










“Bridging the divide: Addressing social tensions between internally displaced persons and host communities during wartime in Ukraine”

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BRIDGING THE DIVIDE: ADDRESSING SOCIAL TENSIONS BETWEEN INTERNALLY DISPLACED PERSONS AND HOST COMMUNITIES DURING WARTIME IN UKRAINE

Abstract

Forced migration of Ukraine's population, caused by the war initiated by the Russian Federation, is a subject of national governance in demographic processes. In a country at war – rapidly losing human potential due to casualties among military and civil populations, as well as forced relocations – the social relations between internally displaced persons (IDPs) and host communities are of critical importance. The aim of this paper is to assess the perceptions of IDPs in host communities and to identify factors contributing to potential social tension. The research is based on a nationally representative sociological survey conducted in June–July 2024 in Ukraine, involving 514 IDPs and 850 residents of host communities. The findings reveal that social tension is generally low, with most ratings no higher than 3 out of 5. Notably, one-third of host community residents and two-thirds of IDPs did not observe any tension in social interactions at all. IDPs tended to be more optimistic in their evaluations compared to host community members: their perception was significantly lower, with only 7.3% reporting high levels of strain (4-5 out of 5). In contrast, the host population's evaluations were more critical, particularly among young people and residents of regional centers, who expressed the most negative views. Key factors contributing to tension included negative changes in the housing market (44.8% of host community respondents), increased pressure on healthcare institutions (29.3%), and greater demand for administrative services (26.2%). The results highlighted the need for regular monitoring, which should complement traditional social management practices.

Keywords

internally displaced persons, local community,
governance, social tensions, conflicts, social integration

JEL Classification

J18, H56, R23

INTRODUCTION

The full-scale Russian invasion of Ukraine in 2022 triggered an unprecedented wave of internal migration. As of April 2025, the International Organization for Migration (IOM, 2025a) estimates that there are 3.8 million internally displaced persons in Ukraine. According to the United Nations Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement, Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) are: "[...] persons or groups of persons who have been forced or obliged to flee or to leave their homes or places of habitual residence, in particular as a result of or in order to avoid the effects of armed conflict, situations of generalized violence, violations of human rights or natural or human-made disasters, and who have not crossed an internationally recognized state border" (UN, 2001, p. 1).

Meanwhile, new displacements continue to occur in Ukraine: 5% of IDPs (approximately 188,000 people) reported that they had been dis-

placed for three months or less (IOM, 2025a). This ongoing movement has led to an increase in the proportion of IDPs in the general population since late 2024. In December 2024, IDPs made up 11.6% of the population, and by April 2025, this figure had risen to 11.9%, placing significant pressure on host communities and creating new social challenges. One of the most prominent is the rising social tension between IDPs and local residents. Approximately 20% of IDPs reported experiencing strained relations with their host communities, with such cases more frequently reported in western regions of Ukraine (IDMC, 2024). In turn, 13% of the local population also reported sensing tension between different population groups in their community. Reports of social strain were particularly high in Lviv region (23%) and also significant in Ternopil region (19%) and Ivano-Frankivsk region (18%) (IOM, 2025b).

Against this backdrop, the management of social tension between IDPs and host communities emerges as a key challenge for maintaining national social cohesion and preserving human capital. The scale of displacement has reshaped the structure of local communities, led to a redistribution of resources, and created new forms of vulnerability among the displaced and host populations. According to the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), issues of social integration and potential local-level conflict are increasingly shaping the direction of state planning in the context of Ukraine's post-war recovery (UNHCR, 2025). In light of this, identifying effective approaches to managing the social situation is critically important – not only to ensure harmonious coexistence between IDPs and local residents, but also to facilitate the successful implementation of Ukraine's post-war reconstruction plans.

1. LITERATURE REVIEW

Due to the growing number of IDPs worldwide, the issue of social tensions within host communities has become increasingly relevant. This phenomenon is gaining attention in interdisciplinary research, as confirmed by Ostapenko et al. (2023), who conducted a bibliometric analysis on the topic of social tensions using VOSviewer 1.6.20 based on 19,456 English-language academic publications from 2017 to 2025 (as of April 24, 2025), indexed in the Scopus database. Among recent publications, there is a particularly notable increase in works related to Russia's aggression against Ukraine.

