“Financing support programs for internally displaced persons in Ukraine: Effectiveness and needs alignment”

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FINANCING SUPPORT PROGRAMS FOR INTERNALLY DISPLACED PERSONS IN UKRAINE: EFFECTIVENESS AND NEEDS ALIGNMENT

Abstract

The growing number of internally displaced persons (IDPs), combined with challenges in financing social programs during wartime, highlights the importance of ensuring the effectiveness of public spending. This paper aims to examine the effectiveness of state programs supporting IDPs in terms of their alignment with the target group's needs. The assessment was conducted based on data from a nationally representative sociological survey of IDPs. The analysis of the effectiveness of the housing assistance program for IDPs was conducted using elasticity coefficients that consider price growth and changes in the subsistence minimum. According to IDPs' assessment, most programs funded from the state budget meet current needs and are rated above the average level, above 2.5 points out of 5. Programs of legal and informational support (3.8), cash assistance (4.3), access to medical care without restrictions (i.e., the requirement to sign a declaration) (3.4), provision of social housing (3.3), and tax deductions under rental agreements (3.2) are considered highly relevant. Low relevance was assigned to assistance with relocating businesses (1.7), grant support for starting a business (2.2), housing loans (2.2), and vocational training through referrals from the State Employment Service (2.4). Conclusions were drawn about the need for periodic monitoring of IDP needs and analyzing the effectiveness of funding while considering price changes and the subsidence minimum. This approach could be used to support decisions regarding the attraction of alternative sources of financing for social programs when state budget funding is insufficient to cover basic living needs of IDPs.

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INTRODUCTION

In recent years, a significant number of countries have faced the problem of mass internal displacement of the population caused by armed conflicts, environmental disasters, and political crises. The issue of internal migration is particularly acute in Ukraine under the conditions of the war launched by russia. This underscores the need to implement social support programs for internally displaced persons (IDPs) to facilitate their social integration.

At present, the urgency of supporting IDPs in Ukraine is further exacerbated by the limited financial resources of the state, which has resulted in a significant budget deficit and rising public debt. For example, the consolidated state budget deficit of Ukraine in 2023 amounted to 20.1% of GDP or 30% of total budget expenditures (National Bank of Ukraine, n.d.). The public debt at the end of 2023 reached UAH 5,519.5 billion, compared to UAH 4,075.5 billion at the end of 2022

(Ministry of Finance of Ukraine, n.d.b). The combination of limited state financial resources and the large-scale internal displacement of the population – currently the largest in Europe (Perelli-Harris et al., 2024) – poses a serious challenge for the state in fulfilling its social guarantees. Despite its challenges outlined above, Ukraine is implementing a number of programs to support IDPs, the most extensive of which is the housing assistance program. In 2023, budget allocations for this program amounted to UAH 73.2 billion, and 2.6 million people received assistance, exceeding the number of beneficiaries of other payments in Ukraine.

The rationale for financing IDP support programs in Ukraine is beyond question. Having found themselves in a new social environment, IDPs are in acute need of assistance, and meeting their urgent needs forms the basis for building new connections within host communities, which can significantly improve their demographic, economic, and social prospects. However, a necessary condition for the successful integration of IDPs is not only the financing of support programs but also the assessment of whether these programs – whose funding is challenging under wartime conditions – actually meet the needs and priorities of the target group. Taking into account that the implementation of such programs in Ukraine occurs under conditions of limited financial capacity, ongoing military actions, and a large number of IDPs, it is interesting to examine the effectiveness of state financing of IDP support programs in the context of their alignment with the needs of the target group.

1. LITERATURE REVIEW

Today, the social protection and support of IDPs is regarded as one of the key challenges facing state institutions, international organizations, and civil society. Scholars emphasize that the effectiveness of assistance programs largely depends on the extent to which they address the real and pressing needs of displaced populations, as well as on the capacity of state authorities to coordinate their efforts with other stakeholders, including donors, non-governmental organizations, and local communities (Androniceanu & Georgescu, 2022; Kutasi & Marton, 2020; Okhrimenko et al., 2024). In this context, the financing of social protection is viewed not only through a narrow humanitarian lens but also in terms of its impact on macroeconomic stability (Dudzevičiūtė, 2023; Szymańska, 2022). Public expenditure on IDP assistance can have a significant effect on labor markets and economic growth (Yurchyk et al., 2023).

