these issues, namely:

On October 28, 2021, by Order of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine No. 1364-p, the Strategy for the Integration of Internally Displaced Persons and the Implementation of Medium-Term Solutions on Internal Displacement for the Period until 2024 (hereinafter referred to as the Strategy) was approved. The goal of the Strategy is to promote further integration of IDPs by removing obstacles related to exercising of their rights and fundamental freedoms, ensuring full access to administrative, social and other services, as well as creating conditions for capacity development and empowerment of IDPs in host territorial communities.

On ensuring guaranteed and timely payments of pensions or cash assistance for IDPs

The Ministry of Reintegration of the Temporarily Occupied Territories of Ukraine, together with the Ministry of Digital Transformation of Ukraine, has improved the mechanism for paying pensions and financial assistance to citizens of Ukraine by introducing an additional possibility of passing identification for their recipients - remotely, approved by the Resolution of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine dated September 22, 2021 No. 999.

On providing IDPs with temporary housing

Since 2017, the Government has introduced the provision of subventions from the state budget to local budgets for the implementation of measures to support the territories that have been adversely affected as a result of the armed conflict in the east of Ukraine.

For these purposes, in 2017-2021, budgetary funds were allocated in the amount of 230 million UAH, which made it possible to provide temporary housing for about 1,800 IDPs.

The state budget for 2022 includes UAH 125 million, which will provide temporary housing for at least 306 more IDP families.

Regarding the provision of monetary compensation for destroyed housing

The Law of Ukraine "On the State Budget of Ukraine for 2021" allocated 114 million UAH for the budget program "Money compensation to victims whose houses (apartments) were destroyed as a result of a military emergency caused by the armed aggression of the Russian Federation", for which compensation was paid 380 persons.

The state budget for 2022 has allocated 80.8 million UAH for the corresponding program, which will make it possible to pay monetary compensation to at least 269 victims.

Regarding the provision of IDPs with their own housing

Launch of the project "Housing for IDPs" under the Agreement between the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine and the Government of Germany, which will allow for 2021-2022 through a grant from the Credit Institution for Reconstruction (KfW) in the amount of 25.5 million euros to provide soft mortgages permanent housing for at least 1,800 IDPs.

Regarding testing at entry-exit checkpoints

In 2021, free PCR testing on COVID-19 was introduced at the entry-exit checkpoints in Donetsk, Luhansk and Kherson oblasts for those crossing the line. As of 3 January 2022 126,307 people have already used this option.

Regarding vaccination of Ukrainian citizens living in the temporary occupied territories

At the meeting of the operational headquarters of the Ministry of Health on 23 April 2021, the algorithm of vaccination of Ukrainian citizens living in the temporary occupied territories of Ukraine was approved by the Ministry of Health and the Public Health Center of the Ministry of Health of Ukraine in cooperation with the Ministry of Reintegration and the State Border Service. Registration for vaccination started on 3 June 2021.

As of 3 January 2022, 6,254 people were registered for vaccination through the contact center, including 246 in the Donetsk region, 4,923 in the Luhansk region, 1,017 in the Kherson region, and 68 in the Kharkiv region (1,374 of them - vaccinated, 3,940 - awaiting vaccination and 940 - not showing up for vaccination).

Regarding the reintegration of young people from the temporarily occupied territories

In order to ensure the implementation of a set of measures aimed at reintegration of young people from the temporarily occupied territories, in 2021 the Ministry of Reintegration of Temporarily Occupied Territories launched a program to prepare, provide and conduct free training in courses to prepare for admission to public higher education.

Preparatory courses have been introduced on the basis of 15 higher education institutions.

Regarding the implementation of electoral rights of IDPs

The UN Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement (Principle 22) state that internally displaced persons should not be subjected to any discrimination as a result of their displacement, in particular in the exercise of the right to participate in community affairs (on an equal basis) and the right to vote.

A similar approach is reflected in Article 38 of the Constitution of Ukraine, according to which all citizens have the right to participate in the management of state affairs, and in all-Ukrainian and local referendums, freely elect and be elected to public authorities and local governments. In addition, Article 24 of the Constitution of Ukraine stipulates that all citizens of Ukraine have equal constitutional rights and freedoms and are equal before the law.

According to Article 8 of the Law of Ukraine "On Ensuring the Rights and Freedoms of Internally Displaced Persons", an internally displaced person exercises his/her right to vote in elections of the President of Ukraine, people's deputies of Ukraine, local elections and referendums in the manner prescribed by law.

Thus, on December 19, 2019, the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine adopted the Electoral Code of Ukraine (hereinafter - the Code), which entered into force on January 1, 2020.

Sub-item 3 of item 3 of Section XXXXII "Final and Transitional Provisions" of the Code amended the Law of Ukraine "On the State Register of Voters", which entered into force on July 1, 2020, according to which the Register may specify a different voter address than the address at which his / her place of residence is registered in accordance with the Law of Ukraine "On Freedom of Movement and Free Choice of Place of Residence in Ukraine".

Voting rights emphasize the close relationship between the individual and the community, in which he or she lives. In the long run, the political participation of internally displaced persons plays a significant role in their successful integration into the host community.
