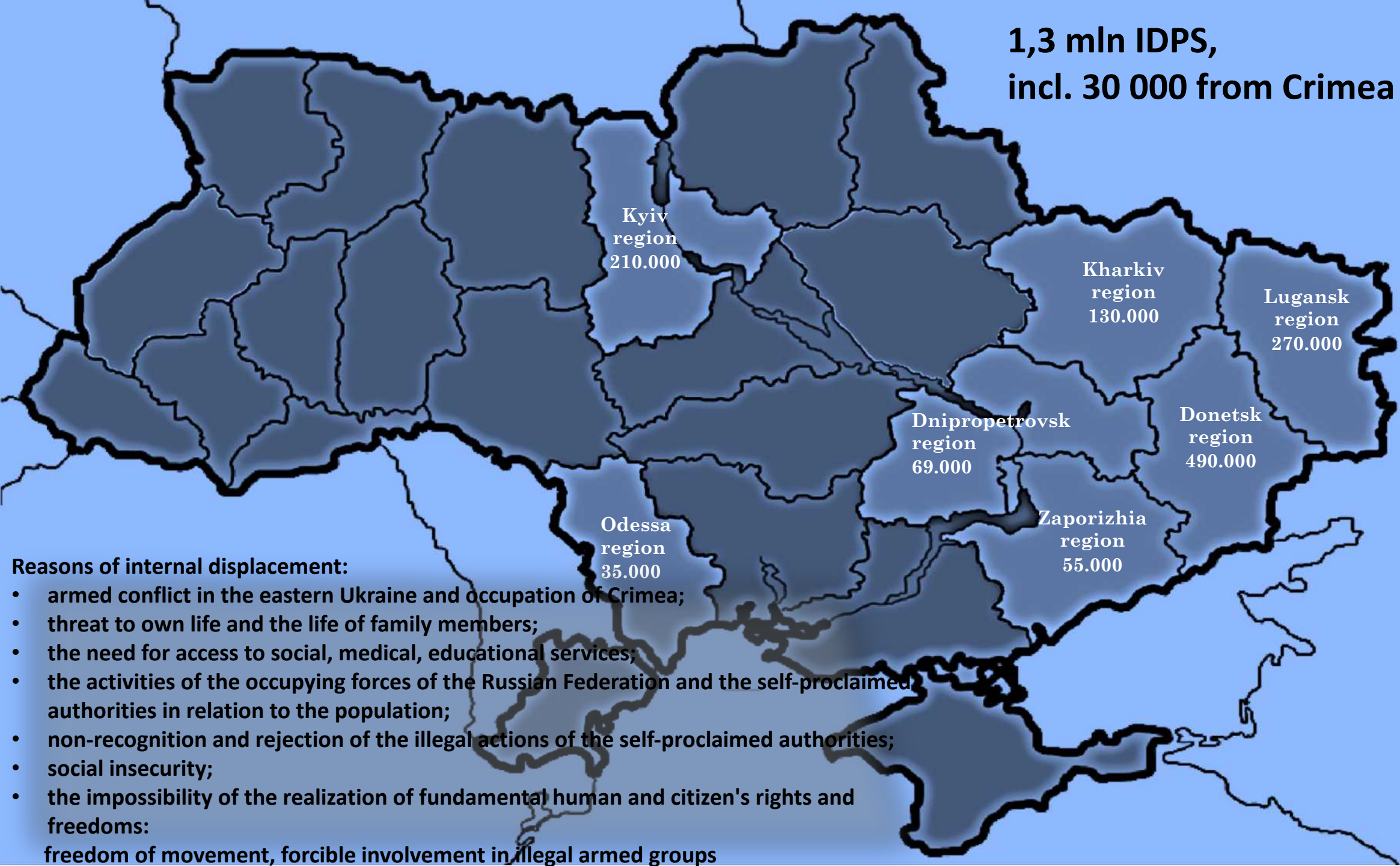


Addressing protracted internal displacement and fostering durable solutions: Progress and opportunities to positively impact the lives of IDPs



Vadym Chernysh
GP20 Steering Group Meeting
27 June 2019, Palais des Nations, Geneva

**1,3 mln IDPS,
incl. 30 000 from Crimea**



INTERNAL DISPLACEMENT: REASONS AND CHALLENGES

Reasons of internal displacement:

- armed conflict in the eastern Ukraine and occupation of Crimea;
- threat to own life and the life of family members;
- the need for access to social, medical, educational services;
- the activities of the occupying forces of the Russian Federation and the self-proclaimed authorities in relation to the population;
- non-recognition and rejection of the illegal actions of the self-proclaimed authorities;
- social insecurity;
- the impossibility of the realization of fundamental human and citizen's rights and freedoms:

freedom of movement, forcible involvement in illegal armed groups

In 2014 Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine adopted the Law of Ukraine “On Ensuring Rights and Freedoms of Internally Displaced Persons”



The law establishes the rights of IDPs for:

- obtaining and recovery of documents;
- employment, pensions, state social insurance, social services, education;
- realization of voting rights;
- safe living conditions, family unity;
- other rights.

