

Inter-Agency Event: “Vulnerabilities in Collective Sites: Addressing Gaps in Service Provision and Identifying Solutions”

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KEY MESSAGES

Collective sites in Ukraine are places of high vulnerability. Older people, individuals with disabilities, chronic diseases, and mental health issues are more frequently represented among the residents of collective sites than among internally displaced persons (IDPs) outside collective sites and the general population of Ukraine.

Most collective sites lack the necessary infrastructure and resources to meet basic standards for care and support, or rely heavily on humanitarian support to do so, leaving residents in precarious living conditions. Pilot initiative by the Ministry of Social Policy on assisted living services are in progress, but not yet able to delivery to scale. Meanwhile, humanitarian support is scaling down in the western and central regions of Ukraine in line with the 2025 Humanitarian Needs Response Plan prioritisation.

Empowering people of working-age in collective sites to take control of their lives is crucial. However, according to the Vulnerability Assessment, unemployed working-age residents in collective sites often face significant challenges in securing employment due to either their caregiving responsibilities or disabilities.

Alternative housing solutions remain a significant challenge. The government is in the early stages of social housing reform, while humanitarian actors can only cover a limited number of sites with consolidation support and transformation into housing. Cooperation between development actors, businesses, and local authorities is required.



On 26 November 2024, the inter-agency event “Vulnerabilities in Collective Sites: Addressing Gaps in Service Provision and Identifying Solutions” was held in Kyiv. Co-organized by IMPACT’s REACH Initiative, the Camp Coordination and Camp Management (CCCM) & Protection clusters, the event aimed to present the findings from the Vulnerability Assessment in the Collective Sites, and to provide a platform for a policy discussion on effective assistance and service provision for the most vulnerable groups frequently presented in collective sites. Additionally, it focused on exploring alternative housing, livelihood opportunities and solutions for the working-age population living in collective sites.

Background

According to the CCCM cluster, collective sites in Ukraine – both registered and unregistered – accommodate over 74,000 individuals across more than 1,600 collective sites, many of whom are among the most vulnerable of displaced people. The intersection of high vulnerability, social and economic marginalisation, and the inability to return home often results in prolonged stays in collective sites, which are often not suitable as long-term housing.

While humanitarian assistance is scaling up in response to evacuations from frontline areas and new arrivals in collective sites, it is also scaling down in western and central Ukraine. Here, tens

of thousands of people remain in collective sites with limited alternatives from the government and significant gaps in services, particularly for the most vulnerable, such as those requiring social care and healthcare.

Many of the collective sites lack the necessary infrastructure and resources to meet basic standards for care and support, leaving residents in precarious and often unsustainable living conditions. Many sites are also highly dependent on support from humanitarian actors, which will be scaling down in 2025. In addition, due to the significant reduction in state financial support for IDPs in 2024, cases were observed of people moving from private accommodation to collective sites. Without targeted interventions to address these gaps, the needs of these populations risk being overlooked or falling through the cracks as humanitarian programming phases down, further exacerbating their vulnerability and marginalisation.

In 2024, to better understand the extent of vulnerabilities within collective sites and more effectively address residents’ needs for access to services and solutions, the CCCM and Protection clusters commissioned the REACH Initiative to conduct Vulnerability Assessment. The study aimed to provide detailed data on the vulnerability profiles of collective site residents, their specific needs and challenges, and their access to solutions within host communities.

On the event

The event, attended by over 60 participants, provided a platform for evidence-based dialogue, combining the findings from the Vulnerability Assessment with a key insights and discussion among representatives of the Government of Ukraine, United Nations (UN) agencies, non-government organisations (NGOs), and civil society.

Following the detailed **presentation of the findings from the Vulnerability Assessment made by REACH**, the agenda included two panel discussions moderated by the Protection and CCCM Clusters.

The first panel, titled **“Mapping and Identifying Gaps in Service Provision for Vulnerable People in Collective Sites”** explored into the current gaps in service provision for vulnerable populations in collective sites and discussed what responses were necessary to address these challenges effectively.

