



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

CHILDREN AND WAR IN UKRAINE

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Introduction

The seventh month of the war and the de-occupation of a large part of Kharkiv region once again demonstrated the atrocities committed by the Russian army in the temporarily occupied territories of Ukraine: several large-scale burials, including children; deaths from torture; destroyed housing and infrastructure; mined roads and forests. In the still occupied territories, the enemy intimidates the population, uses children's institutions to cover its positions, involves children in military operations and propaganda. There is often a ban on transporting humanitarian aid from Ukraine, and evacuation vehicles are fired upon.

During the 213 days of the war, 391 children died, 773 were injured with various degrees of severity¹.

We bring to your attention a report that briefly describes the key events of the seventh month of the war, related to the situation, problems and needs of children in Ukraine and abroad. Separately, in this report, we analyzed the situation with respect to children's right to medical assistance.

The methodology is based on the analysis of statistics, data from official sources and media materials. In addition, 14 interviews were conducted with public activists, volunteers, medical workers, psychologists, 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 or abroad.

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

¹ These data are not final, as work is ongoing to establish them in the active combat areas, in temporarily occupied and liberated territories. <https://www.gp.gov.ua/ua/posts/yuvenalni-prokurori-391-ditina-zaginula-vnaslidok-zbroinoyi-agresiyi-rf-v-ukrayini-13693>.

Children under the occupation and in the active combat areas

As of September 10, the updated list of territorial communities that are located in the area of military (combat) operations or that are under temporary occupation, encirclement (blockade), includes nine regions: Donetsk, Kharkiv, Dnipropetrovsk, Luhansk, Zaporizhzhya, Kherson, Mykolaiv, Sumy and Chernihiv. In general, the number of communities in the list increased to 327².

The occupiers continue violating the norms of international humanitarian law in the war with Ukraine: they use prohibited weapons, shell and bomb residential buildings, hospitals, schools and kindergartens, kill and injure the civilians. Below we describe the situation in these territories and give examples of Russian war crimes against Ukrainian children.

As of September 23, since the beginning of the full-scale Russian invasion of Ukraine, investigators of the National Police of Ukraine have registered more than 34,000 criminal proceedings for war crimes. A significant part of them was recorded by the police during the operation in the territories liberated from the enemy in Kyiv, Zhytomyr, Sumy and Chernihiv regions³.

According to the OHCHR data, from February 24 to September 18, **5,916 civilians died in Ukraine**, including 2,306 men, 1,582 women, **188 boys and 156 girls**, the gender of **35 children** and 1,649 adults has not yet been determined. Among the 8,616 wounded, **259 were boys and 187 girls, and the sex of 217 children** could not be determined yet. Most of the recorded deaths or injuries of civilians were caused by the use of large-area explosive weapons, including heavy artillery and rocket launchers, as well as rocket and air strikes⁴.

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Usage of illicit means of warfare

The Russian army has used more than once and is still using to the use of prohibited types of weapons, shelling the civilian infrastructure of many populated areas of Ukraine. Cluster munitions are used most often, phosphorus bombs and thermobaric weapons are used less often. Such types of weapons lead to a significant number of deaths and injuries among the civilians.

On August 31, a 17-year-old boy was fatally injured by a cluster munition in the Synelnyk district of Dnipropetrovsk region⁵.

² <https://minre.gov.ua/news/onovleno-aktualnyy-perelik-gromad-u-rayonah-boyovyh-diy-na-tot-i-tyh-shcho-v-otochenni>.

³ <https://www.npu.gov.ua/news/natspolitsiia-zavershuie-ekshumatsiiu-til-iz-mists-masovoho-pokhovannia-v-misti-izium-serhii-panteleiev>.

⁴ <https://www.ohchr.org/en/news/2022/09/ukraine-civilian-casualty-update-19-september-2022>.

⁵ <https://www.gp.gov.ua/ua/posts/yuvenalni-prokurori-380-ditei-zaginuli-vnaslidok-zbroinoyi-agresiyi-rf-v-ukrayini>.

On September 3, the occupiers bombarded the village of Bezruky, Kharkiv region, with phosphorus bombs. 16 houses were destroyed⁶.

On that very day, Russian troops carried out an artillery shelling from MLRS using cluster munitions in the village of Vysunsk, Mykolaiv region. An eight-year-old boy died, three more children aged seven, nine and eleven were injured⁷.

On September 8, the occupiers shelled the village of Halytsynivka in Donetsk region three times with rocket artillery with cluster munitions. Five private houses were destroyed, where civilians were killed and injured⁸.

On September 21, in Kramatorsk, the enemy targeted an enterprise with cluster ammunition, and in Chasovyi Yar, an art school⁹.

Attacking and bombing of civilian objects

As of September 16, the Russian Federation launched more than 3,800 missiles over Ukraine¹⁰. Most of the shelling is carried out on civilian objects throughout the territory of Ukraine. And it is they that cause the largest number of victims among the civilian population.

On August 26, two boys, aged 8 years and 1 year and 8 months, were killed as a result of enemy shelling of the residential infrastructure of Kamianka, Pology district, Zaporizhzhia region¹¹.

A nine-story building in Toretsk, Donetsk region, after being hit by a Russian missile. 19 people, including two children, were buried under the rubble¹²



On September 15, two boys, aged 12 and 13, were wounded as a result of shelling in the village of Osinove, Kharkiv region¹³.

⁶ [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7c\\$wcOAB6d0](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7c$wcOAB6d0).

⁷ <https://www.gp.gov.ua/ua/posts/yuvenalni-prokurori-vnaslidok-zbroinoyi-agresiyi-rf-v-ukrayini-zaginuli-382-ditini>.

⁸ <https://www.npu.gov.ua/news/vorog-zastosuvav-zaboroneni-kasetni-boepripasi-politseyski-fiksuyut-naslidki-obstriliv-donechchini>.

⁹ https://t.me/pavlokyrylenko_donoda/4998.

¹⁰ <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AmHkIXZ1tfk>.

¹¹ <https://www.gp.gov.ua/ua/posts/yuvenalni-prokurori-379-ditei-zaginuli-vnaslidok-zbroinoyi-agresiyi-rf-v-ukrayini>.

¹² https://t.me/pavlokyrylenko_donoda/5015.

¹³ <https://www.gp.gov.ua/ua/posts/yuvenalni-prokurori-vnaslidok-zbroinoyi-agresiyi-rf-v-ukrayini-zaginuli-384-ditini-3>.

On the night of September 16, the occupiers performed a missile attack on the Slobidskyi district of Kharkiv. The missile hit a yard near a two-story residential building. As a result, one of the apartments and a car parked in the yard caught fire. Four people were injured, among them boys aged 5 and 17¹⁴.

As a result of the enemy shelling and bombing, a **significant number of not only residential buildings, but also civil infrastructure objects were destroyed**: schools, hospitals, parks, churches, sports and playgrounds.

As of August 31, significant damage was caused to sports infrastructure, 113 sports facilities were partially or completely destroyed¹⁵.



According to the State Service of Ukraine for Ethnopolitics and Freedom of Conscience, from February 24 to September 20, 2022, as a result of the Russian armed attack, at least 270 religious buildings in 14 regions of Ukraine were completely destroyed or were destroyed to varying degrees. In particular, churches, mosques, synagogues, kingdom halls, educational and administrative buildings of religious communities of Ukraine were destroyed¹⁶.

As of September 24, **2,500 educational institutions were damaged, of which 289 were completely destroyed**¹⁷.

A children's gymnasium in the village of Tavriyske, Zaporizhzhia region, after a missile attack¹⁸

On September 13, one of the three missiles fired by the occupiers hit a park in Kostyantynivka, Donetsk region, as a result of which two children were injured¹⁹.