In 2017 Government of Ukraine approved the State Targeted Program for Recovery and Peacebuilding in the Eastern Regions of Ukraine

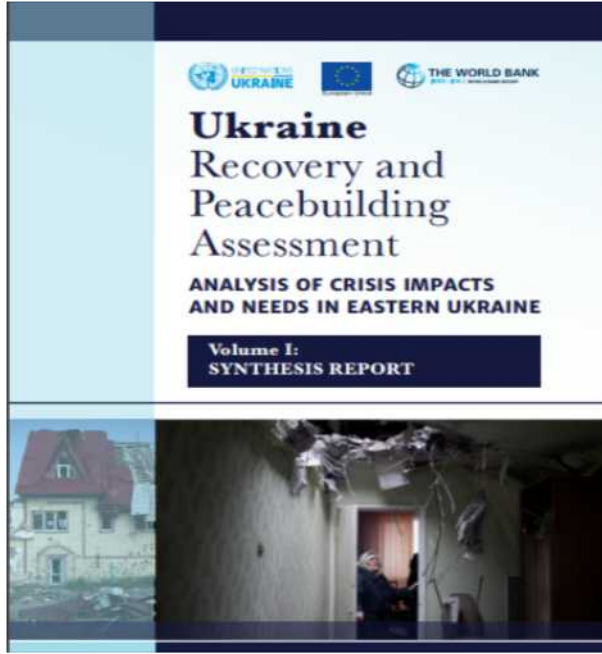
RPA has been carried out by



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STP main thematic components



Infrastructure and social services



Economic recovery



Social resilience, peacebuilding and public security

Valid for 5 areas that have accepted the highest number of IDPs

The program provides:

- restoration of housing of communal property for the residence of IDPs;
- raising the level of awareness of IDPs about programs/projects targeted at the development of small and medium-sized enterprises;
- support of small and medium-sized enterprises in Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts, established by IDPs;
- attracting IDPs to participate in decision-making processes.



“Internally displaced persons should be considered as a resource for society, not a burden for members of community and local authorities”

At the end of 2017, the Government adopted the Strategy for the Integration of Internally Displaced Persons and Implementation of Long-Term Solutions to Internal Displacement for the Period until 2020 and the Action Plan for its implementation. The document covers the whole territory of Ukraine.



Strategy was supported by:



The strategy responds:

- ✓ Standards of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe;
- ✓ UN Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement;
- ✓ Recommendations and resolutions of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe on issues that relate to the rights, freedoms and legitimate interests of internally displaced persons;
- ✓ European Union recommendations for developing strategies for internally displaced persons.

Strategy

- Consultations were held with international experts: representatives of UNHCR, World Bank, OCHA and the Council of Europe Office in Ukraine.
- A high-level seminar "A new principle for solving the problems of the ongoing internal displacement of persons in Ukraine", organized by UNHCR and the OCHA was held on September 25, 2017
- The report "Solution in despair" was presented, containing recommendations for Ukraine in the issues of overcoming the consequences of internal displacement. **(Professor V. Kelin)**
- The draft Strategy is presented at the "Three Years of Displacement: Challenges and Good Practices of IDPs Integration" forum, organized with the Council of Europe. The Forum participants included more than 100 people from 13 oblasts of Ukraine, representatives of state authorities, oblast/local social services, institutions and facilities, NGOs, educational and research institutions, international organizations and the mass media.

Action Plan

- The experience of foreign countries on the integration of IDPs and the implementation of long-term solutions for internal displacement (Azerbaijan, Georgia, Bosnia & Herzegovina, Croatia) were used.
- A public discussion of the draft Action Plan was held with NGOs, international organizations, diplomatic institutions, government bodies, local government.
- In total the MTOT received 310 comments and suggestions from 27 public authorities, international and national organizations and civil society representatives.