Studies on the impact of internal displacement indicate significant deterioration in the living conditions of IDPs, including loss of identity and family breakdown, limited access to essential services such as food, water, housing, healthcare, and education, as well as increased risk of poverty, unemployment, social deterioration, trauma, discrimination, and marginalization (Lichtenheld & Schon, 2021; Tesfaw, 2022; Anierobi et al., 2024). In the meantime, IDPs have both negative and positive impacts on the socioeconomic conditions of host communities (George & Adelaja, 2022; Hassan et al., 2021; Lucas, 2024; Maryam et al., 2024). On the negative side, IDPs have been shown to exacerbate problems related to transportation, crime,

and overall public safety (Hassan et al., 2021). Competition for limited jobs in host communities significantly intensifies social tensions between IDPs and local populations, undermining mutual trust and integration (Zewude & Siraw, 2024). A lack of institutional capacity to create additional employment opportunities contributes to a sense of economic vulnerability among locals, which fuels conflict-prone sentiments (Buchko et al., 2024).

Among the negative effects of internal displacements and rising social tensions, researchers also note their impact on already marginalized segments of the host population, increasing their susceptibility to violence and, as a result, the breakdown of social networks and family separation (Jelle et al., 2021). IDPs often face intersecting vulnerabilities and social determinants affecting their health; for instance, a significant number suffer from non-communicable diseases (Abbara et al., 2022). After displacement, one-third of IDPs interrupted their medication and lost access to regular medical monitoring (Elyas et al., 2024). Financial instability, language barriers, and gender differences were key factors that hindered access to, coverage of, and quality of medical care (Ojeleke et al., 2022). At the same time, internal displacement has also significantly affected local residents' access to healthcare, largely due to population increases in host communities (CDC,

2023). Pressure on the environment and demands on the healthcare system typically also rise with the influx of IDPs (Lucas, 2024).

IDPs are also perceived as contributing to increased social tension, competition for jobs and housing, shortages of preschool places, and a disproportionate allocation of public funds between locals and displaced persons (Voznyak et al., 2024). In this context, conflicts between IDPs and host populations, as well as between IDPs and local authorities, call for a proactive approach by local governments. This includes the initiation of psychological support programs and the creation of communication platforms to facilitate the exchange of personal experiences and the discussion of emotional and psychological challenges (Voznyak et al., 2024).

Among other preconditions for social tension, researchers highlight the negative impact on household-level food security in host communities (George & Adelaja, 2022). As a result, social tensions may escalate into clashes and conflicts, undermining social cohesion and disrupting equitable coexistence within communities, leading to fragmentation in host societies (Garebo, 2024). Internal displacement also contributes to a housing crisis (Dingba et al., 2025). Housing is particularly crucial for the integration of IDPs, as homeownership is not only widespread but also a vital source of well-being, security, and a sense of normalcy (Zavisca et al., 2023). The large scale of displacement causes a sharp rise in land prices, scarcity of rental properties, and increased rental costs (Yohanna et al., 2024). The search for housing by IDPs has contributed to the spread of unregulated rental practices, land and housing commercialization, as well as speculation and corruption (Bakonyi, 2021).

Research findings indicate that the main challenges for IDPs are rooted in structural sources of insecurity, such as unemployment, poverty, hunger, and inequality, as well as institutional sources, including government oppression and political repression (Jaji, 2024). These sources of insecurity are closely linked to marginalization, inadequate social services, and a lack of social integration. In this context, monitoring the efficiency of public financial management allocated to address issues re-

lated to the social protection of vulnerable groups becomes increasingly important (Roshchuk et al., 2025). According to IDPs themselves, the main barriers to successful integration include limited opportunities compared to local residents in community development projects, entrepreneurship support, and participation in local decision-making (Mishchuk et al., 2024). At the same time, the government's indifference to the problems of IDPs often exacerbates their invisibility and marginalization, hindering their ability to meet basic needs and rebuild their lives – a dynamic well-documented in the case of Lebanon (Diab, 2025).

On the positive side, a survey of 1,200 respondents in Ukraine (2022–2023) revealed that IDPs can contribute to community recovery, both socially and economically, through the development of social networks, solidarity economies, and entrepreneurship (Sotnyk et al., 2024). IDPs have positively impacted housing construction and tourism sectors in the Lviv region, while also increasing local government revenues in certain municipalities. Spatially, the influx of IDPs exceeded the region's natural urbanization rate and accelerated the development of Lviv metropolitan area (Lozynskyy et al., 2023). Moreover, IDPs strengthen local communities by boosting demand for goods and services, thereby stimulating economic activity. They also promote cultural exchange, fostering a better understanding and appreciation of diverse traditions, languages, and customs. Additionally, the transfer of knowledge, skills, and experience between IDPs and host communities supports community development and resilience (Maryam et al., 2024).