Research on international expenditures highlights that universal assistance schemes frequently fail to achieve the necessary level of targeting and do not adequately reflect the heterogeneity of IDP groups. Comparative assessments of government interventions further underscore that regular monitoring, program design adjustments, and the active participation of IDPs in the development of social protection policies enhance the relevance of decisions and the sustainability of outcomes (Adeleye & Aremu, 2023; Ham et al., 2022; Onuh, 2022; Aleksandrova & Costella, 2021). Notably, findings from both South Asia and Africa converge that "one-size-fits-all" approaches are ineffective; rather, segmentation by displacement stage, vulnerability profiles, and access barriers is required (Zoowa, 2018; Ekezie, 2022).

Most analyses of IDP social protection focus on the effectiveness of measures designed to ensure rights and guarantees that traditionally fall under the responsibility of the state. These include legal status, the right to equal participation in community life, and access to basic services (Bulakh, 2020; Dirikgil, 2023; Izarova et al., 2023). In this regard, IDPs face challenges similar to those encountered by refugees in other countries, where employment and integration into host communities remain among the most pressing issues (Chugaievska & Wisła, 2023; Kochaniak et al., 2024; Pavlovskyi et al., 2024; Pyatnychuk et al., 2024; Voznyak et al., 2024). Parallel streams of research focus on humanitarian concerns such as housing (Alekseyenko et al., 2021; Zavisca et al., 2023), health care, with particular attention to mental health (Cantor et al., 2021; Roberts et al., 2022; Kaiser, 2023), and access to social services. Evidence from Ukraine demonstrates that IDP inclusion challenges are multifaceted: housing, food security, health care, and employment issues are

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closely interlinked and often act as barriers to successful social integration (Perelli-Harris et al., 2024; Voznyak et al., 2023; Mishchuk et al., 2024; Roshchyk et al., 2024).

A substantial body of literature underscores that housing is one of the most critical factors for the long-term stabilization of displaced persons' lives, as it directly affects their access to employment, education, and social integration (Alekseyenko et al., 2021; Collado, 2025; Tarasov et al., 2020). Cross-country differences are also evident: in advanced economies, the dominant approach combines state subsidies with institutional mechanisms for affordable credit, whereas in lower-income countries, humanitarian organizations and volunteer networks play a greater role (Bdoyan et al., 2022; Taran, 2025). International case studies illustrate a wide array of instruments, ranging from rental subsidies and integration into state financial institutions (Collado, 2025) to locally developed programs designed to prevent homelessness and secondary displacement (Ekoh et al., 2023). Ukraine applies a hybrid model in which the state provides cash assistance that is widely considered insufficient, with non-governmental organizations and volunteers filling the gap (Bdoyan et al., 2022; Taran, 2025; Slozanska et al., 2024). At the same time, research points to considerable regional disparities in housing provision programs (Alekseyenko et al., 2021) and highlights the potential of innovative mechanisms such as the buyout or leasing of social housing. Beyond Ukraine, the scale of displacement is similarly significant and is accompanied by shortages of basic services and infrastructure, further heightening IDP's housing vulnerability (Sabah, 2025; Husieva et al., 2020; Sasse, 2020). Moreover, in wartime conditions, the role of local authorities in ensuring the provision of basic needs – including housing, food, and health care – becomes particularly crucial (Merisalu et al., 2024). To enhance the efficiency of these efforts at the municipal and national levels, performance assessment indicators, such as those developed based on key performance indicator (KPI) frameworks, may be applied (Bilan et al., 2025). The possibilities of effectively assessing performance in social program funding, particularly using the KPI methodology, are supported by improvements in financial governance (Roy & Vasa, 2025; Vasylieva et al., 2023).

The review of literature indicates that, beyond housing, the needs of IDPs encompass a wide range of areas – from healthcare and psychosocial support to access to education and employment. Healthcare employees are one of the most vulnerable domains, as displaced populations frequently exhibit worse health indicators than other groups while simultaneously facing limited access to medical services (Cantor et al., 2021; Roberts et al., 2022; Kaiser, 2023). In most cases, national governments lack sufficient resources to comprehensively cover these needs, resulting in the emergence of a multi-level financial model. This model typically combines public expenditures, international humanitarian aid, donor grants, loans from international financial institutions, and contributions from local communities and volunteers (Bilan et al., 2025). Within this framework, the practice of direct cash assistance – most notably in the form of multipurpose cash assistance (MPCA) – is gaining increasing priority (UNHCR, 2023). Empirical studies suggest that this approach is both more effective and more economically viable than traditional in-kind assistance schemes. Alongside humanitarian channels, bilateral programs, and oversight institutions play a crucial role by strengthening accountability and coordination in large-scale aid programs (GAO, 2025).

Nevertheless, despite growing scholarly attention to IDP social protection, the evaluation of the effectiveness of financing for IDP support programs remains insufficiently explored. In most studies, financial aspects are examined within the broader context of social policy without isolating specific criteria for measuring the efficiency of resource use. For instance, Adeleye and Aremu (2023), in their analysis of Nigeria's experience, emphasize the need for regular evaluations of government programs, but their work remains descriptive and lacks quantitative indicators of financial performance. Similarly, Onuh (2022) examines the role of the state in supporting displaced populations in Nigeria, focusing primarily on qualitative challenges in assistance delivery while omitting an assessment of its financial effectiveness.

More rigorous attempts at quantitative analysis can be found in the works of Yurchyk et al. (2023) and Bilan et al. (2025). Yurchyk et al. (2023) demonstrate a positive yet limited multiplier effect of

state aid programs for IDPs on economic growth and the labor market. Bilan et al. (2025) provide one of the few systematic analyses of the efficiency of public finance use in the field of IDP social protection. However, these authors also note the difficulties of data collection and the absence of unified approaches to measuring the outcomes of financial assistance.

Findings from international organizations corroborate these observations. The UNHCR (2024) report analyzes the financing of social support programs in Ukraine, but emphasizes that data on their actual effectiveness remain fragmented. A similar conclusion is presented in the GAO (2025) report, which reviews the broad spectrum of international assistance for displaced persons and refugees while highlighting ongoing challenges related to coordination, transparency, and outcome measurement.

A number of studies examining general approaches to social protection in the context of various crises and climate challenges (Aleksandrova & Costella, 2021; Ham et al., 2022; Bdoyan et al., 2022) highlight the potential for integrating IDP support programs into broader social protection systems. However, the issue of financing is likewise addressed primarily at a conceptual level – through arguments emphasizing the need for transparency, accountability, and comprehensiveness – without offering concrete mechanisms for evaluating expenditure effectiveness.

An analysis of the existing literature demonstrates that the question of assessing the effectiveness of funding for IDP support programs remains largely underexplored. While some isolated studies attempt to investigate this dimension, most works limit themselves to general references to financial components or examine them in a fragmented manner, without applying systematic approaches or quantitative indicators. This creates a significant gap in understanding the extent to which the use of state and international resources truly aligns with IDPs' needs and contributes to their long-term integration.

In the meantime, research findings underscore that effective social protection for displaced persons is possible only through coordinated efforts among the state, international organizations, and both corporate and civil society sectors. Increasingly, there is a shift away from universal assistance schemes toward flexible and targeted solutions tailored to the specific needs of different IDP groups and involving them in the design of such programs (Aleksandrova & Costella, 2021; UNHCR, 2023, 2024).

Thus, the reviewed scholarship highlights not only the need to expand funding but also the importance of its evaluation in terms of its correspondence to the actual needs of displaced persons. The lack of systemic studies in this area underscores the relevance of the present research, which aims to assess the effectiveness of financing for state programs supporting IDPs, focusing on their capacity to meet basic needs and ensure integration into new communities.

Accordingly, this study seeks to test the following hypotheses:

H1: IDP support programs implemented in Ukraine correspond to the actual needs of IDPs.

H2: Under wartime conditions, the effectiveness of Ukraine's housing assistance program for IDPs is relatively low due to high inflation and the large scale of internal displacement.

2. METHODOLOGY

Hypothesis *H1* was tested using data from a sociological survey of IDPs in Ukraine. The survey included 514 respondents aged 18 and older, with nationwide coverage between June 24 and July 23, 2024. Responses were obtained through street interviews using the CAPI (Computer-Assisted Personal Interview) method. The sampling error, with a 0.95 confidence interval, does not exceed 4.32%.

Hypothesis *H2* was tested using statistical data from the Ministry of Finance of Ukraine (n.d.a) and the Ministry of Social Policy of Ukraine (ICC, 2025). The analysis focused on the quantitative implementation of the housing assistance program for IDPs – one of the largest of its kind in Ukraine.

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The program's effectiveness was evaluated based on the total volume of its funding, the number of beneficiaries, the average and legally defined amounts of assistance (including their relation to basic social standards and guarantees). The above set of known quantitative indicators for assessing the effectiveness of IDP support programs was further supplemented with indicators (1) and (2), which are essentially adapted elasticity indicators:

$$E_1 = \frac{\overleftrightarrow{\Delta S_{IDP}}}{\Delta I_{cp}}, \quad (1)$$

where E1 is elasticity coefficient of the average amount of social support for IDPs with respect to the increase in the general price level; $\overleftrightarrow{\Delta S_{IDP}}$ is annual growth rate of the average amount of assistance per IDP recipient, % compared to the previous year; ΔIcp is annual growth rate of the general price index, % compared to the previous year.

$$E_2 = \frac{\overleftrightarrow{\Delta S_{IDP}}}{\Delta LW}, \quad (2)$$

where E_2 is elasticity coefficient of the average amount of social assistance for IDPs with respect to the increase in the legislatively defined subsistence minimum (or other relevant social guarantee); ΔLW is annual growth rate of the legally defined subsidence minimum (or other social guarantee), % compared to the previous year.

The coefficients E_1 and E_2 relate the increase in the average amount of social assistance provided to IDPs to the growth of the general price level index (E_1) and the subsistence minimum (E_2), respectively. These coefficients may take both negative and positive values. If E_1 and $E_2 \geq 1$, this indicates that the dynamics of social assistance for IDPs correspond to or exceed the growth of the general price level and social standards. If E_1 and $E_2 < 1$, but > 0, the increase in average amount of social assistance, although positive, does not align with the dynamics of the general price level and social standards. If E_1 and E_2 take on negative values, this implies a decrease in the average amount of social assistance for IDPs, which contradicts the trends in the general price level and social standards (given that inflation is a constant factor in Ukraine, and social standards either increase or remain unchanged).

3. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

According to the Ministry of Social Policy, Family and Unity of Ukraine (2025), as of August 2025, the number of IDPs who had officially confirmed their status in Ukraine amounted to 4.57 million individuals (ICC, 2025). The challenge posed by the large number of internal migrants is further exacerbated by the proportion of vulnerable population groups among the IDPs: 28.4% are pensioners, 20.6% are children under the age of 18, and 2.4% are persons with disabilities.

Despite the involvement of various actors and institutions in the implementation of social support programs for IDPs – such as international organizations, charitable foundations, and the corporate sector – the state remains the most significant actor in the development and implementation of social policy targeting IDPs in Ukraine. Evidently, the scope of state programs aimed at supporting IDPs is determined by the country's fiscal capacity and policy priorities. To assess such capacity, one may refer to data on the structure and dynamics of consolidated budget expenditures of Ukraine based on a functional classification (Table 1).

According to available data, under conditions of ongoing military conflict, defense, along with public order, security, and the judiciary, have remained consistent priorities of state policy. The share of expenditures allocated to these areas has increased significantly since 2021 and, combined, exceeded 50% of total budgetary expenditures during the period 2022–2024. In contrast, despite the worsening of social challenges caused by large-scale internal displacement, funding for social protection has decreased substantially – from 20% in 2001 to 10.6% in 2024. This trend highlights the urgent need to examine the current support programs for IDPs in Ukraine, particularly in terms of their alignment with the actual needs of this population.

At present, a number of programs are being implemented in Ukraine aimed at the protection and support of IDPs. These include initiatives to support entrepreneurial activities among IDPs, as well as the provision of psychological and legal assistance, social housing, and employment support, among others. However, it is not possible to assess the extent to which these programs meet the

Table 1. Dynamics and structure of consolidated state budget expenditures by functional classification, 2021–2024

Expenditures	2021		2022		2023		2024	
	billion UAH	%	billion UAH	%	billion UAH	%	billion UAH	%
Consolidated state budget expenditures	1845.4	100	3043.5	100	4440.9	100	4944.0	100
General government functions (excluding debt service)	95.1	5.2	88.2	2.9	99.8	2.2	127.5	2.6
Public debt service	157.6	8.5	160.3	5.3	249.3	5.6	308.4	6.2
Defense	127.5	6.9	1142.9	**37.6***	2097.6	**47.2**	2304.5	**46.6**
Public order, safety, and judiciary	176.1	9.5	454.4	**14.9**	591.4	**13.3**	712.7	**14.4**
Economic affairs	293.6	15.9	156.4	5.1	247.3	5.6	259.9	5.3
Environmental protection	10.6	0.6	5.2	0.2	6.4	0.1	10.4	0.2
Housing and utilities	56.9	3.1	41.2	1.4	70.4	1.6	66.2	1.3
Healthcare	204.1	11.1	215.3	7.1	217.4	4.9	238.7	4.8
Spiritual and physical development	43.4	2.4	33.6	1.1	38.5	0.9	45.5	0.9
Education	312.9	17.0	290.8	9.6	308.6	6.9	348.4	7.0
Social protection and social security	367.3	20.0	455.2	15.0	514.1	11.6	521.9	10.6

Note: The grey filing indicates expenditures whose share decreased compared to the pre-war year 2021; * – expenditures whose share increased compared to the pre-war year 2021.

needs of IDPs based solely on statistical data. To evaluate the effectiveness of public expenditures in terms of their relevance to IDPs (in order to test *H1*), the study was based on a nationally representative sociological survey.

The results of the survey assessing the extent to which existing support programs meet the current needs of IDPs (Figure 1) indicate that the most relevant programs are those providing cash assistance, as well as free legal and informational

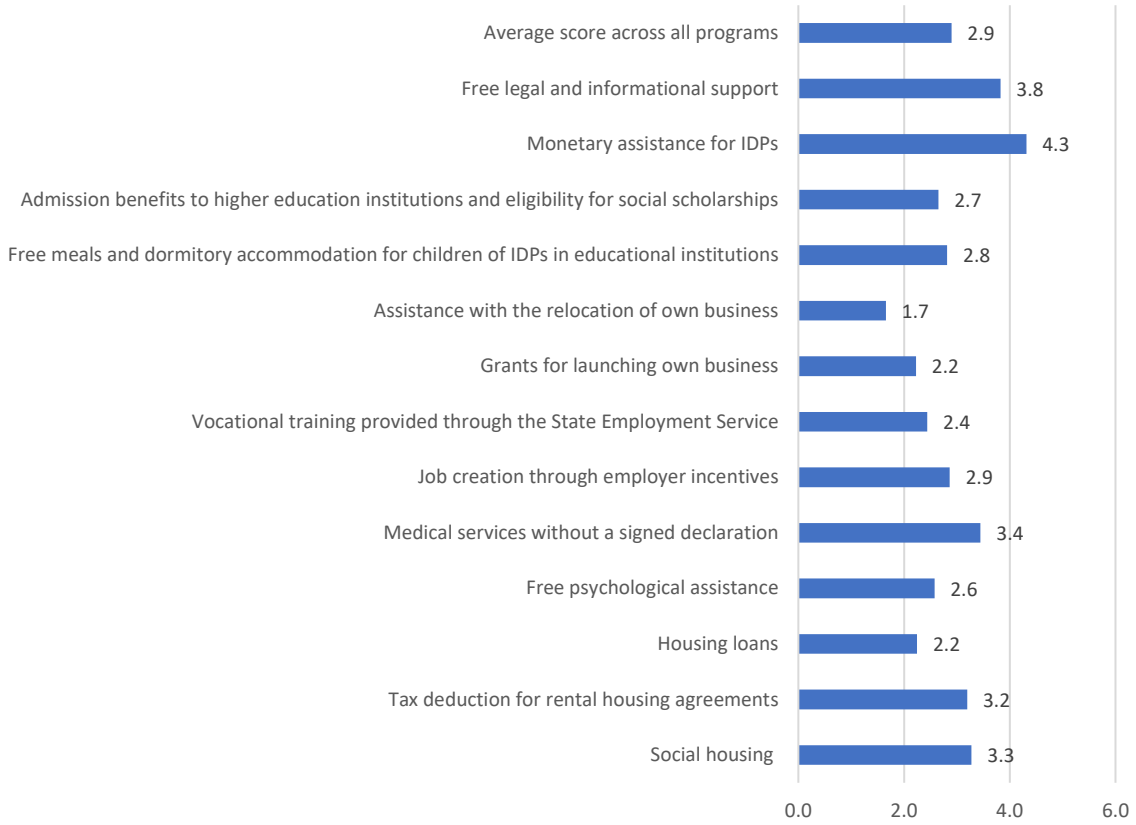

Figure 1. Results of IDPs' assessment of the relevance of existing support programs to their current needs (average score on a five-point scale)

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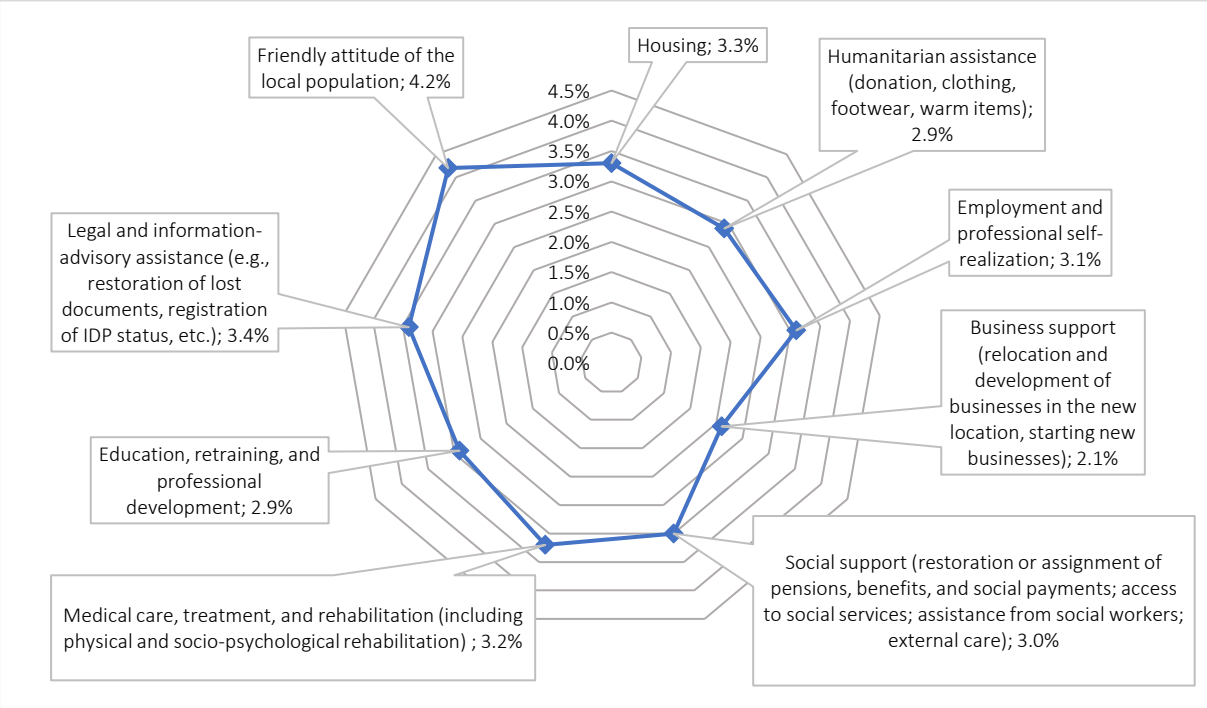

Figure 2. Results of IDP assessments of the degree to which their basic needs are met (average scores presented on a five-point scale)

support, which received average ratings of 4.3 and 3.8 out of a maximum of 5 points, respectively.

Programs providing social housing and medical care demonstrate an above-average level of alignment with the needs of IDPs. Due to their narrow target focus, programs aimed at stimulating entrepreneurial activity among IDPs (such as business relocation support and targeted grants) exhibit the lowest degree of alignment with IDP needs.

However, the extent to which support programs correspond to IDP needs does not capture their effectiveness. A key indicator of the effectiveness of such programs is the extent to which IDPs perceive their needs as being met. Figure 2 shows that, according to self-assessments by IDPs, the highest levels of satisfaction relate to the need for friendly attitudes, as well as legal and informational support. In contrast, satisfaction with housing, medical assistance, employment, and social support is at a moderate level, with average scores ranging from 3.0 to 3.3 on a five-point scale.

Figure 2 provides insights into the overall effectiveness of existing support programs for IDPs within the framework of the state's social policy. Accordingly, *H1* was only partially confirmed by the study results. The vast majority of IDP support programs correspond to their needs. In particular, as the survey data demonstrated, the most in-demand forms of assistance remain cash transfers and legal/information support, which is consistent with the findings of previous studies (Aleksandrova & Costella, 2021). Satisfaction of these needs plays a critical role in removing barriers to further integration into new communities, as demonstrated by Dirikgil (2023), Izarova et al. (2023), Mishchuk et al. (2024), and Voznyak et al. (2023). At the same time, satisfaction with basic needs – housing, employment, and medical services – remains at a moderate level, which indicates the limited effectiveness of current programs. Similar results have been reported in international studies, which highlight the need to move from universal support schemes to targeted and comprehensive solutions (Adeleye & Aremu, 2023; Perelli-Harris et al., 2024; Voznyak et al., 2023). Thus, the Ukrainian case confirms a general pattern: the effectiveness of programs depends not only on their number or scale but also on their targeting and ability to account for the specific needs of different IDP groups.

Given that the most extensive targeted social support program for IDPs in Ukraine is the housing

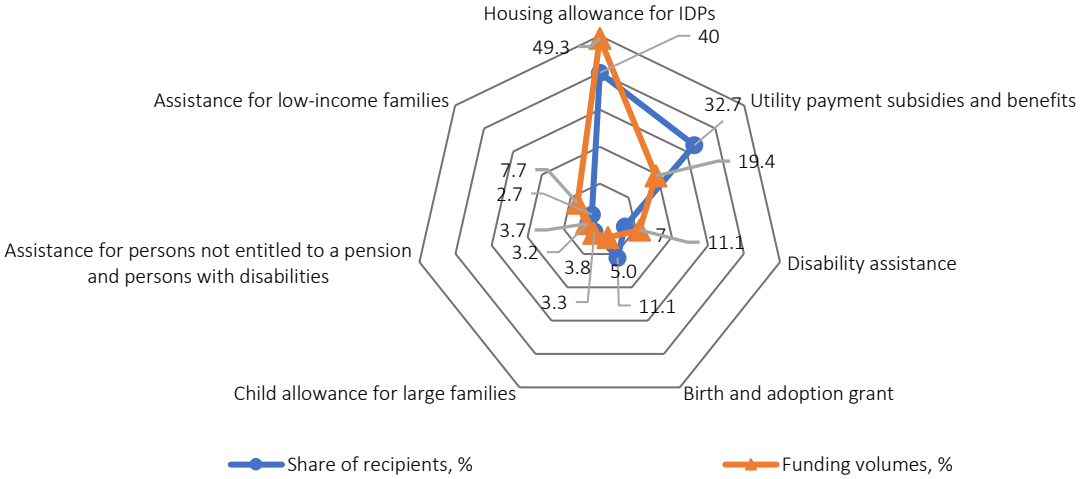

Figure 3. Distribution of social benefit recipients in Ukraine by type of primary social support in 2023, %

allowance, the next stage of this study involves analyzing its effectiveness in order to test *H2*.

Currently, housing allowance recipients constitute approximately 40% of all social benefit recipients in Ukraine and account for nearly 50% of the total state budget expenditures for social payments. By these indicators, the scale of this program's implementation surpasses that of utility subsidy programs and social payments for persons with disabilities (Figure 3).

Analysis of the key indicators of the housing allowance program for IDPs in Ukraine (Table 2) shows that the largest volume of budget expenditures for housing allowance payments occurred in 2023, amounting to UAH 73.2 billion. In 2024, this figure decreased to UAH 57.6 billion, representing a 21.3% decline.

It is noteworthy that the share of budget expenditures allocated to the respective program during 2022–2024 ranged from 11 to 14.2% of total expenditures on social protection and welfare, and from 31.5 to 42.9% of expenditures on social support. Both the share of budget expenditures and the absolute amount of funding for the program (in UAH equivalent) declined significantly in 2024. This substantial reduction in program funding was driven by revisions to the legislative framework governing housing assistance for IDPs. In 2023, eligibility criteria were amended for unem-

Table 2. Indicators of the implementation of the housing allowance program for IDPs

Indicators	2021	2022	2023	2024
Housing support for IDPs (total funding), million UAH	3,039.5	53,488.6	73,240.8	57,647.3
Percentage change compared to the previous year, %	–	–	36.9	–21.3
Share of expenditures on social support to the population, %	27.0	35.5	42.9	31.5
Share of total expenditures on social protection and welfare, %	0.8	11.8	14.2	11.0
Number of IDPs receiving housing assistance, thousand persons	171.1	1,537.1	2,602.5	1,939.0
Share of total IDPs (as of year-end), %	11.6	31.7	53.1	41.7
Average amount of housing assistance per recipient, UAH/person per month	1,480.1	2,899.9	2,345.2	2,477.5
As a percentage of the subsistence minimum for non-disabled persons, %	65.2	116.9	87.4	81.8
As a percentage of the minimum wage, %	24.7	44.6	35.0	31.0
As a percentage of the actual subsistence minimum, %	36.0	62.1	44.5	X
Statutory monthly housing assistance for IDPs (UAH/month)				
for persons with disabilities and children	3,000	3,000	3,000	3,000
for other categories of persons	2,000	2,000	2,000	2,000

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ployed, working-age IDPs through the introduction of requirements aimed at encouraging their economic self-sufficiency. These measures include employment, registration as a sole proprietor, registration as a self-employed professional, submission of an application for assistance to achieve economic independence, participation in a micro-grant or grant program for business creation or development, obtaining a training voucher, or acquiring the status of unemployed. If an unemployed, working-age IDP fails to undertake the above measures to secure economic self-sufficiency, their housing assistance payments are discontinued. Such legislative changes somewhat narrowed the pool of IDPs eligible for this support, as some IDPs either lacked the ability or were unwilling to officially confirm their unemployment status or participate in self-employment programs. As a result, the number of IDP housing assistance recipients declined from 2.6 million in 2023 to 1.94 million in 2024, representing 53.2% and 41.7% of the total IDP population, respectively. Key indicators of the effectiveness of the current housing assistance program include the benefit size parameters. Throughout 2022–2024, the legally defined benefit levels remained unchanged – UAH 3,000 for persons with disabilities and children, and UAH 2,000 for other categories of IDPs. This situation is unfavorable, as over the same period, there was a sustained increase in the general price level (20.2% in 2022, 12.9% in 2023, and 6.5% in 2024), resulting in a decline in the real value of IDP housing assistance. The average per-recipient amount of housing assistance remains critically low, falling short of the legally defined subsistence minimum, and is significantly lower than both the statutory minimum wage and the actual subsistence minimum.

The calculation of indicators (1) and (2) used to evaluate the performance of the IDP housing assistance program (Table 3) reveals the presence of rather contradictory trends.

It is evident that in 2021–2022 the effectiveness of the program was relatively high, as elasticity coefficients E_1 and E_2 had positive values and substantially exceeded one. In contrast, in 2023, the elasticity coefficients turned negative, which was driven by a decline in the average amount of housing assistance against the backdrop of significant increases in both the general price level and the subsistence minimum. In 2024, the program's effectiveness, as measured by E_1 and E_2, increased somewhat relative to 2023 but remained rather low overall. Thus, it can be concluded that the current program for housing assistance to IDPs in Ukraine demonstrates a relatively low level of effectiveness, which is largely attributable to the insufficient benefit amount in the context of high inflation and the large scale of internal displacement (Hypothesis *H2* was fully confirmed).

The findings obtained in the verification of *H2* are consistent with those of Yurchyk et al. (2023), who emphasize the limited multiplier effect of social expenditures under conditions of fiscal deficit. Given the decline in the real value of housing assistance during 2023–2024, such a multiplier effect could not have been positive. At the same time, these findings differ from some international studies

Table 3. Dynamics of performance indicators for the implementation of the IDP housing assistance program in Ukraine, 2021–2024

	Symbol	2021	2022	2023	2024
Input data for calculations					
Growth of the average amount of housing assistance for IDPs, % compared to the previous year	$\overrightarrow{\Delta S_{IDP}}$	45.2	95.9	–19.1	5.6
Growth of the consumer price index, % compared to the previous year	ΔI_{cp}	9.4	20.2	12.9	6.5
Growth of the (overall) subsistence minimum, % compared to the previous year	ΔLW	9.3	4.8	3.2	12.8
Elasticity coefficients					
Elasticity coefficient of the average amount of social support for IDPs with respect to the growth of the general price level	E1	4.81	4.75	–1.48	0.87
Elasticity coefficient of the average amount of social assistance for IDPs with respect to the growth of the legally defined subsistence minimum	E2	4.85	19.96	–5.92	0.44

that demonstrate the effectiveness of government cash transfer programs in higher-income countries (Androniceanu et al., 2022; Dudzevičiūtė, 2023; Kutasi & Marton, 2020). These discrepancies can be partly explained by the ongoing war in Ukraine and the need to prioritize defense spending. Given these results, it is clear that approaches to determining the amount of housing assistance for IDPs, particularly those belonging to vulnerable groups, need to be revised.

The issue of legislative restrictions on housing assistance eligibility remains debatable. On the one hand, these measures are designed to encourage employment and reduce dependence on state support. On the other hand, they limit access to benefits for some socially vulnerable IDPs, which contradicts the principle of universal assistance and supports the concerns raised by Bulakh (2020) and Izarova et al. (2023) regarding administrative barriers to assessing social rights.

Overall, the findings of this study align with most international research emphasizing the need for a flexible, multi-level, and cross-sectoral system of support for IDPs, yet they demonstrate that in wartime conditions, even large-scale programs cannot guarantee high effectiveness without adjusting benefit amounts in line with inflationary processes and ensuring accessibility for all categories of displaced persons. The current practice of maintaining a fixed, unchanged benefit amount for four consecutive years has become a factor reducing the program's overall efficiency. To enhance its effectiveness, it is advisable to ensure that benefit amounts are regularly updated in accordance with price dynamics and social standards.

CONCLUSION

The purpose of this study was to examine the effectiveness of funding for state support programs targeting IDPs in the context of their alignment with the needs of the target population. The results demonstrate that most programs are generally responsive to the needs of IDPs. However, some programs – owing to their specific focus (e.g., retraining, business development, including grant support) – are not considered priorities by IDPs themselves. At the same time, there remain gaps in meeting basic needs, which are meant to be addressed through housing assistance. The effectiveness of this largest support program has significantly declined, particularly since 2023, due to inflationary pressures and the absence of benefit adjustments. Legislative restrictions on access to benefits for certain IDP groups have further exacerbated their social vulnerability.

Consequently, the Ukrainian experience highlights the importance of regularly assessing the alignment of state funding priorities with the needs of IDPs, as well as combining state financial resources with the support of international organizations, civil society, and volunteer initiatives. This approach would enable the implementation of targeted support measures in areas that may not attract widespread interest but are crucial for economic recovery (e.g., entrepreneurship). In the longer term, it would be advisable to introduce legislative mechanisms for indexing social benefits, expand access to housing programs, and develop employment support instruments – measures that would facilitate the sustainable recovery and integration of the displaced population.

AUTHOR CONTRIBUTIONS

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