



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

CHILDREN AND WAR IN UKRAINE

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Introduction

Half a year of war showed that Russia committed all possible war crimes on the territory of Ukraine. Most of the shelling and bombing falls on residential buildings, hospitals, schools and other civilian infrastructure. Terrorist attacks take place in places with the largest concentration of people - shopping centers, transport stops, high-rise buildings. Communal services are being destroyed - there is no water supply, electricity and gas supply in many settlements. There is a humanitarian crisis in the occupied territories - there are no medicines, hygiene and care products for minor children, limited availability of food and drinking water. In addition, there is a significant threat of the spread of infections in the captured and most affected cities of Donetsk and Luhansk regions, as well as a man-made disaster at the nuclear power plant in Enerhodar.

Russia kills citizens of Ukraine, kills and maims children. As of August 24, 374 children died, 723 were injured of various degrees of severity.

We bring to your attention a report that briefly describes the key events of the sixth 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 the preparation of schools for the new academic year.

The methodology is based on the analysis of statistics, data from official sources and media materials. Also, 11 interviews were conducted with public activists, psychologists, parents in the occupied territories 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.

The report was prepared in co-authorship and with the financial support of the Voices of Children Charitable Foundation.

Children under the occupation and in the active combat areas

As of August 17, 2022, the updated list of territorial communities located in the active combat areas or under temporary occupation, as well as in encirclement/blockade, includes 66 communities of Donetsk region, 56 communities of Kharkiv region, 9 communities of Dnipropetrovsk region, 37 communities of Luhansk region, 54 communities of Zaporizhia region, 49 communities of Kherson region, 26 communities of Mykolaiv region, 21 communities of Sumy region and 5 communities of Chernihiv region. In total, the list currently includes 323 communities of Ukraine¹.

The situation in the occupied territories and in the active combat areas remains difficult. The occupiers continue to oppress and commit war crimes against the civilian population. During these six months of the war, more than 29,300 criminal proceedings have been established based on the facts of crimes committed by Russian servicemen and their accomplices². As of August 2, 1451 proceedings concern war crimes by the Russian military against children. Of these, 668 proceedings are based on the facts of death, injury and sexual violence against children; others are primarily forced displacement of children. Also, 777 criminal proceedings have been initiated on the facts of attacks on institutions and facilities that concern children.³

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Usage of illicit means of warfare

Russia continues to use prohibited weapons on the territory of Ukraine, most of which are directed against the civilian population. Cluster munitions pose a particular danger. They can be fired from ground guns, launchers, mortars or dropped from the air. Mostly they are triggered in the air, scattering many small bombs over a large area, which often do not explode immediately, but remain lying on the ground, turning into mines that can kill and maim people many years after the war.

According to Human Rights Watch, **cluster munitions** used by the Russian army in Ukraine **have already killed 689 civilians**. Based on the investigations held and publications in the mass media and social networks, the international human rights organization claims that Russian troops used cluster munitions "hundreds of times" on the territory of "at least ten of the 24 regions of Ukraine."⁴

¹<https://minre.gov.ua/news/onovleno-aktualnyy-perelik-gromad-u-rayonah-boyovyh-diy-na-tot-ta-tyh-shcho-v-otochenni-14>

²<https://www.facebook.com/iklymenko.fb/posts/pfbid044uYkkKDMnNvJ5dPhfamDLgpDxfotcNjBs4KmECPIBP2x9JKaYaAgi9TMMy81JYeF>

³<https://www.ukrinform.ua/rubric-ato/3541690-prokuratura-vidkrila-ponad-14-tisaci-sprav-sodo-zlociniv-proti-ditej.html>

⁴<https://ukrainian.voanews.com/a/ukrajina-jedyna-krajina-u-sviti-de-zastosovujut-kasetni-bojeprypasy/6716228.html>

On August 3, the enemy fired with MLRS at the town of Chuguyiv, Kharkiv region, according to preliminary data, with Uragan cluster shells. As a result of projectile hitting into a five-story residential building, one person died and two others were injured.⁵

On August 5, residential buildings, including high-rise buildings, were damaged as a result of shelling in the Korabelny district of the city of Mykolaiv. 20 people were injured. Among the injured there is a 13-year-old boy who was at the entrance to the church at the time of the attack by Russian terrorists. According to preliminary information, the wound was caused by the bursting of cluster munitions. A teenager with polytraumas and mine-explosive injuries to the head, thigh and abdominal cavity in a serious condition was taken to the intensive care unit of the regional hospital.⁶

On August 21, the occupiers shelled the territory of the city of Zelenodolsk, Dnipropetrovsk region, with cluster munitions. A 9-year-old boy was injured.⁷

In addition to cluster munitions, the Russian occupiers also use other prohibited weapons. Thus, on August 11, Russian troops covered the village of Pisky, Donetsk region from the TOS-1A "Sontsepek" heavy flamethrower system, using **thermobaric ammunition**.⁸



The village of Pisky, Donetsk region was almost completely destroyed after the occupiers struck, on August 11⁹

⁵<https://t.me/synegubov/3848>

⁶<https://t.me/mykolaivskaoblrada/3385>

⁷<https://www.gp.gov.ua/ua/posts/yuvenalni-prokurori-373-ditini-zaginuli-vnaslidok-zbroinoyi-agresiyi-rf-v-ukrayini-2>

⁸<https://t.me/insiderUKR/38678>

⁹https://t.me/TCH_channel/45893?single

In the cities of Donetsk and Kramatorsk (Donetsk region) Russia, most likely, also used weapons of an indiscriminate type - "**butterfly mines**" (PFM-1, antipersonnel high explosive mine). Such mines were used during the Soviet-Afghan War, where they reportedly maimed a significant number of children who mistook them for toys.¹⁰ These mines can potentially cause significant losses among both the military and the civilian population of Ukraine.

Attacking, bombing and mining of civilian objects

Russia launched 3,500 missiles over Ukraine within half a year of the full-scale war.¹¹ Only every 20th missile strike of the Russian Federation hit a military object, the remaining 19 hit residential buildings, schools, hospitals, and universities.¹²

For example, the number of damaged critical infrastructure objects and housing stock as of August 19 in several regions comprises: Zaporizhzhia region - 3,715 objects; Mykolaiv region - 5,526 objects; Sumy region - 2,638 objects; Kharkiv region - 10,582 objects.¹³ In Donetsk and Luhansk regions, the situation is even worse - some settlements there were almost completely destroyed (Mariupol, Severodonetsk, Popasna, Rubizhne, etc.).

Within the period from February 24 to August 21, 2022, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) registered **13,477 victims among Ukrainian civilians**: 5,587 killed and 7,890 wounded. Most of the reported deaths and injuries were **caused by long-range explosive weapons strikes**, including heavy artillery and MLRS, as well as missile strikes and airstrikes. OHCHR believes that the actual figures are much higher, as the information is delayed from the active combat areas.¹⁴

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On July 25, 2022, the Russian armed forces carried out a massive shelling of the city of Krasnohorivka, Pokrovsky District, Donetsk region, from the GRAD multiple-launch rocket systems. As a result of enemy shells hitting three residential buildings, four civilians, including a family with a 5-year-old child, found themselves under the ruins. The girl's mother died of her injuries on the spot, and the rescuers took the child with her father and an elderly woman who lived next door from under the rubble in serious condition. The victims were diagnosed with mine-explosive injuries and shrapnel injuries.¹⁵

¹⁰https://twitter.com/DefenceHQ/status/1556513532199550977?ref_src=twsrc%5Etfw%7Ctwcamp%5Etweetembed%7Ctwterm%5E1556513532199550977%7Ctwgr%5Ef52801c31385eeb332d20c4086de662753361ff5%7Ctwcon%5Es1&ref_url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.radiosvoboda.org%2Fa%2Fnews-rosia-miny-donbas%2F31978238.html

¹¹<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wIZCbtMOx5c>

¹²<https://t.me/SBUkr/4888>

¹³<https://www.facebook.com/watch/?v=1286666801738587>

¹⁴<https://www.ohchr.org/ru/news/2022/08/ukraine-civilian-casualty-update-22-august-2022>

¹⁵<https://www.gp.gov.ua/ua/posts/zagibel-materi-i-poranennya-5-ricnoyi-ditini-vnaslidok-obstrilu-krasnogorivki-na-doneccini-rozpocato-rozsliduvannya>

On July 28, 2022, the military of the aggressor country carried out a missile attack on a civilian infrastructure facility in the city of Kropyvnytskyi, Kirovohrad region. According to preliminary data, five people died, 25 were injured.¹⁶

On August 4, Russian troops fired mortars at a public transport stop in Toretsk, Donetsk region. Eight dead, five wounded, including three children.¹⁷

On the night of August 10, 2022, the Russian military carried out an MLRS attack on residential quarters of the city of Marganets, Dnipropetrovsk region. Ten people died, seven injured were hospitalized. A 12-year-old boy was also injured.¹⁸ More than 20 high-rise buildings, a palace of culture, a dormitory, two schools, the building of the city council, administrative premises, and citizens' cars were damaged.¹⁹

