



Home Office

# **Country Policy and Information Note**

## **Ukraine: Internal relocation**

**Version 1**

**May 2019**

# Preface

## Purpose

This note provides country of origin information (COI) and analysis of COI for use by Home Office decision makers handling particular types of protection and human rights claims (as set out in [the basis of claim](#) section). It is not intended to be an exhaustive survey of a particular subject or theme.

It is split into two main sections: (1) analysis and assessment of COI and other evidence; and (2) COI. These are explained in more detail below.

## Assessment

This section analyses the evidence relevant to this note – i.e. the COI section; refugee/human rights laws and policies; and any applicable caselaw – by describing this and its inter-relationships, and provides an assessment on whether, **in general**:

- A person is reasonably likely to face a real risk of persecution or serious harm
- A person is able to obtain protection from the state (or quasi state bodies)
- A person is reasonably able to relocate within a country or territory
- Claims are likely to justify granting asylum, humanitarian protection or other form of leave, and
- If a claim is refused, it is likely or unlikely to be certifiable as ‘clearly unfounded’ under section 94 of the Nationality, Immigration and Asylum Act 2002.

Decision makers **must**, however, still consider all claims on an individual basis, taking into account each case’s specific facts.

## Country of origin information

The country information in this note has been carefully selected in accordance with the general principles of COI research as set out in the [Common EU \[European Union\] Guidelines for Processing Country of Origin Information \(COI\)](#), dated April 2008, and the Austrian Centre for Country of Origin and Asylum Research and Documentation’s (ACCORD), [Researching Country Origin Information – Training Manual, 2013](#). Namely, taking into account the COI’s relevance, reliability, accuracy, balance, currency, transparency and traceability.

The structure and content of the country information section follows a [terms of reference](#) which sets out the general and specific topics relevant to this note.

All information included in the note was published or made publicly available on or before the ‘cut-off’ date(s) in the country information section. Any event taking place or report/article published after these date(s) is not included.

All information is publicly accessible or can be made publicly available, and is from generally reliable sources. Sources and the information they provide are carefully considered before inclusion.

Factors relevant to the assessment of the reliability of sources and information include:

- the motivation, purpose, knowledge and experience of the source
- how the information was obtained, including specific methodologies used
- the currency and detail of information, and
- whether the COI is consistent with and/or corroborated by other sources.

Multiple sourcing is used to ensure that the information is accurate, balanced and corroborated, so that a comprehensive and up-to-date picture at the time of publication is provided of the issues relevant to this note.

Information is compared and contrasted, whenever possible, to provide a range of views and opinions. The inclusion of a source, however, is not an endorsement of it or any view(s) expressed.

Each piece of information is referenced in a brief footnote; full details of all sources cited and consulted in compiling the note are listed alphabetically in the [bibliography](#).

## Feedback

Our goal is to continuously improve our material. Therefore, if you would like to comment on this note, please email the [Country Policy and Information Team](#).

## Independent Advisory Group on Country Information

The [Independent Advisory Group on Country Information](#) (IAGCI) was set up in March 2009 by the Independent Chief Inspector of Borders and Immigration to support him in reviewing the efficiency, effectiveness and consistency of approach of COI produced by the Home Office.

The IAGCI welcomes feedback on the Home Office's COI material. It is not the function of the IAGCI to endorse any Home Office material, procedures or policy. The IAGCI may be contacted at:

### **Independent Advisory Group on Country Information**

Independent Chief Inspector of Borders and Immigration

5th Floor

Globe House

89 Eccleston Square

London, SW1V 1PN

Email: [chiefinspector@icinspector.gov.uk](mailto:chiefinspector@icinspector.gov.uk)

Information about the IAGCI's work and a list of the documents which have been reviewed by the IAGCI can be found on the Independent Chief Inspector's pages of the [gov.uk website](#).

# Contents

<b>Assessment .....</b>	<b>5</b>
1. Introduction .....	5
1.1 Basis of claim .....	5
1.2 Points to note .....	5
2. Consideration of issues .....	5
2.1 Credibility .....	5
2.2 Internal relocation .....	5
a. Government-controlled areas .....	5
b. Crimea, Donetsk and Luhansk .....	7
<b>Country information .....</b>	<b>8</b>
3. Geography and demography .....	8
3.1 Size .....	8
4. Freedom of movement .....	8
4.1 Law .....	8
4.2 Transport Network .....	9
4.3 Residence Registration System .....	9
4.4 Women .....	9
4.5 In-country movement: Ukraine and Donbas .....	9
4.6 In-country movement: Ukraine and Crimea .....	10
5. Key socio-economic indicators .....	11
5.1 Employment .....	11
5.2 Cost of living and average wage .....	11
5.3 Poverty .....	12
5.4 Social security .....	12
5.5 Property rights and housing .....	13
5.6 Education .....	14
6. Women and vulnerable groups .....	15
6.1 Women .....	15
6.2 Vulnerable groups .....	15
7. Living conditions near the contact line .....	16
<b>Terms of Reference .....</b>	<b>17</b>
<b>Bibliography .....</b>	<b>18</b>
Sources cited .....	18
Sources consulted but not cited .....	19
<b>Version control .....</b>	<b>21</b>

# Assessment

Updated: 12 April 2019

## 1. Introduction

### 1.1 Basis of claim

- 1.1.1 Whether it is reasonable for a person who has a well-founded fear of persecution or real risk of serious harm from state or non-state actors to internally relocate.

