

TEMPORARY SPECIAL COMMISSION
on the protection of property and non-property
rights of internally displaced persons and other
persons affected by the armed aggression of the
Russian Federation against Ukraine

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June 19, 2024

DECISION

**On the Activities of the Zaporizhzhia Regional Military Administration
and City Military Administrations of the Zaporizhzhia Region Regarding the
Needs of Internally Displaced Persons and the Efficiency of Budget
Expenditures on These Purposes**

The work plan of the Temporary Special Commission of the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine on the protection of property and non-property rights of internally displaced and other persons affected by the armed aggression of the Russian Federation against Ukraine (hereinafter – the Commission) included measures for parliamentary control over compliance with current legislation and the justification, efficiency, and appropriateness of decisions made by state and local authorities regarding the protection of the rights of internally displaced persons (hereinafter – IDPs) and others affected by Russian aggression. It also included the analysis and evaluation of the efficiency of budget execution in regions and settlements that are temporarily occupied or located in combat zones, and of state and local authorities relocated from these territories, particularly regarding the efficiency and appropriateness of expenditures aimed at meeting the needs of IDPs.

The Commission, through letters dated May 1, 2024, No. 04-82/5-2024/96709, and June 10, 2024, No. 04-82/5-2024/128012, requested the Zaporizhzhia Regional Military Administration to provide information for the preparation of the Commission's meeting, specifically regarding the expenditure amounts in 2023 and the first quarter of 2024 for all programs related to IDP support.

In a letter dated June 12, 2024, No. 08238/08-15, the Zaporizhzhia Regional Military Administration reported that in 2023, the priority activities of government bodies in the region included enhancing defense capabilities and supporting military formations, providing educational services, creating conditions for physical and cultural development, and supporting and integrating IDPs who were forced to leave their homes.

With the onset of martial law in Ukraine and active hostilities, the number of IDPs in the Zaporizhzhia region has been steadily increasing.

As of May 1, 2024, there were 227.7 thousand persons registered in the Unified Information Database of IDPs in the Zaporizhzhia region, including 45.56 thousand children, 10.76 thousand persons with disabilities, and 52.77 thousand pensioners.

Since February 24, 2022, the number of IDPs has increased by 171.15 thousand persons.

Of the 67 territorial communities in the Zaporizhzhia region, 43 are under temporary occupation (*over 64% of the region's territory*), 8 are in active combat zones (12%), and 16 are in potential combat zones (24%), complicating the full and objective analysis and evaluation of the current socio-economic situation in the region.

To ensure the fulfillment of the tasks of central authorities and local budget execution, a decree by the Head of the Regional State Administration, Chief of the Regional Military Administration, was issued on January 23, 2023, No. 38, "On the approval of measures for the organization and execution of the State Budget of Ukraine and local budgets of the region in 2023." Throughout 2023, the local budgets of the region received 23,018,466.7 thousand UAH, which is 97.6% of the approved annual amount. Local budget expenditures in the region for 2023 amounted to 19,720,289.3 thousand UAH, or 78.4% of the annual plan.

The regional budget of the Zaporizhzhia region included expenditures for the implementation of the Comprehensive Support Program for IDPs for the period 2023-2024, approved by the order of the Head of the Regional State Administration, Chief of the Regional Military Administration, on June 27, 2023, No. 311 (hereinafter – the Comprehensive Program) in the amount of 6,850.0 thousand UAH. Cash expenditures for 2023 amounted to 6,849.9 thousand UAH, specifically for current repairs and the purchase of materials to equip temporary accommodation for internally displaced (evacuated) persons at premises located at the Zaporizhzhia district, Shyroke village, Sadova street, 1B – 6,800.0 thousand UAH, and for material and technical support for institutions receiving IDPs – 49.9 thousand UAH.

The Comprehensive Program includes a section on promoting employment. These measures are funded by the Compulsory State Social Insurance Fund for Unemployment in accordance with current legislation, including compensation to employers for the costs of wages for employed IDPs under the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine Resolution No. 331 of March 20, 2022. In 2023, 9.8 million UAH was funded in the region, and in 2024 – 5.5 million UAH. Additionally, microgrants/grants for the creation or development of own businesses were provided under the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine Resolution No. 738 of June 21, 2022 – for this category of persons, 2.2 million UAH was funded as of January 1, 2024, and partially funded in 2024 in the amount of 650 thousand UAH. The region also implements the Employment Program of the Zaporizhzhia Region for 2024-2026, approved by the Regional Council's decision of March 18, 2024, No. 136, including measures to promote the employment of IDPs, organize and conduct professional orientation, vocational training, and retraining.

