

The background image shows a building facade with two prominent murals. On the left, a religious mural depicts the Virgin Mary with the Christ Child, set against a reddish-brown background. On the right, a mural features a white dove with spread wings, symbolizing peace, with the Ukrainian text 'Станція Нурганськ - це Україна' (Stantsiya Nurgans'k - this is Ukraine) written in cursive above it. The scene is captured in a slightly faded, artistic style.

Ordinary People Under Extreme Life Conditions: Internal and External Forced Displacement from War- Torn Territories in Ukraine after 2014

Oksana Mikheieva

European University Viadrina (Frankfurt (Oder), Germany)

Ukrainian Catholic University (Lviv, Ukraine)

Projects and methods

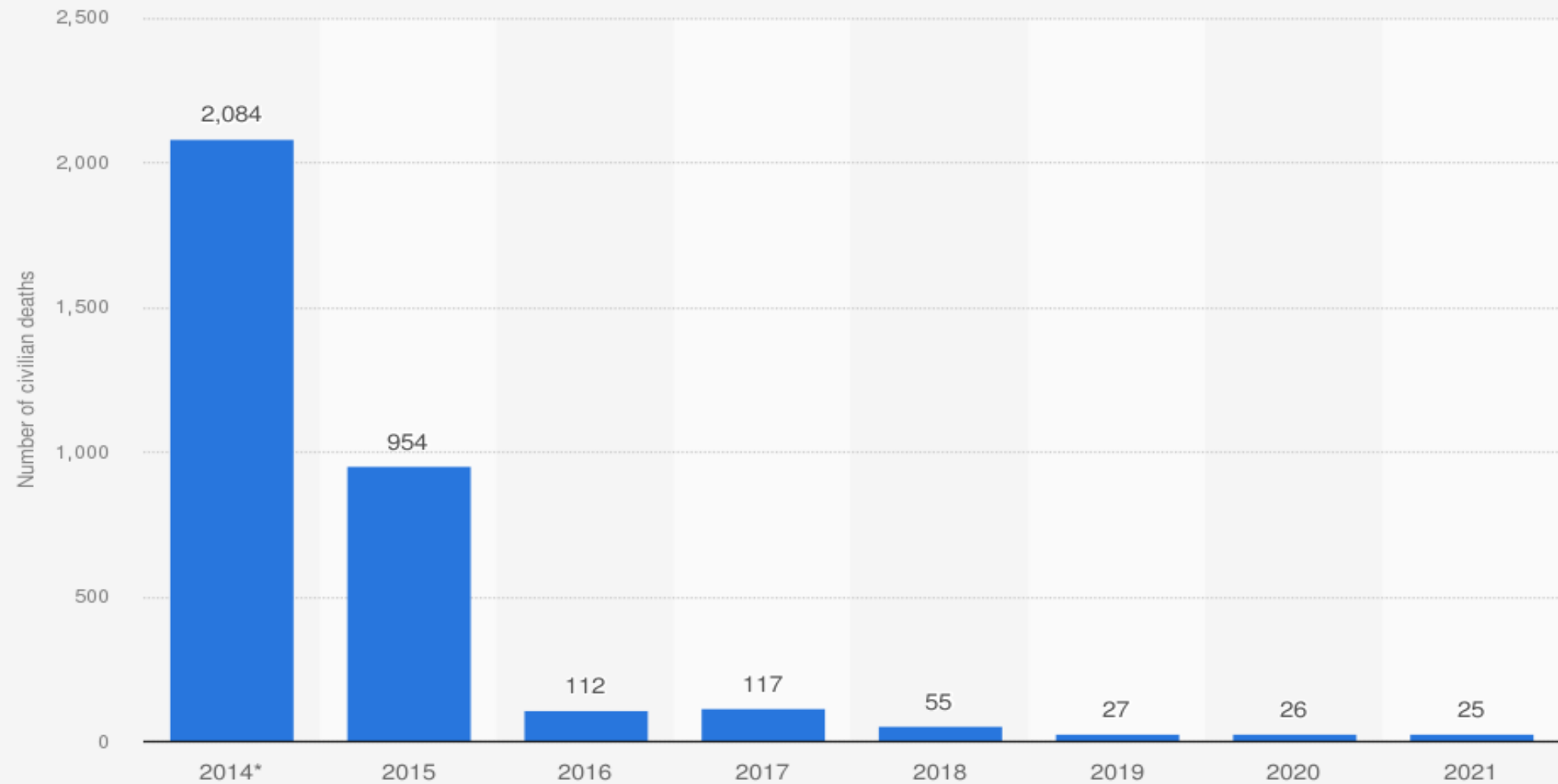
- **“Present Ukrainian refugees: Main Reasons, Strategies of Resettlement, Difficulties of Adaptation”**, (autumn-winter 2014-2015; 70 in-depth interviews) Funded by British Embassy and Ukrainian Peacekeeping school ;
- **“Homo militants”: in-depth qualitative semi-structured interviews with pro-Russian rebels, Ukrainian military officers and experts»** (autumn 2015; 58 in-depth interviews) Funded by British Embassy and Ukrainian Peacekeeping school ;
- **Displaced cultural spaces: current Ukrainian refugees** (61 in-depth interviews, June-September 2016) financed and realized by the University of St.Gallen in Switzerland
- **Women and war: everyday life on the occupied territories** (NGCA, GCA of Donetsk and Luhansk region; NGCA- 24 in-depth interviews ; GCA in the Donetsk and Luhansk regions - 25 in-depth interviews ; IDPs - GCA in the Donetsk and Luhansk regions - 25 in-depth interviews).Funded by CIUS.
- **Living under the extreme condition: people from Ukrainian and non-controlling parts of Luhansk oblast** (winter-spring 2017, 6 FGD+15 in-depth interviews)
- **Ukraine’s hidden tragedy: understanding the outcomes of population displacement from the country’s war torn regions’** is a research project of interdisciplinary team from the University of Birmingham, University of Oxford and Ukrainian Catholic University (AHRC PCCSR award). Period – November 2016 - April 2018. (<https://idpukraine.com/>)
- **Stepping out of the shadows.** Impact of the non-registration and non-recognition by the Ukrainian authorities of the fact of life in non-government controlled areas (NGCAs) on the roles of man and women in public and domestic life (PAX, Holland) (June 2018)

