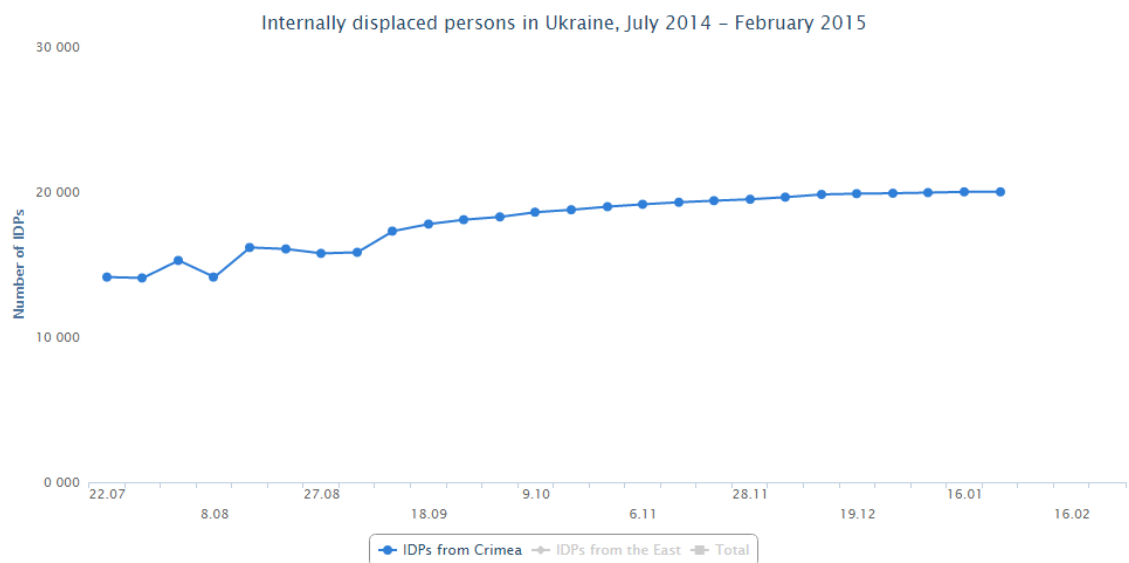
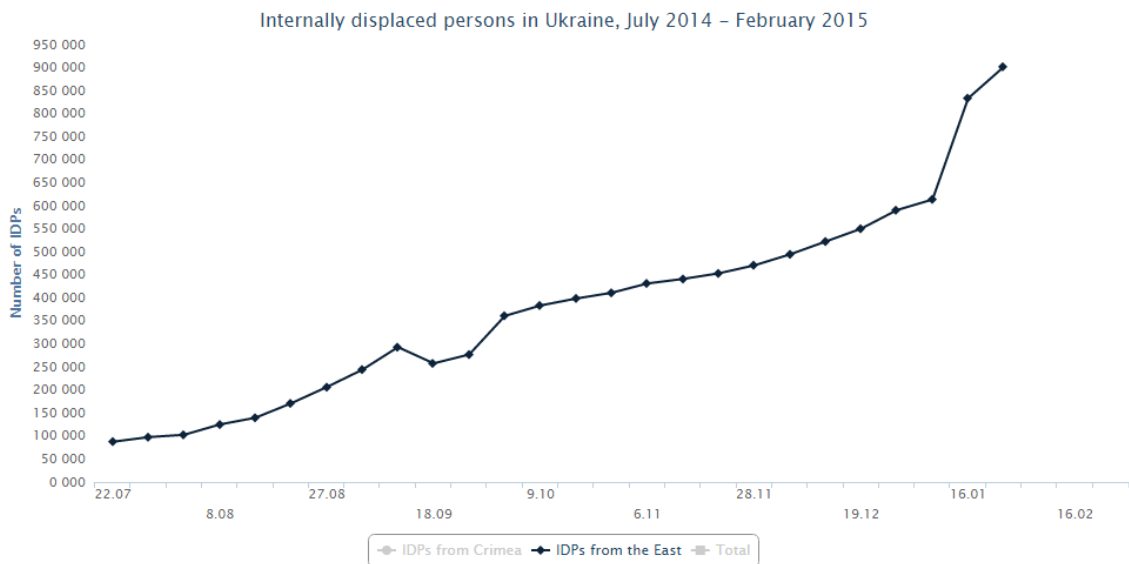


INTERNALLY DISPLACED PERSON IN UKRAINE: POLICY REVIEW (FEBRUARY, 2015)



Taras Droniuk,
Andriy Solodko



Data from the Ministry of Social Affairs and UNHCR

The Ministry of Social Policy of Ukraine has prepared some [changes](#) for the Ukrainian Law "[On ensuring the rights and freedoms of internally displaced persons](#)", proposing to close the existing gaps and clarify the functions of some governmental bodies. First, the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine (quite logically) obtains the right to decide on the provision of monetary aid and compensation to the internally displaced. Moreover, it is planned to remove the discriminatory limitations of the scope of people eligible for IDP status by including foreigners and stateless persons and cancelling the requirement for residential registration on the uncontrolled territories.

