

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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August 9, 2024

DECISION

On the activities of the Odesa Regional Military Administration, other military administrations and local self-government bodies of the Odesa region regarding the satisfaction of the needs of internally displaced persons (IDPs) and the efficiency of budget expenditures for 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 persons and other persons affected by the armed aggression of the Russian Federation against Ukraine (hereinafter referred to as the Commission) includes among others measures for parliamentary control over the compliance with current legislation, as well as the justification, effectiveness, and appropriateness of decisions made by state and local government bodies regarding the protection of the rights of internally displaced persons (IDPs) and others affected by Russian aggression. The plan also includes an analysis and assessment of the effectiveness of regional and municipal budgets for areas that are temporarily occupied or in combat zones, as well as state and local government bodies relocated from these territories, particularly regarding the efficiency and appropriateness of expenditures aimed at meeting the needs of IDPs.

The primary tasks of regional military administrations under martial law include creating appropriate conditions for the comfortable stay of IDPs in the region, which encompasses housing provision, medical, educational, and social protection, assistance with employment, legal support, and informing IDPs about their rights and responsibilities, among other needs.

To check the activities related to meeting the needs of IDPs, particularly the appropriateness and effectiveness of budgetary expenditures and analyzing the provision of housing to IDPs, the Commission, by letter dated July 12, 2024, No. 04-82/6-2024/155168, requested the Odesa Regional Military Administration to provide information for preparation for a Commission meeting, including data on the expenditure amounts in 2023 and the first quarter of 2024 for all programs related to IDP support in the region.

In response, the Odesa Regional Military Administration, by letter dated August 2, 2024, No. 9578/4/01-40/10077/2-24, informed the Commission that for the social support of citizens, including IDPs, the following programs have been developed in the Odesa region.

- A Comprehensive Program for the Implementation of Regional Policy on Internal Displacement in the Odesa Region for 2023-2025, approved by the head (chief) of the Odesa Regional State (Military) Administration on August 4, 2023, No. 543/A-2023. Funding for this program from the regional budget is not provided.
- An Employment Program for the Population of the Odesa Region for 2024-2025, approved by the head (chief) of the Regional State (Military) Administration on April 29, 2024, No. 408/A-2024.

It is worth noting that 216,946 IDPs have been registered in the Odesa region since 2014 to the present day, including 52,076 children.

The number of IDPs who relocated from territories included in the list of areas where combat actions are or were conducted or temporarily occupied by Russia is as follows: Donetsk region - 42,473; Kherson region - 36,305; Mykolaiv region - 33,250; Luhansk region - 18,476; Kharkiv region - 7,109; Zaporizhzhia region - 5,080; Autonomous Republic of Crimea - 4,669; Dnipropetrovsk region - 2,185; Sumy region - 659.

The convenience for sheltering evacuated (relocated) Ukrainians from occupied territories and areas under constant shelling highlights the need for a continuous increase in the number and improvement of the quality of accommodation for IDPs and the expansion of the social housing fund in the region, as a significant number of these individuals may remain in the Odesa region for an extended period.

In compliance with the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine's Resolution No. 930 dated September 1, 2023, *"Some Issues Concerning the Functioning of Temporary Accommodation for Internally Displaced Persons,"* the head (chief) of the Odesa Regional State (Military) Administration, by order dated November 3, 2023, No. 929/A-2023, approved a list of temporary accommodation centers in the Odesa region, which includes 31 facilities with a capacity of 1,157 beds. As a result of the monitoring conducted in April of this year on the condition, equipment, number of residents, and available beds, particularly for compliance with the minimum requirements defined by this resolution, 22 facilities with 911 beds meet the requirements, where 379 IDPs are residing; 8 facilities with 172 beds need additional equipment, and repairs are ongoing in 2 facilities with 41 beds, where 20 IDPs are residing.

Moreover, 51 premises, with a capacity of 3,051 beds (*almost three times more than those included in the List*), were not included in the List of Temporary Accommodation Centers in the Odesa region, although IDPs continue to reside there. This is due to the need to bring them to a state that complies with the requirements of Resolution No. 930, meaning they still require major repairs or ongoing renovation work, etc.

Additionally, the Odesa Regional Military Administration reported that as of July 1, 2024, according to information from district state (military) administrations, 14,654

places were created for accommodating IDPs in the Odesa region, with 13,057 IDPs accommodated (12,637 in the private sector and 420 in communal or state-owned premises), leaving 1,597 places available, including 967 places fully ready for accommodation, and 630 places requiring additional equipment and partial repairs.

As of July 1, 2024, the social housing fund in the Odesa region includes 53 apartments with a total area of 3,001.0 square meters and 6 residential houses with a total area of 588.43 square meters.