Context

- 20 Feb 2014 – 23 Feb 2022 – first wave of the Russian aggression against Ukraine
- **First, the “soft” (without use of weapon),** occupation of the **Crimean peninsula** subsequently led to its annexation and incorporation into the RF as a separate federal district (“bloodless” - 6 killed +10 “disappeared”).
- **Second,** the Russian invasion of parts of the Donetsk and Luhansk regions, accompanied by a simulated internal civil conflict and a referendums, led to the formation of quasi-state entities “DPR” and “LPR” on these territories (42 500 – 44 500 of the losses recorded at all. Of these: 13 200 – 13 400 killed + 29 600 – 33 600 wounded; 23-25% - civilians)



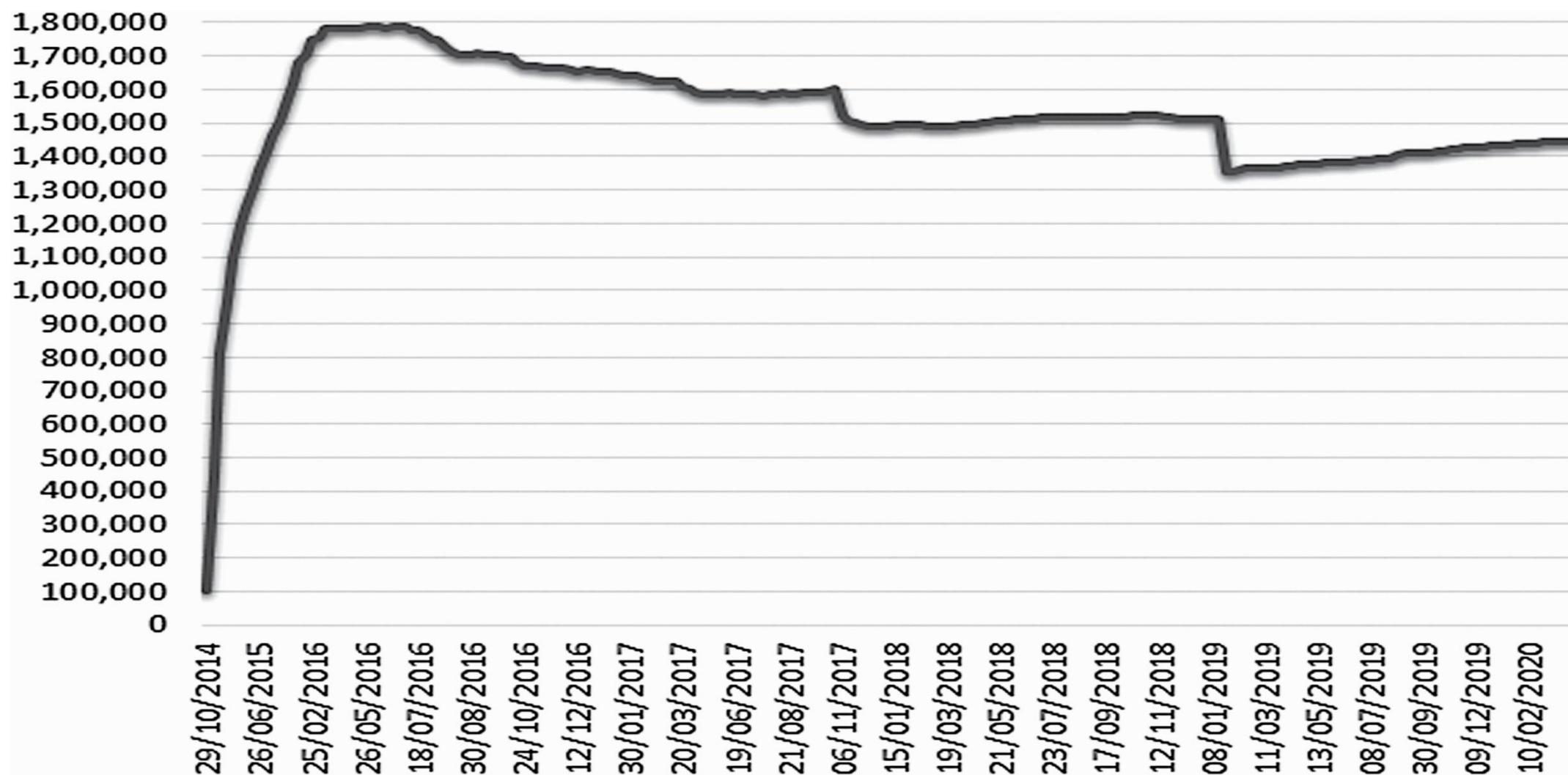
Number of civilian deaths related to the Russia-Ukraine conflict from 2014 to 2021



Source
OHCHR
© Statista 2022

Additional Information:
Ukraine; April 14, 2014 to December 31, 2021

Vlad Mykhnenko, Elliot Delahaye, Nigel Mehdi, Understanding forced internal displacement in Ukraine: insights and lessons for today's crises, *Oxford Review of Economic Policy*, Volume 38, Issue 3, Autumn 2022, Pages 699–716, <https://doi.org/10.1093/oxrep/grac020>

