

Overview of the Armed Conflict in Eastern Ukraine **a Context and Conflict Analysis**

Analytical report



Overview of the Armed Conflict in eastern Ukraine – a Context and Conflict Analysis: analytical report / Vadym Chernysh, Viktoriia Voronina. – Kyiv, 2020. – 164 pages.

The study was conducted within the framework of the project “Local Self-Government and the Rule of Law in Ukraine” implemented by the Folke Bernadotte Academy (FBA) during 2014-2020 with the financial support from Sweden. The study was conducted by the Center for Security Studies CENSS for use by international organizations operating in Ukraine that develop and implement initiatives on resolution and mitigation of the conflict in eastern Ukraine and is aimed at providing better awareness and planning of potential relief measures (in particular, targeting groups affected by the conflict).

The work on this analytical report involved mapping of the current conflict situation in eastern Ukraine with impact on various spheres of societal, political and economic life, capturing some of its manifestations and implications, prospects of resolution and possibilities for mitigation and relief. The report presents information as of September 2020.

Contributors:

Vadym Chernysh, CENSS
Viktoriia Voronina, CENSS

Design: Dmytro Mokryy-Voronovskyy

Cover photo: "Pedestrian crossing-point at the contact line in Stanytsia Luhanska", 2018
© Viktoriia Voronina

The expressed opinions, conclusions and recommendations are those of the authors and compilers of this report, and do not necessarily reflect the views of the Swedish Government. Authors and compilers are solely responsible for the content of this publication.



UDC 355.01(477.61/.62)(047.1)

© Chernysh V., Voronina V., 2020
© Center for Security Studies CENSS, 2020
© Folke Bernadotte Academy, 2020

Table of Contents

ABBREVIATIONS	5
INTRODUCTION	6
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY	8
1. PROFILING OF CONFLICT IN UKRAINE, OVERVIEW OF ITS CAUSES, ACTORS, CONFLICT-AFFECTED GROUPS, FACTORS, DRIVERS AND DYNAMICS, RESOLUTION OUTLOOK	14
1.1 Conflict profile	14
1.2. Causes of conflict	29
1.3. Key developments influencing the conflict dynamic in 2014–2019	32
1.4. Key actors and their intentions	38
1.5 Key external actors interested in the conflict resolution at global and regional levels	40
1.6. Strategic vision of Ukraine’s political leadership regarding ways of conflict resolution, conflict mitigation and prevention of new conflicts in society	45
1.7. Drivers and risks that affect / may considerably affect the conflict dynamics and increase vulnerability in following years	50
1.8. Impact of COVID-19 on conflict dynamic	52
2. THE CONTEXT FOR SOME MANIFESTATIONS AND IMPLICATIONS OF THE CONFLICT IN EASTERN UKRAINE, RESULTS OF CONFLICT MITIGATION AND RELIEF EFFORTS	54
2.1. Overview of key legislation / ongoing reforms / initiatives aimed at ensuring the rule of law and access to justice in conflict-affected areas and their implementation status	54
2.2. Ukraine’s commitments under international agreements with the EU and the Council of Europe regarding the protection of the rights of citizens affected by conflict and their implementation status	76
2.3. Overview of current legislative framework and reforms / initiatives on dialogue and mediation	77
2.4. Strategic vision of development and implementation of public policy on veterans’ affairs and disarmament, demobilization and reintegration	84
2.5. Overview of current legislative framework and reforms / initiatives on disarmament, demobilization and reintegration	87
2.6. Alignment between the strategic vision and the way forward with some initiatives at the levels of government and international partners, lessons learnt from prior cooperation	97

3. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS	105
LIST OF REFERENCES	109
Annex 1. Main national institutional actors and their competences in certain areas	
Annex 1.1. Ensuring the rights of ATO/JFO veterans	116
Annex 1.2. Ensuring the rights of internally displaced persons	118
Annex 1.3. Institutional actors and their competences in dialogue and mediation	119
Annex 2. International cooperation in conflict resolution and mitigation in Ukraine	
Annex 2.1. Registered international technical assistance projects as of September 2020	120
Annex 2.2. International technical assistance projects in the context of integration of veterans	159

Abbreviations

ATO – Anti-Terrorist Operation

CIS – Commonwealth of Independent States

DDR – Disarmament, demobilization and reintegration

ECHR – European Court of Human Rights

EO – Explosive ordnance

ERW – Explosive remnants of war

EU – the European Union

GCA – Government-controlled areas

IBRD – International Bank for Reconstruction and Development

ICJ – International Court of Justice

ICRC – International Committee of the Red Cross

IDPs – Internally displaced persons

IOM – International Organization for Migration

IREX – the International Research and Exchanges Board

JCCC – Joint Centre for Control and Coordination

JFO – Joint Forces Operation

MPTFs – Multi-Partner Trust Funds

MTOT – Ministry of Temporarily Occupied Territories and IDPs, since March 2020 – Ministry of Reintegration of Temporarily Occupied Territories (Ministry of Reintegration)

NATO – North Atlantic Treaty Organization

NCDC – Ukraine's National Security and Defence Council

NGCA – Non-government controlled areas

NGO – Non-governmental organization

ORDLO (ORDO, OPLO) – Certain areas of Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts

OSCE – Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe

PACE – Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe

RPA – Recovery and Peacebuilding Assessment

SSU – Security Service of Ukraine

SWG – Sectoral working groups

UK – the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland

UN – the United Nations Organization

UNDP – the United Nations Development Programme

UNICEF – the United Nations Children's Fund

UNHCR – United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees

UN OCHA – the United Nations Office for Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs

US – the United States of America

USAID – the United States Agency for International Development

Introduction

Over the six years of the ongoing armed conflict in eastern Ukraine, both the Ukrainian authorities and international partners have invested a lot of efforts into crisis response and conflict mitigation. In the period between 2014 and 2020, the country has seen two presidents and four governments, but even today, having to dealing with protracted hostilities, the country's policy on conflict resolution and conflict mitigation has not evolved into a sustainable, finalized process. The first positive developments in the provision of aid and alleviation of conflict consequences became visible only in 2016 – addressing of top priority needs of affected population, delivery of services and bringing service provision closer to people, adoption of strategic documents for territories liberated by military intervention, with clear action plans to ensure services and maintain linkages with the people remaining in areas cut off from government control, and others.

What remains to be significant and encouraging is the fact that despite the enormous loss and destruction the armed conflict brought to Ukraine (*almost 13 thousand fatalities and 30 thousand injured; 1.4 million internally displaced persons; displaced public institutions and schools; demolished and shattered infrastructure; loss of control over major industrial enterprises; ruptures in the logistical, economic and social cohesion inside the country*), even the most severely affected regions – government-controlled areas of Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts – are moving forward with reform initiatives that have been promoted and implemented elsewhere in the country over the recent six years (healthcare reform, education reform, law enforcement reform, decentralization). Even more impressive is the fact that some cities within this region have been recognized as best places in Ukraine in terms of safety and security, satisfaction with services, and levels of pay. Owing to the support of international community, the state authorities and local self-governments are ramping up their capacity to bring positive change for population at national and local level.

At the same time, there is little doubt that re-shuffling of government (both at the level of the Cabinet and the President's Office), international teams and project delivery offices in the country often dilutes the institutional memory and clouds the overarching goals on issues concerning conflict mitigation. To achieve results in this area, it is not enough to take action at one level, be it local or central. Coupled with other factors (economic hardships, information interventions, to name a few), the ongoing armed conflict can trigger the avalanche of consequences – emergence of new conflicts with further erosion of social cohesion and direct detrimental impact on unity, resilience, public safety, security, and the rule of law. The theme of building resilience and social cohesion of Ukrainian society, critical for Ukraine in the 1990s, only recently has gained broad support, despite being articulated in government documents back in 2016.

It is important to remember that resilient, consolidated society with strong communities is less susceptible to external destabilization interventions that are typically preceded by targeted examination of internal problems and identification of disagreements and antagonisms ("root causes") in political, economic, cultural and other domains. The events in Ukraine of late 2013 and 2014 have exposed how internal problems and antagonisms in society could be used to manufacture a vulnerability situation. Therefore, to resolve the conflict and mitigate its effects, it is central not only to have external political engagement but also to look into the root causes, identify and mend disagreements and antagonisms within the Ukrainian society, and prevent conflict at all levels.

Given the above, this study has become a pioneer effort to aggregate information and build a profile of the conflict in eastern Ukraine, identify its pre-conditions and causes, methods, major events, participating actors and external players committed to its resolution. The purpose was to provide a data-driven, evidence-based overview of the current situation of the conflict in eastern Ukraine and its impacts on various domains of social, political and economic life, including the reform processes, and to define the context of some manifestations and implications of the conflict as well as the outlook for its resolution and possibilities of relief and mitigation.

This Analytical Report is offered as input for international organizations operating in Ukraine that design and implement initiatives to resolve conflict and mitigate its effects in eastern Ukraine, with a view to providing better awareness and inform planning of potential relief measures (in particular, targeting groups affected by the conflict). The study results can also be used by authorities in their planning of interventions for conflict prevention and settlement in various regions of Ukraine, and development of public policies based on the analysis provided by the study.

Fact finding

Given the global situation with the COVID-19 pandemic, the study did not include meetings, interviews or field trips. Instead, it utilized and relied upon:

- information made available by public institutions (central executive bodies, other government institutions, Office of the President of Ukraine, the Verkhovna Rada, the National Security and Defence Council, etc.), produced official reports available in open access and/or provided on demand to the Center for Security Studies CENSS as part of project implementation;
- public statements of politicians;
- secondary data, both quantitative and qualitative, collected or produced by international institutions and other stakeholders, non-governmental organizations with high level of credibility, such as assessments, monitoring reports and studies.

Risks

The ongoing COVID-19 pandemic has influenced the study methodology and presents additional risks to the effective implementation of recommendations derived from the study, as it precludes any detailed long-term planning.

The COVID-19 outbreak has also affected various conflict-related modalities in Ukraine, such as passage through the conflict demarcation line, operation of humanitarian missions, resource mobilization and delivery of aid to vulnerable groups affected by the conflict.

The pandemic has exacerbated tension and created disparities between local self-governments and central authorities regarding allocations on combatting COVID-19 as well as justification of economic restrictions due to the imposed quarantine measures.

Effective implementation of proposals derived from the study will also depend on the pronounced public policy on conflict resolution and mitigation (as outlined in official strategic documents) and concerted efforts of public authorities at all levels. This risk is minimized by incremental implementation of measures leaving space for adjustments to accommodate to the changing context.

Finally, the local elections potentially puts at risk the implementation of project recommendations, especially at local level.

Executive summary

Background and overview

The study was conducted by the Center for Security Studies CENSS in July – August 2020 within the framework of the Local Self-Government and the Rule of Law in Ukraine Project implemented by the Folke Bernadotte Academy (FBA) in 2014-2020 and funded by the Swedish Government.

The study addressed the need to systematize information about activity of Ukrainian authorities and partners in the area of conflict resolution and mitigation. Over the six years of the ongoing armed conflict and temporary occupation of part of Ukraine's territory, the authorities have introduced and implemented multiple interventions and drafted legislation to address the needs and safeguard the rights of conflict-affected population. These documents have served as planning guidance for local authorities and international partners. The election of a new parliament, several rounds of government reshuffle in 2019-2020, dismantling and building of new governance structures together with redesigned competences have caused fluctuations of government policies on respective matters. To some extent, these circumstances have influenced the ability to maintain institutional memory in public institutions and delivery of coordination functions.

Therefore, the **purpose** of the study was to provide a data-driven, evidence-based overview of the current situation of the conflict in eastern Ukraine and its impacts on various domains of social, political and economic life, including the reform processes. It also aimed to define the context of some manifestations and implications of the conflict as well as the outlook for its resolution and possibilities of relief and mitigation.

The study is offered as input for international organizations operating in Ukraine that design and implement initiatives to resolve conflict and mitigate its effects in eastern Ukraine, with a view to providing better awareness and inform planning of potential relief measures (in particular, targeting groups affected by the conflict). It can also be used by authorities in their planning of interventions for conflict prevention and settlement in various regions of Ukraine, and development of public policies based on the analysis provided by the study.

The spread of coronavirus infection has influenced the study **methodology**, putting the focus mainly on the analysis of the legal framework, existing data (information from state institutions, their reports and responses to CENSS inquiries, public statements of politicians and other openly available records) as well as secondary data (for example, assessments, monitoring reports, surveys, etc. collected or produced by agencies and projects of the UN, European Union, OSCE, Council of Europe, development agencies of partners-states of Ukraine, and other stakeholders, including highly-credible non-governmental organizations).

The study has enabled for the first time to compile a general profile of conflict in Ukraine, taking into consideration the external influence and events taking place in the early 2000s. The Report identifies causes, participating actors and external players committed to its resolution at global and regional levels (the EU, NATO, Council of Europe, USA, France, Germany). It also provides an overview of the strategic vision of Ukraine's political leadership regarding ways of conflict resolution, mitigation and relief, with general reference to key legal actions brought by Ukraine or individual government-controlled entities against the Russian Federation in international judicial institutions. Separate analysis was conducted with regard to methods of conflict perpetration and the system of management of territories outside the control of Ukrainian authorities (political, economic, financial, security and military systems). This analysis enabled to identify the main drivers and risks that affect or may considerably affect the conflict dynamics and generally increase vulnerability of society in the future.

Special attention was given to the respect of the rule of law concerning population groups affected by the armed conflict in eastern Ukraine, in particular internally displaced persons (IDPs) and residents of non-government controlled territories. In this context, the analysis of legislation and outcomes of government decisions and initiatives (as well as those of international partners of Ukraine) enabled to review such issues as access to justice,

welfare, delivery of state-guaranteed services and benefits, birth and death registration, compensation for lost / destroyed property and harm to health due to conflict, as well as liability of persons who committed crimes against humanity.

The Report discusses the vision of state authorities and the existing legal framework / initiatives on development and implementation of public policies on veterans' affairs as well as disarmament, demobilization and reintegration of former combatants. It identifies problem issues regarding veterans' employment, professional adaptation and rehabilitation, counselling and social support, benefits and services, as well as building a positive image of veterans. Special attention was paid to instances of veterans' involvement in illicit arms trade in Ukraine.

The study also includes a review of the existing legal framework and ongoing reforms / initiatives in the field of dialogue and mediation, providing examples of related projects implemented by international partners and non-governmental organizations at national local levels. In 2017-2018, Ukrainian government adopted a number of strategic decisions outlining policy priorities up to 2020 covering the following issues: building linkages between population living in non-government controlled areas and the state; support to citizens living in non-government controlled areas; reducing tension and increasing cohesion in communities affected by the armed conflict; integration of IDPs in host communities, and return of ATO/JFO veterans to peaceful life.

Special attention should be given to the implementation of the National Action Plan 2020 for the implementation of the UN Security Council Resolution 1325 "Women, Peace and Security", approved by the Cabinet of Ministers' Ordinance No. 113 of 24 January 2016 that stipulates objectives and measures aimed at fostering the culture of peace, intolerance of violence and discrimination, raising awareness on issues related to gender-based violence and sexual violence in conflict situations. It includes measures focusing on fostering firm tolerance and conflict prevention outlook among young people, engagement of girls and women in dialogue building in situations of community-level conflict, especially host communities for IDPs, using mediation and facilitation techniques.

Progress reports on the implementation of the National Action Plan by state authorities in 2018-2019, although not specifically mentioning dialogues and conflict resolution activities involving women and youth, provide examples of cultural and educational activities in communities carried out by women's civil society organizations and highlight their cooperation with local authorities and individual social groups. Essentially, the results of the National Action Plan implementation demonstrate only high attention to women who are or may become victims of gender-based or domestic violence, especially in communities affected by the armed conflict, and delivery of legal, psychological and social aid to this group. At the same time, assessments by non-governmental organizations point to a wider engagement of women as dialogue participants and facilitators. At national level, women MPs are involved in sub-groups within the Trilateral Contact Group on peaceful resolution of the situation in eastern Ukraine. It is also not uncommon for women to be engaged as facilitators and mediators during activities conducted by authorities and international partners on critical issues of public policy that require consensus solutions and communication with civil society.

The Report presents up-to-date information about coordination at the level of government and international partners in some conflict-related areas, analysis of the existing and planned coordination mechanisms, and an overview of international technical assistance projects related to conflict resolution and mitigation in Ukraine, including reintegration of veterans. Annexes to the Report provide the list of key national institutional actors with brief summary of their competences regarding the rights of ATO/JFO veterans, IDPs as well as dialogue and mediation.

Key conclusions and recommendations

1. It is obvious that Ukraine and the Russian Federation are in the process of conflict that involves both **military and non-military methods**.

Issues related to ways of conflict resolution and relations with Russia are naturally linked to the issues of **national identity** and other foundational elements underlying state-building. Traditionally, the most debated and hot topics include the status and use of the Russian language, joining the EU and NATO / neutrality, historical period of the World War II era and participation of Ukrainians, religious and clerical issues of the Orthodox Christian faith. In Ukraine, not only the eastern part but the entire country is the subject of Russia's strong influence aiming to substitute the Ukrainian identity or support the existing Russian identity of Ukrainian citizens (the so-called identification with the "Russian world"). Beside people with strong Ukrainian identity, there are also groups with "dual" and "oscillating" identity.

Beside external forces, this situation is also utilized by some domestic political forces in order to mobilize and consolidate their base during elections and campaigns pushing for or against certain decisions made by authorities.

An important aspect is holding of **local elections** (in October 2020). Political players with influence on national-level policy making have the intention to build a vertical of cross-cutting influence on the situation in the country – from the centre down to community level. Political players with no decisive influence at national level consider the possibility of using local elections to strengthen this influence at regional level and in individual communities, primarily in large cities. Control over local self-governments may facilitate as well as complicate or even fully block implementation of decisions adopted by national government. Moreover, control over local self-governments in some regions may give the possibility to exercise bottom-up pressure on national-level policy making.

In the vast majority of cases, local elites see strengthening or retention of their roles within certain territories as their top priority – rather than gaining power at national level. Influence in the region or community is viewed as a possibility to control distribution of local resources, local markets of goods and services, creation of favourable conditions for local business, etc. At the same time, the possibility for local elites to have influence on the national level is also considered as a goal that may open access to additional resources from the "centre" on the mutually beneficial basis – resources in exchange of support.

In 2019-2020, gradual **increase of tension** was observed in relations between national-level authorities and local self-governments. The land reform, although much needed, has also added certain risks. The significance of land as resource is such that it is as valuable, or even more valuable, than state property privatization of which gave rise to entire oligarchical empires. Thus, fairness during land privatization and impossibility of its concentration in the hands of oligarchs should prevent conflicts not only between owners and agricultural producers, but also between local self-governments and national executive bodies.

At the same time, pro-Russian political forces are active in Ukraine, promoting the so-called "**federalization**" that would presumably strengthen the role of regions (but not communities!) and would act as a safeguard of economic stability. This situation considerably increases Ukraine's vulnerability in the face of external pressure. It is worth reminding that Ukraine lost control over its territories due to Russia's hybrid interventions – a combination of military and non-military means – each time using local self-governments to "legitimize" certain actions when decisions indeed were made under external influence.

In the absence of long-established democratic traditions and effective organizational forms of political and other types of dialogue, internal **polarization** may tend to increase, making society more vulnerable. Ukraine lacks a comprehensive approach to building of a resilient society. No single body responsible for these matters has been identified, and legal acts issued in this area have not been prioritized for implementation.

The culture of dialogue, democratic procedures for important decision-making, and continuous, meaningful communication with the public should become a foundation for increased trust to state institutions and local government, eventually for building a more resilient society.

The entire territory of Ukraine has been **affected by the armed conflict**, and also, the whole government-controlled territory is targeted by Russia's non-military means of conflict. This situation requires strategic solutions and their rapid implementation to counteract these measures, in particular building of resilient and sustainable society, national unity, development of critical thinking and media literacy, fostering the culture of dialogue, protection of human rights and safeguarding of the rule of law. These actions ought to be taken both at national and local levels. Communities located in Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts require special attention.

Recommendations for national-level authorities derived from the study and presented in the Report include carrying out of surveys exploring issues of national identity and risks of divisions and polarization in Ukrainian society, development of relevant strategic documents and measures using effective, advanced forms of national dialogue, designation of an appropriate institution to be responsible for these issues, while ensuring proper coordination with international partners and engaging various social groups.

In this context, **local self-governments are advised** to conduct risk assessment with regard to group conflicts in communities and use findings to develop and approve local conflict prevention and/or conflict resolution plans; take into consideration identified national priorities towards building resilient and sustainable society and national unity; introduce advanced methods of dialogue and mediation in communities; develop local integration plans for former combatants and IDPs. It is also suggested that local governments should assist in delivery of courses and workshops in communities to increase media literacy and develop critical thinking.

2. Issues of “war and peace” and relations with the Russian Federation play an important role for society. Visions of how to achieve peace in Ukraine can both unite and split the society.

Thus, there must be sufficient clarity on these issues, so that the public would understand the general vision proposed by the governing elite for ways to achieve peace and major steps to be taken as well as related risks. This approach requires close and well-designed communication with the public in general and individual target groups. In this context it is **recommended** to offer special **educational projects** for members of the Parliament (Verkhovna Rada), government, other executive agencies and local self-governments, based on international best practices and lessons learnt in the area of conflict prevention and resolution.

It is critical to continuously adjust and update Ukraine's policy aimed to **maintain linkages with people** living in areas controlled by Russian authorities or other administrative bodies established by Russia. This should be done not only as a reaction to Russia's interventions (such as simplification of procedures for Ukrainians to acquire Russian citizenship and such like) but also **proactively** – to support and strengthen the feeling of belonging to the Ukrainian state and Ukrainian society, preservation of Ukrainian national identity. To this end, the government should provide appropriate financing of corresponding programmes and projects.

3. Effective counteracting of external threats in a non-military context requires aligned and well-coordinated efforts of relevant state institutions. The ability to effectively counteract external influence of detractor states depends on security sector capabilities. Reform of security sector institutions is among top priorities: they should be fully relieved of non-essential functions, have clearly defined competences, and procedures of their **democratic oversight**, not only by parliament, president or government but also by civil society, should be in line with the highest standards of democracy. Trust and confidence in the country's intelligence community, law enforcement and security forces are characteristic of a democratic society and contributes to the overall public trust to democratic institutions.

Civil society oversight over the security sector envisaged in the new Law “On National Security” is virtually non-existent. In order to introduce adequate **civil society oversight**, it is **recommended** to carry out relevant preparatory (training) activities in security sector bodies, design internal (departmental) acts in line with the

democratic oversight principles and increase capacity of civil society organizations in this field. In eastern parts of the country with high concentration of armed forces, intelligence, law enforcement and security units from other parts of Ukraine, **it is recommended** to introduce new, effective forms of their interaction and cooperation with local self-governments.

4. Work with social groups prone to violence, especially political violence, require development and implementation of special programmes. The uptick in violence in society has been caused, among other factors, by the abundance of **illegal weapons** and day-to-day insecurity. Resilience and security in communities largely depend on the possibility for community members to use arms and weapons in conflict resolution. Given the exiting protest sentiment and public discontent as well as the abundance of weapons in the areas of hostilities in eastern Ukraine and accessibility to these and other illegal weapons, there is formidable threat of weapons being used in situations of conflict, both at interpersonal level and during protests, rallies, provocations and various forms of pressure on authorities. These are obvious risk factors that should be taken into consideration both by protest organizers and authorities. Having access to weapons in the areas of hostilities, ATO/JFO veterans often take them back home for the purpose of so-called “self-defence” or trafficking. Weapons are used to resolve domestic conflicts against family members, police or neighbours.

Access to arms for organized crime groups, radical organizations, other formal and informal groups challenge the state’s monopoly on the use of force, including use of arms. Under such circumstances, informal centres of influence on economic, political and other important societal processes can arise outside the public authorities and local self-governments.

Proliferation of arms in Ukraine is a factor not only for internal, but also for regional security. Considerable amount of some types of illicit arms, affordability and easy access can be the enabling factors in activation of established criminal gangs, including transnational organized crime, in illicit arms trafficking to and from Ukraine.

In relation to the above, **recommendations** derived from the study include implementation of **monitoring activities and reviews** to identify the dynamics of arms use, sources and mechanisms of illicit circulation and trafficking as well as ways of confiscation / buyback / surrender of weapons in possession of population, relying on international best practices. It is also advisable to conduct **conflict risk assessments** in communities with highest incidence of use and keeping of weapons. It is also necessary to initiate **expert discussion** about proliferation, possession, and keeping of illegal weapons and related threats and carry out thematic, targeted **outreach campaigns** to minimize incidence of use and keeping of weapons and raise public awareness about the requirements and obligations related to legal weapon possession.

5. Despite numerous legal acts, advocacy efforts, and cooperation with non-governmental sector, **veterans and IDPs** still require support and **are not fully integrated in new settings**. Ensuring the rights and delivery of services to these groups are not among 10 top priorities of government or parliament. At local level, in the vast majority of cases, veterans and IDPs receive attention thanks to financing from international programmes and projects. Transfer of the responsibility for services and benefits for veterans and IDPs from national to local level is often not supported by sufficient financing or any financing at all, without prior estimation of local resources, reserves and possibilities to implement certain measures (for example, provision of temporary accommodation for IDPs, or allocation of land plots to ATO/JFO veterans).

Therefore, **it is recommended** that in order to achieve effective results, all central-level decisions that will be fully or partially trickled down to local self-governments for implementation should be adopted in a participatory process, with broad **engagement of local authorities, assessment of capacities and discussion of key issues with all stakeholders**. Disregard of this principle may lead to parallel existence of several conflicts and tensions – local versus central authorities over the lack of resources, IDPs / veterans versus community members over competition for access to resources and services; community members versus local authorities over unjust distribution of resources and suboptimal provision of services and benefits.