A resort village in the Bilhorod-Dnistrovsky district, Odesa region after a missile attack by Russian troops on August 17. As a result of shelling, 2 recreation centers and 2 residential buildings were destroyed, and at least 30 private households were affected. 4 victims who were injured and were hospitalized have been preliminarily identified.²⁰



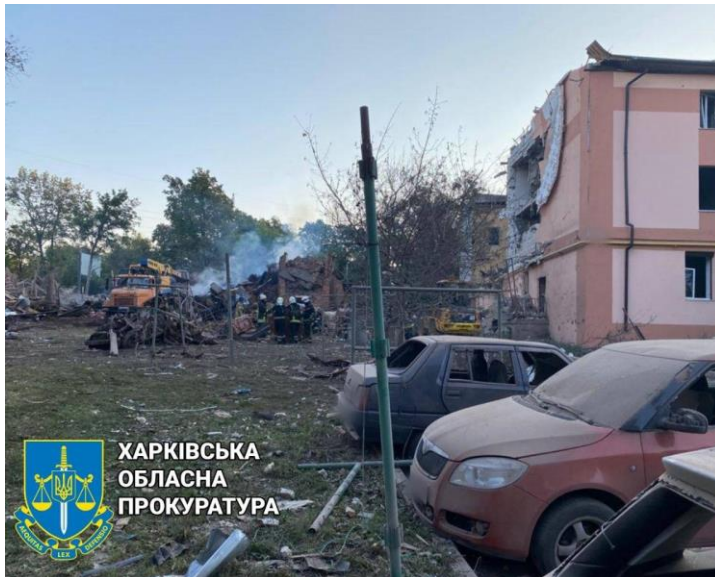
¹⁶<https://www.gp.gov.ua/ua/posts/raketnii-udar-po-kropivnickomu-rozpocato-rozsliduvannya>

¹⁷<https://www.gp.gov.ua/ua/posts/andrii-kostin-masovim-vbivstvom-civilnix-gromadyan-u-torecku-rosiya-vkotre-pokazala-svitu-svoje-spravznje-obliccya>

¹⁸<https://www.gp.gov.ua/ua/posts/yuvenalni-prokurori-361-ditina-zaginula-vnaslidok-zbroinoyi-agresiyi-rf-v-ukrayini-11661>

¹⁹<https://www.gp.gov.ua/ua/posts/zagibel-11-ta-poranennya-9-mirnix-meskanciv-vnaslidok-obstrilu-nikopolskogo-raionu-na-dnipropetrovshhini-rozpocato-provadzennya>

²⁰<https://www.gp.gov.ua/ua/posts/masovani-raketnii-obstril-kurortnogo-selishha-na-odeshchini-rozpocato-rozsliduvannya-2>



equipment nearby.²²

On August 17, around 9:15 p.m., the military of the aggressor country once again shelled a residential quarter in the Saltivka district of Kharkiv. The missile hit a three-story building. The fire covered 3 entrances. Seven people died, including a 13-year-old boy. 20 people were injured, including two children aged 12 and 13.²¹ The blast wave damaged nearby houses and a number of cars. There were no military formations or military

On August 20, as a result of enemy shelling of the residential infrastructure of the city of Voznesensk, Mykolaiv region, three children aged 3 to 8 were seriously injured.²³

On August 24, the Russian occupiers committed a rocket attack on the village of Chapline in Dnipropetrovsk region. In the afternoon, an enemy rocket destroyed a private house. Three people - a woman and two children - were buried under the rubble. The woman and the 13-year-old boy were rescued by local residents. Rescuers retrieved the body of the deceased 11-year-old boy from under the rubble. Later, the enemy once again attacked the settlement - first with one rocket, and then with three more. The first rocket damaged the utility buildings of the railway, the next ones hit the railway station. The impact caused a fire in 5 passenger cars. 21 people died, 22 were injured.²⁴

A large number of unexploded shells, as well as widespread mining in de-occupied territories and territories under temporary occupation, are also a particular danger.

As of August 24, 2022, since the beginning of the full-scale military invasion of the Russian Federation in the territory of Ukraine, 186,090 explosive objects and 1,657 kg of explosives, including 2,102 aerial bombs, have been defused. The territory with an area of 68,894 hectares was surveyed. In just one day (August 23), pyrotechnic units of the State Emergency Service were involved 117 times. 658 explosive objects were identified, removed and neutralized. The territory with an area of 34 hectares was examined. Pyrotechnic units worked most often: in

²¹<https://www.gp.gov.ua/ua/posts/yuvenalni-prokurori-362-ditini-zaginuli-vnaslidok-zbroinoyi-agresiyi-rf-v-ukrayini>

²²<https://www.gp.gov.ua/ua/posts/7-zagiblix-ta-20-poranenix-vnaslidok-vlucannya-rosiiskoyi-raketi-u-zitlovii-budinok-u-xarkovi-rozpocato-provadjennya>

²³<https://www.gp.gov.ua/ua/posts/yuvenalni-prokurori-373-ditini-zaginuli-vnaslidok-zbroinoyi-agresiyi-rf-v-ukrayini>

²⁴<https://t.me/kt20220224/1661>

Kharkiv region - 7079 times, in Kyiv region - 5455, Chernihiv region - 3300, Mykolaiv region - 1522, Sumy region - 1018, Cherkasy region - 948.²⁵

On August 10, the Mariupol City Council reported that in Mariupol, the occupiers attached a grenade to a bench on the playground. Until now, most of the yards and houses in the city remain unsurveyed and unmined.²⁶

On August 12, a woman was injured due to the "explosive trap" set by the occupiers in a forest in Chernihiv region.²⁷

On August 14, a powerful explosion rang out on the beach in Zatoka, Odesa region. Three people died, two more were injured.²⁸

On August 21, a drifting sea mine was discovered and eliminated in Odesa near the coast.²⁹

Besides, there are facts of children finding weapons in the occupied territories. Thus, there is a video where children in Kherson tested a found grenade launcher.³⁰

According to Ukrainian intelligence, **the Russian occupiers also mined vital communications** in Kherson before a possible counteroffensive of the Armed Forces of Ukraine, including gas, electricity, and water supplies. In the de-occupied territories of Kherson region, the occupiers leave camouflaged explosive devices in the most unexpected places – in residential buildings, on playgrounds, in shops, in dog enclosures, etc.³¹

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An important decision to prevent the negative consequences of landmines was the introduction in Ukraine of the mine safety mobile application "Mine Free", developed by the Swiss charitable organization "Free Ukraine" with the support of the State Emergency Service of Ukraine. The application allows you to report the detection of explosive or suspicious objects, the detection of ammunition, view a map of dangerous areas and receive notifications about approaching a dangerous object.³²

Murder, wounding, abuse and sexual abuse of children

Evidence of murders, injuries and cruel treatment of civilians, including children, by the occupiers continues to come from the de-occupied territories of Ukraine.

²⁵<https://dsns.gov.ua/uk/news/nadzvicaini-podiyi/informaciya-shhodo-zalucenosti-pirotexnicnix-pidrozdiliv-dsns-uprodovz-minuloyi-dobi-1>

²⁶<https://t.me/mariupolrada/10517>

²⁷<https://www.npu.gov.ua/news/stoprussia/chernigivshhina-policzejski-nadali-domedichnu-dopomogu-zhinczi-yaka-pidirvalas-na-vorozhij-roztyazhczii/>

²⁸https://t.me/Bratchuk_Sergey/17140

²⁹<https://mil.in.ua/uk/news/na-odeshyni-likviduvaly-morsku-drejfuyuchu-minu/>

³⁰<https://t.me/Tsaplienکو/13387>

³¹<https://www.facebook.com/khoda.gov.ua/posts/pfbid0wiRNgzNP6cb2C6BdP3UnKsYPAHPotDfmpcack9Whebqpw5gijPdTUGyxErAet6Syl>

³²<https://gur.gov.ua/content/v-ukraini-zapratsiuvav-mobilnyi-zastosunok-iz-minnoi-bezpeky-minefree.html>

Thus, on August 12, the Security Service of Ukraine established the identity of a war criminal from the Russian Federation who committed atrocities against civilians during the temporary occupation of one of the villages of Kyiv region. Among the victims of his actions were minor children. At the beginning of March, while staying on the territory of the village of Babyntsi, Buchansky district, the invader together with his subordinates broke into one of the private local houses and kidnapped a teenager. At gunpoint and holding a knife to his head, the invaders demanded information from him about the location of Ukrainian troops. When the torture did not produce the "desired result", the boy was placed in an armored car and the abuse continued, using violence and threats of physical violence.³³



