



ANALYTIC REPORT

based on the survey of legal representatives of children with disabilities concerning access in Ukraine after 24 February 2022 to benefits and services established by legislation for children with disabilities and their family members

(Brief version)

The survey was carried out from December 19, 2022, to January 17, 2023. Its purpose was to determine the situation regarding potential opportunities for the implementation of legally guaranteed rights for children with disabilities and members of their families and the relevant practices and to study the urgent problems in the wartime.

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TARGET AUDIENCE CHARACTERISTICS

As of January 1, 2022, Ukraine had an estimated 162,200 children with disabilities¹. As of January 1, 2022, children with disabilities made about 2.2% of the structure of Ukraine's child population, which was 7,348,500 children².

This survey covered parents and other legal representatives (caretakers/caregivers, adoptive parents, and foster parents) of 493 children with disabilities. These 493 children included 193 girls, 298 boys, and 2 kids whose gender was not indicated.

A series of responses to the survey questions reflect the situation around the specific needs of parents and other legal representatives of children with disabilities, as well as their families.

It should be noted that disability is diagnosed, on average, in 14,500 children every year in Ukraine, according to the State Statistics Service of Ukraine³. The most frequent causes leading to children's disabilities are congenital anomalies (developmental disorders), deformities and chromosomal anomalies; mental and behavioral disorders

1 Statistical bulletin "The Social Protection of the Population of Ukraine"
https://www.ukrstat.gov.ua/druk/publicat/kat_u/2022/zb/07/zb_szn_2021.pdf

2 Statistical bulletin "Children, Women, and Family in Ukraine"
https://www.ukrstat.gov.ua/druk/publicat/kat_u/2022/zb/10/zb_djs_2022.pdf

3 Statistical bulletin "The Social Protection of the Population of Ukraine"
https://www.ukrstat.gov.ua/druk/publicat/kat_u/2022/zb/07/zb_szn_2021.pdf

(including mental retardation); nervous system diseases (including cerebral palsy); endocrine system diseases, nutritional disorders, metabolic disorders, etc.

As for the children covered by the survey, disability was due to physical disorders in 108 cases. Mental disorders caused disability for 48 children, and sensory disorders – for 45 children. The disability of 28 children was caused by intellectual impairments. So, 229 children with disabilities (46.5%) from among those who were surveyed had a single type of health disorder.

Most of the children with disabilities covered by the survey were aged 7 to 13 years old, totaling to 283 children (57.4%). Also, the survey covered 125 children with disabilities (25.4%) aged 14 to 17 years old (inclusive), 63 children (12.8%) aged 4 to 6 years old, and 22 children (4.5%) aged up to 3 years old (inclusive).

The respondents represented all the regions of Ukraine.

INTERNAL DISPLACEMENT

According to the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, almost a third of the Ukrainian population was forced to leave their homes as a result of the conflict⁴. Of them, by December 20, 2022, the number of Ukrainians who had crossed the borders with the countries of the European Union since February 24, 2022, totaled to more than 16.6 million people⁵.

The survey determined that 280 children with disabilities were forcefully displaced after the war began, which makes 56.7% of the 493 children covered by the survey.

It should be noted that families with children with disabilities have most often moved to Western Ukraine. In total, 84 children with disabilities (17%) moved to this region.

Seventy-seven (78) children with disabilities (15,8%) were staying in Central Ukraine at the time of the survey.

Seventy-two (72) children with disabilities (14,6%) were staying in Northern Ukraine.

As for the south of Ukraine, a small number of children with disabilities moved there (except for Odesa region), specifically 37 persons (7.5%).

It was determined that the least number of children with disabilities moved to Eastern Ukraine or within that region – only 9 children (1.8%).

At the same time, the number of children with disabilities who had the IDP status was 81 children (18.7%) at the time of the survey. For 30 children (6.9%), this status was cancelled, and two children were going through the procedure of obtaining and registering the relevant status.

⁴ Current information on the situation in Ukraine No.34, dated 4 November 2022 / The UN High Commissioner for Refugees office, <https://data.unhcr.org/en/documents/details/94804>

⁵ Review of the current state of education and science in Ukraine under the conditions of russian aggression (as of December 2022) <https://reliefweb.int/report/ukraine/overview-current-state-education-and-science-ukraine-terms-russian-aggression-december-2022>

We would like to add here that the identified factors of displacement, in addition to the direct damages to houses, include the disruption of formal and informal networks of support from social workers, accessibility to medical and rehabilitation services, education services, lack of water and energy supply, etc.

