

Forced Migration in Ukraine and Reality of Sustainable Development Goals Achievement

Wymuszona migracja na Ukrainie a realność osiągnięcia Celów Zrównoważonego Rozwoju

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Abstract

The article examines the impact of mass internal migration in Ukraine, caused by the military conflict, on achievement of sustainable development goals in the country. Despite the fact that migration and human mobility issues are mentioned only in six goals, they actually affect the achievement of majority of them. The impact of forced mass internal migration in Ukraine on its sustainable development goals achievement is shown as complex, many-sided, unpredictable and different in strength. Forced displacement of people seem to have not only negative, but also positive impact on country's sustainable development. Moreover, the achievement of goals in its turn influenced further migration in Ukraine. Perception of forced migration as temporary influence the behaviour of internally displaced people and thus the level and possibility of achievement of sustainable development goals in the country. The analysis of the impact of migration on sustainable development allows to determine priorities and instruments for fight with negative phenomena and support the positive impact of forced migration on the development of regions in Ukraine.

Key words: sustainable development, sustainable development goals, migration, internally displaced person, achievement, forced displacement, impact

Key words: 10 p.

Streszczenie

Artykuł omawia skutki masowej migracji wewnętrznej na Ukrainie, spowodowanej przez konflikt zbrojny, na realność osiągnięcia Celów Rozwoju Zrównoważonego w tym kraju. Chociaż migracje i zagadnienie mobilności ludzi wspomniane jest tylko w 6 celach, w praktyce wpływają one na większość pozostałych. Wpływ wymuszonej masowej wewnętrznej migracji na Ukrainie na realizację Celów Zrównoważonego Rozwoju okazuje się złożony, wielowymiarowy, czasem nieprzewidywalny i osiągający różny poziom siły. Okazuje się, że wymuszane przemieszczanie się ludzi ma nie tylko negatywny, ale także pozytywny wpływ na zrównoważony rozwój kraju. Co więcej, osiąganie poszczególnych celów przyczynia się do dalszego wzrostu migracji. Percepcja wymuszonej migracji, jako tymczasowej, wpływa na zachowanie poddających się temu procesowi ludzi a poprzez to na możliwości osiągnięcia Celów Rozwoju Zrównoważonego. Analiza wpływu migracji na zrównoważony rozwój pozwala wyznaczyć priorytety i instrumenty, dzięki którym możliwe będzie pokonanie negatywnych zjawisk i wsparcie pozytywnego wpływu wymuszonej migracji na rozwój poszczególnych regionów Ukrainy.

Słowa kluczowe: rozwój zrównoważony, cele rozwoju zrównoważonego, migracja, osoba wewnętrznie przemieszczona, osiągnięcie, wymuszona migracja, skutek

Introduction

Over the last years, the concept of sustainable development has become prevalent while developing the strategies of not only individual business entities, but also entire countries. Along with the desire to maximize profits or to show the biggest economic growth, the willingness of entities and countries to help the surrounding society and to take care of the environment steps forward. All these endeavours were first laid in the *Millennium Development Goals* which gave place to *Sustainable Development Goals* (SDGs) in 2015. Almost all countries of the world, including Ukraine, strive to achieve or at least approach them. To accomplish this, countries set specific plans, develop certain indicators, and each year analyse the degree of approximation to the desired results.

Military conflict, which started in Ukraine several years ago, and situation which we perceive as occupation of the large part of the eastern regions had significant impact on the achievement of SDGs of the country. This geopolitical conflict caused 6.8% decrease of real GDP and devaluation of the Ukrainian currency hryvnya (UAH) (*Tsili rozvytku...*, 2015). As of December 31, 2015, Ukraine was at the 8th place in the world by the number of IDPs (Smal & Pozniak, 2016). Many people became forced migrants who left their homes, and today they are trying to start a new life in a new place. The Ministry of Social Policy in Ukraine counts 1,656,662 migrants from Donbas (Eastern Ukraine) and Crimea (*Oblikovano...*, 2016), who represent 3.89% of the current population of Ukraine (42,620,007 persons by November 1, 2016). The largest number of IDPs was registered in the East of Ukraine (*Naseleattia Ukrainy...*, 2016).