A shot car with a family with children, Kyiv region, February 2022³⁴

On August 15, the police discovered the body of another civilian killed during the occupation. The car of a 58-year-old resident of Buchansk region and his family was fired at by the troops of the Russian Federation at the end of February, when the civilians

tried to evacuate from the occupied district of Kyiv region. The tragedy happened on the road between the villages of Zdvizhivka and Blystavytsa. As a result of the shooting at the car, the head of the family, his wife and the eldest 17-year-old son died. The bullet also hit the five-year-old daughter in the head, the child was miraculously saved by doctors.³⁵

Besides, there are known **cases of sexual violence against children in the occupation.**

Thus, on August 21, the mayor of Melitopol reported the attempted rape of an underage girl on the street of one of the city's neighborhoods.³⁶

As of the end of July, the **UN has collected more than 150 accusations of sexual violence committed against women, children and men.** This is rape under the muzzles of machine guns in the presence of family members as a result of the attack on Ukraine by Russian troops³⁷

³³<https://ssu.gov.ua/novyny/sbu-identyfikuvava-priyatelia-kadyrova-yakyi-katuvav-nepovnoitnoho-pid-chas-tymchasovoi-okupatsii-kyivshchyny>

³⁴https://t.me/andrii_nebytov/336

³⁵https://t.me/andrii_nebytov/336

³⁶https://t.me/ivan_fedorov_melitopol/448?single

³⁷<https://www.ukrinform.ua/rubric-ato/3535533-oon-rozhladae-ponad-150-zvernenn-sodo-skoenih-rosianami-zgvaltvann-pid-cas-vijni-v-ukraini.html>

However, as of July 31, police officers in Ukraine are investigating only 21 criminal cases related to the commission of sexual crimes by Russian military personnel on the territory of Ukraine. Most cases of sexual violence were recorded in Kyiv region, Sumy region, and Chernihiv region. In total, more than 50 statements were written to the police, but the law enforcement officers themselves say that this picture is incomplete.³⁸

Kidnapping and forced deportation of children

According to the National Information Bureau, **7,013 Ukrainian children were deported** to Russia.³⁹ These are the children for whom key information is available - full name, place and date of birth, status, etc. But there are much more deported children. On the websites of Russian state bodies and mass media, reports regularly appear about the removal and placement of Ukrainian children in Russian families and boarding institutions.

According to the Department of Family and Childhood Affairs of the city of Krasnodar, more than 1,000 Ukrainian children from Mariupol, captured by the Russian army, were illegally handed over to outsiders in Tyumen, Irkutsk, Kemerovo and Altai Krai; more than 300 children are currently kept in specialized institutions of the Krasnodar territory.⁴⁰

On August 23, it became known about the illegal removal of 30 children from Khartsyzk, Ilovaisk and Zugres to Nizhny Novgorod. The official goal is to participate in educational and training meetings within the framework of the "Russian Center" program⁴¹.

In general, data on 557,000 Ukrainian children deported to the territory of the aggressor state are published from open sources in the Russian Federation.⁴²

Currently, only 53 deported children have returned to Ukraine.⁴³

Also this month, it became known about the first fact of return deportation of Ukrainians from Russia. On August 13, 60 residents of Mariupol, Donetsk region, were sent home from Pskov. Most of these people lost their homes in the city and now have nowhere to live.⁴⁴

³⁸<https://life.pravda.com.ua/society/2022/07/31/249807/>

³⁹<https://childrenofwar.gov.ua/>

⁴⁰<https://www.kmu.gov.ua/news/zaiava-mzs-ukrainy-shchodo-nezakonnoho-usynovlennia-ukrainskykh-ditei-z-boku-hromadian-rosiiskoi-federatsii>

⁴¹<https://gur.gov.ua/content/okupanty-pohrozhuut-shtrafamy-batkam-iaki-vidmovliaiutsia-viddavaty-ditei-v-rosiiski-shkoly-takozh-prodovzhuetsia-nezakonne-vyvezennia-ditei-na-terytoriiu-rf.html>

⁴²<https://childrenofwar.gov.ua/>

⁴³<https://childrenofwar.gov.ua/>

⁴⁴<https://t.me/andriyshTime/2338>



Mother and 3 children who were able to return to Ukraine recently. They fell into a trap under the guise of "evacuation" to the Russian Federation. According to their mother, they were sent to the border of Trans-Urals and Western Siberia – to the city of Kurgan. There was almost no chance to escape. Relatives' appeal to the Ministry of

Reintegration of Ukraine helped.⁴⁵

In addition to deportation, the Russian military detains and forbids the removal of children from the temporarily occupied territories of Ukraine. Thus, on August 11, it was reported that 1,100 children remain in the occupied territories of Mykolaiv region. The Russians did not allow them to be taken to a safe place.⁴⁶

It is also important to note that on August 1, the Children of War Information Platform was launched, which allows you to collect and/or find the necessary information about lost, deported and forcibly displaced children from Ukraine. The developer was the Ministry of Reintegration together with the National Information Bureau by order of the Office of the President of Ukraine.⁴⁷

Recruitment and participation of children in war and propaganda

The occupiers do not stop trying to recruit children to participate in military operations and invent new methods of mobilization.

Thus, on the day of the 225th anniversary of the establishment of the village of Novoderkul, in Bilovodsk district of Luhansk region, 30 school-age children "were solemnly sworn in and ordained as members of the YunArmiya military-patriotic movement". Besides, the residents of Luhansk also noted repeated cases of disappearance of children aged 14 to 18. They are detained until their identity is established. The procedure does not last 72 hours, as usual, but until the child is picked up by the father or brother, who are faced with the choice of who will go to the front instead of the child.⁴⁸

⁴⁵<https://minre.gov.ua/news/za-uchasti-minreintegraciyi-v-ukrayinu-povernuto-shche-troye-ditey-vyvezennyh-okupantamy-do-rf>

⁴⁶<https://suspilne.media/270263-rosiani-ne-daut-vivezti-ditej-z-timcasovo-okupovanih-teritorij-kim/>

⁴⁷<https://childrenofwar.gov.ua/about-us/>

⁴⁸<https://t.me/luhanskaVTSA/5181>

The special services of the Russian Federation continue to use children for obtaining certain information about strategic objects, movements of Ukrainian troops and equipment in Ukraine.

This month, another **child was notified of the suspicion of unauthorized dissemination of information about the movement and location of the Armed Forces of Ukraine**, if it is possible to identify them in the area, committed under martial law (part 2 of Article 114-2 of the Criminal Code of Ukraine). According to the investigation, in June-August 2022, a 16-year-old boy transmitted to the enemy graphic coordinates of deployment locations and combat positions of artillery units of the Armed Forces of Ukraine in the city of Bakhmut and the Bakhmut district via messenger. At the prosecutor's request, the court chose a preventive measure for the suspect in the form of detention with the alternative of posting bail.⁴⁹

Also, the **Russian special services are constantly developing new mobile applications with games and quest tasks for photographing objects and locations** that are of interest to the occupiers. Subsequently, photos with geolocation data are sent to software developers in exchange for a monetary reward. The information gathered in this way is used by the enemy to launch missile-bomb attacks on the infrastructure facilities in our territory. Adults and teenagers living in Ukraine are used to gather information.⁵⁰

Depriving access to humanitarian aid

Temporarily occupied territories and territories near the front line have been on the verge of a humanitarian crisis for six months. Many settlements in the Donetsk, Luhansk, Zaporizhzhya, and Kherson regions are without electricity, water, and gas. It is impossible to repair broken communications in the conditions of war. After de-occupation, in many places the water supply, electricity and gas supply systems will have to be built from the ground up. In some settlements, where almost all residential buildings and civil infrastructure have been destroyed, people have nowhere to live. There are no Ukrainian communications, Internet, television and radio broadcasts in the temporarily occupied territories. Local residents are forced to live in conditions of shortage of food, drinking water, medicines, and hygiene products. People die from chronic diseases that require constant medication⁵¹. It is almost impossible to import products from Ukraine. This is done only by volunteers who constantly risk their lives. Humanitarian aid from the occupiers is extremely limited and concerns the most vulnerable groups of the population – the elderly, bedridden people with disabilities, and infants. The rest of the population is forced to work for food, being exposed to mine hazards during the dismantling of destroyed buildings and structures.

⁴⁹<https://www.gp.gov.ua/ua/posts/zdavav-poziciyi-artileriiskix-pidrozdliv-zsu-pidozryujetsya-nepovnolitnii-meskanec-m-baxmut>

⁵⁰https://t.me/Yevtushenko_E/435

⁵¹<https://zn.ua/ukr/UKRAINE/khersonska-oblast-na-mezhi-medikamentoznoji-krizi-.html>



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A child plays in a puddle from a sewage leak, August, Mariupol 52

In addition, the Russian invaders continue to destroy the Ukrainian harvest and export food products from the temporarily occupied territories of Ukraine.