EDUCATION

The Ministry of Education and Science of Ukraine established the safety of all participants in the educational process and ensuring the stability of learning and teaching as the main priorities in the wartime⁶, with a particular emphasis to be made, among other things, on the organization of inclusive educational environment.

As of December 24, 2022, pre-school education institutions had operational 4,492 inclusive groups (7,635 children with special educational needs); 39,428 students with special education needs were studying in 25,339 inclusive classes of comprehensive educational institutions⁷.

Since the outbreak of the Russian military aggression, 36 institutions from among special, sanatorium-type educational institutions and children's homes have suffered varying damages and destructions as a result of military operations.

329 (66.7%) of the surveyed children with disabilities were attending educational institutions. Mostly, the children are covered by inclusive education studying in inclusive groups/classes. It was true for 210 children.

In terms of age diversity, 167 children with disabilities (34.1%) were studying in comprehensive educational institutions (schools); 118 children (23.9%) – in special educational institutions; 33 children (6.7%) were attending pre-school education institutions (kindergartens); 4 children (0.8%) were going to vocational (vocational and technical) education institutions; 3 children (0.6%) were attending pre-higher education; and 4 children (0.8%) – institutions of higher education.

The reasons why 164 children with disabilities do not study in educational institutions include, besides hostilities (for 42 children or 8.5%) and having family (home) schooling (for 39 children or 7.9%), other reasons (83 children or 16.8%) – mainly severe types of disorders.

Because of the war, online or blended (online and offline) learning has become the prevailing form of education. According to the respondents, 141 children with disabilities (28.6%) had distance learning (online or assignments via e-mail/Viber/Telegram messages, etc.) at the time of the survey, and 140 children (28.4%) were studying in a blended format (online and offline). Only 82 children (16.6%) were attending educational institutions.

⁶ On the Organization of Education for Children with Special Educational Needs in 2022/2023 Academic Year: Ministry of Education and Science's Letter No.1/10258-22, dated 6 September 2022. <https://mon.gov.ua/ua/npa/pro-organizaciyu-osvitnogo-procesu-ditej-z-osoblivimi-osvitnimi-potrebami-u-20222023-navchalnomu-roci>

⁷ On the Organization of Education for Children with Special Educational Needs in 2022/2023 Academic Year: Ministry of Education and Science's Letter No.1/10258-22, dated 6 September 2022. <https://mon.gov.ua/ua/npa/pro-organizaciyu-osvitnogo-procesu-ditej-z-osoblivimi-osvitnimi-potrebami-u-20222023-navchalnomu-roci>

In order to fulfill the right of children with special educational needs (in particular, children with disabilities) to receive preschool and general secondary education, the network of 695 inclusive resource centers (IRCs) has been operating in Ukraine⁸. The main tasks of such centers are to:

- carry out a comprehensive psychological and pedagogical assessment of a child's development;*
- provide psychological, pedagogical, interventional, and developmental services;*
- ensure systemic and qualified support for a child with special educational needs.*

After the 24th of February 2022, parents and other legal representatives of 145 surveyed children with disabilities (29.3%) have applied to IRCs.

Nineteen (19) respondents pointed out that they had not received the requested services, and 25 people had received them partially. According to the respondents, the failure to deliver services was caused by the lack of specialists (particularly, as a result of displacement); unadjusted bomb shelters; suspension of operation during air alarms; refusals on the grounds that some respondents applied to centers located beyond their areas of residence or because an IRC was remotely located and one could not get to an operating center by themselves or by public transport; termination of an IRC due to the war, etc. The partial non-receipt of services from the IRC was explained by the overload and insufficient number of relevant specialists in IRCs, by insufficient counseling, lack of bomb shelters, etc.

Separate attention should be paid to the issue of accessibility of educational institutions, which, in addition to fulfilling the task of providing education to children, are also functioning as points of invincibility, shelters, and the school buses are used for evacuation of population, etc. in the wartime conditions.

As of December 2022, 178 preschool education institutions, 29 higher education institutions, and 55 vocational pre-higher education institutions were used as shelters and places of temporary living for IDPs⁹.