6. The major problems faced by IDPs and veterans remain to be related to housing and livelihood. The problem of **provision of housing** for veterans is closely related to a similar problem of housing for military personnel during their active service. Provision of housing for military personnel requires clear planning according to the projected number of troops in government armed forces, duration of contracts and other factors, such as specifics and stationing of military units.

After discharge from service, servicemen can retain their accommodation on certain conditions, if all contractual obligations have been fulfilled. This entitlement can be passed on to their family members, for example, in the event of loss of life. In this case, having received the status of combatant (veteran), such people would not have to be enrolled in corresponding programmes for veterans. Therefore, **recommendations** derived from the study for state authorities include a suggestion that long-term planning of housing schemes should take place in close cooperation between the Ministry of Defence, Ministry of Internal Affairs, Security Service and other institutions, on the one hand, and the Ministry for Veterans Affairs, on the other hand, as well as cooperation between the latter and the Ministry of Finance.

Whereas the issue of housing is about finding resources for implementation of the existing mechanisms, the issue of employment is not only about finding jobs, but also about coming up with mechanisms to provide **guarantees both for employers and the employed**. It is especially important in the context of labour relations with veterans. In case of former combatants, the employer bears additional burden of ensuring all benefits and guarantees related to additional time off and retention of workplace for the time of contract-based service in the armed forces. Being aware of this burden, employers are reluctant to hire veterans. In this situation, **it is recommended** that state authorities should create **a compensation mechanism for employers** and provide additional incentives to recruit veterans.

7. As evidenced by multiple studies, after the six years since the onset of conflict, some IDPs and the majority of ATO/JFO members remain to be cut off from other social groups. IDPs often **do not feel part of their host communities** and do not feel motivated to participate in public life, even despite employment and access to education, healthcare and other services. Only in some communities do veterans play active role in regular national patriotic upbringing (apart from appearing on special days of commemoration). They also do not frequently engage with local authorities. Part of Ukrainian society still perceives IDPs and veterans as burden and additional strain on local social infrastructure. These stereotypes often trigger conflicts between different groups within community, and local authorities typically do not pay much attention to them.

To tackle this problem, **it is recommended** that authorities and IDPs and veterans' non-governmental organizations join efforts to develop **strategic documents** on IDPs and veterans' integration, **promote their positive image** and present them as valuable resource for communities, engaging active IDPs (especially women and young people) and veterans in local activities, local decision-making, leveraging their knowledge and expertise to improve life in community. IDPs themselves are **powerful channel for information exchange** with people living in NGCA, and their integration and perspective on the level of trust to Ukrainian authorities, reforms and transformations in Ukrainian society will influence the perceptions of people in NGCA and strengthen important linkages.

8. The basis for effective implementation of international programmes and projects is adequate coordination of all stakeholders and national ownership. **International experience and expertise** on post-conflict recovery and peacebuilding and participation of international development partners in these processes constitutes **an enormous, accessible resource that should be incorporated in the national frameworks**. **Communication** in the process of coordination of development partners should be enhanced through dialogue and platforms that would help mobilize resources and minimize costs. Today, the government has all necessary preconditions for it: strategic documents created by predecessor government teams that have been endorsed by partners and are aligned with their programming for Ukraine; well-designed coordination mechanisms based on international best practices; implemented digital solutions simplifying the monitoring and coordination tasks. **Agility** and continued possibility for **adaptation** to the present-day demands and contexts, use of capacity and resources offered by the international community will help accelerate achievement of desired results.

1. Profiling of conflict in Ukraine, overview of its causes, actors, conflict-affected groups, factors, drivers and dynamics, resolution outlook

1.1 Conflict profile

There are two extremes in viewing the conflict in Ukraine that are quite commonly used: the first view is that the sides of the conflict are Ukraine and the Russian Federation (inter-state conflict), and the second view is that the sides of the conflict are Ukraine and two self-proclaimed entities within the internationally recognized territory of the Ukrainian state – the so-called Donetsk People's Republic ("DPR") and Luhansk People's Republic ("LPR") (intra-state conflict). Somewhere in between are several "middle ground" narratives, the most popular of which maintains that the Russian Federation supports the so-called "DPR" and "LPR" without being directly involved in the conflict (internationalized intra-state conflict).

Ukraine has adopted and enacted legislation according to which the sides of the conflict are two states – the Russian Federation and Ukraine, and the areas outside the control of the Ukrainian authorities are recognized as occupied territories. Their status is defined by separate legislative acts in accordance with the administrative territorial set-up established by the Constitution, namely: occupied territories of Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts¹ and occupied territories of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea and Sevastopol city.²

In their statements, most countries and a number of international organizations avoid using the term "occupied territories" both in reference to parts of Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts and the Autonomous Republic of Crimea. eastern parts of Ukraine that are currently outside the control of the Ukrainian authorities are most typically referred to as:

- "certain areas of Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts of Ukraine" (ORDO and ORLO, together – ORDLO);^{3,4}
- "non-government controlled area" (NGCA);⁵
- "territories under the effective control of the Russian Federation";^{6,7}

¹ The Law of Ukraine of January 18, 2018 No. 2268-VIII "On special modalities of public policy regarding ensuring Ukraine's sovereignty in the temporarily occupied territories of Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts". <https://zakon.rada.gov.ua/laws/show/2268-19>

² The Law of Ukraine of April 15, 2014 No. 1207-VII "On ensuring the rights and freedoms of citizens and legal regime in the temporarily occupied territory of Ukraine". <https://zakon.rada.gov.ua/laws/show/1207-18>

³ UN Security Council. Resolution 2202 (17 February 2015). Package of Measures for the Implementation of the Minsk Agreements. [https://undocs.org/en/S/RES/2202\(2015\)](https://undocs.org/en/S/RES/2202(2015))

⁴ OSCE Parliamentary Assembly. Declaration and Resolutions adopted at the 26 Annual Session. <https://www.oscepa.org/documents/all-documents/annual-sessions/2017-minsk/declaration-25/3555-declaration-minsk-eng/file>

⁵ UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs. Humanitarian response plan Ukraine 2020 (January 2020). https://www.humanitarianresponse.info/sites/www.humanitarianresponse.info/files/documents/files/ukraine_2020_humanitarian_response_plan_en.pdf

⁶ Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe. Resolution 2133 (2016). Legal remedies for human rights violations on the Ukrainian territories outside the control of the Ukrainian authorities. [http://assembly.coe.int/nw/xml/XRef/Xref-XML2HTML-en.asp?fileid=23167#:~:text=PACE%20%2D%20Resolution%202133%20\(2016\),control%20of%20the%20Ukrainian%20authorities.](http://assembly.coe.int/nw/xml/XRef/Xref-XML2HTML-en.asp?fileid=23167#:~:text=PACE%20%2D%20Resolution%202133%20(2016),control%20of%20the%20Ukrainian%20authorities.)

⁷ Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe. Resolution 2209 (2018). State of emergency: proportionality issues concerning derogations under Article 15 of the European Convention on Human Rights. <http://assembly.coe.int/nw/xml/XRef/Xref-XML2HTML-en.asp?fileid=24680&lang=en>

In reference to the Autonomous Republic of Crimea, the following terms are predominantly used at the international level:

- attempted (illegal) annexation;^{8, 9, 10}
- territory incorporated in the Russian Federation over which the latter exercises effective control.¹¹

The question of pinpointing the type of armed conflict is relevant not only for the purpose of theoretical enlightenment but, most importantly, for identifying the most feasible route towards political resolution as well as practical steps to provide relief to the civilian population.

The phrase “armed conflict” is widely used as a general, all-encompassing term. There is also an opinion widely shared among experts and politicians that it is a “hybrid” conflict taking place between Ukraine and Russia, that implies a combination of both military and non-military means of warfare.

If the conflict in Ukraine is understood as an *inter-state* conflict, it has the following implications:

- The territory of conflict is entire Ukraine, not only its eastern lands and the Autonomous Republic of Crimea;
- Conflict resolution should be negotiated directly with the Russian Federation;
- The UN Security Council will not be able to take effective decisions on conflict resolution if it is an inter-state conflict (in view of Russia’s possibility to impose veto);
- The Russian Federation, as a side in the conflict, must comply with all international agreements in the area of international humanitarian law, in particular the Geneva Conventions 1949 and Protocol Additional 1¹² to the Conventions that stipulates a series of obligations as to the protection of the civilian population and prisoners of war, etc.

On the other hand, understanding of the conflict as an *intra-state* conflict obviously leads to the following implications:

- The territory of conflict is Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts;
- The Autonomous Republic of Crimea *is not the territory of conflict*;
- Conflict resolution should be negotiated with representatives of the so-called “unrecognized republics”;
- The UN Security Council can take decisions on conflict resolution, albeit in a limited way due to Russia’s position (possibility of veto);
- Sides of the conflict, meaning Ukraine and the allegedly opposing non-state entities, must comply with all international agreements in the area of international humanitarian law, in particular the Geneva Conventions 1949 and Protocol Additional 2¹³ that stipulates *a lesser scope of obligations* for the sides compared to those stipulated for the inter-state armed conflict.

⁸ UN General Assembly. Resolution A/RES/74/17 (December 9, 2019). Problem of the militarization of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea and the city of Sevastopol, Ukraine, as well as parts of the Black Sea and the Sea of Azov. <https://undocs.org/en/A/RES/74/17>.

⁹ UN General Assembly. Resolution A/RES/73/263 (December 22, 2018). Situation of human rights in the Autonomous Republic of Crimea and the city of Sevastopol, Ukraine. <https://undocs.org/en/A/RES/73/263>

¹⁰ Crimea Declaration, Press Statement, Michael R. Pompeo, Secretary of State (July 25, 2018). <https://2017-2021.state.gov/crimea-declaration/index.html>

¹¹ The Office of the Prosecutor of the International Criminal Court. Report on Preliminary Examination Activities (2019). <https://www.icc-cpi.int/itemsDocuments/191205-rep-otp-PE.pdf>

¹² Protocol Additional to the Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949 and relating to the Protection of Victims of International Armed Conflicts (Protocol I), 8 June 1977. <https://ihl-databases.icrc.org/applic/ihl/ihl.nsf/INTRO/470>

¹³ Protocol Additional to the Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949 and relating to the Protection of Victims of Non-International Armed Conflicts (Protocol II), 8 June 1977. <https://ihl-databases.icrc.org/applic/ihl/ihl.nsf/INTRO/475>

Moreover, in many cases we may encounter a dual approach, for example, in the way the conflict is treated by the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC). In 2014, in its news release, ICRC referred to the conflict in Ukraine as non-international.¹⁴ At the same time ICRC cites the norms of humanitarian law largely pertaining to armed conflict of an international character in justification of certain actions and measures while conducting humanitarian operations and interacting with Ukrainian officials.

An interesting position, which many experts find quite arguable, was expressed by the Office of the Prosecutor of the International Criminal Court¹⁵ upon examination of the situation in eastern Ukraine in 2014. In its Report, the Office stated that there were in fact two conflicts going on in parallel: first, the non-international conflict between the Ukrainian government forces and armed groups, specifically the so-called “DPR” and “LPR”; and second, the international conflict between Ukraine and the Russian Federation.

Some experts and politicians use the term “hybrid warfare” referring to the conflict in Ukraine. It typically implies that the conflict is of an international character in essence, but apart from conventional military methods it also involves the broad use of other, non-military means.

There is massive evidence suggesting that the Russian Federation has been employing a **broad arsenal of military and non-military means against Ukraine.**

The military means include conventional and irregular warfare, intimidation by concentration of military units alongside the state border, demonstrative deployment of troops drawn up in battle array, military drills, etc.

The non-military means include propaganda; economic and political interventions, for example, those that can influence election results, aiming to discredit some politicians while promoting others; data cybertheft and its further use to inflict damage or exert influence; use of criminal groups for bribery, blackmail, crackdown or duress; pushing for polarization of society, instigation and fuelling of protests for the purpose of destabilization, etc.

An important condition is to employ military and non-military means in such a way as to create “plausible deniability” – ability to deny one’s involvement as a side in the conflict. This explains the emergence of the so-called “little green men”, members of the military in green uniform without insignia; use of proxies to conduct military operations; military drills that are indistinguishable from real preparation for invasion (military means). Non-military means are also employed in a way that necessarily allows for “plausible deniability” as to the true end goal of such actions.

¹⁴ ICRC. Ukraine: ICRC calls on all sides to respect international humanitarian law (July 23, 2014). <https://blogs.icrc.org/new-delhi/2014/07/24/ukraine-icrc-calls-on-all-sides-to-respect-international-humanitarian-law/>

¹⁵ The Office of the Prosecutor of the International Criminal Court. Report on Preliminary Examination Activities (2016). https://www.icc-cpi.int/iccdocs/otp/161114-otp-rep-PE_ENG.pdf

Lowenthal’s “ladder of covert operations” is useful here to understand Russia’s actions in Ukraine:¹⁶

Figure 1. Ladder of covert operations by Mark M. Lowenthal



In terms of control, Ukraine’s territory can be loosely classified into four parts:

1. The territory of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea and Sevastopol city where the Russian Federation’s legislation is fully effective, and the Russian authorities exercise their powers in the same manner as they do across the Russian Federation. There are no active military hostilities, and contingents of the Russian Armed Forces are openly concentrated on this territory.
2. The territory of ORDLO controlled and run by Russia through its specially established tools of civil and military power that seemingly governed by different procedures but, in reality, are continuously adapted and harmonized with the norms of the Russian Federation. Russia’s military units, intelligence and security are present and prefer to operate stealthily.
3. The territory of Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts controlled by the Ukrainian authorities where the imposed military and civil administration regime is different from the rest of government-controlled territories. For a short time, part of this territory was outside the control of the Ukrainian authorities which was later restored through military intervention (anti-terrorist operation).
4. All other territory of Ukraine not included in the above.

While hostilities are taking place only in eastern part of Ukraine, other (non-military) means employed by Russia have been targeting the entire area under government control.

¹⁶ Lowenthal, M. M. *Intelligence: From Secrets to Policy*. Sixth edition (2015)

Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts are located in eastern part of Ukraine and some of its areas outside the Ukrainian government's control border on the Russian Federation. The total length of the border between Ukraine and Russia outside the control of the Ukrainian government is **410 km**, whereas the total length of the contact line¹⁷ between the government-controlled area (GCA) and non-government controlled area (NGCA) of Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts is **423 km**.

Movement of people and goods, including for military purposes, is taking place between the NGCA of Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts and Rostov oblast of the Russian Federation. Electricity supply, communication, railway carriage, etc. are maintained through joint infrastructure.

The Autonomous Republic of Crimea is located on the Crimean Peninsula and is connected with Kherson oblast of Ukraine and with Russia's Krasnodar Krai via the Kerch strait. Unlike NGCA of Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts, movement of people and goods between Crimea and Russia is significantly complicated by Crimea's geography, and to connect Crimea's infrastructure with the infrastructure of Russia's Krasnodar Krai demands major investments. Electricity and water supply, principally for industrial and agricultural purposes, has been cut off by Ukraine, causing significant repercussions for respective sectors on the Crimean Peninsula. Here it should be noted that local water resources are sufficient to meet the humanitarian needs of the civilian population living in Crimea. As of today, Russia has built the so-called "energy bridge" – undersea cables transmitting electricity from the territory of Russia. The project was completed in 2016 by efforts of the Chinese contractors that used special ships, and particular care was taken to conceal the owner and actual names of the ships. Automobile traffic was opened over the constructed Kerch bridge in 2018,¹⁸ followed by the launch of railway connection in 2019.¹⁹ The total cost of Kerch bridge construction amounted to \$4 billion.²⁰ Because of the construction, the passage of Panamax-type ships was restricted to Ukrainian ports in the Sea of Azov (Berdyansk and Mariupol), whereas Russian ports remained unaffected since vessels of this type can use other Russian ports along the Black Sea coast. The construction of the bridge caused losses not only for ports, but also to producers of steel, rolled products, as well as other industrial and agricultural produce in Donetsk and Zaporizhzhia oblasts.

As of signing of the Package of Measures for the Implementation of the Minsk agreements, i.e. as of 12 February 2015, Ukraine **regained control by military means over about two thirds of its territory** in Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts that had been lost at the initial stage of hostilities in 2014.²¹ For some period, these areas were under the control of armed groups, and some buildings, structures and facilities were demolished or damaged. Oblast networks of healthcare facilities and education institutions appeared to be torn apart by the contact line. Moreover, people who supported territorial integrity of Ukraine and those who rooted for the partition live side by side in the same community. Therefore, these areas warrant special attention from the government both with regard to recovery of damaged infrastructure, houses and property, and with regard to building of national unity and social cohesion.

The areas in close proximity to the contact line (0-30 km zone) have considerable number of people who continue to live there, but the recovery efforts have been either non-existent or very slow and sporadic due to limited possibilities for rehabilitation and relief works, regular shelling resulting in new damage, contamination with landmines and explosives, limited possibilities for doing business and similar reasons. According to the UN assessment, approximately 800,000 people live near the contact line²² (of which about 200,000 live in GCA), with a large proportion of them being in need of humanitarian assistance. Thus, according to the UN,²³ there is a great need in provision of assistance to elderly people and people with disabilities, in particular those living close to the contact line, to address critical problems related to physical and mental health (loss of life and injury from shelling, heavy

¹⁷ Ukrainian legislation, international documents and documents of international organizations also use the terms 'demarcation line', 'line of separation', etc.

¹⁸ The first channel. Vladimir Putin congratulated the builders on the opening of the automobile part of the bridge across the Kerch Strait (May 15, 2018). https://www.1tv.ru/news/2018-05-15/345535-vladimir_putin_pozdravil_stroiteley_s_otkrytiem_avtomobilnoy_chasti_mosta_cherez_kerchenskiy_proliv

¹⁹ Crym.Realii. Putin launched trains on the Kerch Bridge (December 23, 2019). <https://ru.krymr.com/a/news-putin-poezda-kerchenskii-most/30340043.html>

²⁰ Vedomosti. The costs of the project of transition to the Crimea exceeded 300 billion rubles (February 1, 2017). <https://www.vedomosti.ru/economics/articles/2017/02/01/675698-zatrati-kerchenskogo-mosta>

²¹ Segodnya. The Ukrainian military liberated two-thirds of Donbass - Poroshenko (March 16, 2016). <https://www.segodnya.ua/ua/regions/donetsk/ukrainskie-voennye-osvobodili-dve-treti-donbassa-poroshenko-699826.html>

²² UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs. Ukraine 2016 Humanitarian Needs Overview (February 17, 2016). <https://www.humanitarianresponse.info/en/operations/ukraine/document/ukraine-humanitarian-needs-overview-hno-2016>

²³ UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs. Humanitarian Response Plan Ukraine 2020 (January 2020). https://www.humanitarianresponse.info/sites/www.humanitarianresponse.info/files/documents/files/ukraine_2020_humanitarian_response_plan_en.pdf

contamination with landmines and explosives, difficulties with access to quality medical care, in particular treatment of injuries and emergency care), access to goods and services near the contact line in isolated settlements cut off from main services because of insecurity and destroyed road infrastructure. Among other, not less important needs is the need to strengthen local capacities, reduce hazard related to landmines and explosive remnants of war (ERW), ensure permanent access to water and electricity supply, public transport and healthcare, access to education. The situation is further complicated by the shortage of healthcare workers and teachers, economic hardships, and general outflow of workforce.

Government-controlled areas are identified as priority areas targeted by recovery projects. In 2014, upon request of the Government of Ukraine, the World Bank, the European Union, and the United Nations carried out the Recovery and Peacebuilding Assessment (RPA)²⁴ using the Post-Conflict Needs Assessment methodology.^{25, 26} The RPA looks into overcoming the conflict's detrimental impact, focusing primarily on five oblasts: Donetsk, Luhansk, Kharkiv, Dnipropetrovsk, and Zaporizhzhia. The Cabinet of Ministers adopted Regulation of 5 August 2015²⁷ recommending the RPA as a resource to inform the recovery efforts in Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts and relief efforts to address the needs of internally displaced persons (IDPs). Later in 2017, based on the RPA, the Government adopted the State Target Programme of Recovery and Peacebuilding in eastern Ukraine up to 2021²⁸ that included three components: recovery of physical infrastructure; recovery of social infrastructure; social cohesion, unity and peacebuilding.

The whole territory of Ukraine was affected by heavy hostilities in 2014-2015. It was the time when the greatest number of people who lived within or close to the combat zone fled their homes, moving to other parts of the country and thus becoming internally displaced persons (IDPs). Also, members of the military were mobilized from all over the country to be part of government forces and to engage in active combat in eastern Ukraine. Many were killed, wounded or missing; and those who have returned are grappling with mental health issues. Host communities of IDPs have faced additional challenges and continue to require special attention and assistance from local-level and national-level authorities. Similar attention is needed by communities from where members of the military were mobilized to serve in government forces.

Also, the whole government-controlled territory is targeted by Russia's non-military means of conflict. This situation requires strategic solutions and rapid response to counteract these measures, in particular building of resilient and sustainable society, national unity, development of critical thinking and media literacy, fostering the culture of dialogue, protection of human rights and safeguarding of the rule of law. These actions ought to be taken both at national and local levels.

In the areas of Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts that are currently outside the control of the Ukrainian authorities, there are **four distinct hierarchically built sub-systems of governance** exercised by the Russian Federation. Compared with the pre-2019 situation,²⁹ this set-up was somewhat re-designed after Vladislav Surkov (Russian President's aide from September 2013 to February 2020) was removed from the "Ukrainian affairs" and Dmitriy Kozak was appointed to a post in Russia's Presidential Administration and designated to be in charge. These sub-systems are described below:

1. Political sub-system

Objectives:

- Formalization of status of the so-called "DPR" and "LPR" as participants in the conflict and, consequently, in negotiations;

²⁴ European Union, United Nations, World Bank. Ukraine: Recovery and Peacebuilding Assessment (March 2015). http://www.un.org.ua/images/V1-RPA_Eng_Vol1.pdf

²⁵ European Union, United Nations, World Bank. Joint Declaration on Post-Crisis Assessments and Recovery Planning (September 25, 2008). https://ec.europa.eu/fpi/sites/fpi/files/joint_declaration.pdf

²⁶ World Bank. Practical Guide to Multilateral Needs Assessments in Post-Conflict Situation (August 2004). <http://documents1.worldbank.org/curated/en/224281468762594718/pdf/298220PAPER0SDPOWP151Web.pdf>

²⁷ Order of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine of August 5, 2015 No. 797 "On approval of the Ukraine Recovery and Peacebuilding Assessment Report by the joint mission of the European Union, the United Nations Organization, and the World Bank". <https://zakon.rada.gov.ua/laws/show/797-2015-%D1%80>

²⁸ Resolution of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine of December 13, 2017 № 1071 "On approval of the State target program for the restoration and development of peace in the eastern regions of Ukraine". <https://zakon.rada.gov.ua/laws/show/1071-2017-%D0%BF>

²⁹ MTOT. Who and how manages the occupied territories (March 1, 2019). <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Vr0ygsNYtEo>

- Special status with broad powers for ORDLO, if returned under Ukraine's control (possible options: confederation, asymmetric federation, broad autonomy);
- State-building and recognition should a political decision be taken.

Governing bodies: Russia's Presidential Administration, quasi-state bodies in ORDLO.

Key responsible official: Dmitriy Kozak, Deputy Head of Russia's Presidential Administration.³⁰

2. Economic and financial sub-system

Objectives:

- Ensuring operation of all economy sectors on the territory of ORDLO;
- Collection of "taxes";
- Financial management and ensuring operation of banking institutions.

Governing bodies: Russia's Ministry of Economic Development, other federal ministries in respective domains, inter-agency commission on humanitarian relief to the affected areas of southern and eastern parts of Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts of Ukraine,³¹ quasi-state bodies in ORDLO.

Key responsible official: Sergey Nazarov, Deputy Minister of Economic Development of Russia.³²

According to the data provided by Ukrainian officials,³³ Russia spends about \$1.3 billion per year to sustain ORDLO. By our cautious estimates, these are general costs with several streams of financing: "tax" revenues; financing that comes directly from the Russian Federation; and proceeds from the use of property of Ukrainian owners who stopped using it or property used illegally, contrary to the will of actual owners. Russia consistently demands from the quasi-state bodies to increase the share of "own" revenues, to reach 100% coverage of financial needs.

Moreover, Russian officials view aid received from international donors and organizations as yet another source to tackle economic problems and satisfy social needs of population in ORDLO. The aid is distributed in ORDLO as directed by its quasi-state bodies that oversee this distribution according to their priorities. Generally, these priorities may well coincide with actual needs of people, but Russia sees it exclusively as means to reduce its own burden of sustaining these areas.

The banking system within ORDLO is connected to the Russian system through South Ossetia – a forcibly carved out part of Georgia recognized by Russia as a "separate state" (for the purpose of "plausible deniability"). It should be emphasized that Ukraine, like the vast majority of countries, deems South Ossetia to be part of Georgia.

3. Security sub-system

Objectives: Ensuring loyalty of local powerholders and discipline in implementation of political decisions; control over political and information spheres; prevention of protests of local population, "neutralization" of leaders among the public that stand up to the pro-Russian sentiment; control over the use of finances and passage through the contact line; ensuring loyalty of combatants among local population, etc.

³⁰ Administration of the President of the Russian Federation. Biographical data of Kozak Dmitry Nikolaevich. <http://kremlin.ru/catalog/persons/75/biography>

³¹ Order of the Government of the Russian Federation of December 15, 2014 №2537-p "On the interdepartmental commission for the provision of humanitarian support to the affected areas of the south-eastern regions of Donetsk and Luhansk regions of Ukraine". <http://government.ru/docs/16219/>

³² Administration of the President of the Russian Federation. Biographical data of Nazarov Sergey Makarovich. <https://www.economy.gov.ru/material/structure/nazarov/>

³³ Promote Ukraine. Russia finances the occupation regime in Ukraine for \$ 1.3 billion (May 13, 2020). <https://www.promoteukraine.org/russia-finances-the-occupation-regime-in-ukraine-for-1-3-billion/>

Governing bodies: Russia's Federal Security Agency, quasi-ministries dealing with security in ORDLO.