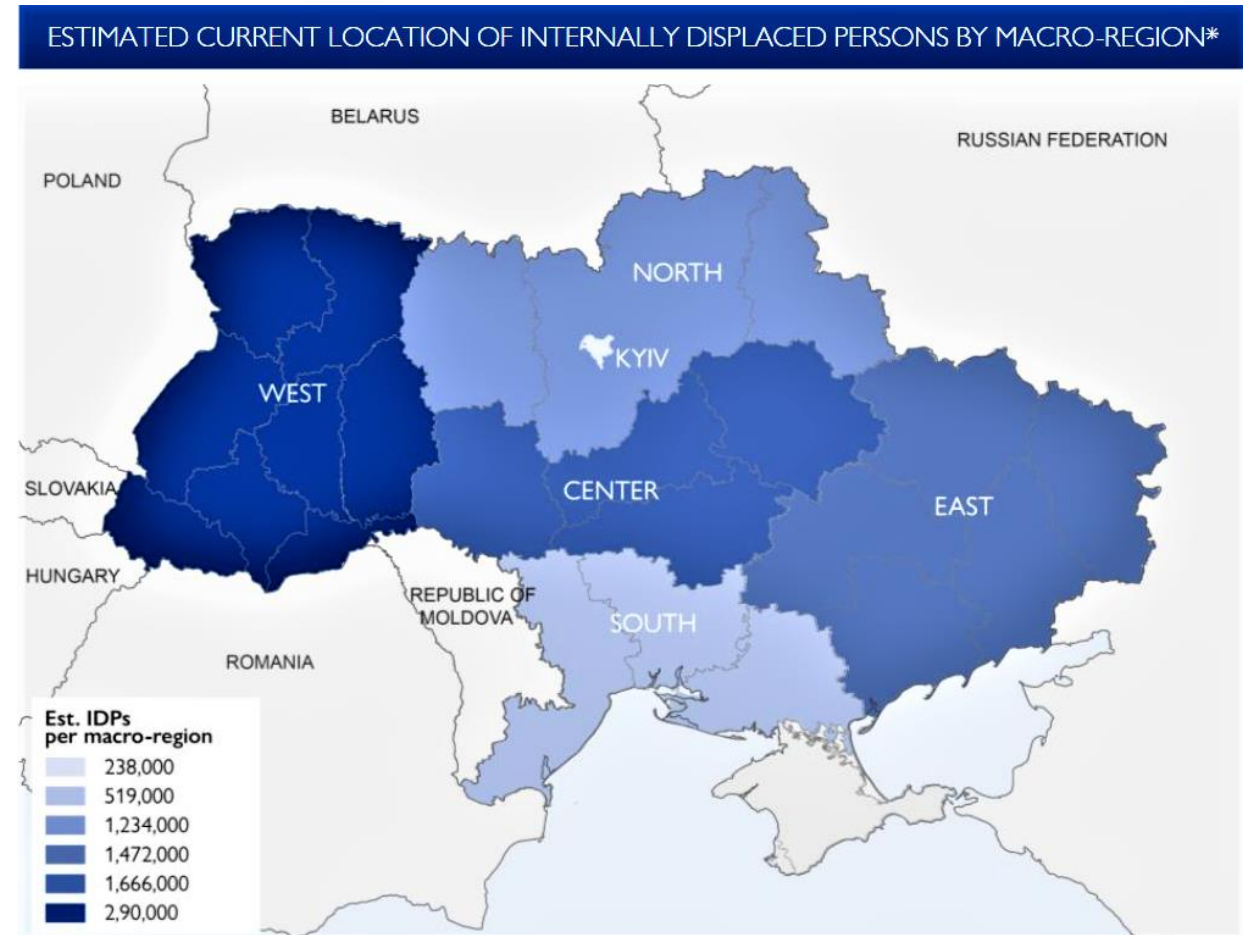


Context

Estimated current location of internally displaced persons before 31.07.2021



Estimated current location of internally displaced persons after 24.02.2022 (3.05.2022, IOM Ukraine)