1 The Strategy indicates the overall Government priorities on internal displacement

2 Includes ensuring the rights of people to return to their areas of origin and to get compensation for their lost properties, but also supporting their local integration into society

3 Both the Strategy and the Action Plan are ambitious and aim to ensure a whole-of-Government approach to internal displacement

4 The Action Plan includes measures aimed at specific Ministries, such as the ones dealing with social payment and pensions, housing, employment, education, health, etc

5 The Action Plan also involves local authorities and departments which regularly deal with IDPs, as local ownership is essential



Addressing the needs of IDPs in the development of regional and local programs



Dialogue of state and local authorities on IDPs



Proper care in health care facilities



Accounting for IDPs in the distribution of medical and educational services



Social and temporary housing



Participation of IDPs in the local elections



Preferential taxation of landlords



Support for displaced universities



Automatic control over pension and social payments



New workplaces



Re-qualification, retraining of IDPs



Documents recovery



Distance education programs



Free accommodation in dormitories, provision of textbooks



Providing pension and social benefits



Inclusion of IDPs in the register of local community members

Legal regulation



- ✓ Simplification of the procedure for **entering the higher education institutions**:
 - creation of educational centers "Crimea - Ukraine" (37) and "Donbas - Ukraine" (24) on the basis of displaced higher institutions;
 - provision of IDPs with hostels, textbooks and internet.



- ✓ **Access to medicine** with no discrimination of IDPs in comparison with the population of host communities.



- ✓ Accounting for the number of IDPs in the allocation of state funding of **health care** in the communities.



- ✓ Ability to participate in the national **elections** under the simplified procedure.



- ✓ Implementation of the programs to **provide IDPs with housing** (temporary, credit, social).

State budget funding



- ✓ Payment of targeted assistance **to pay for utilities** for IDPs (more than 120 million US dollars are allocated annually from the state budget)



- ✓ The “Affordable housing” program provides IDPs with **permanent housing** (half of the cost of purchased housing paid by state, loans for IDPs)



- ✓ A mechanism has been implemented for the provision of IDPs’ **temporary housing** in co-funding from the state (50%) and the local budget (50%), which is valid for the entire territory of Ukraine (cooperation with Donetsk, Luhansk, Kharkiv, Zaporizhzhya, Dnipropetrovsk oblasts)



- ✓ Ukrainian Social Investment Fund **repaired/built** the accommodation facilities for temporary residence of IDPs



- ✓ The equipment for issuance of **passports** to Ukrainian citizens with an electronic contactless carrier has been purchased to improve the conditions for the provision of administrative services to IDPs in 13 cities of Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts

- ✓ placement of information about the rights of IDPs on official web resources of state and local authorities
- ✓ operating “hotline” for IDPs for providing legal assistance and consultations for IDPs
- ✓ conduction of visits to local communities on the purpose to dissemination information about State Policy on issues of IDPs and the necessity of integration of IDPs into the host communities
- ✓ holding meetings with Ukrainian politicians and MPs
- ✓ holding joint advocacy activities with UN OCHA, UNHCR, the Council of Europe Office
- ✓ dissemination of information through non-governmental organizations and conduction of informational campaigns



The international technical assistance and loan funds raised by the MTOT, which are targeted at integrating IDPs and supporting host communities

The MTOT partners



Projects are implemented in the following areas:

- psychosocial support of IDPs
- temporary housing for IDPs
- “hotline” for IDPs (legal assistance, consultations)
- professional integration and retraining of IDPs
- small grant programs for starting your own business
- peacebuilding
- resilience, social cohesion, confidence building
- increasing the economic potential of conflict-affected communities
- legal protection of IDPs
- national monitoring system on the situation of internally displaced persons

The MTOT attracted 233.5 million US dollars (2016-2019)

National Monitoring System on the Situation with IDPs works in Ukraine since 2016

- The objective of the National Monitoring System (NMS) in Ukraine is to support the Government of Ukraine in collecting and analyzing information on the socio-economic characteristics of internally displaced persons (IDPs) and IDPs households, as well as the challenges they face with.
- IOM adapted the NMS to the Ukrainian context.
- NMS is implemented in cooperation with MTOT, MSP
- The NMS provides better understanding of the evolving movements and locations, numbers, vulnerabilities and needs of displaced persons in Ukraine.
- Quarterly the survey collects information on socio-economic characteristics of IDPs at individual and household levels, including trends and movement intentions, employment, livelihood opportunities, access to social services and assistance needs in 24 oblasts of Ukraine and Kyiv.