Key responsible official: Vladimir Bortnikov, Head of Russia's Federal Security Agency.

4. Military sub-system

Objectives: Ensuring military security of ORDLO, creating military threats in eastern Ukraine.

Governing bodies: General Staff of the Armed Forces of the Russian Federation; headquarters of the Southern Military District of the Russian Federation,³⁴ military units created in ORLO and ORDO.

Key responsible official: Aleksandr Dvornikov, commander-in-chief of the Southern Military District of the Russian Federation.

The Southern Military District covers Crimea and Donbas structurally and geographically. In terms of both organization and infrastructure, ORDLO's military units are incorporated in the military system of the Russian Federation and under the management of the Russian Armed Forces.

Crossing-points at the contact line

GCA and NGCA are separated by the contact line with five currently operating crossing-points set up along it: in Stanytsia Luhanska (Luhansk oblast); in Mayorske, near Mariinka and Novotroitske, and in Hnutove (Donetsk oblast).³⁵ The only crossing-point in Luhansk oblast is accessible only for passage on foot, and the rest are accessible both for passage on foot and by motor vehicle. There is no operating direct passenger or freight carriage between GCA and NGCA.

Before the outbreak of COVID-19 pandemic, about 2 million crossings of the contact line (in both directions) were recorded in February 2020; there were almost 14 million crossings in 2019, an increase by 2 million versus 2018.³⁶

Exact data on the number of people living within ORDLO simply does not exist, since sources of information from within "DPR" and "LPR" are not reliable. We can cautiously use the data contained in the Humanitarian Needs Overview, which constitutes the part of UN's 2017 Humanitarian Response Plan prepared together with the Ministry of Temporarily Occupied Territories and IDPs (MTOT). According to this document, 2.3 million people live in NGCA³⁷ (according to the Humanitarian Needs Overview as of 2016 – 2.7 million).³⁸

Population groups affected by the armed conflict in eastern Ukraine and temporary occupation of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea

According to the assessment by OHCHR (Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights), the total casualty of conflict in Ukraine (from 14 April 2014 to 31 July 2020) ranges from 42 to 44 thousand people: 13,100 – 13,300 persons killed (at least 3,367 civilians, about 4,150 members of the Ukrainian government forces, and

³⁴ Administration of the President of the Russian Federation. Biographical data of Dvornikov Aleksandr Vladimirovich. <https://structure.mil.ru/structure/okruga/south/head.htm>

³⁵ OCHA UN. Ukraine. Crossing points snapshot: May-June 2020 (July 21, 2020). https://www.humanitarianresponse.info/sites/www.humanitarianresponse.info/files/documents/files/ukraine_crossing_points_snapshot_20200720_eng.pdf

³⁶ Database of the State Border Guard Service of Ukraine regarding crossing of the border control points: <https://app.powerbi.com/view?r=eyJrIjoieTYtdiM2VlOGEtYTdlZi00OWI4LTlhNTgtZGFhNWwNMGZiMmZjIiwidCI6IjdhNTE3MjMzMzLTE1ZGYtNDQ1MCO4ZjMyLWE5ODJmZTBhYTEyNSIsImMiOiJh9>

³⁷ UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs. Ukraine 2017 Humanitarian Needs Overview (December 5, 2016). <https://www.humanitarianresponse.info/en/operations/ukraine/document/ukraine-2017-humanitarian-needs-overview-hno>

³⁸ UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs. Ukraine 2016 Humanitarian Needs Overview (February 17, 2016). <https://www.humanitarianresponse.info/en/operations/ukraine/document/ukraine-humanitarian-needs-overview-hno-2016>

about 5,700 members of the armed groups), and 29,500 – 33,500 persons wounded (7,000 – 9,000 civilians, 9,700 – 10,700 members of the Ukrainian government forces, and 12,700 – 13,700 members of the armed groups).^{39, 40}

Internally displaced persons

As of 15 July 2020, there are 1,449,415 officially registered IDPs in Ukraine,⁴¹ with more than half living in five oblasts already mentioned above: Donetsk, Luhansk, Kharkiv, Dnipropetrovsk, and Zaporizhzhia.

The direct factors that caused people to flee included the following: threat to one's life and life of family members; necessity to access social, medical and education services; activity of illegal armed groups and self-proclaimed authorities in relation to population; non-recognition and non-acceptance of illegal actions of self-proclaimed authorities; social insecurity; impossibility to realize basic rights and freedoms of man and citizen (freedom of movement, forced involvement in illegal armed groups).

The main problems faced by most IDPs include loss of livelihood and uncertainty about housing prospects. They also struggle with the exercise and protection of their rights, in particular property rights, access to housing fit for human habitation, renewal of documents confirming Ukrainian citizenship, identification documents, documents on special status, re-gaining of livelihood, realization of voting rights and access to information.⁴²

According to the most recent data published in the National Monitoring System Report on the Situation of IDPs based on the survey conducted by the International Organization for Migration (IOM) (Round 15, September 2019),⁴³ as of July – September 2019, the share of employed IDPs was 47%, the average monthly income per member of IDP household was significantly lower than the national average, and IDPs continued to be largely dependent on government support.⁴⁴ For the same period, 80% of respondents reported that they had stayed in the same place for more than 3 years. The share of those who intended to return to their place of origin after the conflict ends was 21%, and the share of those who no longer entertained such hopes was 36%. A notable trend was that IDPs showed no intention to move abroad – only 1% of respondents reported that they had found employment abroad and were planning to leave. After six years since the conflict outbreak, the majority of IDPs reported feeling integrated in host communities (54% reported feeling fully integrated and 34% reported feeling partially integrated). The key factors of successful integration remain to be housing, regular income and employment. In September 2019, the share of IDPs who reported perceived discrimination based on their IDP status was 8%. Perceived discrimination was reported to be associated with the experience relating to employment (36%), housing (33%), healthcare (28%), interaction with local population (23%), and delivery of administrative services (23%).

Members of ATO/JFO (veterans)

As of 1 July 2020, 397,062 persons were granted official recognition as combatants among those deployed for ATO/JFO in Ukraine, with about 60% gaining this status in 2015-2016. In the period from 2014 to 2016, a significant number of reservists were called back to military duty from Dnipropetrovsk, Kharkiv, Lviv, Zhytomyr, Chernihiv, Khmelnytsky, Kyiv, Vinnytsia, Donetsk, Sumy, Mykolaiv and Zaporizhzhia oblasts.⁴⁵

Despite the government's efforts to safeguard the rights and interests of veterans, there are still many unresolved issues concerning housing, allocation of land plots, compensations, employment, relations with employers, leaves

³⁹ OHCHR. Report on the Human Rights Situation in Ukraine, 16 November 2019 to 15 February 2020. https://www.ohchr.org/Documents/Countries/UA/29thReportUkraine_EN.pdf

⁴⁰ Radio Svoboda. The UN reported the number of victims of hostilities in the Donbass (September 3, 2020). <https://www.radiosvoboda.org/a/news-oon-zhertvy-viyny-na-donbasi/30818348.html>

⁴¹ Ministry on Social Policy. Information on displaced persons. <https://www.msp.gov.ua/timeline/vnutrishno-peremishcheni-osobi.html>

⁴² Order of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine as of November 15, 2017 № 909-p "On approval of the Strategy for integration of internally displaced persons and implementation of long-term decisions on internal displacement until 2020". <https://zakon.rada.gov.ua/laws/show/909-2017-%D1%80>

⁴³ IOM. National monitoring system report on the situation of internally displaced persons (September 2019). https://iom.org.ua/sites/default/files/nms_round_15_eng_screen.pdf

⁴⁴ Resolution of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine of October 1, 2014 № 505 "On providing monthly targeted assistance to internally displaced persons to cover living expenses, including housing and communal services". <https://zakon.rada.gov.ua/laws/show/505-2014-%D0%BF>

⁴⁵ State Service of Ukraine for war veterans and ATO participants. Data from the Unified Register of ATO participants. <http://www.svetlovodsk.info/index.php?newsid=2064>

during enactment of “special period”,⁴⁶ medical care and benefits stipulated by Article 12 of the Law “On the status of veterans and the guarantees of their social protection”.⁴⁷

The above-listed problems were confirmed by the survey conducted by IOM,⁴⁸ in which 25% of respondents among combat veterans reported injuries or medical conditions acquired in the line of duty. Almost half reported not being able to secure long-term loans to support their children’s education (45%) and priority housing (86%). More than a quarter (29%) reported that their jobs and posts had not been retained. Some stated that their underemployment or unemployment were related to injuries or medical conditions acquired in the line of duty (which in some cases were not officially certified), or desire to acquire a different profession/trade or find a job with more favourable environment. More than a third (35%) expressed interest in starting own business. Most respondents pointed out to problems related to the lack of support from the state as well as gaps in their knowledge of local market and business skills.

Almost half of veterans reported bias or injustice towards veterans demonstrated by various groups in society, for example, in relation to veterans’ entitlement to free-of-charge use of public transport or experience with medical or administrative services. The survey found that veterans felt isolated from society and shared strong self-identification with the reference group. A third of respondents said they would want to receive individual psychological and social support, such as counselling, and a half agreed that this kind of support is important for veterans in general.

Missing persons

There is no exact data on missing persons. According to the ICRC, at least 1,500 persons went missing in the conflict zone, and at least 1,000 bodies remained unidentified (some are still kept in morgues and some have been buried in mass graves).

On 12 July 2018, the Ukrainian Parliament adopted the Law “On the Legal Status of Missing Persons”,⁴⁹ guaranteeing the rights of missing persons and their relatives. It also stipulates setting up of a permanent commission on persons missing under special circumstances, to operate under the Cabinet of Ministers, and a unified data register of such persons. At the time of this study, provisions of this law were still pending implementation due to the lack of secondary legislation (government acts) necessary for full-fledged roll-out.

Ukrainian citizens deprived of their liberty on political grounds (political prisoners)

There is no exact data on Ukrainian citizens deprived of their liberty on political grounds by decision of the Russian Federation authorities on the temporarily occupied territory of Crimea and on the territory of Russia. Several non-governmental organizations make efforts to collect information about political prisoners,⁵⁰ and so does the Ministry of Reintegration that is in charge of collection and systematization of factual information about violation of such persons’ rights and efforts to protect and ensure their rights and interests.⁵¹

On 1 March 2018, the Ukrainian Parliament called upon the parliaments of foreign states and parliamentary assemblies of international organizations to condemn Russia’s political repressions against Ukrainian citizens and urge freeing political prisoners.⁵² This appeal was adopted by the Verkhovna Rada and its text included the list of political prisoners.

⁴⁶ Annual report of the Commissioner of the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine for Human Rights on the state of observance and protection of human and civil rights and freedoms in Ukraine (March 2019). <https://mva.gov.ua/storage/app/sites/1/uploaded-files/zvit%20za%202019.pdf>

⁴⁷ The Law of Ukraine of October 22, 1993 № 3551-XII “On the status of war veterans, guarantees of their social protection”. <https://zakon.rada.gov.ua/laws/show/3551-12>

⁴⁸ IOM. Life after conflict: Survey on the sociodemographic and socioeconomic characteristics of veterans of the conflict in eastern Ukraine and their families (January 2020). http://ukraine.iom.int/sites/default/files/veterans_reintegration_survey_2020_eng.pdf

⁴⁹ The Law of Ukraine of July 12, 2018 № 2505-VIII “On the legal status of missing persons”. <https://zakon.rada.gov.ua/laws/show/2505-19>

⁵⁰ #LetMyPeopleGo campaign. The list of Ukrainian citizens deprived of freedom in occupied Crimea and Russia on political motives. <http://tetmypeoplego.org.ua/list/>

⁵¹ Resolution of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine of June 8, 2016 № 376 “Some issues of the Ministry of Reintegration of the Temporarily Occupied Territories”. <https://zakon.rada.gov.ua/laws/show/376-2016-%D0%BF>

⁵² Resolution of the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine of March 1, 2018 № 2312-VIII “On the Appeal of the Verkhovna Rada to Parliaments of Foreign States and Parliamentary Assemblies of International Organizations calling for condemning Russia’s political repressions against Ukrainian citizens as a result of its armed aggression against Ukraine and for freeing political prisoners – citizens of Ukraine”. <https://zakon.rada.gov.ua/laws/show/2312-19>

According to the data of the coalition of NGOs dealing with political prisoners, at least 100 people are at present being held in prisons in Russia and on the temporarily occupied territory of Crimea (the same number is quoted by the Ministry of Reintegration), and 42 political prisoners have already been sentenced on criminal charges.⁵³ The majority of them are Ukrainian citizens belonging to the national minority, namely the Crimean Tatars, indigenous people of the Crimean Peninsula; and many are members of Hizb ut-Tahrir, a Muslim organization / group recognized under the Russian law as a terrorist organization and therefore banned. Since 2016, the UN General Assembly adopted a number of resolutions and issued two reports on the human rights situation in the Autonomous Republic of Crimea and Sevastopol (Ukraine).⁵⁴ In each of these documents the UN calls upon the Russian Federation to stop discrimination, repressions and illegal prosecution of ethnic groups on the Crimean Peninsula, but the latter ignores the adopted UN Resolutions as well as the provisional measures issued by the International Court of Justice (ICJ) with regard to Ukraine's claim against Russia concerning application of the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination. For more than six years already Russia has been denying access of international monitoring missions and humanitarian organizations to the temporarily occupied territory of Crimea and Sevastopol.

On 10 August 2018, the Government of Ukraine brought a complaint before the European Court of Human Rights against the Government of Russian Federation with regard to mass-scale, systematic violations of the rights of Ukrainian citizens who are illegally detained and prosecuted on the temporarily occupied territory of Crimea and on the territory of the Russian Federation (No. 38334/18). This complaint concerns violations of the rights, stipulated by the Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms, of 71 "Kremlin's prisoners" – Ukrainian citizens.

Even as of today, Ukraine has not put in place a legal framework that would regulate the status and legal guarantees of persons deprived of their liberty on political grounds, despite the fact that since 2016 several draft laws have been prepared to address these issues which, however, have never even reached the parliamentary floor.

There is still another group of persons deprived of their liberty – Ukrainian citizens captured on the territory of Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts and held as hostages as a result of the armed conflict or as prisoners of war while defending independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity of Ukraine.⁵⁵

Since 2018, all mentioned groups have been entitled to government aid in the amount of UAH 100,000, as was regulated by the Cabinet of Minister's Resolution.⁵⁶ Some political prisoners have been the recipients of the Levko Lukianenko scholarship initiated by the President also in 2018.⁵⁷ In December 2019, the Government enacted secondary legislation addressing organization (financing) of psychological rehabilitation and professional adaptation for all these groups, as well as special social and legal remedies for persons deprived of their liberty because of the armed aggression against Ukraine.⁵⁸

⁵³ ZMINA.UA. Human rights activists have updated the list of Kremlin prisoners held in Crimea and Russia (September 16, 2020). <https://zmina.info/articles/stante-golosom-zaruchnykiv-kremlya-u-sviti-pidpyshit-petyczyu/>

⁵⁴ Resolutions of the UN General Assembly No. 71/205 of 19.12.2016, No. 72/190 of 19.12.2017, No. 73/263 of 22.12.2018, No. 74/168 of 18.12.2019

⁵⁵ Resolution of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine of December 11, 2019 № 1122 "On some issues of social and legal protection of persons deprived of their liberty as a result of armed aggression against Ukraine, after their release". <https://zakon.rada.gov.ua/laws/show/1122-2019-%D0%BF>

⁵⁶ Resolution of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine of April 18, 2018 No. 328 "On approving the procedure for spending the national budget allocations towards protection and ensuring the rights and interests and social rehabilitation of persons detained by illegal armed groups, occupation administration, and/or Russian Federation authorities on the temporarily occupied territories of Ukraine and/or on the territory of Russia on the grounds of public or political activity of such persons and their family members, including reimbursement of costs relating to visitation and provision of legal aid to such persons, medical and social services, payment of Levko Lukianenko scholarship". <https://zakon.rada.gov.ua/laws/show/328-2018-%D0%BF>

⁵⁷ Decree of the President of Ukraine of December 7, 2018 № 417/2018 "On state scholarships named after Levko Lukianenko". <https://zakon.rada.gov.ua/laws/show/417/2018>

⁵⁸ In 2018-2020, 161 families of detainees received financial assistance (100,000 UAH) allowing them to access legal aid (including supportive measures). This financial assistance was also made available to people released from captivity: 35 persons in 2019, and 65 persons in 2020. Levko Lukianenko scholarship has been granted to 17 persons, to be paid for the duration of illegal detention, and for the year after release. If granted after release, the scholarship is paid for one year. Also, 24 Ukrainian sailors captured in the Kerch Strait received government aid on the basis of Resolution of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine No. 1066 of 5 December 2018 concerning the support to persons illegally detained as a result of an act of armed aggression committed by the Russian Federation on 25 November 2018 in the Kerch Strait.

Principal judicial proceedings instituted by Ukraine and government-controlled actors against the Russian Federation in international courts

Ukraine and several entities controlled by Ukraine have filed a series of applications against Russia before the international courts:

Cases brought before the European Court of Human Rights:

1. *Ukraine v. Russia (re Crimea)* (application no. 20958/14) concerning human rights violations on the territory of Crimea as a result of its attempted illegal annexation by Russia (the admissibility hearing pending, priority status).
2. *Ukraine v. Russia (re eastern Ukraine)* (application no. 8019/16) concerning human rights violations on the territory of Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts (the admissibility hearing pending; hearings provisionally planned for late 2019 – early 2020).
3. *Ukraine v. Russia (II)* (application no. 43800/14) concerning the abduction on the territory of Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts of orphan children and children with disabilities by militants of the terrorist groups “DPR” and “LPR” and their illegal transportation to Russia (the admissibility hearing pending).
4. *Ukraine v. Russia (VII)* (application no. 38334/18) concerning violations of the rights of Ukrainian political prisoners by Russia (the admissibility hearing pending).
5. *Ukraine v. Russia (VIII)* (application no. 55855/18) concerning captured Ukrainian sailors (the admissibility hearing pending).

These applications encompass Ukraine’s complaints against violations of the following rights: right to life, prohibition of torture, right to liberty and right to respect for private life, freedom of thought, conscience and religion, freedom of expression, prohibition of discrimination, limitation on use of restrictions on rights, examination of the case, protection of property, right to free elections.

2019 was the year when Ukraine reaped most victories in litigation against Russia before the ECHR. It saw positive developments in the case *Ukraine v. Russia (re Crimea)* (application no. 20958/14). Comments submitted in 2017 exposed human rights violations committed after the events of February – March 2014. Also, presenting the position at hearings, the Government of Ukraine used reports of non-governmental and international organizations, having collected and used massive evidence about seizure of Crimea, detention of journalists, illegal searches and others.

On 11 September 2019, the Grand Chamber held a hearing in the course of which it reviewed the matter of Russia’s exceeding the quantity of military personnel permitted by the Kharkiv Agreements on the territory of Crimea. It was pointed out that initially the Russian contingent in Crimea had not exceeded 2,000 troops, as stipulated by the Agreements; however, in February 2014, Russia dispatched to the peninsula other military units, that are not part of the Black Sea Fleet, contrary to the Agreements. Indeed, the Agreements did allow for bringing new forces, but such measures were to be agreed with the Ukrainian Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Russia breached this requirement.

On 20 December 2018, the ECHR informed the Government of Ukraine about decision to hold hearing in the case *Ukraine v. Russia (re eastern Ukraine)* (application no. 8019/16) and granted Ukraine and Russia time for submission of respective proposals. Hearing was provisionally planned for late 2019 – early 2020. Ukraine submitted its position on 8 November 2019 based on the information obtained from the former Chief Military Prosecutor’s Office and Military Intelligence (Main Intelligence Directorate), also utilizing reports produced by non-governmental and international organizations.

During 2019 – early 2020 (before the COVID-19 pandemic), there were no new milestones in cases *Ukraine v. Russia (II)* (application no. 43800/14) concerning the abduction on the territory of Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts of orphan children and children with disabilities and their illegal transportation to Russia, *Ukraine v. Russia (VII)* (application no. 38334/18) concerning systematic violations of the rights of Ukrainian citizens illegally detained and prosecuted on the temporarily occupied territory of Crimea and on the territory of Russia, and *Ukraine v. Russia (VIII)* (application no. 55855/18) concerning servicemen of the Ukrainian Navy captured on 25 November 2018 during the attack launched by the coast-guard motor boats of the Russia's FSB (Federal Security Agency) in the Kerch Strait.

In addition to the inter-State applications, the ECHR also considers individual complaints, including, for example, application *Savchenko v. Russia* (concerning the illegal capture and detention in Russia of the member of the Ukrainian Air Force) and several applications filed by relatives of deceased passengers of the Malaysian Airlines MH17 flight who perished on 17 July 2014.

About 6,500 individual applications apparently related to the event in Crimea or the hostilities in eastern Ukraine are currently pending before the Court. They have been lodged against both Ukraine and Russia, or exclusively against one of those states. The Court has communicated to the Governments of both Russia and Ukraine five individual applications which concern the death, alleged death, or disappearance of the applicants' relatives in eastern Ukraine. The applicants allege breaches of Articles 2 (right to life), 3 (prohibition of torture and inhuman or degrading treatment), 5 (right to liberty and security), 8 (right to respect for private life), 10 (freedom of expression) and 13 (right to an effective remedy) of the Convention.⁵⁹

Cases brought before other international courts / courts of arbitration:

1. A dispute before the International Court of Justice (ICJ) with regard to application of the International Convention for the Suppression of the Financing of Terrorism and the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination. On 19 April 2017, the ICJ issued provisional measures against the Russian Federation; on 12 June 2018 the Ministry of Foreign Affairs submitted to the ICJ, on behalf of Ukraine, the Memorandum documenting serious violations committed by the Russian Federation (evidence presented in more than 1,000 annexes in 28 volumes).
2. A dispute before the Permanent Court of Arbitration (PCA) under Annex VII to the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea of 1982 (UNCLOS) between Ukraine and Russia over the coastal state rights in the Black Sea, the Sea of Azov and the Kerch Strait. Russia's main objectives maintain that Ukraine's claim does not concern UNCLOS but instead is an attempt to receive a ruling confirming Ukraine's sovereignty over the Crimean Peninsula. On 10-14 June 2019, the Tribunal in The Hague held the hearing concerning preliminary objections of the Russian Federation. The case is pending.
3. Since April 2014, the International Criminal Court that deals with war crimes and crimes against humanity has been reviewing the case "Situation in Ukraine" concerning three issues: killings at the Maidan, the situation in Crimea, and situation in Donbas.
4. The Amsterdam Court of Appeal is reviewing the case instituted in 2014 on the return of the "Scythian Gold" to the government-controlled area of Ukraine.

⁵⁹ European Court of Human Rights. Factsheet - Armed conflicts (March 2020). https://www.echr.coe.int/Documents/FS_Armed_conflicts_ENG.pdf

Investment arbitration

These cases concern individual or collective claims lodged by Ukrainian state-owned and private companies seeking redress for the value of property lost in Crimea due to its occupation. All in all, there are about a dozen such cases lodged by state-owned companies, private companies, and private investors. Since 2015, litigation in these cases has been under the supervision of the Ukrainian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, upon decision of the National Security and Defence Council.⁶⁰

PrivatBank and Finance Company Finilon LLC, Oschadbank, Ukrnafta, Ihor Kolomoisky and Belbek Airport, Stabil LLC, Everest Estate LLC, NJSC Naftogaz, NJSC Ukrenergo, and DTEK have resorted to the investment arbitration mechanisms. These cases are being considered by the courts of arbitration in the Netherlands, France and Switzerland.

Such disputed are litigated under the international agreements protecting investments made by an investor of one country on the territory of another country. Ukrainian companies invoke the Agreement between the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine and the Parliament of Russian Federation on the Encouragement and Mutual Protection of Investment signed in 1998. In the case of Crimea, however, the Ukrainian companies had made investments on the territory of Ukraine, and their assets were expropriated by Russia after the occupation. This circumstance is used by Russia to argue against the jurisdiction of an international arbitral tribunal, claiming that it cannot settle disputes concerning Ukrainian investment in the then-Ukrainian Crimea. Nevertheless, Ukrainian companies have had successful precedents, for example, in Switzerland. Moreover, it is for the first time when a commercial arbitral tribunal considers the protection of investment on an illegally seized territory.

At the end of 2018, Oschadbank became the first state-owned company that won an investment arbitration. On 26 of November 2018, the Permanent Court of Arbitration granted its award in the case *Oschadbank v. the Russian Federation*. In its award, the Tribunal stated that it had the jurisdiction to consider the dispute and found that the Russian Federation had illegally expropriated Oschadbank's assets in Crimea, violating its rights as an investor, and awarded the compensation in the amount of \$1.3 billion plus interest, which shall be accrued until the execution of the award.⁶¹ Apparently, the most successful case has been *Naftogaz v. Gazprom (Russia)* brought before the Stockholm Arbitration Tribunal (filed in June 2014) where Gazprom was ultimately obligated to pay Ukraine about \$2.5 billion. Another Naftogaz claim concerned expropriation of company's assets in Crimea, with estimated losses of \$5 billion.

There are also several cases brought by Ukraine pending decision by the World Trade organization. In December 2016, Ukraine filed a claim against Russia's restriction of import of railway carriages and equipment from Ukraine. Two claims concern Russia's restriction of Ukrainian import.⁶²

Detailed information about all claims filed by Ukraine (including Ukrainian companies) against the Russian Federation is available on the web portal <https://lawfare.gov.ua> create by the Ministry of Justice.