The second panel, **“Looking into 2025: Alternatives and Solutions for Vulnerable People in Collective Sites,”** focused on alternative solutions and livelihood opportunities for working-age residents of collective sites.

On Vulnerability Assessment

The Vulnerability Assessment in Collective Sites commissioned by CCCM and Protection clusters and conducted by IMPACT’s REACH Initiative aimed to identify details on the vulnerability profile of people living in the collective sites. In July and August 2024, a representative survey among people residing in collective sites, and 12 focus-group discussions with different vulnerable profiles and 13 key informant interviews with experts and practitioners working in collective sites were conducted. The study is dedicated to the analysis of the scale and nature of vulnerabilities faced by residents in collective sites, encompassing various dimensions such as age, sex, disabilities, chronic illnesses, mental

¹ Hereinafter, all comparisons with the general population of Ukraine and the overall IDP population are based on the 2024 Multi-Sector Needs Assessment (MSNA) findings.

² [REACH Initiative. General Population MSNA Frequency Tables - Oblast. Ukraine, 2024.](#)

health conditions, and socio-economic factors. It examines how these vulnerabilities intersect, creating compounded challenges that significantly hinder access to services, labour markets and dignified lives. The assessment also explores the demographic and socio-economic profiles of the working-age population residing in collective sites, shedding light on their current livelihood situations. It identifies key barriers that prevent this group from successfully entering the labour market, such as limited access to employment opportunities and systemic obstacles. In addition, the study investigates access to critical services, including healthcare, education, and social support. Finally, the study addresses issues related to social cohesion, exploring the dynamics of relationships among residents and between displaced populations and host communities, and identifying opportunities to strengthen communal ties and support integration efforts.

The presentation from the event with more details is available at the following links:

[In English](#) / [In Ukrainian](#)

The final report will be published in January 2025.

VULNERABILITY ASSESSMENT: KEY DATA HIGHLIGHTS

IDPs living in collective sites are much older than IDPs overall and the general population of Ukraine, more often have disabilities and chronic diseases, and mental health issues. Older people are more often represented by women.

- The CCCM population has 29% older people, compared to 20% in the general population of Ukraine, and 51% of people of working age, compared to 61% in the general population of Ukraine^{1,2,3}. The older population in collective sites is significantly composed of women (72%).

³ [REACH Initiative. Displacement MSNA Frequency Tables - Oblast. Ukraine, 2024.](#)

- A very high proportion of people living in collective sites were reported as having disabilities⁴. While the proportion of households with at least one member with a disability in the general population of Ukraine is 29%, in collective sites it rises to 36%. The probability of having disabilities is higher among adult individuals: 50% among older people have disabilities, among the working-age population it is 46%.
- Half (54%) of IDPs in collective sites reported experiencing anxiety or depression on a regular basis (weekly or daily).
- Forty-four per cent of IDPs in collective sites reported having chronic diseases.
- One third (30%) of households in collective sites have more than two vulnerabilities among their members⁵. Forty-three percent have one vulnerability.

There are fewer households with children living in collective sites (25%) than among the general population of Ukraine (32%), but they still constitute a significant proportion.

- Half (48%) of the households with children are single-parent households, in most cases women-headed.
- One percent of households in collective sites have three children and more.

Access to healthcare services in collective sites is generally available; however, there is a notable deficiency in geriatric and palliative care. Given the vulnerabilities of many residents in the collective sites, medical services are identified as the most crucial and frequently required.

- Sixty-two per cent of IDPs in collective sites reported needing healthcare within the past three months. Approximately four percent of

IDPs in collective sites reported being unable to access healthcare. The main reported barriers to services were cost of treatment (39%) and unavailability of services (15%).

- Key informants emphasised that the most prominent need for vulnerable groups was access to specialised medical assistance. This includes geriatric and palliative care, access to specific medications, and visits from highly specialised doctors.

Access to education services is hindered by living conditions, particularly given that many children study online.