Main information sources used for NMS

- face-to face interviews **(2400)**
- telephone interviews **(4000)**
- key informants via face-to-face interviews **(600)**
- focus group discussions **(6 FG quarterly)**
- administrative data and relevant data available from other sources

NMS components

- characteristics of IDPs and their households
- employment of IDPs
- well-being of IDPs
- access to social services
- IDP mobility
- integration into local communities
- returnees to the non-government controlled areas

The most problematic issues for IDP households, %*

IDP accommodation types, %*

	April 2017	December 2018		April 2017	December 2018
Lack of own housing	no information available	37	Rented apartment	43	49
Lack of money	no information available	19	Host family/relatives	22	14
Payment for utilities	20	11	Own housing	1	12
Lack of opportunity to return to the place of permanent residence	9	5	Rented house	16	10
Living conditions	27	5	Dormitory	3	4
Payment for rent	23	4	Rented room in apartment	7	4
Unemployment	13	3	Collective centres for IDPs	6	3
Access to medicines	3	1	Other	2	4
Access to health care	5	1			
Suspension of social payments	2	1			
Safety	2	1			
Other	1	4			

*National monitoring system, IOM, December 2018

In accordance with National Monitoring System on the situation of IDPs the employment rate among IDPs is **45%** (December 2018).

Among them:

48% assess their previous employment to be the same as their current job.

27% believe they had a better job before the conflict.

16% assess their previous job to be worse than their current job.

67% of those IDPs that were working before displacement, found jobs that were the same or similar to their pre-displacement work.

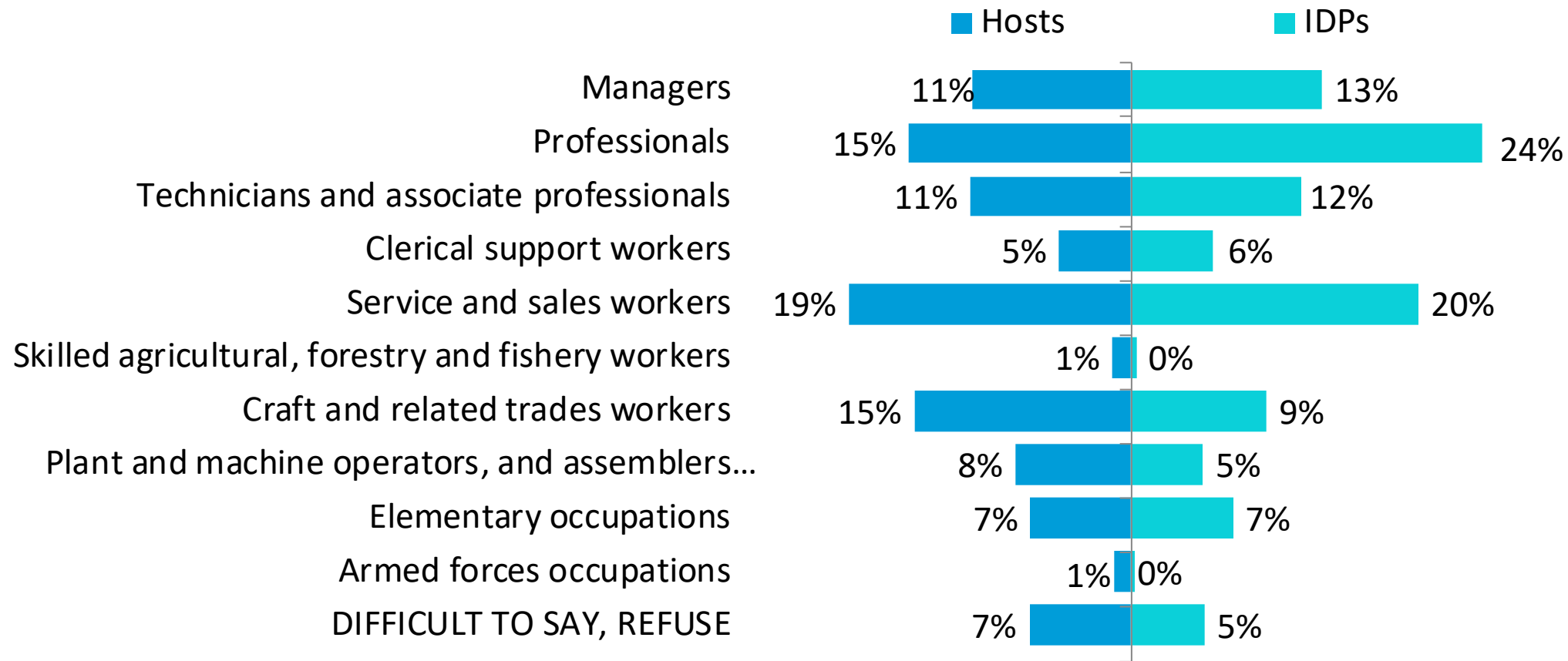
Almost **all IDPs** have intentions to find a job in Ukraine or have already found a job in Ukraine and have no intentions to find a job abroad

