





THE SUMMARY OF THE REPORT

ON SOCIAL COHESION AND CONFLICT SENSITIVITY OF LOCAL SELF-GOVERNMENT AND STATE BODIES ACTIVITY REGARDING RELATIONS BETWEEN IDP AND HOST COMMUNITIES


Kyiv 2017-2018

The monitoring of social cohesion and conflict sensitivity of the state and local self-government bodies with communication and policies in the socio-political relationships between Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) and the host communities (Monitoring) is implemented using a methodology developed by the experts of Liaison Officers' (Radnyk) Programme, through the Canadian Non-Governmental Organization Stabilization Support Services with the support of the British Embassy in Ukraine Conflict Stabilization and Security Fund. The author of the report is an expert of the Programme Iryna Loiuk.

 **The objective of Monitoring** is to analyze the impact of factors that cause conflict and decrease social cohesion between IDPs and host communities. It is important to devise strategies that will prevent further conflicts and integrate IDPs into host communities by reducing inequality and encouraging social engagement. Through Monitoring, the status of educational accessibility, economic strengths and needs, occurrences of conflict incidents, and the status of social needs and services for IDPs was established. Information collected throughout Ukraine allowed for comparisons between regions and identified deviations from the average.

 **The goals of Monitoring are:**

- to determine the factors causing and instigating conflicts;
- to investigate social cohesion and conflict sensitivity in the regions;
- to establish the level of conflict of specific regions.


 **The monitoring indicators:**

- Conflict / Tolerance of the community (except IDP' problems).
- Level to which basic social needs are met.
- Level of society polarization regarding military actions in eastern Ukraine and Crimea occupation.

Correlation of IDPs and participants in the military actions in the community.

- Conflict between the IDPs and host community.

The collection and processing of data were carried out in all regions of Ukraine. The following is an abbreviated sample from 9 regions of Ukraine (Dnipropetrovsk, Donetsk, Zaporizhia, Kharkiv, Kherson, Luhansk, Lviv, Kyiv oblasts and the city of Kyiv) which were selected to present the report.

 **The monitoring results on social cohesion and conflict sensitivity:**

- A high level of community intolerance has been identified in Ukraine regarding issues that should be considered markers of intolerance. Conflicts in the context of intolerance are mainly accompanied by the involvement of a significant number of people and are manifested as physical or verbal incidents of violence between groups. The highest level of intolerance for the investigation period was identified in the Kharkiv region, the lowest - in the Kyiv and Lviv region. It is therefore necessary to take action in regions demonstrating a substantial level of intolerance, counteracting aggression and conflict through information and education initiatives championing critical thinking, diversity, tolerance and inclusivity.

- As to the provision of social needs in the studied regions, the situation is worst in the Donetsk and Luhansk regions due to the high unemployment rate. The best situation is in Kyiv, which can be explained by the higher average salary (which is almost twice as much as in other studied regions). Results showing high rentals costs relative to average salary were found in the Dnipropetrovsk, Kharkiv and Kyiv regions. However, there is the opportunity for the those in the Kyiv region to combine living in the region and working in Kyiv. The best ratio of rental costs to average salary was recorded in the Kherson, Zaporizhia, Donetsk and Luhansk regions. It is therefore necessary to create employment opportunities for IDPs in the Donetsk and Luhansk regions. It is also necessary to address the lack of rental and social housing opportunities available to for IDPs in the Dnipropetrovsk, Kharkiv and Kyiv regions.

- Local authorities demonstrate a systemic lack of support for IDPs. Budgets do not plan for or fund integration and social programmes. It is therefore necessary to provide input to policy and legislative bodies, including advocating for inclusion and participation of IDPs in both local and regional political spheres.

- There is a need for continued monitoring of social cohesion and conflict sensitivity in order to increase inclusion, sensitivity, and tolerance. Public authorities and local self-government bodies lack a mandate or procedure to address punitive policy or to systematically collect disaggregated data regarding incidents of intolerance. It is therefore necessary to introduce a mechanism for public monitoring of conflict sensitivity in the policy and procedures of public authorities and local self-government bodies, specifically those which affect the interests and integration of IDPs. The results of such monitoring will be used to better develop projects, strategies, and policy which empower IDPs and host communities through to peaceful resettlement.

- The research has shown a rise in conflict in many spheres of interaction between IDP, representatives of host communities and ATO participants. This is mostly caused by the lack of sincere public dialogue concerning socially important decisions. This leads to unreasonable decisions, along with the neglect of some parties' interests and opinions, which creates conflict and confrontation even over policy spheres which three years ago were considered without conflict. The problem of insincere and ineffective pro forma public consultation on policy decisions without genuine input from all parties leads to the governing body losing the opportunity to receive detailed information about possible conflict situations and to build a risk matrix.

 In order to increase tolerance and social cohesion in resettlement communities throughout the Ukraine, we put forward the following **recommendations** as imperative:

- Development of a public oversight policy and procedure mechanism which insures the transparency of decision making of executive bodies, specifically regarding conflict sensitivity issues;
- Analysis of conflict indicators driving the development of inclusive conflict prevention, mediation, empowerment and engagement programmes;
- Public Education Campaigns tailored to each regions' strengths and needs.