[Back to Contents](#)

### 1.2 Points to note

- 1.2.1 Where a claim is refused, it must be considered for certification under section 94 of the Nationality, Immigration and Asylum Act 2002, as Ukraine is listed as a designated state (see [Certification](#)).

[Back to Contents](#)

## 2. Consideration of issues

### 2.1 Credibility

- 2.1.1 For information on assessing credibility, see the [Asylum Instruction on Assessing Credibility and Refugee Status](#).
- 2.1.2 Decision makers must also check if there has been a previous application for a UK visa or another form of leave. Asylum applications matched to visas should be investigated prior to the asylum interview (see the [Asylum Instruction on Visa Matches, Asylum Claims from UK Visa Applicants](#)).
- 2.1.3 Decision makers should also consider the need to conduct language analysis testing (see the [Asylum Instruction on Language Analysis](#)).

[Back to Contents](#)

### 2.2 Internal relocation

#### a. Government-controlled areas

- 2.2.1 Where the person has a well-founded fear of persecution from non-state actors, in general they will be able to relocate to escape that risk.
- 2.2.2 Ukraine is a country 2.4 times the size of the UK with nearly 44 million people. The population is concentrated particularly in and around the major urban areas of Kyiv, Kharkiv, Donetsk, Dnipropetrovsk, and Odes[s]a – all cities with a population of over a million. There are also 41 other cities with a population of between 100,000 and one million. For further information about population density, including a map of Ukraine, see [Ukraine: Country background note](#).
- 2.2.3 The constitution and law provide citizens with freedom of movement. However, freedom of movement is restricted near the conflict zone (see [Freedom of movement: Law](#)).

- 2.2.4 Both the government and forces led by Russia control movement between government-controlled areas and the Donbas. There are five crossing points and queues are long, with waiting times of up to 36 hours. There is insufficient access to water, toilets, shelter or medical aid, despite a risk of shelling, and public transport across the contact line is prohibited. There are reports of corruption on both sides of the contact line (see [In-country movement: Ukraine and Donbas](#)).
- 2.2.5 There are strict passport controls between Russian-occupied Crimea and mainland Ukraine. People may cross on foot or by private vehicle only. There are reports of long queues and insufficient access to toilets, shelter and water (see [In-country movement: Ukraine and Crimea](#)).
- 2.2.6 Women have equal rights to freedom of movement and to choose where to live as men. They also have equal rights to ownership of land and property, including after a divorce or separation. Women have equal rights to open a bank account and obtain credit, although they may face more barriers than men to obtaining credit. Women have equal access to education, social security and the labour market. Living standards for women in rural areas tend to be low, with low wages and a lack of access to medical care, childcare facilities and education (see [Women](#)).
- 2.2.7 Roma women may be more likely than other women to lack civil registration documents, which leads to difficulties in accessing services such as health and social services. Roma people may also be more likely to be excluded from education and the labour market (see [Vulnerable groups](#)).
- 2.2.8 People with disabilities and HIV/AIDS do not tend to have equal access to education and employment. Disabled people encounter difficulties due to a lack of suitable adaptation to infrastructure such as buildings and transport in both rural and urban areas (see [Vulnerable groups](#)).
- 2.2.9 More than one million people living near the contact line between Ukraine and the Donbas lack sufficient food. They may also be at higher risk of poverty, unemployment, restricted freedom of movement and mistreatment by both Ukrainian and Russian-led forces (see [Living conditions near the contact line](#)).
- 2.2.10 The government cooperated with UNHCR and other humanitarian organizations in providing protection and assistance to returning refugees (see [Treatment of returnees](#)).
- 2.2.11 Decision makers must give careful consideration to the relevance and reasonableness of internal relocation, taking full account of the individual circumstances of the particular person (for information on employment, cost of living, poverty, social security and housing, see [Key socio-economic indicators](#)).
- 2.2.12 In general, a person fearing non-state actors is likely to be able to internally relocate to another area of Ukraine. For more information on internal relocation to Crimea, Donetsk and Luhansk, see the Country Policy and Information Note [Ukraine: Crimea, Donetsk and Luhansk \(Internal relocation\)](#).

- 2.2.13 For further information on internal relocation for particular groups, see the following Country Policy and Information Notes:

[Ukraine: Victims of trafficking](#)

[Ukraine: Minority groups](#)

[Ukraine: Sexual orientation and gender identity](#)

[Ukraine: Gender-based violence](#)

[Ukraine: Fear of organised criminal gangs](#)

[Ukraine: Crimea, Donetsk and Luhansk](#)

[Ukraine: Military service](#)

- 2.2.14 For further guidance on internal relocation and the factors to be considered, see the [Asylum Instruction on Assessing Credibility and Refugee Status](#).