Despite these positive effects, social tensions persist in many host communities. To address this, both governmental and non-governmental actors must collaborate in solving human security issues associated with IDPs. This includes improving labor market access, infrastructure, livelihood, credit opportunities, formal social protection systems, access to essential services, employment, empowerment, education, and social integration (Zewude & Siraw, 2024; Kumswa & Best, 2022). Jafer et al. (2022) outlined a multi-level framework for managing social tensions between IDPs and host communities, involving the government, local administrations, formal and informal edu-

cation institutions, and international humanitarian missions. To enhance the effectiveness of IDP integration programs and reduce tensions, Khasalamwa-Mwandha (2021) advocated for re-settling IDPs in areas where they can easily access economic and social opportunities and freely interact with local populations. In this context, the management of forced internal migration shares important regulatory aspects with the governance of cross-border refugee flows, as analyzed by Chugaievska and Wisła (2023), Kochaniak et al. (2024), and Pavlovskyi et al. (2024).

Thus, the displacement of forced migrants often creates social tensions in host communities. Their involuntary movement is not merely a matter of mobility but rather a multifaceted stress factor for entire societies. The research clearly demonstrates that where there are IDPs, there emerges a new architecture of social pressure, adaptation, conflict, and transformation. Given the global experience in managing such tensions, along with the scale and urgency of this issue in Ukraine, the aim of this paper is to assess the perception of IDPs within host communities, as well as to identify potential sources of social tension.

2. METHODS

The analysis of social tensions between IDPs and the population of host communities was conducted based on data from a sociological survey of two target groups: the resident population of host communities and IDPs. Data were collected with national coverage between June 24 and July 23, 2024. Responses were obtained using the CAPI (Computer Assisted Personal Interview) method through street interviews.

The resident population sample consisted of Ukrainian citizens aged 18 and over; the IDP sample included 514 people aged 18 and over. Both samples included citizens of all regions, except for the temporarily occupied territories. The sample was quota, stratified, representative of the region of residence, type of settlement, age, and gender of respondents. This approach ensured the comparability of results across the two target groups.

The population sample was calculated according to the statistical data of the State Statistics Service

of Ukraine as of January 1, 2022, as more recent data were not published during the war. Sample representativeness error: with a confidence interval of 0.95 does not exceed for indicators close to: 50% – 3.36%; 25% and 75% – 2.91%; 10% and 90% – 2.02%; 5% and 95% – 1.47%; 1% and 99% – 0.67%.

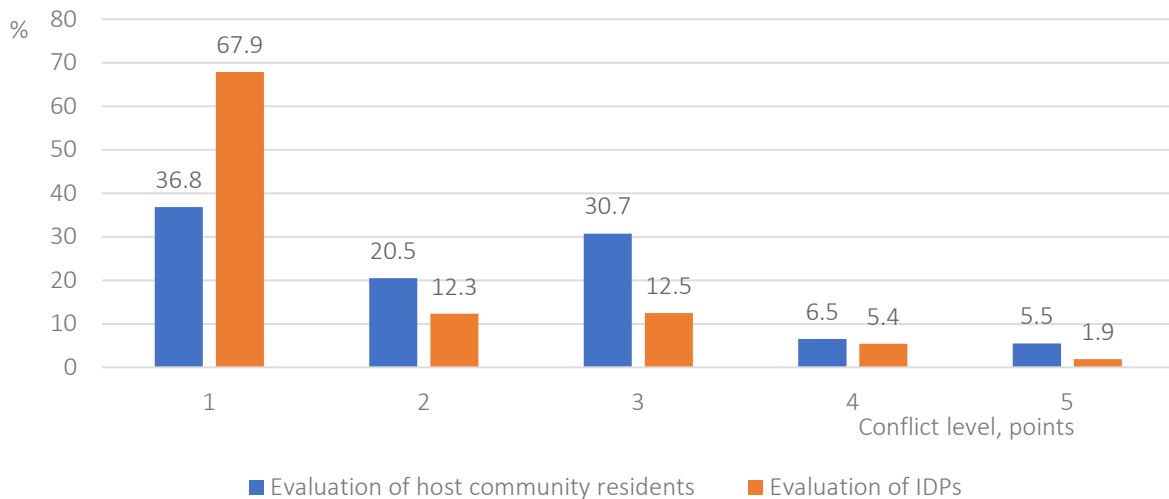
The sample of internally displaced persons was calculated according to the data provided in the IOM report for October 2023 (IOM, 2023). Sample representativeness error: with a confidence interval of 0.95 does not exceed for indicators close to: 50% – 4.32%; 25% and 75% – 3.74%; 10% and 90% – 2.59%; 5% and 95% – 1.88%; 1% and 99% – 0.86%.

