

# ECONOMIC SCIENCES

## HUMANITARIAN ORGANIZATIONS IN ENSURING AND FINANCING THE SOCIO-ECONOMIC INCLUSION OF INTERNALLY DISPLACED PERSONS: UKRAINIAN AND FOREIGN EXPERIENCE

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### ABSTRACT

The article is devoted to the study of the problems of ensuring the socio-economic inclusion of persons who, as a result of the military aggression of the Russian Federation against Ukraine, were forced to leave their places of permanent residence. The author assesses the humanitarian missions of Ukrainian and international non-governmental organizations, substantiates their role and importance for the financing and implementation of humanitarian projects aimed at supporting IDPs. The author analyzes the Ukrainian and foreign experience of humanitarian organizations, their unions and associations in providing vital assistance and various types of support to war-affected Ukrainians. It is noted that given the course of hostilities in Ukraine, the scale of destruction and its consequences for the population of the country, and, accordingly, the indefinite period of stay of internally displaced persons in places of temporary residence, the need for humanitarian assistance and support of Ukrainians by international humanitarian organizations will continue to be relevant. It has been proven that measures for the integration of refugees and their socio-economic inclusion are effective through benefits for both refugees and the economy of the community or host country.

**Keywords:** internally displaced persons, humanitarian organisation, non-governmental organisation, humanitarian aid, Russian aggression, socio-economic inclusion, financial support.

**Problem statement.** Russia's open military attack on Ukraine in February 2022 tested both the national consolidation of Ukrainian society and the democratic values of the international community. A significant number of Ukrainians are forced to leave their places of permanent residence and move to safer places within Ukraine or to other countries due to threats to their lives and health as a result of the hostilities. For the most part, IDPs find themselves in difficult life circumstances, experiencing confusion and stress, and need to adapt to new living conditions. Under these circumstances, the need to implement any kind of charitable activities aimed at preventing their socio-economic exclusion becomes especially important.

In the context of Russia's aggressive war against Ukraine, charity and humanitarian activities of international and domestic non-governmental organizations, their unions, and associations that provide various types of humanitarian aid to the war-affected population play an extremely important role. Many humanitarian initiatives are aimed at supporting Ukrainians who were forced to leave their homes and seek temporary shelter in other regions of the country or abroad. Humanitarian organizations provide the victims with food, medicine, hygiene items, and other non-food items, organize financial support, legal and psychological assistance, and ensure the transportation of citizens to safer places, etc.

According to the Ministry of Social Policy, the Unified Information Database on Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) currently contains information on 4.8 million internally displaced persons in Ukraine. At the same time, almost 4.1 million Ukrainians (as of the end of June 2023) have temporary protection status in the European Union. Most of them are in Ukraine's neighboring countries and other OECD countries, including

Poland – 1.5 million people, Germany – 1.02 million, the Czech Republic – almost 0.46 million, the United States of America – almost 0.17 million, Italy – more than 0.16 million, Spain – more than 0.15 million, more than 0.14 million IDPs are in Turkey, and approximately the same number are in the United Kingdom [1].

Given the indefinite period of stay of internally displaced persons in places of temporary residence, the issue of their socio-economic integration into society is particularly acute. After all, people who have come to a new place of temporary residence and the community that hosts them have found themselves in new realities.

Analysis of recent research and publications. The surge in forced migration and the challenges that accompany it have led to an increased interest among Ukrainian and foreign scholars in studying theoretical aspects and practical developments related to creating a favorable environment for ensuring the socio-economic integration of internally displaced persons. In particular, these issues are considered by I. Titar [2], O. Fedorenko [3], and others. Conceptual issues of the economic integration of different categories of migrants are covered in the scientific work of P. Kaczmarczyk, Z. Brunarska, A. Brzozowska, K. Kardaszewicz [4]. U. Sadova, O. Ryndzak and N. Andrusyshyn emphasize that the most important indicators of the integration of displaced persons into society are their level of employment and socio-psychological state [5].

Many researchers have devoted their scientific works to the problems of organizing various measures aimed at overcoming new forms of inequality, studying practices, and finding ways to finance them. For example, financial instruments to promote social inclusion of internally displaced persons and stabilize their lives are considered by A. Diachenko [6], O. Kravchenko [7].