Displacement of considerable quantity of population inside the country is seen primarily as a negative factor for Ukraine's development. However, migration itself cannot be directly attributed to the factors, which negatively affect the achievement of SDGs. Certain researches have shown that there is correlation between migration and sustainable development of a country (Tacoli & Okali, 2001). Some scholars believe that there is positive correlation between migration and sustainable development, which is often underestimated. This positive relationship is characterized, above all, with enriching human capital, unemployment decrease, increase of enterprises' innovation activity (*The Correlation of Migration...*, n.d.). At the same time, migrants can steal jobs from local communities population, lead to conflicts between population groups, negatively affect urban planning, influence consumption structure and size (*Migration and sustainability...*, n.d.).

Migration process is a natural phenomenon related to people's search of the better life, work and salary. The reasons for migration can be search of safety for oneself and a family, internal conflicts, systematic

violations of human rights, natural disasters that have swept the world recently and others. Ukraine suffered heavy population movements within the country because of the military conflict. Some analysts believe that this conflict together with the anti-terrorist operation (ATO) challenged environmental and social situation in the country, especially in the ATO zone and places of mass migration (*Tsili rozvytku...*, 2015). It is clear that different reasons of migration have different effects on the achievement of SDGs.

Impact of internal migration in Ukraine on its SDGs

In 2015 the United Nations member states adopted the new Agenda for world sustainable development, for the period between 2015 and 2030. The 2030 Agenda declared the need to empower migrants, refugees and IDPs, which make positive impact on *inclusive growth and sustainable development* (Sustainable Development Knowledge Platform, 2015). Therefore, migration and human mobility have been included to the targets of SDGs No 4, 5, 8, 10, 16, 17. Despite the fact that migration and human mobility issues are mentioned directly only in six goals, they actually can affect the achievement of any goal. The impact of internal migration in Ukraine on its SDGs achievement is examined below.

1. No poverty

Anti-terrorist operation (ATO) in the East of Ukraine negatively affected population welfare. The population of Luhansk region with average total revenue per month below poverty level almost doubled in 2014 compared to 2013. It changed from 7.2% to 14.1% of the total population (*Dyferentsiatsiia zhyttievoho...*, n.d.). According to the National Report *Millennium Development Goals. Ukraine: 2000-2015* by the criterion of actual living wage, level of poverty increased from 22.1% in 2013 to 32% in 2015 (*Tsili rozvytku...*, 2015). Many people had to leave their homes and move either to relatives or to unknown cities in search of a new place of residence and work. The impact of internal migration on the growth of poverty population is questionable. On the one hand, people have left their homes and property and, therefore, lost many resources. Women with children who thus could not work and poor people who had no savings became the most vulnerable population layer. On the other hand, people moved inside Ukraine or abroad searching for *the better life*. Perhaps the most *successful* moving or employment led to a small decline in the share of population with average total revenue per month below poverty level from 14.1% in 2014 to 12.5% in 2015 (*Dyferentsiatsiia zhyttievoho...*, n.d.).

At present, the government of Ukraine does not meet even minimal social needs of IDPs. Those, who are not able to rent housing or find a job, return back

home to the occupied territory. The monthly targeted assistance to an employed IDP in Ukraine is UAH 442 USD (about EUR 15). Such assistance for the whole family cannot exceed UAH 2400 (about EUR 80). Lack of social assistance to IDPs from the Ukrainian government is partly compensated by the increased attention of international organizations (e.g., IOM, UNDP), which provide humanitarian and financial assistance to IDPs, as well as assistance for evacuation of people from the occupied territories (which are not under Ukrainian Government control).

2. Zero hunger

Migration processes directly affect the achievement of goal No 2 by increasing or decreasing the needs of population of certain areas in food because of changes in the number of population. Subject to military conflict, the migration processes affect the financing opportunities of agriculture, access to land, the ability to supply food to dangerous territories (close to the demarcation line). The ATO took place in the fertile lands of Donetsk and Luhansk regions and included mine-laying in agricultural fields and transport routes, blowing up infrastructure buildings, roads and bridges. Decrease of population due to mobilization and migration took place. This has led to 21.2% decline in agricultural production in Luhansk region and 7% decline in Donetsk region in 2014 compared to 2013. These indicators were the worst in Ukraine and resulted into humanitarian catastrophe in some parts of the Eastern Ukraine. Analysis of overall food consumption in Luhansk region households shows decrease in average consumption per month per person in 2015 compared to 2013 of such food products as meat and meat products (by 33%), milk and dairy products (by 16.5%), fish and fish products (by 56.3%), fruits and nuts (by 44.4%). The consumption of other products also decreased but at a slower pace (*Spozhyvannia produktiv...*, n.d.).