The collected data were processed using graphical and coefficient analysis methods in Microsoft Excel (to compare perceptions of social tension and identify the negative impacts of internal displacement). Additionally, cluster analysis was conducted using the Orange data mining software to identify differences in IDP perception across various demographic groups within host communities.

3. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The results of the survey on the level of conflict in relationships between IDPs and residents of host communities indicated a moderate level of social tension. Although this tension does not appear to be of a threatening nature, it still requires managerial attention. The majority of respondents from both the local population (36.8%) and IDPs (67.9%) assessed the situation as completely non-conflictual (Level 1), while 20.5% and 12.3%, respectively, described the tension as minimal (Level 2). Thus, more than half of the local population and four-fifths of IDPs perceived the relationship between IDPs and local residents as generally calm and non-conflictual (Figure 1).

At the same time, nearly one-third of surveyed local residents (30.7%) chose the medium level (3), indicating a noticeable, though not critical, level of tension within the communities. Among IDPs, this percentage was 12.5%. This assessment may reflect not open conflicts but rather latent tension, growing fatigue from the prolonged crisis, competition for resources, or insufficient integration of IDPs into the social life of the host communities.



Note: 1 point – no conflict at all, 5 points – maximum level of tension, frequency, and severity of conflicts.

Figure 1. Responses to the question: “In your opinion, are there currently any conflicts in the relationship between IDPs and host community residents?”

Approximately 12% of respondents among host community residents (6.5% selected level 4, and 5.5% selected level 5), and 7.3% among IDPs (5.4% selected level 4, and 1.9% selected level 5), indicated a high level of conflict. This is an important signal for the development and implementation of targeted interventions.

The survey results show that the majority of host community residents and IDPs believe that conflicts in their relationships are either absent or at a low level. However, there is a significant difference in perception: host community residents tend to assess the level of conflict as higher than the IDPs themselves. The prolonged crisis may create a sense of fatigue among all community members (Salihu et al., 2022). Among local residents, this may lead to growing latent social tension due to competition for jobs, social benefits, housing, healthcare

services, etc. (Bile et al., 2024). In order to identify socio-demographic groups that perceive the level of conflict between IDPs and host communities differently, we conducted a cluster analysis using the Orange software platform. As a result, five clusters of respondents with varying attitudes toward IDPs were identified (Figure 2).

The first two clusters are formed by young people and residents of regional centers, who demonstrate the highest level of conflict in relations with IDPs. Despite common perceptions of youth as a more tolerant category of the population (Piscitelli & D’Uggento, 2022), the results show the opposite: this group most frequently exhibits high levels of social tension. The reasons for this may be competition for educational, housing, and career opportunities in large cities, and the general instability caused by the presence of IDPs. In addition, young

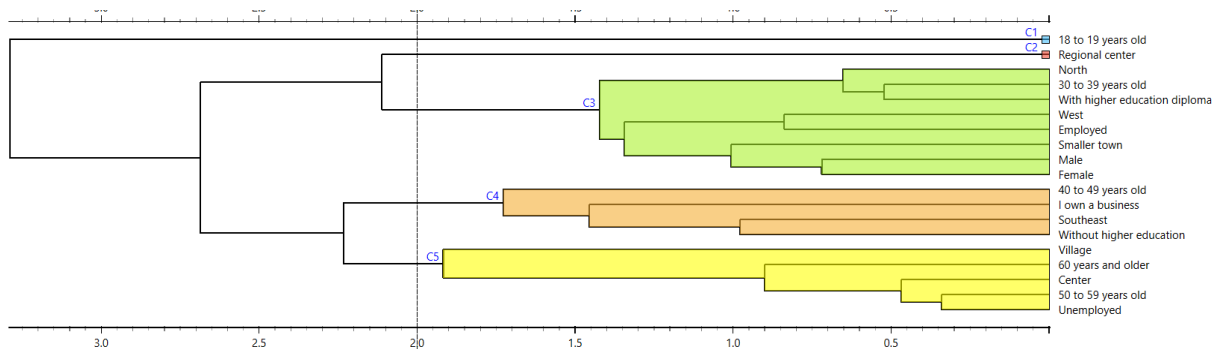


Figure 2. Clustering of respondents (permanent population sample) by perceiving level of conflict in relations with IDPs

people more often perceive changes in the social landscape as a threat to their personal prospects (Kenny et al., 2022).