The question of the role and importance of national civil society institutions and international organizations in meeting the needs of IDPs is raised in the scientific works of E. Bovkun [8], D. Nikonova [9], O. Novikova and O. Pankova [10] and others. O. Protsenko [11], I. Kyryliuk [12; 13] studied volunteer practices in the context of forced migration.

At the same time, the problems of socio-economic inclusion of forced migrants in public life, as shown by domestic practice and the experience of foreign countries, do not have simple solutions, and their search remains relevant.

**The purpose** of the article is to determine the role of civil society institutions and international organizations in ensuring and financing the socio-economic inclusion of Ukrainians who, fleeing Russian aggression against Ukraine, were forced to leave their place of permanent residence.

**Summary of the main material.** Since 2014, when the illegal annexation of Crimea took place and Russian aggression in eastern Ukraine began, and with the outbreak of a full-scale war in Ukraine at the end of February 2022, many organizations, communities, philanthropists and volunteers from around the world have joined in providing humanitarian aid and support to Ukrainians. Donor countries and partners, including the United States, the European Union, Canada, Japan, Australia, and others, have provided significant financial and material assistance to Ukraine. Both in Ukraine and in neighboring countries, many companies and independent institutions, associations and organizations have organized charity events and fundraisers to help the Ukrainian population in response to the serious humanitarian crisis. Various international and national organizations and associations took part in the implementation of humanitarian initiatives, including the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), the UN Humanitarian Organization "World Food Program" (WFP), the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), the International Organization for Migration (IOM), International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement (IRCRCM), World Health Organization (WHO), International Medical Humanitarian Organization "Medecins Sans Frontieres" (MSF), Humanitarian Organization "Save the Children International", International Humanitarian Agency "CARE International", International Association "Oxfam" and others.

The charitable activities of these and many other organizations have been and continue to be extremely relevant for addressing new forms of inequality, including preventing the socio-economic exclusion of internally displaced persons in Ukraine. At the same time, humanitarian aid from various organizations has become a vital source of support for Ukrainian refugees who have been temporarily sheltered in European countries due to the war waged by Russia against Ukraine.

Humanitarian organizations primarily focus on meeting the basic needs of refugees. Such support is provided through the provision of material aid, food packages, medical and psychological support, legal advice and other types of assistance. Displaced persons

are helped to adapt to new conditions and settle in an unfamiliar environment. According to an estimate by the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs in Ukraine [14], as of the end of June 2023, almost 2.9 million IDPs received vital assistance and social and legal protection services. More than 70 thousand IDPs were provided with assistance in organizing temporary settlements.

Information about the charitable activities of various organizations and how humanitarian projects are implemented is published on their official websites. In particular, the UN Humanitarian Organization World Food Program uses a flexible combination of food and cash assistance to support vulnerable categories of victims. In areas where banking institutions operate and people have the opportunity to purchase food and essential goods on their own, the priority is to provide cash assistance. Where appropriate and safe, WFP distributes vouchers that can be redeemed in local supermarkets. Spending money in the places where people in need are located in this way helps to boost the regional economy. According to the data published by the NGO, since March 2022, WFP has distributed more than \$450 million in cash assistance, covering about 2.5 million people. The WFP has distributed more than \$450 million in cash assistance since March 2012, reaching about 2.6 million Ukrainians [15].

Since the beginning of the Russian aggression against Ukraine, the international independent medical humanitarian organization Medecins sans Frontieres has expanded its activities to meet numerous healthcare needs by supporting medical facilities, operating a specially designed medical train, and mobile clinics providing basic medical care. Through the organization's representatives, internally displaced persons could receive food and various relief items (such as bedding sets, hygiene kits, etc.). Distribution of firewood and other alternative energy sources was organized for those IDPs living in rural areas. MSF staff are currently providing rehabilitation services to IDPs in more than 40 shelters across the country and continue to work to ensure continuity of care through mobile clinics in Dnipro, Zaporizhzhia, Vinnytsia, and other Ukrainian cities, with a particular focus on mental health and chronic disease management. In Ivano-Frankivsk, Medecins sans Frontieres supports inpatient and mobile outpatient clinics for IDPs, run by doctors who have also been displaced by the war [16].

