



Voices of Children Charitable Foundation
NGO "Kharkiv Institute of Social Research"

CHILDREN AND WAR IN UKRAINE

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Introduction

The third month of the war was characterized by the growing occupation of Donetsk and Luhansk regions, as well as the strengthening of the occupation regime in the east and south of the country. In addition to the constant shelling of homes and civilian infrastructure, we record harassment of people in many towns and villages, killings, kidnapping, deportations, separation from the relatives, recruitment and participation of children in Russian propaganda. There is a humanitarian crisis in the occupied areas, there is a lack of food, medicine and basic necessities, infants suffer most. Children are deprived of the opportunity to leave the occupied settlements, receive timely medical care, and study in Ukrainian schools.

The war in Ukraine has already killed 234 children and injured more than 433.¹

We offer you a report that briefly describes the key events of the third month of the war, related to the situation, problems and needs of children in Ukraine and abroad. Separately in this report, we have analyzed the situation with children's right to education.

The methodology is based on the analysis of statistics, data from official government sources and media materials. There were also 15 interviews with teachers, volunteers and parents in the occupation and in the active combat areas, as well as with families who were forced to move to the western and central regions of Ukraine and abroad.

¹ These figures are not final, as work is underway to establish them in the active combat areas, in the temporarily occupied and in the liberated territories.

<https://www.gp.gov.ua/ua/posts/yuvenalni-prokurori-234-ditini-zaginuli-v-ukrayini-vnaslidok-zbroinoyi-agresiyi-rf>

Children under occupation and in active combat areas

As at the end of the third month of the war, Russian troops had occupied a number of settlements in the Donetsk, Luhansk, Zaporizhia, Mykolaiv, Kherson, and Kharkiv regions. Sumy, Dnipropetrovsk, Odesa and Chernihiv regions are also regularly shelled.

Russian troops continue to violate international humanitarian law in the war with Ukraine. Below we describe the situation in these territories and give examples of war crimes committed by Russia that directly affect Ukrainian children.

Creating a humanitarian crisis in the occupied territories

According to the Geneva Convention, the occupying power is obliged to use all available means to provide the population with food, necessary medication and other supplies if the resources of the occupied territory are insufficient.

However, this does not happen at all in the occupied territories of Ukraine. The humanitarian crisis has already begun in many cities and villages. People lack medicines, personal hygiene products and sometimes even food. Families with infants and young children are particularly affected - it is almost impossible to find diapers, milk formulas and the minimum necessary baby cosmetics. Humanitarian aid from Ukraine is blocked, only basic foodstuffs (sugar, pasta, flour, etc.) are brought from Russia and the Autonomous Republic of Crimea. Often such products, as well as some financial assistance are provided only after the collection of personal data and copies of documents from the residents of settlements. This is done to organize temporary administrations in the occupied territories of Ukraine.²

Newborns under 6 months have almost nothing to eat. There are no dairy mixes, the mothers lost her milk from stress. Baby food has a very short shelf life, such assistance must be imported constantly. But humanitarian aid delivery is blocked, trucks are simply deployed at Russian checkpoints. You can bring something in a car, but that will not be enough, and there is still a risk of coming under fire. Recently, a car with medications was shot, the drugs were robbed and nothing has reached us.

From the interview with a volunteer

There is also numerous evidence of the export of grain and other foodstuffs (oil, vegetables, etc.) from the occupied territories.³ People can buy goods in natural markets and small shops, all retail chains are closed. However, prices there have skyrocketed several times. Doing business is becoming unprofitable, because many foodstuffs are confiscated at checkpoints by the occupiers, who are on self-sustainment there. The payments are done in cash, the terminals work only in a few places, and that is unstable due to poor internet connection.

The 90s returned to Kherson. There are open cars, you just go along and look for what you need. Prices have been risen 2-4 times. A pack of sugar costs 100 hryvnias, oil 800 ml - also 100 hryvnias, doctor's sausage - 400 hryvnias per kilogram. Pharmacies are open, but there are only expensive cosmetics and all kinds of

²<https://www.facebook.com/denisovaombudsman/posts/544523163695627>

³<https://t.me/denisovaombudsman/5306>

dried herbs, not even iodine. Shops with household chemicals and hygiene products have been closed.

From the interview with a volunteer

Another problem is the lack of work and, consequently, the income of the residents of the occupied territories. Most public and private institutions have been closed. Those who work face the problem of receiving wages. Not everyone receives pensions and social benefits for children.

Все позакривалося. Працюють лише лікарні та школи, проте заробітну плату їм не виплачують вже більше 80 днів. Кажуть, що застрягли платежі. Пенсіонери змогли отримати пенсію нещодавно, але тільки ті, які мають банківські картки. Ті, хто отримував через поштові відділення, сидять без пенсії, бо значна загроза зараз їхати по ті пенсії і взяти ті гроші.

Everything is closed. Only hospitals and schools work, but they have not been paid for more than 80 days. Payments are said to be stuck. Retirees have been able to receive a pension recently, but only those who have bank cards. Those who received pensions through post offices are without money, because it is rather dangerous now to go for those pensions and to take that money.

From the interview with a volunteer



In addition to the humanitarian crisis in Mariupol, there is an infectious danger due to damaged communications and chaotic burials, which requires the immediate evacuation of city residents.⁴

The city of Mariupol, Donetsk region under occupation⁵

Prohibition of specific methods and means of warfare

Russian troops continue to use prohibited weapons, shells and substances capable of inflicting unnecessary suffering on the population of Ukraine. Phosphorus munitions, thermobaric missiles, cluster munitions, which are aimed among others at residential buildings and civilian infrastructure, cause a significant number of deaths and injuries among civilians, including children - severe concussions, limb detachment, rupture of the lungs and other internal organs, deep burns and wounds, the treatment of which is extremely difficult.

⁴<https://t.me/mariupolrada/9709>

⁵<https://t.me/mariupolrada/9581>



Thus, on April 26 and April 27, Russian servicemen carried out a rocket attack with cluster charges on civilian targets in Dnipropetrovsk region.⁶

A Russian missile of the Point U complex was shot down in the Dnipropetrovsk region on April 26⁷

Also on April 26 and 27, the Russians struck twice with phosphorous shells in Avdiivka, Donetsk region. As a result of these shelling, several fires broke out in the city⁸.

On the night of May 12, the Russian military probably used phosphorous shells during another shelling of the Novovorontsov community in Kherson region, resulting in a fire.⁹

On May 16, the enemy fired cluster munitions in the direction of the settlement of Sukha Balka, Donetsk region.¹⁰

Attacking or bombing civilian objects

Dwellings, medical institutions, educational institutions and infrastructure in general have been damaged in a number of settlements in the east and south of Ukraine.