- Forty-two percent of children living in collective sites were reported to be studying online, with nine percent studying in hybrid format. For remote or hybrid learning, the most common reported obstacles were unreliable internet access (52%), lack of dedicated learning spaces (21%), and insufficient equipment (16%).
- Around one-third (34%) of children living in collective sites were reported as attending schools in their areas of origin remotely, which might negatively impact their integration into host communities and their overall learning success.

IDPs face significant barriers to securing adequate livelihoods. These are especially extreme for newly displaced IDPs, single-member households with older people, households with children, and IDP households in rural areas.

- Ten per cent of households reported that their income per person was below the minimum subsistence level per person of UAH 2,920⁶. This was particularly the case

⁴ To identify people with disabilities, the vulnerability assessment questionnaire included two types of questions: 1) a question on formally registered disability 2) questions based on the [Washington Group Short Set \(WG-SS\) on functioning](#). The household head reported on behalf of all household members. The indicator provided includes either registered

disability or any limitation in functioning according to the WG-SS.

⁵ The vulnerability profiles considered included WG-SS or formal disabilities, chronic diseases, single-adult households, and households with three or more children.

⁶ The subsistence minimum per person as set within the framework of the State Budget for 2024.

among households displaced for less than three months (28%), single-person households (19%), households with children (19%), and people in rural areas (14%).

- IDPs in collective sites reported being reliant on state-provided IDP allowances more frequently than the general population of IDPs (76% against 52%). They also reported relying on other state social benefits at higher rates (65% against 28%), as well as pensions (51% against 33%).
- Households with children in collective sites tend to have the lowest income per person, with a median of UAH 5,000. Median household income per person in collective sites was reported as UAH 6,000 against UAH 6,750 among overall IDP population
- Around one quarter (23%) of households reported using livelihood coping strategies, i.e. they adopted various measures to compensate for a lack of resources to cover their current expenses. The most widely used strategies reported were spending savings or consuming stocks (12%) and reducing essential health expenditures (8%).

The reported employment rate among residents of collective sites was lower than that of the general population of Ukraine and the overall IDP population, particularly due to limited access to employment for those with caregiving responsibilities.

- As of July 2024, 47% of working age collective sites' residents reported being employed, compared to 64% who reported being employed prior to displacement. The most significant employment declines were observed among IDPs with disabilities (42% were employed before displacement and only 18% as of the data collection period) those with chronic diseases (59% and 34% respectively), and those residing in rural areas (64% and 40%).
- Only 34% of unemployed working-age individuals reported actively searching for

work in the four weeks preceding data collection. Notably, 62% of unemployed working-age IDPs reported having caregiving responsibilities – such as caring for children, older people, or household members with disabilities – which hindered their ability to access employment.

Coverage of humanitarian assistance was limited and consisted mainly of in-kind assistance such as food and non-food items. Additionally, a third of residents in collective sites have experienced reductions in IDP payments following amendment to the Resolution 332 as of March 2024.

- One-third (33%) of households in collective sites reported receiving no humanitarian assistance in the six months prior to data collection. Profiles more likely to report receiving no assistance included households with working-aged, employed members (40%), and in rural collective sites (37%). The most common forms of assistance received were reported to be food (55%), medicines (16%), and clothing (19%).
- Twenty-nine per cent of residents of collective sites reported losing IDP payments after April 2024, while 62% reported that they were still receiving it.

Many people residing in collective sites experience limited inclusion in social and cultural activities within host hromadas, and some of them experience discrimination.

- Seven percent of households in the collective sites reported feeling discriminated against by the host community, and two percent felt discriminated against in the labour market.
- Most households (61%) living in collective sites reported not attending social or cultural activities in hosting communities. Attendance was less commonly reported among male adults, recently displaced IDPs, and households with at least one member with disability.