¹⁴ <https://www.gp.gov.ua/ua/posts/vnoci-rosiiski-viiskovi-obstrilyali-dva-raioni-xarkova-sered-poranenix-diti-rozpocato-provadzennya>.

¹⁵ <https://www.kmu.gov.ua/news/vadym-huttsait-za-chas-povnomasshtabnoho-vtorhnennia-rosiiski-viiska-chastkovo-abo-povnistiu-zruinuvaly-113-sportyvnykh-objektiv>.

¹⁶ <https://mkip.gov.ua/news/7759.html>.

¹⁷ <https://www.gp.gov.ua/ua/posts/yuvenalni-prokurori-391-ditina-zaginula-vnaslidok-zbroinoyi-agresiyi-rf-v-ukrayini-13693>.

¹⁸ <https://t.me/starukhofficial/3775>.

¹⁹ <https://www.npu.gov.ua/news/sered-poranenikh-dvoe-ditey-politsiya-donechchini-zbirae-dokazi-na-misti-rosiyskikh-atak>.

On September 24, in the village of Dvorichna, Kupyansk district, an educational institution was damaged and set on fire as a result of Russian shelling²⁰.

The occupiers are also **destroying the communal infrastructure** of entire districts and large cities.

On August 11, the Russian army targeted critical infrastructure facilities near Kharkiv with two cruise missiles, as a result of which a number of regions remained without electric power: Kharkiv, Sumy, Poltava, Dnipropetrovsk, and partially Donetsk²¹.

On September 12, as a result of Russian shelling, critical infrastructure facilities were disabled, therefore electricity and water supply were cut off in Kharkiv²².

On September 14, Russian troops fired eight cruise missiles at Kryvyi Rih in Dnipropetrovsk region. Water supply was suspended in some areas of the city²³.

Besides, there are numerous testimonies of **the occupiers using civilian objects as military headquarters and/or warehouses of military equipment and ammunition**. In the conditions of forcing children to go to school in temporarily occupied territories and, if necessary, visit medical institutions, this means using the civilian population as a human shield during military operations.

According to the General Staff of the Armed Forces of Ukraine, about 70 occupiers live on the ground floor of the school building in the village of Orlyanske, Zaporizhzhia region, while children, including first-graders, study on the first floor, and enemy military equipment is located in the school yard. The situation is similar in most schools and kindergartens of the Zaporizhzhia region²⁴.

On September 6, the Armed Forces of Ukraine reported that the occupiers had placed personnel and military equipment in kindergartens (Verkhniy Rogachyk), temples of the Moscow Patriarchate (Chervony Mayak) in Kherson region, and were using the Holy Trinity Church in Mala Komyshevukha, Kharkiv region as a field hospital²⁵.

Murder, wounding, cruel treatment and sexual assault of children

On September 23, the **UN Independent International Commission for the Investigation of Violations in Ukraine** announced the discovery of evidence of the commission of brutal crimes by the Russian occupiers in Ukraine. Since May,

²⁰ <https://kharkivoda.gov.ua/ru/news/117627>.

²¹ <https://t.me/kt20220224/1829>.

²² https://t.me/ihor_terekhov/495.

²³ <https://suspihne.media/281776-raketnij-udar-po-krivomu-rogu-so-vidomo>.

²⁴ <https://www.facebook.com/GeneralStaff.ua/posts/pfbid0RzSoQU1WHKKweQF9dkNjiyEEWuiX4xtvHqtZmjEX6kHxM3wQihYt9Lvu78haVdPSL>.

²⁵ <https://tsn.ua/ukrayina/rosiyski-okupanti-hovayutsya-vid-zsu-v-ditsadkah-ta-hramah-2151280.html>.

the Commission has been working on the investigation of war crimes committed by Russians in Kyiv, Kharkiv, Sumy, and Chernihiv regions. A large number of executions were established. Currently, the Commission is investigating such deaths in 16 cities and towns. Common elements of such crimes include prior detention of the victims, as well as visible signs of tortures on the bodies, such as hands tied behind the back, gunshot wounds to the head, and slit throats. Victims reported beatings, electric shocks, forced undressing and other types of violations of personal integrity in such detention centers. The commission **documented cases where children were raped, tortured and illegally imprisoned**. The age of victims of sexual and gender-based assault ranged from 4 to 82 years. Children were also killed and injured in indiscriminate attacks using explosive weapons. The Commission concluded that repeated bombings, crimes, forced displacement and family separation had a profound impact on the well-being and mental health of children and adults²⁶.

The Office of the Prosecutor General of Ukraine stated that as of September 19, several dozen cases of war crimes related to sexual assault had been registered. **Five cases concern children aged 4 to 16 who were victims of sexual violence by the Russian military**²⁷.

We try to dress gray, dimly, try not to draw attention. And young girls are often smeared with zelenka (brilliant green ethyl, antiseptic – edit.transl.) by their mothers, they draw sores and bruises in order to repel orcs and preserve life and health, to avoid violence.

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From interviews with parents

New evidence of murders, injuries, torture and cruel treatment was revealed this month after the de-occupation of settlements in Kharkiv region. **427 bodies of dead and tortured Ukrainians** were found in these territories. Among the exhumed bodies from the mass burial site in Izyum there are 202 women, 189 men and **5 children**. 11 bodies are so mutilated that it is impossible to determine the gender. **Most of the bodies found have signs of violent death**. Also, 18 places were discovered in Kupyansk, Izyum, Balaklia, Vovchansk, the villages of Kozacha Lopan, Shevchenkiv, Ohirka, where the occupiers illegally detained and tortured local residents²⁸.

²⁶ <https://www.ohchr.org/en/statements/2022/09/update-chair-independent-international-commission-inquiry-ukraine-51st-session>.

²⁷ https://lb.ua/news/2022/09/19/529761_andriy_kostin_rosiya_vikoristaie.html.

²⁸ <https://www.npu.gov.ua/news/natspolitsiia-zavershuie-ekshumatsiiu-til-iz-mists-masovoho-pokhovannia-v-misti-izium-serhii-panteleiev>.



Exhumation of bodies from a mass burial site in Izyum, Kharkiv region, after de-occupation²⁹

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The investigation goes on in the previously de-occupied territories of Ukraine.

On August 31, an indictment was sent to the court against a serviceman of the armed forces of the Russian Federation, who in March of this year committed physical and psychological violence against a family living in one of the villages in Chernihiv region. Having entered the house of the victims, **the accused threatened to kill the man and his young son**, holding them at gunpoint and trying to prevent their possible resistance, while another Russian soldier, who has not yet been identified, **tried to sexually assault the 15-year-old stepdaughter** of the owner of the house. The girl's mother managed to stop his criminal actions³⁰.

On September 20, the court heard the case of three Russian servicemen who brutally treated civilians during the occupation of the village of Yagidne. With weapons in their hands, the Russian military forcibly broke into the houses of civilians and **randomly fired automatic bursts into the premises where people and children were hiding**. They took local residents outside in sub-zero temperatures and, threatening to shoot them, **forced them to undress in the presence of women and children**. Showing excessive cruelty, they **committed physical violence against the victims** for no reason, inflicting beatings with automatic weapons. The

²⁹ <https://t.me/synegubov/4304>.

³⁰ <https://www.gp.gov.ua/ua/posts/nasilstvo-nad-simjeyu-v-odnomu-z-sil-cernigivshhini-suditimut-cergovogo-viiskovoslužbovcya-rf>.

Russian military illegally kept the local residents in a cellar for three days, limiting their access to water, food and fresh air³¹.