Thus, according to the Luhansk Regional Civil-Military Administration, there are almost no surviving buildings left in region. 42 settlements of the region and 117.5 thousand citizens are without electricity. Almost the entire region is without gas, except for 3 settlements. There is also no water anywhere.¹¹

A bombed house in Volnovakha, Donetsk region¹²

⁶<https://dnipr.gp.gov.ua/ua/news.html? m=publications& t=rec&id=312814>

⁷<https://dnipr.gp.gov.ua/ua/news.html? m=publications& t=rec&id=312814>

⁸https://t.me/pavlokyrylenko_donoda/3161

⁹https://t.me/pgg_gov_ua/4097

¹⁰<https://www.facebook.com/GeneralStaff.ua/posts/318398300473255>

¹¹<https://minre.gov.ua/news/bez-svitla-i-elektryky-ta-po-pivlitra-vody-na-lyudynu-nesterpni-umovy-pryfrontovoyi>

¹²<https://life.ppravda.com.ua/society/2022/05/4/248499/>

In Kherson region, housing was destroyed in 53 settlements. There are 63 settlements without electricity and water, 23 without gas and almost all settlements where liquefied gas is used.¹³

The situation is similar in Zaporizhia¹⁴, Mykolaiv¹⁵, Donetsk¹⁶ regions.

Children are killed and seriously injured in attacks and bombings on civilian targets.

On April 30, Russian troops attacked a residential area in Dobropillya - seven people were injured, including three children, at least six houses and one non-residential premises were damaged.¹⁷

On May 2, a missile strike in Odessa killed one child and injured another, as well as damaged a religious building.¹⁸

On May 7, the Russian occupiers covered the town of Privillya in the Luhansk region with fire from Grad MLRS. The shelling killed two children.



A woman and two other children were seriously injured.¹⁹

On May 21, a 7-year-old girl was injured as a result of shelling by the occupiers of the village of Molodetske, Kherson region.²⁰

Not having time to escape from the shelling in Mariupol, 10-year-old Elijah tore his leg, and his mother, who ran nearby, died from a head injury.²¹

¹³<https://minre.gov.ua/news/vykradennya-lyudey-ta-gostryy-deficyt-usogo-zhyttyevo-neobhidnogo-yak-okupanty-shylyayut-do>

¹⁴<https://minre.gov.ua/news/bombarduvannya-zalyakuvannya-lyudey-ta-miny-na-plyazhah-tak-zhyvut-na-tot-zaporizhzhya>

¹⁵<https://minre.gov.ua/news/rosiyany-ruynuyut-nashi-domivky-my-ruynuyemo-yihni-plany-yak-strymuye-vorozhu-navalu>

¹⁶<https://minre.gov.ua/news/hochut-zhyty-musyat-vyzhyvaty-yak-poterpaye-vid-okupantiv-donechchyna>

¹⁷https://t.me/pavlokyrylenko_donoda/3219

¹⁸<https://www.pravda.com.ua/news/2022/05/2/7343588/>

¹⁹<https://www.facebook.com/100072443376686/posts/167565362334909/>

²⁰<https://www.gp.gov.ua/ua/posts/yuvenalni-prokurori-vnaslidok-zbroinoyi-agresiyi-rf-v-ukrayini-zaginuli-232-ditini-8371>

²¹<https://www.facebook.com/1923262167984511/posts/3069652270012156/>

Murders, injuries, ill-treatment and sexual abuse of children

In addition to children killed and injured as a result of attacks on civilian objects, there are cases of direct murders and injuring children of all ages.

Thus, on May 1, it became to know that in Chernihiv region, the occupiers killed a young mother and attached a living child to her body with a mine between them. When unwrapping the child, the mine detonated, the child died.²²

On May 5, it became to know that while staying in the temporarily occupied village of Buzova, Kyiv region, Russian servicemen illegally broke into a private house. Threatening with firearms, they behaved cruelly with the residents, who did not take part in combat and were unarmed. The suspects beat them with the butt of machine guns, arms and legs. Among the victims there were women and children.²³



Veronica is in rehab. After the shell hit the basement of a house in Vuhledar, Donetsk region, the girl lost her entire family and suffered severe spinal cord and brain injuries.²⁴

Besides, there are numerous cases of parents being shot in front of children during evacuations or in the occupied territories of Ukraine.

On May 4, a convoy of private cars that left Vovchansk, Chuhuiv district, Kharkiv region while driving though the village of Old Saltiv, came under fire. As a result,

²²<https://zmina.info/news/rosiys%CA%B9ki-viys%CA%B9kovi-vbyly-zhinku-prymotaly-do-neyi-yiyi-zhyvu-dytynu-a-mizh-nymy-zaklaly-minu-zhurnalisty/>

²³<https://www.gp.gov.ua/ua/posts/zorstoke-povodzennya-z-civilnimi-sered-yakix-zinki-ta-diti-pid-cas-okupaciyi-na-kiyvshhini-vikrito-viiskovix-rf>

²⁴<https://suspilne.media/241181-zaginuli-vsi-divcinka-z-vugledaru-aka-vtratila-rodinu-pid-cas-obstrilu-prohodit-reabilitaciu/>

a 6-month-old child in one of the cars was injured, the whereabouts of another child, a 13-year-old girl are currently unknown.²⁵

On May 7, when a phone call between the occupier and his wife was intercepted, it became to know that the mother had been killed in front of her two children for no apparent reason.²⁶

12-year-old Kira is in the hospital with her grandfather. The occupiers killed the father in front of the girl, and the wounded girl was kidnapped and taken to a territory not controlled by Ukraine. Fortunately, it became possible to return the child to Ukraine.²⁷



According to the hotline of the Ukrainian Parliament's Commissioner for Human Rights, there are also dozens of reports of sexual abuse of children. On May 19 alone, claims of rape of three 9-year-old girls with severe genital injuries, of a 9-month-old girl, a 2-year-old girl and a 1-year-old boy who died.²⁸

Kidnapping and forced deportation of children

As of May 21, Russia had deported to its territory 1,377,925 Ukrainians, including 232,480 children.²⁹

Filtration camps are an integral part of such movement. As part of the "filtering", representatives of pseudo-republics, employees of the Russian Federal Security Service interrogate citizens, perform the procedure of fingerprinting, check mobile phones - contacts, correspondence, photos, videos, activity on social networks for "likes and reposts" of pro-Ukrainian pages. The body is also examined for tattoos.³⁰ After the interrogation of adults, children may also be interrogated in order to find out false information from their parents.³¹

²⁵<https://www.gp.gov.ua/ua/posts/yuvenalni-prokurori-223-ditini-zaginuli-v-ukrayini-cerez-zbroinu-agresiyu-uf-2>

²⁶<https://www.facebook.com/watch/?v=322095316662757>

²⁷<https://www.facebook.com/1923262167984511/posts/3060374467606603/>

²⁸<https://t.me/denisovaombudsman/6120>

²⁹<https://fb.watch/d8vB-1deEk/>

³⁰<https://t.me/denisovaombudsman/5749>

³¹https://t.me/andriyshTime/869?fbclid=IwAR1FIYH56Oi-8d0eF2_A_KiN7dSJtyN7hbQoM7kqiEtpOzIQloUd36-P3w



After filtering, people are dwelt in places of temporary residence, where they often have to wait for deportation to the Russian Federation in unfavorable conditions. There is mostly no access to medical or social care.