In the pre-war period, the architectural barrier-free level in educational institutions was critically low. For example, about 80% of schools had barrier-free access to the ground floor arranged for students with disabilities, and only about 0.1% schools – to the fourth floor and upper floors. Only about 8% of schools had accessible toilet rooms. Less than 1% of schools had specially adjusted buses. The war has brought new challenges to the aforementioned problems. According to some of the latest data as of December 2022, as a result of shelling and bombing by the Russian armed forces, 2,719

⁸ Ukraine. Inclusion <https://ircenter.gov.ua/>

⁹ On the Organization of Education for Children with Special Educational Needs in 2022/2023 Academic Year: Ministry of Education and Science's Letter No.1/10258-22, dated 6 September 2022. <https://mon.gov.ua/ua/npa/pro-organizaciyu-osvitnogo-procesu-ditej-z-osoblivimi-osvitnimi-potrebami-u-20222023-navchalnomu-roci>

educational institutions were damaged, and 332 of them were completely destroyed¹⁰. The exact number of the destroyed or damaged educational institutions is currently unknown.

According to the parents and other legal representatives of children with disabilities, 140 of such children (28.4%) are attending educational institutions that have stairs supported with a ramp or an entrance at the ground level, with the clearance width of the entrance door being 90 cm or wider. At the same time, 68 respondents (13.8%) reported barriers at the entrance to the buildings of educational institutions.

Ninety (90) respondents (18.3%) reported the availability of an architecturally accessible toilet that a child in a wheel chair can use independently in the education institution attended by their child with a disability. Sixteen (16) respondents (3.2%) mentioned a partial accessibility of toilet rooms, and 123 persons (24.9%) responded that the toilet rooms had barriers. At the same time, in 96 cases (19.5%) the toilet cabins had no doors.

33 respondents (6.7%) reported that their educational institution had a school bus adjusted for transportation of children using wheel chairs, and 214 respondents (43.4%) reported its absence.

At the same time, according to parents or other legal representatives, an average of 26% children with disabilities have no need for special accessibility conditions or a school bus.

The 11 children with disabilities who are studying in institutions of higher, vocational pre-higher, and professional (vocational and technical) education include 5 children studying on a state-funding basis (among the students whose education is funded by the State) and 3 children studying on a contractual (paid) basis. At the same time, 4 children receive a social scholarship. As for 2 more children, no relevant information is available.

SOCIAL SECURITY

In Ukraine, taking into account the numerous layer of socially vulnerable groups of population, a fairly extensive social security system was introduced, which, among other things, provides for various payments due to the occurrences of certain circumstances, including disabilities.

The Law of Ukraine “On State Social Assistance to Persons with Disabilities from Childhood and Children with Disabilities” (Law No. 2109-III) established the right to financial support from the State Budget of Ukraine for people with disabilities from childhood and children with disabilities by establishing state social assistance in the percentage from the subsistence minimum.

10. russians killed 441 children in Ukraine <https://www.ukrinform.ua/rubric-ato/3625365-rosiani-vbili-v-ukraini-441-ditinu.html>

The State provides social assistance to people with disabilities from childhood and children with disabilities and a care allowance to the persons who care for them.

The amount of the State-funded social assistance to persons with disabilities from childhood and children with disabilities in 2023 will be calculated taking into account the provisions of Article 7 in the Law of Ukraine No. 2109-III "On the State Budget of Ukraine for 2023" and Resolutions of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine: No. 265 "Some Issues of Pension Provision of Citizens", dated March 26, 200, and No. 118 "On Indexation of Pensions and Measures to Increase the Level of Social Protection of the Most Vulnerable Segments of the Population in 2022," dated February 16, 2022.

The State social assistance is assigned according to the following estimations:

persons with disabilities from childhood who have Disability group 1 receive 100% of the subsistence minimum for persons who have lost their ability to work (UAH 2,093 starting from January 1, 2023);

persons with disabilities from childhood who have Disability group 2 receive 80% of the subsistence minimum for persons who have lost their ability to work (UAH 1,674.40 starting from January 1, 2023);

persons with disabilities from childhood who have Disability group 3 receive 60% of the subsistence minimum for persons who have lost their ability to work (UAH 1,255.80 starting from January 1, 2023);

children with disabilities under the age of 18 receive 70% of the subsistence level for persons who have lost their ability to work (UAH 1,465.10 starting from January 1, 2023).