General IDPs' intentions to find a job abroad

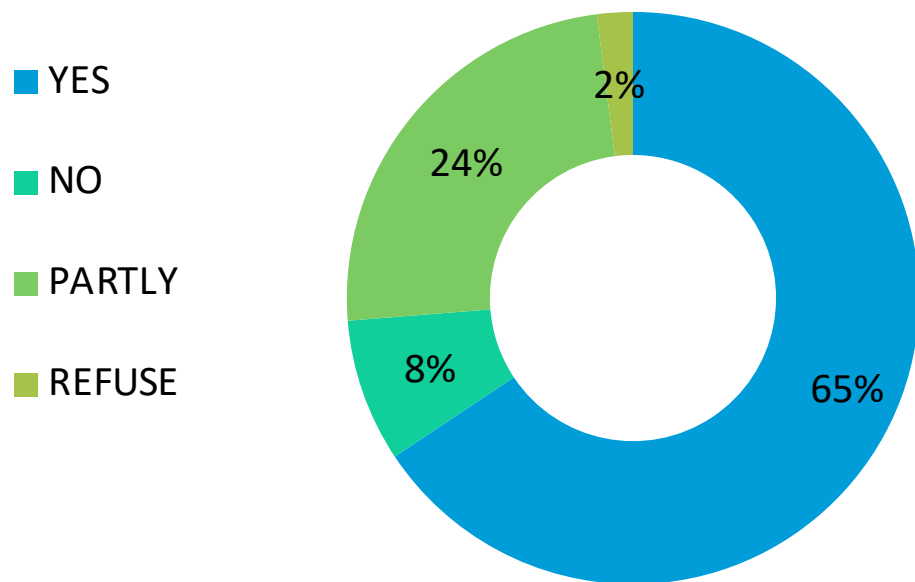
	April 2017	March 2018	June 2018	September 2018	December 2018
Have already found a job abroad and are about to move	1	1	1	1	1
Have an intention to find a job abroad soon	4	5	5	5	5
Have nothing against working abroad, but personally I am not going to	45	48	51	52	56

The current occupation of IDPs and local residents (hosts) in accordance with World Bank report “Conflict in Ukraine : socio-economic impacts of internal displacement and veteran return”

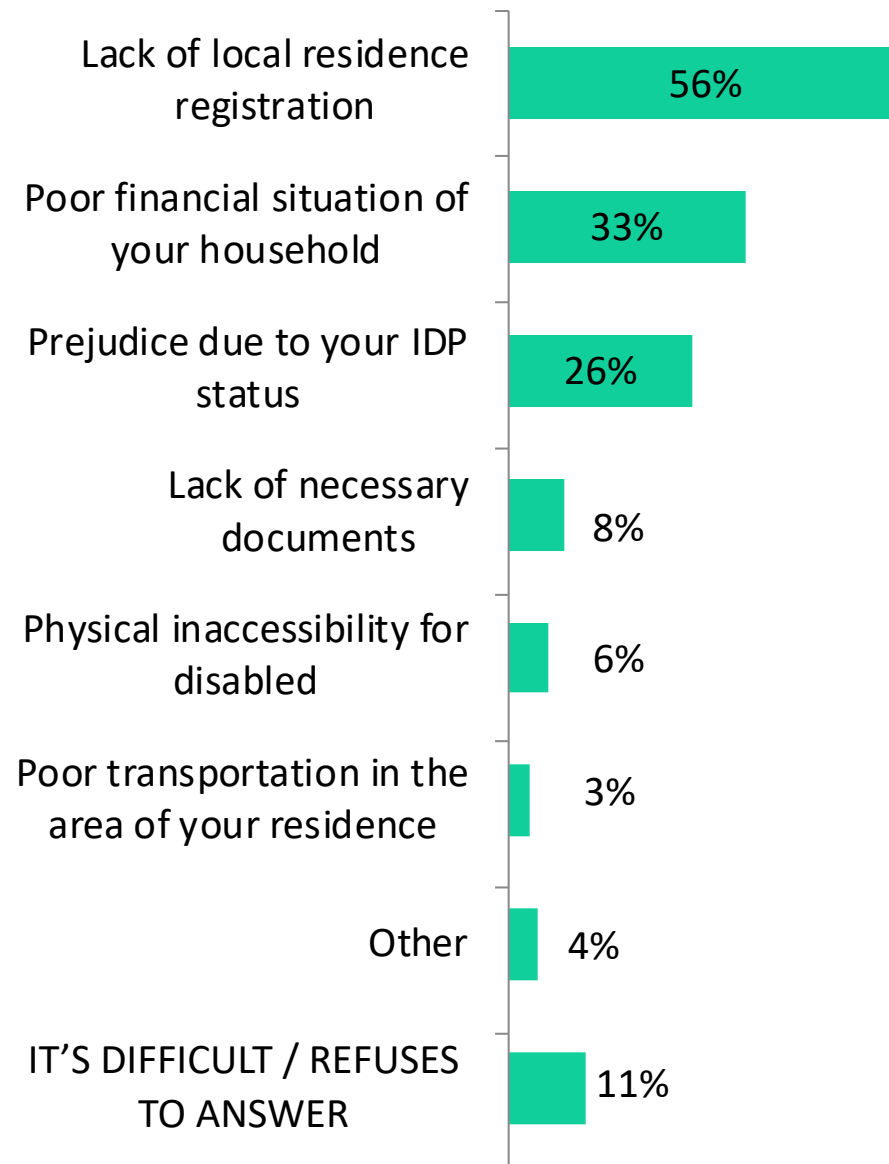
(% of all employed IDPs and hosts)