3. Good health & wellbeing

In 2014 compared to 2013 the Ukrainian population declined by 5.5% due to military activities, worsening of living conditions, increased mortality among the elderly because of heart attacks etc. The ratio of deaths per 1,000 living people started to increase from 14.5 in 2012 to 14.9 in 2015. According to the research of the impacts of internal displacement of people, the regions which hosted the biggest quantities of IDPs improved their demographics, as there were twice as more children and 30% less elderly (aged 60 years and older) among IDPs than in local communities. The average age of IDPs is almost 10 years less than of the population of the new local community, where they moved, and is around 32-33 years. At the same time, average age for local community residents was about 42.2 years nationwide (Novikova, Amosha, & Antoniuk, 2016).

On the other hand, the increase of internal migration resulted in additional load on medical institutions on the territories with the largest concentration of IDPs and increasing outbreaks of infectious and viral diseases. *Government supply of medicine for treatment of diabetes, HIV/AIDS and tuberculosis is insufficient. Some IDPs live in remote regions and lack regular inspection by mobile medical teams and continuous treatment of chronic illnesses. There is no redistribution of health budget by regions according to the quantity of IDPs, who live there. The regions are not provided with vaccinations and immunizations* (Government Agency, 2015).

4. Quality education

From 2014 to 2016 28 educational establishments, including 18 higher education institutions, were displaced from the East of Ukraine and Crimea to the territory under Ukrainian Government control. The quantity of students from displaced universities and academies is more than 40 thousand people; the quantity of teaching staff is about 3.4 thousand people (*Iz zony ATO...*, n.d.). Migration of students to other regions in no way affected their studies in any particular institution. Students continue to study remotely, as many higher educational institutions have established e-learning platforms. Displaced students also had the right and attended classes in any other higher education institutions in different cities of Ukraine, if they moved to these cities. In addition, students from the ATO zone were allowed to transfer to other educational institutions of Ukraine with their scholarship and budget places, or renew the studies in the higher education institutions where they had studied provided they had a long break in their studies and were dismissed (*Lyst Ministerstva...*, 2014). Thus, the mobility of students in Ukraine increased. The Ministry of education of Ukraine created special conditions for school pupils from occupied territories for distance learning at Ukrainian schools. Such pupils were allowed to pass final examinations and external independent testing examinations in special centres when they arrive to Ukrainian territories. After the children pass exams they can receive Ukrainian high school diploma and enter Ukrainian higher education institutions (*Ia khochu vstupyty...*, n.d.). In this way the Government of Ukraine created the conditions for migration for children – school graduates from the occupied territories – to provide them with quality education and ensure attainment of SDG No 4 in the country.

5. Gender equality

Women and children make up two thirds of registered IDPs (*Genderna rivnist*, n.d.). Typically, women predominate in the low-income share of the population, who appeal to the government for social assistance. Special attention should be given to increasing violence against women in military conflict environment in the East of Ukraine, including sexual

violence. According to the Ministry of Social Policy of Ukraine in 2015 there were 103,101 appeals regarding domestic violence, of which 86.9% belonged to women (Ministerstvo sotsialnoi..., n.d.). The number of appeals regarding domestic abuse remains approximately the same compared to the years before the military conflict. However, there is a problem of violence against women, who remained on the occupied territory and therefore did not submit the relevant appeals to the Ukrainian authorities, as well as increased violence in families, suffered from the military conflict. Availability of information on such violence indicates that it also happens with IDPs' families.

Migration of many women, including those with young children and those who have suffered from ATO, led to increased attention of international organizations to women. Gender issues were among the priority goals of providing grant aid, and were included to the documents of strategic development of regions in Ukraine (*Stratehiia...*, 2016). After the beginning of the military conflict in Ukraine, the level of civil activity of Ukraine's population (including women) has significantly increased (*Gender Dimensions...*, 2015). Women-IDPs are actively involved in public activity and / or create women's NGOs to address their own problems, the problems of IDPs and the communities they moved to.