Currently, the issue of ensuring the livelihoods of communities is acute. The martial law has negatively impacted the financial condition of the region's critical infrastructure. Due to the need for prompt resolution of issues related to the consequences of hostilities and the extension of martial law in the country, the financial capacity of community budgets has significantly decreased.

Given the above, local self-government bodies have reported that it is currently impossible to consider creating or financing regional programs for housing specific categories of citizens.

The Zaporizhzhia Regional Military Administration also reported that by the order of the Head of the Regional State Administration, Chief of the Regional Military Administration, dated November 6, 2023, No. 646, a list of temporary accommodation centers in the Zaporizhzhia region was approved, which included 44 institutions of various forms of ownership.

A mobile group for monitoring temporary accommodation centers was formed at the Coordination Center for Civilian Support under the Zaporizhzhia Regional Military Administration, including representatives of the regional military administration's structural units, the State Institution "Zaporizhzhia Regional Center for Disease Control and Prevention of the Ministry of Health," the Zaporizhzhia Regional Center for Social Services, the Council on IDP Issues under the Zaporizhzhia Regional Military Administration, civil society, and the regional coordinator for public relations of the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine Commissioner for Human Rights in the Zaporizhzhia region. Currently, the biggest issue remains the creation of barrier-free spaces for residents with disabilities and low-mobility persons. Monthly remote monitoring of the condition, arrangement, number of residents, and available beds in temporary accommodation centers is conducted by filling out a checklist. Recommendations for eliminating violations were sent to all owners (holders) of temporary accommodation centers.

The Commission also considers it necessary to control the appropriateness, expediency, and efficiency of the expenditure of state financial resources from local budgets and to conduct a state financial audit of the budget of the Zaporizhzhia region.

The Commission also discussed the need for compensation for destroyed housing in temporarily occupied territories and the possibilities and prospects for payments for refusing surviving housing remaining in occupation.

On June 4, 2024, the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine adopted in the first reading draft law No. 11161, which provides for compensation for destroyed or damaged real estate located in areas of active hostilities until their cessation or in temporarily occupied territories, and also equates real estate objects located in areas of active hostilities or temporarily occupied and damaged with the corresponding right to receive established by law compensations under the eRestoration program.

Given the immense social significance of this proposal and the need for further consultations with Ukraine's international partners regarding the expansion of the compensation program for housing lost by Ukrainian citizens in temporarily occupied territories of Ukraine, the Commission initiated the determination by regional military administrations, part of whose territory is temporarily occupied or where hostilities are ongoing, of approximate volumes of possible compensations for Ukrainians with destroyed (damaged) housing or ready to refuse surviving housing in temporarily occupied territories, as well as the collection of information on the number of such affected persons.

Based on the review of this issue, the Commission has **d e c i d e d**:

1. To take note of the information from the Zaporizhzhia Regional Military Administration and the city military administrations of the Zaporizhzhia region.

2. To address the State Audit Service of Ukraine with a proposal to conduct a state financial audit of the budget of the Zaporizhzhia region for the period from January 1, 2022, to May 31, 2024, and to report the results to the Commission.

3. To propose that the Zaporizhzhia Regional Military Administration organize the collection, assessment, and summarization of information on:

- the number of Ukrainian citizens who have housing destroyed or damaged by Russian aggression in temporarily occupied territories and territories of hostilities within the administrative borders of the Zaporizhzhia region;
- the approximate amount of damage (losses) caused by the destruction or damage to housing by Russian aggression in temporarily occupied territories and territories of hostilities within the administrative borders of the Zaporizhzhia region;
- the number of Ukrainian citizens who have intact housing in temporarily occupied territories within the administrative borders of the Zaporizhzhia region;
- the approximate value of intact housing in temporarily occupied territories within the administrative borders of the Zaporizhzhia region, owned by Ukrainian citizens;
- the number of Ukrainian citizens who have intact housing in temporarily occupied territories within the administrative borders of the Zaporizhzhia region and wish to receive compensation for such housing provided that they legally renounce their ownership rights to such housing in favour of the state of Ukraine in case of potential availability of such an opportunity and necessary financial resources;
- the approximate value of surviving housing in temporarily occupied territories within the administrative borders of the Zaporizhzhia region, whose owners wish to receive compensation for such housing provided that they legally renounce their ownership rights to such housing in favour of the state of Ukraine in case of potential availability of such an opportunity and necessary financial resources.

4. To send the Commission's decision to the Prime Minister of Ukraine, the Head of the State Audit Service of Ukraine, and the Head of the Zaporizhzhia Regional Military Administration.

The Head of the Zaporizhzhia Regional Military Administration is to report the results of this decision's implementation to the Commission by August 1, 2024.

Chairman of the Commission

P. Frolov

Secretary of the Commission

S. Velmozhnyi