**b. Crimea, Donetsk and Luhansk**

- 2.2.15 Russia is occupying Crimea and has backed separatist groups who have seized the regions of Donetsk and Luhansk (known as the Donbas), where there is continuing armed conflict (see the Country Policy and Information Note on [Ukraine: Crimea, Donetsk and Luhansk](#)).
- 2.2.16 Internal relocation is not possible to or within these areas but would be possible from here to a government controlled area.

[Back to Contents](#)

# Country information

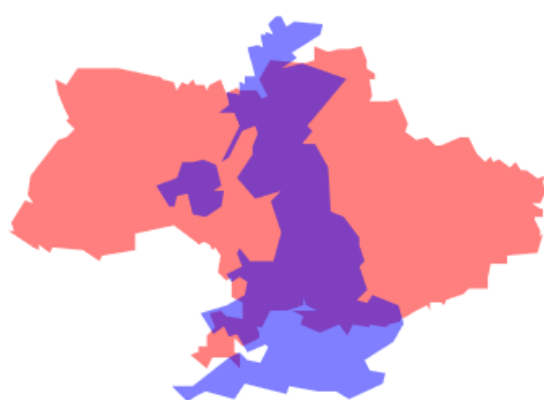
Section 3 updated: 19 February 2019

## 3. Geography and demography

### 3.1 Size

3.1.1 The CIA World Factbook noted that Ukraine is the 47<sup>th</sup> largest country in the world by area, covering a total of 603,550 sq km (land: 579,339 and water: 24,220)<sup>1</sup>.

3.1.2 Mapfight's website shows that Ukraine is 2.4 times the size of the UK<sup>2</sup>:



3.1.3 Ukraine has an estimated population of nearly 44 million. It has 5 cities with more than a million people, 41 cities with between 100,000 and 1 million people, and 313 cities with between 10,000 and 100,000 people. The largest city is Kyiv, with a population of 2,797,553<sup>3</sup>.

3.1.4 For further information about the geography, demography (including ethnic/religious make up and languages) see the [Ukraine: Country Background Note](#).

[Back to Contents](#)

Section 4 updated: 12 April 2019

## 4. Freedom of movement

### 4.1 Law

4.1.1 The constitution and law provide citizens with freedom of internal movement, foreign travel, emigration, and repatriation. The government, however,

---

<sup>1</sup> US CIA World Factbook, Ukraine, Geography, updated 11 April 2019, [URL](#)

<sup>2</sup> Mapfight, Ukraine vs UK, [URL](#)

<sup>3</sup> World Population Review, Population of Cities in Ukraine (2018), [URL](#)



restricted these rights, particularly in the eastern part of the country near the zone of conflict<sup>4</sup>. For further information about the conflict zone, see the Country Policy and Information Note on [Ukraine: Crimea, Donetsk and Luhansk](#).

[Back to Contents](#)

## 4.2 Transport Network

- 4.2.1 See the [Ukraine: Country Background Note](#).

[Back to Contents](#)

## 4.3 Residence Registration System

- 4.3.1 The Canadian Immigration and Refugee Board published information in July 2017, which is available here: [Residence registration system](#).

[Back to Contents](#)

## 4.4 Women

- 4.4.1 The Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) Social Institutions and Gender Index (SIGI) 2019 stated:

‘Wives and husbands have legally the same right to choose where to live (Family Code, art. 56). Additionally, the Constitution guarantees to anyone the free choice of their place of residence (art. 33). There is no legal discrimination regarding women’s legal rights to be recognised as the head of household, to be the legal guardians of their children or to choose where to live. The CEDAW Committee (2017) points out that in conflict-affected areas, women have become de facto heads of household and primary providers for their families.’<sup>5</sup>

- 4.4.2 See [Women and vulnerable groups](#) for further information about the situation for women.

[Back to Contents](#)

## 4.5 In-country movement: Ukraine and Donbas

- 4.5.1 The government and Russia-led forces strictly controlled movement between government-controlled areas and territories in the Donbas region controlled by Russia-led forces. Crossing the contact line remained arduous. Public passenger transportation remained prohibited<sup>6</sup>.

- 4.5.2 Although five crossing points existed, only four were in operation for much of 2018. According to the UN Human Rights Monitoring Mission in Ukraine, an average of 39,000 individuals crossed the line daily. People formed long lines at all operating transit corridors and had to wait for up to 36 hours with no or limited access to water, medical aid, toilets, and shelter, despite the risk of shelling or extreme weather. There were complaints of corruption on both sides of the contact line<sup>7</sup>.