Separation of children and parents is not uncommon during deportation.

4-year-old Alice is separated from her mother.³²

Thus, the story of separating the mother and her 4-year-old daughter during the evacuation on May 7 from the territory of the Azovstal plant became well known. The mother remained in a filtration camp on the territory of the so-called "DNR". Only the girl has reached her destination in Zaporizhia.³³

Besides, there are cases of child abduction aimed at forcing their mothers to go to the positions of the Ukrainian military in order to obtain information about their location.³⁴

Totally, 1,112 reports of missing children have been registered in Ukraine since the start of the full-scale Russian invasion. 90 children are still wanted, and 2 children are already dead.³⁵

Recruitment and participation of children in the war

Despite the fact that the warring countries must take all possible measures to prevent the participation of children in the war, Ukrainian law enforcement agencies are constantly recording the recruitment of Ukrainian children by Russian special services as informants.

Thus, in Lutsk the policemen paid attention to three teenagers who constantly turned around at one of checkpoints. After checking the children's phones, many pictures of the Lutsk military airfield and repair station were found, as well as correspondence with unknown Russian subscribers. The "unknown" asked the pupils about the situation, trying to find out information about the location of military facilities, military equipment and weapons. In Novolugansk, the occupier established contact with a juvenile Ukrainian woman via Telegram-messenger. He

³²<https://suspilne.media/238189-place-vnoci-ta-postijno-hodit-iz-naplicnikom-ak-pocuvaetsa-alisa-z-mariupola-aku-okupanti-rozlucili-iz-mamou/>

³³<https://t.me/polkazov/4470?fbclid=IwAR2mrHpvMalDhrEe0eedv3QL7wOG3R8pCnNHKOvkOz0uNjnFefGybvBynTg>

³⁴<https://www.youtube.com/watch?t=405&v=SqJYZZbf91Y&feature=youtu.be>

³⁵<https://zmina.info/news/vid-kinczya-lyutogo-v-ukrayini-znyklo-bezvisty-ponad-12-tysyachi-ditej/>

promised a certain fee for the information about the positions of the Armed Forces in the village and photos of the shelling sites.³⁶



Young Guard-UNARMY Headquarters in Snizhne ³⁷

It is known about the activities of the Unarmy in the Crimea and in the occupied territories of Luhansk and Donetsk regions. This is a "children's and youth military-patriotic" organization, established in 2016. Children aged 8-18 can join the Unarmy at the request of their parents. There are also orphans and children deprived of parental care.

According to the press service of the Russian Black Sea Fleet, as of 2021, 29,000 children, i.e. every tenth pupil of the peninsula, joined the ranks of the Unarmy in the Crimea. According to LDNR militants, there were about 7,500 children in the Unarmy at the end of 2021. In addition to raising children in the line of hatred for Ukraine, they also prepare them for service in the Armed Forces of the Russian Federation: they teach to shoot, throw grenades, demine territory and more. ³⁸ There are also Cossack, cadet and paramilitary classes in educational institutions on the territory of ORDLO, which have similar tasks to the Union Army.³⁹

³⁶<https://ssu.gov.ua/novyny/sbu-zablokuvala-rehionalnyi-oseredok-partii-shariia-zatrymala-vorozhoho-ahenta-u-stolytsi-ta-kolaboranta-na-sumshchyni-video>

³⁷https://vk.com/wall-183512064_6645

³⁸<https://life.liga.net/poyasnennya/article/yunarmiya-otdat-jizn-za-rossiyu-kak-v-ordlo-i-krymu-uchat-detey-nenavidet-ukrainu>

³⁹<https://t.me/denisovaombudsman/5229>

In addition, the State Duma recently introduced a bill on another Russian movement for children over 6 – "Great Change", which aims, inter alia, at forming children's worldview based on "traditional Russian spiritual and moral values", as well as love and respect for Fatherland. Deputies suggested involving Ukrainian children from Donbass.⁴⁰

In the occupied territories, filming of propaganda stories involving children is constantly carried out. Thus, in the occupied Melitopol, Zaporizhia region, children are forced to wear St. George's ribbons and recite poems about the war. Teachers are sharing photos and videos of this on social media without their parents' consent.⁴¹.

In Mariupol, Donetsk region, the Russian occupiers opened a "children's center" in a room where there is no light or water, and food is prepared on the open fire in



the yard in order to create a "picture" for hostile propaganda. The children in this institution are planned to be taught according to the Russian-language textbook of the self-proclaimed pseudo-state formation in the ORDO. In the "Alphabet of Donbass" there are poems with such lines as "Donbass - Russian land" and "our motherland Russia".⁴²

Children in Mariupol, May 4, RIA Novosti ⁴³

Recommendations

- It is necessary to keep in touch with the occupied territories by all possible means. Local authorities, as well as state institutions and agencies should know the way they will work, their authority and procedures for various situations that may happen. It will allow the population of these territories to feel calm and have trust in the decisions of the government.
- It is important to emphasise the importance of the security rules for the population of the occupied territories in order to prevent harassment and killings by the Russian military and mobilization to the occupier's army, as well as mines and other types of danger. It is important to constantly remind children the rules of safe behavior during air raids, bomb shelters and at home. Parents should limit their children's stay in places where they may be injured.

⁴⁰<https://ria.ru/20220520/dvizhenie-1789639318.html>

⁴¹<https://t.me/denisovaombudsman/5829>

⁴²<https://www.facebook.com/denisovaombudsman/posts/543902850424325>

⁴³ Telegram «РИА НОВОСТИ»

- It is necessary to promote the organization of humanitarian corridors and the delivery of humanitarian aid to the occupied territories of Ukraine and territories where active fighting is taking place. It is extremely important to increase the delivery of humanitarian aid to the settlements that are on the edge of a humanitarian crisis or already suffer from it. Preventive measures in such situations are as follows: forming the stocks of food, water and medicines in areas that may suffer from Russian aggression in the future.
- It is necessary to organize the evacuation of the population from Mariupol in Donetsk region as soon as possible, where in addition to the humanitarian crisis there is a risk of a significant number of infectious diseases among the city's residents.
- It is necessary to promote the recording of all crimes committed by the Russian military, in particular those related to murder, mutilation, abuse and rape of children. An integral part of this process is forming of trust and informing citizens of the necessity to go to law enforcement agencies with their statements and evidence of the existing crimes.

Children's right to education

Due to the war, the sphere of education in Ukraine has suffered significantly and continues to be negatively affected. In three months of the war, 173 educational institutions were completely destroyed, 1675 - damaged.⁴⁴



On the 1-st of May in Lysychansk, as a result of aimed fire, russian occupiers have burned to the ground one of the best educational institutions of Luhansk area and architecture landmark - gymnasium of the city of Lysychansk.⁴⁵

Shelled gymnasium of Lysychansk⁴⁶

On the same day in Zolochivska community of Kharkiv region the 112-year-old school, that survived World War 2, was destroyed by the russian shelling.