Equal access to the same types of services as local residents (% of all IDPs)

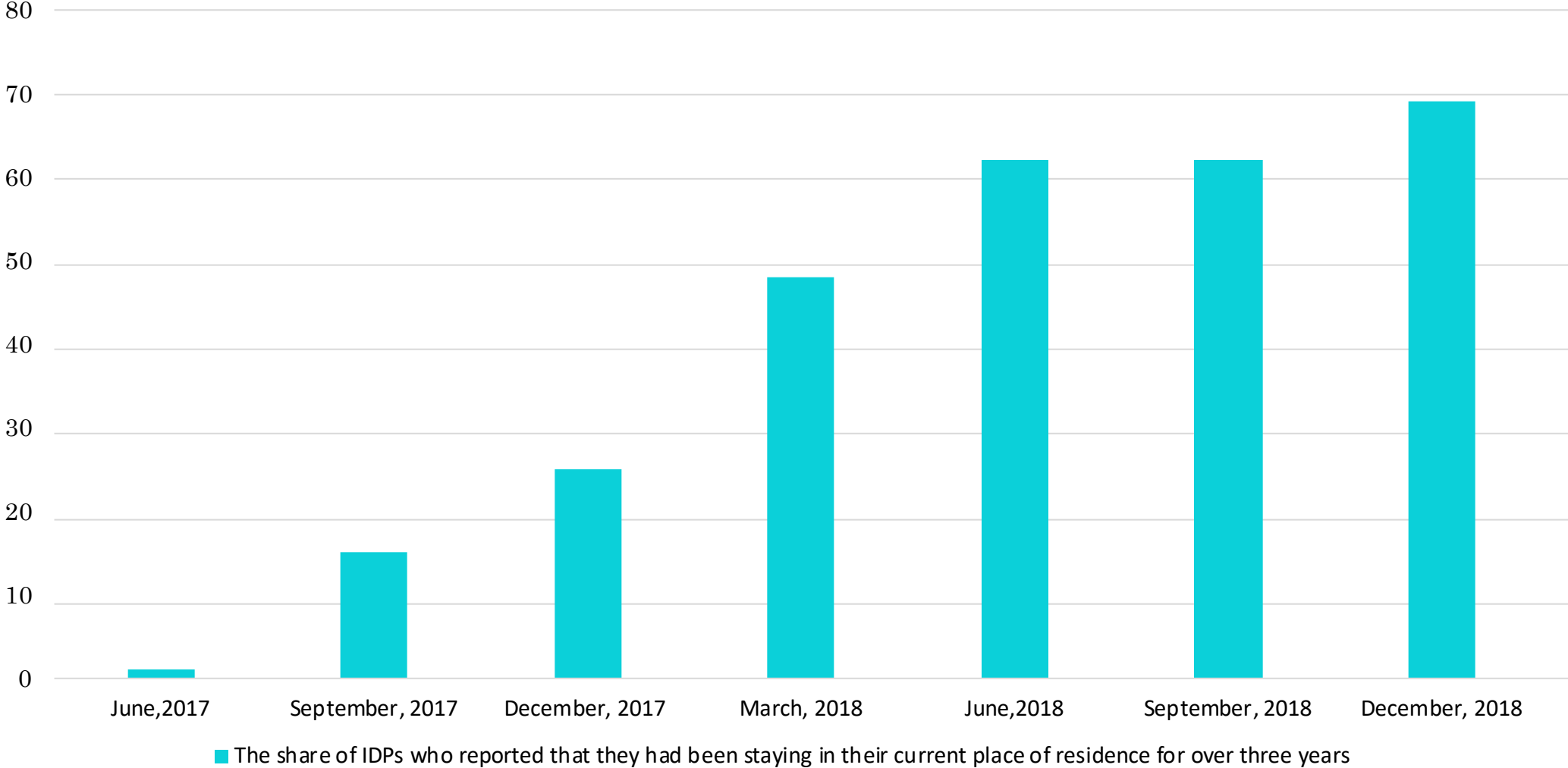


The reasons of unequal access in accordance with NMS (% of those IDPs who think they have unequal access)



IDPs' satisfaction with the accessibility of basic social services	December 2018
Possibilities to obtain education and enrol children in schools/ kindergartens	88