Polarization of society and main contributing factors. Degree of social cohesion in communities

Over the recent five years, the social fabric of Ukrainian society has become significantly transformed, in no small measure because of the temporary occupation of some areas of Ukraine and the armed conflict in its eastern part. New large social groups have emerged: veterans, IDPs, residents of temporarily occupied areas, military volunteers, etc. Moreover, some social institutions were no longer meeting social needs not only with regard to these new groups, but also other groups among population.

⁶⁰ BBC Ukraine. How Ukraine is suing Russia in international courts. Main cases (August 20, 2019). <https://www.bbc.com/ukrainian/features-49294741>

⁶¹ Ukraine's lawsuits against the Russian Federation. Official portal: <https://lawfare.gov.ua/cases>

⁶² Slovo I dilo. Compensation and recognition of aggression: what Ukraine requires of Russia in international courts (June 5, 2018). <https://www.slovoidilo.ua/2018/06/05/infografika/polityka/vidshkoduvannya-zbytkiv-vyznannya-ahresiyi-ukrayina-vymahaye-rf-mizhnarodnyx-sudax>

The protest sentiment has become more prominent among some groups, especially in organizations prone to violence, ATO/JFO veterans, and also among small businesses and farmers. Discontent with the central government's policy has been expressed by local politicians, journalists and experts.

While noting the protest sentiment in society and analysing open conflicts, the following underlying causes appear to be relevant:

- Infringements on democracy, legality and order;
- Absence of a clear political course of the country, comprehensible for ordinary citizens;
- Backslide on earlier initiated reforms and reversal of positive democratic changes;
- Change of political elites with influence on economic policy, high-level appointments, etc.;
- Absence of dialogue culture;
- Absence of proper communication of political initiatives attempted by the president, government and parliament;
- Some decisions made by the country's top leadership not meeting expectations of the general public.

Tension, polarization and conflicts lead to fragmentation and fractures in the Ukrainian society, splitting it into groups with radically opposing visions, weakening cohesion and resilience in the face of internal and external threats for Ukrainian democratic institutions, values and sovereignty. Cognizant of such "weak spots", various actors are able to employ a range of strategies to exacerbate fragmentation, deepen the divides and disparities between Ukrainians. Such external impacts can be successfully and promptly realized, should certain actors identify and use the root causes of tension in socio-economic, political, and cultural domains, and lack of cohesion and resilience in society.

Given the above, it is critical to make targeted efforts to prevent conflict and reduce tension between different groups, and to build pluralistic civic identity based on shared values of the Ukrainian society – values of democracy. Today, Ukrainians and especially young people need support that would ensure national unity, cultivate tolerance and increase trust to public institutions and local self-government.

1.2. Causes of conflict

Since 2000s, Russia has been pursuing its geopolitical strategies, taking cue from the fact that the international relations system was drifting from a unipolar to a multipolar world and aiming to become one of key poles. The country's national security concept document of 2000⁶³ declared that Russia would promote the ideology of multipolar world, and the sphere of its national interests would extend onto relations with independent states that formerly had been part of the Soviet Union and later formed the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) after the Soviet Union's collapse. It also identified threats to Russia's national interests, naming, *inter alia*, "weakening of integration processes within CIS", "weakening of Russia's political, economic and military influence in the world", and "NATO's expansion in the East".

Wholly in line with this stance, the popularity of the pro-Western presidential candidate **Viktor Yushchenko** in 2004 was perceived as a threat by Russia. Yushchenko's key rival was the incumbent Prime Minister **Viktor Yanukovich**, who represented Donetsk regional political and business elite and favoured close integration with Russia. Throughout the entire presidential election campaign, Russia was using its entire arsenal of influence to promote the pro-Russian candidate and prevent his opponent from winning. The topics of national identity, European versus Euro-Asian integration, and status of the Russian language were used to sow division in the Ukrainian society and at the same time mobilize constituents in eastern, southern and some central parts of Ukraine who outnumbered the electorate in western regions. Fear of a politician (Viktor Yushchenko) with ostensibly pro-Nazi and anti-Russian views and disdain for population in eastern and southern Ukraine coming into power was exploited as key emotional thrust. A leaflet attributed to Yushchenko's campaign about "three sorts of Ukrainians" can serve as an example.



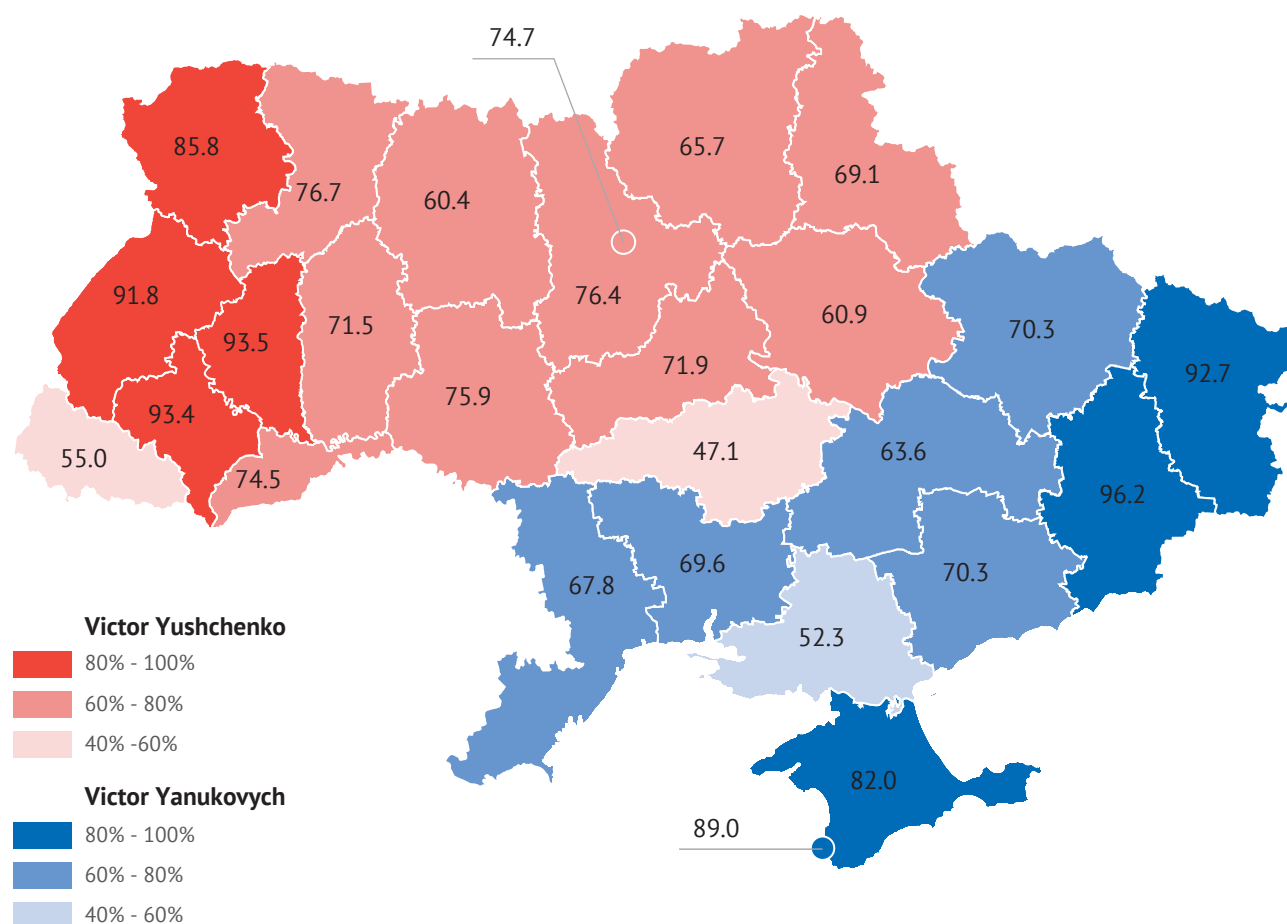
Photo 1. Billboards on "three sorts of Ukrainians" aimed to instigate inter-regional split⁶⁴

The 2004 presidential race included the runoff, and the voting results clearly showed the division of votes along the geographic lines.

⁶³ Decree of the President of the Russian Federation of January 10, 2000 № 24 "On the Concept of National Security of the Russian Federation". <http://www.kremlin.ru/acts/bank/14927>

⁶⁴ Channel 24. Political advertising in Ukraine: 2004 presidential election- three varieties of Ukrainians, division and "nashism" (September 12, 2018). https://24tv.ua/politichna_reklama_v_ukrayini_prezidentski_vibori_2004_tri_sorti_ukrayintsiv_rozko_ta_nashizm_n1029351

Figure 2. Runoff results of the 2004 presidential elections⁶⁵



The results of the runoff held on 21 November 2004 awarding the victory to the pro-Russian candidate were undoubtedly falsified; and once it became clear that Yanukovich would not be recognized as President, some pro-Russian politicians resorted to openly separatist tactics.

On 26 November 2004, representatives of Odesa hromada who supported Yanukovich gathered an assembly and proclaimed that should Yushchenko win the presidential election, they would initiate declaration of Odesa and Odesa oblast as a free, self-governing land – “**Novorosia Krai**”. One of the initiators of this idea was the then Mayor of Odesa, Ruslan Bodelan, who also presided over the local chapter of Yanukovich’s party – the Party of Regions.⁶⁶ On the same day, Luhansk oblast council adopted the decision establishing a new body with full powers within Luhansk oblast, and initiated creation of the so-called “Autonomous south-east Ukrainian republic” that was supposed to include all oblasts who gave their votes to Yanukovich, going *as far as appealing to Russia’s President Putin to recognize the future republic*.⁶⁷

Back in 2004, the split was mended, and the presidency was ultimately awarded to the pro-Western candidate, not in the least thanks to the support and mediation of Western leaders. The former Polish President Oleksandr Kwasniewski and former NATO Secretary General Javier Solana were the key negotiators in the process that included Russian Ambassador Viktor Chernomyrdin, who even at some point contemplated introducing a single currency of Ukraine and Russia, should Viktor Yanukovich win.⁶⁸

⁶⁵ Wikipedia. 2004 Ukrainian presidential election. https://uk.wikipedia.org/wiki/Вибори_Президента_України_2004

⁶⁶ Podrobnosti. Yanukovich’s supporters in Odesa want to secede into an independent Novorossiysk region (November 27, 2004). <https://podrobnosti.ua/161716-storonniki-janukovicha-v-odesse-hotjat-otdelitsja-v-samostojatelnyj-novorossiyskij-kraj.html>

⁶⁷ Ukrayinska Pravda. Luhansk wants to secede and seeks support from Putin (November 26, 2004). <https://www.pravda.com.ua/news/2004/11/26/3004702/>

⁶⁸ Ukrayinska Pravda. Kwasniewski: At the dacha I told Kuchma: since you are sitting in this village, you have no power (December 22, 2004). <https://www.pravda.com.ua/articles/2004/12/22/3005606/>

During the presidency of Viktor Yushchenko, Ukraine embarked on closer integration with the EU, gradually progressing towards signing of the Association Agreement, which was expected to take place at the Vilnius Summit in November 2013. It also prompted more active interventions by Russia that sought to influence Ukraine's ruling elite in an effort to stop Ukraine's integration with the EU. To this end, Russia employed a wide range of tools for both political and economic influence that included dangling promises of trade preferences and other economic advantages, especially regarding the supply of gas, oil and petroleum products, nuclear fuel, and offering financial resources on preferential terms,⁶⁹ while also attempting to bribe individual representatives of business circles with close ties to the then ruling elite with offerings of personal gains. Full capabilities of the Russian propaganda machinery were also deployed.

The then President Yehukovich's U-turn on signing of the Association Agreement with the EU led to mass protests. The Maidan Square in Kyiv became the epicentre of peaceful protests. Again, the familiar mechanisms designed to sow division in the Ukrainian society were deployed, trying to drive the split between citizens living in eastern and western parts of Ukraine. As a counterweight to the spontaneous, grass-roots Maidan protests, the so-called "anti-Maidan" was orchestrated, largely by bringing people from Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts. With striking resemblance to 2004, the same methods were used to inflame people from eastern and southern Ukraine – sowing fear of "western Ukrainians" by using false narratives of "fascists" mounting offensive, looming humiliation and persecution of people from eastern and southern parts of the country, with the ban of the Russian language for Russian-speaking Ukrainians and such like.

As early as in 2002, the Russia government put its stakes on Donetsk regional political and business elites with broad business interests in Russia and close ties with Russian partners. In addition, these elites that had accumulated formidable financial and economic resources for a long time had no high-level representation at national level. Having finally obtained the long-coveted high posts in 2002, most importantly the prime minister post, they quickly started to build political muscle and amass wealth, soon transforming into the oligarchic political class.

In 2013, being at the helm enabled the Donetsk oligarchic political clan to drive profits from companies located mainly in eastern Ukraine, and in parallel develop the supporting infrastructure – energy networks, railway, motorways, ports – using the national budget money over distribution of which they had ultimate influence. Notably, in 2013 the net revenues from Donbas in Ukraine's national budget amounted to mere 5.7% versus outgoing expenditures of 15.5%, the good part of which was channelled to subsidize coal mines. Moreover, as much as 73% of the national budget deficit was generated by Donbas only.⁷⁰ The privileged position of the so-called "Donetsk guys" and their influence on the distribution of public finances to bolster hand-picked industries and regions were arousing resentment of other political elites and business circles, both at regional and national levels. This resentment and discord later became one of the causes of continued regional standoff, which was supported and fuelled by Russia, not in the least degree through the use of its propaganda machinery.

⁶⁹ Case No: A4/2017/1755 «Ukraine and The Law Debenture Trust Corporation PLC» (September 14, 2018). <https://www.judiciary.uk/wp-content/uploads/2018/09/law-debenture-v-ukraine-final-judgment-14-sept-18.pdf>

⁷⁰ According to German Advisory Group Ukraine, 2015

1.3. Key developments influencing the conflict dynamic in 2014–2019

In early 2014, after the unlawful, excessive use of force against peaceful protesters, the then ruling Yanukovych's regime lost whatever remained of its legitimacy not only in the eyes of the Ukrainian people but also in the eyes of international community. Despite the all-out backing by Russia, the authoritarian regime crumbled, so Russia could no longer act through the democratically formed, but otherwise undemocratic Ukrainian governing structures controlled by it. This was the time of a major shift from non-military operations of influence to covert and/or plausibly deniable use of military force.

Fleeing of the Ukrainian president, prime minister, top government officials as well as heads of defence, intelligence and law-enforcement agencies to Russia, coupled with acute distrust, caused the public administration system to collapse, with especially damaging effects for the defence, security and civil sectors. Society appeared to be split, and pro-Russian politicians from Ukraine in consort with Russian politicians again offered Russia's protection to people in eastern and southern parts of the country.

In February 2014, Russian armed units launched an offensive to **establish control over Crimea and Sevastopol**. There are established facts of Russian troops using weapons against units of the Ukrainian Armed Forces, with at least two known deaths of Ukrainian servicemen in the cause of offensive. This gives the ground to view the events as an *inter-state armed conflict in Ukraine* that started with the seizure of Crimea and Sevastopol.

Almost simultaneously, a series of attempts to seize administrative buildings and rallies calling for the establishment of independent republics and closer ties or merging with Russia started in a number of eastern and southern areas. Russian flags were flown during such rallies, and local top officials and politicians either stepped aside without taking any preventative or response measures or openly supported them. As a result, pro-Russian rallying groups, that obviously included Russian citizens, managed to seize buildings of oblast administrations in Kharkiv (which was shortly afterward liberated by the Ukrainian law-enforcement) and also in Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts.

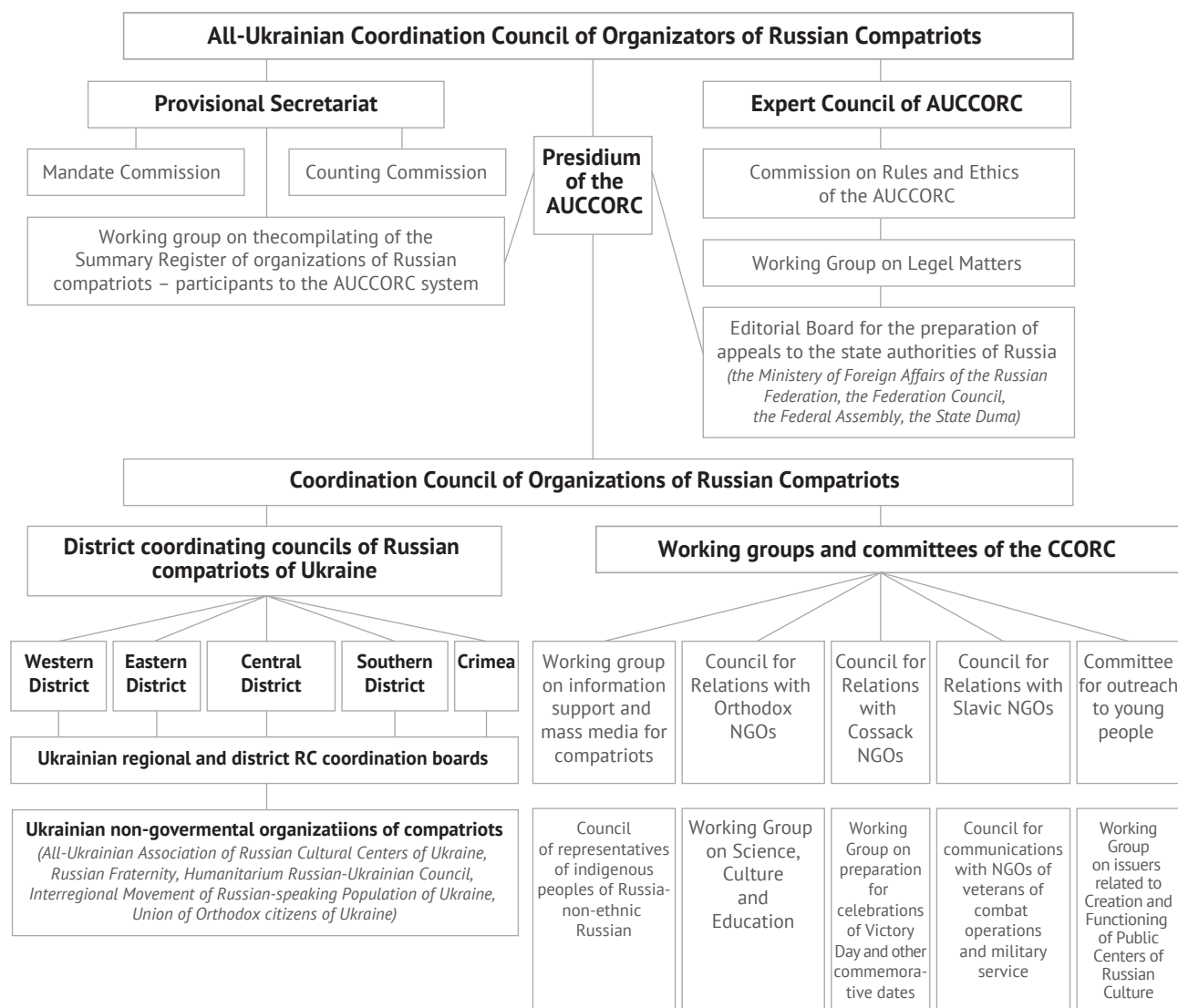
Russia's principal plan for Ukraine, starting from February 2014, was to dismember the country and thus establish control. For eastern and southern parts, Russia had a **plan to create the so-called "Novorosia"** – a disintegrated quasi-state entity or 'sham' federation that was supposed to incorporate Kharkiv, Donetsk, Luhansk, Zaporizhzhia, Kherson, Mykolaiv, Odesa and, if possible, other oblasts.

Russia's President Putin himself insisted on the alleged existence of the so-called "Novorosia": "... it is about ensuring lawful rights and interests of Russian and Russian-speaking citizens of south-eastern Ukraine – I remind you, using the Tsarist-era terminology, this is Novorosia: Kharkiv, Luhansk, Donetsk, Kherson, Mykolaiv, Odesa were not part of Ukraine in the Tsarist era, all these are territories given to Ukraine in the 1920s by soviet government. Why did they do it, only god knows. All this was happening following the respective victories of Potemkin and Katerina II in the known wars with Novorossiysk being the epicentre. Hence Novorosia. Then for various reasons the lands slipped away, but the people stayed there".⁷¹

Rallies calling for the breakaway of certain regions from Ukraine and/or their inclusion into Russia were conducted with covert (denied) support of the Russian defence and intelligence forces, the Russian Armed Forces, authorities and pro-Russian NGOs that followed the Russian government's direct instructions. These same organizations helped Yanukovych win in the 2010 race; their sprawling structure is presented below (scheme 2):

⁷¹ Administration of the President of the Russian Federation. Direct line with Vladimir Putin (April 17, 2014). <http://kremlin.ru/events/president/news/20796>

Figure 3. All-Ukrainian Coordination Council of Organizations of Russian Compatriots



At that time, despite some incidents involving arms and weapons, the standoff still looked more like paramilitary operations⁷² run by the Russian special task forces and/or intelligence.⁷³ The fight against them required special methods and was led by the Ukrainian Security Service.

One of the examples is the use of “**Cossack**” **paramilitary units** that enjoy privileged position in Russia, are governed by a special law and viewed as an ideologically driven instrument of the state, conservative in spirit and heavy-handed in tactics. It is not uncommon to involve Cossacks in keeping of public order (as was the case, for example, during the Soccer World Cup 2018 in Moscow).

Cossacks were particularly widely used in Luhansk oblast. As early as in the 17th century, several Cossack settlements were formed on this territory, and this fact was used as an additional pretext to justify the allegedly “special historical ties” between Luhansk oblast and Russia. For example, in the name of rural settlement Stanytsia Luhanska the first word alludes to a unit of political and economic organization of Cossacks in the Russian Empire.

⁷² Mark M. Lowenthal. Intelligence: From Secrets to Policy. Sixth edition. The 'ladder' of covert operations (2015)

⁷³ Asymmetric Warfare Group. Russian new generation warfare handbook, Version 1 (December 2016). <https://info.publicintelligence.net/AWG-RussianNewWarfareHandbook.pdf>

In April 2014, in response to the established control by armed groups over a range of settlements in Luhansk and Donetsk oblasts, Ukraine launched the **anti-terrorist operation** (ATO).⁷⁴ Incrementally, the standoff was assuming new character, with growing intensity of armed clashes and considerably wider range of weapons used in hostilities, including heavy weaponry.

During the summer, Ukrainian troops, being on their own territory, were repeatedly subject to shelling from the Russian side,⁷⁵ and the size of Russian military and other government forces grew to the extent that “plausible deniability” could no longer serve its purpose. Even though it was hybrid warfare, conventional methods of war were becoming increasingly prominent.

For example, in August 2014, within approximately 20 km from the border with Russia, ten Russian members of the military in uniform and were detained on the Ukrainian territory – all of them were uniformed personnel carrying weapons and moving in the armed vehicles in the direction opposite from the border with Russia.^{76,77}

On 4 August 2014, 437 servicemen of Ukrainian government armed forces entered the Russian territory in well-organized echelons. They were placed in transit premises. The wounded received first aid and were taken to the hospital in an ambulance. On the same day, these servicemen returned to Ukraine.⁷⁸ With regard to this incident it should be noted that these Ukrainian servicemen were not charged with illegal border-crossing, they retained their uniform, the chain of command and were kept separately. A possible explanation of such expedite return could be the assumption that Russia did not want to keep them because of the requirement to maintain due process and detention conditions under the Geneva Convention (III) on Prisoners of War, 1949,⁷⁹ which would entail the political risk of having to enter direct dialogue with the Ukrainian side. Political risks also existed in case of hand-over of Ukrainian troops to paramilitary groups that were recognized neither by Russia nor any other state. It would also go against the international humanitarian law.

One of the events that appeared to be pivotal in hostilities, following which the *advance of the Ukrainian troops towards border with Russia was halted*, was the **Battle of Ilovaisk**. It was the time when Russia massively employed its regular army troops, and several Russian servicemen were captured by the Ukrainian military.⁸⁰ The fighting led to complete encirclement of Ukrainian troops, and their release was negotiated by chiefs of general staff of Ukraine and Russia. Intense fighting continued until the end of August, and the Ukrainian forces suffered the greatest casualties in their entire history – from 420 to 460 killed, by various estimates.⁸¹ This massive loss of life has left a deep imprint in the Ukrainian society and today 29 August is marked as the Day of Remembrance and Commemoration of Defenders who gave their lives fighting for independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity of Ukraine (established in 2019).

On 3 September 2014, Ukrainian President Poroshenko and Russian President Putin engaged in talks via telephone, and on the following day the Trilateral Contact Group signed what is known as the **Minsk Protocol** (Minsk I).⁸² The main objective of the agreement, as stated in the Protocol, was bilateral ceasefire, but the document also outlined other steps, in particular monitoring and verification of ceasefire by the OSCE with the creation of security zones in the border regions of Ukraine and the Russian Federation.