Kidnapping and forced deportation of children

According to official data, as of September 24, 235 children are considered missing, 7,820 have been deported to the territory of the Russian Federation³². Of the deported, 2,161 children are deprived of parental care³³. It is impossible to establish the exact number of injured children due to active combat and the temporary occupation of part of the territory of Ukraine. According to data from open sources, voiced by Russia, the number of deported children is much higher — 685,000³⁴.

According to various estimates, including those of the Russian government, the Russian authorities have already interrogated, detained and forcibly deported from 900,000 to 1.6 million Ukrainian citizens to Russia, often to remote regions of the Far East. Thousands of children were given up for filtering, and some were separated from their families or taken from orphanages and given up for adoption in Russia. According to the United States, more than 1,800 children were taken from the occupied regions of Ukraine to the Russian Federation in July alone³⁵.

As of September 24, only 55+ deported children managed to be returned to Ukraine³⁶.

At the same time, the **practice of illegal adoption of deported Ukrainian children by Russian families does not stop**.

On September 20, it became known that 135 children were taken from Donetsk region to Moscow by a plane of the Ministry of Defense of Russia. They intend to give the kidnapped children citizenship and settle them with Russian families in Astrakhan, Voronezh, Kursk, Moscow, Murmansk, Nizhny Novgorod, Omsk, Penza, Rostov, Ryazan, Samara, and Chelyabinsk regions³⁷.

In September, the Russian authorities publicly admitted that they had taken 300 children from Donetsk region and placed them in Russian families, and announced plans to adopt another 10 children from Luhansk region³⁸.

³¹ <https://www.gp.gov.ua/ua/posts/suditimut-tryox-viiskovix-rf-yaki-zorstoko-povodilisya-z-civilnimi-pid-cas-okupaciyi-sela-yagidnogo-na-cernigivshhini>.

³² <https://childrenofwar.gov.ua>.

³³ As at September 1: <https://suspline.media/283673-rf-nezakonno-vivezla-z-ukraini-ponad-dvi-tisaci-ditej-veresuk>.

³⁴ <https://childrenofwar.gov.ua>.

³⁵ <https://ua.usembassy.gov/uk/remarks-by-ambassador-linda-thomas-greenfield-at-a-un-security-council-meeting-on-russias-filtration-operations>.

³⁶ <https://childrenofwar.gov.ua>.

³⁷ <https://t.me/andriyshTime/2992>.

³⁸ <https://www.0629.com.ua/news/3464575/rosia-oficijno-viznala-so-vkrala-vze-300-ditej-na-doneccini-video>.

Cases of abduction/imprisonment of children by the Russian military in the temporarily occupied territories are also known. The purpose of such abductions is different: intimidation, an attempt to impose an occupation regime, gathering intelligence, putting pressure on the victims' relatives for other reasons.

On August 28, the occupiers abducted a 16-year-old teenager from his house in the occupied Vasyliv district of Zaporizhia region³⁹.

On September 15, border guards released five teenagers who were held by the occupiers in a basement in Kharkiv region. As it turned out, four girls and a boy were held captive for seven days. The Russians carried out filtering measures with them, after which they locked them in the basement⁴⁰.

In addition, **parents in the temporarily occupied territories are intimidated by taking away their children and depriving them of their parental rights** if they do not start going to kindergarten or school. In particular, on August 29, 2022, in the course of evacuation measures, such actions of the pseudo-government were revealed in the occupied territory of Kharkiv region⁴¹.

Recruitment and participation of children in war and propaganda

According to the Main Intelligence Office (GUR) of the Ministry of Defense of Ukraine, the occupiers from the LPR terrorist organization are mobilizing underaged 15-year-old boys into their ranks⁴².

According to the Security Service of Ukraine (SBU), Russian troops are planning to involve underaged citizens in participating in a fake referendum on the temporarily occupied territory of Donetsk region. According to the received materials, the leaders of the occupation administration plan to involve local residents aged 13 to 17 in pseudo-voting. In order to strengthen control over turnout, underaged persons must be accompanied to the "polling stations" by their parents, guardians or representatives of orphanages⁴³.

The Russian military-patriotic organizations (the Unarmia, the Molodaya Gvardia (Young Guard – edit. transl.), etc.) still continue their activities, they are engaged in active propaganda of the occupation authorities and regularly conduct military training for Ukrainian children: how to assemble and disassemble a machine gun, how to remove mine traps, how to assemble a parachute, what is tactical combat, etc.

They gather children all the time, and the children can be as young as ten or nine years old. They learn to march, give first aid to the wounded, and so on. I don't know why parents do it, but they find children aged 10-15 to participate in

³⁹ <https://tvmtm.online/na-zaporizhzhii-okupanty-vykraly-pidlitka>.

⁴⁰ <https://t.me/DPSUkr/6305>.

⁴¹ <https://www.gp.gov.ua/ua/posts/na-okupovanii-teritoriyi-xarkivshhini-psevdovlada-zmusuje-batkiv-viddavati-ditei-v-skoli-pogrozuyuci-yix-vilucenniam-iz-simei-rozpocato-provadzennya>

⁴² <https://t.me/DIUkraine/1384>.

⁴³ <https://ssu.gov.ua/novyny/sbu-vykryla-plany-okupantiv-shchodo-zaluchennia-ditei-do-holosuvannia-na-psevdoreferendumi-tak-zvanoi-dnr-video>.

such events. I saw several times that they filmed some videos of children competing or singing "Katyusha".

From an interview with a volunteer

Schools and kindergartens are also used as platforms to propagandize joining the temporarily occupied territories of Ukraine to the Russian Federation and disparagement of our history.

Depriving access to humanitarian aid

Attempts **to create a humanitarian crisis and famine in temporarily occupied territories and active combat areas** never stop.

On August 31, Russian invaders shelled a dairy farm in Zaporizhzhia region. As a result of hostile actions, two people were injured. About a thousand heads of cattle also died⁴⁴.

On September 3, the occupiers shelled industrial facilities and warehouses with humanitarian aid in Kramatorsk⁴⁵.

On September 6, Russian troops shelled the outskirts of the village of Yavkine, Bashtan community, Mykolaiv region. They hit the grain warehouse of the farm, as a result a fire broke out⁴⁶.

The occupiers also **artificially devalue the hryvnia**, due to which the prices for the most necessary goods and food became unaffordable for the majority of the population of the occupied territory of Ukraine.

Thus, according to Luhansk regional war administration, the hryvnia can be exchanged for 1.25 rubles. Compared to the unoccupied territories of Ukraine, prices for potatoes, poultry and pork are more than twice as high⁴⁷.

In Kherson region, we have huge problems with hygiene products. The occupiers brought some products to their supermarkets, but they are very expensive. A small package of diapers — 800 UAH, a bar of soap — 120 UAH, ordinary shampoo — 500 UAH. There are no cheap products. It may not be profitable to import from Russia. This problem is also very relevant for children. The children have lice, they don't bathe, there's nothing to wash their heads with.

From an interview with a volunteer

The occupiers are blocking many humanitarian shipments from Ukraine. They also hardly provide their own humanitarian aid to the residents. At best, these are expired foods of poor quality. People cannot get medicine, socially vulnerable categories of citizens remain almost without support.

⁴⁴ <https://t.me/starukhofficial/3659>.

⁴⁵ https://t.me/kramatorsk_rada/5850.

⁴⁶ <https://t.me/mykolaivskaODA/2473>.

⁴⁷ <https://t.me/luhanskaVTSA/5862>.