---

<sup>4</sup> USSD HR Report 2018, Ukraine, Section 2, 13 March 2019, [URL](#)

<sup>5</sup> OECD, SIGI, 2019 results, Ukraine, [URL](#)

<sup>6</sup> USSD HR Report 2018, Ukraine, Section 2, 13 March 2019, [URL](#)

<sup>7</sup> USSD HR Report 2018, Ukraine, Section 2, 13 March 2019, [URL](#)

- 4.5.3 The USSD HR Report 2018 stated that in 2018 ‘according to the State Emergency Service of Ukraine in Luhansk Oblast, up to 100 persons experienced health incidents each day at the Stanytsia-Luhanska checkpoint between May and August.’<sup>8</sup>
- 4.5.4 The USSD HR Report 2018 further stated:  
‘The government used a pass system involving an online application process to control movement into government-controlled territory. Human rights groups expressed concern that many persons in Russia-controlled territory did not have access to the internet to obtain such passes and that the pass system imposed significant hardships on persons crossing into government-controlled territory, in particular those who sought to receive pensions and government benefits, which were not distributed in the territory controlled by Russia-led forces. As of April 2017, crossing permits no longer expire and residents of territory adjacent to the line of contact on the government-controlled side did not need a permit to cross.’<sup>9</sup>
- 4.5.5 In a report dated December 2018, OHCHR stated:  
‘OHCHR notes the actions undertaken by the Government and respective Military-Civil Administrations in Donetsk and Luhansk regions to expand access to shelter, sanitation and heating at Entry-Exit Checkpoints (EECPs) along these routes. However, as of 15 November, the Cabinet of Ministers is yet to adopt the draft Resolution regulating the procedure for movement of persons and transfer of goods across the contact line. Moreover, on 2 November, the JFO presented an order limiting the number of crossings through the EECPs with goods to one crossing per day, reportedly in order to preclude cross-contact line trading. This may have a negative impact on access to markets and food, as well as the number of persons crossing through the EECPs. In sum, the measures taken are fundamentally insufficient to address the disproportionate restrictions on freedom of movement and the needs of individuals to access their social entitlements, pensions, visit relatives, and look after their property, further isolating residents of armed group-controlled territory and risking to antagonise them.’<sup>10</sup>
- 4.5.6 For further information, see the Country Policy and Information Note on [Ukraine: Crimea, Donetsk and Luhansk](#).

[Back to Contents](#)

## 4.6 In-country movement: Ukraine and Crimea

- 4.6.1 The USSD HR Report 2018 stated:  
‘Occupation authorities maintained a state border at the administrative boundary between mainland Ukraine and Crimea. According to the HRMMU [UN Human Rights Monitoring Mission in Ukraine], this border and the absence of public transportation between Crimea and mainland Ukraine continued to undermine freedom of movement to and from the peninsula,

---

<sup>8</sup> USSD HR Report 2018, Ukraine, Section 2, 13 March 2019, [URL](#)

<sup>9</sup> USSD HR Report 2018, Ukraine, Section 2, 13 March 2019, [URL](#)

<sup>10</sup> OHCHR, ‘Report on the human rights situation [...]’, 17 December 2018, paragraphs 40 to 41, [URL](#)

affecting mainly the elderly, people with limited mobility, and young children'.<sup>11</sup>

4.6.2 The same report stated:

'The government and Russian occupation authorities subjected individuals crossing between Russian-occupied Crimea and the mainland to strict passport controls at the administrative boundary between Kherson Oblast and Crimea. Authorities prohibited rail and commercial bus service across the administrative boundary, requiring persons either to cross on foot or by private vehicle. Long lines and insufficient access to toilets, shelter, and potable water remained prevalent. Civil society, journalists, and independent defense lawyers continued to maintain that the government placed significant barriers to their entry to Crimea, including lengthy processes to obtain required permissions, thereby complicating their ability to document and address abuses taking place there.'<sup>12</sup>

4.6.3 For further information, see the Country Policy and Information Note on [Ukraine: Crimea, Donetsk and Luhansk](#).

[Back to Contents](#)

Section 5 updated: 14 March 2019

## 5. Key socio-economic indicators

### 5.1 Employment

5.1.1 The unemployment rate was 8% in the third quarter of 2018<sup>13</sup>.

5.1.2 See also [Vulnerable groups](#) for information about women's participation in the labour force.

5.1.3 For further information on the economy see the [Ukraine: Country Background Note](#).

[Back to Contents](#)

### 5.2 Cost of living and average wage

5.2.1 The minimum wage was 3723 UAH/month in 2018<sup>14</sup> (equivalent to approximately £105).

5.2.2 The average wage in Ukraine was 9218 UAH/month in October 2018 (equivalent to approximately £260)<sup>15</sup>.

5.2.3 The website 'Numbeo' used data based on 19,034 entries received during 2018 (the last update being December 2018) to calculate average monthly rental costs for Ukraine, as below:

Apartment (1 bedroom) in city centre: 8,281.77 ₺ (approximately £233)

---

<sup>11</sup> USSD HR Report 2018, Ukraine, 13 March 2019, [URL](#)

<sup>12</sup> USSD HR Report 2018, Ukraine, Section 2, 13 March 2019, [URL](#)

<sup>13</sup> Trading Economics, Ukraine unemployment rate, undated, [URL](#)

<sup>14</sup> Trading Economics, Ukraine minimum wages, Summary, undated, [URL](#)

<sup>15</sup> Trading Economics, Ukraine average monthly wages, undated, [URL](#)

Apartment (1 bedroom) outside city centre 5,479.59 ₴ (approximately £154)<sup>16</sup>

[Back to Contents](#)

### 5.3 Poverty

- 5.3.1 The poverty rate (under £4/day in 2005 PPP) increased from 3.3% in 2014 to 5.8% in 2015, while moderate poverty (using World Bank's national methodology for Ukraine) increased from 15.2% in 2014 to 22.2% in 2015<sup>17</sup>. The poverty rate was 5.7% in 2017<sup>18</sup>.