The Minsk Protocol stipulated other political solutions such as 1) decentralization of power, including through the adoption of the Law on Provisional Regime of Local Self-Government in some areas of Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts (also referred to as the “Law on Special Status”) and holding of elections according to this law; and 2)

⁷⁴ Decree of the President of Ukraine of April 14, 2014 No. 405/2014 “On decision of the National Security and Defence Council of April 13, 2014 “On urgent measures to counter the terrorism threat and preservation of Ukraine’s territorial integrity”. <https://zakon.rada.gov.ua/laws/show/405/2014>

⁷⁵ Bellingcat. Putin’s Undeclared War: Summer 2014 - Russian Artillery Strikes against Ukraine (December 21, 2016). <https://www.bellingcat.com/news/uk-and-europe/2016/12/21/russian-artillery-strikes-against-ukraine/>

⁷⁶ TV channel Dozhd. The Security Service of Ukraine announced the capture of Russian paratroopers. Video of interrogations (August 26, 2014). <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EC5hKzQ3x6Y>

⁷⁷ Ukraine Crisis Media Center. Statement of fighters of the 98th Svir Division of the Airborne Troops. 08/26/2014 (August 27, 2014). https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HQR87oyo_Uc

⁷⁸ OSCE. Report of the OSCE Observation Mission along the Ukrainian-Russian Border (4 August 2014). <https://www.osce.org/om/122341>

⁷⁹ Convention (IV) relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War. Geneva, 12 August 1949. <https://ihl-databases.icrc.org/ihl/INTRO/380>

⁸⁰ Archive of the War. Interrogation of captured Russian soldiers in the battles for Ilovaisk in August 2014 (March 18, 2015). <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YYLUBmJ37Q>

⁸¹ BBC Ukraine. How much did the Ukrainian army lose in Ilovaisk? New data from the General Staff (August 27, 2019). <https://www.bbc.com/ukrainian/news-49487720>

⁸² OSCE. Protocol resulting from consultations of the Trilateral Contact Group on joint measures aimed at implementation of the Peace Plan of Ukrainian President Poroshenko and initiatives of Russian President Putin (September 5, 2014). <https://www.osce.org/files/f/documents/a/a/123258.pdf>

adoption of the law preventing prosecution and punishment of persons in relation to events taking place in some areas of Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts. Neither of the solutions envisaged creation of any quasi-entities, such as “DPR” and “LPR”, or any changes to the territory of Ukraine. Partially, the required legislation was adopted by the Ukrainian side already on 16 September 2014.⁸³

The Minsk Protocol also mentioned the need to adopt a programme of economic recovery for Donbas and restoration of normal functioning the region. Essentially, this objective was implemented in 2017 with the adoption of the State Target Programme for Recovery and Peacebuilding in eastern Ukraine⁸⁴ mentioned earlier. Other agreed-upon items concerned the release of all hostages and illegally detained individuals, continuation of inclusive national dialogue and the need to improve the humanitarian situation in Donbas.

Shortly after signing of the Minsk Protocol, on 19 September 2014 the follow-up **Memorandum** was agreed upon consultations of the Trilateral Contact Group clarifying the implementation of peace-making initiatives of Ukrainian President Poroshenko and Russian President Putin.⁸⁵ It outlined measures to detail the agreed bilateral ceasefire by specifying the types of weaponry to be banned; settlements were placement of heavy weaponry was prohibited; distance for weaponry pull-out, ban on placement of landmines and reinforcing obstacles. It should be noted that the contact line was established and geographically outlined in the Annex to this document.

However, neither of the adopted documents stopped hostilities, although there were some lapses of time after their signing when the intensity of fighting and use of heavy weaponry significantly decreased. On 26 September 2014, the Joint Centre for Control and Coordination (JCCC) was launched as a special group composed of representatives of Ukrainian and Russian military and the OSCE Special Monitoring Mission.

In February 2015, with the intensification of hostilities another attempt at de-escalation was made: on 11-12 February a summit was held in Minsk with participation of leaders of Germany, France, Ukraine and Russia that resulted in signing of a **package of measures to facilitate implementation of the Minsk agreements**, the so-called Minsk II, which was later adopted by the UN Security Council Resolution 2202(2015) and presented in Annex I to this resolution.

At the time of the plan drafting, fierce fighting was ongoing over the city of Debaltseve where the Russia-controlled armed groups were trying to encircle the Ukrainian government forces. According to French President François Holland, the talks were taking a long time, with no result in sight, which was, in his opinion, exactly what Russia wanted: *“I quickly realized that Putin was simply seeking to buy time by trying to delay the ceasefire for as long as possible to allow the separatists to encircle the Ukrainian army and seize additional positions”*.^{86,87} *“Time and again, Poroshenko and Putin would speak at the top of their voices to each other, and at some point Putin lost his temper and just threatened to completely squash his counterpart’s troops. It sounded like admission that his forces indeed were in eastern Ukraine. But after the short outburst, he promptly collected himself”*, he recalls.

The Ukrainian government forces fought their way out of Debaltseve after the package had been signed, having suffered severe losses, even though it had been agreed that the town with surrounding neighbourhoods was to remain under the Ukrainian government’s control.

The new package of measures partially repeated what had been agreed upon and outlined in Minsk I, additionally stipulating the establishment of a security zone of 50 to 140 km; initiation of a dialogue on modalities of local elections in ORDLO, holding of elections according to the OSCE standards, and monitoring by the OSCE Office of Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR); provision of amnesty and pardon; release and exchange of hostages and illegally held persons based on the “all for all” principle; establishment of modalities for full resto-

⁸³ The Law of Ukraine of September 16, 2014 № 1680-VII “On the special local self-government regime in some areas of Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts”. <https://zakon.rada.gov.ua/laws/show/1680-18>

⁸⁴ Resolution of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine of December 13, 2017 № 1071 “On approval of the State target program for the restoration and development of peace in the eastern regions of Ukraine”. <https://zakon.rada.gov.ua/laws/show/1071-2017-%D0%BF>

⁸⁵ OSCE. Memorandum on the implementation of the provisions of the Protocol following the consultations of the Tripartite Contact Group on steps aimed at implementing the Peace Plan of the President of Ukraine Petro Poroshenko and the initiatives of the President of Russia Vladimir Putin (September 19, 2014). <https://www.osce.org/files/f/documents/a/1/123807.pdf>

⁸⁶ François Holland. “Lessons of Power” (Memoirs), 2018

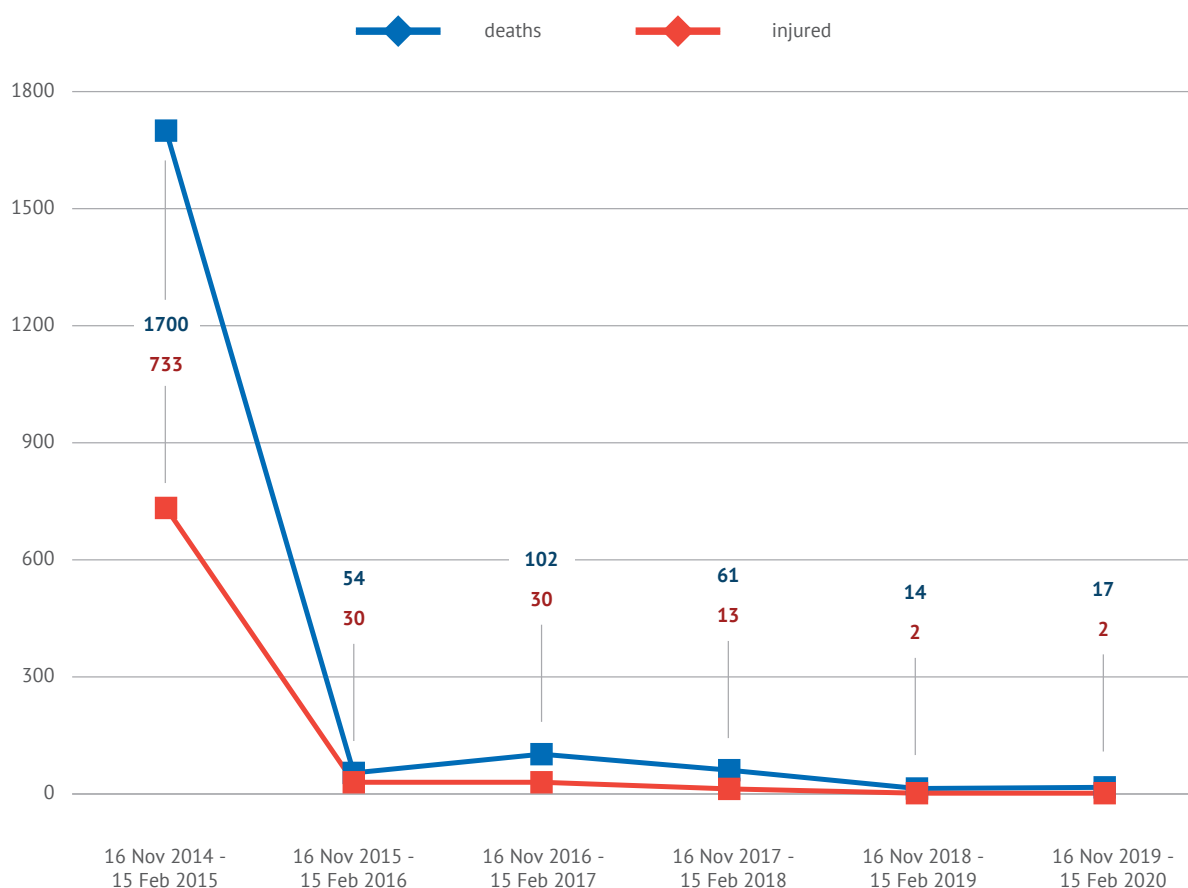
⁸⁷ BBC Ukraine. A long night in Minsk: what Holland said about the Minsk agreements and Putin’s plans for Ukraine (September 3, 2018). <https://www.bbc.com/ukrainian/features-45374522>

ration of social and economic connections, including payments of pensions, recovery of the banking system and taxation; restoration of Ukraine's control over the border between Ukraine and Russia on the first day after local elections; constitutional reform to allow for decentralization and adoption of permanent legislation of special status of ORDLO.

The Minsk II package contained direct measures to be reflected in the aforementioned legislation, in particular exemption from punishment and persecution, procedure for appointment of prosecutors and judges in ORDLO, the right to language self-determination, cross-border cooperation between ORDLO and Russian regions, freedom to create people's militia units, impossibility of early termination of office of local council members elected on the basis of legislation defined in the package.

Despite strong criticism of the package, following its signing the intensity of hostilities decreased. According to the UN Monitoring Mission, the number of civilian casualties (without fatalities from landmines and ERW in 2014-2015 was at least 3,038 persons, compared to 112 persons in 2017, 117 persons in 2018, 55 persons in 2018, and 27 persons in 2019. Comparison between the period from November 2014 to February 2015 and from November 2015 to February 2016 **shows the drop in civilian casualties by 25-30 times.**

Figure 4. Number of civilian casualties during the reporting period compared to the same period of previous years (November 16 – February 15)⁸⁸



⁸⁸ OHCHR. Report on the Human Rights Situation in Ukraine, 16 November 2019 to 15 February 2020. https://www.ohchr.org/Documents/Countries/UA/29thReportUkraine_EN.pdf

On 16 May 2015, after the package was signed, in the course of a firefight near the town of Shchastya in Luhansk oblast, the Ukrainian military detained two Russian citizens who were carrying weapons and wearing the uniform without insignia that would give indication of the military formation of a particular state. These individuals reported to both the Ukrainian authorities and OSCE⁸⁹ that they were members of Armed Forces of the Russian Federation.

Until March 2017, freight railway transportation had been maintained between GCA and NGCA. Largely, it was transportation of coal extracted in NGCA and products of the metallurgy sector manufactured by companies within ORDLO. This provided economic connection with areas that appeared outside the control of the Ukrainian authorities. The railway and companies of coal, metallurgy and adjacent sectors employed over 100,000 people who lived within what is now known as ORDLO. They received their wages using bank cards in Ukrainian currency, paid taxes, including military duty, and were in regular contact of administrative character with the staff of their headquarters and other divisions located within GCA.

President's Decree with regard to the decision of the National Security and Defence Council (NCDC) of 15 March 2017 enacting immediate additional measures on counteracting hybrid threats to Ukraine's national security, **terminated freight movement across the contact line**.⁹⁰ The decision was preceded by a series of developments in GCA that started in December 2016 when several members of parliament from *Samopomich* party, led at the time by Lviv Mayor Sadovyy, organized blockages on railway tracks used to move freight across the contact line, largely by efforts of former members of Ukrainian voluntary units. There were two key demands: first, release of all Ukrainian prisoners of war and termination of the so-called "blood trading" that allegedly was financing the aggressor, and second, termination of what they claimed to be illegal and amoral movement of goods across the contact line that was publicly announced to be "contraband". The quasi-state bodies of ORDLO promptly seized the opportunity and installed the so-called "temporary administrations" in companies that until then had been controlled by owners from GCA, essentially robbing them of their legitimate property rights.

The NCDC in turn banned the movement because the Ukrainian owners had been stripped of their rights in such companies. The decree and NCDC decision imposed the key condition on which the movement of goods could be resumed, namely return of assets to their lawful owners, adding another demand, namely full implementation of the Minsk agreements. The latter postpones resumption of freight carriage for indefinite time, even when seized assets are returned to lawful owners.

On 28 November 2018, an armed incident took place near the Kerch Strait involving the **attack of Russian armed forces on three Ukrainian naval ships** sailing from the Black Sea to the Sea of Azov. The attack was launched in the waters that, according to the internationally recognized borders, are part of Ukraine's territory, and were seized in the international waters after pursuit. The Russian side used fire that resulted in wounding 6 persons and capturing of 24 Ukrainian navy sailors. However, the Russian side failed to respect the Geneva Convention on Prisoners of War of 1949, despite the obvious armed clash between military units of the two states, making it an inter-state armed conflict. Non-compliance with the international humanitarian law could be politically motivated – aimed to avoid giving any pretext for being recognized as a side in the international conflict with Ukraine.

⁸⁹ Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe. Latest from OSCE Special Monitoring Mission to Ukraine (May 21, 2015). <https://www.osce.org/ukraine-smm/159296>

⁹⁰ Decree of the President of Ukraine of March 15, 2017 №62/2017 "On the decision of the National Security and Defence Council of Ukraine of March 15, 2017 "On urgent additional measures to combat hybrid threats to the national security of Ukraine". <https://www.president.gov.ua/documents/622017-21470>

1.4. Key actors and their intentions

Russian Federation: intentions, position, goals and means of achievement

It should be generally recognized that Russia makes opportunistical use of the problems that existed and continue to exist in Ukrainian society. Its main efforts are aimed at “diluting” the Ukrainian identity and replacing it with the Russian identity. Thus, Russian politicians and historians claim that the historical era of Kiyvan Rus, adoption of Christianity and the language of Kiyvan Rus provide evidence and grounds to justify a doctrine, explained through five major components: 1) single people; 2) single state; 3) single language; 4) single religion (dominating at the state level); 5) single culture. In relation to countries that have never had a common state with Russians or, for example, peoples that bear no features of kinship with Russia and maintain different religion, the Russian language is accepted as a sufficient identifier of belongingness to the “Russian world”. It typically means that Russian-speaking citizens should enjoy the protection of the Russian state regardless of where they live and citizenship of which state they hold.

Examining various aspects of Russian-Ukrainian relations we repeatedly registered “double” identity of some respondents. For example, according to a survey conducted by PEW Research Centre⁹¹ in 2017, the countries where Orthodox Christians are in majority (76% in Ukraine) considerable part of population believe the Orthodox faith to be important part of national identity. Many Orthodox Christians, not only those who belong to the Russian Orthodox Church, hold pro-Russian views, and the majority of them believe that Russia is needed as counterweight to Western influence. Quite a few maintain that Russia has the obligation to protect not only ethnic Russians living outside the country but also Orthodox Christians in other states. Thus, more than a third of Ukrainians (38%) believe that Russia has the obligation to protect Orthodox Christians in other states (without residents of Crimea, Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts, which means that otherwise the percentage could be much higher), and 54% of Ukrainian citizens in the east and 25% in the west of the country believe that Russia should protect ethnic Russians living outside Russia. Moreover, in Ukraine ethnic Russians tend to hold negatively view of the Soviet Union disintegration.

Russian politicians maintain that Ukrainians can easily integrate in Russian society that has serious demographic problems and lack of human resources. Many Russian politicians, experts and scholars believe that from the strategic perspective these problems create a hindrance for Russia to establish itself as one of the poles in the multipolar world. Russia is nursing geopolitical plans to restore its influence over the independent state that formerly were part of the Soviet Union, employing an array of “hard” and “soft” power tools.

In case of ORDLO, the solution that would be likely to satisfy Russia in short-term perspective⁹² is close to the so-called “Transdnistria” option – ceasefire, peacekeeping forces or joint forces comprising representatives of Ukraine and ORDLO along the contact line, with participation of OSCE, free economic area for Donbas with a view to legalization and revitalization of economic activity within ORDLO. The next step could be political settlement on certain conditions, including special status of ORDLO that in practice may be in the form of federation or wide autonomy. In both cases, Russia wants ORDLO to have be able to block certain decisions at national level, for example, regarding joining NATO. In this approach, for Russia it would be desirable to implement the first step quickly, whereas the transition to the second phase may take decades to finalize.

Some members of the Russian political elite, such as Vladislav Surkov and Vladimir Zhirinovskiy, insist on the so-called “Abkhazia” option, meaning Russia’s recognition of “DPR” and “LPR” and conclusion of inter-state agreements, including defence agreements, with subsequent gradual integration up to the level of regular Russian regions with simultaneous harmonization with Russian legislation of all acts issued by the so-called “republics”.

⁹¹ Pew Research Center. Religion and nationality in Central and eastern Europe (May 10, 2017). <https://assets.pewresearch.org/wp-content/uploads/sites/11/2017/05/10104852/CEUP-Overview-Russian-FOR-WEB.pdf>

⁹² Based on unofficial information from Russian sources

Since 2014, NGCA has been targeted by interventions aimed to integrate population in ORDLO to the cultural, legal, economic and information areas of Russia, in parallel with actions aimed at their **disintegration from Ukraine**:

- Intentionally created disruptions in the work of mobile operators providing communication services to users, development of “local” mobile operators, easy and cheap connection with users on the territory of Russia;
- Termination of circulation of Ukrainian currency and introduction of Russian roubles into circulation;
- Termination / blockage of Ukrainian media broadcasting and blockage of Ukrainian websites;
- Rejection of Ukrainian language instruction in schools, introduction of special admissions at some Russian higher education institutions and the possibility to receive diplomas issued by these institutions through schools located at ORDLO;
- Introducing changes in the school and university history curricula to present history in a different light manipulating facts according to propagate the “Russian world” doctrine;
- Wide engagement of popular Russian performers in mass concerts and other events to attract and accustom people to the Russian mass culture;
- Prohibition on the use of Ukrainian license plates on vehicles and free use of those issued by quasi-republics in Russia;
- Induced issuance of “passports”, creating such conditions for civil population that would force them to apply for passports issued by the “republics” without which people are not able to sustain themselves, i.e. receive services, use quasi-banks, etc.;
- Creating incentives for Ukrainian citizens residing within ORDLO to apply for and receive Russian passports;⁹³
- Obstruction to opening of new checkpoints for passage across the contact line (for example, near Zolote in Luhansk oblast, which was agreed upon back in 2015 within the Trilateral Contact Group);
- Restriction of bringing the goods to ORDLO across the contact line (the limits on movement of goods imposed by the Ukrainian authorities are much higher and the list of allowed items is much broader).

In November 2014 and 2018, **the so-called “republics” conducted elections to their quasi-state bodies**, the results of which have not been recognized by a single country. Experts close to the Kremlin point out that these elections are not covered by the Minsk agreements since the agreement mentions the elections to local self-governments only that indeed have not been conducted within ORDLO. Elections to the quasi-state bodies are aimed to legitimize figures designated by Russia and create a veneer of subjectivity of the “republics”. Moreover, these quasi-state bodies issue acts that are identical or very similar to acts of Russian legislation.

In all public statements on conflict resolution, the Russian leadership directly or indirectly imply that Russia is not a side in the conflict, and negotiations should be conducted with representatives of ORDLO that call themselves “ministers”, “members of parliament” and use other terms typical for states. In electronic communication with international organizations and representatives of countries that from time to time communicate with them, representatives of ORDLO use attributes they claim to be “symbols of the state”, and demand that humanitarian organizations address them by using “titles” according to their positions in the quasi-state bodies.

⁹³ Decree of the President of the Russian Federation of April 24, 2019 “On determining for humanitarian purposes the categories of persons entitled to apply for citizenship of Russia in a simplified manner”. <http://kremlin.ru/acts/news/60358>

Ukraine: intentions, position, goals and means of achievement

The official position of Ukraine is to observe the Minsk agreements; however, government officials have recently been raising the question of their revision and engagement in the process, in addition to Germany and France, of the United States and the United Kingdom⁹⁴ as signatory states of the Budapest Memorandum on Security Assurance relating to Ukraine's accession to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons.⁹⁵ Representatives of the majority parliamentary party, Presidential Office,⁹⁶ and government officials maintain that the potential of the Budapest Memorandum has not been fully exhausted, thus it should be used in the conflict resolution process.⁹⁷

However, according to Deputy Head of Russian Presidential Administration Dmitriy Kozak, the chief responsible official for conflict resolution with Ukraine, "the attempts to invent new tools contain real danger of postponing conflict resolution for many years".⁹⁸

Ukrainian President Zelensky stated in the fall of 2019 and then re-iterated in 2020 that if no meaningful progress in the implementation of the Minsk agreements is achieved within one year, Ukraine would switch to Plan B. Similar references have been made by Ukrainian Minister of Foreign Affairs, but so far the content of this Plan B has not been publicly announced.

Until today, the EU states and the US have been publicly backing the implementation of the Minsk agreements.

1.5 Key external actors interested in the conflict resolution at global and regional levels

The European Union

The EU has agreed upon its Russia policy adopted in 2016 at the meeting of EU Foreign Ministers by all EU member states (revised in 2018), identifying Five Guiding Principles:⁹⁹

1. Full implementation of the Minsk agreements;
2. Strengthening EU resilience to Russian threats;
3. Closer ties with Russia's former Soviet neighbours;
4. Selective engagement with Russia on certain issues such as counter-terrorism;
5. Support for people-to-people contacts.

The EU is also consistent in imposing sanctions on Russia due to the attempted illegal annexation of Crimea, violation of the territorial integrity of Ukraine and non-implementation of the Minsk agreements. The sanctions have been repeatedly renewed and the sanction list has been expanded. Restrictive measures include freeze of financial assets in the EU states and ban of entry to the EU for individuals included in the sanction list. They are targeted

⁹⁴ Novoye vremia. And to raise the issue of Crimea. Reznikov told NV which two countries he would like to involve in the negotiation process on the occupied territories (July 29, 2020). <https://nv.ua/world/geopolitics/reznikov-hochet-videt-ssha-i-velikobritaniyu-na-peregovorah-po-donbassa-novosti-ukrainy-50102975.html>

⁹⁵ UN General Assembly Security Council. Resolution A/49/765 (December 19, 1994). Memorandum on Security Assurances in Connection with Ukraine's Accession to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons. https://www.un.org/en/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=A/49/765

⁹⁶ Television news service. Kravchuk is considering the creation of a new Budapest Memorandum in case of unsuccessful TCG negotiations on Donbass (August 6, 2020). <https://tsn.ua/politika/kravchuk-rozglyadaye-stvorenniya-novogo-budapeshtskogo-memorandumu-v-razi-neuspishnih-peregovoriv-tkg-po-donbasu-1601197.html>

⁹⁷ Atlantic Council. To stop Putin, the Western world must revisit the 1994 Budapest Memorandum (May 31, 2020). <https://www.atlanticcouncil.org/blogs/ukrainealert/to-stop-putin-the-western-world-must-revisit-the-1994-budapest-memorandum/>

⁹⁸ TASS. Dmitry Kozak: Negotiations with Ukraine resemble a theater of absurdity (July 9, 2020). <https://tass.ru/interviews/8919515>

⁹⁹ European Union. The EU's Russia policy: Five guiding principles. Briefing (February 2, 2018). https://www.europarl.europa.eu/thinktank/en/document.html?reference=EPRS_BRI%282018%29614698

at financial, energy and defence sectors as well as dual-use goods. The sanction restrict access to the EU primary and secondary capital markets for some Russian banks and companies, ban financial assistance and intermediary activity relating to Russian financial institutions, ban direct and indirect import, export or transfer of military equipment and ban dual-use goods that can be used for military purposes or by military end users in Russia.

The EU statement on Russia's ongoing aggression made in July 2020 again highlights: *"We call on Russia to fully assume its responsibility in this regard and to use its considerable influence over the armed formations it backs to meet the Minsk commitments in full. Respect for these principles and commitments must be restored. We again call on Russia to immediately stop fuelling the conflict by providing financial and military support to the armed formations, and we remain deeply concerned about the presence of Russian military equipment and personnel in areas held by Russia-backed armed formations. The duration of the European Union's economic sanctions against Russia is linked to the complete implementation of the Minsk agreements"*.¹⁰⁰

On 27 July 2020, commenting on the statements made by the Russian President's press-secretary Dmitriy Peskov that Russia cannot guarantee maintaining of the ceasefire in Donbas because it is not a side in the conflict, Enrique Mora, Political Director at the European External Action Service, stressed: *"For us the role of Russia is clear. It is not an intermediary in this conflict but its side", adding that Russia "should become part of the solution, if it wants the EU to lift sanctions imposed after the illegal annexation of Crimea and before armed hostilities in Donbas... This is our position and it will remain unchanged until we see clear progress in this issue"*.¹⁰¹

The EU provides continuous support to Ukraine that includes humanitarian aid via UN agencies, ICRC, international and domestic NGOs (coordinated by Directorate-General for European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations – DG ECHO), international technical assistance to central government and local authorities (coordinated by the EU Delegation) and loans to restore infrastructure. Since 1 December 2014, the EU Advisory Mission has been working in Ukraine delivering support to Ukrainian government with civil security sector reforms.

The United States

The position of the US regarding the conflict in eastern Ukraine, occupation of Crimea and support to Ukraine has been strong and consistent since 2014. The US was among the first countries to openly speak about Russia's attack on Ukraine and backing of illegal armed formations. Based on this, the US imposed sanctions on Russian individuals and entities involved in the occupation and attempted illegal annexation of Crimea and backing of illegal armed formations, in particular in the financial, defence and energy sectors. Moreover, the US supported Ukraine by provision of lethal weapons, for example, by supply in 2018 of Javelin anti-tank missiles.

On 8 December 2017, the US Secretary of State Rex Tillerson announced in Vienna during the discussion of proposed peacekeeping forces in Ukraine that Washington would not lift sanctions against Russia until Moscow stops backing separatists in Ukraine and abolishes its annexation of Crimea.

