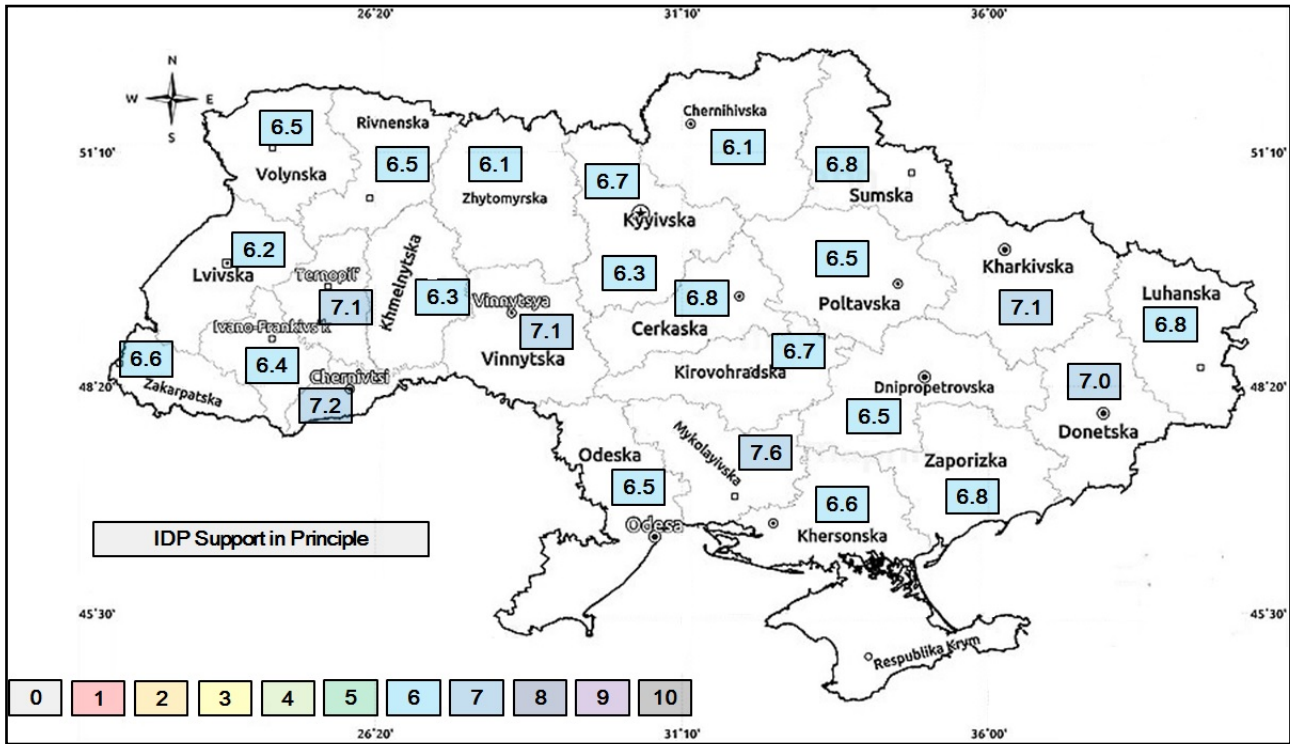


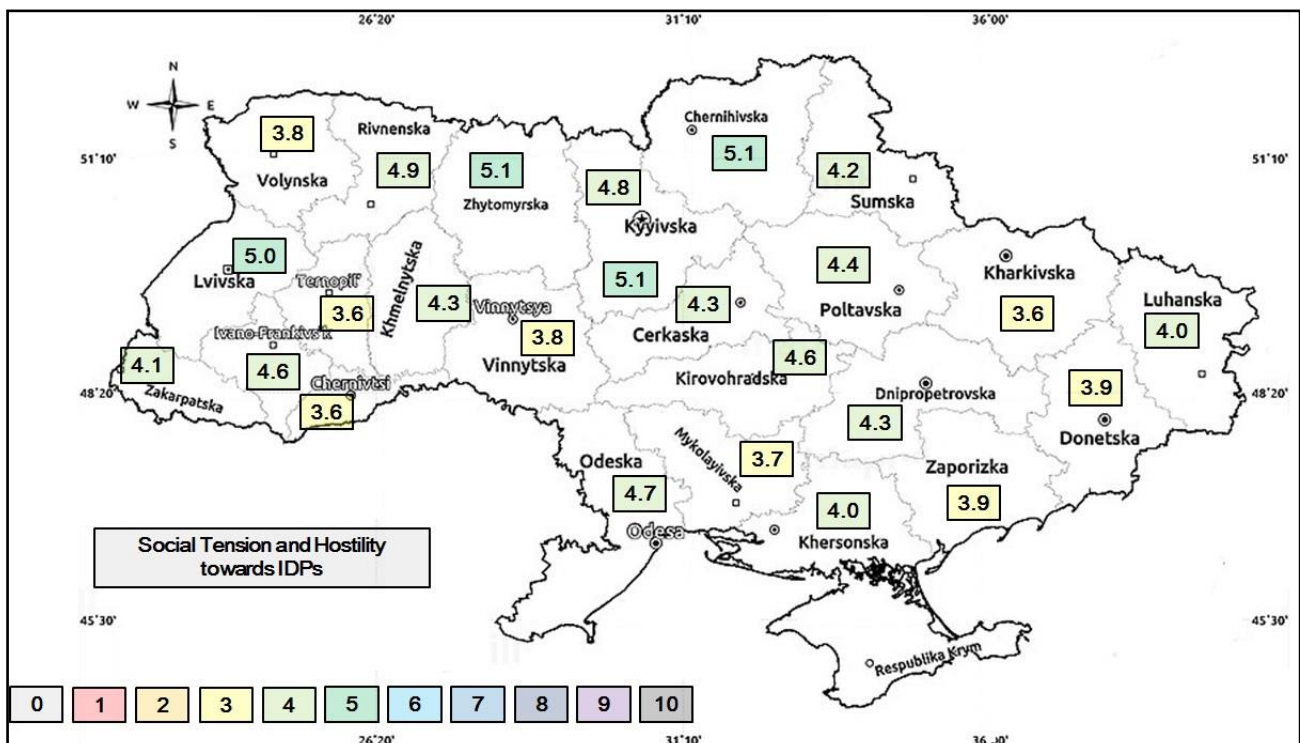
Social Cohesion and Reconciliation (SCORE) Index

Executive Brief on Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs)