Many critical infrastructure facilities were also damaged. A large part of the communities in Donetsk, Luhansk, Kharkiv, Mykolaiv, Zaporizhzhya, and Sumy regions have interruptions or no access to communal services. In some areas, emergency recovery operations are complicated or impossible due to the intensification of hostilities, demining operations, and new damage to electrical networks. As of September 24, 1,289 settlements and totally about 734,000 consumers remain without electricity in Ukraine due to the damage caused by hostilities. In particular, in Donetsk region — 375,700, in Kharkiv region — 149,700, in Luhansk region — 128,200, in Mykolaiv region — 30,400. There were 597,000 consumers without gas supply, of which about 357,000 in Donetsk region⁴⁸. With the cold weather, it will be extremely difficult to live in these settlements.

We decided to leave when they hit the heat and power center. I realized that I simply won't survive the winter here with the children, we will freeze. You can still find food, I have my own garden, I work remotely. But if there is no heat, no electricity, then I don't know how to heat the apartment.

From interviews with parents

In the temporarily occupied territories of Ukraine, there is also **a significant risk of being blown up by mines and projectile remnants**. The occupying power does almost no demining work in these territories.

On September 23, a fire broke out in one of the local schools due to the detonation of a projectile in Mariupol, Donetsk region. According to the Mariupol City Council, it happened when children climbed there. As a result, **the children were injured, their condition is unknown**⁴⁹.

The weak law enforcement system in the temporarily occupied territories of Ukraine also poses a danger, particularly for children. Due to the impoverishment of the population, unemployment and rising prices, domestic crime is increasing, which almost no one investigates and records. The criminal actions of the Russian military — extorting money, taking food and valuables at checkpoints, sexual assault, beating civilians — are completely ignored by the pseudo-government in most of the occupied regions.

Recommendations

- Always keep in touch with occupied territories by all means. Local authorities, state institutions should know their work schedule, powers and procedures in various situations. It helps keep calm and trust of the population to the state decisions.
- Inform the population of the occupied territories about the safety rules which would help avoid abuse and murder, mobilization to the invader's army as well as the mine safety rules. Always remind about the importance for

⁴⁸ <https://www.mev.gov.ua/statystychna-informatsiya/robota-enerhosystemy-ukrayiny-na-24-veresnya-2022-roku>.

⁴⁹ <https://t.me/mariupolrada/11127>.

following the rules by children during air strikes in the bomb shelters and at home. Parents should limit children's stay at the place with the threat of being injured or traumatized. This also applies to a prohibition to visit forest strips, beaches and rivers that can be mined.

- Help organize humanitarian corridors and humanitarian aid delivery to the occupied territories of Ukraine, active combat areas and territories suffering from the humanitarian crisis; arrange food, water and medicine supplies at the territories with the high risk of Russian occupation.

- Assist in documenting all of the military crimes committed by Russians: murders, mutilations, abuse. The necessary part of this process is building trust and making the citizens aware about the necessity to address the law enforcement institutions with the statements and proofs of committed crimes, in particular, via Internet and phone connection.

- Increase efforts concerning documenting the sexual crimes, in particular, against children. Most of them stay latent and are recorded by the law enforcement authorities quite rarely.

- Use the international channels as much as possible to monitor children's state that were deported to Russia and document the crimes committed against them. Assist in wider engagement of international organisation and volunteer communities to the process of bringing back home Ukrainian children.

- Conduct informational and educational conversations with children regarding safety rules on the Internet and about available schemes of recruitment/involvement teenagers in war (transfer of intelligence data, participating in propaganda, etc.)

- Hold informational campaigns on prevention of the coronavirus epidemic on the whole territory of Ukraine, especially where it is hard to provide a decent level of medical aid.

- Assist in providing sufficient amounts of medicines and tools necessary for preventing and fighting the coronavirus epidemic (masks, oxygen, testing systems, vaccines, etc.)

Displacement of children in Ukraine and abroad

As at September 21 the total number of internally displaced people is around 7 mln⁵⁰, most of them are women and children. According to the recent report of September 15 by International Organization for Migration about displacement trends the biggest number of internally displaced people are in Dripro, Kyiv and Kharkiv regions: in each of them more than 300 000 displaced people are registered. Most of them left Donetsk, Luhansk and Kharkiv regions. Apart from this, the number of registered internally displaced people decreased in some western regions, in particular, in Zakarpattia, Ivano-Frankivsk and Lviv regions⁵¹.

Ukraine is getting ready for **the increase in the number of displaced Ukrainians**. It is related to the continuation of hostilities in the East and South of the country, shelling of the communal infrastructure, and, as a consequence, the absence of gas, water and electricity supply in numerous settlements.

There is still **the danger of nuclear terrorism from Russia**. On March 4, 2022 invaders seized Enerhodar and Zaporizhzhya nuclear power plant⁵². On September 6, the International Atomic Energy Agency published a report about radiation safety in Ukraine and results of their visit to Zaporizhzhya NPP. The participants of the mission confirmed that Russia put their "military staff, transport means and equipment" at the nuclear plant, and called for an immediate end to any shelling of the plant. Despite that fact, the Russian army continues shelling of Zaporizhzhya NPP and other NPPs. Apart from that Russian authorities threatened multiple times to use nuclear weapons on the territory of Ukraine.

On September 19, invaders carried out a missile shelling of the industrial zone of the Southern Ukrainian nuclear power plant. A strong explosion happened only 300 metres from its reactors. The plant building was damaged by a blast wave.

On September 21, due to another shelling of ZNPP by the Russian army the communication equipment of power unit No 6 with an open switchgear was damaged.

Leaving the occupied territories takes high risks for families with children. **Humanitarian and evacuation roads and being shelled from time to time** by the Russian military. There is also **a risk of running into mines and mine traps**.

On September 10, the occupiers shelled the evacuation route in the Donetsk region. The shell hit right behind the evacuation car, the place where a

⁵⁰ <https://displacement.iom.int/ukraine>

⁵¹ <https://reliefweb.int/report/ukraine/iom-ukraine-area-baseline-report-round-11-internal-displacement-figures-recorded-oblast-and-raion-level-reporting-period-22-august-2-september-published-15-september-2022>

⁵² https://t.me/energoatom_ua/8698

minute before that the police took away residents of Vuhledar. The incidents happened without having any victims.⁵³

On September 16, a civil car exploded because of the mine when trying to leave not far from the check-point of the Russian military in the temporarily occupied Vasylivka, Zaporizhzhya region.⁵⁴

Apart from the shelling a big risk for life, health and freedom of movement is **passing through the filtration camps**. In total, there are 50 places of illegal detention of Ukrainians by the Russian military since February 24 that are used as filtration camps⁵⁵. Parents and children are separated during the interrogations. **Children are interrogated, examined without permission and often without their parents or guardians being present**. During filtration the phones are checked for the connections with the law enforcement institutions of the Armed Forces of Ukraine. Also, occupiers are looking for evidence of a pro-Ukrainian position among the residents of the occupied territories.

Near Vasylivka we were standing for a few days under the sun. It is not far to Zaporizhzhya, 300 km, but one can stay there seven days without water, toilet access and under shelling. The Federal Security Service presence is obligatory at the last check-points. They check phones and laptops with a special software that reads the deleted information. If there is at least someone from the law enforcement authorities among contacts, there would be a long interrogation, or even an imprisonment of the person. 10 cars are under filtration at a time. They make people take everything out of the car. They can confiscate whatever they want. They can take a laptop away.

From the interview with a volunteer.

Teenagers are definitely interrogated according to all the topics as the adults are. Who do you know from "Azov"? Who is Bandera? What do you think about Bandera? Do you know the anthem of Russia? Parents get children ready, make up a legend. Occupiers like to make cross-interrogations: what the parents said, and what the child said. If something does not match up, someone from the parents can be kept long under filtration or mobilized, for example.