Accessibility of administrative services	81
Possibility of receiving a pension or social assistance	79
Accessibility of health-care services	68
Availability of employment opportunities	62

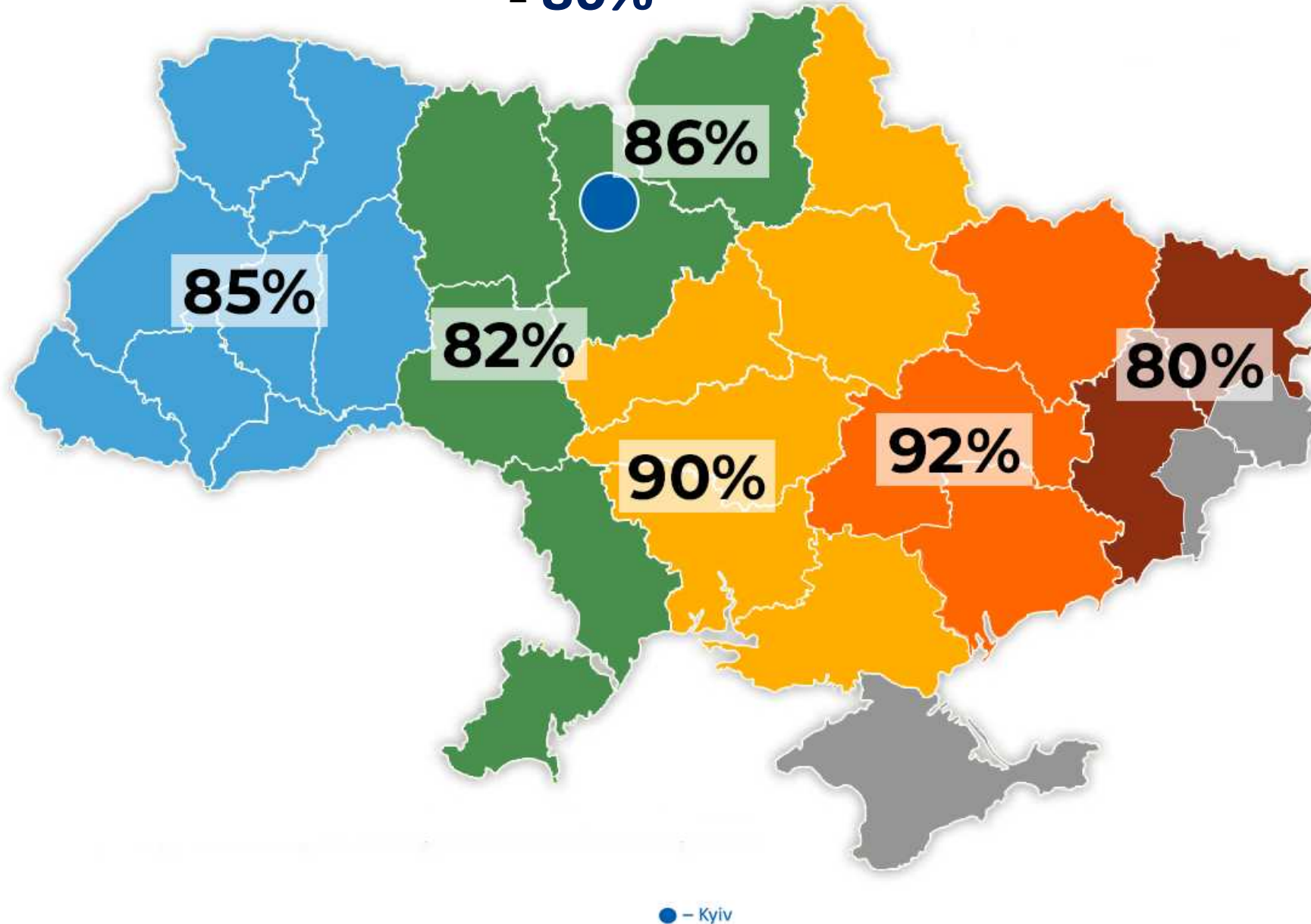
The share of IDPs who reported, that they had been staying in their current place of residence for over three years reached **69%** in 2018*