On July 31, the Bilopillia community, Sumy region got under the enemy fire. As a result of the shelling, more than 20 hectares of wheat were destroyed.⁵³

On August 6, several facts of shelled fields were documented on the territory of the Stepanivka community, Zaporizhzhia region. As a result of eliminating the consequences of the fire, specialists recorded more than 70 hectares of burnt winter wheat crops.⁵⁴

During August 18, the Russian occupiers shelled residential areas of Chuguyiv, Kharkiv, Bogoduhiv districts of Kharkiv region with artillery. Residential buildings and communal facilities were damaged, grass and wheat in the field were burned.⁵⁵

Infectious diseases are developing in certain settlements of Donetsk and Luhansk regions due to a significant number of the killed, inappropriate burials and lack of communal services. According to the Mariupol City Council, the

⁵²<https://t.me/andriyshTime/2392>

⁵³<https://t.me/DPSUkr/5454>

⁵⁴https://t.me/zoda_gov_ua/11353

⁵⁵<https://t.me/syneubov/3941>

death rate in the city has increased fivefold. The occupiers themselves talk about 17 recorded cases of acute intestinal infection. Half of them are children. But the real picture is much worse. Given the almost complete lack of medical care, more than 30 people die in Mariupol per week. This is more than it was in Mariupol with a population of half a million before the start of the war. Due to unsanitary conditions and pollution of underground water and rivers in the city, there is also a danger of cholera spreading⁵⁶.

There is almost no access to medical care. In addition to the destruction of hospitals, lack of medicine, removal of medical equipment, refusal of medical assistance to residents in favor of wounded Russian soldiers, Infectious diseases are developing in certain settlements of Donetsk and Luhansk regions due to a significant number of the killed, inappropriate burials and lack of communal services. According to the Mariupol City Council, the death rate in the city has increased fivefold. The occupiers themselves talk about the recorded 17 cases of acute intestinal infection. Half of them are children. But the real picture is much worse. Given the almost complete lack of medical care, more than 30 people die in Mariupol per week. This is more than in Mariupol with a population of half a million before the start of the war. Due to unsanitary conditions and pollution of underground water and rivers in the city, there is also a danger of cholera spreading.

There is almost no access to medical care. In addition to the destruction of hospitals, lack of medicine, removal of medical equipment, refusal of medical assistance to residents in favor of wounded Russian soldiers, **the occupiers also use medical and other civilian infrastructure facilities as command posts and military bases**. In fact, the sick and other local residents become "human shields" for the Russian invaders in the war.

Thus, according to the mayor of Melitopol, the occupiers take possession of the territory of hospital No. 1 in the very center of the city and created a military base there. They also hide in the territory of schools, kindergartens and in densely populated areas of the city.⁵⁷

The increasing rate of the incidence of Covid-19 complicates the situation with medicine. The Cabinet of Ministers has already extended the quarantine and state of emergency in Ukraine until December 31⁵⁸. However, it is currently impossible to bring vaccines and tests for coronavirus to the occupied territories.

Recommendations

- Constantly maintain contact with the occupied territories by all possible ways and means. Local authorities, state institutions and facilities must know their work regime, powers and procedures in various situations. This helps maintain peace and trust of the population in the decisions of the state.

⁵⁶<https://t.me/mariupolrada/10476>

⁵⁷https://t.me/eto_zp/19660

⁵⁸<https://t.me/tmelnychuk/801>

- Inform the population of the occupied territories about the safety rules, the observance of which will help prevent abuses and murders by the Russian military, mobilization to the army of the occupier, as well as mine safety rules. Constantly remind children of the importance of following the rules of safe behavior during air raids in bomb shelters and at home. Parents should as much as possible limit children's stay in places where they can get injured or wounded. This also applies to the ban on visiting forest strips, beaches and rivers that can be mined.
- Promote the organization of humanitarian corridors and the delivery of humanitarian aid to the occupied territories of Ukraine and active combat areas, as well as to the locations suffering from a humanitarian disaster; form stocks of food products, water and medical drugs in territories where there is a significant risk of Russian occupation.
- As soon as possible, organize the evacuation of local residents from settlements where, in addition to the humanitarian crisis, there are cases of the spread of infectious diseases. International humanitarian and human rights organizations and foundations should be involved in solving this issue.
- Contribute to the recording of all crimes committed by the Russian military: murders, maimings and ill-treatment. An integral part of this process is forming trust and persuading citizens of the need to contact law enforcement agencies with statements and evidence of the crimes committed, in particular via the Internet and telephone.
- Increase efforts to record crimes of sexual nature, including against children. The absolute majority of them remain latent and are rarely recorded by law enforcement agencies.
- Maximum use of international channels to monitor the condition of children who were deported to Russia, to document the crimes committed against them. Promote greater involvement of international organizations and volunteer communities in the process of returning Ukrainian children home.
- Conduct informative and explanatory conversations with children regarding Internet safety rules and existing schemes for recruiting/involving teenagers in war (transfer of intelligence data, participation in propaganda, etc.).
- Conduct information campaigns on the prevention of the coronavirus epidemic throughout Ukraine, especially where it is difficult to provide the required level of medical care.
- Contribute to the provision in Ukraine of a sufficient number of medical devices and medicines (medical masks, oxygen, test systems, vaccines, etc.) necessary for the prevention and fight against the coronavirus epidemic.

Replacement of children in Ukraine and abroad

Since the beginning of the Russian full-scale war against Ukraine, millions of people have been forced to flee from their homes. According to estimates of the UN Refugee Agency, over 11 million people left Ukraine within the last six months. At the same time, 4.7 million of refugees have already come back home, but a significant number are still waiting for the hostilities to end in order to come back to Ukraine⁵⁹. According to the estimates of the International Organization of Migration, 6.6 million Ukrainians have become internally displaced persons⁶⁰. Most of the displaced citizens are women and children.

Due to the significant security threat, people continue to evacuate from the temporarily occupied territories and active combat areas. Since July 29, a mandatory evacuation of residents from the unoccupied areas of Donetsk region has been carried out in Ukraine. For this, the Cabinet of Ministers supported the initiative of the Ministry of Reintegration to create the Coordination Headquarters that will deal with arranging the evacuation of people from Donetsk region. In case of refusal to evacuate, citizens must sign a refusal form where they agree that they understand all the consequences and are responsible for their lives. An important decision regarding mandatory evacuation was also the strengthening of the responsibility for orphans and children deprived of parental care by the Government. **In case of refusing to evacuate**, families, as well as foster carers and orphanages that raise such children, will lose the right to take care of them⁶¹. In the future, it is planned to expand the mandatory evacuation on the territories of other regions where there is constant shelling and the communal services are destroyed without the possibility of renovating them (gas and water supply, heat and electricity) – first of all, these are Luhansk, Kharkiv, Zaporizhzhya, Kherson and Mykolaiv regions. In addition, weather conditions would complicate the evacuation in autumn. Rain-falls could wash out the unpaved roads that are a large part of the evacuation routes.

According to the Ministry of Reintegration, as of August 19, it was possible to evacuate more than 21,000 people from the temporarily uncontrolled territories of Kherson, Kharkiv, Zaporizhzhia, Donetsk, Luhansk regions and Autonomous Republic of Crimea within 10 days. Almost a third of them are children⁶².

Evacuation is usually carried out by the local authorities and volunteer organizations. There are no official humanitarian corridors for the civil population to leave.

⁵⁹<https://www.unn.com.ua/uk/news/1991409-v-oon-porakhuvai-silki-ukrayintsiv-viyikhali-za-kordon-rekordna-kilkist>

⁶⁰<https://displacement.iom.int/reports/zvit-pro-vnutrishne-peremischennya-v-ukraini-opituvannya-zagalnogo-naselennya-raund-7-23>

⁶¹<https://www.kmu.gov.ua/news/24-serpnia-sytuatsiia-v-sotsialnii-sferi>

⁶²<https://minre.gov.ua/news/iryna-vereshchuk-evakuaciya-z-tot-tryvaye-za-10-dniv-vyyihalo-ponad-21-tysyachu-ukrayinciv>

On August 17, it was possible to evacuate 601 people, including 15 children and 22 people with disabilities, from the Pokrovsky district, Donetsk region⁶³.

On August 22, 825 people were evacuated from the uncontrolled part of Kharkiv region, 238 of them were children⁶⁴.



Evacuation of citizens from the combat zone by the State Emergency Service of Ukraine⁶⁵

In addition to the help of local authorities and volunteers, people try to leave on their own. But leaving the temporarily occupied territories is often associated with a number of risks. Ukrainians are taken for a long-term filtration, they can be deported to the territory of

Russia, men might be mobilized for the war. At the checkpoints the occupiers demand money for a permission to leave, and can take away water and food, which are desperately needed during a several-day journey, especially in summer. There are also cases of shooting at the vehicles. Any of the described situations can be critical for children whose parents are trying to take them out.