From the interview with a public activists

⁵³ <https://www.npu.gov.ua/news/politseyskim-vdalosya-vivezti-shche-dekilka-lyudey-z-vuhledara-rosiya-be-po-marshrutu-evakuatsii>

⁵⁴ <https://t.me/andriyshTime/2961>

⁵⁵ https://lb.ua/news/2022/09/19/529761_andriy_kostin_rosiya_vikoristaie.html

Long lasting filtration measures extremely slow down the trip to the non occupied territories of Ukraine. Also Russians deliberately create queues at the check-points letting through only a certain number of cars per day. Due to this fact the trips can last up to a week. People are forced to make the supplies of drinking and technical water, food, medicine, and with cold days coming they need to have warm things as well to be able to spend a few days in a car. Along the evacuation routes at the occupied territories there are no conditions created for hygienic needs, no cover from the sun, rain and cold. It is hard to stay in those queues especially for parents with babies, pregnant women and ill people. Quite often occupiers at the check-points can take away water, food or valuable things, and demand money for the opportunity to get out.

It is not possible to get through less than in three days. A child in the car or a pregnant woman doesn't really influence the speed of the evacuation, even if the child is ill and needs medical aid. They don't care. There are hardly any volunteers - it is not possible to bring water or food for people there, that is being blocked.

From the interview with the volunteer.

It is worth to note that before the so-called "referendums" started the Russian army had temporarily blocked the ways out at most of the evacuation routes.

It is not possible to get out of the town, it is prohibited. Probably, they want there to be more people that vote at the "referendums" for visibility. They go to the apartments but we do not open the doors, they have weapons. It was like in a circus, they came with loudspeakers, and were shouting that everyone gets out.

From an interview with parents



Evacuation of families with children from Donetsk region by the juvenile police officers in collaboration with Donetsk regional military administration and volunteers⁵⁶

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Local authorities, police, emergency services, public organizations and volunteers help get out of the occupied territories and active combat areas. Among those who were recently actively helping in evacuation are "Helping to leave", HelpPeople, "Proliska", "Vostok-SOS" and others.

According to the data of the Ministry of reintegration, more than 80 000 Ukrainians were able to evacuate from especially dangerous areas and temporarily occupied territories. In particular, during the mandatory evacuation from the Donetsk region more than 17 000 of our compatriots left, out of them there are 3000 children. More than 24 000 evacuated from the dangerous regions of the Kherson region, more than 5000 - from the Kharkiv region, more than 30 000 - from the Zaporizhzhya region⁵⁷.

As at September 23, since the active operations started in the East of Ukraine 9 000 sq. km were retaken⁵⁸. **After the deoccupation of a significant part**

⁵⁶ <https://www.npu.gov.ua/news/operatsiya-z-poryatunku-ditey-politseyski-donechchini-evakuyuvai-6500-khlopchikiv-i-divchat>

⁵⁷ <https://minre.gov.ua/news/tempy-evakuaciyi-z-nebezpechnyh-regioniv-i-tot-zalyshayutsya-vysokymy>

⁵⁸ https://t.me/V_Zelenskiy_official/3376

of Kharkiv region people are coming back home gradually. This move takes more risks than benefits, especially for the families with children. There is a considerable **threat of explosion of a Russian mine** or unexploded ammunition.

On September 18, six civil residents of the Kharkiv region were blown up at the mines. Two people were blown up in a car in Derhachi district, two more - in Iziurm district, another two - in Chuhuiv district. All of them are hospitalized with injuries.⁵⁹

On September 22, a few messages were sent to the duty department of Chuhuiv regional police authority that 8 residents of Chuhuiv region were blown up at the mines that the occupiers left.⁶⁰

The pollution by explosive objects in the Kharkiv region is around 12 000 sq.km. At the same time the intensity of mining is much higher than it was in Kyiv region. A great number of anti-personnel mines are literally scattered along the roads.⁶¹

In total since the beginning of the full-scale military invasion of the Russian Federation to the territory of Ukraine 208 838 explosive objects and 1667 kg of explosive substance, in particular 2111 aviation bombs were neutralized. The territory of 71 273 hectares was surveyed.⁶²

Apart from that, **the civil and communal infrastructure is severely damaged** in numerous settlements of Kharkiv region. There is no possibility to get medical aid, social help and rehabilitation on time. The awareness of the population about mine danger should be enhanced, and encourage people to get back to the unoccupied territories only after the official notice from the local authorities.

⁵⁹ <https://t.me/syneubov/4269>

⁶⁰ <https://www.facebook.com/police.kharkov/photos/a.286145168150121/5438747336223186>

⁶¹ <https://dsns.gov.ua/uk/news/ostanni-novini/blizko-12-tisyac-kvadratnix-kilometriv-na-xarkivshhini-potrebuyut-rozminuvannya-dorogi-vsipani-protipixotnimi-minami>

⁶² <https://dsns.gov.ua/uk/news/nadzvicaini-podiyi/operativna-informaciya-shhodo-vikonannya-pirotexnicnimi-pidrozdilami-dsns-zavdan-za-priznacennyam-stanom-na-ranok-24-veresnya-2022-roku>



The city of Izium, Kharkiv region, September 17⁶³

To support internally displaced people that get out of the most affected cities and regions, specialized humanitarian hubs are open. Apart from receiving information and help, the IDPs can get different types of services there: legal, medical, psychological, employment services etc. depending on the possibilities of a particular hub.

On September 5 the “I am Kherson” hub was opened in Ivano-Frankivsk for the displaced people from Kherson region.⁶⁴

On September 8 in Cherkasy a support center for the displaced people “I am Mariupol” was opened. The center in Cherkasy became the 12th one in Ukraine that was opened for the displaced people from Mariupol.⁶⁵

On September 15 the hub was opened in Vinnytsia to help the displaced people from Luhansk region.⁶⁶

Despite the communities support that host the internally displaced people, **the search for acceptable accommodation and job remains difficult.** According to the recent research of the International Organization for Migration, living conditions of the internally displaced people are more and more concerning when winter is coming. 22% of the displaced people noted that their

⁶³ <https://www.objectiv.tv/objectively/2022/09/17/zhizn-v-unichtozhenom-gorode-fotoreportazh-iz-goroda-izyum>.

⁶⁴ <https://www.ukrinform.ua/rubric-regions/3564918-v-ivanofrankivsku-vidkrili-hab-aherson.html>

⁶⁵ <http://chmr.gov.ua/ua/newsread.php?view=21654&s=1&s1=17>

⁶⁶ <https://www.facebook.com/1depinformcom/posts/pfbid0PRGoCKqNvNZdnTxgtopB6ckh4xFigJ1Six3hAVTPzfqYqooRhH5WkGRZgfV9nDSI>

accommodation is not adjusted to the winter circumstances. More than a third of the surveyed cannot move to a suitable accommodation due to the lack of funds. 90% of the internally displaced people that live in the not proper living conditions and plan to rent a new accommodation for the winter time, noted that they do not have sufficient funds for that. 44% of the IDPs aged 18 to 64 noted that they do not have income. 33% of the respondents indicated the salary as the main source of the personal income after displacement from the constant place of living, 24% - monthly financial aid for the internally displaced people⁶⁷.

Regarding going abroad, as of September 24 the number of Ukrainian refugees by the estimates of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees comprised 7.5 mln. **4 177 000 have got temporary protection in the countries of Europe.** The biggest number of the refugees from Ukraine with the status of temporary protection is in Poland - 1.4 mln. Then there are Germany and the Czech Republic - 709 000 and 438 000 respectively. A lot of Ukrainians have got temporary protection also in Italy (157 000), Spain (144 000), Bulgaria (135 000), Great Britain (129 000), France (105 000), Slovakia (95 000), Austria (82 000), the Netherlands (76 000). Among the countries that accepted a considerable number of Ukrainians should be mentioned also Turkey (145 000), Moldova (92 000)⁶⁸, the USA (more than 100 000)⁶⁹ and Canada (almost 70 000).⁷⁰ More than 2.7 mln of Ukrainians crossed the border with Russia. The data about any status about these people is absent.⁷¹.