*National monitoring system, IOM, December 2018

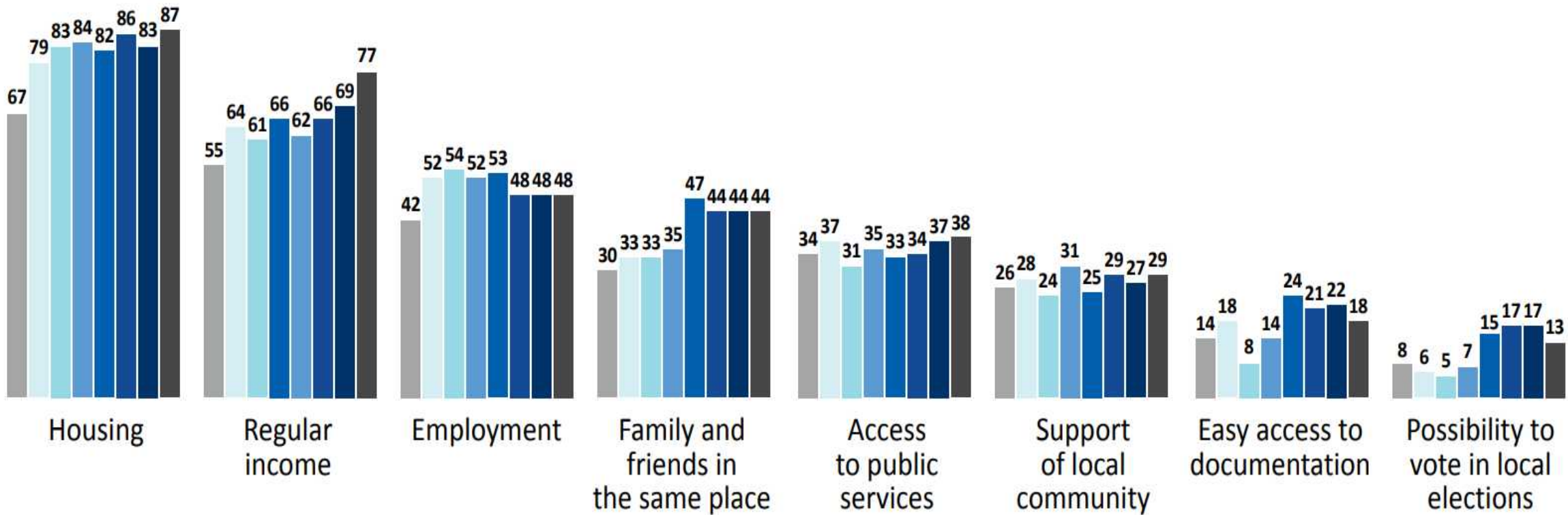
IDPS' SELF-ASSESSMENT OF THEIR INTEGRATION IN THE LOCAL COMMUNITY (COMPLETELY AND PARTIALLY)

- 86%*



*National monitoring system, IOM, December 2018

IDPs' conditions for integration in the local community, %*



*National monitoring system, IOM, December 2018

- Even the best strategic decisions may not achieve their goal due to inadequate implementation.
- Implementation of the Integration Strategy of IDPs can not be the matter for one Ministry - MTOT - even if it is a coordinating body.
- The lack of budget allocation to specific activities planned in the Action Plan.
- Action Plan for implementing a strategy shall be the flexible document and based on feedbacks from recipients, civil society.
- The lack of understanding between different actors (humanitarian/development partners, national/local authorities, NGOs/authorities).

