



# Health Rights of Internally Displaced Persons: Problematic Issues from Ukraine

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# Objectives:

- ▶ **Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs);**
- ▶ **IDPs: problematic issues;**
- ▶ **IDPs and Public Health;**
- ▶ **State Response;**
- ▶ **Conclusions**

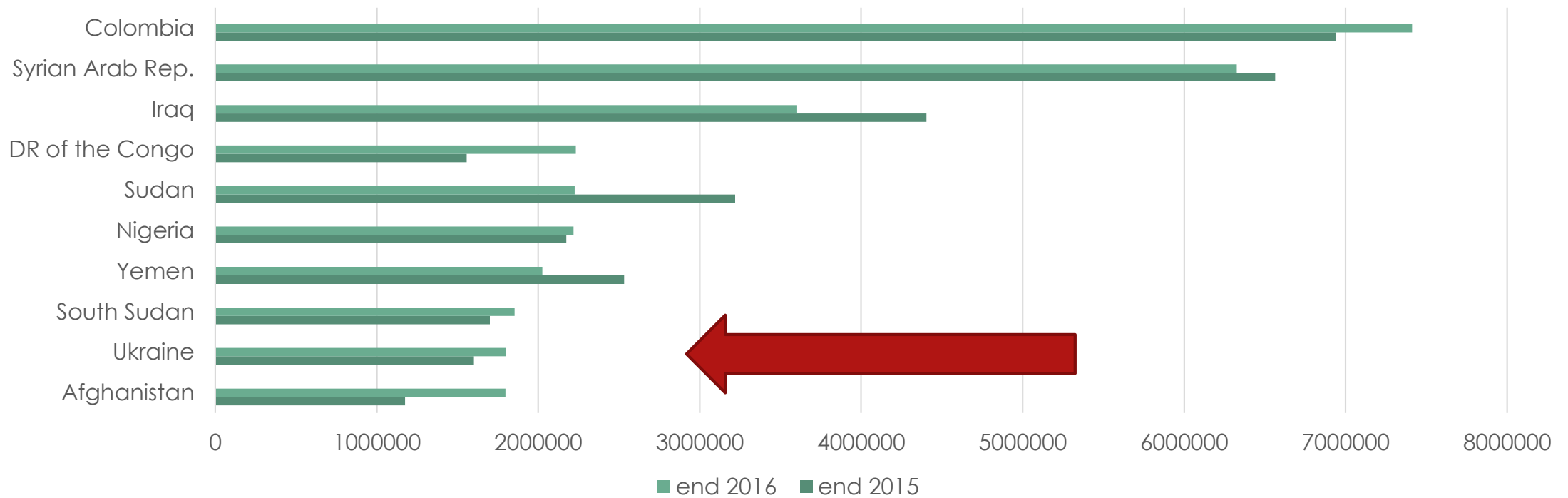
# Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs)

- ▶ IDPs are persons or groups of persons who have been forced or obliged to flee or to leave their homes or places of habitual residence, in particular as a result of or in order to avoid the effects of armed conflict, situations of generalized violence, violations of human rights or natural or human-made disasters, and **who have not crossed an internationally recognized state border** (UN HCR)
- ▶ IDPs **have the same health rights** as all citizens of Ukraine

*Unlike refugees, they are on the run at home.*

# IDPs at world

Ten largest IDP populations



Source: UNHCR

# IDPs. Ukraine

1-st time – 1986 Chernobyl

2-d time - from March-July 2014 (Annexation of Crimea, International armed conflict).

Number of IDPs: **1,653,000** (as for 2016)

Who they are: women (---), children (**12,6%**), persons with disabilities (**4,2%**) elderly persons (**59,1%**) with chronic diseases (---) (as for 2015).

Average age of IDP – **49,9** years.

Source:<http://www.internal-displacement.org/>,  
Ministry of Social Policy; Ministry for Temporary  
Occupied Territories and Internally Displaced Persons

# IDPs: problematic issues

- ▶ access to healthcare facilities;
- ▶ providing healthcare services;
- ▶ access to medicines;
- ▶ right of persons with mental disorders;
- ▶ accommodation are not suitable for people with disabilities.

Dependence on “Re-settle” documents and temporary registration

Persons at NGCA (Non-Government Controlled area) – same concerns, but:

- not IDPs
- Ukraine’s derogation from some HR treaties?

Courts?

Primary HC – not Urgent medical assistance

# IDPs and Public Health

- ▶ Spread of Infectious diseases (TB (every fourth new case is drug-resistant TB), Hepatitis, Poliomyelitis) – N.B. Ukraine has the lowest immunization rate in Europe
- ▶ Effectiveness of disease surveillance system
- ▶ NCDs (50% of IDPs has one or more family member)
- ▶ Mental health

## Factors:

- Socio-economic exclusion, loss of income
- External working migration (esp. healthcare personnel)



At Non-Government Controlled area:

- Access to healthcare (45 health facilities have been damaged)
- Absence of medical personnel (party of a conflict?) and medicines at Non-Government Controlled area – persons who decided not to move
- Disruption of water supply

# State Response

- ▶ Law on Rights and Freedoms of IDPs, 2014: (1) enable relocate budget (2) providing medicinal products
- ▶ Ministry for Temporary Occupied Territories and Internally Displaced Persons – separation of responsibilities?
- ▶ CoE Action 2015-2017 “Strengthening the Human Rights Protection of Internally Displaced Persons in Ukraine”

Some other solutions:

- ▶ Developing a national policy on healthcare issues focusing IDPs special needs
- ▶ Practical usage of international soft law documents (particularly the UN Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement)

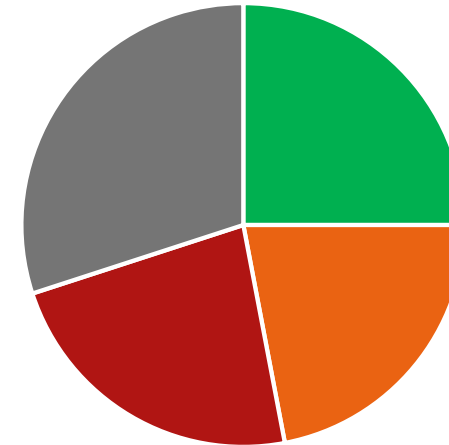


# Conclusions and further developments:

## Results:

- possibly avoided complications of minor health distress
- spread of infectious diseases
- new vulnerable group – IDPs
- challenge for National Healthcare System is a time of Reforming

Are IDPs planning go home?



■ Yes  
■ No, for nearest future  
■ Stay at new place  
■ Unsure

Source: НДІ соціальної та судової психіатрії та наркології МОЗ України



Thank you for attention!

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