The allowance for caring for a child with a disability under the age of 6 and aged from 6 to 18 years old shall be 50% of the subsistence minimum for children of the corresponding age.

The allowance for caring for a child with a disability who have Disability subgroup A under the age of 6 and aged from 6 to 18 years old shall be 200% of the subsistence minimum for children of the corresponding age.

Starting from December 2022 pory, the smallest amount of the state social assistance, planned for children with disabilities, is equal to UAH 2,093.00, excluding the care allowance.

It should also be mentioned that the Government has extended the payment of all the disability-related pension and social benefits for the wartime period and the duration of individual programs of rehabilitation for persons with disabilities whose disability re-examination was due in the wartime period, and also stipulated a possibility to register disability at a distance.

The survey results have determined that all the respondents, on whom information was gathered, receive the corresponding assistance and pension (except for 6 children with disabilities).

In addition, at the time when the survey was taken: 78 families of the respondents were receiving state social support for low-income families at the time of the survey; 45 families received targeted non-cash subsidy to pay for housing utilities; and 24 families – cash subsidy to buy liquefied gas, solid and liquid household stove fuel.

It was also pointed out that some respondents' families (one or two families per each type of support) were receiving allowances issued to a single mother, a child under care, a family with many children, or received a childbirth assistance, IDP accommodation allowance, or a survivor's pension. At the same time, 348 respondents said that their families had none of these benefits.

Healthcare

Access to medicine for Ukrainians with disabilities has always been complicated due to both architectural and transport barriers and the inaccessibility of the services themselves in terms of information, finance, communication, etc. The above-listed and many other factors significantly limit the opportunities of people with disabilities to receive medical services, provide them with medical products and medicines. This is also evidenced by the survey results. Moreover, every day, medical services are becoming less accessible for people with disabilities due to military actions in the territory of Ukraine.

Since the start of the war, 262 respondents (53.1%) have applied to state or communal health care facilities for obtaining free medical care for a child with a disability. It points to the inaccessibility of medical services rather than the lack of the needs for them. Among the above-mentioned respondents, 139 people said they had been satisfied with the quality of the received medical services, 79 respondents had been partially satisfied, 22 respondents had been dissatisfied, and 17 respondents indicated that they had not received the necessary services.

Considering the increased need of children with disabilities for medical drugs, only 103 respondents (20.9%) have exercised their child's right to free or subsidized purchase of medicines based on doctors' prescriptions in the wartime. At the same time, the survey results give evidence on more than solitary cases when respondents were refused the fulfillment of their right. The causes for that included:

- arguments from pharmacies' staff saying that prices had risen, or that a particular service was not provided in a pharmacy, or that a settlement was located in the area of hostilities;
- the requested medicines were not on the list of subsidized drugs; and
- the necessary medicines were unavailable to buy (not on sale).

Still, the absence of budget funding in this sphere was quoted as the most frequent reason for refusal.

Two respondents said that they were not aware of the relevant right of their child.

As for medical products (devices), only 54 respondents (11%) applied for free provision with them for their child after February 24, 2022. At the same time, 16 children were not provided with the necessary products. 26 respondents had been satisfied with the quality of the received medical products, four respondents were partially satisfied, and only one person was dissatisfied.

Rehabilitation

As in the rest of the world, rehabilitation is one of the key areas of social protection of people with disabilities and children with disabilities.

In order to ensure timely, comprehensive, and continual rehabilitation process of people (children) with disabilities and to prevent health deterioration for children under the age of 3 in the risk group for develop a disability (to prevent disability), overcome its consequences and improve their life activities, a network of rehabilitation institutions has been formed in Ukraine

Unfortunately, today's capacity of the existing network of rehabilitation institutions, most of which are used for providing temporary residence for IDPs, in particular for those with high support needs, are not enough to provide rehabilitation services to a significant number of people (children) who need such services.

In particular, the network of the centers of comprehensive rehabilitation for persons/children with disabilities, which consisted of 118 institutions as of January 1, 2022, including 8 institutions under the jurisdiction of the Ministry of Social Policy of Ukraine (the others were in communal ownership), has shrunk.