PANEL DISCUSSIONS

Panel 1 “Mapping and Identifying Gaps in Service Provision for Vulnerable People in Collective Sites”

This panel brought together key stakeholders to explore the gaps in service provision for vulnerable populations living in collective sites and discuss how to improve responses to their needs. Moderated by **Kasia Kot-Majewska, Protection Cluster Coordinator**, the session highlighted the perspectives of government, humanitarian, and civil society actors engaged in addressing the challenges faced by displaced people.



Olena Fartushna, Head of the Expert Group on the Protection of the Rights of Specific Social Groups and the Elderly at Ministry of Social Policy of Ukraine, started by saying that the Ministry has been monitoring the conditions of IDPs across different living arrangements, including those staying with relatives, renting accommodations, or residing in collective sites. From 2022 to 2023, a clear trend emerged: many older IDPs, including people with disabilities, evacuated from frontline areas, especially those whose homes were destroyed, and moved into institutional facilities. For those without prior experience in institutional living, these facilities often became perceived as their "final residence," as their health conditions tended to deteriorate rather than improve in such environments.

Ms. Fartushna noted that more than half of collective sites are not yet adapted for people with limited mobility, leaving many with no viable alternatives. To address this, the Ministry has been working on identifying and renovating potential facilities, such as small homes or stationary care units in regions far away from the frontline areas, that could serve as better-suited living spaces for these populations. This effort aligns with Ukraine’s European Union integration process, which includes requirements for deinstitutionalisation reform in social sphere.

She also emphasised the importance of developing social services within these facilities, including support for post-hospitalisation care and repairs to create safe, adapted living environments. Additionally, providing opportunities for social adaptation is critical to improving the quality of life for the older people and people with disabilities in both collective sites and institutional facilities.

She provided updates on the experimental project involving the Sanatorium Slava and the Truskavets Sanatorium Batkivshchyna, both owned by the Ministry. She explained that the project, set to conclude in 2024, aims to assess how these facilities can transition into commercial, non-profit enterprises while continuing to provide essential services. In one sanatorium, 90% of residents now receive medical services, housing support, and assistance with social adaptation, leading to significant progress - 98% of the residents no longer require previous social services and only need housing and transitional support to reintegrate into communities.

Finally, she elaborated on the concept of assisted living services, which are designed to serve all population categories, including IDPs. The Ministry is currently developing a service classification system for these centres to ensure effective outreach and inclusivity.

However, challenges persist, particularly concerning the implementation of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine (CMU) Resolution 888⁷, which introduced additional requirements for social service providers. These requirements include ensuring accessibility, safety, compliance with standards, and fire safety measures. While providers, especially communal ones, have been given time to adapt their facilities to meet these standards, the process has highlighted significant obstacles in improving service delivery.



Andrii Miasoid, Deputy Head of the Social Protection Department in the Dnipropetrovska Oblast State Administration, discussed the key needs and challenges faced by recently arrived IDPs in the region. He highlighted that Dnipropetrovska Oblast currently hosts over 451,000 IDPs. While many evacuees temporarily stay in the region before being transported to western areas with the assistance of local authorities or NGOs, others relocate independently and register themselves for support. He emphasised that the key needs of these IDPs include mental health support.

⁷ [The CMU Resolution # 888 “Some issues of implementing a pilot project on organising the provision of inpatient care and assisted living services for internally displaced older](#)

Veronica Costarelli, CCCM Programme Manager at the International Organization for Migration (IOM) in Ukraine, presented insights into IOM Ukraine's approach to site consolidation as part of its strategy since last year. The focus has been on inclusivity and identifying collective sites in areas with access to essential services, prioritising locations with 30 or more residents. She emphasised the importance of addressing key issues, particularly accessibility for people with disabilities and safety concerns within the premises.

To ensure community involvement, IOM incorporates feedback through technical assessments conducted in collaboration with CCCM and protection teams. These assessments evaluate the structure and conditions of collective sites and identify key issues. Once priorities are agreed upon with local authorities and community members, IOM prepares action plans and revisits the sites to validate these plans with the residents, ensuring alignment with their needs and preferences, such as the placement of facilities on accessible floors.