The humanitarian organization Save the Children has been providing humanitarian assistance to children and their families in Ukraine since 2014. In February and March 2022, during the mass exodus of Ukrainians fleeing the war to neighboring countries, the foundation's staff created Child Friendly Spaces in refugee centers, train stations, and border crossings across Europe to provide exhausted families with a place to rest and recover. In addition, to support displaced children in obtaining education, this charitable organization has assisted 50 schools and more than 80 digital learning centers in Ukraine and European countries. In total, in 2022, about 1.1 million children and families across Ukraine, Poland, Romania, and Lithuania were provided with food and water, cash transfers, psychosocial

support, and safe places. Today, Save the Children continues to support refugee families from Ukraine across Europe, helping children access the necessary services, including to continue their education, delivering backpacks, school supplies, crafts, etc. [17].

In 2022, the international community raised \$3.8 billion for Ukraine. The majority of which was allocated to hundreds of non-governmental organizations as part of an emergency appeal for assistance. The Ukrainian Humanitarian Fund (UHF) has allocated more than \$190 million to local, national and international partners to provide on-site humanitarian response [18]. It should be noted that the actual decision to establish the Ukrainian Humanitarian Fund was made in February 2019 to collect donor contributions so that funding would be directly available to humanitarian partners to provide timely and effective life-saving assistance and protection to the most vulnerable groups of people. This was made possible by the generous support of UN Member States, the private sector and individual donors, and allowed us to focus on humanitarian work rather than fundraising.

Under the leadership of the Humanitarian Coordinator, funding from the Humanitarian Fund for Ukraine is available directly to a wide range of aid partners, including national and international non-governmental organizations, UN agencies, and members of the Red Cross/Red Crescent Movement. The priority of the activities financed by the Fund is determined by the Humanitarian Response Plan for Ukraine. Guided by the National Recovery Plan developed by the Government, UNHCR, along with other agencies, is leading a Durable Solutions Coordination Group that seeks to create an inclusive, holistic approach to early recovery. For 2023-2024. With a total financial requirement of \$230 million, UNHCR is focusing on programming solutions in six key priority areas, including: shelter; cash assistance; livelihoods; access to justice and documentation; access to services and social infrastructure; and community empowerment and engagement [19].

In recent years, the role of non-governmental human rights organizations has been growing in Ukraine, including those that focus on protecting the constitutional rights of internally displaced persons. The activities of such organizations are quite important for building an effective mechanism for the protection of human rights, as they are independent of governmental institutions and municipal bodies, and allow to identify of objective problems and shortcomings in the practice of realization and protection of human rights in a particular state [8, p. 19]. Their work ensures the proper realization and effective protection of the rights of IDPs, including electoral, labor, social, and property rights, restoration of lost identity documents, and confirmation of their special status, etc. In particular, the All-Ukrainian Movement "Power of Law", established in 2015, helped a large number of internally displaced persons to establish the fact of their forced relocation as a result of the armed aggression of the Russian Federation and to obtain positive court decisions on the recovery of moral and material damage caused by their forced relocation from the aggressor country [8, p. 19].

In Ukraine, non-governmental organizations provide all possible assistance in monitoring and solving numerous social, cultural, environmental, and other problems in the local environment, and the fact of their existence indicates a growing level of trust in civil society representatives [20, p. 346]. It is through such non-profit organizations that grant resources are often attracted, provided as a result of specialized grant programs-competitions.

The practice of implementing projects aimed at protecting the interests of various social groups in communities, including displaced persons, with funding from donor organizations is now quite common both in Ukraine and in foreign countries. Since the beginning of the Russian-Ukrainian war, against the backdrop of one of the largest and fastest refugee influxes in recorded history, national and international humanitarian organizations in Poland and other European countries have been trying to find a way to combine the urgent need to help hundreds of thousands of people in need with the urgent request of many stakeholders to quickly develop common approaches and analytical materials [21, p. 31].