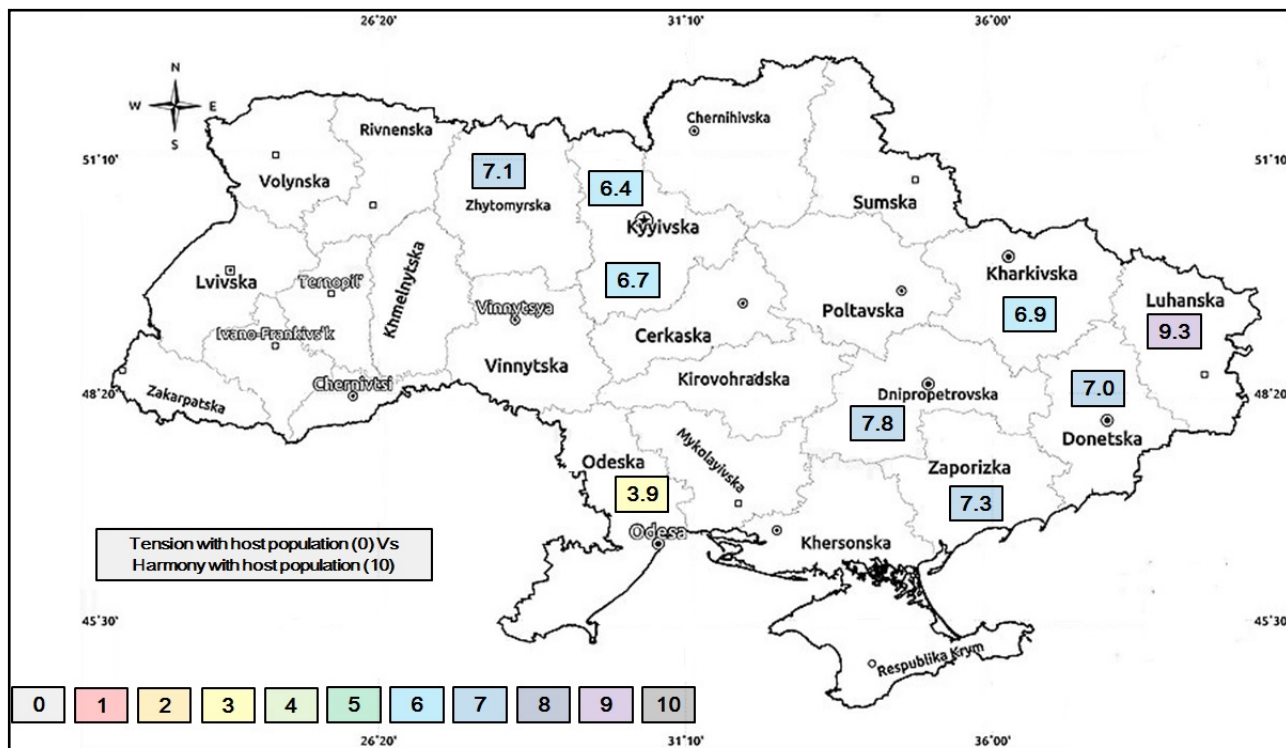
As a result of the conflicts in Crimea and the Donbas, many people in Ukraine were forced to leave their homes and move to other places in the government controlled areas. The SCORE Index findings indicate that most Ukrainians agree in principle that Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) should be supported.



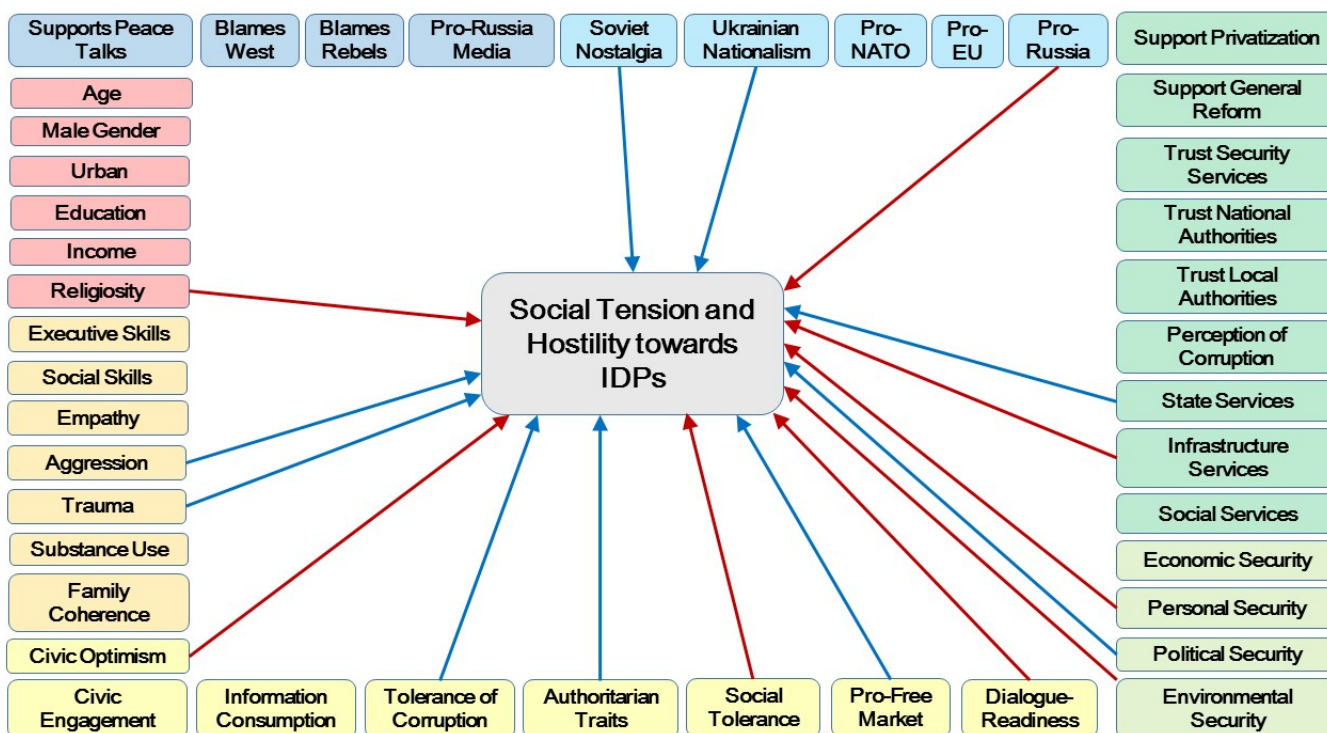
However, due to the growing socio-economic challenges and the ongoing conflict, local tensions rise alongside humanitarian needs. In some areas, there are significant social tensions and hostility between the permanent residents and the IDPs (especially in Zhytomyrska, Chernihivska, Kyiv (urban), Odessa and Lvivska oblasts). Broadly speaking, more tension and hostility is observed in the areas which are away from the conflict zone.