The third cluster consists of individuals aged 30–30, with higher education, employed, and living in smaller towns in the north and west of Ukraine, showing a moderate level of conflict. These respondents enjoy a certain degree of social stability, yet may experience resource limitations in less affluent regions. Social tension here is linked to concerns about the overloading of local services and competition in the labor market (Habib, 2022).

The fourth cluster includes individuals aged 40–49, without higher education, who own businesses and reside in the southeastern regions. Despite potential competition from IDPs, this group demonstrates a low level of conflict. This may be explained by their orientation toward self-employment and lower dependence on governmental or local resources, as well as by a pragmatic approach to social interaction, through the possibility of economic benefit from the integration of IDPs into the local economy (Yurchyk et al., 2023).

The fifth cluster covers individuals aged 50–59 and 60+, who are not employed and live in rural ar-

reas of central Ukraine, showing the lowest level of conflict. This can be explained by lower involvement in active social life, weaker competition in rural communities, as well as the possible role of traditional values, hospitality, and religiosity, which foster acceptance of others. In addition, in such communities, IDPs are often a source of external resources (humanitarian aid, investments) (Ekezie, 2022; Agunyai & Phago, 2024), which mitigates their perceptions as a threat.

Thus, the identified clusters make it possible not only to characterize the specifics of how IDPs are perceived in different social groups but also to outline potential risks that accompany their integration process. Accordingly, the next stage of the study is to identify the negative consequences that may arise as a result of IDPs' relocation to host communities in Ukraine (Figure 3).

The survey shows that the relocation of IDPs to local communities is accompanied not only by material and institutional challenges but also creates preconditions for increasing social tension. The most frequently cited negative consequence, reported by respondents, was the rise in housing and rental prices (48.4%), which is a strong indicator of economic pressure on host populations. At

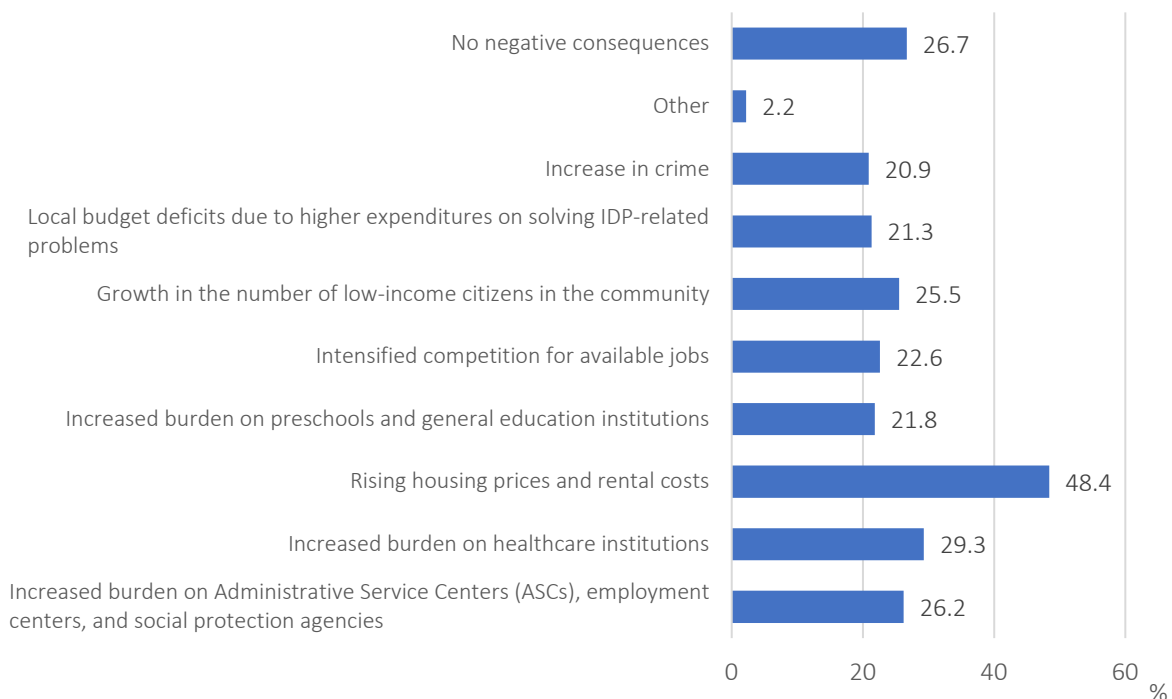


Figure 3. Distribution of responses from host community residents to the question: “What negative consequences of IDP relocation to your community can you identify?”