On May 18th, the russians have destroyed another educational institution - Avdiivka school No. 1 in Donetsk region.⁴⁷

School № 1 in Avdiivka, Donetsk region after the phosphorus bomb hit⁴⁸



Many kids were forced to interrupt their studies, go to schools abroad, study in a shortened or condensed program, could not get explanations from the teachers and communicate regularly with peers.

May is traditionally the last month of school in Ukraine, so we decided to describe how the Ukrainian education system currently works for children in Ukraine and abroad.

Preschool and general secondary education in Ukraine

According to the Institute of Educational Analytics, 4.23 million students studied in Ukrainian schools before the war with Russia, and 1.1 million children attended kindergartens.⁴⁹ Many of them have now been forced to relocate.

⁴⁴<https://www.gp.gov.ua/ua/posts/yuvenalni-prokurori-234-ditini-zaginuli-v-ukrayini-vnaslidok-zbroinoyi-agresiyi-rt>

⁴⁵<https://t.me/luhanskaV TSA/2206>

⁴⁶@Сергій Гайдай/Луганська ОДА/Telegram

⁴⁷https://t.me/pavlokyrylenko_donoda/3422

⁴⁸https://t.me/pavlokyrylenko_donoda/3422

⁴⁹<https://iea.gov.ua/naukovo-analitichna-diyalnist/analitika/osnovni-cyfyry-osvity/>

Most educational institutions located in areas where active hostilities were / are being conducted have resumed their work remotely. The west of the country almost did not interrupt educational activities, but it is also carried out mostly online. Only a few schools and kindergartens can provide an adequate level of security at which they can work full-time during wartime.

Our school works remotely, through zoom. We work every day, we also carry out tests. We do not go offline because there are airstrike alerts, and at this time the school is responsible for the children's safety. We are afraid to take responsibility. In rural areas, there are schools that work and study full-time, children live there next to the school, next to their parents. I heard they are functioning.

From an interview with a teacher

As of May 23, in 11 regions of Ukraine, some kindergartens use elements of distance learning to work with kids and parents, others work in a mixed or familiar format. In 7 regions, some kindergartens use elements of distance learning, other preschools have created regular groups or continued mixed or full-time education. In other areas, the educational process is not currently happening. More than 4,000 institutions carry out the educational process. More than 4,000 internally displaced children were admitted to kindergartens.

As for schools, in 15 regions of Ukraine they continue the educational process remotely. In 5 regions the educational process continues remotely, partially mixed and in person. In 5 regions of Ukraine, education is organized remotely or in mixed form, there are some recesses or suspended education. As of May 21, the educational process was active in more than 12,200 general secondary education institutions, and more than 3.6 million students continued their education. The number of temporarily internally displaced children who joined the study from other areas reached almost 83 thousand children.⁵⁰

Today, those children who have moved within Ukraine have the choice of attending remotely those schools where they studied before the war and have now resumed their work, or choose an institution in the area of their new place of residence. At the same time, among the students there are many cases of visiting 2 institutions at once - the previous one and the new one. This pattern of behavior was chosen mostly in those families who, after moving, immediately began looking for a new school for the child. Schools that were in areas of active hostilities were able to resume training only in April. The main issue in this situation is the choice of the place of getting the educational documents, as they can be provided only by one of the educational institutions. It should be noted that no cases of denial of the opportunity to study in several institutions were recorded.

We arrived in Poltava in early March. We sat for a couple of weeks and decided that the eldest daughter should go somewhere to school. I searched the Internet for a rating of the best institutions in the city, chose a lyceum with a strong program. We were hospitably welcomed, introduced to everything. And then a few weeks later classes began at our gymnasium in Kharkiv. We decided not to leave the lyceum, because I really like the program there. My daughter has a hard time, a lot of homework, but in general I am glad that it turned out that way.

⁵⁰<https://mon.gov.ua/ua/news/sergij-shkarlet-rozpoviv-pro-pochatok-odinadcyatogo-tizhnja-navchannya-v-umovah-voyennogo-stanu>

After all, I don't know if we will be able to return and live in Kharkiv next year. You may have to build a life in Poltava

From an interview with parents.

Internally displaced parents rate remote learning in schools where their children attended before the war, mostly low. According to teachers and parents in such schools, education today has not an educational purpose, but a psychological one - stress relief, distraction from events and so on. As a result, level of requirements for children and knowledge control are weaker than in peacetime. Some children are given only home schooling without online classes, some classes are held only in basic subjects, somewhere there is almost no control of knowledge. Training in those schools that are located in relatively safe areas and where there are no/was no active hostilities, is more complete and regular.

Нам пару разів на тиждень приходять посилання на всеукраїнську онлайн-школу та можуть дати якесь домашнє завдання, проте воно майже не перевіряється. Нам довелося винайняти сину декількох вчителів, які з ним займаються по 2 предментах, які йому знадобляться у навчанні на майбутню професію. До цього він був впевнений, що легко освоює програму, просто дивлячись невеличкі відео онлайн-школи. Проте приватні заняття показали, що це взагалі не так.

A couple of times a week we get links to the Ukraine-wide online school and can get some homework, but it is almost never being checked. We had to hire several tutors for the son who teach him in 2 disciplines that he will need in training for his future profession. Prior to that, he was confident that he could easily master the program just by watching small videos of the online school. However, private lessons have shown that this is not the case at all.

From an interview with parents

It is quite easy to enroll in an educational institution after moving. You need to choose the institution, write an application for enrollment and, if available, provide a child's birth certificate. If the document is missing, it is recorded from the words of the parents. However, such situations are few, because the certificate can be found in the online services of public services "Дія". No other certificates from educational institutions may be required. All accepted children are provided with textbooks and necessary notebooks and stationery if necessary.

Dozens of migrants study here. To enroll a child to school, you need a statement from one of the parents and a birth certificate. IDP certificate is not required. We accept at the moment the statement is written. That means the child can go to class on the same day.

From an interview with teacher

According to teachers from areas where active hostilities are taking place or have been taking place, most students have returned to school. All class teachers regularly collect data on where children are - abroad, internally displaced or continue to stay at home. At the same time, regardless of their place of residence, all children who have studied / are studying, as well as passed / will pass the knowledge test, must receive certificates of education. Interviewed teachers of both schools that accepted migrants and those that were under active hostilities,

almost did not indicate an increase in workload. However, some of them noted that their ability to work in general was affected by the war in Ukraine. This is especially true for those teachers who have been forced to relocate. Thus, according to the Ministry of Education and Science, almost 22,000 teachers are now abroad ⁵¹ and mostly work in Ukrainian schools.

The load has not increased. You don't have to go to school, and my tiredness doesn't depend on how many children I have in Zoom. Rather, the psychological burden has increased. Everyone is in a state of stress, children as well. Airstrike alarms are constantly heard, all this affects the nerves and exhausts.

From an interview with teacher

It should also be noted the more difficult situation with the education of children with disabilities. Distance learning, unfortunately, does not cover the needs of all children with certain developmental disabilities. 3 months of war without a properly organized educational process contributed to a significant loss of knowledge and skills that children have acquired since the beginning of the school year. It is also necessary to consider the employment of parents in arranging family life after moving, looking for work, etc., and accordingly, the inability to pay enough attention to children's education.



