



UKRAINE

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RECOMMENDATIONS ON COOPERATION BETWEEN HUMANITARIAN ORGANIZATIONS AND IDP COUNCILS

●●●● BACKGROUND

IDP Councils serve as advisory, representative, and mediating bodies. They contribute to the creation and implementation of regional and local policies related to protection of the IDPs' rights and interests, and actively participate in local self-government. IDP Councils operate according to principles of legality, transparency, collegiality, election, democracy, accountability, and responsibility to communities. They are not legal entities. More information can be found in the [factsheet](#). The model regulation on IDP Councils was approved by the [Resolution of the Cabinet of Ministers No. 812 of 4 August 2023](#), which outlines provisions on the procedure for establishing, composition and main tasks of the IDP Council. Resolution provides the following definition: The Council on Internally Displaced Persons (IDP Council) is a consultative body to the local administration at regional, raion or hromada level, established by the decree of the Head of local administration to participate in the implementation of regional policy on protection of the rights and interests of IDPs and to facilitate activities of local communities focusing on development of effective mechanisms for IDPs adaptation and integration.

Protection Cluster in Ukraine promotes and supports IDP Councils to ensure displaced people participation in public affairs and decision-making processes, ownership of solutions to their displacement and that specific needs and concerns are considered in local policy development. Support to IDP Councils by the humanitarian organizations should be reported to the Protection Cluster under community-based protection (CBP) activities, indicating number of individuals who participated in CBP activities and/or number of individuals in a community trained on protection approaches or issues, depending on a specific type of activities.

In order to ensure sustainability and self-sufficiency of IDP Councils, humanitarian organizations should provide support aimed at strengthening the capacity of IDP Councils, while avoiding direct financing of their activities or involvement of IDP Councils in direct provision of services to IDPs, except for awareness raising. The list below contains the recommendations of the Protection Cluster, developed jointly with the Stabilization Support Services, indicating desirable areas of cooperation between humanitarian organizations and IDP Councils and highlighting the areas, which may bring about specific risks.

●●●● RECOMMENDED AREAS – DO’S

1. Establishing and developing partnerships.
2. Collecting information on the activities of IDP Councils.
3. Support for activity planning. Activity efficiency.
4. Capacity building of IDP Councils.
5. Expert and mentoring support.
6. Information management of IDP Councils.
7. Assistance in the development/improvement of local targeted programs and regulations.
8. Involvement of IDP Councils in consultations/activities on the development of national regulations.
9. Promoting cohesion between IDPs and community members through IDP Councils.

Recommended Areas	Expected Positive Effect
<p>1. Establishing and developing partnerships</p> <p>Tools:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Assistance in organizing public events/working meetings 2) Signing memorandums of cooperation 3) Conducting joint needs assessments/surveys/monitoring 4) Providing expertise in elaboration of documents/ recommendations and else by IDP councils to reinforce their impact after submission to relevant authorities. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Exchange of experience ● Sharing positive practices ● Discussing problematic issues ● Strengthening advocacy activities ● The opportunity to be "heard" at the national level
<p>2. Collecting information on the activities of IDP Councils</p> <p>Tools:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Mapping of IDP Councils 2) Providing advisory and methodological support for data collection 3) Collecting and summarizing information at different levels (within the oblast, nationwide): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Age-gender-disability disaggregated statistical data regarding IDPs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Obtaining generalized information ● Availability of data for direct communication with IDP Councils of different levels ● Identifying unique problems/needs ● Assisting in organizing data-driven activities

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Age-gender-disability disaggregated needs of displaced people ● Successful practices among IDP councils on implementing recommendations elaborated by them ● Problems and challenges faced 	
<p>3. Support for activity planning. Improving efficiency of IDP Council activities</p> <p>Tools:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Support for activity planning and reporting: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Organization of a strategic session ● Development of a strategic and operational plan 2) Measuring the effectiveness of the IDP Council: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Development of performance indicators for the Council ● Collection and analysis of information ● Development of proposals and recommendations for improving the work of the IDP Council 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Functional distribution of responsibilities of the Council members ● Establishing the organization of the Council's work ● Timely, high-quality, and complete fulfillment of tasks
<p>4. Capacity building of IDP Councils</p> <p>Tools:</p> <p>Regular trainings, webinars, and workshops:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Identification of needs and topics for training (communication, advocacy, development of targeted programs, role of state authorities, existing budgetary instruments, possibilities for fundraising and engaging with donors etc.) ● Development of the curriculum ● Organization of events 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Gaining new knowledge and skills ● Developing expert knowledge within IDP Councils ● Enhancing sustainability and ensuring greater impact in the future
<p>5. Expert and mentoring support</p> <p>Tools:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Consultations and support from partner organizations, 2) Engaging experts from various fields 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Supporting the development of technical, legal, and analytical documents

