What are Ukrainians’ attitudes toward Internally Displaced Persons?  
Presentation of public opinion polls

MEDIA ADVISORY

On 9 June, the UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR) and the Ministry for Temporary Occupied Territories and Internally Displaced Persons will present the Public Opinion Survey on Attitudes of Ukrainians Towards Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs).

The results of the public opinion poll will be launched with a press briefing at the Ukraine Crisis Media Centre, Khreschatyk street, 2 (Ukrainian house), Kyiv on Thursday 9 June 2016 at 11:30am.

Participants of the press briefing:
- Vadym Chernysh, Minister for Temporary Occupied Territories and Internally Displaced Persons
- Pablo Mateu, UNHCR Representative in Ukraine
- Volodymyr Paniotto, Director of Kyiv International Institute of Sociology

As of May 2016, the Ministry of Social Policy has registered over 1.7 million internally displaced persons. Since the beginning of displacement in Ukraine, several entities conducted studies on interactions between displaced and local communities. The publicly available information was contradictory. In some cases, local residents claimed to have neutral or friendly attitudes toward IDPs, expressing compassion and understanding of the difficult situation in which IDPs have found themselves, while declaring their readiness to provide help. On the other hand, there was evidence of discrimination and prejudice against IDPs, as well as negative stereotyping and the existence of hidden and potential social conflicts.

To clarify and update the existing data, in February-March 2016, the Kyiv International Institute of Sociology at the request of the UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR) conducted a public opinion poll to assess attitudes of local population towards IDPs. The main objectives of this study were to uncover the general attitude of the local population toward IDPs; to assess the prevalence of stereotypes and prejudices about the latter; and, to detail the perception of the impact IDPs have on city life as perceived by local residents.

Following two years of the crisis in Ukraine, the majority of respondents (83%) have not changed their attitudes towards IPDs; almost all respondents maintain positive or neutral. Majority of respondents (89%) tend to perceive IDPs as citizens who have found themselves in an unfavorable situation, who are in need of help, being entitled to the same rights as others (89%), and do not consider IDPs responsible for the situation they are trapped in (77%). Mass media remains the main source of information about IDPs as 65% of all respondents around Ukraine have attitudes towards IDPs based on information gained from media.

The results of the research will used to guide the creation of programs and activities of UNHCR and its partners designed to enhance tolerance and promote peaceful coexistence in host communities.

Copies of the new report and other materials will be made available at the press briefing.

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