According to the Ministry of Social Policy departmental data, due to the temporary occupation of some regional in certain regions, as well as the districts in the proximity of hostilities, 36 centers of comprehensive rehabilitation have suspended their operation (specifically, in Luhansk, Donetsk, Kherson, Zaporizhzhia, Mykolaiv, and Kharkiv regions).

Moreover, the current formation of the state policy for introducing rehabilitation in health care (medical and physical rehabilitation) is entailing consequences leading to ruining the system of comprehensive rehabilitation of persons (children) with disabilities in general, which, in the wartime, further worsens the access of the above-mentioned category of population to rehabilitation services, and in some cases becomes particularly critical although people with disabilities have essential demands for such services.

In particular, reorganization of the state rehabilitation institutions for people with disabilities and children with disabilities which are governed by the Ministry of Social Policy and which have a medical license was launched to convert them into state-owned non-commercial enterprises.

It will allow the rehabilitation centers to conclude agreements with the National Health Service for delivery of rehabilitation services under the program of medical guarantees. That is, the Ministry of Social Policy will not fund these institutions.

In other words, the above-mentioned ministry launched the process of transferring the state centers of comprehensive rehabilitation for people/children with disabilities to self-financing status and thus, in fact, destroying them because of factual transformation into health care institutions. It means they will not be able to provide other rehabilitation services, except for health care rehabilitation services, because of the lack of the funding sources. As a result of such reform, people/children with disabilities will be deprived of appropriate services during the war, following the decision of the Ministry of Social Policy.

Provision with assistive means of rehabilitation (AMR) is another important and effective instrument for improving life activities of children with disabilities. It is important that children receive AMRs free of charge and on a priority basis.

During the war, the issue of registration, provision, replacement, and early replacement of means of rehabilitation for peaceful citizens of Ukraine who had been living in the areas of hostilities or in the areas under bombing, airstrikes, and other armed attacks, and whose documents of means of rehabilitation were lost or damaged was streamlined.

The survey found that 172 respondents (34.9%) have applied for free-of-charge provision of a child with disability with assistive rehabilitation means. Of them, 81 respondents said they were satisfied with the quality of the received assistive rehabilitation means; 27 persons said they were not fully satisfied. Only 5 respondents reported dissatisfaction with the quality of the assistive rehabilitation means received. The children of 43 respondents received no assistive rehabilitation means.

After 24 February 2022, 213 respondents (43,2%) applied for free-of-charge rehabilitation services for a child with a disability in the area of residence, including:

- 127 persons who applied for physical and sports rehabilitation;
- 104 persons – for psychological and pedagogical rehabilitation;
- 85 persons – for medical rehabilitation;
- 76 persons – for social rehabilitation;
- 71 persons – for psychological rehabilitation;
- 5 persons – for labor rehabilitation;
- 2 persons – for occupational rehabilitation.

Forty-three (43) out of 213 persons said that, although they had applied, they did not receive the needed rehabilitation services. 96 persons said they were satisfied with the quality of the received rehabilitation services, and 43 persons were partially satisfied. And only 10 respondents were unsatisfied with the rehabilitation services received by their children. Two of them explained their dissatisfaction by a low level of the specialists and a lack of their interest in positive results and by the unavailability of a bath as a rehabilitation component, which was not included in the rehabilitation activities.

Social Services

Today, the Social services classifier¹¹ includes 37 social services for various categories of families/persons who are in difficult life circumstances

More than 50% of such services are for people with disabilities, in particular: supported residence of the elderly and persons with disabilities; home care; in-ward care; daytime care; daytime care of children with disabilities; social support for employment and workplace; physical support of persons with disabilities who have musculoskeletal system disorders and use wheelchairs; with intellectual, sensory, physical, motor, mental, and behavioral disorders; sign language translation, support for inclusive learning; personal assistant; social adaptation; social and labor adaptation; social rehabilitation of persons with intellectual and mental disorders; natural assistance; inclusive learning accompanying; and transport services.

After February 24, 2022, the procedure for obtaining the most frequently requested services was significantly simplified due to the increased demand for social services. In particular, the Government made a decision which allows persons with disabilities to receive some social services (including information giving, counseling, shelter provision, short-term accommodation, etc.) under an emergency (crisis) procedure within one day from the date of appeal.