Ms. Costarelli highlighted that when budgets allow, IOM also consults hromadas on improving communal spaces to foster better living conditions. However, she acknowledged that significant gaps remain, especially in western and central Ukraine, where humanitarian support has decreased. In many cases, the needs of hromadas exceed the available resources.

She also emphasized the importance of a holistic approach, particularly for people with disabilities. "You do not solve the issue of people with disabilities by only providing a bed or improving the collective site," she said, underscoring the need for comprehensive solutions. She reiterated that while humanitarian actors play a critical role, ultimate accountability lies with the government, which must increase its support for these populations.

[persons and persons with disabilities on the principle of ‘money follows the person’.](#)

Addressing long-term solutions, she noted the challenges of moving residents out of collective sites into social housing. For example, relocating a single collective site to social housing could cost “upwards of a million dollars per collective site”. She stressed the need to involve development actors, the private sector, and tailor-made service packages, highlighting that “one-size-fits-all” solutions are not effective.

On the challenges faced by humanitarian actors, Ms. Costarelli pointed to resource constraints and a regional imbalance in assistance. While much of the focus is directed toward eastern, northern, and southern Ukraine due to ongoing attacks, regions in the west and centre are often left underserved. She noted that referrals for water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) services, shelter, and health often go unmet due to a lack of partners operating in these areas. This gap highlights the pressing need for a more coordinated and adequately resourced response.

Alla Sotska, Advisor to the Chairman of the National Assembly of People with Disabilities of Ukraine, emphasised that creating adequate living conditions under the current circumstances is nearly impossible. Local administrations, institutions, and even international organisations struggle to address the pervasive issues of access and inclusivity.

She highlighted that challenges begin long before individuals even reach collective sites. Many people with disabilities are unaware of their rights under humanitarian frameworks and international standards. Evacuation poses a significant challenge, with people often transported in inadequate conditions, such as school buses, only to arrive at shelters that are inaccessible or unsuitable.

Examples of these inadequacies include facilities located on upper floors without elevators, forcing individuals to navigate stairs to access basic amenities like toilets; bedridden individuals left in dire conditions, with diapers not being changed for days; portable toilets and unheated facilities with temperatures as low as 5°C; and social

workers at shelters who do not work on weekends, leaving older and disabled residents without essential services.

Ms. Sotska also pointed out that collective sites often fail to account for the diverse needs of people with disabilities. For example, wheelchair users may avoid using toilets altogether due to accessibility issues, while others lack support for conditions like dementia, visual or mobility impairments. In some cases, individuals in critical condition are placed in shelters rather than hospitals, leading to preventable deaths.

Panel 2. “Looking into 2025: Alternatives and Solutions for Vulnerable People in Collective Sites”

During the second panel discussion “Looking into 2025: Alternatives and Solutions for Vulnerable People in Collective Sites,” moderated by **Miranda Gaanderse, the CCCM Cluster Coordinator**, the participants explored challenges in the provision of housing alternatives, site consolidation and potential solutions for populations living in collective sites in Ukraine.



Halyna Bordun, Head of the Coordination Centre for Civilian Assistance at Lvivska Oblast State Administration, discussed the challenges and efforts in coordinating support for IDPs in collective sites in Lvivska Oblast. She explained that a coordination centre was established in 2022, involving national partners, local non-governmental organisations, and government agencies across various sectors, including education, social protection, and health. In

addition to this, the centre aimed to engage and coordinate with international organisations provided humanitarian aid.

Ms. Bordun highlighted the issue of utility compensation delays for collective sites, which can take up to 4-5 months. She noted that the process is complicated by multiple layers of administration – compensation requests must pass through regional finance administrators, various government departments, and hromadas, which significantly prolongs the process. She emphasized the need to streamline this procedure for the next year, suggesting the continuation of the CMU Resolution #261⁸ on compensation for communal services or the development of alternative solutions.