[Back to Contents](#)

### 5.4 Social security

- 5.4.1 In April 2017, the International Labour Organisation (ILO) stated:

'The Constitution of Ukraine, which was adopted by the Parliament in June 1996, affirms that every citizen has the right to social security which provides income security in the event of incapacity for work, loss of a breadwinner, unemployment, old-age and other cases envisaged by law.

'The existing social protection schemes in Ukraine are as follows:

- Pension insurance, which provides old-age pensions, disability pensions, survivor's pensions, long service pensions and burial benefit;
- Unemployment insurance, which provides unemployment benefit, lump-sum benefit for employees, vocational training, retraining and occupational development for the unemployed, organization of public works, etc.;
- Sickness insurance, which provides sickness benefit, maternity benefit, funeral assistance, sanatorium treatment and health improvement benefit;
- Employment injury insurance, which provides benefit for injured persons in case of temporary disability, total disability and death due to industrial accident as well as medical care;
- Social assistance, which provides assistance to families with children, low-income families, persons disabled from childhood and children with disabilities;
- Social protection for war veterans, which provides lump-sum assistance, special privileges and grants for war veterans;
- Social protection for the consequences of the Chernobyl accident;
- Social welfare service benefits for disabled people, providing free telephone installation, provision of vehicles, provision of carriages and prostheses, rehabilitation services and job creation.<sup>19</sup>

- 5.4.2 The Bertelsmann Stiftung Index for 2018, which measures political and economic transformation, stated:

---

<sup>16</sup> Numbeo, 'Cost of living in Ukraine,' undated, [URL](#)

<sup>17</sup> World Bank, 'Country Partnership Framework for Ukraine [...] FY17-FY21,' 20 June 2017, [URL](#)

<sup>18</sup> World Bank, Ukraine Country snapshot, October 2018, [URL](#)

<sup>19</sup> ILO, Ukraine, Social protection, 21 April 2017, [URL](#)

‘The social safety net is well developed and consists of two main components: services and money transfers.

‘The key element of the social safety net is a pension system. [...]

‘Despite the large size of the pension fund, actual pensions remain very low. In 2016, the average pension was UAH 1,700 [equivalent to approximately £48, using exchange rates for December 2018] [...]. Therefore, pensioners have remained among the most vulnerable groups of population.

‘ [...] by the end of 2016, the number of households that received [housing and utility] subsidies reached 6.1 million or 40.5% of the total number of households, while the average subsidy was UAH 1,104 [equivalent to approximately £31, using exchange rates for December 2018]. [...]

‘Ongoing Russian aggression in Donbas significantly worsened social protections in the territories not controlled by the Ukrainian government. People living in occupied territories do not have proper access to social welfare payments, and provisions of other social services are at least partly disrupted.’<sup>20</sup>

- 5.4.3 For information about social assistance for IDPs from Crimea and the Donbas, see the Country Policy and Information Note on [Ukraine: Crimea, Donetsk and Luhansk](#).

[Back to Contents](#)

## 5.5 Property rights and housing

- 5.5.1 In November 2016, Global Shelter Cluster, an Inter-Agency Standing Committee that supports internally displaced people, amongst others, stated:

‘Current absorption capacity in Ukraine’s housing sector has been shaped by a troubled history of privatization which has resulted in a shortage of housing supply stimulating an increase in people living in informal housing arrangements. Challenges with affordability of housing and decaying residential infrastructure further complicate access to adequate housing. [...]

‘Therefore at the start of the humanitarian crisis [created by the conflict in Donbas], Ukraine’s housing sector was characterized by 93.7% self-ownership of real estate property, with only 3.4% of households living in private-rental housing and 2.9% in communal housing. Households struggling with debt and the financial difficulties created by the global and national recession faced a barrier for affording rental apartments due to a lack of rental-stock. [...]

‘Social housing and housing policy established [...] just prior to the start of Ukraine’s humanitarian crisis was inadequate to address the housing needs of struggling low income households. At the local level, funds to finance such initiatives were limited. In 2013, at least 1.39 million people were found to be on a waiting list to receive social housing or shelter to replace old and structurally decaying houses.’<sup>21</sup>

- 5.5.2 In March 2017 Ukraine Crisis Media Centre stated:

---

<sup>20</sup> Bertelsmann Stiftung, BTI 2018, Ukraine country report, undated, [URL](#)

<sup>21</sup> Global Shelter Cluster, ‘Pre-Conflict Housing in Ukraine: [...],’ November 2016, [URL](#)

‘About 80 per cent of housing needs full renovation, 80 per cent of owners have no money for this.