6. *Clean water and sanitation*

Regarding the impact of migration in Ukraine on goal №6 it should be noted that in general IDPs settled in worse conditions than those they had in their native homes (*Tematychnyi zvit Vnutrishnie...*, 2016), but information on the lack of access to water is not available. However, the workload of the companies providing water services in the cities with the highest concentration of IDPs increased, and some were temporarily damaged by military actions. Because of damage of water supply systems, the incidence of hepatitis A (cirrhosis) doubled. This resulted into spread of infectious diseases to neighbouring regions (Government Agency, 2015).

7. *Affordable and clean energy*

Information regarding the direct effects of migration on access to energy resources is not available. However, as with the previous goal, the only power station, which supplies energy to Ukrainian cities and to the occupied territories of Luhansk region, is overloaded. The necessity to provide the whole Luhansk region and displaced population with electricity was the main reason for beginning of energy networks restoration and new energy network creation in the region (Luhanska oblasna... n.d.).

8. *Decent work and economic growth*

The main target of the Goal No 8 concerning migrants is *to protect labour rights and promote safe*

and secure working environments for all workers, including migrant workers (Transforming our..., 2015). Some companies and organizations relocated from the occupied territory to the territory under Ukrainian Government control and provided all their displaced employees with jobs. However, a significant number of IDPs have lost their jobs and have to look for new jobs. Addressing employment of IDPs became a priority for state and local government authorities. Adopted in 2015 the Law of Ukraine *On amendments to some laws of Ukraine to strengthen social protection of internally displaced persons* provided some compensation to employers that employ IDPs, some compensation to IDPs related to change of employment, and financing measures and activities, which promote IDPs' employment (*Law of Ukraine 'On amendments...', 2015*).

Local authorities in Luhansk region together with NGOs have implemented 300 projects with budget UAH 5 billion (approximately EUR 181 million), which were included to local target programs of districts and cities *Adaptation of IDPs in 2016 (Na Luhanshchyni...*, 2016). Similar programs are being implemented in Donetsk region (*Rehionalna prohrama intehratsii...*, 2015). These programs include IDPs' retraining and skills improvement for their further employment and promoting self-employment among IDPs, including opening social enterprises.

Public Employment Service of Ukraine also provided assistance to IDPs: unemployment payments, assistance in finding jobs, organization of vocational trainings and temporary work. The total number of IDPs who received Public Employment Service assistance from March 1, 2014 to November 30, 2016 was 75,933 people. Among them, 44,354 persons (58.4% of the total number) were receiving unemployment payments, 5,466 persons (7.2%) passed vocational training, and only 23,520 persons (31%) obtained employment. The share of women among the unemployed IDPs is 67.1% on average in Ukraine, while their share in the total number of unemployed in Ukraine is 54.6% (*Informatsiia pro nadannia...*, n.d.).

Two of the main problems facing the unemployed IDPs are a small number of jobs offered on the labour market and the mismatch of IDPs' skills with the requirements of employers. A small number of jobs is evidenced in Luhansk and Donetsk regions due to business interruptions or closures because of ATO (*Kilkist pidpriemstv Luhanskoi...*, n.d.). Many of IDPs were forced to accept other jobs with lower wages or in lower positions. Some IDPs claim they met with discrimination when applying for a job, as employers sometimes refused to hire them or offered wages or conditions worse than those that the local employees had (*Tematychnyi zvit Vnutrishnie...*, 2016). International organizations give considerable attention to reduction of unemployment

among IDPs, provide funds for retraining and job creation for IDPs.

9. *Industry, innovation and infrastructure*

There is close connection between internal migration and development of infrastructure, industry and innovations in Ukraine. National and international strategies of integration of IDPs into local communities include separate programs for development of regions with the highest concentration of IDPs. The question is about expanding infrastructure capacity of hosting communities in accordance to the number of IDPs to avoid negative attitude of local population to displaced citizens and reduce the public infrastructure load. These programs include various State programs, Regional programs and projects of International organizations, directed to adaptation, recovery, and peace building in the Eastern regions of Ukraine (The Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine Resolution, 2016; *Zvit pro stan...*, n.d.). The total financing needs for restoration of peace in Donbas amounted to USD 1.52 billion (Ministry of Economic Development and Trade of Ukraine, n.d.). The necessary funds are partially from the budget, partially borrowed, partially from donors.