Another important signal of solidarity with Ukraine regarding Russia's aggression was the so-called Crimean declaration – statement issued on 25 July 2018 by the US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo that could be viewed as codification of rejection of Russia's attempted annexation of Crimea and claims regarding the peninsula. Poland, Germany, the UK, Denmark and the Baltic states joined the Crimean declaration. Similar statements were made by Pompeo on 26 February and 22 July 2020.

On 12 November 2018, Kurt Volker, US State Department Special Representative for Ukraine Negotiations communicated the US support to the deployment of the UN peacekeeping forces to the occupied areas of Ukraine's Donbas.

¹⁰⁰ Ukrinform. The European Union has issued a statement on Russia's aggression against Ukraine (July 10, 2020). <https://www.ukrinform.ua/rubric-politics/3060719-evrosouz-vistupiv-iz-zaavou-sodo-agresii-proti-ukraini.html>

¹⁰¹ DW. EU Insisting That Russia Is a Side in Donbas Conflict (July 27, 2020). <https://www.dw.com/uk/y-ec-na-poljagajut-na-tomu-cho-rosija-storona-konfliktu-na-donbasi/a-54357313>

During an online meeting of the OSCE Permanent Council on 19 June 2020, the US Ambassador to the OSCE James Gilmore stated: “Although Moscow denies its role in the conflict it started in Donbas, the presence of troops trained, equipped and controlled by Russia is confirmed by multiple sources, and Russia continues to fuel this conflict”.

The US provides continuous support to Ukraine that includes humanitarian aid via UN agencies, ICRC, international and domestic NGOs, and international technical assistance to central government and local authorities.

NATO

In political statements and decisions of NATO Parliamentary Assembly, NATO leadership continuously insists on the restoration of territorial integrity and sovereignty of Ukraine, its support of the Minsk agreements,^{102,103} the necessity to get Russia back to the JCCC and deployment of the UN peacekeeping mission.

In one of the recent statements in February 2020, NATO expressed concern with the upsurge of violence in eastern Ukraine stating that NATO views the actions of Russia-backed mercenaries as undermining of the Minsk agreements and all efforts on peaceful conflict resolution. It again called on Russia to withdraw its forces, stop backing of the separatists and take real effort to implement the Minsk agreements.¹⁰⁴

Council of Europe

In April 2014, the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (PACE) suspended voting rights of the Russian delegation and excluded it from leading bodies by the end of the year because of their support of actions related to the occupation and illegal annexation of Crimea. Russian delegation was also excluded from election observation missions.¹⁰⁵ The adopted Resolution 1988 (2014) “Recent developments in Ukraine: threats to the functioning of democratic institutions” supported the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Ukraine and condemned “the authorisation of the Parliament of the Russian Federation to use military force in Ukraine, the Russian military aggression and the subsequent annexation of Crimea, which is in clear violation of international law, including the Charter of the United Nations, the Helsinki Final Act of the OSCE and the Statute and basic principles of the Council of Europe.”¹⁰⁶

Further, by adopting Resolution 2063, the Assembly again supported Ukraine and resolved to annul the credentials of the Russian delegation at its June 2015 part-session if no progress had been made with regard to the implementation of the Minsk Protocol and Memorandum, as well as the demands and recommendations of the Assembly as expressed in that resolution, in particular with regard to the immediate withdrawal of Russian military troops from eastern Ukraine. The Russian delegation returned to the Assembly only in 2019, which caused indignation of many delegates.

In Resolution 2028 (2015) “The humanitarian situation of Ukrainian refugees and displaced persons” adopted on 27 January 2015, the Assembly underlined that only a sustainable political solution based on respect for Ukraine’s independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity can lead to the improvement of the humanitarian situation.¹⁰⁷ The Assembly called on all sides of the conflict to fully respect and implement the Minsk agreements, also by Russia, and specifically called on Russia to refrain from destabilising Ukraine and financing and providing military support to illegal armed groups.

¹⁰² NATO Parliamentary Assembly. Resolution 437 on Stability and Security in the Black Sea Region (October 9, 2017). <https://www.nato-pa.int/document/2017-resolution-437-black-sea-219-cds-17-e>

¹⁰³ NATO. Joint statement of the NATO-Ukraine Commission (July 10, 2017). https://www.nato.int/cps/uk/natohq/official_texts_146087.htm?selectedLocale=en

¹⁰⁴ Ukrinform. Russia must withdraw troops from Donbas - NATO's statement on today's escalation (February 18, 2020). <https://www.ukrinform.ua/rubric-politics/2879171-rosia-mae-vives-ti-vijska-z-donbasu-zaava-nato-sodo-sogodnisnoi-eskalacii.html>

¹⁰⁵ PACE. Resolution 1990 (2014). Review of the merits of the previously ratified powers of the Russian delegation. <http://assembly.coe.int/nw/xml/XRef/Xref-XML2HTML-en.asp?fileid=20882>

¹⁰⁶ PACE. Resolution 1988 (2014). Recent developments in Ukraine: a threat to the functioning of democratic institutions. <http://assembly.coe.int/nw/xml/XRef/Xref-XML2HTML-en.asp?fileid=20873>

¹⁰⁷ PACE. Resolution 2028 (2015). The humanitarian situation of Ukrainian refugees and displaced persons. <http://assembly.coe.int/nw/xml/XRef/Xref-XML2HTML-en.asp?fileid=21480>

Resolution 2133 (2016) “Legal remedies for human rights violations on the Ukrainian territories outside the control of the Ukrainian authorities” adopted in October 2016 was the first international document that recognized the Russian Federation as a side in the conflict using the term “effective control”. It clearly states that “... the annexation of Crimea by the Russian Federation and the military intervention by Russian forces in eastern Ukraine violate international law and the principles upheld by the Council of Europe”. The Assembly urged the Russian authorities to repeal the decision of the Supreme Court of the Russian Federation to outlaw the Mejlis, and to allow the Crimean Tatar people to choose their own self-governing institutions.

In Resolution 2132 (2016) “Political consequences of the Russian aggression in Ukraine”,¹⁰⁸ the Assembly expressed regret the conflict and the Russian Federation’s actions in this respect have undermined the overall stability and security on our continent as well as the advancement towards a strategic partnership with the Russian Federation over the last few decades. It mentioned that the European Union should also reflect upon strategies for the future of the region which will de-escalate the current tensions and help to rebuild confidence in its neighbourhood. Concerning the economic consequences of the conflict, the Assembly noted that they are considerable not only for Ukraine itself and for the Russian Federation, but also for the European Union and several European countries which have been affected to varying but significant degrees by the sanctions against the Russian Federation and Russian counter-sanctions. The debate over sanctions divides the European Union and threatens its cohesion. However, international pressure, including sanctions, must be maintained until the Russian aggression has ceased and the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Ukraine within its internationally recognised borders has been fully restored.

The Assembly adopted other resolutions relating to the armed conflict in Ukraine and occupation of Crimea, for example:

1. Resolution 2034 (2015) “Challenge, on substantive grounds, of the still unratified credentials of the delegation of the Russian Federation”,¹⁰⁹
2. Resolution 2067 (2015) “Missing persons during the conflict in Ukraine”,¹¹⁰
3. Resolution 2112 (2016) “The humanitarian concerns with regard to people captured during the war in Ukraine”.¹¹¹

France and Germany

France and Germany have playing significant political role in the process of conflict resolution in eastern Ukraine, providing for the functioning of the “Normandy Format talks”. In 2015, the joint Declaration¹¹² by the leaders of Ukraine, Russia, France and Germany highlighted that French and German leaders would commit to support Russia and Ukraine in the implementation of the Minsk agreements and use their pressure on respective sides.

This declaration formalized the control mechanism in the “Normandy Format” (Ukraine, Russia, France and Germany) that should meet with regular periodicity, as a rule, at the level of senior officials representing the foreign ministries. It also stipulates that as part of the implementation of the Minsk agreements Germany and France will be providing technical support to restore segments of the banking system in the conflict-affected areas, possibly, by creating an international mechanism to facilitate social payments.

¹⁰⁸ PACE. Resolution 2132 (2016). Political consequences of the Russian aggression in Ukraine. <http://assembly.coe.int/nw/xml/XRef/Xref-XML2HTML-en.asp?fileid=23166>

¹⁰⁹ PACE. Resolution 2034 (2015). Challenge, on substantive grounds, of the still unratified credentials of the delegation of the Russian Federation. <http://assembly.coe.int/nw/xml/XRef/Xref-XML2HTML-en.asp?fileid=21538>

¹¹⁰ PACE. Resolution 2067 (2015). Missing persons during the conflict in Ukraine. <http://assembly.coe.int/nw/xml/XRef/Xref-XML2HTML-en.asp?fileid=21970>

¹¹¹ PACE. Resolution 2112 (2016). The humanitarian concerns with regard to people captured during the war in Ukraine. <https://assembly.coe.int/nw/xml/XRef/Xref-XML2HTML-en.asp?fileid=22750>

¹¹² UN Security Council. Resolution 2202 (17 February 2015). Package of Measures for the Implementation of the Minsk Agreements. [https://undocs.org/en/S/RES/2202\(2015\)](https://undocs.org/en/S/RES/2202(2015))

From the start of the armed conflict, Germany and France have been invariable in their insistence on restoration of Ukraine's territorial integrity and sovereignty, defend the necessity to implement the Minsk agreements, conduct consultations on finding ways for conflict resolution and provide humanitarian and international technical assistance to Ukraine as well as preferential-term loans for the development of conflict-affected areas and relief to population.

Ukraine's actions on the international arena in 2018–2020

In 2018-2020 Ukraine continued efforts to sustain international pressure on Russia. Because the Russian aggression against Ukraine remained high on the agenda of international organizations, in particular the UN, OSCE and the Council of Europe, they maintained a clear stance condemning Russia's actions and supporting Ukraine's sovereignty and territorial integrity and remained committed to the policy of non-recognition of Russia's illegal annexation of Crimea and any change in its international legal status.

The most noteworthy examples of international solidarity with Ukraine and pressure on Russia in this period include the following: the decision of the UN General Assembly of 21 September 2018 to include the issue about the situation in the temporarily occupied areas of Ukraine as a new item in the agenda of its 73rd Session; convening of the UN Security Council meeting on 26 November 2018 relating to Russia's armed aggression in the Black Sea (Ukraine's partners in the UN Security Council condemned Russia's provocations and demanded from Russia to provide free access to the Sea of Azov to Ukrainian vessels, and also condemned occupation of Crimea); adoption on 22 December 2018 of the revised and more tough for the occupant state Resolution of the UN General Assembly, initiated by Ukraine, on the human rights situation in Crimea as well as Resolution on militarization of Crimea and Sevastopol of 17 December 2018; presentation of 2 August 2019 of the First Report of the UN Secretary General on the human rights situation in Crimea in Sevastopol as a follow-up on the Resolution 2018 on the human rights situation in Crimea; adoption of updated resolutions on the human rights situation in Crimea on 18 December 2019 and on militarization of Crimea and Sevastopol of 9 December 2019.

Ukraine was actively using the opportunities of its three-year membership in the UN Human Rights Council (2018-2020) to draw the international attention to Russia's aggression. Ukrainian diplomats initiated joint statements of UN member states condemning mass-scale human rights violations in the occupied areas. Ukraine regularly used opportunities to announce positions of various countries, most prominently, the position of Ukraine's strategic allies on the ongoing Russian aggression against Ukraine (the EU, Poland, the Baltic states, the UK, the USA, Canada). For example, Canada being the Host state of the G7 Summit initiated the statement of the G7 foreign ministers in support of Ukraine, with firm condemnation of the Russian aggression.

In the Normandy Format talks, Germany and France continue to support Ukraine's approach to prioritization of the implementation of the Minsk agreements.

In May 2020, Ukrainian Chairmanship ensured organization of the plenary meeting of the OSCE Forum for Security Co-operation that also discussed the security situation in the Black Sea and the Sea of Azov region, which had been included as a separate agenda item for the first time since 2014. Upon discussion, the UK, the USA, Canada, Georgia and the EU issued statements in support of Ukraine's sovereignty and territorial integrity, urging Russia to stop militarization of Crimea and withdraw Russian troops, and calling for restoring Ukraine's control over the temporarily occupied Crimea and Sevastopol. Ukraine also gives considerable attention to preservation and strengthening of pressure on Russia in the form of sanctions.

In 2018, 2019 and first half of 2020, the EU sanctions on Russia were reviewed for further 6 and 12 months ("Crimean package"). In 2018, the US enhanced sanctions on Russia, with the US President granting additional authorization to the Secretary of the Treasury and the Secretary of State to impose sanctions on Russia. In March 2019, the EU, the US and Canada introduced additional sanctions in response to Russia's attack on the Ukrainian naval ships on 25 November 2018.

In 2019, the EU introduced restrictions on visa issuance to Ukrainian nationals who obtained Russian Federation passports in the process of illegal passport issuance campaign conducted by Russia within NGCA.

In March and April 2020, Russia attempted to leverage the COVID-19 pandemic for lifting of sanctions, however all key partners of Ukraine (the EU, EU member states, the UK, the US, Canada) supported Ukraine's stance on inadmissibility of weakening the economic pressure on Russia. On 2 April, Ukraine, Georgia, the US, Canada, Australia, New Zealand, the UK and EU member states broke the silence procedure regarding the Russian draft resolution of the UN General Assembly drafted as "declaration of solidarity of the United Nations in the face of the challenges posed by the coronavirus disease COVID-19" that would open the door to initiatives to lift sanctions in the face of pandemic.

According to the Ukrainian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ukraine called on partners to toughen restrictions on Russia in view of the illegal constitutional referendum conducted by the Russian Federation on 25 June – 1 July 2020 in Crimea with participation of residents from NGCA holding illegally issued Russian passports.

Relief to population in NGCA

Assistance to population in ORDLO is provided only in the form of humanitarian aid by international governmental and non-governmental organizations as well as domestic organizations and funds. To be able to deliver humanitarian aid in NGCA, the organizations should register and interact with the JFO bodies when delivering aid to NGCA.

Organizations that deliver aid on both sides of the contact line and declare this activity include UNICEF, OCHA, UNHCR, ICRC, NGO "Proliska" and others. In order to coordinate the efforts of all partners and Ukrainian humanitarian team, OCHA develops annual humanitarian response plans specifying the response needs and key humanitarian aid priorities. The humanitarian response plan for ORDLO specifies assistance with food, water, restoration of private housing, provision of counselling and social support, protection from landmines and ERW, improvement of conditions at checkpoints. In 2020, the estimated humanitarian needs for residents in ORDLO, 5-km zone of GCA and IDPs total \$158 million (after the outbreak of COVID-19 – \$200 million).

1.6. Strategic vision of Ukraine's political leadership regarding ways of conflict resolution, conflict mitigation and prevention of new conflicts in society

Conflict resolution is a very sensitive issue in Ukraine, and at the level of national politics parties represented in Parliament also diverge in their stance on possible ways of resolving the ongoing conflict.

For example, the two major opposition forces – the "European Solidarity" and the Opposition Platform "For Life" – hold radically opposite views on the negotiation process, ways of peacebuilding and relations with Russia, as well as on the European and Euro-Atlantic integration. Both criticize the government for lack of clearly articulated strategy. But whereas the European Solidarity categorically rejects the possibility to engage in direct negotiations with ORDLO and insists that the so-called **Steinmeier formula** is unacceptable, pull-out of troops from the contact line poses obvious threat, and sanctions on Russia should be toughened, the Opposition Platform advocate for "the direct dialogue between Kyiv, Donetsk and Luhansk", neutral status of Ukraine, integration and deepened economic cooperation with Russia.

In February 2020, the “Voice”, which makes up the smallest faction in current Parliament, presented its own vision of conflict settlement.¹¹³ In some elements of the plan, the Voice’s stance is in tune with the position expressed by top government officials, for example, regarding “rejection of the obligations imposed on Ukraine by the Package of Measures” and “appeal to the US and the UK as guarantors of sovereignty and territorial integrity of Ukraine”. The plan proposes to deploy a provisional international administration under the auspices of the UN or OSCE.

In September 2019, a number of public figures, politicians, opinion leaders with large followship in social networks, former combatants and experts addressed the President in an open letter, voicing a major concern about possible implementation of the Steinmeier formula that stipulates elections on the Ukrainian territories occupied by Russia and granting them special status. The letter stressed that “the application of this formula, derived from the Minsk agreements forced upon Ukraine, leaves the question of de-occupation of Crimea and liability of Russia as an aggressor state outside the negotiation process”. Shortly afterwards, in October, the establishment of the Capitulation Resistance Movement was announced, initially encompassing those who signed the open letter and participated in protest campaigns and rallies ongoing since summer 2019. The Movement presented a set of demands to the President prior to the Normandy Format talks, outlining the so-called “red lines”, which clearly had an impact on the negotiators’ positions. It was supported by the following political forces: “European Solidarity”, “Batkivshchyna” (Fatherland), “Voice”, “Svoboda” (Freedom), and “Democratic Hammer”. It is currently very active and continuously engages in mass protest campaigns; however, it does not have a single leader.

On 16 September 2014, delivering on the signed Minsk Protocol, the Parliament adopted the Law “On the special local self-government regime in some areas of Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts” with the effective period of one year. In each subsequent year, the Parliament renewed this period, which was also done on 12 December 2019 with votes from the “Servant of the People” (the governing majority party), “European Solidarity” and the Opposition Platform. The “Voice” voted against the extension, and “Batkivshchyna” mainly abstained.¹¹⁴

In 2019-2020, political decision-making on issues of “war and peace” and relations with Russia was accompanied by numerous protest rallies that have been studied by CENSS.

84 protest rallies “No to Capitulation!”: Complimented with petitions and appeals addressed to the President, the campaign was aimed against the implementation of the above-mentioned Steinmeier formula. It also included additional demands such as publication of the agreements signed in Minsk and refraining from pull-out of troops. The organizers and participants included the Capitulation Resistance Movement, “Headquarters of Ukraine’s Defence”, political parties “National Corps”, “Svoboda”, “Democratic Hammer”, several national and regional-level NGOs “National Public Order Squads”, “Tradition and Order”, “Union of ATO Veterans”, “Sokil”, “National Vanguard” (Zaporizhzhia oblast), “Veterans Hub Odesa”, “Carpathian Sich”, “Freedom Legion” and “Sich” Battalion.

In support of the decision to withdraw troops in some areas along the contact line and in response to the protest campaign, the president met with local population and the military near the contact line and also with individual representatives of some organizations in Luhansk oblast to discuss the mentioned decision. However, such communication did not satisfy the protesters in Kyiv and in other cities of Ukraine, as well as the servicemen located near the contact line. The protests continued with numerous other actions.

13 rallies of “Red Lines for Ze” campaign: “Red lines” are demands outlined by protesters for the negotiations in the Normandy Format against the “Russian scenario”, namely “elections in the occupied areas to be held only after de-occupation, control over borders and re-issuance of passports”. The organizers and participants included the Capitulation Resistance Movement, “Svoboda”, “National Corps”, “Democratic Hammer”, “Tradition and Order”, “Fraikor” (military-oriented patriotic organization), “Sokil”. The government did not respond to these protests in any way.

¹¹³ Ukrayinska Pravda. “Voice” presented the strategy of “cold deoccupation” of Donbass and Crimea (February 27, 2020). <https://www.pravda.com.ua/news/2020/02/27/7241875/>

¹¹⁴ Roll-call voting for the draft Law on Amendments to Article 1 of the Law of Ukraine “On the Special Procedure for Local Self-Government in Certain Districts of Donetsk and Luhansk Oblasts” (№2569). http://w1.c1.rada.gov.ua/pls/radan_gs09/ns_golos?g_id=2174



Photo 2. “Red Lines for Ze” rally¹¹⁵

“No Normandy without Crimea” campaign: It is the Crimean Tartars’ campaign against occupation of Crimea. The key figures are released political prisoners Oleh Sentsov, Edem Bekirov, and others. Later the campaign was backed by the Capitulation Resistance Movement. It received no response from the government.

Disruption of public order during Syvokha’s **presentation of the National Reconciliation Platform**. The organizers and participants were the “National Corps” and “Azov” regimen veterans. Police detained veterans who disrupted the press-conference and voiced their views on “reconciliation with Donbas”. The aftermath of the incident was 17 protest rallies under the slogan of “Hands Off From Veterans” that were organized and attended by the “National Corps”, “Sokil” and “National Public Order Squads”.

5 protest rallies against the exchange of “held persons” between Ukraine and ORDLO. The key demand was not to release “terrorists who blasted the peaceful march of 22 February 2015”. The organizers and participants included the “Fraikor”, “National Public Order Squads”, and Ukrainian Galician Party. The government did not respond, and the exchange did take place.

5 protest rallies of political prisoners’ relatives who demanded to be kept informed about the negotiation process.

6 protest rallies (conducted offline, online and on motor vehicles) and petition to the president under the slogans “No to Legalization of ORDLO!”, “We Will Not Allow Minsk Treason”, “No to Minsk Treason” were organized and led by the Capitulation Resistance Movement, “Right Sector”, “Voice”, and “Sokil”. Protesters were demanding to not recognize ORDLO as an equal side in the negotiations with Ukraine and not change Russia’s status from the “aggressor state” to “observer state”.

¹¹⁵ UNIAN. People’s Chamber “Red Lines” on Independence Square - photo report by UNIAN (December 8, 2019). <https://www.unian.ua/politics/10785287-narodne-viche-chervoni-liniji-na-maydani-nezalezhnosti-fotoreportazh-unian.html>

30 protest rallies “Stop Revanche”. It was framed as a campaign “against capitulation to Russia”, also marking a year of Zelensky’s presidency. The organizers and participants included the Capitulation Resistance Movement, “National Corps”, “Svoboda”, and “Democratic Hammer”. It received no response from the government.

8 protest rallies “No to Capitulation!”: It was a campaign against the agreement on ceasefire in Donbas effective from 27 July 2020. Protesters were voicing their disagreement with the ceasefire with the illegal armed groups. In parallel, there were rallies to support the Ukrainian military “Hands Off from the Army!”. The organizers and participants included the Capitulation Resistance Movement, “National Corps”, “Svoboda”, and “Democratic Hammer”.

Public perceptions and attitudes towards conflict settlement solutions

As of today, the most recent opinion poll in Ukraine tapping into public attitudes to conflict settlement solutions was conducted within GCA by the Razumkov Sociological Service on 13-17 February 2020.¹¹⁶

According to the findings, the hardball way of peace-making in Donbas, i.e. by use of military force to restore Ukraine’s control over the “DPR” and “LPR”, is supported only by 20% of citizens (56% are against it). At the same time, only 13% would support the breakaway of areas under the “DPR” and “LPR” (65.65% would not support it), and only 10% would support recognition of Crimea as Russian territory in exchange of liberation of Donbas (70% would not support it). These data indicate that most of the population of Ukraine seeks to return NGCA to the control of the government of Ukraine and believes that this should be done by non-military (non-violent) means.

The majority of respondents (62%) are against granting and establishing in the Constitution the “special status” of some areas of Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts (only 21% support this solution). Even less popular is the notion of federative set-up (68% do not support it, with 11% in favour).

Only the prevailing public opinion is against the following trade-ins for the sake of peace-making: blanket amnesty for all combatants in Donbas (63% do not support it, with 14.5% in favour), rejection of the European integration and withdrawal from the Association Agreement with the EU (60% do not support it, with 20% in favour), granting the Russian language the status of the second official language of the state (54% do not support it, with 31% in favour), abandonment of the NATO accession ambition, and enshrining of Ukraine’s neutrality in the Constitution (54% do not support it, with 26% in favour).

The issues of conflict settlement solutions and relations with Russia are naturally inter-linked with the notion of national identity and other foundational aspects of state-building. The status and use of the Russian language, joining the EU and NATO / neutrality, historical period of the World War II and participation of Ukrainians, issues of religion and the Orthodox church are traditionally among the most controversial and cutting issues. It again points out to significant regional divergencies among people from different Ukrainian oblasts, very similar to what was observed before.

The anti-Western and pro-Russian narratives that have become most frequently transmitted by mass media include the following:

- “Sorositya” (Soros kids), in the meaning of “Western stooges”, promote and assist establishment of “external management” in Ukraine;
- The EU is unjust in setting quotas for Ukrainian goods;
- The West desires de-industrialization of Ukraine to turn it into a “raw material colony”;
- IMF loans are the “garrotte” for Ukraine;

¹¹⁶ Razumkov Center. Public opinion on the situation in Donbass and ways to restore Ukraine’s sovereignty over the occupied territories (February 26, 2020). <http://razumkov.org.ua/napriamky/sotsiologichni-doslidzhennia/gromadska-dumka-pro-sytuatsiiu-na-donbasi-ta-shliakhy-vidnovlennia-suverenitetu-ukrainy-nad-okupovanyimi-terytoriiamy-liutyi-2020r>

- Ukraine loses its sovereignty from actions of the West;
- The victory over Nazis is not duly recognized because it is not appreciated by those who was allegedly Nazi henchmen;
- There is discrimination against Russian-speaking Ukrainians;
- Russia is a better economic partner than the EU, etc.

The conflict caused the emergence of a considerably large distinct group defined as veterans. Especially active are veterans of voluntary units – they are well-organized, have high level of patriotism and engage in close networking. These people have the potential of becoming the nexus in fierce protests should the government policy lurch from what they hold to be an acceptable compromise not only in questions of war and peace but also of ways of country's development. Thus, any elite that comes to power should interact with and take into consideration veterans' views or make effort to convince them of the necessity of particular political decisions.