School in Rusaniv village, Kyiv region after deoccupation. Minimum estimates for the restoration – UAH 500,000 ⁵².

In general, plans for the next school year are already being developed by most educational institutions. They primarily concern the calculation of the burden on teachers, the renovation of premises, the purchase of equipment and teaching

⁵¹<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CwQI49tDPTk>

⁵²<https://www.facebook.com/groups/vel.dym.otg/permalink/2542882745847525/>

materials that have suffered as a result of combat actions or have been stolen during the occupation.

In addition, some kindergartens and schools continue to be used for the temporary accommodation of internally displaced persons who will need to be relocated before the start of the new educational year. However, the most important task is to ensure the safety of students in the offline learning process. It is important to properly prepare storage facilities, check alert systems, update training alarm plans and procedures for different types of hazards in educational institutions.

Absolutely all interviewed parents noted the need for a full-time educational process in the future. The period of quarantine and war significantly weakened the acquisition of knowledge and communication skills of children in remote learning. Some parents even shape their future based on where they need to live in order for their child to be able to attend kindergarten or school offline.

I am very worried that the child is becoming more and more immersed in the world of the Internet. I don't know how I will distract him. Because of such education, eyesight deteriorates, physical activity is less, there is no live communication with classmates. But we now live in Kharkiv, and I am not sure that if the current situation persists, we will stay here. Maybe we will move to Dnipro to go to school normally from September.

From an interview with parents

In the occupied territories, the issue of education is more complex. People living in the occupation are mainly concerned with security and survival questions. In addition, Internet and mobile connection in these areas is often absent and very unstable. Most often, children receive assignments from teachers once a week, there are no online classes with students. There is also no appropriate control of knowledge. This problem is also complicated by the lack of gadgets that some children need to take lessons. Some lost them due to the destruction of the house, some due to forced spontaneous relocation, some did not have the opportunity to buy them before the war.

In order to obtain education certificates and reports on educational achievements, it is necessary to apply to educational institutions located in the territory controlled by the Government of Ukraine. Students should complete training and pass the appropriate assessment of knowledge. If for any reason the child is unable to pass such an assessment, it will be possible to do so before the beginning of the next school year and obtain documents on education later.

The question of resuming the educational process offline in the occupied territories doesn't stand. Many schools have been destroyed and there is a shortage of teachers. Those who remain do not understand how to work in the occupation regime. Parents are also not sure how much this will be possible in terms of security and legitimacy of such training documents.

At the same time, the invaders are trying to resume education, de-Ukrainianizing the educational process. The occupiers are forcing schools to switch to Russian curricula, destroying Ukrainian-language books and banning teaching in Ukrainian. If refused, school principals and teachers are threatened with dismissal, harassment, and reprisals, and sometimes even kidnapping and bullying.

Thus, in early April, Melitopol, Zaporizhia Oblast, russians abducted Angelina Kovalenko, the principal of School No. 4, Lyudmila Chugai, the principal of Lyceum No. 9, Margarita Ovsyanikova, the principal of School No. 11, and Olena Galatsan, the principal of School No. 13. After keeping the women in the garage for four days, they were taken out 30 kilometers from the city. They got home on foot, and now they have relocated to different cities of Ukraine.⁵³

On April 23, in the Kherson region, Russian invaders abducted Vadim Nazarenko, a teacher at one of Oleshky's lyceums.⁵⁴

On April 28, it became known that in Henichesk, Kherson region, the Russian occupiers are demanding that school principals submit lists of teachers who are ready to teach according to the Russian program from September 1. Those who refuse are threatened with dismissal.⁵⁵

April 30 In the Kherson region of Kakhovka, Russian occupiers abducted school principal Viktor Pentalchuk.⁵⁶

Also in late April, there was information that in Novooleksandrivka, Luhansk region, near the active hostilities, the occupiers are initiating schooling, driving children to classes and not letting them out during the day. Every teacher there is assigned to the Russian military, who are threatening them with violence and are forcing to conduct training.⁵⁷

In addition, there is evidence that teachers from Kherson, Kharkiv and Zaporizhia region who were forcibly deported to Russia also targeted to be forcibly Russified in so-called "retraining camps". They also want to introduce "language courses" for abducted Ukrainian children.⁵⁸

In order not to be endangered, on the one hand, and not to be prosecuted for collaborationism, on the other hand, educational institutions are recommended to declare a downtime. In this case, teachers have a legal right not to work, while receiving at least two-thirds of their salaries. However, there are problems with receiving this money because it is very difficult to pay with bank cards during the occupation.

For a similar purpose, a significant number of educational institutions in these territories decided to end the school year early, conducting appropriate semester and annual student assessments.

In particular, in Energodar, Zaporizhia region, the children completed their studies on April 29. In 4 more districts of the region (Vasyliv, Pologi, Berdyansk and Melitopol) the education finished on May 2.⁵⁹

As of May 21, 2022, almost 800 schools have completed education program and more than 210,000 children have completed the 2021-2022 academic year. It is planned to complete the educational program for the current academic year

⁵³<https://www.radiosvoboda.org/a/novyny-pryazovya-melitopol-dyrektorka-shkoli-polon-okupatsiya/31826505.html>

⁵⁴<https://www.ukrinform.ua/rubric-regions/3466430-v-oleskah-zagarbnyky-vikrali-vcitela.html>

⁵⁵https://www.facebook.com/permalink.php?story_fbid=828176648138159&id=100028374940771

⁵⁶https://www.facebook.com/permalink.php?story_fbid=360805786088507&id=100064772648646

⁵⁷<https://www.facebook.com/photo/?fbid=529962951818315&set=a.244521147029165>

⁵⁸<https://t.me/CenterCounteringDisinformation/1272>

⁵⁹<https://www.facebook.com/govamova/posts/298297065813104>

next year by condensing it, as well as the organization of independent study of subjects by students.

Preschool and general secondary education abroad

Most families who have left the country continue to study according to the Ukrainian program remotely, because this is the only way they can obtain educational documents. Unfortunately, studying abroad cannot be taken into account in educational documents due to very different programs and pace of education in Ukraine and other countries.

Due to the lack of communication with peers and the desire to distract children from the anxiety, many parents also sent them to kindergartens and schools abroad. In addition, the vast majority of European countries, school-age children are required to attend school. According to parents, attending two schools at once increases the burden on children. The language barrier also complicates the learning process. Children need to learn the language of the country where they reside, many schools are trying to facilitate learning conditions by forming separate adaptation classes or by inviting Ukrainian-speaking or Russian-speaking teachers. Usually, there is a teacher with Ukrainian children who additionally teaches them the local language. At the same time, the curriculum in European countries is usually slightly easier than the Ukrainian one, and children know more than what is taught to them abroad.

My son was tired of talking only to his grandmother and me and was very happy when he went to German school. Several Ukrainians also go there, a few more children know a little Russian, so they somehow communicate.