At the same time around **5 mln of Ukrainians already came back home from abroad.**⁷² According to the data of the recent research of the Razumkov Centre, 36% of Ukrainian refugees have an intention to come back after they make sure it is safe where they lived before. 35% would come back as soon as the war is over, 13% - in a year or a few years after the end of the war, 7% - when the enterprise they worked for would resume work, or when they make sure that they would find a new job at home. 11% plan to come back in the near future, and 7% do not plan to come back to Ukraine at all⁷³.

⁶⁷ The survey was conducted from August 17 to 23, 2022 using the CATI method. The sample is 2,001 respondents aged 18 and older.

<https://displacement.iom.int/reports/zvit-pro-vnutrishne-peremischennya-v-ukraini-opituvannya-zagalnogo-naselennya-raund-8-17-23?close=true>.

⁶⁸ https://data.unhcr.org/en/situations/ukraine#_ga=2.228732760.514168680.1646989952-176134281.1646551413

⁶⁹ <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yQBcJ6Z6XKQ>

⁷⁰ <https://ukrnews.ca/kanada-vydala-ukraintsiam-vzhe-mayzhe-240-tysiach-viz-za-prohramoiu-cuaet>.

⁷¹ https://data.unhcr.org/en/situations/ukraine#_ga=2.228732760.514168680.1646989952-176134281.1646551413.

⁷² <https://twitter.com/vonderleyen/status/1570420184531214338>

⁷³ The results of an online survey of Ukrainians over the age of 18 who left Ukraine after the start of the full-scale war. The survey was conducted by the sociological service of the Razumkov Center from July 20 to August 25, 2022. Respondents were selected by the snowball method and through announcements about participation in the survey in Facebook groups uniting the Ukrainian

The European Union keep supporting Ukrainians that left Ukraine because of the war. On September 14, the plans to cancel paid roaming for Ukraine were announced.⁷⁴ Overall the support of Ukrainians abroad changes according to the changing goals - from the humanitarian reaction to the refugees' needs to the gradual integration of Ukrainians in the hosting countries. A lot of countries broaden the programs of employment aid and language learning, they open Ukrainian classes at schools, introduce the interpreters roles at the local authorities institutions. At the same time free usage of public transport was limited, food and basic things supply was reduced, some services became partly or fully paid. As of today the possibilities of some countries has been exhausted due to the large number of accepted Ukrainians.

So, in Germany in 12 out of 16 federal lands it was announced the suspension of accepting new refugees due to the lack of resources for their accommodation⁷⁵.

In Great Britain, the Homes for Ukrainians governmental program ends for the refugees that have been staying in the country for more than 6 months. This program includes the payment to the hosting British of 350 pounds monthly. About 15-21 000 of Ukrainians might lose a temporary shelter by winter⁷⁶.

From September, the City Hall of Prague cancelled the payments for the house owners that host Ukrainian refugees⁷⁷.

Ukrainians abroad are still trying to settle their life. However, the question of getting a proper accommodation and a job is not less acute as for the IDPs.

According to the data of the recent survey by Razumkov Centre, 59.5% of refugees noted that they have funds only for food and buying basic not expensive things, 12% responded that they hardly can make ends meet, they lack funds even for food. 21% noted that they have enough to live, 5.5% - have some financial security, 1% - can afford buying practically everything they want. Among the problems that bother respondents while staying abroad 42% named the difficulties with employment, 32% have difficulties with renting accommodation, 21.5% do not have accommodation, 15% do not have comfortable accommodation.

community and refugees in different countries (self-selected sample method). 511 refugees in 30 countries were interviewed.

<https://razumkov.org.ua/napriamky/sotsiologichni-doslidzhennia/nastroi-ta-otsinky-ukrainskykh-bizhentsiv-lypen-serpen-2022p>.

⁷⁴ <https://www.ukrinform.ua/rubric-technology/3571189-evrosouz-skasovue-platnij-rouming-dla-ukraini.html>

⁷⁵ <https://themunicheye.com/twelve-federal-states-stop-initial-admission-of-protection-seekers-5018>.

⁷⁶ <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2022/aug/28/50000-ukrainian-refugees-in-uk-facing-homelessness-disaster-next-year-homes-for-ukraine>.

⁷⁷ <https://ruski.radio.cz/meriya-pragi-prekratit-subsidirovat-vladelcev-zhilya-razmestivshih-ukrainskih-8759604>.

Recommendations

- Continue working on the awareness and education about timely evacuation of families with children from the temporarily occupied territories, territories that are under regular shelling or where there is a considerable danger of active combat beginning. It is important to avoid threatening by a criminal responsibility for the forced actions committed at the occupied territories (in particular, for getting the Russian citizenship)
- Enhance awareness of citizens about possible options of getting out from the occupied territories, also at the territory of Crimea and Russian Federation. In such situations it is important to collaborate with volunteers and civil initiatives at these territories and also at the territories of the states bordering with Russia to help Ukrainians with going to the countries of Europe.
- Develop state programs of supporting Ukrainians coming back with children from Europe that include compensatory payments and the opportunities for employment or starting a business.
- Provide citizens with clear announcements of prohibition or permission to come back to the deoccupied territories, as well as to the territories that were heavily shelled. Such statements should go along with the information about safety and the state of the infrastructure of the specific settlements.
- As soon as possible create opportunities to provide basic services for urgent needs of the population at the unoccupied territories, and help with evacuation of those local residents whose accommodation is not suitable for living there in winter.
- Enhance the activities for providing employment opportunities for the internally displaced persons. For this purpose the market demand estimate and the background of the IDPs should be conducted, boost the events about citizens' training, create new working places and collaborate with the employers on the topic of employment of the displaced people.
- Learn the needs for accommodation of the IDPs, make the analysis of communal living to broaden state and regional living programs for settling the displaced.

Compliance with children's right to medical assistance

According to the information of the structural subdivisions for health protection of the regional and Kyiv city military administrations, the National Academy of Medical Science of Ukraine, the OKHMATDYT National Children's Specialized Hospital, as of September 3, **670 Ukrainian children** are or were being treated in health care institutions **as a result of injury, trauma, road accident or other accidents during hostilities and/or evacuation**. By age distribution: from 0 to 1 year — 16 children, from 1 to 3 years — 47 children, from 4 to 6 years — 73 children, from 7 to 14 years — 344 children, from 15 to 18 years — 187 children, age unknown - 3 children. 619 children from the total number (92%) received landmine and gunshot wounds. These are mostly children with complex combined injuries, polytraumas with a complicated course and the need for further post-acute care and long-term rehabilitation. **22 cases of amputations** at different levels of the upper and lower limbs were recorded, which comprises 3% of the total number of the children affected. 16 children need prosthetics of upper and lower limbs to ensure their normal life and development. In particular, 4 children with amputation of upper limbs, 11 children with amputation of lower limbs, 1 child with amputation of upper and lower limbs⁷⁸.

According to the latest IOM study, **26% of citizens in Ukraine as a whole indicated a lack of access to medicines and medical services**. The largest deficit was observed in the southern and eastern macroregions (31% and 29%, respectively). 27% of all respondents reported that they or a family member had to stop taking medicine because of the war. Of them, 68% indicated that they could not get medicines due to their inaccessibility, 63% could not afford to buy them due to lack of money (respondents could indicate several reasons). Among the IDPs, 32% reported that they or their family members had stopped taking medication because of the war⁷⁹.

The war became a serious test for the medical system of Ukraine. Hospitals, polyclinics, pharmacies were destroyed and damaged; expensive medical equipment has been stolen and taken away, and medical personnel had been and is being attacked by the occupiers and forced to work under heavy workloads. The latter primarily concerns doctors who work in areas close to active combat.

I stayed in the hospital for 44 days from the beginning of the war without days off, there was only time for a short sleep. A lot of adults and children with injuries were brought in, anesthesia had to be administered, and the condition of the patients monitored. Then I began to transport seriously ill patients abroad, the intensity seemed to decrease a little, but the work did not decrease.

⁷⁸ <https://www.msp.gov.ua/news/22165.html>.

⁷⁹ The survey was conducted from August 17 to 23, 2022 using the CATI method. The sample is 2,001 respondents aged 18 and older.

<https://displacement.iom.int/reports/zvit-pro-vnutrishne-peremischennya-v-ukraini-opituvannya-zagalnogo-naselennya-raund-8-17-23?close=true>.

From the interview with a doctor

A lot of work with papers. I would like the state to reduce the number of bureaucratic procedures. Working during the war is morally difficult, but we try not to show it. The working conditions of doctors from the regional hospital have worsened. They work under frequent fire. In addition, they began to perform more dirty work: not only treating the wounded, but also cleaning up after them.

From the interview with a doctor

The issue of the medical facilities operation and provision of medical assistance in conditions of occupation is regulated by the Convention on the Protection of the Civilian Population in Time of War, the Additional Protocol to the Geneva Conventions of August 12, 1949, concerning the Protection of Victims of International Armed Conflicts, dated June 8, 1977, as well as by the Criminal Code of Ukraine and legislation in the field of state guarantees for medical care of the population.

According to the norms of international law, it is the occupying state, in cooperation with the local authorities, which were elected in accordance with Ukrainian legislation, that is obliged to ensure the organization of medical assistance to the population. This means that hospitals and pharmacies must work in the occupied territories, ensure the availability of necessary medicines and medical products, and prevent the spread of infectious diseases.

Unfortunately, in the temporarily occupied territories of Ukraine, the Russian command does not observe the norms of international humanitarian law.

For more than 200 days of the war, there was not a single one when Russia did not strike our medical infrastructure. What we have seen in Kharkiv region after de-occupation is terrible. The occupiers, violating all international conventions, deliberately destroyed hospitals and caused huge losses to the medical system. In fact, every medical facility that was under occupation has been damaged or destroyed. In addition, the occupiers have stolen part of the equipment, another part was damaged by direct hits on medical facilities or was mutilated by the blast wave."

Bohdan Borukhovskiy, Deputy Minister of Health of Ukraine⁶

According to the Ministry of Health, as of September 9, **826 medical facilities were damaged** during the war, **127 were completely destroyed**. 62 objects were restored⁸⁰.

On September 4, medical facilities in Mykolaiv came under fire from the occupiers⁸¹.

⁸⁰ <https://moz.gov.ua/article/news/moz-spivpracjuvatime-z-project-hope-schodo-vidnovlennja-medichnih-zakladiv>.

⁸¹ <https://t.me/senkevichonline/2360>.

On September 6, the occupiers seriously damages the psychiatric hospital in Kramatorsk, Donetsk region ⁸².



On September 15, Russians attacked a hospital in Toretsk, Donetsk region. One person was injured, three departments were damaged ⁸³.

The premises of the hospital in Velika Pisarivka, Sumy region, after being hit by a Russian missile on September ⁹⁸⁴

According to the World Health Organization, within the period from February 24 to September 24, 2022, **600 attacks** on medical facilities, medical transport and medical warehouses were recorded in Ukraine⁸⁵.

On September 17, the doctors tried to evacuate patients of the regional psychiatric hospital in the village of Strilecha, Kharkiv district. During the evacuation, the Russian army began shelling the settlement. Four medical workers of the hospital died. Two of the dead medics were in a car during the shelling, a Russian tank fired directly into their car. Two patients and a local resident were injured. Only 30 people out of more than 600 managed to be evacuated ⁸⁶.

Since the beginning of the full-scale invasion of Ukraine, **649 medical institutions have been operating in the temporarily occupied territories and in the combat zone**. Some of them were plundered, the Russians took away expensive diagnostic and operating equipment. Many hospitals are occupied by wounded Russian soldiers. Because of this, it is very difficult for a civilian to see a doctor in the temporarily occupied territory. In addition, part of the doctors left for the unoccupied part of Ukraine. As of August 25, 2.5 thousand medical workers evacuated abroad, 4 thousand became internally displaced persons⁸⁷.

The situation with medicines in the temporarily occupied territories is also difficult. **Russian troops are blocking the delivery of medicines**. For local residents, the medicines available are mostly expensive Russian ones, and they are presented in a rather limited assortment. Neither the patients nor the doctors themselves know the pharmaceutical market of the occupying country, and it is

⁸² <https://www.facebook.com/alexander.vasilyevich.goncharenko/posts/pfbid02grDuPSHKyFF9FLF5CcdaEPz9YrTqmx29RmFdiDqvrdrWr9te2seVvFohkUt6NFDjl>.

⁸³ https://t.me/pavlokyrylenko_donoda/4872.

⁸⁴ <https://suspilne.media/279971-rosijska-aviacia-obstrilala-likarnu-u-velikopisarivskij-gromadi-na-sumsini-e-postrazdali>.

⁸⁵ <https://extranet.who.int/ssa/Index.aspx>.

⁸⁶ <https://t.me/synegubov/4267>

⁸⁷ <http://www.nrcu.gov.ua/news.html?newsID=99403>.

very difficult to find analogues of drugs familiar to Ukrainians quickly. According to doctors, self-medication and self-prescription of drugs is a significant problem in the occupied territories due to the lack of medical personnel. This practice can worsen the state of health, because the treatment is either ineffective or even provokes side effects in the body.

Medically incompetent people live in the villages. They ask the neighbor what she/he is being treated with and buy the same. Without tests, without a doctor, without taking into account the specifics of your body. And then their disease worsens, because there is no normal treatment. People should have at least basic medical literacy. They should know that antibiotics do not treat viruses, that vaccination is harmless to the body, that not all treatment involves taking drugs, etc.

From an interview with a doctor

That is why the first thing that needs to be established in the deoccupied territories is medical assistance. As at the end of September, 15,000 residents live in the Balakliya community of Kharkiv region, while only five inpatient doctors remain. The hospital was mined and destroyed, the equipment was destroyed and looted, so the doctors have to work in the adapted premises. There are three doctors working in the primary care unit now, there were 25 of them before the occupation. The Shevchenkovo community needs outpatient care doctors. The difficult situation with access to medical care is also in Izyum. The hospital there is critically damaged and cannot fully function today. In general, there are problems with access to full-fledged treatment in each of the liberated communities⁸⁸. Considerable support in the organization of medical aid is provided by the public sector, in particular the Frida Charitable Fund and the Doctors Without Borders, which send medical aid teams to deoccupied cities and villages, especially distant from large settlements.

Another problem is the psychological and mental health of citizens in the temporarily occupied territories and active combat areas. **Stress** due to shelling and intimidation by the occupiers, loss of the loved ones, constant hiding in basements **cause deterioration of people's health**. Psychological support for families with children is important. In particular, since the beginning of the war, the Voices of Children Charitable Foundation has been providing psychological assistance at its branches and online, organized mobile teams of psychologists for the deoccupied territories and territories that are under periodic shelling.