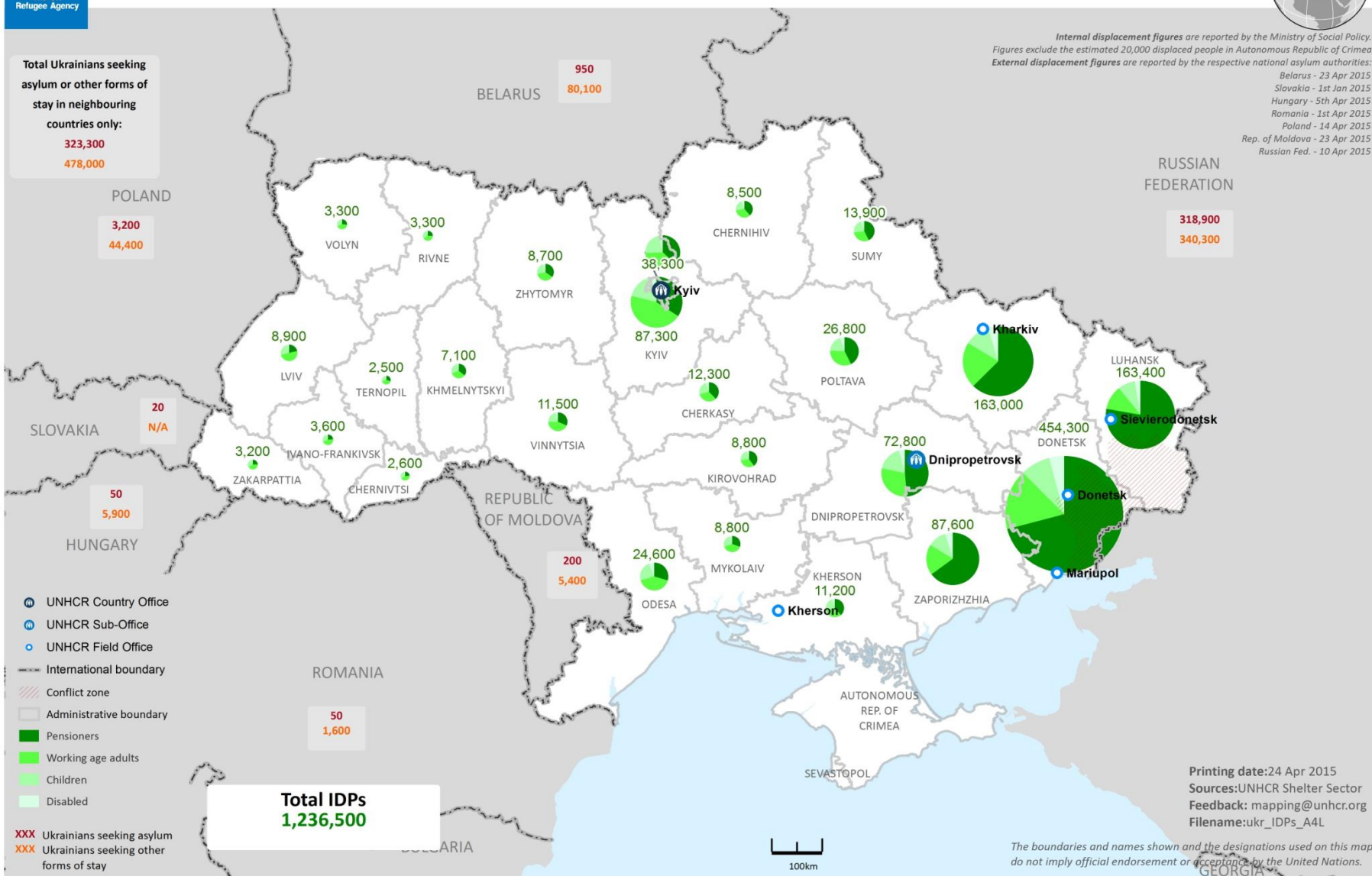




Ukraine: Internally Displaced People

- 24 Apr 2015

UNHCR - Kyiv



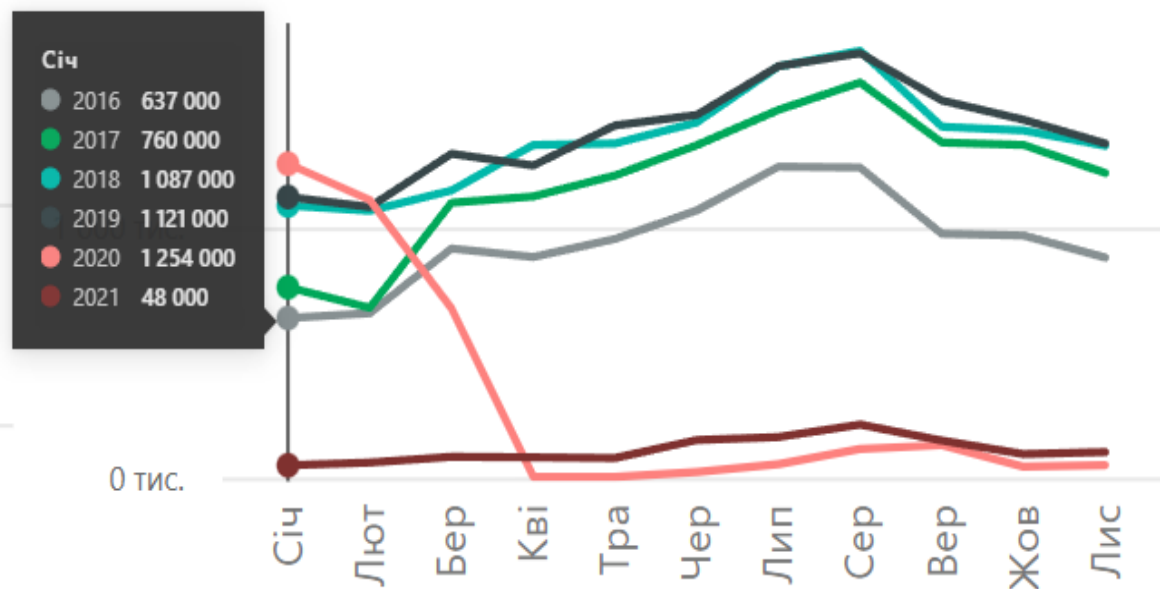
UNHCR.Ukraine: Internally Displaced People - 23 Mar 2015.

<https://reliefweb.int/map/ukraine/ukraine-internally-displaced-people-23-mar-2015> [accessed: 10.08.2022].

Crossing the line of demarcation (monthly)

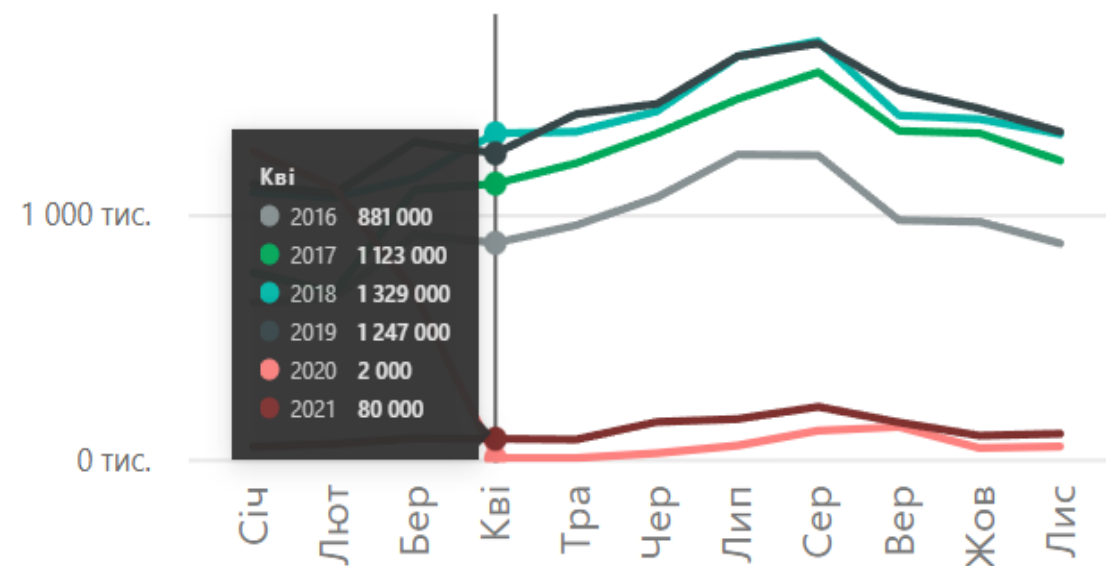
Перетин помісячно: 2016-2021

● 2016 ● 2017 ● 2018 ● 2019 ● 2020 ● 2021



Перетин помісячно: 2016-2021

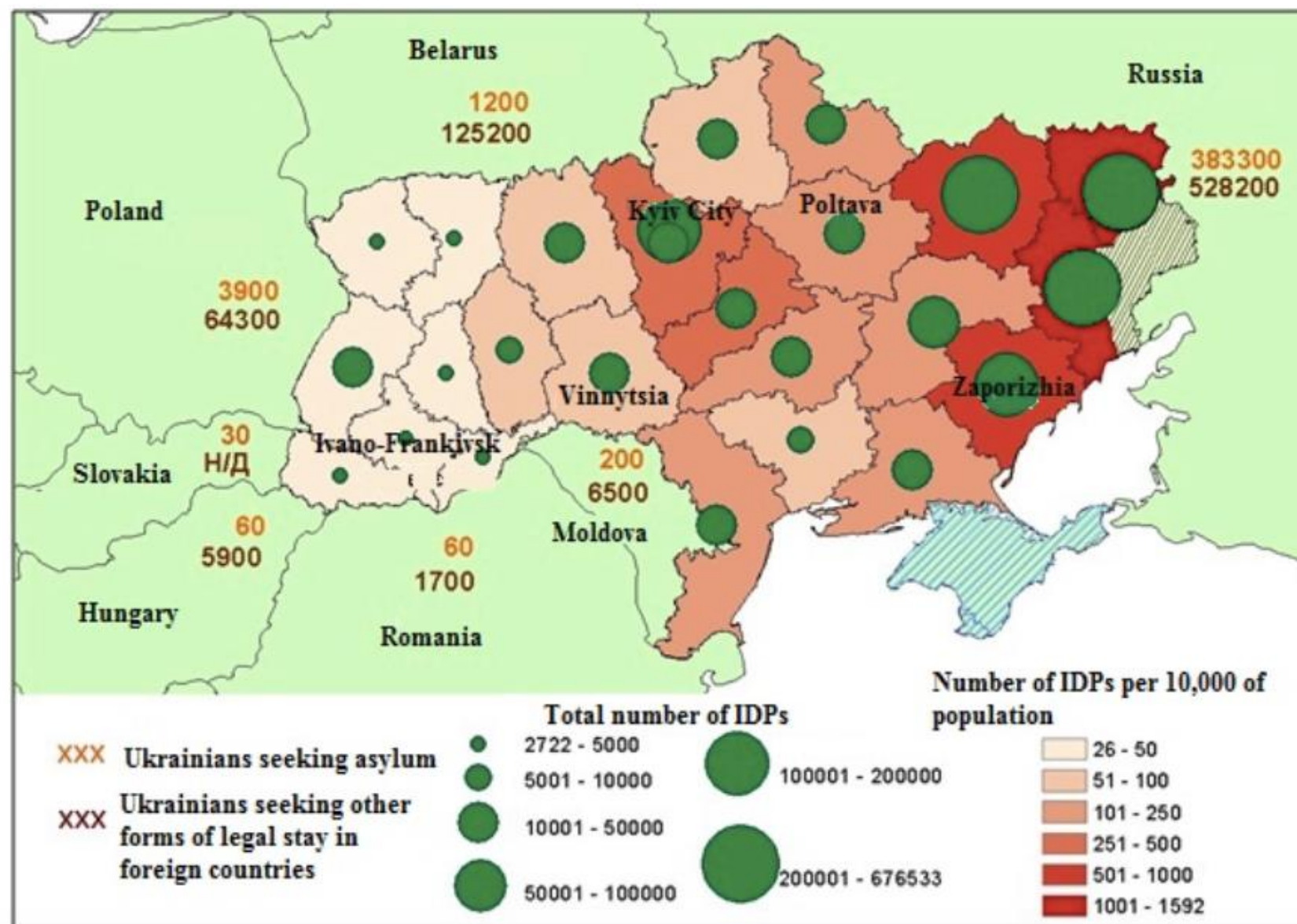
● 2016 ● 2017 ● 2018 ● 2019 ● 2020 ● 2021



<https://app.powerbi.com/view?r=eyJrljoiOTU4ODVjYTktNjk3ZC00N2E5LTlkNTQtYzk3ZTYzNzliYjk4IiwidCI6IjdhNTE3MC04ZjMyLWE5ODJmZTBhYTEyNSIsImMiOiJh9> [accessed: 10.08.2022]

External migration due to the first wave Russian aggression

Valentyna Smal. A Great Migration: What is the Fate of Ukraine's Internally Displaced Persons, Vox Ukraine, 30 June 2016 - <https://voxukraine.org/en/great-migration-how-many-internally-displaced-persons-are-there-in-ukraine-and-what-has-happened-to-them-en/>



Broken Life-Worlds, Displacements, and Life on the Frontline

- With the beginning of Russian aggression **in 2014** more than **2 mln people** have left the uncontrolled territories of Ukraine and were forced to move both to other parts of Ukraine and beyond its borders.
- According to the Ministry of Social Policy, after 2015 and before the full-scale Russian invasion began on 24 February 2022, the number of registered internally displaced persons was relatively stable at around **1.5 million**.
- Residents of war-torn territories have also been fleeing the country since 2014. As of December 2015, in the countries that have common borders with Ukraine, such as Russia, Belarus, Poland, Slovakia, Hungary, Moldova, there were **388,690 Ukrainians seeking refuge, and 730,100 Ukrainians seeking other forms of legal stay** in the mentioned countries.
- The estimated population of the occupied territories of Donetsk and Luhansk regions is **3.7 mln**. These are mostly people who formally remain the citizens of Ukraine.

Broken Life-Worlds, Displacements

- People residing in the territories engulfed by war in 2014 received no support from the government at the beginning of the military conflict. A very small number of people were evacuated – mostly by volunteer groups.
- IDPs in the context of Ukrainian state policy were and are perceived as a **homogeneous group**.





<https://tsn.ua/ru/ato/v-seti-zapustili-translyaciyu-vosstanovleniya-razrushennogo-mosta-pod-stanicey-luganskoy-1412967.html>



- As of today, heated discussions about the possibility of paying pensions to "collaborators" seem to have subsided.
- The Ukrainian state demonstrates maximum loyalty in the accrual of pensions to those who have earned it according to the solidarity pension system in Ukraine, wherever these people are located.
- After earlier ambiguous statements about the population of the occupied territories, government officials now clearly articulate the people as the state's primary value.

A brief summary

- **As we can see,** Ukrainian society and representatives of state structures have learnt from the situation in Ukrainian society as a result of the first wave of Russian aggression.
- In most cases, these are quite complex processes that deal with issues of identity, awareness of oneself as a political nation, and the development of a new language for speaking about what is going on around us.
- However, this situation of Ukraine's visibility, of having a position that sounds in different languages, is the result of the discussions and experiences of this first eight-year period after the Russian aggression began.
- It was the experience of volunteering during this period that allowed the volunteer movement in Ukraine in the face of full-scale war to mobilize not in days but in hours and start working to defend the country and support the population and the army.

A brief summary

The areas where the response was less efficient include:

- the lack of affordable and accessible accommodation and the lack of social housing
- issues with pensions and benefits (suspensions, delays)
- the lack of recognition of the benefits of mental health support, stigmatization of mental health, and the lack of accessible mental health support
- issues with the employment of people of pre-retirement age (50+).

A brief summary

- Given, that globally, the number of IDPs increased from about 17 million in 1998 to 59.1 million in 2021 (IDMC, 2022), and that many refugees experienced protracted internal displacement before crossing international borders, the lessons from Ukraine can be valuable in addressing similar challenges in different contexts.