From an interview with parents

In the Netherlands, school assesses not only the subjects themselves, but also the child's ability to work independently, work in a team, and work in crisis situations. That is, those things are evaluated but they are not evaluated at all in the Ukrainian school. So if we compare the Ukrainian child and the Dutch child, the Ukrainian child is very smart, but has less communication skills, skills to prove their point. The Dutch child knows less in comparison, but is able to present himself.

From an interview with a volunteer

Another difficulty is the inconsistency of 2 educational processes - in our country and in another country. Both classes are usually held in the morning and the child has to choose where to be present every day. Some Ukrainian schools or some separate classes postpone lessons to the afternoon, and somewhere abroad children are given the opportunity to study the Ukrainian program during the day, but this requires a more systematic solution to the problem.

In most cases children are provided with everything they need, either at the expense of school funds or by volunteer centers - stationery, notebooks, backpacks, etc. Also children's nutrition is taken care of by learning about allergens and dietary recommendations from the doctor.

Some kindergartens, additional afterclass lessons or entertainment events ask to reimburse certain expenses for children (most often it is money for food), but these

are small amounts and they are easily covered by social benefits for the child. Also, very often Ukrainian children are invited to visit sports or creative activities, various excursions.

It is important to me that my son goes to the pool. Here it is possible and costs 2.5 euros per visit. And the annual subscription is 40 euros. Of course I paid this money, because it is cheap for a European country. You can also visit the local gym, it is quite large, there are different sections. For Ukrainians, the first 8 weeks of classes are free.

From an interview with parents

My child really likes the French school, 9 children from Ukraine already attend it with us. They eat for free, teachers are great, they found a common ground quickly. He goes to rugby, volleyball, to the conservatory for violin, all that is for free. The children are very well behaved, friendly. He teaches them Ukrainian words - "palyanytsia", "ukrzaliznytsia" and so on. We went to the conservatory, and local girls greeted us in Ukrainian - "pryvit". I was very surprised, but pleased. We also have many lessons of French.

From an interview with parents

Admission and training in vocational and higher education institutions

Children in this year's graduating classes have the opportunity to take a national multi-subject test instead of an external examination. The test must be taken in person, so it is planned to hold the main session (July-August), additional session (August) and special (September) session in 21 regions of Ukraine and Kyiv. This opportunity was made so that children who want to enter universities and are in the occupied territories or areas where active fighting is taking place, have the opportunity to leave and take the test. However, it is unknown whether such an opportunity will appear by September from the territories that are occupied and where any opportunities to evacuate, except to Russia, are blocked. In addition, the process of relocation, which involves crossing many checkpoints and the risk of being shot at, is very traumatic for children, which can affect the passing of such a test. Therefore, special admission procedures should be developed for these applicants.

It is also planned to create opportunities for children abroad to take a multi-subject test. It is currently planned to establish temporary examination centers in 39 cities such as Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Great Britain, Denmark, Estonia, Ireland, Spain, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Moldova, the Netherlands, Germany, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Hungary, France, Croatia, the Czech Republic and Sweden.⁶⁰

As for the implementation of professional pre-higher and higher education, as of May 19, all institutions of vocational (vocational and technical) education in 18 regions of Ukraine continue their studies. The educational process is partially carried out in vocational schools of 7 regions. Institutions of professional higher education in all regions continue to carry out the educational process remotely, 16 of them - in a mixed form. Also in one region the institution resumed offline work.

⁶⁰<https://testportal.gov.ua/osnovne-pro-nmt/>

Regarding the work of higher education institutions, in 24 oblasts and the city of Kyiv universities work remotely in synchronous and asynchronous mode.⁶¹ The process of moving universities from the occupied territories to the regions controlled by the Ukrainian government is almost completed.

Also, a positive change in favor of continuing the educational process in the country was the exclusion from conscription during the mobilization of students and professors of vocational education establishments.

Psychological support in educational institutions

It should be noted that, in addition to the educational component, educational institutions should also provide psychological support to those students who need it. The opportunity to continue studying during the period of hostilities rather forms a sense of stability and adjustment of the child's life in the future. In addition, teachers can help children to perceive different information about events correctly, treat it critically and limit its consumption. Educators can also identify children who have experienced traumatic events and/or are under stress and refer them to appropriate psychological care. However, unfortunately, due to different circumstances, such assistance is provided extremely limitedly or not provided at all. This is due to the lack/insufficiency of staff, the unpreparedness of school psychologists to provide care for children under stress, the lack of developed mechanisms for responding to a situation of war and the admission to institutions of a large number of children who may have psychological problems due to war, forced displacement, loss or separation from loved ones, etc.

We don't have a good psychologist at our school. She's probably doing something, but I haven't seen any kids ever turn to her. If there were any situations with children, I recommended that parents look for a private psychologist and contact him. Since the beginning of the war, she has not sent us any information either on how to behave and how to talk to children so as not to injure them unnecessarily.

From an interview with a teacher

The Ministry of Education and Science of Ukraine in early April issued methodological recommendations for pedagogical workers, practical psychologists, social teachers of educational institutions "First psychological assistance. Algorithm of actions", which describes various measures of universal support and practical psychological assistance to people who have been exposed to significant stressors. However, according to the surveyed teachers, they are not aware of such recommendations. They usually looked for some advice on communicating with a child affected by the war on the Internet or among acquaintances of psychologists.

⁶¹<https://t.me/SerhiyShkarlet/872>

Recommendations:

- Information campaigns to clarify the implementation of the right to education of children in war situations, especially in the occupied territories, should be strengthened.
- It is important to inform all educational institutions in the occupied territories about the possibility of declaring downtime with 2/3 of salary. It is also worth offering employment to teachers when leaving the occupied territories and territories where there is a significant probability of occupation.
- Due to the more vulnerable situation of children with disabilities and the presence of special educational needs, it is important to think about the organization of their education in a way that contributes to the preservation and development of already acquired knowledge and skills.
- When planning the face-to-face learning process for the next year, it is necessary to properly prepare the repositories, check the alert systems, update the training alarm plans and the procedure for dealing with various types of hazards in educational institutions.
- To consider the system of taking into account the completed schooling by children who were forced to attend educational institutions abroad. It is also necessary to provide for the delineation of educational processes in time in Ukraine and abroad in order to continue to receive Ukrainian education as well.
- It is necessary to develop special procedures for admission and training in higher educational institutions of entrants from the occupied territories due to the temporary inability to leave for the controlled territories of Ukraine.
- An important component of preparation for the next school year is also the development of a general program of support for children affected by war, internally displaced children, etc. in educational institutions. Such a program should include psychosocial assistance to children in adapting to the new conditions, interaction with parents, support in the educational process. Psychological training is also needed for both school psychologists and social workers in dealing with children in distress and after traumatic events, as well as teachers who have the skills to provide first psychological assistance to students and their parents.
- It is necessary to create a state system of psychological support and rehabilitation for children with the trauma of war, which would cover all children, regardless of the type and type of educational or rehabilitation institution. Such a system should receive the necessary resources in the form of: funding, trained specialists, programs, premises and other necessary means.