She also stressed the difficulties faced by collective site managers, many of whom are volunteers and unpaid. She pointed out that the search for funding and prioritisation of oblast administration needs is a complex issue that requires better analysis and improvement in how funds are allocated to collective sites.

Ms. Bordun acknowledged the difficulty of providing long-term solutions for those who have been in collective sites for three years. She emphasized the need for assistance for these individuals, particularly older people, those with

⁸ [The CMU Resolution #268 "On Approval of the Procedure and Conditions for Providing Compensation for Consumed Utilities during the Accommodation of Internally Displaced Persons in Buildings \(Premises\) of State, Communal and Private Property during the Period of Martial Law".](#)

children in the armed forces, and others in vulnerable situations.

She also highlighted the importance of informing hromadas about nationally implemented programmes, noting a lack of awareness about existing support. She suggested that involving businesses through corporate social responsibility initiatives could be a valuable avenue for supporting job opportunities for IDPs.

As with many other participants, Ms. Bordun emphasised that the most pressing issue is social housing. She stressed that this should be a priority, especially for vulnerable groups such as people over 60, who cannot afford to wait for 10-15 years for housing solutions.

Ksenia Gedz, Advocacy Coordinator the Charitable Foundation "Right to Protection" (R2P) discussed several critical challenges in the implementation of policies for IDPs, focusing on the lack of effective needs assessments and the limitations of current regulations.

Ms. Gedz emphasised the need for comprehensive needs assessments at both local and national levels. She noted that although hromadas have been instructed to conduct needs assessments, the methodology⁹ for doing so was only approved in September 2024. She explained that the administration of collective sites had underestimated the importance of these assessments, which are essential for understanding the needs of IDPs and ensuring that policies and funding are aligned with those needs.

She further highlighted the challenges with hromadas and their inability to plan for both one-year and three-year priorities, as outlined in the

⁹ [Order #288 of the Ministry for Reintegration "On the approval of the Methodological recommendations for conducting needs assessment of internally displaced persons at the local community level".](#)

National Strategy on Displacement 2023-2025¹⁰. She pointed out that many hromadas do not know how to plan for these timeframes or even understand why doing so is necessary, which complicates the process of developing national and local policies for IDPs. As a result, needs assessments, which are primarily conducted by international organisations, are not being carried out at the national or local level, leaving a gap in the information required to form effective policies.

Ms. Gedz also addressed the broader issue of the legal framework for IDPs, pointing out that while there is a general law on ensuring the rights of IDPs¹¹, it has not been comprehensively updated. She highlighted that the National Strategy on Displacement 2023-2025, adopted when the full-scale war started, has not been revised to reflect the evolving situation, and the roles of different agencies in supporting IDPs remain unclear. She emphasised the need for clear mandates and specific action plans to resolve housing issues and ensure the rights of IDPs.

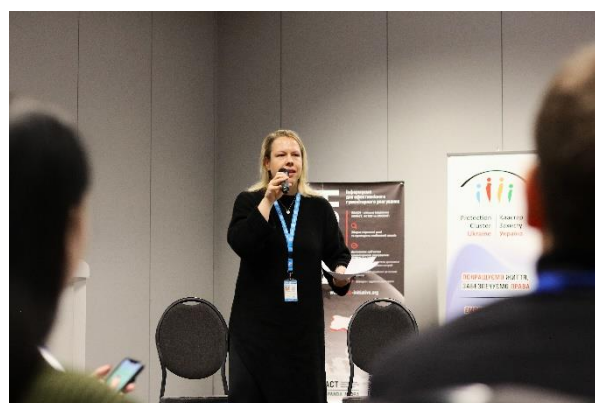
On the topic of social housing, she noted that while there is a regulation in place, the availability of social housing is alarmingly low. Only around 2,000 IDPs are living in social housing, which she described as functionally non-existent. She stressed the need for a sustainable and efficient model of social housing that would allow hromadas to create social housing independently and sustainably. She mentioned that the Ministry of Development of Territorial Communities is drafting laws and bylaws to facilitate the creation of social housing in hromadas, but the process is still in its early stages.