Seven IDPs are on the social housing waiting list in the Odesa region. From the social housing fund, eight residential premises have been provided to IDPs who were on the social housing waiting list in the Odesa region.

Since the entry into force of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine's Resolution No. 495 dated April 29, 2022, *"Some Measures to Form Housing Funds for the Temporary Accommodation of Internally Displaced Persons,"* a temporary housing fund has been formed in the Odesa region, which includes 22 apartments with a total area of 1,199.87 square meters.

In most communities in the region, no temporary housing fund for IDPs has been formed due to the lack of available premises in communal ownership that meet the established sanitary and technical standards for accommodation and the lack of funds in local budgets due to limited financial capacity.

In the territorial communities of the Odesa region, 370 IDPs are on the housing waiting list for temporary accommodation, of which 87 have already received housing. Since the entry into force of the Resolution, 17 apartments have been provided to IDPs for temporary accommodation.

According to the Odesa Regional Military Administration, in 2023 and 2024, 3.7 million UAH from the regional budget were allocated to support compact accommodation for IDPs, including:

- For the capital repair of the administrative building of the Roshchanskyi Starostynskyi District in the village of Roshcha, on Shchaslyva Street, 62, Teplytska Village Council, Bolhrad District, Odesa Region, 1.5 million UAH were allocated from the regional budget, 148,000 UAH were funded, and 299,000 UAH were co-financed from the local budget of the Teplytska Territorial Community.
- For the reconstruction of the therapeutic department of the Berezivka Central District Hospital at the address: Odesa Region, Berezivka, Bolnychna Street, 6, into housing for IDPs, 35 million UAH were allocated, of which 3.2 million UAH were funded.

At the regional level, a Program for Housing Provision in the Odesa Region for Internally Displaced Persons, Participants of the Anti-Terrorist Operation (ATO), and/or Participants of the Joint Forces Operation (JFO) for 2020-2024 was approved by the Odesa Regional Council on March 3, 2020, No. 1234-VII (with amendments and additions). The total funding for the program is 112 million UAH, including 39

million UAH from the regional budget, 50 million UAH from local budgets, and 23 million UAH from non-budgetary sources (citizens' personal contributions). In 2023, 5 million UAH were allocated from the regional budget for this program, and in 2024, 4.5 million UAH.

In territorial communities where no separate social support programs for IDPs have been approved, issues of social protection for vulnerable groups, including IDPs, are included in the general social protection program.

At the same time, as of July 1, 2024, the remaining funds in the general fund of local budgets in the Odesa region amount to 6.8 billion UAH, or 1.1 billion UAH more than on January 1, 2024.

In order to assess the living conditions and provide assistance in addressing the challenges faced by IDPs in the Odesa region, on August 8, 2024, members of the Commission, along with representatives of the Odesa Regional Military Administration, the Odesa Regional Council, and various public and charitable organizations, visited facilities where internally displaced persons are residing, including:

1. **The building located at 4 Uspenska Street, Odesa:** Currently, 83 IDPs reside here, including 17 children and 19 persons with disabilities, occupying 45 rooms converted into apartments. The building is owned by the territorial community of villages, settlements, and cities of the Odesa region, represented by the Odesa Regional Council. According to information from the State Register of Property Rights, the Register of Property Rights to Real Estate, the State Mortgage Register, and the Unified Register of Prohibitions on Alienation of Real Estate, the right to use the building belongs to the utility company "Obltransbud." The Odesa Regional Council, by its decision dated December 17, 2021, No. 364-VIII, designated this building as housing for temporary accommodation of IDPs. The main issue is the lack of centralized electricity supply, which was completely disconnected by DTEK in the Odesa region on April 11, 2023, due to the absence of an active electricity supply contract with any provider by the building's balance holder, "Obltransbud," for this address.
2. **The Social-Psychological Assistance Center for Internally Displaced Persons and Persons Affected by Armed Conflict,** located at 5 Khimichna Street, Odesa: This center currently houses 109 IDPs, including 44 working-age individuals, 16 elderly individuals, 17 persons with disabilities, 32 children (including 1 child with a disability), and 9 individuals who have suffered from the armed aggression of the Russian Federation. The center was opened on December 15, 2023, after a reconstruction costing around 47 million UAH and is included in the List of Temporary Accommodation Centers in the Odesa region. The center can accommodate approximately 120 people.

The staff of the center noted the need for a significant increase in the salaries of specialists and social workers providing services, given the number of people needing them and the corresponding need to improve service quality.