10. *Reduced inequalities*

Ensuring equal opportunities and rights for IDPs and local population is essential for sustainable development of Ukraine. Unfortunately, a large number of IDPs meets with discrimination and violation of rights and freedoms. One type of discrimination is employment. Another biggest violation is restrictive mobility or violation of freedom of IDPs movement and travel. The large number of checkpoints in the territory, close to the demarcation line between Ukrainian and the occupied territories, prevents the free movement on the territory of Ukraine. The crossing of the demarcation line is very problematic: there is a limited quantity of checkpoints, which can stop working without warning, long lines of people for many hours with no adequate conditions for this. There are violations which deal with the payment of pensions, which the government authorities suspended for those persons, who are not IDPs, or who are temporarily living in the occupied territories, or do not have a verification certificate of an IDP (*Tematychnyi zvit Vnutrishnie...*, 2016). Pensions to IDPs are paid only through State Savings Bank of Ukraine. This procedure makes access of IDPs to financial services more difficult. To continue receiving pensions people have to undergo regular inspections, unlike retirees from other regions of Ukraine, who continue to receive pensions uninterrupted. Restriction of political rights of IDPs is another form of discrimination: IDPs are deprived of the right to vote in local elections, despite the fact that they are already members of new local communities and take active part in public life. To ensure the rights and freedoms of IDPs the relevant Law of Ukraine was

adopted (*Law of Ukraine 'Pro zabezpechennia...*' 2015), which, unfortunately, does not assist to realization of all the rights and freedoms of IDPs.

11. *Sustainable cities and communities*

Internal migration in Ukraine caused change to the worse in achieving goal No 11 in those cities of Ukraine, which hosted many immigrants. There is not enough housing for IDPs. Many families, who lived separately before the conflict, are living together. Some families live at campus living centres. Sometimes IDPs received accommodations in buildings, which had been initially designed for other purposes (summer camps, motels, holiday centres etc.) (*Tematychnyi zvit Vnutrishnie...*, 2016). Apartment rent has significantly increased with demand. Thus, IDPs' access to *adequate, safe and affordable housing* is often missing.

Sustainable transportation is also unsatisfactory. A large number of migrants particularly in Luhansk region needs additional means of communication with other regions and cities of Ukraine. However, destroyed transport infrastructure and infrastructure initially designed for smaller population, are unable to meet the growing needs of the population (*Stratehiia...*, 2016).

At the same time, IDPs try to preserve their cultural heritage and make the hosting cities more comfortable to stay. The large number of NGOs, which appeared recently, evidences this. The activities of these organizations often take aim at improving the living conditions of migrants (*Zareiestrovani hromadski...*, 2016).

12. *Responsible consumption and production*

Achievement of goal No 12 indirectly affects and depends on migration. Population growth in 2014 in ATO zone, controlled by Ukrainian Government, accompanying reduction or termination of food supply to unsafe territories led to the humanitarian catastrophe. Responsible consumption of resources has become imperative associated with survival in difficult conditions. Number of cases of illegal coal mining significantly increased on territories, which are not under Ukrainian Government control (Kulytskyi, 2016), as it became merely the only source of income for the unemployed miners, who either were unable to migrate, or could not find a job in other regions of Ukraine and returned home.

13. *Climate action,*

14. *Life below water*

Displacement of many people inside Ukraine has not obviously affected the achievement of the goal No 13 and 14 related to climate change mitigation, conservation and rational use of marine resources.

15. *Life on land*

Displacement of many people inside Ukraine has not obviously affected the achievement of the goal re-

lated to protection and restoration of ecosystems and sustainable forest management and land use. At the same time, land under cultivation in Luhansk and Donetsk regions decreased because of occupation of the part of these regions (State Statistics Service of Ukraine, n.d.).

16. *Peace and justice, strong institutions*

The problem of obtaining justice and peace are closely connected to the internal migration in Ukraine. On the one hand, the failure of attainment of the targets of goal No 16 became one of the main reasons for people's moving, namely increasing danger to life, violence, death, crime, misappropriation of property, lack of legal protection, corruption etc. On the other hand, massive internal migration caused new conflicts, especially between IDPs and population of the hosting communities.