Responding to the survey questions on which social services are needed for a child with a disability or a family, most respondents mentioned a temporary retreat for parents or substituting caregivers – 186 respondents (37.7%). Social rehabilitation of persons with intellectual and mental disorders is also in big demand – 164 persons (33.3%); counseling – 152 persons (30.8%), natural assistance – 125 persons (25.4%), daytime care – 119 respondents (24.1%); inclusive learning support – 107 persons (21.7%); home care – 76 respondents (15.4%); and representation of interests – 42 persons (8.5%). Most of the respondents pointed out the need for several types of social services simultaneously. Sixty-one (61) interviewees reported no need for such services.

At the same time, only 167 respondents (33.9%) applied for social services since the start of the war, of whom 35 persons did not receive the needed services; 63 were satisfied with the quality of the received services; 34 persons were partially satisfied; and 8 respondents reported dissatisfaction with the quality of the related services.

In particular: 47 persons applied for counseling; 37 respondents – for natural assistance; 26 respondents – for accompanying in inclusive education and for social rehabilitation of persons with intellectual and mental disorders each; 22 persons – for daytime care; 7 respondents – for sign language translation and support for families (persons) staying in hard life circumstances each; 5 respondents – for in-ward care and temporary retreat for parents and substituting caregivers of children with disabilities; 4 respondents – for representation of interests; 2 persons – for home care; and 1 respondent for each of the following: urgent intervention and social support for families raising orphan children and children deprived of parental

¹¹ “On the Adoption of the Social Services Classifier:” Ministry of Social Policy of Ukraine’s Order No.429, dated 23 June 2020 <https://zakon.rada.gov.ua/laws/show/z0643-20#Text>

care. At the same, the respondents had most frequently applied for several social services, and seldom for a single service only.

FAMILY NEEDS

Due to the war, the employment situation in Ukraine has worsened, first and foremost, for people with disabilities. The survey revealed that only 143 respondents (29%) were employed; 4 persons (0.8%) were studying or serving [in the army]; and 147 respondents (29.8%) were receiving income from care services. At the same time, 154 persons (31.2%) were not working (they neither studied, nor served before the war either); 17 respondents were dismissed from their jobs (3.4%) after 24 February 2022, and 28 persons (5.7%) were in the search for employment.

The hard income situation in the wartime caused mass appeals by citizens, including those with disabilities, for financial and/or humanitarian assistance to international and/or national institutions (international foundations, public associations, religious organizations, etc.) after February 24, 2022. Thus, 428 respondents (86.8%) were able to use this opportunity, of whom 369 people received appropriate assistance, and 28 people applied, but at the time of the survey, they had not received it yet.

The analysis of the respondents' answers to the questions on their access to social services revealed a high level of need of parents and other legal representatives of children with disabilities for a time to rest, meet their personal needs and solve their own problems. However, only 139 respondents indicated that they had such time for themselves, and 249 people denied having such opportunities. 105 respondents said that such time was very or even critically limited for them.

At the time of the survey, especially acute was and still remains the problem of essential things, products, etc., needed for a child and the family for the winter period. In this context, the respondents mentioned the need for money (314 people or 63.1%), medicines (206 people or 41.8%), warm clothes (147 people or 29.8%), food and water supplies (146 people or 29.4 %), things for heating (radiators, blankets, etc.) (97 people or 19.7%), firewood, coal, fuel brackets, fuel pellets, pellets, etc. for home heating (78 people or 15.8%).

The survey analysis results correlate with the findings on the highest demand for medical services and on the increased need for financial support due to the war, which was discussed above. As it turned out, the situation is hard. However, there were 64 respondents who reported the absence of the necessary things, products, etc. needed for the winter period.

Finally, answering the questions on the support needed for children with disabilities in particular and the families of the respondents in general, the interviewees mentioned the rehabilitation of children (29 people); access to medicines and medical services (26 people); socialization (25 people); psychological support (22 people); food, including special food (13 people); the opportunity for a child to participate in educational classes having particular specialists (for example, speech therapists, psychologists, etc.) (12

people); increase in the scope of available rehabilitation services (10 people); retreat (9 people); daytime care for a child (8 people); access to educational services, in particular, the possibility for children to attend school and kindergarten (7 people); counseling support on disability-related issues (7 people); housing (6 people); employment (4 people). Among other things, the respondents also mentioned the need for the provision with assistive means of rehabilitation and medical devices, for legal support, understanding and habilitation, and provision with sanatorium and resort treatment. However, financial needs have been and still remain the greatest need of the people, as it was emphasized by 83 respondents.