Movement of children in Ukraine and abroad

As of May 24, about 14.6 million Ukrainians were forced to leave their homes in Ukraine, most of them children and women. 6.6 million citizens left abroad. Most often, Ukrainians went to Poland (3.5 million), Romania (966 thousand), Hungary (649 thousand), Moldova (472 thousand) and Slovakia (444 thousand).⁶² Also, as noted above, a significant number of citizens crossed the border with Russia, but often the nature of such displacement was involuntary. There are about 8 million internally displaced persons in Ukraine. More than half of displaced families are families with children..⁶³

It should also be noted that 3 months after the war, 2.2 million Ukrainians have already returned to Ukraine. Every day since May 10, border guards have recorded the advantage of entry over the departure of our fellow citizens to Ukraine.⁶⁴

Among the problems of displacement, the most significant is the departure and evacuation from the occupied territories and territories where intense hostilities take place. Law enforcement agencies of Ukraine continue to record numerous certificates of shelling of vehicles of the civilian population. Children are often the victims of such shelling.

Thus, on May 4, a convoy of cars was shot from the village of Staryi Saltiv, Kharkiv region, to the city of Kharkiv. 6 vehicles shot and 4 fatalities were found, including a 13-year-old child.⁶⁵

On May 6, a 15-year-old girl was reported to have taken four injured adults by car from the city of Popasna, Luhansk region. At the same time, the car was shelled several times. The girl had to drive a car with two through wounds to the legs, a knee shot and a torn finger.⁶⁶

On May 8, it became known about the death of a 13-year-old girl who was in one of the cars of a column of private cars, which on May 4 were shelled by the occupiers in the Chuhuiv district of Kharkiv region.⁶⁷

On May 18, the occupiers shelled the volunteers' car in Severodonetsk, Luhansk Oblast. A 17-year-old boy was injured.⁶⁸

There are also ongoing refusals to agree or disruptions during the implementation of humanitarian corridors by the Russian Federation.

⁶²<https://data2.unhcr.org/en/situations/ukraine>

⁶³<https://displacement.iom.int/reports/zvit-pro-vnutrishne-peremischennya-v-ukraini-opituvannya-zagalnogo-naselennya-raund-4-3>

⁶⁴https://m.facebook.com/story.php?story_fbid=345198657719011&id=100066866381279

⁶⁵https://www.facebook.com/permalink.php?story_fbid=5093976624021517&id=100002276907245

⁶⁶<https://www.bbc.com/ukrainian/news-61323554>

⁶⁷<https://www.gp.gov.ua/ua/posts/yuvenalni-prokurori-226-ditei-zaginulo-v-ukrayini-cerez-zbroinu-agresiyu-rf>

⁶⁸<https://www.gp.gov.ua/ua/posts/yuvenalni-prokurori-vnaslidok-zbroinoyi-agresiyi-rf-v-ukrayini-zaginuli-232-ditini-2>



Evacuated girl from «Azovstal»⁶⁹

Thus, on May 3, Russia violated the agreement on the evacuation of people from temporarily occupied cities of Berdyansk, Tokmak and Vasylivka of Zaporizhia.⁷⁰

Only on May 7 was it possible to evacuate all children, women and the elderly from Azovstal in Mariupol, Donetsk region, where the civilian population hid for more than 2 months in conditions of shortage of water, food and medicines.⁷¹

May 23 evacuation bus with residents Mountain community came under fire under Vrubivka Luhanska area.⁷²

Shelled evacuation bus, Luhansk region⁷³



There are facts that the road was mined. Thus, in the process of promotion of Ukrainian units in Mykolaiv region, several civilian cars with humiliated and shot bodies of people were discovered. The damage to the cars preliminarily, indicates the detonation of the

⁶⁹Photo made by Taras Ibrahimov <https://suspilne.media/234892-do-zaporizza-pribuli-avtobusi-z-ludmi-akih-evakuuvati-z-azovstali/>

⁷⁰<https://t.me/suspilnezaporizhzhya/4287>

⁷¹<https://minre.gov.ua/news/iryna-vereshchuk-vsih-zhinok-ditey-i-litnih-lyudey-z-azovstali-evakuyovano>

⁷²<https://www.facebook.com/sergey.gaidai.loga/posts/154362577103134>

⁷³<https://www.facebook.com/sergey.gaidai.loga/posts/154362577103134>

vehicles on the road in the mined area of the terrain, as well as about the shelling of the column. In an attempt to evacuate the locals, the occupiers first pointed them out as a permitted route through the mined area, and then shot the survivors after the detonation. There are two children of junior school age among the dead.⁷⁴

In Kherson oblast locals also report mining bridges and roads that residents of the region are trying to get under control Ukraine's territory. The occupiers do not provide humanitarian corridors.⁷⁵

In addition, the evacuation is complicated by the shortage or lack of fuel at all and a significant number of checkpoints of the Russian military, which prohibit passage and demand money for it. For example, to leave the city of Melitopol in Zaporizhia region, the occupiers demand from 3 to 5 thousand hryvnias.⁷⁶

The only opportunity to evacuate from a number of oblasts is to go to Russia or Crimea, and this happens only through filtration camps, as well as forced deportation to this state. From where Ukrainians can already leave for the European Union. Ukrainian consuls and embassies do not work in the Russian Federation, so you can apply to diplomatic institutions of our state only in other countries of the world if necessary. Most often, people leave the territory of the Russian Federation by land to Estonia, Latvia, Georgia, Azerbaijan and Finland. However, the main problem of such a move is its significant cost. Many Ukrainians move to Europe only with the help of volunteers, sponsors and NGOs.

With regard to the situation of internally displaced persons in Ukraine, the most accurate data in terms of operational analysis of the situation are contained in the 4 rounds of the IOM survey since the beginning of the full-scale invasion of the RF.⁷⁷

According to the study, financial support remains the most urgent need of IDPs. Two-thirds of the respondents said that they needed cash assistance, compared to 49% at the beginning of the war. More than 70% of respondents said that they would use the provided money to buy food and medicines. The key need of displaced people also remains housing. 9% of all respondents in the last round of the study, including those who did not move, said their homes were destroyed or damaged. The number of such persons among IDPs is 27%. One in ten interviewees will need materials to repair their homes.⁷⁸

The state authorities continue to support IDPs, providing cash assistance in the amount of UAH 2,000 for an adult and UAH 3,000 for a child. In addition to State aid, internally displaced persons may receive international targeted monetary

⁷⁴<https://www.facebook.com/watch/?v=698093818127561>

⁷⁵https://m.facebook.com/watch/?v=526749829005652&_rdr

⁷⁶https://t.me/zoda_gov_ua/8148

The last round was conducted from April 29 to May 3, 2022. The general population survey was conducted by dialing random telephone numbers, thanks to which 2,000 unique respondents aged 18 and over were interviewed anonymously using the automated telephone survey method (CATI)