We have been getting out of Kherson for 3 days. It was very long and very scary. You're afraid to look in the wrong way, you're afraid of questions, you're afraid that they won't let you go, and we really needed to. I was afraid that they would start asking children something. We had to leave because the youngest had to have a surgery on his ear, it is impossible to make it in Kherson now. In addition, we would need medicines afterwards that are difficult to find. I also have a high sugar level all the time, it's impossible to find any medicine as well, the only way is to get to the free territories.

From the interview with parents

On August 1, Russian occupiers fired at close range on a bus during evacuation from the village of Starosillia, Kherson region, to Kryvyi Rih. Two people died. Two more were hospitalized in a severe condition.⁶⁶

⁶³[https://www.facebook.com/DSNSDon/posts/pfbid02LNzKbo4ydl5gnaReMeo21VKKKMGBJaZ9BpGqZ4uxL7SwyGbtq\\$7d9RP6Fp3ws19I](https://www.facebook.com/DSNSDon/posts/pfbid02LNzKbo4ydl5gnaReMeo21VKKKMGBJaZ9BpGqZ4uxL7SwyGbtq$7d9RP6Fp3ws19I)

⁶⁴https://t.me/vereshchuk_iryna/1507

⁶⁵<https://dsns.gov.ua/uk/news/nadzvicaini-podiyi/evakuaciya-dsns-ryatuvalnikidoneccini>

⁶⁶<https://t.me/vilkul/1666>

On August 11, during the evacuation from Maryinka, Donetsk region, a car with people got under Russian fire. As a result, two police officers that accompanied these people were injured.⁶⁷



Ukrainians are trying to leave the temporarily occupied territories to Zaporizhzhya⁶⁸

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On August 17, Petro Andryushchenko, the counselor of the mayor of Mariupol, reported on the queue for filtration of 1,300 Mariupol citizens.⁶⁹ Such a queue can last for more than several days.

According to Ivan Fedorov, the mayor of Melitopol, there is a case when parents were sent for filtration, while two children aged four and six were left sitting in the car for eight hours.⁷⁰ Also, on August 21, the mayor announced the death of a woman in a car evacuation queue in Vasylivka. Together with almost 4,000 people, she tried to get out from the occupation to the territory controlled by Ukraine. However, she could not stand the waiting time in the inhumane conditions that the enemy created at their checkpoints. The total number of deaths recorded in evacuation convoys has already exceeded a dozen.⁷¹ It is also known about the case of bringing a baby with heatstroke to a local hospital because the Russian military did not let the car through for two days.⁷²

According to the Human Rights Commissioner of the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine, Dmytro Lubinets, during the filtration, the Russians keep men separate,

⁶⁷<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bkCUEofejj0>

⁶⁸https://t.me/TCH_channel/46487?single

⁶⁹t.me/andriyshTime/2378

⁷⁰https://24tv.ua/okupanti-zabrali-vid-ditey-batkiv-8-godin-fedorov-filtratsiyu_n2140844

⁷¹https://t.me/ivan_fedorov_melitopol/442

⁷²<https://tsn.ua/ato/pid-chas-evakuaciyi-na-blokpostu-u-vasilivci-zaporizkoyi-oblasti-pomerli-uzhe-10-lyudey-fedorov-2131348.html>

women separate, and children separate. Then, at the same time, they conduct the interrogations and compare the obtained information. There is also a possibility of separating parents and children, when parents are not allowed to go with the children and are arrested because of certain questions to them. In this case, the children are sent to the territory of the Russian Federation by themselves.⁷³

It should be noted that **threats of nuclear terrorism from Russia also prompt the evacuation of citizens**. On March 4, 2022, the occupiers captured Enerhodar and Zaporizhzhya Nuclear Power Plant near the city. The Russians brought weapons and explosives to the Zaporizhzhya NPP, and also mined a range of infrastructure services. Among them there are the gas supply, electricity supply and water supply of the station.⁷⁴ The enemy has repeatedly shelled the ZNPP and that creates a danger of technogenic catastrophe not only for Ukraine but also for other countries of the world.

On August 5, as a result of the attack of the Russian military on the Zaporizhzhya NPP, the emergency protection of one of the power units was activated – and one of the three working power units is now disconnected. During the shelling, the nitrogen-oxygen station and the combined auxiliary building were seriously damaged. There are still risks of hydrogen leakage and sputtering of radioactive substances, and the risk of fire is high. On August 6, as a result of shelling of the ZNPP by the invaders, three radiation monitoring sensors around the dry cask storage of the ZNPP were damaged. On August 11, the occupiers fired at the fire emergency department, located outside the territory of the ZNPP and intended to protect the ZNPP from fires and extinguishing them in case of emergency situations at the station. On August 13, the 750 kV open switchgear (VRP-750) was also damaged. On August 20, as a result of shelling, one of the transitional pathway through which the staff go from the special buildings to the power units (overpass) was damaged, the windows in the building were broken.⁷⁵

According to Oleksandr Starukh, the head of the Zaporizhzhia Regional Military Administration, more than 400,000 people will have to be evacuated in case of an accident at the ZNPP.⁷⁶ Some of the residents of the settlements that are close to the NPP have already left, but there are still many citizens, including children.

As for the situation with people already displaced to relatively safe territories of Ukraine, it **remains difficult in terms of finding housing, work and receiving social benefits**.

⁷³<https://tsn.ua/ato/vizhivayut-yak-mozhut-ombudsmen-pro-dolyu-deportovanih-do-rf-2124421.html>

⁷⁴https://t.me/energoatom_ua/8698

⁷⁵https://t.me/energoatom_ua/9082

⁷⁶<https://www.unian.ua/war/yakshcho-okupanti-vlashtuyut-avariyu-na-zaes-dovedetsya-evakuyuvati-400-tisyach-lyudey-glava-ova-novini-vtorgnennya-rosiji-v-ukrajinu-11942898.html>

The government is actively developing medium- and long-term options for solving housing needs and restoring the damaged housing stock in the de-occupied territories.

On August 3, the Government approved the conditions for providing mass mortgage lending for the state-owned company "Ukrfinzhytlo" as part of the Affordable Mortgage Program initiated by the President Volodymyr Zelenskyi. From October 1, the following categories of people will be able to get a soft loan at 3% for 20 years with an initial payment of 20% for the purchase of housing: military personnel, employees of the security and defense sector, doctors, teachers and teaching staff, scientists. Later, the program will be available to all Ukrainians whose residential real estate does not exceed 52.5 square meters + 21 square meters for each family member.⁷⁷

On August 4, for the first time since the beginning of the full-scale invasion of the Russian Federation, the "Residential premises for internally displaced persons" program, financed by the German government, resumed its work. The State Fund for the Promotion of Youth Housing Construction selected 300 winners to receive a loan for up to 20 years at a rate of 3%.⁷⁸

On August 13, another temporary modular town was opened for people who lost their homes as a result of hostilities in Irpin, Kyiv region. The settlement consists of 88 residential modules designed for 352 people. There are also toilet and shower rooms, dining rooms and other common areas. Previously, such modular towns were opened in Lviv, Borodyanka, Bucha and Makariv.⁷⁹

It also became known about the Government's plans to build five-story residential buildings within 5-6 months in 16 regions of Ukraine – 2,000 apartments in each region.⁸⁰

In addition, Ukraine continues negotiations with the governments of other countries regarding their assistance in the reconstruction of settlements that have suffered the most as a result of military actions and acts of terrorism on the part of Russia. However, due to ongoing internal displacement in Ukraine, existing efforts are still insufficient. As of July 24, about **800,000 citizens lost their homes**.⁸¹ According to the minister of the Ministry of Reintegration, Iryna Vereshchuk, this year it will not be possible to provide housing for everyone who needs it, but the authorities are doing everything to ensure that the displaced people have a place to live and a place to spend this winter.⁸²

⁷⁷<https://www.kmu.gov.ua/news/uriad-zatverdyy-umovy-prohramy-dostupna-ipoteka>

⁷⁸<https://www.kmu.gov.ua/news/ipoteka-pid-3-vpershe-z-pochatku-povnomasshtabnoi-viiny-vidbuvsia-vidbir-vpo-na-otrymannia-pilhovyykh-kredytiv>

⁷⁹<https://www.kmu.gov.ua/news/u-misti-heroi-irpin-vidkryly-tymchasove-modulne-mistechko>

⁸⁰<https://t.me/kt20220224/1558>

⁸¹<https://www.ukrinform.ua/rubric-ato/3536043-veresuk-majze-800-tisac-gromadan-ukraini-vtratili-zitlo.html>

⁸²<https://www.ukrinform.ua/rubric-ato/3536043-veresuk-majze-800-tisac-gromadan-ukraini-vtratili-zitlo.html>

We no longer have our own home, and we were forced to evacuate from Kherson region. Here we were given shelter in the local church. Now our family of 5 adults and 3 children dwells in 2 rooms. There is a shower, toilet, washing machine. I hope it will be warm in autumn and winter. However, it is still difficult to live in such conditions. Maybe later we will be allocated at least some separate housing or some additional assistance for housing rent. We are waiting!