This finding is further supported by IDP respondents. Further research on perspectives of IDPs has been conducted in 8 identified oblasts (administrative regions) with the highest concentration of IDPs. Those oblasts are namely: Zhytomyrska, Kyiv, Odessa, Dnipropetrovsk, Zaporizka, Kharkivska, Donetsk and Luhansk. A total of 1,600 IDPs were interviewed (200 IDPs from each oblast). Research findings suggest that there is a harmonious relationship between displaced people and the long term residents of these oblasts, with the exception of Odessa where there is significant tension between IDPs and the long term residents (score of 3.9 out of 10). This tension is associated with a belief among IDPs in Odessa that they have different values from the long term residents, which affects their integration with the host population.



What are the factors that lead to social tension and hostility towards IDPs?

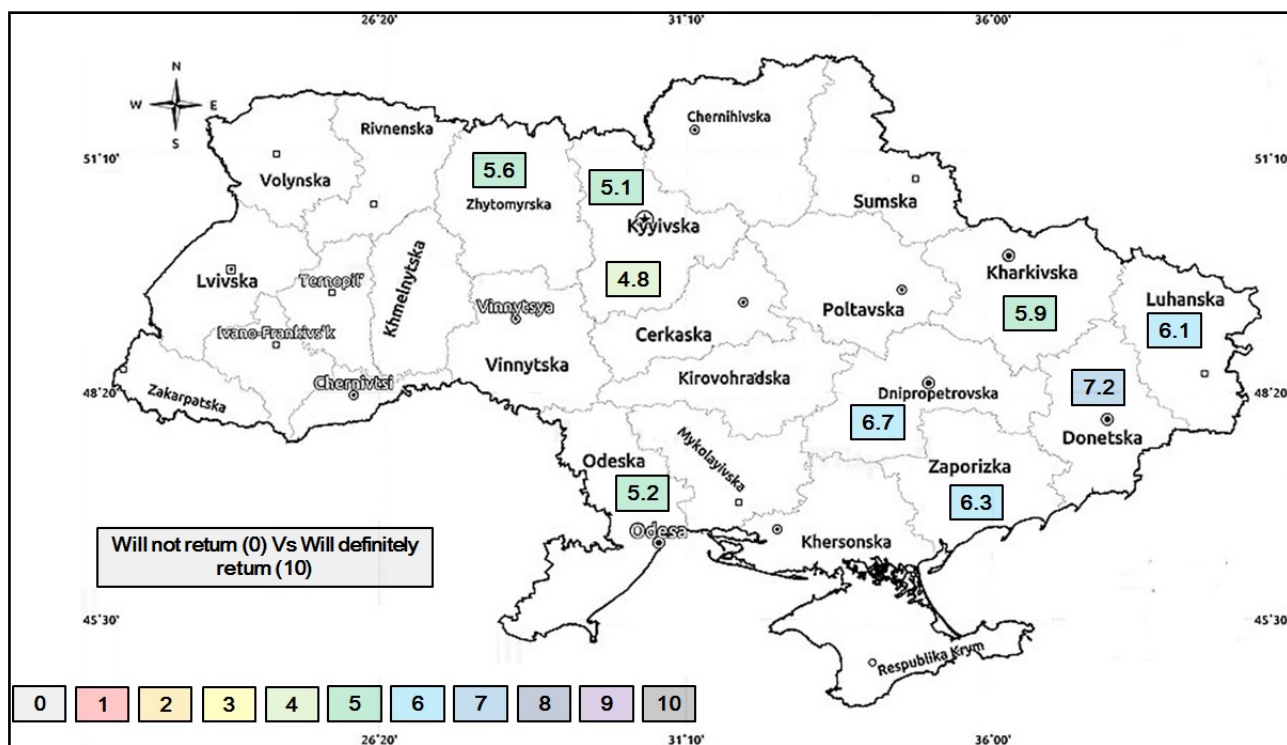


A positive relationship (blue lines) suggests that higher scores on the predictor lead to greater readiness for political violence. A negative relationship (red lines) suggests that higher scores on the predictor lead to less readiness for political violence.

SCORE Index results have identified a variety of factors which contribute to increased tension towards IDPs. These include, concerns over the quality of infrastructure services, intolerance of diversity, pessimism about the future of Ukraine, temperamental aggression and nationalist ideology; while in contrast, religiosity was found to be a protective factor, which is associated with reduced tension towards IDPs.

Desire to Stay vs. Desire to Return:

In general, IDPs who moved further from the conflict-affected areas (mainly to the Western and Central parts of Ukraine) are more likely to stay at their current region of residence and less likely to return to their homes -even if the conflict ends -, despite the fact that they are facing more social tension and hostility.



SCORE Index has further identified the factors which influence **the desire to stay at the current region of residence** AND the factors which influence **the desire to return to the pre-displacement region of residence**:

Associated with desire to stay	Associated with desire to return
Low level of income	Female status
If local host population is welcoming	Religious
