

IOM and Promin

A partnership to mobilize and build capacity of NGO Counter-Trafficking Specialists to Respond to the Needs of IDPs in Ukraine



LOCATION OF PARTNERSHIP



Ukraine

Partnership timeline



CONTEXT

Conflict erupted in eastern Ukraine in April 2014, following the annexation of Crimea in March 2014, evolving into open warfare and deadly skirmishes that reached their apogee in February 2015. Thereafter, protracted confrontations along the contact line that divides the Donetsk and Luhansk regions into government-controlled (GCA) and non-government controlled areas (NGCA) between Ukrainian forces and armed combatants have prevailed, resulting in over one million people forced to flee their homes. Most left with few belongings and were in need of shelter, food, and non-food assistance, as their savings were often meager, social benefits took time to re-register, and livelihoods options were limited. Grassroots volunteer organizations, civil society, and host communities have provided a robust response to the immediate needs of internally displaced persons (IDPs).

IOM - PROMIN PARTNERSHIP INITIATIVE

From the outset, Promin has partnered with IOM to provide humanitarian assistance and livelihoods support to those displaced by conflict, as well as raising awareness of the risks of human trafficking. In 2014 and 2015, Promin provided individualized assistance to over 2,600 of the most vulnerable IDPs, including non-food items, water, sanitation and hygiene interventions, psychological support and other direct assistance, tailored to respond to individual and household needs. In 2015, the NGO participated in IOM's nation-wide livelihoods programming, supporting IDPs to establish small businesses or self-employment initiatives. At the end of the same year, Promin joined IOM's effort to provide targeted trafficking prevention information to IDPs and to monitor trafficking risks and trends in the regions bordering the Donbas conflict area¹.



¹ A recommendation emanating from recent IOM research indicates that counter trafficking measures should be part of the humanitarian response, to prevent trafficking in persons and protect vulnerable and at-risk populations. IOM, Addressing Human Trafficking and Exploitation in Times of Crisis (2015).

THE NECESSITY OF PARTNERSHIP

IOM has been cooperating with Promin since the mid-2000s with a focus on countering human trafficking. In partnership with IOM, Promin has implemented numerous advocacy, capacity building, and trafficking prevention projects, as well as provided tailored rehabilitation and reintegration assistance to some 100 victims of trafficking. Promin is a member of the National Counter-Trafficking NGO Coalition – an informal association of 30 local NGOs from all regions of Ukraine that provide direct assistance to victims of trafficking.

In June 2014, in recognition of the growing needs of IDPs, IOM approached members of the Coalition to request support. NGOs, including Promin, used their existing capacities and strong cooperation with local government entities to provide individualized humanitarian assistance to meet the needs of the most vulnerable IDP families. They were able to do so thanks to the tried and tested strategies they had applied over many years to support victims of trafficking. IOM provided overall guidance, training on emergency response and protection mainstreaming, as well as funds.

PARTNERSHIP ACHIEVEMENTS

Together, IOM and the specialized counter-trafficking NGOs provided tailored humanitarian assistance to over 25,000 IDPs. Just under 8,000 IDPs participated in trafficking prevention and safe employment training, mitigating the risks of trafficking among this vulnerable population. Over 5,400 IDPs and members of host communities have benefitted from livelihoods support to promote self-reliance, implemented by IOM in collaboration with local NGOs, including specialized counter-trafficking NGOs.

OVER 200,000 COPIES OF COUNTER-TRAFFICKING INFORMATION

posters and brochures were disseminated through the organizations and agencies frequented by IDPs to raise awareness of the risks of human trafficking.

ADDED VALUE OF THIS PARTNERSHIP

As a result of pre-existing partnership, proven modus operandi and strong capacities, IOM and specialized counter-trafficking NGOs were able to rapidly mobilize and respond to the humanitarian needs of IDPs in Ukraine. The specialized nature of Promin and other NGOs ensured that the potential risks of trafficking were mitigated, through awareness raising, prevention services and situation monitoring among IDPs. Specialized NGOs acquired new skills related to humanitarian response.



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