Fear, pain and panic significantly reduce a person's immunity. Because of this, old illnesses can manifest themselves, chronic diseases become more active. Both adults and children are more susceptible to colds. In addition, stressful situations may gradually develop into depression, phobias, and post-traumatic

⁸⁸ <https://minre.gov.ua/news/na-zvilneniy-harkivshchyni-vidnovlyuyetsya-medychna-infrastruktura>.

stress disorder may appear. Such conditions already require the attention of doctors.

From an interview with a psychologist

Occupation affects health. Diabetes, for example, because stress releases sucrose, and to normalize it, you need to remove the stress factor. This is impossible in the occupation. Children who had concomitant diseases and were taking medicine stopped taking it during the occupation, because it was impossible to buy it. A lot of people could not go for an examination to adjust the dose. And this is important, for example, for diseases of the thyroid gland. Stress ulcers have also occurred, but this has been rare in my practice.

From an interview with a doctor

Infectious diseases are also spreading in the occupied and de-occupied territories. First of all, this applies to the areas where communal infrastructure is damaged, there is no access to clean drinking water, and the procedure for burying the dead has not been properly established. These factors can contribute to the appearance of cholera, diphtheria, and tetanus⁸⁹. **With the onset of cold weather, an increase in the number of patients with Covid-19 is also expected.** According to the WHO forecast, the peak of morbidity in Ukraine will occur at the beginning of October. At the same time, there is a threat of oxygen shortage, since the main sources of supply remain in the occupied parts of the country⁹⁰.

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In the unoccupied territories during the full-scale war, **citizens have simplified access to primary medical care**. IDPs can go to any medical institution if it is able to provide the necessary treatment: make an appointment for a consultation with a gynecologist, psychiatrist, dentist, narcologist, phthisis specialist, pediatrician, regardless of the place of signing the declaration, as well as receive emergency care and urgent hospitalization. The help of a family doctor, a therapist and a pediatrician is provided free of charge. Internally displaced persons also have the right to free medicines during their stay in a hospital or within the framework of the Affordable Medicines program⁹¹.

In addition to general opportunities, displaced persons also receive medical assistance in humanitarian hubs. Usually there are general practitioners and emergency medicine doctors who conduct examinations and initial consultations on all medical issues. The IDPs can also get free medicine if needed. It is also planned to open separate medical facilities for internally displaced persons.

Thus, starting from October, a center for the provision of medical services for the IDPs from Luhansk region will operate in Dnipro, where they will provide

⁸⁹ <https://www.bbc.com/ukrainian/features-62987763>.

⁹⁰ <https://www.reuters.com/world/europe/who-sees-october-covid-surge-ukraine-cites-polio-concerns-2022-09-12>.

⁹¹ <https://www.kmu.gov.ua/news/bezkoshtovni-liky-ta-medychna-dopomoha-dlia-vpo-iak-otrymaty>.

health control and medical assistance to socially vulnerable segments of the population⁹².

To receive medical assistance abroad, Ukrainians in most cases need to have the status of temporary protection. After that, it is necessary to get medical insurance, which covers a significant part of the types of treatment and gives the opportunity to receive medicine for free or at a discount. For Ukrainians, insurance is mostly free. However, some countries have recently introduced or plan to introduce a fee for this.

Thus, Ukrainians who entered Bulgaria after April 26, 2022 have the right to free medical insurance within 90 days from the date of receiving temporary protection. Then you will have to pay for the insurance policy yourself. Free insurance will remain for children under the age of 18, as well as for the elderly (women over the age of 63 and men over the age of 65) ⁹³.

In the Czech Republic, citizens of Ukraine have have been deprived from the opportunity to receive free health insurance from the state since July 25. Now they are waiting for the information about prices for this service. Ukrainians staying in the Czech Republic for more than 150 days must get medical insurance on their own⁹⁴.

Among the difficulties that Ukrainians face when receiving medical care abroad, one can mention **the long wait for a doctor's appointment, the language barrier, and the high cost of medical services** that are not covered or partially covered by insurance. In general, the medical system of European countries is unusual for Ukrainian citizens. According to the interviewed parents, doctors prescribe fewer tests and fewer medicines, and may not prescribe them at all for colds. On the other hand, in complex cases, assistance is provided more comprehensively than in Ukraine. This applies to cardiovascular diseases, oncological diseases, and surgical interventions.

We turned to a dentist. They were satisfied with the visit. Benefits in the form of free insurance are provided for Ukrainian children. Students and adults who are looking for a job in the Czech Republic can also get such insurance. The main disadvantage is that you have to wait a long time after making an appointment with a doctor. I had to ask friends for help to get it done faster. This is explained by the fact that there is a severe shortage of doctors in certain fields in the country. But they are not enough not only for refugees, but also for local residents. I cannot say that there are not enough medicines or special medical equipment here.

From an interview with parents

⁹² http://loga.gov.ua/oda/press/news/na_bazi_sheltera_dlya_pereselenciv_z_luganshchini_u_dni_pri_pracyuvatime_centra.

⁹³ <https://ukraine.gov.bg/ua/2022/07/11/until-when-does-the-state-cover-the-health-insurance-of-persons-with-temporary-protection>.

⁹⁴ <https://english.radio.cz/ukrainians-lose-right-automatic-health-insurance-after-150-days-8756895>.

Medical care in Germany has certain advantages and disadvantages. Among the positive moments, I would not a nice interior, cleanliness and children's furniture (in the toilet, for example, or in the offices). At first glance, it looks like a good child development center. The staff is calm, understanding of language problems, most of them speak English. Doctors are attentive to children: they explain what they are doing and why, they give out beautiful plasters and healthy candies after the appointment. They approach positively and do not try to check everything at once. That is, the approach to the child is such that, most likely, he/she is healthy and everything is fine. If you have health insurance, all the necessary prescription drugs are provided free of charge (for example, for nasal congestion or allergies). Among the negative points, a long wait for admission (this does not apply to vaccination) should be highlighted. That is, for an appointment lasting more than 10 minutes (for example, a full examination), you can wait from one to three months. During vaccination, if they see that the child is not particularly agreeable, they can try to hold him/her so that he/she does not twitch. It scared my daughter. I had to explain that this should not be done and that if necessary I can hug and hold her myself. So they did. The staff behaved adequately and apologized. In general, both my daughter and I have a good impression.

From an interview with parents

Recommendations

- Increase medical education of the population, especially in remote areas where there is a shortage of doctors and a limited list of medical services.
- To increase the representation of medical services in the de-occupied territories, to allocate funds for the restoration of medical infrastructure of the affected settlements.
- Due to the possibility of war crimes of a sexual nature, during the organization of medical assistance in the de-occupied territories, take into account the gender balance among the medical personnel who will go there.
- In addition to physical health, monitor the psychological and mental state of citizens affected by the war, in particular those who were under occupation and in the active combat areas. Organize not only medical, but also psychological mobile assistance teams.
- Organize training of doctors to provide first psychological aid to the population, especially those working in the de-occupied territories and territories that are constantly shelled.
- Increase public awareness of actions to be taken in case of emergencies to save lives and minimize health consequences.
- Conduct information campaigns on the prevention of infectious diseases throughout Ukraine, especially where it is difficult to ensure an adequate level of medical care.

- Facilitate the provision of a sufficient number of medical supplies and medicines (masks, oxygen, test systems, vaccines, etc.) necessary for the prevention and control of the coronavirus epidemic in Ukraine.

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

Authors of the report:

Svitlana Shcherban
Olena Rozvadovska
Andriy Chernousov
Anna Levkina
Roman Sheiko

More information at www.voices.org.ua and www.khisr.kharkov.ua