‘Over 95 per cent of houses in Ukraine are private property. An important part of this was privatized in early 90s for free after the breakup of the USSR. The number of people living in their own houses/apartments is significantly bigger than in many EU countries. However, 40 per cent live in a dwelling where they have less than the prescribed standard 13,65 square meters per person. Moreover, 65-80 per cent of apartment blocks are old and need full renovation, says Viktor Nikolaiev, science consultant of the Institute of Social and Economic Research. At present, this is the biggest challenge. [...] But about 70-80 per cent of private owners currently have no money for this. [...]

‘According to the data of the Ministry of Regional Development, Construction, Housing and Public Utilities, more than 180 thousand Ukrainians are eligible for social housing. More than 700 thousand families are on the list of those who need better accommodation than their current one. Construction of this housing would cost up to UAH 10 billion, but nowadays the state funds less than 0,5 per cent of all housing under construction, so it is hard to predict how long these people will have to wait for a new accommodation. A mortgage loan program for young families exists but doesn’t function normally due to lack of money. In total, Ukraine’s pace of replacement of old housing by a new one is five times slower than in Europe.’<sup>22</sup>

5.5.3 See [Cost of living and average wage](#) for information about rental costs.

5.5.4 For information about the housing situation for IDPs, see the Country Policy and Information Note on [Ukraine: Crimea, Donetsk and Luhansk](#).

[Back to Contents](#)

## 5.6 Education

5.6.1 There is an established system of state and private education and training in Ukraine. Primary and secondary education is provided for everybody including citizens, foreigners and stateless persons<sup>23</sup>.

5.6.2 A new law on education is to be implemented gradually from September 2018 until September 2020. The law will introduce changes including an extension of school education from 11 to 12 years and changes in the overall teaching programme. Instruction in minority languages at kindergarten and primary school level will continue, but at secondary level, teaching will be in Ukrainian, with national minority languages used only in special lessons<sup>24</sup>.

5.6.3 For further information about education, see the UN Development Programme’s [Human development indicators, Ukraine](#).

5.6.4 For information about education for IDPs from Crimea and the Donbas, see the Country Policy and Information Note on [Ukraine: Crimea, Donetsk and Luhansk](#).

---

<sup>22</sup> Ukraine Crisis Media Centre, ‘About 70 per cent of Ukrainian housing [...],’ 27 March 2017, [URL](#)

<sup>23</sup> Bertelsmann Stiftung, BTI 2018, Ukraine country report, undated, [URL](#)

<sup>24</sup> Carnegie Europe, ‘Ukraine’s poorly timed education law,’ 2 October 2017, [URL](#)



## 6. Women and vulnerable groups

### 6.1 Women

- 6.1.1 Women have equal rights to ownership of land and property, including after a divorce or separation<sup>25</sup>.
- 6.1.2 Women have equal rights to open a bank account and to obtain credit. However, women face relatively more barriers in accessing credit than men to expand their businesses and tend to rely on personal networks to borrow money<sup>26</sup>.
- 6.1.3 Women have equal access to education, social security and the labour market, but tend to receive lower wages<sup>27</sup>. Estimations show a 23% pay gap between women and men in 2014<sup>28</sup>.
- 6.1.4 Female participation in the labour force has remained stable at 49% of the total labor force<sup>29</sup>. However, 60% of people registered at employment centres are women and they are more likely to take on low-paid jobs than men. There is a higher percentage of women involved in informal work in comparison to men, notably due to employers being reluctant to hire women because of maternity leave, child care sick leave, etc<sup>30</sup>.
- 6.1.5 The general living standards of rural women is low and include financial restrictions, low wages, low access to medical care, child care facilities and education. Reports show that older rural women are particularly vulnerable to hardship and low living conditions. However, there are no customary norms or traditional laws particularly discriminating to women or limiting women's access to property and land<sup>31</sup>.
- 6.1.6 For further information about women's access to land and assets, financial resources and workplace rights, see [OECD SIGI 2019, Ukraine](#).
- 6.1.7 See [Freedom of movement: Women](#) for information on this subject.

[Back to Contents](#)

### 6.2 Vulnerable groups

- 6.2.1 Roma women may be more likely than other women to lack civil registration documents, such as passports, birth certificates and residence registration. This makes it more difficult to access services, in particular health and social services. The process to acquire civil registration documents is often arduous for Roma women due to lengthy and difficult administrative processes, lack of funds, higher risk of harassment and detention by police for lack of personal documents, lack of birth certificates, lack of recognition

---

<sup>25</sup> OECD, SIGI, 2019 results, Ukraine, [URL](#)

<sup>26</sup> OECD, SIGI, 2019 results, Ukraine, [URL](#)

<sup>27</sup> Bertelsmann Stiftung, BTI 2018, Ukraine country report, undated, [URL](#)

<sup>28</sup> OECD, SIGI, 2019 results, Ukraine, [URL](#)

<sup>29</sup> Bertelsmann Stiftung, BTI 2018, Ukraine country report, undated, [URL](#)

<sup>30</sup> OECD, SIGI, 2019 results, Ukraine, [URL](#)

<sup>31</sup> OECD, SIGI, 2019 results, Ukraine, [URL](#)

of informal settlements, and lack of registration of a personal or family house<sup>32</sup>.