A lot of attention is paid to protecting orphaned children and children without parental care. As of today, this question is not regulated at all, and the Ministry of Social Policy has no information about the number of orphans on the uncontrolled territories, but it is obvious that, because the hostilities still continue, this number constantly increases. The text of the draft law clarifies the procedure of assigning IDP status to orphaned children and children without parental care, guarantees them social protection, and obliges local state administrations to secure places in institutions for them and to provide the means for living to them and those who take care of them.

However, the legislative branch of state authorities made much more progress in the field of protecting the rights of IDPs. Liudmyla Denisova, a member of parliament, proposed the draft law [#1496](#), which is designed to resolve the problems with IDP employment and relieve the social tension. Although, according to the Law "[On ensuring the rights and freedoms of internally displaced persons](#)", not the parliament, but the government is supposed to design and approve within three months the complex state program of support and social adaptation of IDPs.

The draft law proposes two effective steps. First, conditions must be created for changing profession and updating qualification. It is assumed that certain categories of people who are employed in the prioritized economic areas will be provided with certificates in order to do this. Thus, the state will be able to use the existing mechanisms, and not to create new ones, which will substantially reduce the costs, simplify and speed up the provision of the related services for IDPs. Article 30 of the Law "[On employment of the population](#)" already describes a voucher system of payment for changing professions. A person can receive a voucher for a sum of up to 10 subsistence wages (the subsistence wage for an able person is fixed at UAH 1280 until December 2015).

Second, in order to stimulate the employment of IDPs, compensations will be assured for the costs their employers spend to pay them wages within the range of the average level of wages, characteristic for the region in question during the previous month, for no more than 6 months, under condition of keeping the IDP on the job for at least twice as long as the period of compensation payments.

In this area, the government has developed, but not yet approved, the project of the [Program for Employment and Professional Education of Internally Displaced Persons for 2015/16](#). Same as in Denisova's draft, it is planned to ensure the employment and increase the competitiveness of IDPs on the labor market by means of professional education, changing profession or updating qualification. In case the draft is adopted and the governmental program is approved, we will have an effective mechanism, which could begin to resolve the problem of employment, and would not require extensive funding, because already existing institutions would be used to change or update qualifications of potential employees.

Taking into account the frequent applications for IDP certificates by those who live in nearest proximity to the territories which are temporarily not under control or under partial control of state authorities, and the frequent denials to assign this status, the Ministry addressed the territorial authorities with a recommendation to give such certificates to the persons who apply for them, based on Decrees #505 and 509 of October 1, 2014.

The financial basis of protecting the rights of IDPs must be provided by changes in the state budget. The Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine obtains the right to provide services for the citizens who move from the temporarily occupied territories of Ukraine and the areas of conducting the anti-terrorist operation, and to distribute and redistribute educational and medical subventions, as well as the subventions for labor re-qualification. In order to pay the monetary aid for accommodation rents and covering living costs for the period of January and February 2015, UAH 358.4 million were already transferred to regions. The [changes in the Law on the state budget 2015](#), which were supported by the parliament on March 2, include assigning additional UAH 2,850 million to the Ministry of Social Policy for continuing such payments to IDPs.

In this context, we must mention the [statement](#) by Natalia Yaresko, the Minister of Finance, about the necessity to cancel the private person income tax which is charged on the monetary aid to IDPs from international organizations. This was emphasized by the majority of international donors, who do not see any logic in

taxing the humanitarian aid for IDPs. The corresponding changes were also [adopted](#) by Ukrainian parliament on March 2, 2015.

Prepared with financial support by



(Ukraine)

Contact person:

Andrii Solodko
andriy.solodko@gmail.com



info@cedos.org.ua



Centre for Society
Research 04071,
Kyiv, p.o. box 98



(044) 417-00-17
(fax)(044)417-31-71



[www.facebook.com/
CentreForSocietyResearch](http://www.facebook.com/CentreForSocietyResearch)