From an interview with parents

As for job, **the labor market in Ukraine continues to recover**. According to data from the job search site Work.ua, the number of vacancies increased by 14% in July. Kyiv, Lviv, Dnipropetrovsk, Odesa, and Ivano-Frankivsk regions were the leaders in terms of the number of posted job offers. The greatest demand remains for such professionals as sales managers, sales consultants, accountants, drivers and cooks.⁸³

This month, the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine has decided to allocate funds to provide grants to the winners of the "yeRobota" (thereisaJOB) program. The program was launched by the Ministry of Economy together with the Ministry of Digital Transformation, the Ministry of Agrarian Policy, the State Employment Service and Oschadbank to support Ukrainians in starting their own business and activating entrepreneurship in Ukraine. As of August 16, 103.3 million hryvnias have already been allocated to satisfy grant applications.⁸⁴ Also, the program of compensation for employers' labor costs for the employed IDPs, the microgrants for business program and other projects aimed at employment of Ukrainians who have lost their source of income and want to work are continuing.

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At the same time according to the interviewed IDPs finding a job is still difficult for several reasons. Firstly, many IDPs live in small settlements – villages and settlements where there is no work and limited transport in the district. Secondly, the IDPs are often offered jobs that do not correspond to their qualifications and require additional knowledge and skills for employment. Thirdly, it is a biased attitude towards IDPs on the part of employers. It is reinforced elsewhere by unequal treatment of women with children, as those who would potentially spend their working time for children and need additional leaves and days off.

I have already been refused 2 times and I suspect that it is because I am an IDP. The same was while searching for housing. As if we're somehow unreliable, I don't know. We can steal something from the apartment or not come to work. Whether or not they're afraid that the war is about to end, I'll go home and leave their firm accordingly. It's hard for me to guess, but now I had to get a job as a cosmetics salesman instead of an accountant, and I don't really like it. But with two children, you don't spend long.

From interviews with parents

⁸³<https://www.work.ua/news/ukraine/2183/>

⁸⁴<https://me.gov.ua/News/Detail?lang=en-UA&id=f6415945-5b16-4388-b02a-205af2e77825&title=Programarobota-UriadVidilivKoshtiDliaFinansuvanniaPershikhProektivZiStvorenniaBiznesuTaZakladkiSadu>

It should also be added that as of **August 3, about 150 thousand IDPs have not yet received social benefits from the state.** The Government names several reasons for this - overloaded social protection bodies, technical errors in the Diya Application, the human factor in the registration of assistance.⁸⁵ However, this is promised to be corrected. Also, since August 7, the IDPs who had lost their passport are able to register and receive payments for accommodation. The basis is a certificate from the State Migration Service on the submission of documents for the registration of a passport of a citizen of Ukraine. You can also use documents from the Diya, including "yeDocument" (theisaDocument) to process your payouts.⁸⁶

With regard to movement abroad, as of 24 August the number of Ukrainian refugees, according to UNHCR estimates, comprised about 6.7 million. **3 million 840 thousand people received temporary protection in the countries of Europe.** The largest number of refugees from Ukraine with the status of temporary protection is in Poland, which comprises 1 million 274 thousand people. The next are Germany and the Czech Republic — respectively 670 thousand and 413 thousand. Many Ukrainians got temporary protection also in Italy (150 thousand), Spain (134 thousand), Bulgaria (129 thousand), in Great Britain (112 thousand), France (96 thousand), Slovakia (87 thousand), Austria (78,000), the Netherlands (68,000), Lithuania (62,000), Switzerland (59,000), Belgium (52 thousand). Turkey has received 145,000 of our citizens, but there is no temporary protection for them. More than 2 million 197 thousand Ukrainians crossed the border with Russia. There are no data on any status of these people⁸⁷.

Among the important changes for Ukrainians abroad on August 16, the Cabinet of Ministers decided to use the documents from the Diya. 58 countries supported this decision. **Ukrainians can use their electronic documents** and other personal data stored and provided by the Diya application abroad to receive public services outside Ukraine. This information will be transmitted from the Unified State Web Portal of Electronic Services.⁸⁸

Countries in Europe, the United States and Canada continue to provide support and assistance to Ukrainians in employment, housing, kindergarten and school placement, health care and other services. Many Ukrainian families have already managed to find a job and learn the local language for further accommodation of life abroad for an indefinite period. However, at the moment there is a question of paying taxes. At the moment, at the state and interstate levels, the collection of taxes on the income of Ukrainians living outside their country remains unregulated. At the same time, personal income taxes in the vast

⁸⁵<https://tsn.ua/video/video-novini/150-tisyach-vimushenih-pereselenciv-dosi-ne-otrimali-obicyani-derzhavoyu-viplati-tsn.html>

⁸⁶<https://minre.gov.ua/news/vidteper-vpo-mozhut-otrymuvaty-vyplaty-navit-u-razi-vtraty-pasporta>

⁸⁷ https://data.unhcr.org/en/situations/ukraine#_ga=2.228732760.514168680.1646989952-176134281.1646551413

⁸⁸<https://zmina.info/news/ukrayinczi-mozhut-vykorystovuvaty-dokumenty-z-diyi-u-58-krayinah-svitu-perelik/>

majority of European countries are higher than Ukrainian taxes, which may not be suitable for the budget of Ukrainians in crisis conditions of displacement and war in their own country. The Ministry of Economy plans to appeal to the EU to apply an exception to Ukrainians who have received temporary protection in the EU countries - so that they do not become tax residents after half a year in a particular country and do not have to pay taxes there, including for income in Ukraine.⁸⁹ Likewise, it is necessary to resolve the issue of taxation of funds received by Ukrainians abroad as social assistance. According to Ukrainian legislation, this is considered to be the receipt of foreign income.

We don't yet understand how to pay taxes. My husband works in a Ukrainian company online from abroad. Profit is small compared to European prices, and if you pay local tax, rather than what we pay in Ukraine, then too little will remain for life. However, it is still scary to return to Ukraine, we have a child of 2 years old and I am not sure that I will feel safe in my home country. And here it is difficult to get a job, my husband has already gone to 6 interviews and so far without results.

From interviews with parents

Recommendations

- Continue to provide information and education on the timely evacuation of families with children from the territories that are temporarily occupied, subject to regular shelling or where there is a significant risk of active hostilities. At the same time, it is important to avoid intimidation by criminal liability for acts committed in the temporary occupation, mostly under duress (in particular, the acquisition of Russian citizenship).
- To strengthen the information of citizens on possible options for leaving the occupied territories, including the territories 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 RF, to assist Ukrainians in leaving for Europe.
- Develop state programs to support the return of Ukrainians with children from Europe, which would include compensation payments and employment or business prospects.
- Provide citizens with clear signals of prohibition or permission to return to the previously occupied territories, as well as to territories that have been subject to significant shelling. Such statements should be accompanied by information on the security and infrastructure of specific settlements.
- Strengthen activities to provide employment opportunities for internally displaced persons. To do this, assess the market of offers and qualifications

⁸⁹<https://www.epravda.com.ua/news/2022/08/19/690590/>

of IDPs, intensify measures for the requalification of citizens, create new jobs and interact with employers in the employment of IDPs.

- To study the housing needs of internally displaced persons, to analyze the scope of available communal housing in order to expand state housing and regional IDP accommodation programs.
- At the international level, to recognize Ukrainians who are forced to stay abroad and who continue to work in Ukraine as Ukrainian tax residents during temporary protection.
- To allow by law not to declare social and humanitarian assistance received by the citizens of Ukraine abroad.

Preparing children for the new academic year

On September 1, Ukrainian children will meet differently: someone will go to their school as last year, someone will continue to study online, and someone will study in a new school abroad. Despite the extremely difficult situation in the conditions of war, Ukrainian schools were able to complete the last academic year, including for children who moved to other countries. 347 thousand ninth graders and 224 thousand eleventh graders received documents on education. Of this number, 1,153 documents of complete general secondary education and 907 certificates of basic secondary education were issued through diplomatic institutions of Ukraine abroad.⁹⁰

This academic year is scheduled to begin, as always, on September 1. For this purpose, during the summer, training was carried out in several directions:

- Repair of destroyed and damaged educational institutions;
- Repair and arrangement of bomb shelters;
- Resettlement of the IDPs from places of compact residence arranged in schools;
- Preparation of school staff for the new academic year (safety issues, psychosocial support for students and parents);
- Meetings with parents to discuss the preferred format of education with children and to get acquainted with the safe conditions in schools.

As for the restoration of damaged educational institutions, this was most occupied by the deoccupied oblasts of Ukraine – Kyiv, Chernihiv, Zhytomyr and Sumy, where face-to-face or mixed format of study is currently planned.