<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3) Holding expert meetings to consult members of IDP Councils 4) Providing legal support for the activities of IDP Councils 5) Consultations on the development of community projects 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Supporting initiatives developed and submitted by the IDP Council to amend national regulations
<p>6. Information management by IDP Councils</p> <p>Tools:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Development and dissemination of materials created jointly with IDP Councils (information digests/infographics) 2) Maintaining a Facebook page, other social media or portal for IDP Councils 3) Publicizing the activities of the Council and the results of its work in regional media. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Raising awareness of changes in legislation among Council members and IDP communities ● Raising awareness of IDPs about the activities of the IDP Council
<p>7. Assistance in the development/improvement of local targeted programs and regulations</p> <p>Tools:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Developing a local targeted program to support IDPs 2) Monitoring of the implementation of local targeted programs aimed at supporting IDPs 3) Analyzing existing legal acts in terms of their accessibility for IDPs 4) Participating in the development of amendments to existing regulations. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Ensuring proper support for the needs of IDPs ● Ensuring access to services, benefits, etc. for IDPs ● Removing obstacles for IDPs ● Facilitating the integration of IDPs
<p>8. Involvement of IDP Councils in consultations/activities on the development of national regulations</p> <p>Tools:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Joining working groups on the development of strategies/plans and other national regulations 2) Participating in consultations with representatives of entities with the right of legislative initiative. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Involving IDPs in the decision-making process at the national level ● Considering the interests of IDPs in the development of national legislation.

<p>9. Promoting cohesion between IDPs and community members through IDP Councils</p> <p>Tools: Resolving conflicts between IDPs and local residents/authorities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Conducting negotiations to identify the causes of conflicts with the involvement of IDP Councils, ● Mediation with the involvement of IDP Councils, ● Organizing activities aimed at strengthening social cohesion (including awareness campaigns) with the involvement of IDP Councils. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Reducing social tension in the community ● Strengthening social cohesion of the residents ● Ensuring a constructive dialog with the IDP community ● Strengthening the role of IDP Councils in community life.
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●●●● RISKY AREAS – DON'TS

1. Providing direct technical/material assistance¹ to IDP Councils.
2. Providing remuneration to IDP Council members.
3. Involving IDP Councils in service delivery (except for awareness raising).
4. Involving IDP Councils in actions unrelated to their activities.
5. Assessing the effectiveness of an IDP Council that has been established for less than a calendar year (January-December).

Risky Area	Negative consequences/risks
<p>1. Providing direct technical/material assistance to IDP Councils</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The IDP Council is not a legal entity and cannot act as a recipient ● Assistance can only be provided to the body under which the IDP Council is established 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Corruption risks ● Image risks ● Conflicts regarding the use of this property ● Conflict of interest

¹ For the purpose of this document technical/material assistance includes: financial assistance, delivery of equipment, technical appliances, furniture, payment of rent (including payment of utilities, telecommunications services, repairs) for permanent accommodation of members of the IDP Council. Such assistance may be provided to a respective authority (legal entity) which established an IDP Council.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There should be clear instructions on how to account for and operate the property • The IDP Council will not bear any obligations 	
<p>2. Providing remuneration to IDP Council members</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contradicts the regulation on IDP Councils • IDP Council members work exclusively on a voluntary basis 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Corruption risks • Image risks • Conflicts between IDP Council members • Conflict of interest
<p>3. Involving IDP Councils in service delivery (except for awareness raising)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • IDP Councils are not service delivery organizations • Members of IDP Councils are not professionals and cannot ensure the provision of services of adequate quality • Members of IDP Councils do not provide direct assistance by providing services to the public (legal, social, etc., except for awareness raising) or distributing humanitarian aid 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Corruption risks • Image risks • Conflicts between IDP Council members • Conflict of interest
<p>4. Involving IDP Councils in actions unrelated to their activities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Involvement in activities that do not meet the objectives of the Council, according to its Regulations • Involvement of Council members in tasks not related to protecting the rights of IDPs. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Corruption risks • Image risks • Failure of the IDP Council to implement the planned activities • Excessive workload for IDP Council members
<p>5. Assessing the effectiveness of an IDP Council that has been established for less than a calendar year</p> <p>The performance assessment must be based on the report of the IDP Council for the previous calendar year (January-December).</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Premature performance evaluation will not provide reliable information • Will result in an additional workload for its Council members, who ensure the implementation of its action plan