She also referred to Resolution 495¹² on temporary dwellings, which she said is not functioning as intended. Many hromadas do not understand why they should provide free

dwellings for IDPs, and some hromadas are reluctant to even register IDPs for temporary housing. This points to the need for a complete re-launch of the social housing system in the country, with a focus on addressing the systemic barriers that prevent its effective implementation.

Finally, Ms. Gedz suggested that feedback from the pilot subsidy for rent project under the Ministry of Social Policy would be valuable in understanding what is working and what is not. She proposed that tax breaks could be offered to landlords who make their properties available for use by IDPs, helping to incentivise private housing solutions for displaced people.

Nina Maja Schrepfer, Assistant Representative - Protection at the UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR) in Ukraine, began by outlining UNHCR's plans for 2025, which include differentiating programming to cater to distinct needs based on the length of time people have spent in collective sites. She emphasised the need for different intervention models for "sites with longevity," where residents have been living for extended periods, and "sites affected by emergency," hosting more recent arrivals. She pointed out the importance of understanding the role of collective sites in providing physical safety and temporary support through investments in infrastructure and non-food items. However, she expressed concern that focusing solely on the maintenance of facilities could inadvertently entrench displacement,



¹⁰ Order #312-p "On approval of the State Policy Strategy on Internal Displacement for the period up to 2025 and approval of the operational plan of measures for its implementation in 2023-2025".

¹¹ [Law of Ukraine "On Ensuring of Rights and Freedoms of IDPs"](#).

¹² [Resolution # 495 of the CMU: "Some measures for the formation of housing funds intended for temporary residence of internally displaced persons"](#).

turning collective sites into institution-like setups, which is not the intention of the government or humanitarian actors. UNHCR is shifting its focus to transforming some collective sites into social housing or integrating social services. This involves better understanding residents' plans and intentions, particularly in sites that are likely to close soon.

Additionally, Ms. Schrepfer stressed the importance of connecting collective sites more effectively with the surrounding community. She noted that collective sites should not be isolated but should be integrated into broader community systems, including local government services and support from community-based organisations. UNHCR plans to work with a network of 550 community-based organisations and invest in the professionalisation of these organisations to complement state support and enhance social inclusion.

She also emphasised the need for better access to social services, especially for vulnerable groups like older people with mobility challenges and those with disabilities. The establishment of assisted living is a crucial step in providing smoother pathways for vulnerable individuals currently in collective sites. She acknowledged that transitioning to independent living is especially complex for these groups, and it will require more than just housing and employment opportunities but also a comprehensive social service package. The development of social services across hromadas, supported by both government and socially contracted NGOs, is essential.

Finally, Ms. Schrepfer underscored the importance of empowering the people living in collective sites to take control of their own lives. Whether through formal bodies like IDP councils or other mechanisms, she stressed the need to invest in self-organisation and capacity building, so that displaced individuals can take charge of their futures. UNHCR is rolling out workshops to

facilitate this process, positioning itself as a facilitator and enabler.

Iliia Odintsov, Deputy Head of IDP Council in Dnipropetrovska Oblast, shared his perspective on the role of IDP councils in supporting the social integration of IDPs. He explained that in the Lviv region, half of the collective sites are privately run, while the other half are state-run or communal. When he joined the IDP council, there were three transit points receiving displaced people, and the focus was on creating long-term housing solutions. This could only be achieved through leasing buildings from the state. The council helped local organisations find opportunities to create housing for IDPs and established a mechanism for people to approach ministries for support.



Mr. Odintsov shared that thanks to good communication between the council and the regional administration, 500 additional places were added to collective sites by leasing a new building. This partnership led to the creation of a new facility that houses 200 people, primarily those with disabilities or older people, who were previously not accommodated in the region's collective sites. He emphasised the need for local organisations that work with IDPs to have more opportunities to manage collective sites directly, rather than merely leasing buildings, to enable them to create sustainable, long-term solutions for displaced populations.