

HOUSING RIGHTS OF IDPS IN UKRAINE: COMPENSATION MECHANISMS FOR DESTROYED PROPERTY

The issue of ensuring housing rights for internally displaced persons (IDPs) in Ukraine has become one of the most pressing humanitarian and legal challenges in recent years. As a result of the armed conflict in eastern Ukraine since 2014 and the full-scale invasion in 2022, millions of citizens have been displaced, and a significant number have lost their homes due to hostilities, occupation, or deliberate destruction of civilian infrastructure. Therefore, the relevance of studying compensation mechanisms for destroyed property is determined by the urgent need to restore violated rights, ensure social stability, and promote sustainable post-war recovery [4; 6].

The protection of housing rights for IDPs is regulated by a system of national legislation and international legal standards. According to the Law of Ukraine “On Ensuring the Rights and Freedoms of Internally Displaced Persons,” IDPs are guaranteed the right to proper living conditions, social protection, and restoration of property rights [1]. Furthermore, the Law of Ukraine “On Compensation for Damage and Destruction of Certain Categories of Real Estate as a Result of Hostilities” establishes a unified legal framework for obtaining monetary compensation or housing certificates [2]. These provisions are grounded in the UN Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement, which define the responsibility of the state to protect and restore housing rights [7]. This study argues that while the existing compensation mechanism represents significant progress, it remains limited in addressing cases of property located in temporarily occupied territories.

A key instrument for submitting and processing compensation claims is the State Register of Damaged and Destroyed Property, integrated into the Diia digital platform. The compensation procedure includes several stages: submission of an electronic application, verification of data, technical assessment of damage, confirmation of ownership rights, and decision-making by authorized commissions. This system enhances transparency and facilitates access for citizens, particularly for vulnerable groups such as IDPs, families with children, persons with disabilities, and veterans [2; 3].

International organizations also play a significant role in supporting housing-related programs. The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), the International Organization for Migration (IOM), and the Council of Europe Development Bank contribute to the reconstruction of damaged housing, provision of temporary accommodation, and development of community-based housing solutions. Their involvement strengthens national efforts by providing financial resources, technical expertise, and monitoring compliance with human rights standards [4; 5].

However, the compensation system still faces a number of challenges. These include insufficient funding, difficulties in verifying destruction in temporarily occupied territories, lengthy administrative procedures, and insufficient coordination between institutions [6]. Addressing issues of transparency, minimizing corruption risks, and

improving public awareness are essential for increasing the effectiveness of compensation mechanisms [4].

Thus, ensuring housing rights for IDPs requires not only the formal implementation of compensation mechanisms but also their substantive improvement and adaptation to wartime realities. In particular, expanding legal and procedural solutions for properties located in temporarily occupied territories, strengthening institutional coordination, and increasing financial capacity are critical. Ukraine's compensation mechanism may serve as a model for post-conflict recovery in other jurisdictions [4; 8].

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