[https://displacement.iom.int/reports/zvit-pro-vnutrishnepremischennya-v-ukraini-opituvannya-zagalnogo-naselennya-raund-4-3\(CATI\)](https://displacement.iom.int/reports/zvit-pro-vnutrishnepremischennya-v-ukraini-opituvannya-zagalnogo-naselennya-raund-4-3(CATI))<https://displacement.iom.int/reports/zvit-pro-vnutrishnepremischennya-v-ukraini-opituvannya-zagalnogo-naselennya-raund-4-3>

⁷⁸<https://ukraine.iom.int/uk/news/potreby-ponad-8-milyoniv-pereselentsiv-v-ukrayini-nadali-zrostayut>

support, implemented jointly with the Government of Ukraine. In particular, IDPs can receive such assistance from:

- Missions of the International Committee of the Red Cross in Ukraine together with;
- Programs from UNICEF «Spil'no»;
- United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees;
- UN World Food Program;
- International Organization for Migration (IOM);
- Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC).⁷⁹

A serious consequence of lack of money is job loss and inability get a job at a new place of residence. Originally Russian aggression in Ukraine lost about 4.8 million jobs.⁸² Currently the number of job offers is much lower than the number of people wishing to receive this job. According to the State Employment Service, in April at 25,326 283,356 unemployed people applied for vacancies, ie competition for one

the workplace was almost 12 people.⁸³ The hardest thing to find a job lawyers, insurers, service workers, security guards, educators and scientists, domestic staff, specialists who worked in the automotive business and procurement. IN Under such conditions, two-thirds of job seekers are willing to work at a lower level wages than it was before the war. Specialists also began to offer their candidates for vacancies below their usual level of qualification.⁸⁰

I had a business to organize all kinds of events - birthdays, corporate holidays, etc. Of course, this is not the time. So I charge, however, this is not the money I used to spend on life. We have to save, give up entertainment for the child, eat often at home, not in a cafe, because it is not clear what will happen next and whether our apartment will survive after the war.

From an interview with parents

As for housing, a large part of displaced persons is forced to continue living in places adapted for short stays of people - schools, kindergartens, gyms, etc. It is the inappropriate housing conditions that force a large part of Ukrainians to return to their own homes in the territories where there is still a danger of rocket fire and bombing - Kharkiv, Dnipropetrovsk, Sumy, Kyiv and Chernihiv regions.

At the same time, it is also worth noting the mine danger in the de-occupied territories of Ukraine. Upon return, citizens often find undetected explosive objects or mine traps. Roads to populated areas may also be mined.

Thus, on May 8, in the village of Ivanivka, Dnipropetrovsk region, a 12-year-old boy found a munition from a cluster projectile and brought it home. The explosives detonated and the child died.⁸¹

⁷⁹<https://minre.gov.ua/news/vpo-mozhut-otrymaty-mizhnarodnu-groshovu-dopomogu-yaki-programy-dostupni>

⁸⁰<https://kiev.grc.ua/article/30090?hhtmlFrom=main>

⁸¹<https://t.me/dnipropetrovskaODA/873>

In May, when returning home to Bucha, Kyiv Oblast, the woman noticed that her 10-year-old daughter's piano had been mined. There are no casualties.⁸²

On May 16 on the highway in Mykolaiv area eight people, among which there was a 5 year girl, exploded on a mine. They were all wounded in varying degrees of severity.⁸³

Therefore, return to such territories is possible only after prior permission from local authorities and the State Emergency Service of Ukraine. According to the State Emergency Service, the most demining work is carried out by pyrotechnic units in Kharkiv, Kyiv, Mykolaiv, Cherkasy, Chernihiv and Sumy oblasts.⁸⁴

As for the stay of Ukrainian citizens abroad, the biggest problems there are also related to the difficulty to find employment and separate housing for living. Most Ukrainians live mostly with their relatives, friends or simply caring residents of Europe and the world, who have taken refuge in their own homes. Some people also continue to live in accommodations adapted for this purpose abroad. In general, high rental price, limited supply on the market, bureaucratic procedures and language barrier do not allow to rent housing.

Here, even locals can look for housing to settle for years. There is also a highly developed bureaucracy - someone has to vouch for a person, there must be salary information, etc. It is unrealistic for a foreigner to rent at least some apartment from scratch. Now, in order to somehow accommodate Ukrainians here, we have renovated a school that has not been used for several years. Ships were also moored to the shore to accommodate people in cabins.

From an interview with a volunteer

We live with friends. The home is actually small, and I realize that every week it is still less convenient for me to live here and create inconvenience for my loved ones. I would like to find housing, but the prices are very high. I do not understand how to pay 1,500 euros per apartment per month. In addition, apartments here are often rented without furniture at all, so you will need to spend more money on the arrangement of already expensive housing.

From an interview with parents

The program of temporary protection of Ukrainians abroad is built in most countries so as to encourage people to get a job. However, ignorance of the local language, as well as sometimes complicated procedures for confirming existing diplomas of education allow you to get only unskilled and unpaid work. For a more qualified position ukrainian citizens are offered language courses, but this may take more than a year. In case of refusal of employment or completion of language courses, Ukrainians may subsequently be refused social benefits and assistance.

I am not happy with the option of working in the factory, nor do I intend to learn German, but some of this will have to be done if I stay here for another couple of months. Life in Europe is expensive and without social benefits my savings will not

⁸²<https://theclaquers.com/posts/9079>

⁸³<https://www.gp.gov.ua/ua/posts/yuvenalni-prokurori-vnaslidok-zbroinoyi-agresiyi-rf-v-ukrayini-zaginula-231-ditina>

⁸⁴<https://minre.gov.ua/news/budte-pylnymy-zvilneni-naseleni-punkty-ne-oznachaye-bezpechni>

be enough for a long time. Therefore, I am following the situation in Ukraine very closely and hope that we can soon return home with the child.

From an interview with parents

Recommendations

- It is necessary to continue awareness-raising work on the timely evacuation of families with children from territories that are subject to regular shelling or there is a significant risk of active hostilities.
- It is worth to strengthen the information of citizens about possible options for leaving the occupied territories, including leaving on the territory of the Russian Federation and the Autonomous Republic of Crimea. In such situations, it is important to interact with volunteer and public initiatives in these territories, as well as in the territories of the states bordering the Russian Federation to assist Ukrainians in leaving for Europe.
- It is important for citizens to provide clear signals of prohibition or permission to return to the previously occupied territories. Such statements should be accompanied by arguments about the security and infrastructural capabilities of specific settlements.
- It is important to intensify information work at the state level on preventing children from being hit by mines and other explosive devices. To do this, it is necessary to deploy information companies in the media, distribute visual materials on mines and other types of hazards in the de-occupied territories and territories where active hostilities took place.
- Activities to provide employment opportunities for internally displaced persons should be strengthened. To do this, it is important to assess the market of offers and qualifications of IDPs, intensify measures to requalify citizens, create new jobs and interact with employers regarding the employment of IDPs.
- It is necessary to study the housing needs of families whose homes were destroyed for the planning of state housing programs and regional housing programs for people affected by the destruction of housing.

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