

## SUMMARY

# Ромосна KAWA #26



ASSISTANCE TO INTERNALLY DISPLACED

MEETING OF POLAND-UKRAINIAN  
ORGANISATIONS

**35 ORGANISATIONS PARTICIPATED IN THE MEETING** Batory Foundation, Polish Migration Forum, Women's Rights Centre Poznań Branch, Територія Добра Поділля, Polish-Ukrainian Partnership Charity Foundation Avalon Foundation, Mudita Association, Life Quality Fund, Q Foundation and others.

## Helping internally displaced people is saving human potential

The war in eastern Ukraine has forcibly displaced more than 5.4 million people (according to the Migration Data Portal), affecting many aspects of their lives. Many have lost their homes, jobs, livelihoods and access to basic services such as health and education. Helping the internally displaced enables them to meet their basic needs, which are crucial for survival and further development. These include access to housing, food, drinking water, health care or education. **Support is also vital for Ukraine's future reconstruction.** Internally displaced persons are potential employees, entrepreneurs, researchers and community leaders.

## Polish organisations helping across borders

Despite the fact that internally displaced persons are located in Ukraine, **Polish organisations are able to assist them on an ongoing basis without the need to relocate all their activities to that country.** We are talking about cross-border assistance - transporting humanitarian convoys, necessary equipment (e.g. an organisation providing laptops for displaced children as part of remote education). **For this reason, cooperation at the international level is necessary - if organisations do not communicate and talk to each other about what kind of aid they are providing, it will be less effective and some areas will remain neglected.**

## Those helping the internally displaced may have their own experiences

During the meeting, two representatives of NGOs - women with experience of displacement due to Russia's actions in Ukraine between 2014 -2022 spoke. They emphasised that they rely on their own experience in their daily work, so they understand the challenges and problems of IDPs much better.

## Integration and the "suspended life syndrome"

One of the most common problems of an internally displaced community is the so-called 'suspended life syndrome'. Moving and leaving one's home creates a sense of alienation - the new place is treated as a temporary stopover, so that everyday things are put off 'for later'. This feeling is compounded by the strangeness of the new space - a new city, a new experience and the impossibility of living the old rhythm. Only by accepting the situation does it become possible to integrate - if only with the community of displaced persons. It should be added here that a return to the previous life is not possible - even after returning to one's own home after the war experience, nothing will ever be the same again.

## Give a rod, not a fish

A representative from an organisation that helps internally displaced people pointed out that at a certain point it is necessary to give this community a fishing rod, not a fish - i.e. the right tools to enable IDPs to support themselves and live independently. Examples of this include jobs and psychological support in particular. "All this should be cut short. It's abnormal to wait nine months during a war to complete a course to retrain for another profession. Everything should be as quick as possible," she added.

## Survey results

During the meeting, organisations from Ukraine completed a questionnaire on assisting internally displaced persons. It was answered by 10 organisations present at the meeting. The results are presented on the next page of the report.

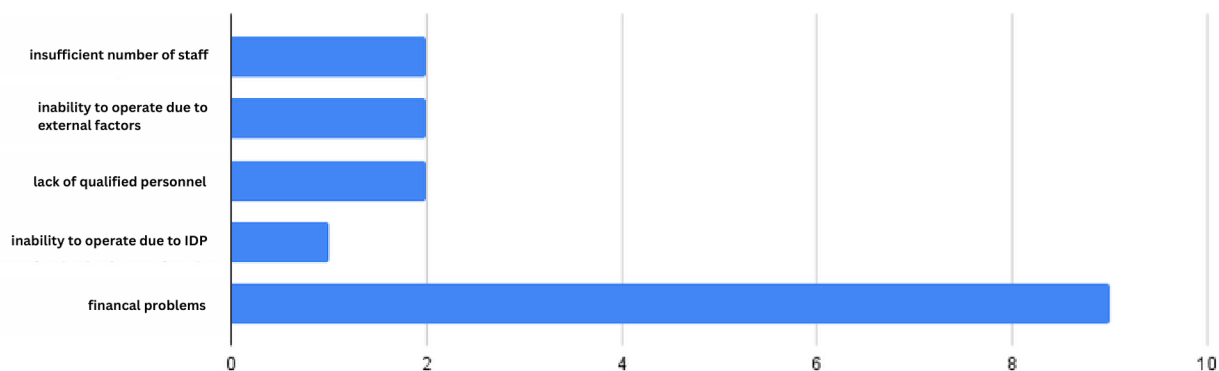


*The event was co-organised by Mapuj Pomoc partner Українська Волонтерська Служба (Ukrainian Volunteer Service). They are the creators of the Palyanytsya.info portal - which enables people to easily and quickly find various forms of support for victims of war residing in Ukraine.*

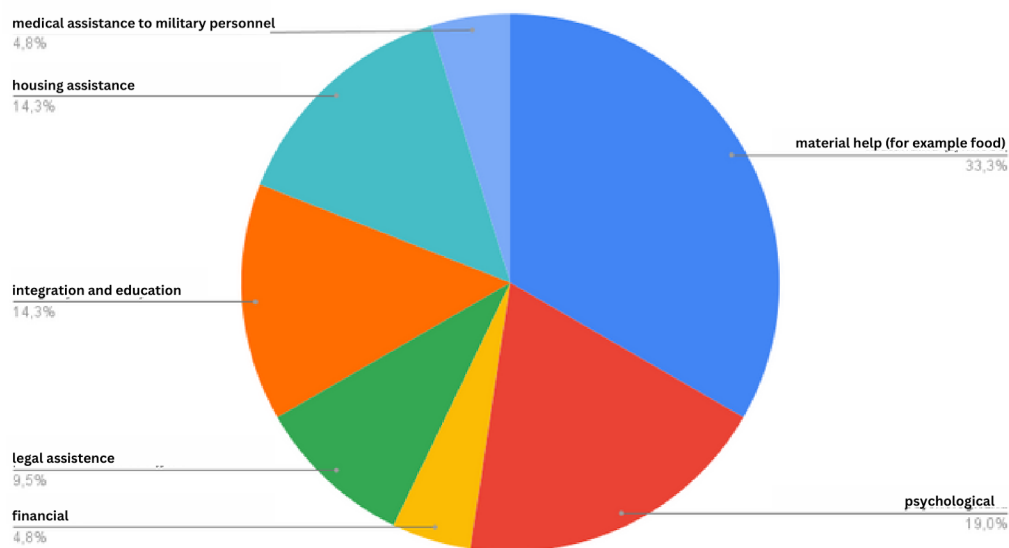
### CONTACT

*If you need a contact for a specific organisation, please email us at [julia.bochenek@culturelab.pl](mailto:julia.bochenek@culturelab.pl). We also encourage you to join our closed Facebook group for members of organisations, NGOs and volunteers, where we share knowledge and oversized resources, seek inspiration, and let you know about grants.*

## What are your biggest challenges in helping IDPs?



## What assistance do you offer to the displaced community?



## Do you involve them in your projects (e.g. employ, are they your volunteers?)