If other displaced persons decide to stay	If there is a Peace Agreement
If schools and hospitals are available	If the property is returned, along with cash to fix, if needed
Suffering from Post Traumatic Stress	Believing that the future of the country will get better
High social skills and civic engagement	Following the news on politics and current events
Pro-EU orientation	Pro-Russia orientation
Tolerance of corruption	Readiness to use political violence
Low personal security	Supporting Ukrainian army operations

Generally speaking, it is very important for the IDPs (with desire to stay) to cultivate the necessary skills and capacities that will ultimately allow their permanent integration into those host communities.

Policy Recommendations:

SCORE Index findings related to IDP issues indicate that the challenge of successful integration is greater in regions that are distant from the conflict zone in East Ukraine. This should give pause for thought, given that most international attention to support IDP integration is focused in the East. Furthermore, SCORE findings show that IDPs that have relocated in oblasts further out from the East, for instance in Kyiv or Odessa, have a greater interest in staying there permanently, even after the conflict is over. Thus, the challenge and responsibility of ensuring successful integration of IDPs in non-Eastern oblasts becomes even more urgent.

To promote successful integration of IDPs in Odessa, Kyiv and other regions where challenges are evident, it is important to address underlying differences in value orientation between IDPs and their host communities: For instance, the contrast between Odessan free-market orientation versus the belief in a more centralized economy that is often expressed by IDPs from the Donbas; or the contrast between pro-Maidan and anti-Russia narratives that predominate in Kyiv versus the political ambivalence that IDPs from the East experience as to whether Ukraine should in the future be closer to the European Union or to Russia. To deal with such tensions, more dialogue between IDPs and their host communities is called for, to discuss and if possible bridge differentials in socio-political outlook and in values orientation. In communities where tensions between IDPs and host population run particularly high, training workshops to promote social tolerance, empathy and respect for diversity may need to precede dialogue efforts.

