

Rehabilitating – converting – reconstructing

A functioning social infrastructure offers internally displaced persons and host communities room for improved services



The challenge: Inadequate rooms for services

The population of eastern Ukraine has been suffering under the conflict between Ukrainian forces and pro-Russian separatists since the beginning of 2014. Of the some four million people affected, more than 1.5 million are seeking shelter in other regions in the country. Some 300,000 Ukrainians are registered as internally displaced persons in Kharkiv, Dnipropetrovsk and Zaporizhzhya oblasts. The communities there are unable to cope with the task of taking in, caring for and integrating these refugees. Their existing social infrastructure is under very considerable pressure: kindergartens and schools do not have enough room for more children and young people, while hospitals and homes for the elderly do not have the capacity to accept all the patients in need. Building problems pose serious health and safety risks, for example due to leaking roofs and poorly insulated windows and the resulting damage from damp and mould. The local authorities have very limited resources of their own to rehabilitate and develop the premises.

It is not just the displaced persons who suffer – the local population also depends on being able to use the social infrastructure.

Project title:	Initiatives of the Infrastructure Programme for Ukraine (IIPU): Strengthening social infrastructure for hosting internally displaced persons
Commissioned by:	German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ)
Implemented by:	Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH
Lead executing agency:	Ministry of Regional Development, Construction, Housing and Communal Services of Ukraine (MinReg)
National partners:	Municipal authorities, regional authorities, NGOs
Project area:	Administrative regions (oblasts) Kharkiv, Dnipropetrovsk and Zaporizhzhya, Ukrainian-controlled areas of the Luhansk and Donetsk oblasts
Overall term:	01/2016 to 04/2020
Contact:	Dr Bärbel Schwaiger/baerbel.schwaiger@giz.de

If internally displaced persons are given preference in the allocation of scarce kindergarten places, for example, the local population feels that it is being disadvantaged and social tension is exacerbated.

Our approach: Creating better conditions

In 2015, the German Government launched the Initiatives of the Infrastructure Programme for Ukraine (IIPU) which supports towns, cities and communities in eastern Ukraine in dealing with the consequences of the conflict. As part of this programme, GIZ is working to improve the social infrastructure in Kharkiv, Dnipropetrovsk and Zaporizhzhya. GIZ and its partners are focusing on developing and rehabilitating existing public buildings, which are being repaired and fitted with new roofs, windows and insulation. After the construction measures have been completed, the local authorities can make full use of the buildings again; they can extend the social services offered and improve the quality of their services. This will benefit internally displaced persons and the local population alike: schoolchildren enjoy learning in a child-friendly environment, and patients can recover better in the modernised hospitals.



Ukrainian workers are renovating public buildings

Renovated cultural centres, sports grounds and playgrounds encourage families to use local services together.

The construction measures are being monitored by international architecture offices and carried out by local construction firms with workers from the region. GIZ is showing its partners how to apply for public funding to renovate hospitals, kindergartens and schools. Thus the towns, cities and communities are empowered to secure financing for their construction measures themselves in the long term. In addition, they learn how to carry out requirements planning and to calculate construction, operating and maintenance costs correctly. The technical infrastructure, such as efficient energy and water supply, is always taken into consideration too.



Ukrainian experts benefit from consultations and training

Our results: Hundreds of thousands of people benefit

Over a period of two years, 16 medical institutions have been renovated and supplied with new equipment. A total of 340,000 people living nearby now benefit from modern facilities and better health care.

Around 130,000 people use the 55 renovated and newly established libraries, sports centres and cultural meeting places.

Thirty kindergartens and more than 50 schools have been renovated and, in some cases, provided with new furniture and sports equipment. This is benefiting around 35,000 children and young people, more than 1,400 of whom are internally displaced persons.



Children play in renovated and newly furnished kindergartens



Halyna Ponomarenko: „The children are motivated to learn here“

In 2017, three schools were renovated in Dnipro. The work benefits the 1,350 schoolchildren, who can now study in a child-friendly environment – with new windows and roofs, modern heating systems, LED lights, and adjustable tables and chairs. New sanitary facilities give children with disabilities access to toilets too.

Halyna Ponomarenko is the headmistress at school no. 29. „On the first day of school, our children didn't recognise the school,“ she reports. „It was literally sparkling. The children are now motivated to learn here. The school management, children and parents are very grateful to the German Government for renovating the school and for the new furniture and sports equipment.“

Published by the:
Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH

Registered offices: Bonn and Eschborn, Germany

GIZ Ukraine
Initiatives of the Infrastructure Programme for Ukraine (IIPU)
Strengthening social infrastructure for hosting internally displaced persons
26 Lesi Ukrainky blvd., 9th floor
01133 Kyiv, Ukraine
T/F +38 044 581 85 35
I www.giz.de/leadershipacademy
I <https://www.facebook.com/IIPUkraine/>

Last updated: Kyiv, 07/2018

Design: Olesya Litvinova

Photo credits: page 1: © GIZ/Denys Lyuty, © GIZ/Denys Kuyrbatov;
page 2: © GIZ/Denys Kuyrbatov, © GIZ/Denys Lyuty

Text: Steffi Noeltling

GIZ is responsible for the content of this publication.

On behalf of the
German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ)