

City of Chernivtsi

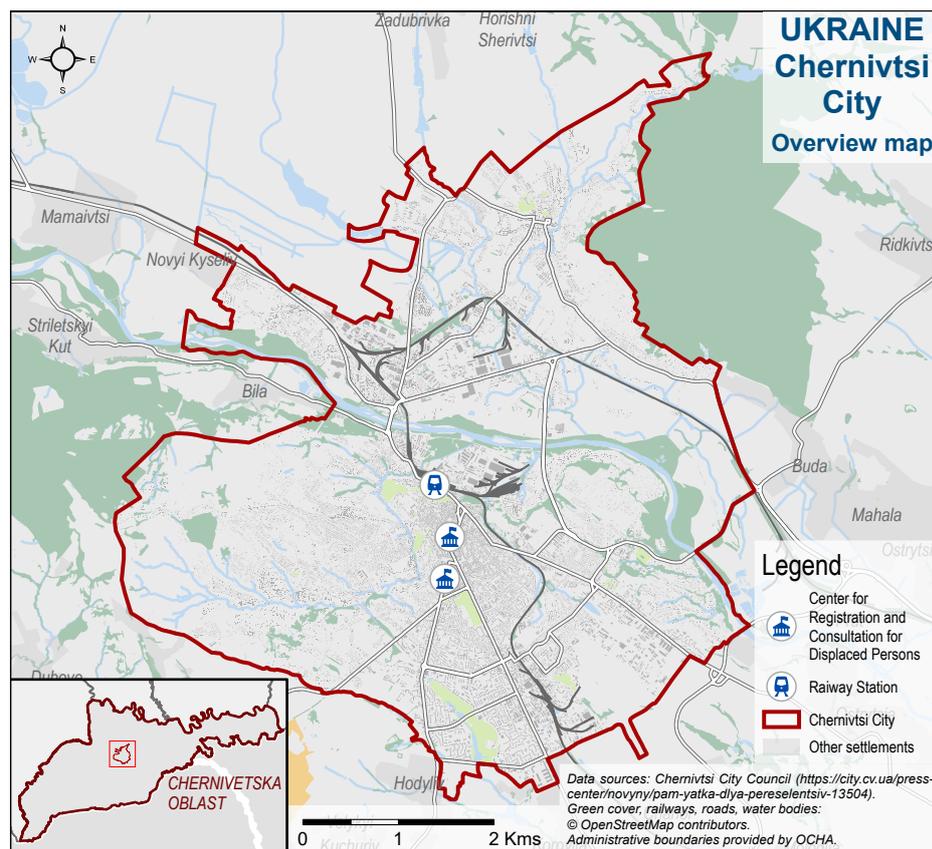
Context and methodology

Since the escalation of conflict in Ukraine on Thursday 24 February 2022, the humanitarian situation has deteriorated quickly, and engulfed areas previously unaffected by conflict.

As a result, a large number of people have been displaced from conflict affected areas leading to both refugee flows into neighboring countries and build-up of internally displaced people (IDPs) across Ukraine. Initial mapping of IDP registrations suggests that Chernivtsi, a city in western Ukraine, is a common destination for displaced populations.

Prior to the conflict, Chernivtsi had an estimated metropolitan population of around 262,000 people, and in the last two weeks, this figure has risen unexpectedly. This factsheet contains brief information on the status of the situation with IDPs in Chernivtsi city. Information was collected through key informant (KIs) and secondary data review.

Map 1 : IDP registration centers and reception points in Chernivtsi



Arrival of IDPs and registration process

Arrival in Chernivtsi

IDPs from conflict-affected areas are arriving in Chernivtsi by train or other modes of transportation (ex. buses, personal cars, etc.). The majority of IDPs are from the Donetsk, Luhanska, Kharkivska, Sumska, Chernihivska, Kyivska Oblasts, as well as the cities of Kyiv and Kherson. Women, children, and the elderly make up the majority of the IDPs arriving in Chernivetska oblast.

Upon arrival, displaced persons are able to visit registration centers in order to be registered. As of March 24th 2022, the Chernivtsi oblast civil-military administration reports that approximately 62 000 IDPs are currently in Chernivtsi oblast, more than 20 000 of them are children¹. In addition, 377 orphans and children without parental care were evacuated to Chernivtsi. These are children from orphanages and social rehabilitation centers from Kyivska oblast and Mykolaiv city¹.

Estimating the total number of IDPs in Chernivtsi is difficult due to the rapidly changing displacement situation. In addition, some IDPs (ex. adults without children who do not belong to vulnerable groups or people who live with relatives/friends) do not register because they do not require immediate support for housing or other services.

Registration process

On March 13, 2022, a central national system of registration of IDPs was launched in Ukraine through a resolution of the Cabinet of Ministers on IDP registration². In particular, during martial law, IDP certificates are issued to persons who have moved to other regions as a result of the war, and relevant information is entered into the Unified Information Database of IDPs. However, there may be delays in issuing IDP certificates because the system has just become operational.

IDPs in Chernivtsi who currently need immediate assistance can register at 2 registration centers: 1) Center for Registration and Advice for Displaced Persons, and 2) in the Department of Family and Youth Affairs of the Department of Social Policy of Chernivtsi City Council (see Map 1).

Availability of services upon arrival

Upon arrival in Chernivtsi, IDPs can access a variety of services to meet their immediate emergency needs. Among such services for IDPs are medical and psychological help, assistance in finding a job and an educational institution for children. According to KIs, volunteers at registration centers provide information on available services to IDPs. Displaced people have the opportunity in these centers to get clothes

¹ Official web-site of Chernivtsi oblast state administration, March 2022. [Link](#)

² Resolution of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine of March 13, 2022 № 269. [Link](#)

City of Chernivtsi

for adults and children, sleeping items (blankets, pillows, bed linen), and personal hygiene products. In addition, the regional military administration established a call center where displaced people can apply for housing.

In terms of medical care, IDPs can apply independently to the nearest medical institution for specialist advice, psychological assistance, and advice for pregnant women, as well as to get vaccinated against the coronavirus.

Additionally, the Chernivtsi Regional Employment Center has prepared a list of almost 600 current vacancies for IDPs looking for work (ex. legal advisers, accountants, economists, programmers, educators, and other professionals)³. In Chernivtsi, employees of cultural centers and children's libraries take care of displaced children and organize leisure activities for them.

Moreover, a humanitarian clothing warehouse was opened in Chernivtsi, where IDPs can receive free clothing and footwear⁴. According to KIs, there are IDP aid points in seven schools where clothes for adults and children, diapers, and hygiene products are available for IDPs.

Concerning transportation assistance, there is a free shuttle bus for displaced persons from Chernivtsi railway station to the "Porubne" border point on the Ukrainian-Romanian border, provided by the city council.

Shelter and housing

Humanitarian headquarters and registration centers also support with the referral of IDPs to communal shelters. Currently, IDPs are hosted in hotels, sanatoriums and boarding houses. Other temporary shelters include repurposed municipality buildings, like schools, kindergartens, libraries, theatres etc. Among the needs of IDPs living in collective centers are long-term storage products. There is also a lack of dry baby food, diapers and medicines for reanimation medical care.

A key issue in rental housing is reportedly the significant increase in the price of rent. In general, prices for one room and three room apartments became 80-100% higher in Chernivtsi⁵. In this regard, the mayor of Chernivtsi appealed to the owners of apartments with an official appeal not to overestimate the price of rental housing. IDPs' search for housing is also complicated by criminal activity and frauds⁶.

In conclusion, all data on places of registration, access to services and collective centers for displaced people is accessible at the Center for Registration and Advice for Displaced Persons or by reaching a hotline. Displaced persons independently, if necessary, apply to certain institutions, where they are provided with free medical, psychological and educational services. Chernivtsi continues to receive IDPs, so the situation of humanitarian needs among IDPs will continue to require close monitoring.

Reported Humanitarian Situation

Displaced people

- Most displaced people come from conflict affected regions of the country: Donetsk, Luhanska, Kharkivska, Sumska, Chernihivska, and Kyivska oblast.
- Since the conflict erupted, Chernivtsi Oblast administration has registered 62,000 IDPs.

Access to Basic Services

- Disrupted access to transportation and/or fuel supply are reported as general concerns in the area.
- A lack of long-term storage products, dry baby food, diapers and medicines is also considered as a problem.

Shelter

- Among the types of housing available to IDPs in the area are: shelters in communal settings, free accommodation with family and friends or with volunteers.
- Communal shelters have been set up in schools and communal facilities. In addition, housing for IDPs is located in dormitories, offices, sport halls.

Information needs

- Reported lack of information on free housing and suitability of a shelter for small children and people with disabilities.
- Information on places where free medicines is provided by the state (e.g. insulin, etc.) is also insufficient.

Needs of IDPS

- Insufficient washing facilities, bedding and blankets, sanitary and hygiene items are reported in communal shelters.
- There are IDP aid points in seven schools where clothes for adults and children, diapers, and hygiene products are available for IDPs.

Other concerns in the area

- A key issue in finding rental housing is reportedly the significant increase in the price of rent. IDPs' search for housing is also complicated by criminal activity and frauds.
- Other concern includes the psychological stress due to reports of air raids.

³ "Work for displaced people". Official web-site of Chernivtsi oblast state administration. March 2022. [Link](#)

⁴ Suspilne News. "A 24-hour humanitarian headquarters has opened in the Chernivtsi", February 2022. [Link](#)

⁵ Forbes. "How housing prices have increased in Lviv, Uzhhorod, Chernivtsi and other cities", March 2022. [Link](#)

⁶ Official web-site of the territorial unit of the National Police in Chernivtsi region. March 2022. [Link](#)

City of Chernivtsi

Map 2: Humanitarian headquarters in Chernivetska Oblast