the same time, increased pressure on healthcare institutions (29.3%) and social services (26.2%), as well as on the educational infrastructure (21.8%), was reported, pointing to a potential perception of competition for access to basic services. More than a quarter of respondents (26.7%) saw no negative consequences, indicating heterogeneous perceptions of the situation within the population. Meanwhile, 22.6% of respondents mentioned intensified competition for jobs, and 25.5% referred to the growing number of low-income citizens in their community, which may contribute to the formation of stereotypes and social distancing. An increase in crime and social tension as a separate category was highlighted by 20.9% of those surveyed. This suggests that, although direct association of IDPs with a security threat is supported by a relatively small share of the population, indirect tension caused by competition, resource shortages, and unequal access to services is gradually accumulating.

The findings of this sociological study lead to the conclusion that there is a need for effective management measures that would enable quick responses to the rapid and large-scale changes in social structure, shifts in economic relations, and demands in the service sector. The identified problems are not a direct consequence of migration it-

self but may result from limited resources at various hierarchical levels of governance, the inability of existing infrastructure to adapt quickly to new conditions, and the lack of a comprehensive vision for IDP integration policy – an issue generally characteristic of managing large-scale internal displacement (Keudel & Huss, 2025). In the case of Ukraine, an important limiting factor for successful integration and reduction of social tension is the actual absence of a system for monitoring the needs and attitudes toward IDPs on the part of local residents, including the analysis of factors that “divide” and, conversely, those that could form the basis for successful long-term integration of IDPs.

To explore such possibilities, an analysis of factors perceived by host community residents as positive consequences of displacement was conducted (Figure 4).

The survey results indicate that local residents more often highlight demographic and socio-economic benefits of IDP integration, particularly in the areas of the labor market, local budget revenues, and entrepreneurship development. Thus, the most common response was population growth, noted by 31.0% of respondents. Almost one-third (30.0%) saw a positive outcome in filling labor market vacancies that were not in demand

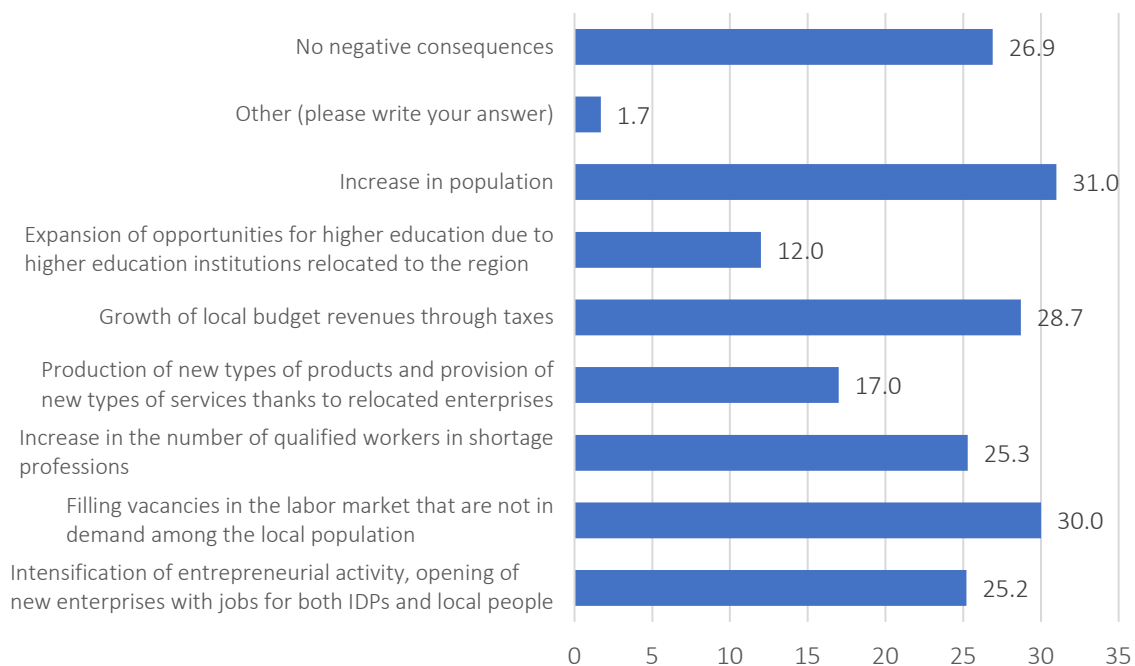


Figure 4. Distribution of respondents' answers to the question: "What positive consequences of IDP relocation to your community can you identify?"

among local residents. At the same time, 28.7% emphasized the increase in local budget revenues through paid taxes, which points to the economic effect of IDP integration into local economic activities. A quarter of respondents (25.3%) highlighted the growth in the number of qualified workers in shortage professions, which may positively impact the development of certain sectors of the community's economy. A similar share (25.2%) saw benefits in the intersection of entrepreneurial activity, opening of new enterprises, and creation of jobs for both IDPs and local residents. Less common were responses concerning the production of new types of goods and provision of new services by relocated enterprises (17.0%) and the expansion of higher education opportunities in the region due to relocated universities (12.0%).

At the same time, 26.9% of respondents believed that there were no positive consequences of IDP relocation for the community. This share of respondents may be explained by the absence of tangible economic benefits for the community in the short term, increased competition for jobs and resources, as well as the presence of stereotypes and prejudices against displaced persons. Moreover, the low level of IDP integration into the socio-economic life of the host community (Chuiko & Fedorenko, 2021) and insufficient communication of positive examples of their contribution may shape a negative perception of this process and provoke social tension (Molale & Fourie, 2023).

Given the dominant factors of social tension, the absence of a system for monitoring the quality of relations between IDPs and local residents, as well as positive global experience in inclusive development of communities hosting forced migrants (Ncube & Murray, 2025; Heisey et al., 2022; Zhou et al., 2023; Holmes & Lowe, 2023; Berke & Larsen, 2025; Jayakody et al., 2022; Frederico et al., 2024; Bang, 2024; Merisalu et al., 2024), a system of measures for managing the social integration of IDPs can be proposed (Table 1). The measures presented in the table were developed as a response to the problems identified in the conducted survey. The rise in housing prices under conditions of mass population displacements results from a sharp imbalance between supply and demand. In such circumstances, ensuring transparency in the rental housing market is crucial, as it reduces informa-

tion asymmetry between tenants and landlords, limits opportunities for speculation and shadowy schemes, and fosters conditions for competition and fair pricing. Preferential housing or rental compensation for vulnerable groups, including IDPs and local residents, will help reduce social tension and prevent conflicts. Alongside the pressure on housing infrastructure, there is also an increased burden on healthcare facilities. Involving additional medical personnel, including IDPs, will not only increase staff capacity but also contribute to the integration of displaced medical professionals into local communities. The deployment of mobile medical units will ensure prompt access to primary medical care in areas with the highest population concentration, thereby reducing the load on stationary institutions. The increasing burden on ASCs, employment centers, and social protection bodies requires the implementation of digital services, electronic queues, and centralized flow management, which reduces waiting times and increases efficiency. Competition for jobs may be mitigated through subsidized employment programs, career guidance, and the adaptation of community employment strategies to new conditions. The growing pressure on educational institutions necessitates the integration of teachers from among IDPs, expansion of educational infrastructure, implementation of inclusive programs, and training teachers to work with children who have experienced trauma. A significant issue is the deficit of local budgets, which can be compensated for by attracting donor funds and subventions, special budget programs, transparent planning, and independent auditing of expenditures. Enhanced patrolling, mediation programs, psychological support, and joint security initiatives will help address rising crime. At the same time, drawing on positive international experience, measures are proposed to strengthen the overall institutional capacity to address IDP-related issues and reduce tension on this basis. These include monitoring social tension, strengthening communication between IDPs and the local community, improving the organizational capacity of local authorities, and funding civic initiatives for IDP integration.

The measures systematized in Table 1 are aimed at shifting from reactive to proactive management, in which not only material resources but also social processes – dialogue, mutual understanding,

Table 1. Measures for managing social tension between IDPs and host communities in Ukraine

Problem	Measures for eliminating/mitigating
Rising housing prices and rental costs	Ensuring a transparent rental housing market. Preferential housing or rental compensation for vulnerable groups from both categories (IDPs and local residents). Stimulating affordable housing construction through public-private partnerships. Tax incentives for landlords who provide housing to IDPs at reduced rates.
Increased burden on healthcare facilities	Recruitment of additional medical personnel (including from among IDPs). Deployment of mobile medical units. Expanded funding for the procurement of medicines and equipment. Training doctors in crisis communication and trauma care.
Increased burden on ASCs, employment centers, and social protection bodies	Introduction of digital services and electronic queues. Centralized queue management and redirection of clients between offices. Priority service for vulnerable categories of the population. Public information campaigns on new procedures.
Increase in the number of low-income residents in the community	Support for social entrepreneurship and self-employment. Social adaptation, education, and retraining programs. Transparent criteria for providing assistance. Joint initiatives between the civil sector, IDPs, and local residents.
Intensified competition for jobs	Subsidized employment programs for employers. Career guidance and retraining for IDPs and the local population. Adaptation of local employment strategies to new realities.
Increased burden on educational institutions	Integration of teachers from among IDPs into educational institutions. Expansion of educational infrastructure. Inclusive education programs consider the needs of different groups. Teacher training for working with children affected by trauma.
Local budget deficits due to rising expenditures	Attraction of donor funds and state subsidies Special budget programs for host communities. Transparent planning of IDP-related expenditures with community participation. Development of local IDP integration strategies with long-term planning. Monitoring expenditure efficiency through independent audits.
Rising crime rates	Strengthening patrols in communities with high social tension. Mediation and conflict resolution programs. Psychological support for local residents and IDPs. Joint community security initiatives. Educational activities against discrimination, stigmatization, and xenophobia.
Low institutional capacity to address IDP issues and their social integration	System for monitoring social tension: - regular sociological surveys of local residents and IDPs; - analysis of applications to social services, ASCs, and the police as indicators of tension; - crowdsourcing online platforms for anonymous feedback or complaints. Communication platform "local community - IDPs": - regular dialogue meetings between locals, IDPs, and representatives of government and local authorities; - community councils including IDPs and local residents; - media campaigns on positive examples of IDP integration. Strengthening the organizational capacity of local authorities: - training in crisis management, inclusive governance, and mediation; - development and provision of methodological materials on managing social tension and IDP integration; - facilitation of local IDP integration strategies, considering the views of all groups; - creation of cross-sectoral working groups on IDP integration; - development of an open mass of IDP needs and community resources. Funding civic initiatives: - grants to support IDP integration initiatives (cultural, educational, digital, environmental, etc.); - support for social enterprises jointly employing locals and IDPs; - creation of community activity hubs uniting different population groups; - inclusion of IDPs in youth councils, volunteer movements, and local projects.

trust, inclusion, and participation of all stakeholders – are of primary importance. This system presupposes institutional and societal sensitivity to the needs of IDPs and host communities, an emphasis on joint planning, open communication, and support for horizontal connections between different population groups. Each measure is in-

tended not only to compensate for short-term deficits (such as the pressure on infrastructure) but also to contribute to the development of a long-term strategy for societal cohesion and resilience.

The coordinated implementation of such measures creates not only an effective tool for responding

to the challenges of internal displacement but also a strategic foundation for long-term transformations within host communities. The proposed solutions will help reduce social tension, prevent conflicts, and ensure the basic needs of local residents and IDPs. The combination of economic, social, educational, and security measures will foster

trust between different population groups, facilitate the integration of IDPs into the local environment, and strengthen social unity. This, in turn, will enhance the capacity of local communities to adapt effectively to crises, creating a cohesive, inclusive, and resilient society prepared for future challenges.

CONCLUSION

The purpose of the paper was to assess public perceptions of IDPs as well as the factors of social tension in their relations with local residents. The results revealed that, overall, the social tension in these relations is relatively low. The most significant factors of tension are negative changes in the housing market due to the arrival of new residents, competition for access to social, medical, and educational services, and increased pressure on local infrastructure. In other words, social tension between IDPs and host communities is primarily associated with changes in the accessibility of socially important services, redistribution of resources, and the psychological perception of inequality and social distance. The highest level of tension was recorded among the youth of large cities. These results should be interpreted not as a manifestation of hostility but as signals of social tension that require targeted management. Its effectiveness will be significantly strengthened if factors perceived positively by host communities are taken into account. At present, such factors include beneficial transformations in the labor market and business environment resulting from the arrival of specialists in deficit professions and the relocation of businesses. Enhancing the effectiveness of managing social tension through regular monitoring of social drivers is a prerequisite not only for the integration of internally displaced persons but also for the development of resilient communities capable of adapting to the challenges of war and post-war recovery.

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