

## Spatial dynamics of internally displaced persons (idps) in Ukraine

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russian invasion in Ukraine has led to an unprecedented increase in the number of internally displaced persons (IDPs), with de facto over 3.5 million as of October 2024 (according to the International Organization for Migration) [3]. The displacement of IDPs has palpable effects on regional economies, social structures, and infrastructure. The adverse impacts are most felt in urbanized areas suffering housing crises, overburdened labor markets, and social services. Peripheral areas have so far been less integrated into the accommodation and support system concerning IDPs, which presents new opportunities for spatial reorientation of policies.

By the end of 2024, more than 4.6 million IDPs had been officially registered in Ukraine [2]. The direction of this flow contradicts popular perceptions; the highest number of IDPs have been absorbed by the country's eastern and central regions, specifically Dnipropetrovska (509,000 IDPs), Kharkivska (441,000 IDPs), Kyivska Oblast (305,000 IDPs) and Kyiv (374,000 IDPs) [1]. These regions, despite the strain on infrastructure and local resources, continue to be major destinations for displaced populations. The pressure on urban centers like Dnipro, Kharkiv, and Kyiv has led to challenges in housing, employment, and public services, often exacerbating existing socio-economic inequalities [5].

Persistent challenges arise in the labor market integration, with the skills not tallying with the local demands. While some of the rural areas address a labor shortage in agriculture, the urban center addresses the problem of underemployment among the IDPs. These disparities point to the fact that there is a need for specific vocational training programs and economic initiatives geared toward them. Skill training tailored to regional needs, such as agriculture and renewable energy sectors, could address this imbalance [5].

A number of steps can be undertaken in regards to IDPs mobility challenges. The first step to build in this region is to focus more on resettlement of the internally displaced persons in areas that have lower concentration of IDPs and offer financial support, housing benefits as well as enhance infrastructural development within the region.

There is also an opportunity to transform IDPs into elements of the green economy through engagement in renewable energy as well as sustainable agriculture initiatives that will provide jobs while also helping the environment. There are other social interventions as well that are needed which encourage local communities and IDPs in trust-building actions to enhance cohesion which are much needed [4]. Per today's challenges in the labor market, which tend to be more acute in rural areas, the key objective is to enhance training in regions where internally displaced people will be looking for jobs.

Finally, a robust monitoring system is necessary for the effective collection of data by which policymakers can optimize resource allocation and improve the efficiency of integration strategies [4].

In conclusion, the spatial dynamics of IDPs in Ukraine present both problems and windows of opportunity for regional development. The most acute problems include the effective integration of IDPs into the labor market and local communities, housing scarcity, and mismatched skills. However, successful integration should not only be the recovery factor, but also already be the basis for sustainable development of regions in the long term.

**Keywords:** war; migration; IDPs; spatial dynamics; labor market.

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