It should be kept in mind, however, that perceptions and attitudes to issues mentioned above also have regional specificity and oblast councils elected according to party lists often seek to influence policy making at national level. This was the case in past developments (2004, 2014), and it is also true and relevant today. For example, on 2 October 2019, at its session the Lviv oblast council issued a statement declaring the inadmissibility of Ukraine's capitulation in the Russian-Ukrainian war. It maintains that the Steinmeier formula is a blatant relinquishment of national interests and beginning of Ukraine's capitulation in the Russian-Ukrainian war. It urges the parliamentarians to block the new version of the law on special status of Donbas. Oblast council members announced that they were prepared to conduct a session in front of the Verkhovna Rada building and suggested that the country's leadership and major political forces should conduct a round table to develop a common national strategy through negotiations on Russia's aggression and the fate of temporarily occupied territories.

An important aspect is the holding of **local elections** (October of 2020). Political players at national and local levels have different intentions in this context. Those who already have a say in the national-level policy making seek to build a top-down vertical of cross-cutting influence on the situation in the country – from the centre down to individual communities. Political players with no decisive impact at national level consider using the local elections to strengthen their positions at level of regions and communities, especially in large cities. Control over local self-governments may simplify or complicate, up to full blockage, the implementation of national government's decisions. Moreover, this control during the elections in certain regions can create opportunities for bottom-up influence on policy making.

Local elites seeking to retain or obtain control over local self-governments can be permanently integrated in the national party projects, or engage in ad hoc collaboration changing partners and allies, or can rely only on their own efforts.

In all three options, the local elites will predominantly strive to strengthen or retain their role within the area, rather than gain power at national level. Influence in a region of community is viewed as a possibility to control distribution of local resources, local markets of goods and services, create favourable conditions for businesses, etc. At the same time, the ability to exercise influence at national level is also viewed as a goal that can open access to additional flows of resources from "the centre" on the basis of mutually beneficial exchange – resources in return of support.

As various players braced up for local elections, we observed gradual increase of tension in relations between the national government and local self-governments, and in some cases can even point out to systemic conflicts in political and economic spheres.

At the same time, pro-Russian political forces are active in Ukraine, promoting the so-called "federalization" that would presumably strengthen the role of regions (but not communities) and would act as a safeguard of economic stability.

For quite a long time Russia has been pushing the idea of certain **forms of “federalization” in Ukraine**, whereas in reality it serves to veil the intention to disintegrate Ukraine and split it into separate parts, weakening both the linkages between these parts and “the centre”, limiting its capacity to pursue external policy as well as domestic policy towards national unity. The next step could be either gradual integration of some regions with the Russian Federation or creation of an integrated unions with Russia of some sort.

Thus, Russia could use Ukrainian political actors and local elites to serve its own purposes, considering the country’s particular vulnerability in this period, so there is a risk that local elections could be used to undermine the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Ukraine.

It is worth reminding that Ukraine lost control over its territories due to Russia’s hybrid interventions – a combination of military and non-military means – each time using local self-governments to “legitimize” certain actions when decisions indeed were made under external influence.

Ukraine does not have a comprehensive approach to building sustainable society. A single public body to be responsible for this domain has not been designated and whatever regulation has been issued so far has not become a priority for implementation. For example, President’s Decree No. 534/2016 “On priority actions to support strengthening national unity and cohesion of Ukrainian society, support of civil society initiatives in this area” was adopted on 1 December 2016, but the majority of its provisions have remained unfulfilled. Today, this document requires substantial revision and clear implementation plan.

1.7. Drivers and risks that affect / may considerably affect the conflict dynamics and increase vulnerability in following years

The land reform, although is much needed, should take into consideration certain risks. The significance of land as resource is such that it is as valuable, or even more valuable, than state property privatization of which gave rise to entire oligarchical empires. Thus, fairness and justice in land privatization process, impossibility of its concentration in the hands of oligarchs, especially Russian oligarchs, should prevent conflicts not only between owners and agricultural producers, but also between local self-governments and national executive bodies.

In this context it would be useful to remind that Israel emerged as a state due to the efforts of the Jewish Fund that purchased land in Palestine where that Israeli state was soon proclaimed. A similar scenario, however unlikely, was discussed among Russian experts as a way to provide “additional legitimacy” to territories that can be separated from Ukraine. In March 2020, President Putin signed a decree banning foreign nationals, stateless persons and foreign companies from owning land in most parts of Crimea and Sevastopol. As many as 9,750 land plots in Crimea belonging to Ukrainian citizens are thus subject to Russia’s ban of “foreign” ownership.

The ability to effectively counter the external influence of unfriendly states depends on the effectiveness of security sector. Most importantly, it concerns the Security Service of Ukraine (SSU). However, the SSU still remains unreformed, which is highlighted in the EU’s Association Implementation Report on Ukraine: “The EU continues to advocate for adoption of new legislation on the Security Service of Ukraine and on parliamentary oversight over the entire security sector, to transform the SSU into a modern agency with clearly defined functions limited to counter-intelligence, counter-terrorism and protection of state secrets.”

On 15 October 2020, the head of SSU submitted a revised draft law on SSU to the Office of the President for consideration. At the same time, the SSU foresees retaining some competencies to fight organised and economic crime. The creation of effective parliamentary oversight has been put on hold. The Report also highlights that “the above-mentioned fight against organized crime the SSU seeks to retain is currently not effective... The legislative framework on combatting organised crime still needs to be revised and improved. The national authority respon-

sible for coordinating activities in this area is not yet clearly defined. Several law enforcement agencies claim it is part of their functions, though they have no legal grounds or structures for this. The level of cooperation and coordination is unsatisfactory”.¹¹⁷

Civil society control over the security sector the possibility of which is stipulated in the new National Security Law is not actually happening. Its real implementation requires certain degree of readiness of the security sector as well as adequate capacity of respective civil society organizations.

The armed conflict and occupation of territories should play a crucial role in addressing the **illicit arms trade**. A monitoring exercise conducted by CENSS registered that a large part of illicit arms originated from the hostilities zone or directly adjacent areas.

There are many instances when active or former servicemen bring arms from the hostilities zone to other parts of Ukraine. Reports of individual cases involving active military personnel suggest inadequate control of arms circulation and handling as well as insufficient awareness-building and preventative measures in some law enforcement and security structures.

Incidents of arms seizure from or arms use by former combatants / veterans signify lack or inadequacy of measures and support to help them return to peaceful life, such as counselling, finding employment, etc. Not infrequent are cases when former combatants / veterans use weapons in domestic disputes, including those involving family members.

The relatively easy access to illicit arms and their affordability can contribute to turning non-violent group conflicts into violent. The same appears to be true for crimes involving arms. Monitoring and statistics indicate that crimes become more dangerous. An apparent example is bank and automated cashpoints robberies involving explosives or shooting attacks on cars or offices using grenade launchers.

Resilience and security in communities largely depend on the ease of access to arms, their proliferation and use in conflict-resolution. Access to arms for organized crime groups, radical organizations, other formal and informal groups challenges the state's monopoly on the use of force, including use of arms.

Under such circumstances, informal centres of influence on economic, political and other important societal processes can arise outside the public authorities and local self-governments.

The abundance and relatively easy access to illicit arms coupled with a large number of protest events involving people skilled in handling arms, which was observed among population in 2019-2020, is an obvious risk factor to be taken into consideration both by protest organizers and authorities. Considerable amount of some types of illicit arms, affordability and easy access can be the enabling factors in activation of established criminal gangs, including transnational organized crime, in illicit arms trafficking to and from Ukraine.

¹¹⁷ High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, Joint staff working document: Association Implementation Report on Ukraine (December 12, 2019). https://eeas.europa.eu/sites/eeas/files/swd_2019_433_f1_joint_staff_working_paper_en_v4_p1_1056243.pdf

1.8. Impact of COVID-19 on conflict dynamic

The first coronavirus case in Ukraine was registered on 29 February 2020 in Chernivtsi oblast, western Ukraine. The efforts to fight the coronavirus spread included introduction of quarantine measures, with direct and indirect influence on conflict dynamic.

Thus, introducing quarantine restrictions, the Ukrainian government decided to close checkpoints starting from 22 March, which remained closed for 3 months, with few exceptions. Such exceptions were allowed for “cases of critical urgency” (treated individually) and for the UN, ICRC and OSCE missions. The checkpoints on the side of government-controlled areas were re-opened on 22 June, but the Ukrainian authorities do not have precise information about the epidemiological situation in areas outside the government control and about the number of people infected with COVID-19.

Taking advantage of the imposed quarantine restrictions, members of the illegal armed groups created difficulties for the work of the OSCE Special Monitoring Mission, for example, by blocking their access to ORDLO. Thus, during their attempts to cross the contact line from the GCA side, members of the OSCE Special Monitoring Mission were denied access to NGCA more than 100 times in several months.¹¹⁸

The quarantine restrictions also affected IDPs and residents of the occupied areas, limiting their right to free movement by closure of checkpoints and public transit halt. The latter also caused difficulties regarding access to medical services and medicines, especially for people living in close proximity to the contact line. Schoolchildren in populated areas near the contact line without stable mobile and Internet connection have virtually no possibility to engage in distance learning. People experience difficulties with employment and welfare payments both in the conflict zone and throughout Ukraine.

In response to challenges related to the emergence and spread of COVID-19, on 17 March 2020 the Ukrainian Parliament adopted the Law amending some legislative acts to prevent the emergence and spread of COVID-19, including a set of measures protecting IDPs.

Since the quarantine measures place restrictions on movement and visiting of public venues, para. 3 of the Transition Provisions of the Law establishes that for the duration of the quarantine or other COVID-related restrictions, and within 30 days after their lifting, it shall be prohibited to:

- adopt decisions annulling the IDP registration based on lengthy absence (over 60 days) at the place of residence that gives reasonable grounds to believe that such person returned to the earlier abandoned place of residence;
- for the state bank “Oschadbank” to terminate payment transactions from current accounts of IDPs on the basis of absence of physical identification;
- carry out control of welfare payments to IDPs at the place of their actual residence / stay.

It should be taken into account that passage through checkpoints is allowed if a person agrees to self-isolate using the e-service “Act at Home” (exemption from this rule is granted to persons arriving to take standardized tests for higher education admission and members of international missions). However, if a person arriving from the NGCA refuses to self-isolate using the e-service “Act at Home”, the authorized officials of the State Border Guard Service can deny passage.¹¹⁹

The situation with coronavirus outbreak influenced the work of the national humanitarian team and shifted assistance priorities of international partners. Thus, in response to COVID-related crisis, UN OCHA revised the 2020

¹¹⁸ Joint Forces Operation (July 24, 2020). <https://www.facebook.com/364683177357638/posts/905992649893352/>

¹¹⁹ State Border Guard Service of Ukraine. Questions and answers (June 4, 2020). <https://dpsu.gov.ua/ua/Pitannya-vidpovidi-/>

Humanitarian Response Plan to include the pandemic response measures. The Humanitarian Response Plan highlights higher levels of hazard for elderly people, children, women, IDPs, people living in rural areas and NGCA who will need additional assistance in accessing healthcare, education, social services, pension and welfare payments. Other challenges include overwhelmed healthcare facilities, economic crisis, increased food security risks, loss of jobs, human trafficking, gender-based violence, especially in the conflict zone.¹²⁰

In fact, many international organizations and partner-states revised their earlier approved priorities regarding conflict-related aid to Ukraine, launching new programmes to help fight the pandemic (the US, Canada, the UK, the EU, the UN (IOM, UNICEF, UNDP, UNHCR), ICRC, Caritas, Doctors Without Borders, and others).

¹²⁰ UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs. Ukraine: 2020 Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP) - Revised Requirements due to the COVID-19 Pandemic (June 9, 2020). <https://www.humanitarianresponse.info/en/operations/ukraine/document/ukraine-2020-humanitarian-response-plan-hrp-revised-requirements-due>

2. The context for some manifestations and implications of the conflict in eastern Ukraine, results of conflict mitigation and relief efforts

2.1. Overview of key legislation / ongoing reforms / initiatives aimed at ensuring the rule of law and access to justice in conflict-affected areas and their implementation status

Compensation of loss caused by the destruction or damage of individuals' or legal entities' property

According to experts' estimates presented in the Recovery and Peacebuilding Assessment (RPA),¹²¹ the total damages to infrastructure and social services in Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts in 2015 were estimated at around \$463 million. Of these, damages to the transport and energy sectors constitute a bulk of the impact. No further assessment has been conducted during the six years of conflict. In December 2018, an inter-agency government commission was set up¹²² that started with fact-finding and analysis of damages and losses caused by the armed aggression and occupation to all legal entities regardless of their ownership type. However, the commission has not been active since August 2019.

In this context, an important issue concerns compensation of loss caused by the destruction or damage of individual property. Since 2014, the armed conflict in eastern Ukraine brought considerable damage to citizens' homes and other property, especially in close proximity to the contact line. According to RPA estimates as of the end of 2014, reconstruction of damaged and destroyed housing and repair of public buildings required \$27.2 million. As reported provisionally by Donetsk and Luhansk oblast administrations, as of June 2019 4,000 private houses (apartments) in GCA were destroyed due to the armed conflict.

Even though in 2014-2018 the conflict areas were subject to the anti-terrorist operation, the Ukrainian government, members of parliament and experts made several attempts to address the issue of compensations by determining a redress mechanism within the implementation of the Law on Anti-Terrorism. For instance, Article 12 of the Law establishes that damages inflicted on citizens by an act of terrorism shall be compensated from the State Budget of Ukraine with subsequent recovery of costs at the expense of individuals who caused the damage, according to the law.¹²³ However, due to lack of political consensus and cautious position concerning Ukraine's future claims against Russia in international institutions, a decision to use the mechanism has never been adopted.

At the same time, the Action Plan for implementation of the National Strategy on Human Rights up to 2020, approved in 2015, stipulated: 1) setting up of a working group to design a procedure for compensation of property

¹²¹ European Union, United Nations, World Bank. Ukraine: Recovery and Peacebuilding Assessment (March 2015). http://www.un.org.ua/images/V1-RPA_Eng_Vol1.pdf

¹²² Resolution of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine of December 12, 2018 № 1059 "On the establishment of the Interdepartmental Commission for the generalization of the legal position of the state to repel and deter armed aggression of the Russian Federation and prepare a consolidated claim of Ukraine to the Russian Federation to implement its international legal responsibility for armed aggression against Ukraine". <https://zakon.rada.gov.ua/laws/show/1059-2018-%D0%BF>

¹²³ The Law of Ukraine of March 20, 2003 № 638-IV "On Combating Terrorism". <https://zakon.rada.gov.ua/laws/show/638-15>

damaged due to the anti-terrorist operation; 2) analysis of global experience and best practices regarding compensations for property damage caused by the armed conflict; 3) based on the analysis, development of a draft legal act regulating compensation of damaged property value, to include the procedure of damages calculation, financial sources for compensation payments and mechanism for engagement of donors and investors.¹²⁴

The situation changed in July 2019, when the Government, on suggestion of MTOT, adopted the decision creating a legal framework and mechanism for payment of compensations for houses (apartments) destroyed “as a result of military emergency caused by the armed aggression of the Russian Federation”, in the amount to be determined according to indirect costs of housing construction in Ukraine’s regions according to property location, with the cap of UAH 300,000.

The legislative basis for such decision was the Law “On special modalities of public policy towards assurance of Ukraine’s sovereignty in temporarily occupied territories in Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts”, the Cabinet of Ministers’ Ordinance No. 47 of 26 January 2015 “On the establishment of high-level readiness and emergency situation regimes” that introduced the national-level military emergency situation regime in Donetsk and Luhansk oblast, and the Civil Defence Code of Ukraine.

For the implementation of Article 89 of the Civil Defence Code, the Cabinet of Ministers adopted a procedure regulating granting and determining the amount of financial aid to persons affected by emergencies who remained at their previous place of residence.¹²⁵ However, the legislation did not provide norms for granting (payment) of compensation for houses (apartments) destroyed due to the military emergency situation caused by the armed aggression of the Russian Federation.

Thus, the Government decided to ensure protection of property rights and interests of citizens by amending the above-mentioned procedure to stipulate monetary compensation for “houses (apartments) destroyed due to the military emergency situation caused by the armed aggression of the Russian Federation”.

These amendments allowed Ukraine to fulfil commitments related to the protection of fundamental rights of citizens. At the same time, in 2016-2019 the Ukrainian government reiterated that since these rights had been violated due to the armed aggression of the Russian Federation that, according to international and national legislation, is held liable for material or non-material damage caused to Ukraine due to the armed aggression, the amount of money spent on compensations was planned to be included in total damages during preparation of a consolidated claim against Russia demanding its international legal liability for the armed aggression against Ukraine.

The procedure regulating compensations for destroyed housing gives the key role to local authorities. It is envisaged that information about the number of people affected and amount of necessary funds to pay out compensations shall be provided (submitted as requests) by oblast state administrations, and in their absence by respective military civil administrations, to MTOT. Monetary compensation will be a one-time payment decided on by a commission set up by oblast state administration. MTOT will issue a typical regulation guiding the work of such commissions and is currently is conducting a round of consultations with oblast state administrations and central executive bodies on this issue.

The 2020 national budget initially allocated UAH 40 million for this purpose, which has later been reduced to 20 million, due to the re-direction of funds to address the COVID-19 outbreak.

Seeking to address compensations at the level of legislation, a draft law was prepared on the status and social protection of peaceful citizens (civilians) affected by hostilities or armed conflicts.¹²⁶ The draft stipulates the

¹²⁴ Order of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine of November 23, 2015 № 1393-p “On approval of the action plan for the implementation of the National Strategy in the field of human rights until 2020”. <https://www.kmu.gov.ua/npas/248740679>

¹²⁵ Resolution of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine of December 18, 2013 No. 947 “On the adoption of Procedure regulating granting and determining the amount of financial aid to persons affected by emergencies, residential buildings (apartments) of which were destroyed as a result of a military emergency caused by the armed aggression of the Russian Federation”. <https://zakon.rada.gov.ua/laws/show/947-2013-%D0%BF>

¹²⁶ Draft Law “On the Status and Social Protection of Peaceful (Civilian) Citizens Affected by Hostilities or Armed Conflict” №1115 of August 29, 2019. https://w1.c1.rada.gov.ua/pls/zweb2/webproc4_1?pf3511=66399

following redress for civilians who incurred damages due to hostilities or armed conflicts: compensation of the value of property destroyed by combat actions; cost of restoration / recovery of damaged property, including works conducted at the expense of citizens; transportation costs to move to a new place of residence and costs for transportation of property and possessions. To enable practical implementation of the law, the Government would be delegated with the task to stipulate necessary expenditures within the annual budget drafting process. As of September 2020, the draft law had not been put to voting in Parliament.

Compensation of damages due to injury or death of civilians

According to the OHCHR, during the entire period of conflict – from 14 April 2014 to 15 February 2020 – there were 3,052 registered deaths among civilian population (1,812 men, 1,056 women, 98 boys, 49 girls, and 37 adults of unknown gender). Together with 298 persons killed when the Malaysian Airlines flight MH17 was shot down on 17 July 2014, total civilian casualties related to the conflict amounts to at least 3,350 persons. The number of persons who suffered injuries is estimated to exceed 7,000.

Most incidents of injury and grievous bodily harm were caused by artillery fire, landmine blasts and unexploded ordnance (UXO). The protection and welfare assistance to such persons is the obligation of the state, stipulated both by the national legislation and international commitments of Ukraine.

Today's legislation provides a mechanism for provision of welfare support and benefits to individuals with disabilities due to injury or other harm caused by explosives, ammunition or weaponry in the areas of hostilities. It includes medical treatment (including rehabilitation and resort treatment), exemption from payment for utilities, subsidized transport fare, employment and retention of jobs, provision of housing, etc.

Since 2018, the eligibility and procedure of recognizing persons with disabilities due to injury or other harm to their health are regulated in the Law "On the Status of War Veterans and Guarantees of their Social Protection"¹²⁷ and the Cabinet of Minister's Resolution No. 306 of 25 April 2018 "Some issues relating to the establishment of link between disability injury or other health damage".¹²⁸

A decision establishing the fact that an individual has suffered damage to their health in the area of ATO/JFO is adopted by a dedicated inter-agency commission set up by the Ministry for Veterans Affairs. The commission includes representatives from the Ministry for Veterans Affairs, Ministry of Social Policy, Ministry of Health, Ministry of Defence, Ministry of Internal Affairs, National Police, National Guard, Administration of State Border Guards, and also upon consent – Office of the Prosecutor General and Security Service of Ukraine. The commission can invite specialists from other authorities and NGOs to contribute to its work.

To establish the fact of harm to one's health, a person should file an application to the inter-agency commission, together with a set of documents, including confirmation that the person underwent medical examination regarding injury or other damage to health received from ammunition, that the person is a victim of crime which caused the injury, filed a report to the law enforcement, was examined by the medical social expert commission to establish disability and certificate of no conviction record.

The commission reviews submitted documents, files necessary inquiries with enterprises, institutions and organizations and makes necessary clarifications regarding the affected person indicated in the submission, and within one month adopts a decision to either recognize or not recognize the fact of injury from ammunition on the territory of anti-terrorist operation.¹²⁹

¹²⁷ The Law of Ukraine of October 22, 1993 № 3551-XII "On the status of war veterans, guarantees of their social protection". <https://zakon.rada.gov.ua/laws/show/3551-12>

¹²⁸ Resolution of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine of April 25, 2018 № 306 "Some issues of establishing the connection of disability with injuries or other damage to health". <https://zakon.rada.gov.ua/laws/show/306-2018-%D0%BF>

¹²⁹ The Order of the Ministry of Social Policy of Ukraine of September 25, 2018 № 1411 "On approval of the Regulations on the interdepartmental commission to establish the facts of injuries or other injuries received by persons from explosives, ammunition and military weapons on the territory of the anti-terrorist operation". <https://zakon.rada.gov.ua/laws/show/z1186-18>

Having received the decision, the affected person should present the copy of the decision within five day to the medical social expert commission that conducted examination of such person earlier (persons under 18 shall contact a medical advisory board at a health facility). Within five days, the medical social expert commission (medical advisory board) shall review the documents and, based on the review, issue a certificate stating a group and cause of disability (or conclusion on category “child with disability”).

What has been described above shows that legislated procedures are very time-consuming and over-bureaucratized. For the entire period of its existence, the commission only adopted 106 positive decisions and 10 negative decisions, with 5 applications pending review (as of July 2020). It should be also noted that the commission was not meeting in the period from June 2019 to January 2020 due to the re-shuffling in government.¹³⁰

The Ukrainian Ombudsman’s Report for 2019 emphasized the absence of a single national system for registration of diseased and injured civilians during armed hostilities. State authorities and local self-governments in Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts have different methodological approaches as to registration and recording of war casualties (or do not maintain any records at all). According to the data provided by military civil administrations in Donetsk and Luhansk oblast, from the beginning of armed hostilities they registered 534 civilians who sought medical assistance in relation to injuries or other damage to health due to military actions: 513 persons in Luhansk oblast and 21 persons in Donetsk oblast. But in reality, the actual number of injured civilians is unknown.¹³¹

In previous section, we already mentioned the draft law on the status and social protection of peaceful citizens (civilians) affected by hostilities or armed conflicts,¹³² which was included in the parliamentary session agenda on 4 February 2020 but was not reviewed at the end of the day. The main purpose of the proposed law is to ensure protection of peaceful citizens (civilians) affected by hostilities or armed conflicts and addressing of related healthcare and social problems.

As proposed by the draft, the state shall take responsibility for damage inflicted on peaceful citizens (civilians) and undertakes to compensate for: 1) harm to health or incapacity to work for employable citizens affected by hostilities or armed conflicts; 2) loss of breadwinner, if death was caused by hostilities or armed conflicts; 3) losses inflicted due to hostilities or armed conflicts.

The draft law proposes to define persons affected by hostilities or armed conflicts that include peaceful citizens (civilians) who suffered material loss, acquired / not acquired disability due to injury or other damage to health received in areas of hostilities or armed conflicts within the territory of Ukraine; their family members including children; internally displaced persons.

As proposed by the draft, the procedure and eligibility for the status of a person affected by hostilities or armed conflicts shall be established by the Cabinet of Ministers. A separate section is dedicated to social protection framework for each category of affected citizens, and special welfare modalities for children affected by armed conflict and their parents.

The draft stipulates compensations of damage to health for peaceful citizens (civilians) who acquired disability due to hostilities or armed conflicts and compensations for families that have lost breadwinner. It also proposes a special scheme for provision of pensions to such persons. The draft stipulates the following compensations for civilians who suffered damages due to hostilities or armed conflicts: compensation of the value of property destroyed by combat actions; cost of restoration / recovery of damaged property, including works conducted at the expense of citizens; transportation costs to move to a new place of residence and costs for transportation of property and possessions. To enable practical implementation of the law, the Government would be delegated with the task to stipulate necessary expenditures within the annual budget drafting process.

¹³⁰ OHCHR. Report on the Human Rights Situation in Ukraine, 16 November 2019 to 15 February 2020. https://www.ohchr.org/Documents/Countries/UA/29thReportUkraine_EN.pdf

¹³¹ Annual report of the Commissioner of the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine for Human Rights on the state of observance and protection of human and civil rights and freedoms in Ukraine (March 2019). <https://mva.gov.ua/storage/app/sites/1/uploaded-files/zvit%20za%202019.pdf>

¹³² Draft Law “On the Status and Social Protection of Peaceful (Civilian) Citizens Affected by Combat or Armed Conflict” №1115 of August 29, 2019. https://w1.c1.rada.gov.ua/pls/zweb2/webproc4_1?pf3511=66399

Protection of population from landmine hazard

Ukraine is among top 5 countries in terms of civilian casualties from landmines¹³³ and, as estimated, has around 7,000 sq. km. of contaminated land only within GCA in eastern Ukraine (9,000-14,000 sq. km. of contaminated land within NGCA)¹³⁴. The demining of such area will require at least 15-20 years and the amount of financing equal to the demining of entire Croatia (about \$800 million).¹³⁵ Today, Ukraine does not possess consolidated statistics on civilians injured or diseased from landmine blasts and explosives. As reported by communities in eastern Ukraine in 2019, for the period of armed conflict (2014-2018) at least 977 civilians were killed by landmines and ERW and 1,528 were injured;¹³⁶ other estimates conducted in 2020 established 2,600 victims from explosive weapons.¹³⁷

Mine action in Ukraine is supposed to be governed by the Law on Mine Action¹³⁸ that establishes the organizational structure of mine action governance that should include:

- National strategic authority on mine action;
- Mine Action Centre as a separate central executive body charged with coordination of demining operations and development of national mine action standards;
- Accreditation Commission that would issue accreditation to mine action operators.