Successful integration of IDPs also requires understanding the profile – and meeting the needs – of IDPs that are more likely to want to integrate rather than return. Such IDPs tend to display a high readiness for civic engagement but are also likely to have lower income. Therefore, it is important to identify opportunities both for the gainful employment of IDPs and for their constructive participation in local civic affairs. More engagement of IDPs in all aspects of a community's daily life will also help to reduce the implicit bias and stigma that IDPs experience when attempting to access housing, health care, education and the job market.

As for IDPs who are planning to return to their region of origin after the end of the conflict, it is important to engage with them and offer them platforms to express their needs and concerns vis-à-vis the peace process; for instance, on issues related to property restitutions and reparations for damage that might have been caused to their homes. Such returning IDPs, who have received support in the past two years from the government of Ukraine and will eventually mix again with the current residents of non-Government controlled areas, are expected to play a critical role in the stability of any peace agreement, and the long-term political orientation of the Donbas region. Thus, involving them in civic dialogue regarding the future of the Donbas region can be considered a worthwhile investment for the future national cohesion of Ukraine.

About SCORE Index in Ukraine: Recently emerged and long standing political and cultural divisions have been exploited and in part have contributed to Ukraine's current conflict and history of regional divisions. To address the issues underpinning community tensions and cohesion, USAID/OTI supported programme "Ukraine Confidence Building Initiative (UCBI)" implemented the Social cohesion and Reconciliation (SCORE) Index in partnership with the Centre for Sustainable Peace and Democratic Development (SeeD) and local survey/polling partner GfK. The UCBI programme is complementing ongoing USAID efforts to create a prosperous and stable Ukraine by responding to the crisis in the East, helping the Government of Ukraine engage citizens in the reform process, and promoting national unity. Within this context, the SCORE Index in Ukraine has focused on 5 key areas: identity and emerging trends, governance and public policy reforms, civic engagement, internally displaced persons (IDPs) and the peace process. In terms of sample structure, more than 7,700 interviews were conducted throughout Ukraine, (over 300 per oblast in 24 oblasts and in Kyiv city) as well as 640 interviews in non-controlled areas of Donbas; 300 interviews in Crimea and 1600 interviews with IDPs. All interviews were conducted face-to-face, except non-government controlled areas of Donbas in which interviews were conducted via telephone.

About SCORE Index: The SCORE Index was originally developed by SeeD in collaboration with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) with USAID funding. The tool supports policy decisions for national and international stakeholders and is particularly suited for post-conflict multi-ethnic societies that now face peace-building and state-building challenges. By examining social cohesion and reconciliation, the SCORE Index aims to identify and analyse the factors that underpin peace in a society - as needed in order to evaluate intervention programs as well as to better inform them. So far, the SCORE has been implemented three times in Cyprus (2013, 2014 and 2015), once in Bosnia and Herzegovina (2013), once in Nepal (2014) and currently in Ukraine, Liberia and Moldova.

About SeeD: SeeD is a peace-building think tank, with regional scope, that uses participatory research to support international organizations, local policy makers, stakeholders and peace-practitioners to develop, implement and monitor targeted efforts towards social cohesion and reconciliation. SeeD specializes in the development of innovative quantitative methodologies for use in peace-building contexts such as Participatory Polling and the SCORE Index, which seeks to understand the underlying social dynamics of conflict and its transformation.

About UCBI: In July 2014, USAID began implementation of a program in Ukraine to support the country's historic political transition and mitigate the effects of this crisis. The Confidence Building Initiative (UCBI) complements ongoing USAID efforts to create a prosperous and stable Ukraine. UCBI provides fast, flexible, short-term assistance to Ukrainian partners in support of a peaceful democratic transition and community cohesion in the East. The program's current objectives are (1) to mitigate social tensions caused by the conflict, which threaten Ukraine's political transition and (2) to increase availability of information and inform public debate on issues related to the conflict and its impact.



More information can be found at SCORE Online Platform: www.scoreforpeace.org

The SCORE Index in Ukraine has been implemented in partnership between by the USAID/OTI supported programme “Ukraine Confidence Building Initiative” (UCBI) and SeeD.