As of 24 August, a total of 2,328 **educational institutions had been damaged as a result of bombing and shelling by the RF armed forces. Of these, 289 were completely destroyed.**⁹¹

On July 28, as a result of shelling from the occupiers, a school in Mykolaiv city, Mykolaiv region, was almost completely destroyed. Part of the building collapsed. The guard of the institution was wounded.⁹²

On August 4, the occupiers destroyed a school in Ocheretyne, Donetsk Oblast. Before the full-scale Russian invasion, 353 pupils were studying here.⁹³

On August 4, the city of Kharkiv, Kharkiv region, was also shelled. Several educational institutions are damaged.⁹⁴

⁹⁰<https://www.kmu.gov.ua/news/nashe-naiholovnishe-zavdannia-ne-zahubyty-zhodnoi-dytyny-zhodnoho-zdobuvacha-osvity-serhii-shkarlet>

⁹¹ | | UNTRANSLATED_CONTENT_START | | <https://www.gp.gov.ua/ua/posts/yuvenalni-prokurori-374-ditini-zaginuli-vnaslidok-zbroinoyi-agresiyi-rf-v-ukrayini-2>

| | UNTRANSLATED_CONTENT_END | |

⁹²<https://t.me/senkevichonline/1812>

⁹³<https://dn.gov.ua/news/v-ocheretinomu-rosiyani-znishchili-shche-odnu-shkolu-na-donechchini>

⁹⁴https://t.me/ihor_terekhov/388

On August 18, a school in the village of Pavlivka, Sumy region, was destroyed due to the projectile hitting from barrel artillery.⁹⁵



Damaged school in Kostiantynivka, Donetsk Oblast, 22 August⁹⁶

In addition to damaged buildings, many **schools also faced other losses, including material and technical base**. Textbooks, projectors, visual educational materials in many educational institutions of Ukraine were destroyed, damaged or stolen.

It should be noted that the repair and restoration of schools relies on local authorities, which for the most part have applied and continue to apply for assistance from international donors, businesses, parents and volunteers, who are involved in fundraising, financing of construction materials, debris removal and repair work on the territory of schools.

In addition to the general repair of schools, special attention is paid to the creation of safe conditions in educational institutions – the preparation of bomb shelters, verification of notification signals, preparation of action plans in various situations of danger. The main requirements for bomb shelters are: close location with the school (up to 500 m); availability of at least two exits; provision of electricity and artificial lighting; availability of water supply and sewerage (or

⁹⁵ <https://t.me/Zhyvytskyi/3964>

⁹⁶ https://t.me/pavlokyrylenko_donoda/4599

water and toilets); sufficient space for children and school staff; available evacuation schemes and created supplies of drinking water, food and medicines.

According to the results of the inspection **of the Ministry of Education and Science, as of August 17, about 41% of all educational institutions had the opportunity to start training in a face-to-face format.** The highest indicators of



readiness for the educational process in this form in Lviv region – 83%, Chernivtsi – 78% and the city of Kyiv – 68%. Other oblasts continue to work actively in creating appropriate and safe conditions in educational institutions for offline learning. For comparison, as of July 20, only 23% of educational institutions of the country showed such readiness.⁹⁷

Shelter in the school in Stryi, Lviv region⁹⁸

At the same time, despite the readiness of some schools to accept pupils in face-to-face format, some regions and settlements in the east and south of the country due to regular shelling and a significant number of air alarms decided on a distance form of pupils' education. At the same time, the preparation of bomb shelters and repair of schools in these areas also continues. This is done so that in the event of a change in the security situation to a more favorable one, it is possible to quickly change the training format to a face-to-face one. Also, the shelters of many schools in these territories continue to be used by local residents during aerial alarms.

Thus, as of August 19, more than 600 educational institutions that were not damaged or destroyed during the war were inspected in Kharkiv oblast.⁹⁹

In the cities of Dnipro and Kryvyi Rih, Dnipropetrovsk oblast, the training will be held remotely. Despite this, according to local authorities, as of August 18, all bomb shelters in schools are equipped with everything necessary, including wireless Internet access and toilets.¹⁰⁰

⁹⁷<https://dsns.gov.ua/en/news/ostanni-novini/golova-dsns-vzyav-ucast-u-naradi-za-ucastyu-premjer-ministra-shhodo-stanu-ukrittiv-u-zakladax-osviti>

⁹⁸Photo by Sergey Zapisov, school director <https://life.liga.net/poyasnennya/interview/v-podvale-lavki-wi-fi-voda-biotualet-kak-shkola-v-strye-gotovitsya-k-obucheniyu-oflayn>

⁹⁹<https://kharkivoda.gov.ua/news/117101>

¹⁰⁰<https://www.ukrinform.ua/rubric-regions/3553155-u-skolah-dnipra-i-krivogo-rogu-navcanna-bude-distancijnim-lukasuk.html>

In Zaporizhzhia, despite the online format of training, they also decided to bring the bomb shelters and school shelters into proper condition.¹⁰¹

The final decision to attend school is made by the parents. Most parents in the relatively safe territories of Ukraine – western and central oblasts – are in favor of face-to-face learning. At the same time, in the settlements that are regularly exposed to shelling, parents are more comfortable leaving their children at home – these are, in particular, the northern, southern and eastern regions of Ukraine. According to psychologists, any learning format is better than its absence, because learning stabilizes the child's life, brings order to the schedule of the day and supports communication with peers.

For me, the key task was to provide the child with face-to-face learning. That is why we moved to Ternopil. It is important for the child to go to school, see the teacher, write on the board, play with friends during breaks. It's a normal childhood, and I don't want to take it away from my son because of the war.

From interviews with parents

Children got used to online learning. Teachers have already established appropriate communication channels, too. Yes, of course, there is no live contact online, there is no socialization of the child to the fullest extent. But this is more the case for first-year-olds, who only form the motivation for learning. It is more important for older children to be in the team to which they are accustomed. It is important to have a connection with life before the war, especially if children have been forced to move and are away from their home, relatives and friends.

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From an interview with Antonina Sorochynska, a psychologist at the Voices of Children Foundation

Some parents confirm this. Even after moving to the west or center of the country, children and parents choose online learning in the schools they attended before the war.

My daughter got used to the teachers, she has many friends among her classmates. I don't want to hurt her with a new team, a new school. She's so comfortable. This may not be suitable for some other child who needs more discipline, and therefore the teacher's personal attention. Mine is fairly diligent and plodding, I trust her that she will really be studying online.

From interviews with parents

It is important that when moving, parents can still arrange the child to go to school by providing only an application to the selected educational institution. If available, you can provide a child's birth certificate and other documents, but this is not a prerequisite for enrollment. At the same time, if in the spring children had the experience of studying at once in 2 Ukrainian educational institutions – their own and new, where they settled after moving, now you need to choose

¹⁰¹ <https://t.me/starukhofficial/3554>

only one, so as not to increase the burden on the educational system of the country.

Another important step in preparing schools for learning in the new environment is to **conduct informational and educational events with school staff**. Teachers should be aware of the algorithms for different types of hazards in schools – air alarm, fire, etc. In addition, they should be able to provide psychological first aid, work with children who have experienced the stress and trauma of war, and facilitate the adaptation of internally displaced children.

It is important that teachers are prepared for different situations and for different children's issues. The teacher should know what to do if the child begins to panic or manifests fear during the air raid alarm. The teacher must also understand the emotions of children, be empathic and tolerant. This is especially true for language issues with the children from eastern or southern regions. A child who experiences stress through displacement, or whose parent, for example, is at war, is unable to master the language quickly at the conversational level. It is necessary to reduce the requirements for the child, to orient him/her gently in the studies. It will depend on the good attitude of the teacher how children will feel at school, what will be the relationship with peers.

*From the interview with Antonina Sorochnytska, a psychologist at the
Voices of Children Foundation*

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Such trainings are already held elsewhere in schools, mainly by NGOs and psychological services. The Voices of Children Charitable Foundation is also actively involved in the psychoeducation of teachers and parents, provides psychosocial support to schoolchildren, has established mobile visits of psychologists in the deoccupied territories of Ukraine. **Interaction with parents is no less important for a child's favourable educational process than working with teachers**. Parents should talk to children about the rules of conduct during different situations in the street and at school. It is also important that parents monitor the emotional state of their children, be able to recognize problems and understand the need to contact professionals if necessary.

The situation in the temporarily occupied territories

In the occupied territories, children can continue their education only remotely. At the same time, there is a significant risk that they **may be subjected to forced face-to-face visits to those educational institutions** that have opened under the pressure of Russian invaders.