3. **Fontanska General Education School of Social Rehabilitation**, located at 13 Stepova Street, Fontanka village: Registered at this location are 33 IDPs, with approximately 20 IDPs permanently residing, including persons with disabilities and children. The institution is state-owned, represented by the Ministry of Education and Science of Ukraine, and has been in the process of liquidation since December 19, 2013, in accordance with the Cabinet of Ministers Resolution dated November 21, 2013, No. 847, and the Ministry of Education and Science Order dated December 13, 2013, No. 1772. It was never designated as a place for the compact residence of IDPs, as its premises were declared emergency and unfit for living as early as 2013. According to the Odesa Regional Military Administration, in October 2016, IDPs, without coordination with the owner, broke into the school premises by damaging the fence and the entrance doors of the dormitory building and settled in the educational facility. Currently, the urgent issue is providing proper housing for the IDPs residing in this facility.

The Odesa Regional Military Administration noted that housing provision for IDPs remains a significant problem.

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

1. To take note of the information provided by the Odesa Regional Military Administration and the local self-government bodies of the Odesa region.

2. To suggest the following to the Odesa Regional Military Administration:

- 1) Enhance efforts in forming housing funds for the temporary accommodation of internally displaced persons (IDPs), conducting an inventory of real estate objects, identifying available premises that can be made suitable for living, and ensuring that IDPs have access to affordable housing, taking into account their needs, capabilities, and vulnerability criteria, including using public-private partnership mechanisms;

- 2) In order to improve living conditions and ensure the rights of IDPs in the Odesa region, conduct a comprehensive monitoring within a month of temporary accommodation centers and other facilities housing IDPs, specifically monitoring the condition, equipment, number of residents, and availability of free beds in temporary accommodation centers and other facilities housing IDPs that are not included in the

list of temporary accommodation centers as per the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine Resolution No. 930 dated September 1, 2023, and inform the Commission about:

- The current state of the facilities, including living conditions, safety, and accessibility of medical and social services;
- The number of residents and available free beds for planning the accommodation of new IDPs;
- The need for modernization and improvement of the facilities to bring them in line with the requirements of the Temporary Accommodation of Internally Displaced Persons Regulation approved by the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine Resolution No. 930 dated September 1, 2023.

3) Based on the monitoring results specified in point 2.2) of this Commission decision, develop a comprehensive plan by September 20, 2024, to improve living conditions in temporary accommodation centers and other facilities housing IDPs, which will include:

- Providing the necessary level of material and technical equipment;
- Increasing the accessibility of medical, educational, and social services;
- Ensuring legal support and informing IDPs about their rights and responsibilities;
- Implementing mechanisms for regular control and reporting on the condition of these facilities;
- Relocating IDPs to other temporary accommodation centers that meet the requirements of the Temporary Accommodation of Internally Displaced Persons Regulation approved by the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine Resolution No. 930 dated September 1, 2023, or providing housing from temporary or social housing funds.

4) To develop and implement credit and investment programs, including those providing reimbursement from the regional budget or budgets of territorial communities for interest on housing loans for IDPs residing in the Odesa region.

5) To ensure proper information for Ukrainian citizens about temporary accommodation centers for IDPs, including their location, number of available spots, and the condition of the facilities, including by posting an interactive map with information about these objects on the website of the Regional Military Administration.

6) To work with IDPs residing at the facility located at 13 Stepova Street, Fontanka village, to obtain their consent for voluntary relocation and placement in temporary accommodation centers that meet the criteria defined by the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine Resolution No. 930 dated September 1, 2023.

3. Following the inspection of the facility located at 4 Uspenska Street, Odesa, take note of the proposed mechanism by the Odesa Regional Council and the Odesa Regional Military Administration to protect the rights of the residents of this facility, particularly through announcing and conducting a tender for repair work on the electricity supply system, settling debts for consumed electricity, restoring electricity supply at the facility, transferring the facility to the Regional Communal Institution "Regional Center for Social and Psychological Assistance," and concluding residence agreements with the residents following current legislation, ensuring further parliamentary control over its implementation by the Commission.

4. After inspecting the facility located at 4 Khimichna Street, Odesa, appeal to the Prime Minister of Ukraine to consider the issue of improving the effectiveness of social services, increasing funding for social assistance services, and raising the salaries of specialists and social workers providing these services, given the number of affected people (including a significant number of requests for assistance from IDPs requiring such services).

5. To recognize the efforts of territorial communities in the Odesa region to resolve the issue of housing for IDPs as insufficient.

To recommend increasing expenditures from local budgets of the territorial communities of the Odesa region in 2025 to address the housing problem.

6. To send the Commission's decision to the Prime Minister of Ukraine, the Head of the Odesa Regional Military Administration, the Chairman of the Odesa Regional Council, and the Mayor of Odesa, requesting timely updates to the Commission on the implementation of this decision.

Chairman of the Commission

P. Frolov

Secretary of the Commission

S. Velmozhnyi