An example of the use of grant funds to support internally displaced persons from Ukraine by the University of Warsaw in Poland is illustrative. In 2022, the University of Warsaw, within the framework of the project entitled "The Third Mission of the Faculty of Modern Languages of the University of Warsaw," began implementing measures to support refugees from Ukraine who arrived in Poland on February 24, 2022, under the program entitled "Warsaw University for Ukraine." The cost of the project is about PLN 15.4 million with co-financing from European funds in the amount of more than PLN 14.9 million. As a result of uniting the networks of coordinators of pro-Ukrainian initiatives, the developers have achieved an interdisciplinary nature of the planned support for Ukrainians who became war refugees. Currently, the program includes 26 different activities, the main goals of which are: assistance in finding an individual path of professional development, according to preferences and skills; practical learning of Polish, promotion of economic independence of Ukrainian families; sustainable socio-economic development of Polish residents (including the largest national minority in Poland); development and social well-being; environmental integration with the local or industrial community; prevention of isolation of young people and Ukrainian families; prevention of marginalization and crime [22]. In addition to the University of Warsaw, this program is supported by the following organizations: UN Global Compact in Ukraine – a non-governmental organization operating within the framework of the United Nations; Leaders of Change Foundation; Ukrainian House; ABA ROLI Ukraine; OPORA; STUS Collective; Polish-American Freedom Foundation; Educational Foundation "Perspektywy"; Polish Scouting Association; Cyber security law firm and others.

The intensification of the work of civil society organizations in this area is also due to the substantial grant assistance provided by numerous foreign donors (grant unions, foundations, charitable associations),

which have launched a broad campaign to engage third-sector institutions in providing various social services to citizens. For example, the UNHCR in Poland signed 17 grant agreements with 12 refugee-led organizations in Poland for a total of \$66 thousand to engage Ukrainians. Grants of up to \$4 thousand will be used to support activities, in particular, in the field of education, language courses, psychosocial counseling, awareness raising, and information [23].

It should be noted that in 2022, 85 partners joined forces to provide protection services and multidisciplinary humanitarian assistance to refugees from Ukraine, third-country nationals seeking safety, and other persons in need within the framework of the interagency Regional Refugee Response Plan in Poland. Partners include: Action Contre la Faim, CARE, Caritas Poland, Center for Reproductive Rights, Community Organized Relief Effort, CultureLab Foundation, Danish Refugee Council, Diakonia Poland, Diakonie Katastrophenhilfe, Faros Elpidas, Federation for women and family planning, Fundacja Avalon, Women's Rights Centre, Empowering Children Foundation, Fundacja New Story, Fundacja Profil, Fundacja Q, Habitat for Humanity Poland, Halina Niec LegalAid Center, International Federation of Red Cross, International Organization for Migration, International Rescue Committee, Intersos, Kocham Dębniaki Foundation, Libraries Without Borders, Lutheran World Federation, Medair, MedEqualTeam, Mercy Corps, Metropolitan Orthodox Charity Center ELEOS, Norwegian Refugee Council, OVUM Association, Oxfam, Plan International, Polish Center for International Aid, Polish Humanitarian Action, Polish Medical Mission, Première Urgence Internationale, Save the Children, Soleterre, United Nations Children's Fund, United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, Voice, World Health Organization and others [21, p. 33].

A system of measures that is effective in improving refugee integration and socio-economic inclusion can bring significant economic benefits to both refugees and the economy of the community or host country. In addition, these economic benefits, according to scholars, can make other forms of social integration more likely by reducing social marginalization and crime.

**Conclusions and suggestions.** The charitable activities of humanitarian organizations are extremely relevant for addressing new forms of inequality, including the prevention of socio-economic exclusion of displaced persons who have been forced to leave their places of residence due to emergencies.

Since the first days of Russia's open military invasion of Ukraine, national and international humanitarian organizations have joined forces to provide vital assistance to thousands of Ukrainians. This support is provided through material aid, food parcels, medical and psychological support, legal advice and other types of assistance. Creating favorable conditions for employment and earning labor income, legal assistance, access to education and training, socio-cultural integration, etc. are important factors in reducing the risk of social exclusion and inequality for both forced users of temporary protection outside Ukraine and internally

displaced persons.

The continuation of the armed aggression of the Russian Federation against Ukraine leads to an increase in humanitarian needs and limits the economic and financial capacity of the state to provide social guarantees to the affected citizens of the country. This determines the need for further humanitarian assistance and financial support for Ukrainians from Ukraine's international partners and greater assistance from the international community in addition to its own efforts. In the context of escalating hostilities, it is extremely important that humanitarian organizations continue to help Ukrainians whose lives have been destroyed by the war and who have been forced to leave their homes and seek temporary shelter in other regions of the country or abroad.

The effective functioning of international humanitarian organizations and national civil society institutions, as well as their cooperation in ensuring the social and economic inclusion of forced migrants, will contribute to economic and social benefits for both the displaced and the communities where they have found refuge.

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