Thus, in the city of Melitopol, Zaporizhzhia region, the occupiers threaten parents who will not send their children to school, first with fines of 40 thousand rubles, and then with deprivation of parental rights. According to the mayor Ivan Fedorov, out of 22 schools, invaders are trying to launch 4, to which teachers from distant regions of the Russian Federation were brought.¹⁰²

¹⁰²<https://www.ukrinform.ua/rubric-regions/3558000-zagarniki-pogrozuut-pozbavlenam-batkivskih-prav-akso-melitopolci-ne-viddadut-ditej-do-skil.html>

The situation is similar in Vasylykivskyi district of Zaporizhzhia region. It has become known that collaborators are already creating their own social services with inspectors who will go around the homes, check the presence of pupils and enroll them in schools.¹⁰³

In the context of the humanitarian crisis and the shortage of essential goods, the occupiers also offer money for face-to-face attendance at schools. The President of Russia Vladimir Putin instructed to pay 10 thousand rubles to one of the parents of children aged 6 to 18 years living in the occupied territories of Donetsk, Luhansk, Zaporizhzhia, Kharkiv and Kherson regions, who will go to schools opened by collaborators in Ukraine.¹⁰⁴

In addition to the Russian curriculum, which provides for the teaching of distorted history and the almost complete lack of study of the Ukrainian language and literature, **Ukrainian children will also be forced to submit to Kremlin propaganda in the guise of patriotic education of students.**

From September 1, in schools in Russia, and accordingly in the temporarily occupied territories of Ukraine, each week will begin with raising the national flag of the invading country, as well as performing the anthem.¹⁰⁵ In addition, extracurricular classes "Talking about the important" were introduced, where it is planned to provide distorted information about the war of Russia against Ukraine.¹⁰⁶

There is also evidence that schools in the temporarily occupied territories of Ukraine **impose Soviet symbols and attributes.**

Thus, in school No.65 in Mariupol, Donetsk region, the occupiers installed the found bust of Lenin.¹⁰⁷ In Vovchansk, Kharkiv region, not only Lenin's bust was installed, but they also plan to dress first-graders in red ties on September 1.¹⁰⁸

Security risks remain for teachers in the temporarily occupied territories of Ukraine who refuse to cooperate with the occupation authorities. **The invaders threaten to massacre teachers and school principals,** refuse their evacuation, kidnap and force them to adopt the Russian education system.

In Mariupol, due to the lack of a sufficient number of teacher-collaborators, the occupation administration forbade employees of the educational sphere to leave the city. The facts of "persuading" teachers to work due to beatings are becoming massive. Individual patrols visit educators at home and explain the need for cooperation with examples.¹⁰⁹

¹⁰³<https://t.me/riamelitopol/63578>

¹⁰⁴https://censor.net/ua/news/3362924/putin_doruchyv_vydaty_po_10_tys_rubliv_batkam_yaki_vi_daly_diteyi_na_navchannya_v_shkolah_na_okupovanyh

¹⁰⁵<https://t.me/minprosrf/811>

¹⁰⁶<https://t.me/minprosrf/507>

¹⁰⁷<https://t.me/andriyshTime/2425?single>

¹⁰⁸<https://www.objectiv.tv/objectively/2022/08/21/v-okkupiroyannom-volchanske-ustanovili-lenina-i-hotyat-odet-pervoklassnikov-v-krasnye-galstuky/>

¹⁰⁹<https://t.me/andriyshTime/2351>

On August 17, the director of the Kherson Music School No.3 was kidnapped in order to encourage cooperation.¹¹⁰

On August 19, in the village of Radivonivka, Zaporizhzhya region, a history teacher was kidnapped from his own house, but he flatly refused to cooperate with the occupation authorities, which seized the region.¹¹¹

Also, the occupation authorities of Melitopol made proposals to shoot teachers who support Ukraine and refuse to work under Russian leadership.¹¹²

In order not to be exposed to danger, on the one hand, and not to fall under the criminal responsibility for collaborationism, on the other hand, educational institutions are recommended to declare downtime. In such a case, teachers have the legal right not to work, while receiving at least two-thirds of the salary. However, declaring downtime for various reasons is not always possible, and therefore some teachers do not receive salaries and are forced to look for other sources of income.

It should also be noted that the invaders do not plan to establish distance learning for children in the occupied territories. **The opening of educational institutions** is important not only as the establishment of an occupation regime, but also **as the creation of a "human shield" during the war**, because the deoccupation announced by the Ukrainian troops is planned for the fall of this year. In addition, it is planned to use children in schools to film propaganda stories and imitate peaceful life in the occupied territories of Ukraine.

Study abroad

As of August 16, there were, according to various estimates, from 700,000 to 1.5 million school-age children and 22,000 educators outside Ukraine.¹¹³

In general, the **receipt of educational services by children is mandatory in most countries where Ukrainians have moved**. Therefore, it is theoretically impossible to refuse offline education of school-age children to Ukrainian refugees. At the same time, the interviewed parents abroad noted that at the local level, it is possible to make arrangements to provide a certificate of distance learning in Ukraine and not to attend school in the host country.

We talked to social services about this. As a result, we decided not to create additional burden on the child, we will study at our Ukrainian school online. I'm not going to build a life here for years. We plan to stay only while the war in

¹¹⁰<https://gur.gov.ua/content/okupanty-pohrozhuut-shtrafamy-batkam-i-aki-vidmovliautsia-viddavaty-ditei-v-rosiiski-shkoly-takozh-prodovzhuetsia-nezakonne-vyvezennia-ditei-na-terytoriiu-rf.html>

¹¹¹[https://ria-m.tv/ua/news/296071/u_melitopolskomu_rayoni_viyskovi_rf_vikrali_vchitelya_istorii_\(foto\).html](https://ria-m.tv/ua/news/296071/u_melitopolskomu_rayoni_viyskovi_rf_vikrali_vchitelya_istorii_(foto).html)

¹¹²<https://focus.ua/en/voennye-novosti/524623-v-melitopole-okkupanty-hotyat-rasstreliivat-uchiteley-za-zarplaty-iz-ukrainy-video>

¹¹³<https://www.ukrinform.ua/rubric-society/3551788-za-kordonom-perebuvaie-blizko-5-ukrainskih-osvit-an-gorbacov.html>

Ukraine is going on. So I do not see the necessity for the child to actively study Spanish and study at two schools at the same time.

From interviews with parents

During the first six months of the war, the EU countries were well prepared to admit a significant number of Ukrainian schoolchildren to their educational institutions. In the countries that hosted the largest number of refugees, Ukrainian schools and classes were opened, where many adaptation groups with Ukrainian teachers were created.¹¹⁴ Also, Ukrainian children had time for learning a foreign language and better adaptation in the new place.

The son can already exchange simple phrases with other children. I think it will also be a little easier for him to study, because this is the second grade and children there rather play and listen to than learn something difficult. But it is harder for my daughter, although she also tried to improve her knowledge of German in summer. I am glad that she is not the only Ukrainian at school, there are almost 20 such children. They communicate and help each other with homework.

From interviews with parents

Ukrainians who have gone abroad must decide on the format of receiving Ukrainian education by children. There are several options for this:

- To receive education in any school of Ukraine on a distance basis, externally or on a family form of education;
- To study at the International Ukrainian School;
- To study at Ukrainian Saturday schools in some cities abroad with which the International Ukrainian School has concluded a contract (for example, Madrid, Rome, Paris, Lisbon, Brussels, etc.).¹¹⁵

According to the educational ombudsman of Ukraine, parents should be careful when choosing the last option of education. Thus, Saturday schools can be conducted by Russian organizations that disguise themselves as Ukrainian, exercise propaganda influence, misinform children and parents, and collect personal data on refugees from Ukraine.¹¹⁶

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.

¹¹⁴ <https://www.kmu.gov.ua/news/ministry-osvity-i-nauky-ukrainy-ta-chekhii-obhovoryly-zaluchennia-ukrainskykh-ditei-za-kordonom-do-navchannia>

¹¹⁵ <https://eo.gov.ua/osvita-pid-chas-voyennoho-stanu-30-zapytan-ta-vidpovidey/2022/04/18/>

¹¹⁶ <https://eo.gov.ua/batky-uvazhno-obrayte-shkolu-dlia-navchannia-dytyny-za-kordonom-nbsp-h4-rosiyski-shkoly-maskuiutsia-pid-ukrainski-ta-provodiut-vidpovidnu-propahandu-z-ditmy-h4/2022/04/11/>

- 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.
- Allocate separate funds for the reconstruction of educational infrastructure in Ukraine.
- Continue the preparation and arrangement of bomb shelters and other security measures in all educational institutions, even those in the zone of active combat.
- Carry out periodic training of teachers and students in the event of notification of an air raid alert and other emergencies in the school.
- Consider the system of taking into account the completed training by children attending 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.
- An important component of education is psychosocial support for children affected by war, internally displaced children, etc. Such a program should include psychosocial assistance to children in adapting to the new conditions, interaction with parents, and support in the educational process. To do this, it is necessary to conduct educational and informative activities with teachers and school psychologists.
- Establish a state system of psychological support and rehabilitation of children with war trauma, covering all children, regardless of the type of educational or rehabilitation institution. Such a system should receive the necessary resources in the form of funding, trained professionals, programs, premises and other necessary means.
- Convey to parents the importance of talking to children about the rules of conduct during different situations in the street and at school. It is also important that parents monitor the emotional state of their children, be able to recognize problems and understand the need to contact professionals if necessary.

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