International organizations pay attention to systematic human rights violations in ATO zone, including the territory under Ukrainian Government control (*Tematychnyi zvit Zakhyst...*, 2015). The most serious is the threat to the life of people because of continuing military actions. The United Nation claims that *more than 9,200 people have been killed, among them are about 2,000 civilians. More than 21 thousand people have been injured, many of them have suffered disfigurements or trauma (10 rechei...*, n.d.). Today about 24 settlements suffer of shellfire. To ensure health and safety people should be relocated, which requires significant resources and cannot be instantly done. Those people, who stay on the occupied territory, often cannot move to the territory under Ukrainian Government control because of non-compliance of procedures for obtaining permission to cross the demarcation line and the inability to appeal to authorities or other organizations who can facilitate evacuation.

When crossing the demarcation line or Ukrainian state borders IDPs complained on corruption, interrogation, insults from the border-guards or soldiers (*Tematychnyi zvit Zakhyst...*, 2015). Displacement of the courts and prosecutors led to loss of many materials and proceedings cases in Luhansk and Donetsk regions, which sometimes makes peaceful resolution of disputes and claims review impossible (*Tematychnyi zvit Dostup...*, 2015). Displacement of law enforcement and justice institutions and absence of an action plan in case of such displacement caused problems with justice administration and enforcement of certain judgments.

Migration of many people to other communities also led to emergence of social tension and conflicts between IDPs and local community members. Some representatives of local population had certain stereotypes and critical attitude to IDPs, emphasizing their pro-Russian and separatist views and blaming for the situation. Competition for jobs, housing, places in schools and kindergartens, reception hours in public facilities and other resources appeared be-

tween local population and IDPs (*Stavlennia nase lennia...*, 2016). Some organizations started providing funds for projects, which deal with establishment of dialogue between the hosting communities and migrants.

It is important to understand that part of IDPs will never return home, while some of them are temporary migrants. Post-conflict rehabilitation and reconciliation will be essential for the sustainable development of the region and full settlement of the conflict in the East of Ukraine. Thus, the main obstacles for peace are the fighting in the East of Ukraine and complicated relationship of IDPs and hosting communities, and IDPs and the population remained on the occupied territory.

17. *Partnerships for the goals*

Goal No 17 is being implemented due to coordinated joint actions of international organizations and public and private institutions in restoration and establishment of peace in Ukraine and integration of IDPs into local communities. Projects and programs of international aid, implemented in Ukraine (Open Aid Ukraine, n.d.), demonstrate interaction of the government and international donors. Within individual projects and programs one can see the increased attention to the establishment of dialogue platforms for having partnerships between donors and the private sector, non-governmental public organizations and other civil society groups to address the urgent problems of IDPs. These problems deal with assurance of work, housing, human rights and freedoms, creation of decent living conditions (*ES nadav...*, 2016).

Conclusions

Sustainable development of Ukraine is the only way of survival and preservation of human potential in present conditions. This way is possible only based on the achievement of 17 SDGs. Each country has its own problems, which require urgent solution to save the nation and promote its further sustainable development. For Ukraine, the safety of its citizens' lives became such a problem. Military conflict in the East of Ukraine, which began in 2014 and continues to this day, caused massive internal migration, for which the country was not ready and still has not solved all the issues to ensure decent living standards for its citizens who became IDPs. The migration processes affected all areas of people's life and opportunities for further development. The effects were complex and different in strength, and influenced the majority of SDGs. The analysis of the impact of migration on sustainable development of the country allows determining priorities and instruments for fight with negative phenomena and supporting the positive impact of migration on the development of regions in Ukraine. As many migrations are temporary, this temporality and perception of migration as temporary may influence the behaviour of migrants.

That is why the level and possibility of achievement of SDGs in Ukraine as it is now may be such because of expectations of Ukrainians that their internal displacement is temporary. The time, which passes since the start of hostilities, change these expectations, which in turn can affect the sustainable development of the country. The durability of military conflict in Ukraine changes the status of IDPs to the status of new members of local communities who count on additional support and attention. The continuing military conflict requires development of not temporary, but long-term strategies and measures for sustainable development of the enlarged communities and the country as a whole.

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