6.2.2 For further information about civil registration, see [Residence Registration System](#).

6.2.3 The Bertelsmann Stiftung Index 2018 stated:

‘Social exclusion exists for some ethnic minorities, like Roma, which involves exclusion from education, the labor market and social services.

‘Disabled people and people with HIV/AIDS have unequal access to participation in society, including access to education and employment. People with disabilities frequently remain excluded due to deficiencies in both urban and rural infrastructure, namely a lack of adaptation of buildings, roads, transport, et cetera. The exclusion of people with HIV/AIDS is largely due to the stigma associated with HIV status and prejudices among the population.’<sup>33</sup>

[Back to Contents](#)

Section 7 updated: 21 December 2018

## **7. Living conditions near the contact line**

7.1.1 More than one million of the roughly six million people residing near the contact line between Ukraine and the Donbas are food-insecure; many face poverty, unemployment, restrictions on freedom of movement and basic services and the risk of mistreatment at the hands of both Ukrainian security services and Kremlin-backed rebels<sup>34</sup>.

7.1.2 For further information about the situation for IDPs, see the Country Policy and Information Note on [Ukraine: Crimea, Donetsk and Luhansk](#).

[Back to Contents](#)

---

<sup>32</sup> OECD, SIGI, 2019 results, Ukraine, [URL](#)

<sup>33</sup> Bertelsmann Stiftung, BTI 2018, Ukraine country report, undated, [URL](#)

<sup>34</sup> International Crisis Group, “Nobody Wants Us”: [...], 1 October 2018, [URL](#)



# Terms of Reference

A 'Terms of Reference' (ToR) is a broad outline of what the CPIN seeks to cover. They form the basis for the [country information section](#). The Home Office's Country Policy and Information Team uses some standardised ToRs, depending on the subject, and these are then adapted depending on the country concerned.

For this particular CPIN, the following topics were identified prior to drafting as relevant and on which research was undertaken:

- Freedom of movement
  - Law
  - Women
  - Movement between Ukraine and Donbas
  - Movement between Ukraine and Crimea
- Key socio-economic indicators
  - Employment
  - Cost of living and average wage
  - Poverty
  - Social security
  - Property rights and housing
  - Education
  - Vulnerable groups
  - Treatment of returnees

[Back to Contents](#)

# Bibliography

## Sources cited

**Baker Tilly**, 'Unemployment rate increases in Ukraine due to poor state of economy and outdated education system,' 21 March 2017,

<http://www.bakertilly.ua/en/news/id1149>, last accessed: 18 December 2018

**Bertelsmann Stiftung**, BTI 2018, Ukraine country report, undated, <https://www.bti-project.org/en/reports/country-reports/detail/itc/UKR/>, last accessed: 19 December 2018

**Caritas International**, Reintegration Program For Migrants Returning To Ukraine, undated, <http://files.returningfromgermany.de/files/erin-ukraine-leaflet-dl.pdf>, last accessed: 19 February 2019

**Carnegie Europe**, 'Ukraine's poorly timed education law,' 2 October 2017, <http://carnegieeurope.eu/strategieurope/73272>, last accessed: 19 December 2018

**Global Shelter Cluster**, 'Pre-Conflict Housing in Ukraine: Real Estate Markets and Tenure Dynamics,' November 2016, [https://www.sheltercluster.org/sites/default/files/docs/article\\_special\\_shelter\\_humanitarian\\_bulletin\\_prefinal.pdf](https://www.sheltercluster.org/sites/default/files/docs/article_special_shelter_humanitarian_bulletin_prefinal.pdf), last accessed: 20 December 2018

**Immigration and Refugee Board of Canada**, UKR105819.E, 'Ukraine: Residence registration system including procedures and requirements to register; rights associated with registration; information recorded and who has access to registered information; penalties for unauthorized use of residence registration information (2015-July 2017),' 20 July 2017, <https://irb-cisr.gc.ca/en/country-information/rir/Pages/index.aspx?doc=457145&pls=1>, last accessed: 19 February 2019

**International Crisis Group**, "Nobody Wants Us": The Alienated Civilians of Eastern Ukraine,' 1 October 2018, <https://www.crisisgroup.org/europe-central-asia/eastern-europe/ukraine/252-nobody-wants-us-alienated-civilians-eastern-ukraine>, last accessed: 21 December 2018

**International Labour Organization (ILO)**, Ukraine, Social protection, 21 April 2017, <https://www.social-protection.org/gimi/ShowCountryProfile.action?iso=UA>, last accessed: 18 December 2018

**Mapfight**, Ukraine vs UK, <https://mapfight.appspot.com/ua-vs-gb/ukraine-united-kingdom-size-comparison>, last accessed: 19 February 2019

**Numbeo**, 'Cost of living in Ukraine,' undated, [https://www.numbeo.com/cost-of-living/country\\_result.jsp?country=Ukraine](https://www.numbeo.com/cost-of-living/country_result.jsp?country=Ukraine), last accessed: 18 December 2018

**Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights**,

'Report on the human rights situation in Ukraine 16 November 2018 to 15 February 2019,' 15 February 2019,

<https://www.ohchr.org/Documents/Countries/UA/ReportUkraine16Nov2018-15Feb2019.pdf>, last accessed: 9 April 2019

'Report on the human rights situation in Ukraine 16 August to 15 November 2018,' 17 December 2018, <https://www.ohchr.org/EN/Countries/ENACARegion/Pages/UAREports.aspx>, last accessed: 12 April 2019

**Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)**, Social Institutions and Gender Index (SIGI), 2019 results, Ukraine, <https://www.genderindex.org/ranking/>, last accessed: 17 December 2018

#### **Trading Economics,**

Ukraine average monthly wages, undated, <https://tradingeconomics.com/ukraine/wages>, last accessed: 18 December 2018

Ukraine employment rate, undated, <https://tradingeconomics.com/ukraine/employment-rate>, last accessed: 18 December 2018

Ukraine minimum wages, Summary, undated, <https://tradingeconomics.com/ukraine/minimum-wages>, last accessed: 18 December 2018

**Ukraine Crisis Media Centre**, 'About 70 per cent of Ukrainian housing should be social housing to meet the needs – experts,' 27 March 2017, <http://uacrisis.org/54190-socialne-zhytlo>, last accessed: 20 December 2018

**United States Department of State** 'Country reports on human rights practices for 2018' (USSD HR Report 2018), Ukraine, 13 March 2019, <http://www.state.gov/j/drl/rls/hrrpt/humanrightsreport/index.htm?year=2018&dliid=289193>, last accessed 9 April 2019

#### **World Bank,**

Ukraine Country snapshot, October 2018, <http://pubdocs.worldbank.org/en/927541538997812113/Ukraine-Snapshot-Fall2018.pdf>, last accessed: 12 April 2019

'Country Partnership Framework for Ukraine for the period FY17-FY21,' 20 June 2017, <http://documents.worldbank.org/curated/en/847421498183265026/pdf/Ukraine-Country-Partnership-Framework-FY2017-21-05262017.pdf>, last accessed: 20 December 2018

**World Population Review**, Population of Cities in Ukraine (2018), <http://worldpopulationreview.com/countries/ukraine-population/cities/>, last accessed: 19 February 2019

[Back to Contents](#)

#### **Sources consulted but not cited**

**Centre for Urban and Community Studies**, 'The future of social housing in Eastern Europe: Reforms in Latvia and Ukraine,' by Sasha Tsenkova and Bengt Turner, 24-27 June 2004, [http://www.urbancenter.utoronto.ca/pdfs/housingconference/Tsenkova\\_Turner\\_Social\\_Hous.pdf](http://www.urbancenter.utoronto.ca/pdfs/housingconference/Tsenkova_Turner_Social_Hous.pdf), last accessed: 20 December 2018

**Eastern European Construction Forecasting Association – Buildecon**, 'Ukraine's housing market prospects: up or down?' 24 May 2018, <https://buildecon.wordpress.com/2018/05/24/ukraines-housing-market-prospects-up-or-down/>, last accessed: 20 December 2018

**International Observatory on Social Housing**, 'Does the Ukraine need social housing reform?' undated, <https://internationalsocialhousing.org/2017/04/16/does-the-ukraine-need-social-housing-reform/>, last accessed: 20 December 2018

**Norwegian Refugee Council**, 'Social housing solutions for internally displaced and conflict-affected population: comparative analysis of Bakhmut, Slovyansk and

Kramatorsk projects,' undated, [https://www.nrc.no/globalassets/pdf/briefing-notes/ukraine/case-study-on-social-housing-for-idps\\_eng.pdf](https://www.nrc.no/globalassets/pdf/briefing-notes/ukraine/case-study-on-social-housing-for-idps_eng.pdf), last accessed: 20 December 2018

**United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees,**

'Protection activities of UNHCR Ukraine,' undated, <https://www.unhcr.org/ua/en/protection>, last accessed: 20 December 2018

'Refugees and asylum seekers,' June 2017, <https://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/2017%2006%20UNHCR%20UKRAINE%20Refugees%20and%20asylum%20seekers%20factsheet%20FINAL%20EN.pdf>, last accessed: 20 December 2018

'The situation of Ukrainian refugees in Poland,' September 2016, [https://www.ecoi.net/en/file/local/1211563/1930\\_1475657937\\_57f3cfff4.pdf](https://www.ecoi.net/en/file/local/1211563/1930_1475657937_57f3cfff4.pdf), last accessed: 20 December 2018

**Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine,** 'Ukraine needs more affordable housing,' 15 December 2017, <http://www.rada.gov.ua/en/news/News/152907.html>, last accessed: 20 December 2018

[Back to Contents](#)

# Version control

## Clearance

Below is information on when this note was cleared:

- version **1.0**
- valid from **13 May 2019**

## Changes from last version of this note

This is the first Country Policy and Information Note on Ukraine: Internal relocation.

[Back to Contents](#)