GENERAL RECOMMENDATIONS

based on the analysis of the respondents' answers

Internal displacement

- ensure the collection of extended statistical data on internal displacement and moving abroad of people with disabilities and families raising them;
- strengthen the support for internally displaced families with children with disabilities in health care, education, and social protection;
- ensure timely identification and registration of internally displaced children with disabilities who were left without parental care and organize the protection of their rights, first of all, the right to be raised in family settings (timely establishment of guardianship/care and being placed in other forms of family upbringing);
- speed up creation a state-level system of providing psychological support services to persons with disabilities, in particular internally displaced children with disabilities and their families, in order to minimize the consequences of experienced traumatic events.

Education

- ensure the accessibility of educational institutions when constructing, renovation, and repairment, taking into consideration the safety needs of the wartime (equipping the shelters taking into consideration the accessibility requirements) and systematic monitoring of the taken measures;
- direct donor funds for modernization and renovation of the damaged and destroyed educational institutions taking into consideration the accessibility standards;
- analyze the needs of the state and communal educational institutions for vehicles for transportation of students and provide educational institutions with transportation vehicles adjusted (accessible) for children with disabilities;
- create the conditions for distance learning taking into consideration the martial state in all educational institutions and ensure accessibility of all the information materials

for children with vision impairments, hearing disorders, and intellectual developmental disorders;

- preserve or foster recovering personnel potential of education specialists who provide services to children with disabilities, upgrade and improve their competences via development of electronic upgrade training courses, exchange of best pedagogical practices, training in information and communication technologies, and mechanisms of intersectoral interaction regarding social and psychological support for children with disabilities.

Social security

- increase financial support to families with children, in particular, allowances to children with disabilities and allowances for such children, as well as payments to families raising children with disabilities;

- streamline the procedure of wartime financial payments in Ukraine from international institutions by introducing the accounting within the single informational environment so as to ensure equal access to such support for all families in need.

Services (health care, rehabilitation, social services)

- ensure accessibility of medical services for children with disabilities;
- take actions to fully provision children with disabilities with medicines, especially vital medications;

- enhance the provision of children with disabilities with products of medical purpose;

- provide for a mechanism of informing on the possibilities of obtaining free of charge medical services, provision with medical products and medications to the children with disabilities and their families who have limited access to information (no smartphone, computer, or Internet access);

- by preserving the network of state centers of comprehensive rehabilitation for people with disabilities and extending the network of communal rehabilitation centers, prevent a decline in the access of children with disabilities to rehabilitation services because of the transition to the program of medical guarantees;

- improve the provision of children with disabilities with assistive means of rehabilitation and implement monitoring for the provision with and quality of assistive means of rehabilitation;

- develop and adopt social standards in the sphere of delivery of rehabilitation services to people with disabilities, children with disabilities, and ensure the monitoring and assessment of the quality of the delivered services;

- take actions for development and proper funding of social services, including supported living, daycare, temporary retreat for parents or persons replacing parents or caring for children with disabilities, etc.;

- provide the support to families of children with disabilities when resolving issues related with fulfilling the rights of such children and families and with meeting vital needs;

- ensure the use of the individual approach to each family having a child with disabilities taking into consideration the traumatic wartime experience to settle the provision with social services;
- implement a monitoring of the quality of the delivered social services and control over the content and effectiveness of services being provided to people with disabilities and children with disabilities in terms.

Family needs

- create conditions for employment of parents and other legal representatives of children with disabilities;
- increase the awareness of specialists providing various services (educational, social, rehabilitation, medical, etc.) and ensure their interdepartmental interaction to resolve the issues of protecting the rights and meeting the needs of children with disabilities;
- in each territorial community, establish structural units for protection of children's rights, particularly the rights of children with disabilities, and implement a high-quality system of satisfying the needs and protecting the rights of children at the places of residence of their families;
- inform the parents and other legal representatives of children with disabilities on the rights of their children and possibility to satisfy their needs, including information on the provision of financial and humanitarian aid;
- provide training for parents and other legal representatives on how to treat such children and satisfy their needs;
- at the level of each community, establish an information and communication network for interaction and sharing experience among families of children with disabilities.

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