The Law was adopted 18 months ago, but its actual implementation has not been launched. The reasons include lack of political consensus on the structure of mine action governance and management in Ukraine, composition and chairmanship in the national mine action authority, accreditation of mine action operators, possibilities to access external (international) financing,¹³⁹ several changes of government and reorganization of agencies.

On 16 June 2020, the Parliament approved the draft law amending the Law on Mine Action in Ukraine in the first reading.¹⁴⁰ The proposed amendments stipulate that for the period of armed conflict, the national mine action authority shall be preside over by Minister of Defence, and after restoration of Ukraine's territorial integrity within its internationally defined borders – by Minister of Internal Affairs. It also envisages establishment of a Mine Action Centre under the Ministry of Defence. A number of experts, members of parliament and representatives of central executive agencies raised concerns over the lack of competence sharing with other stakeholders and/or actors which may create conditions for corruption risks.

It should be stressed that Ukraine joined the international agreements on mine action committing to take all necessary actions stipulated by these international acts to protect life and health of citizens, their rights and legitimate interests as well as incorporate respective norms of the international humanitarian law in domestic legislation.¹⁴¹ According to the international agreements and International Mine Action Standards, the primary responsibility for main action lies with the government of the mine-affected state contaminated with ERW.

In the existing situation, the Ukrainian government should ensure building and development of national mine action capacity, designing of secondary legislation regulating mine action, and adoption of national mine action

¹³³ International Campaign to Ban Landmines – Cluster Munition Coalition. Landmine Monitor 2019 (November 2019). <http://www.the-monitor.org/media/3074086/Landmine-Monitor-2019-Report-Final.pdf>

¹³⁴ Slovo i dilo. The UN has told how many years it will take Ukraine to demine Donbass (September 20, 2017). <https://www.slovoidilo.ua/2017/09/20/novyna/bezpeka/oon-rozpovily-silky-rokiv-znadobytstva-ukrayini-rozminuvannya-donbasu>

¹³⁵ Slovo i dilo. MTOT announced the costs of demining Donbass (March 31, 2018). <https://www.slovoidilo.ua/2018/03/31/novyna/bezpeka/mintot-ozvuchyv-vytraty-rozminuvannya-donbasu>

¹³⁶ Government portal. Vadym Chernysh: Warning the population about mine-affected areas and helping the victims is something that needs to be done right now (June 13, 2019). <https://www.kmu.gov.ua/news/vadym-chernysh-poperedzhennya-naseleennya-pro-zabrudneni-minami-teritoriyi-ta-dopomoga-postrazhdalim-te-shcho-potribno-i-mozhna-robiti-pryamo-zaraz>

¹³⁷ Action on Armed Violence recorded more than 2,600 civilian casualties from explosive weapons in eastern Ukraine between 2014 and 2019. https://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/Blast-Injury-V3_0.pdf

¹³⁸ The Law of Ukraine of December 6, 2018 № 2642-VIII "On mine action in Ukraine". <https://zakon.rada.gov.ua/laws/show/2642-19>

¹³⁹ According to Landmine Monitor, in 2018 Ukraine received donor support for mine action amounting to \$11 million

¹⁴⁰ Draft Law "On Amendments to the Law of Ukraine" On Mine Action in Ukraine" №2618 of December 18, 2019. http://w1.c1.rada.gov.ua/pls/zweb2/webproc4_1?pf3511=67674

¹⁴¹ Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on their Destruction, ratified by the Law of Ukraine No. 2566-IV of 18.05.2005; Convention on Prohibition or Restrictions on the Use of Certain Conventional Weapons Which May Be Deemed to Be Excessively Injurious or To Have Indiscriminate Effects, ratified by the Law of Ukraine No. 1775-IV of 15.06.2004; Protocol on Explosive Remnants of War, adopted on 28 November 2003 and Protocol on Prohibition or Restrictions on the Use of Mines, Booby Traps and Other Devices amended on 3 May 1996 to the Convention on Prohibition or Restrictions on the Use of Certain Conventional Weapons Which May Be Deemed to Be Excessively Injurious or To Have Indiscriminate Effects

standards, keeping in mind that all this will ultimately help save lives and preserve health for millions of Ukrainians who face hazard in eastern Ukraine.

According to the International Mine Action Standards, there are 5 pillars of mine action: 1) mine risk education; 2) humanitarian demining; 3) victim assistance, including rehabilitation and recovery; 4) stockpile destruction; and 5) advocacy against the use of mines.¹⁴² Among all pillars of mine action, demining is a final stage of EO clearance which is not fully feasible in the context of ongoing conflict.

In this situation, the immediate top priority is to carry out measures aimed at protecting population from mine hazard, in particular by warning about mine contamination, marking of contaminated areas, and mine risk education, especially for children and young people in schools. For the first time, the government allocated earmarked funding for these measures in 2019 in the amount of UAH 5 million, to be spent by MTOT (the same amount was allocated in 2020 to the Ministry of Reintegration). The allocation was spent on awareness-raising among children and adults (workers, farmers), outreach campaigns, marking of areas, production of school journals, handbooks, procurement of standardized mine signs (hazard sign) for communities.

Seeking to protect population from mine hazard, in April 2019 the Cabinet of Ministers approved the Rules for Marking Mine and ERW Hazards developed by MTOT.¹⁴³ It was the first piece of secondary legislation after the Law on Mine Action passed by the Parliament in December 2018, adopted to fulfil Ukraine's international commitments in line with the International Mine Action Standards.

The Rules establish common requirements for marking of mine and ERW hazards, such as the form of warning signs for hazardous areas. The Rules are applied by Emergency Service forces, local executive bodies and local self-governments, national or international organizations implementing demining programmes. Marking of hazardous areas will be included as topic in community-level mine action outreach both at national and local levels.

The Rules require preventative measures to keep civilians away from hazardous areas such as notification, awareness-raising among civilians about mine hazard, marking, fencing and monitoring of hazardous areas.

It should be noted that after the change of government in August 2019, responsible central executive bodies have not been tracking the application / compliance with the Rules in Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts.

Also, seeking to protect children and employed population from mine and ERW hazard, in 2018-2019 MTOT developed guidelines "Raising awareness on mine and ERW hazard during implementation of programmes and projects in communities" and methodological recommendations for secondary school teachers, in particular those who teach the subject "Protection of Fatherland", on how to use the handbook "Mines and Explosive Ordnance".

An important issue is assistance to mine victims. Because Ukraine has no statistics on mine victims or dedicated government programmes to support civilian victims of mines and explosives, these people are not able to gain official recognition and face financial obstacles to their full participation in public life and deprive them of access to adequate care and rehabilitation.

There are many central government bodies – Ministry of Health, Ministry of Internal Affairs, Ministry of Defence, State Emergency Service, Ministry of Social Policy – as well as non-governmental organizations dealing with mine action, collect data on mine victims as part of their daily routine. It is necessary to merge this information into a single database to enable authorized bodies to update, store and analyse data to be used in a clear and transparent process by which civilians would be recognized as persons who suffered injuries caused by the armed conflict.

¹⁴² IMAS 04.10. Glossary of mine action terms, definitions and abbreviations (January 1, 2003).

https://www.mineactionstandards.org/fileadmin/MAS/documents/standards/Glossary_of_mine_action_terms_and_abbreviations_Ed.2_Am.10.pdf

¹⁴³ Resolution of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine of April 17, 2019 No. 372 "On the adoption of the Rules for Marking Mine and ERW Hazards". <https://zakon.rada.gov.ua/laws/show/372-2019-%D0%BF>

The existing legal framework presents a number of difficulties for mine victims, making them bear the burden of proof regarding incurred bodily harm, as required to be officially recognized as a person who suffered from ammunition.¹⁴⁴ Because of this, payment of government welfare benefits to mine victims is not guaranteed.

The situational analysis of needs regarding assistance to affected civilian population has revealed a number of issues that call for urgent response, such as:

- Lack of specialized medical personnel in communities, as well as medical equipment, supplies and functional prosthetics, which is especially relevant for people in communities close to the contact line;
- Lack of financing for services related to care and rehabilitation of victims;
- Low awareness among population about the necessity of medical and psycho-social care and rehabilitation which complicates chances of reintegration after injury;
- Absence of a comprehensive programme to support affected civilians and related budget programme.

Essentially, support to victims as part of mine action should include:

- Data gathering, including context analysis and victims' needs assessment;
- Emergency and ongoing medical care, including first aid;
- Physical and other rehabilitation, including physiotherapy, assistive devices and mobility aids;
- Counselling and psycho-social support to victims;
- Social and economic support to mine/ERW victims, including inclusive education, re-qualification, access to key services and awareness about them.

According to the Law on Mine Action, assistance to mine/ERW victims includes medical. Psychological, occupational and social support aimed to reduce the effects of injuries caused by explosives.

With this in mind, in June 2019 MTOT in cooperation with the NGO "Proliska" and with the support of the Government of Switzerland, launched the project "Support to Victims of Landmines and ERW". It provided assistance to mine/ERW victims in monetary form that could be spent on necessary medication, medical, physical and psychological rehabilitation, occupational re-qualification, and other activities aimed to achieve recovery and compensation of impaired or lost functions of the organism. It has turned into a pilot project and for Ukraine it has been the first targeted aid to affected people.

Provision of assistance to mine/ERW victims and mine risk education sessions / activities¹⁴⁵ was reported by UN agencies (UNICEF, UNHCR, UNDP) and international humanitarian organizations (ICRC, Danish Refugee Council (DRC) and Danish Demining Group (DDG), Hazardous Area Life-Support organization (HALO Trust), Swiss Foundation for Mine Action, etc.).

¹⁴⁴ Resolution of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine of April 25, 2018 № 306 "Some issues of establishing the connection of disability with injuries or other damage to health". <https://zakon.rada.gov.ua/laws/show/306-2018-%D0%BF>

¹⁴⁵ Mine action subcluster database: <https://app.powerbi.com/view?r=eyJrjoiN2NiZGI3MTktYjA1ZC00YjJkxLWI1MmUtYTcxZTJmMmQ1OWY2IiwidCI6ImU1YzYzM3OTgxLTYNjQ0NDZlNC04YTBlTY1NDNkMmFmODBiZSIsImMiOj9>

Protection of the rights of children affected by armed conflict

According to the data of the Ministry of Social Policy, 197,414 have been registered as IDPs as of 31.12.2019. At the same time, by the end of 2019 only 20% of them – 39,063 children – had the status of a child affected by hostilities and armed conflicts.¹⁴⁶ Monitoring by the Ombudsman suggests that such low rate is associated with low awareness of parents (other legal representatives) and children themselves about this official recognition.

Despite a plethora of acts on the protection of the rights of children, special legislation on the protection of children affected by armed conflict is limited to declaration of the state's obligation to ensure protection and care for such children, and procedure of granting this status, as regulated by the Law on Protection of Childhood and Resolution of the Cabinet of Ministers on the adoption of this procedure.¹⁴⁷

The Law on Protection of Childhood¹⁴⁸ provides the following essential definitions:

- 1) a child affected by hostilities and armed conflicts – a child who because of hostilities or armed conflict has incurred injury, contusion, severe bodily harm, was subject to physical, sexual, or psychological violence, was abducted or illegally transported beyond Ukraine, was engaged in armed groups or illegally held, also as a captive;
- 2) a child in difficult life circumstances – a child who appears to be in an environment that is detrimental for their life, health and development, which includes hostilities or armed conflict.

However, the official status is granted only to children affected by armed conflict.

In 2016 the Law on Protection of Childhood was amended by adding a special provision on the protection of children in the zone of hostilities and armed conflict and children affected by hostilities and armed conflict. Article 30¹ provides that the state shall take all actions to ensure the protection of this group of children, care and reunification with their family members, that includes tracing operations, release from captivity, and return of children illegally taken outside the country back to Ukraine. Local executive bodies and self-governments should prioritize re-location of children who have appeared or may appear to be in the zone of hostilities or armed conflict to safe areas. The Law also obligates the central executive bodies to create conditions for medical, psychological and pedagogical rehabilitation as well as social reintegration of children affected by armed conflict.

The procedure for granting the status of a child affected by armed conflict¹⁴⁹ defines that such official recognition shall be granted to those children who due to armed conflict:

- 1) incurred injury, contusion, severe bodily harm;
- 2) were subject to physical or sexual violence;
- 3) were abducted or illegally transported beyond Ukraine;
- 4) were engaged in activity of militant or armed groups
- 5) were illegally held, also as captive;
- 6) were subject to psychological violence.

¹⁴⁶ Annual report of the Commissioner of the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine for Human Rights on the state of observance and protection of human and civil rights and freedoms in Ukraine (March 2019). <https://mva.gov.ua/storage/app/sites/1/uploaded-files/zvit%20za%202019.pdf>

¹⁴⁷ Resolution of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine of April 5, 2017 No. 268 "On the adoption of Procedure for granting the status of a child affected by armed conflict". <https://zakon.rada.gov.ua/laws/show/268-2017-%D0%BF>

¹⁴⁸ The Law of Ukraine of April 26, 2001 № 2402-III "On Child Protection". <https://zakon.rada.gov.ua/laws/show/2402-14>

¹⁴⁹ Resolution of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine of April 5, 2017 No. 268 "On the adoption of Procedure for granting the status of a child affected by armed conflict". <https://zakon.rada.gov.ua/laws/show/268-2017-%D0%BF>

The official recognition is granted by the child protection authorities, also at the place where a child is registered / resides as IDP, or at the place of residence / stay in a settlement on the territory of which ATO/JFO was conducted, or wherever a child was found by local executive bodies and/or local self-governments.

A child's legal representative or relative shall file an application for such official recognition to child services together with copies of documents listed in legislation. The decision is taken within 30 days, and if positive, information about a child is recorded in the database of orphans, children deprived of parental care, families of potential adoptive parents, guardians, caretakers and foster parents. A person will not lose the status upon coming of age.

Despite this, today children affected by armed conflict do not have any special benefits or entitlements, and there are no dedicated government programmes targeting this group. The most recent legislative change has provided for the possibility for such children to receive free meals at schools. At the same time, these children can essentially access government assistance and benefits under the existing legal framework on the protection of children IDPs and children living in close proximity to the contact line. This legal framework includes the following:

- Law on Social Work with Families, Children and Youth;
- Resolution of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine No. 734 of 17 July 2009 on the adoption of Procedure for placement of children in children's recreation facilities with costs to be covered from the state budget;
- Resolution of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine No. 975 of 23 November 2016 on targeted government support to certain groups of citizens for attainment of VET, professional pre-tertiary education and higher education.

In May 2018, the Government of Ukraine adopted the National Action Plan on the Implementation of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child for up to 2021¹⁵⁰ that stipulates, *inter alia*, the following:

- Ensuring protection of children who stay in the zone of hostilities or armed conflict;
- Implementation of comprehensive measures to create conditions for full-quality life and socio-psychological rehabilitation of children affected by armed conflict and children separated from their families who are not Ukrainian citizens and are in need of international protection.

The Ministry of Social Policy is designated to be the lead institution for this programme. Currently, there is no information available about the progress made. However, lack of progress as regards protection of children affected by armed conflict is suggested by parliamentary resolution adopted in January 2020 on the state of play with the social protection of children and urgent actions aimed to protect the rights of the child in Ukraine. The resolution highlights the amassing of problems and concerns related to the assurance and protection of children's rights, emergence of new challenges related to the armed conflict in eastern Ukraine, and sporadic nature of reforms regarding basic procedures and structures tasked with ensuring and respecting children's rights. The resolution calls for compliance with Article 10 of the Law on Mine Action that specifically stipulates for child mine/ERW survivors a one-time compensation for health damage and annual allowances for recreation; access to free counselling, medical and psychological rehabilitation at specialized institutions that also includes coverage of travel costs; increased government social allowances established for children with disabilities under 18 by the Law on State Social Aid to Persons with Disabilities Since Childhood and Children with Disabilities.

¹⁵⁰ Resolution of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine of May 30, 2018 № 453 "On approval of the State Social Program" National Action Plan for the implementation of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child "for the period up to 2021". <https://zakon.rada.gov.ua/laws/show/453-2018-%D0%B5>

Special attention should be given to the protection of children from the consequences of armed conflict, namely landmines and ERW. In 2019, the Danish Refugee Council (DRC) and Danish Demining Group (DDG) conducted an assessment of child mine/ERW survivors assistance needs.¹⁵¹ The resulting report identifies gaps in legislation and efforts of public authorities and offers recommendations on how to meet the needs child mine/ERW survivors. It highlights that as of now Ukraine has not yet created a single functional information system on mine/ERW survivors and/or information system on child mine/ERW survivors. There is no unified form of reporting of mine/ERW accidents and casualties to state bodies. At the beginning of the conflict, doctors did not classify injuries caused by mines/ERW according to the International Classification of Diseases in medical reports: as a result, child mine/ERW victims may face difficulties proving the cause of injury when trying to obtain government support for victims of armed conflict. The “Dity” (Children) system run by the Ministry of Social Policy does not contain disaggregation between mine/ERW and other conflict-related causes of traumas suffered by children who received the status of a “child affected as a result of military and armed conflict”. There is lack of qualified specialists and equipment to treat mine/ERW and other armed conflict-related trauma, especially for children (including ophthalmology and neurology). This leads to potential errors and health consequences for children. After a child is discharged from hospital, access to ongoing medical care (consultations in particular) is often restricted in rural/hard-to-reach areas. Specialists in social protection at local level have limited awareness and knowledge about child mine/ERW survivors and their needs. Child mine/ERW survivors lack access to the full cycle of prostheses: preparation of the client, adjustments, maintenance and replacement.

Lack of established system of psychological support (trauma therapy) for child mine/ERW survivors and their families can lead to deterioration of the psychological state, or irreversible consequences for child mine/ERW survivors. There is lack of access to afterschool activities for child mine/ERW survivors. This is due either to absence of afterschool activities or lack of conditions and facilitators for children with disabilities.

As for the protection of the rights of children who live in NGCA, an important aspect is the right to education. Starting from 2017, a simplified admissions procedure has been open to those higher education applicants from NGCA and temporarily occupied territories who seek enrolment in Ukrainian higher education institutions: they are not required to produce a secondary school certificate and passport, and are exempt from the standardized external assessment, mandatory for all other Ukrainian school graduates under the regular procedure. They also enjoy extended admission time limits (typically lasting through October), which is necessary to ensure safe passage through the contact line in order to submit documents. Furthermore, distance learning is organized for those students from NGCA and temporarily occupied territories who want to receive a government-issued school certificate. They also have the opportunity to take standardized external tests under the general procedure. The simplified admissions are organizationally supported by specially created education centres “Donbas-Ukraine” and “Crimea-Ukraine” that operate at the relocated higher education institutions (institutes, universities, colleges). If admitted, the students are provided with accommodation in dormitories, textbooks and internet access.

MTOT (Ministry of Reintegration) and the Ministry of Education jointly organize annual outreach campaigns to inform about and explain special modalities of higher education admissions for citizens who live in NGCA and temporarily occupied territories. Each year, about 1,500 students from NGCA and 250 students from temporarily occupied territories become enrolled in Ukrainian higher education institutions through education centres. Here it should be noted that the Ministry of Education does not keep separate record of those students from NGCA and temporarily occupied territories who gain admission through regular procedure.

¹⁵¹ Danish Refugee Council-Danish Demining Group. Assessment report: Mine Victim Assistance Needs (October 2019). https://www.unicef.org/ukraine/media/2261/file/mine_victim_assistance_eng_web.pdf

Protection of the rights of IDPs

As of 7 September 2020, Ukraine has recorded 1,455,325 IDPs relocated from NGCA of Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts and temporarily occupied territory of Crimea and Sevastopol, with over 700,000 pensioners among them.

The key piece of legislation defining the framework for IDPs protection¹⁵² is the Law on Ensuring the Rights and Freedoms of Internally Displaced Persons.¹⁵³ The Law was adopted in 2014 in response to a mass-scale internal displacement with the intention to address urgent issues concerning registration and livelihood of IDPs and their families in a new environment. It contains provisions that facilitate review of applications for social benefits and provision of social and healthcare services to IDPs.

The Law also stipulates creation of legal pre-conditions for the development of special comprehensive government programmes, development and maintenance of a single registry and database of IDPs, provision of employment opportunities, government support to the well-functioning system of social and pension guarantees, and financing of costs related to temporary accommodation of IDP families at government-owned and municipal facilities.

Realization and protection of the rights, freedoms and legitimate interests of IDPs became a key priority that required a coherent strategy to produce long-term solutions and clear government approach, bringing together government agencies and institutions with competence in this area.

With this in mind, a comprehensive government programme was adopted in 2015 for the period up to 2017, aimed to ensure support, social adaptation and reintegration of Ukrainian citizens who relocated from the temporarily occupied territory and areas of anti-terrorist operation to other regions of Ukraine.¹⁵⁴ However, during these two years the programme did not bring tangible results, also because of absence of financing for envisaged objectives and activities.

By the end of 2017, there still remained a large spectrum of regulation that did not address or only partially addressed realization and protection of the rights, freedoms and legitimate interests of IDPs, and thus required improvement in line with the UN Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement, the Standards of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe, recommendations and resolutions of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe concerning the rights, freedoms and legitimate interests of IDPs.

One of the EU's key recommendations to the Ukrainian authorities was to develop a clear, coherent, financially sustainable and comprehensive strategy for IDPs addressing both their immediate needs and longer-term integration, to replace the above-mentioned government programme.

Following this recommendation, a decision was made to develop a strategy for integration, realization and protection of the rights, freedoms and legitimate interests of IDPs for the period up to 2020, which was drafted by MTOT in autumn 2017 in collaboration with the UN OCHA and the Council of Europe and subsequently approved by the Government in November 2017.¹⁵⁵ In 2018, the Government adopted a comprehensive action plan for the implementation of the Strategy.¹⁵⁶ The document is aimed at addressing the following issues of IDPs: housing and protection of property rights, payment of pensions and welfare allowances; employability, education, healthcare; support of host communities in IDPs integration.

¹⁵² The list of legal acts concerning the rights of IDPs is available on the official websites of the Ministry of Social Policy <https://www.msp.gov.ua/timeline/?t=6&from=&till=&g=152&cat=0&dn=&words=#tagpanel> and the Ministry of Reintegration <https://mtot.gov.ua/ua/akti-z-pitan-zabezpechennja-prav-i-svobod-vnutrishno-peremischeni-osib>

¹⁵³ The Law of Ukraine of October 20, 2014 № 1706-VII "On ensuring the rights and freedoms of internally displaced persons". <https://zakon.rada.gov.ua/laws/show/1706-18>

¹⁵⁴ Resolution of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine of December 16, 2015 № 1094 "On approval of the Comprehensive State Program for support, social adaptation and reintegration of citizens of Ukraine who moved from the temporarily occupied territory of Ukraine and areas of anti-terrorist operation to other regions of Ukraine until 2017". <https://zakon.rada.gov.ua/laws/show/1094-2015-%D0%BF>

¹⁵⁵ Order of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine as of November 15, 2017 № 909-p "On approval of the Strategy for integration of internally displaced persons and implementation of long-term decisions on internal displacement until 2020". <https://zakon.rada.gov.ua/laws/show/909-2017-%D1%80>

¹⁵⁶ Order of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine of November 21, 2018 № 944-p "On approval of the action plan for the implementation of the Strategy for the integration of internally displaced persons and the implementation of long-term decisions on internal displacement until 2020". <https://zakon.rada.gov.ua/laws/show/944-2018-%D1%80>

Despite the fact the action plan was not accompanied by dedicated budget allocations, in 2018-2020 MTOT and other government agencies implementing the Strategy objectives were able to achieve certain results, as described below:

1. A simplified procedure has been made available for higher education admissions, and education centres “Donbas-Ukraine” and “Crimea-Ukraine” were established at the relocated higher education institutions; IDPs are provided with accommodation in dormitories, textbooks and internet access. Since 2020, the simplified procedure applies to admission to any higher education institution in Ukraine.
2. Access to healthcare services is ensured, free from discrimination of IDPs versus residents of host communities.
3. Central government allocation to finance medical services in communities takes into account the number of IDPs.
4. IDPs have the possibility to vote in national elections using simplified procedure.
5. IDPs are exempt from court fees in cases involving requests to establish facts of legal significance filed because of armed aggression, armed conflict, temporary occupation of Ukraine’s territory, natural disasters or technogenic catastrophes that caused internal displacement from temporary occupied territory of Ukraine, death, injury, being held in captivity, illegal detention or abduction, and violation of property rights.
6. Special housing programmes for IDPs have been introduced (temporary accommodation, loans, social housing, housing for IDPs serving in ATO).
7. IDPs receive allowances to pay utility bills in cases and amounts defined by legislation (with annual budget allocation for these needs totalling over EUR100 million).
8. Several hundreds of IDP families acquired permanent housing under the “Affordable Housing” programme (government covers half the cost).
9. A special mechanism has been in place since 2017 for the provision of temporary accommodation to IDPs on the basis of cost-sharing, when central government covers 70% of costs and local self-government covers the remaining 30% of purchased property. The mechanism is available throughout Ukraine (in the period 2017-2020 almost 900 IDPs received housing; cooperation with Donetsk, Luhansk, Kharkiv, Zaporizhzhia, Lviv, Zhytomyr, Dnipropetrovsk and other oblasts). Purchased housing becomes communal property and is included in the temporary accommodation fund set up by local self-governments, and then distributed among IDPs based on scores.¹⁵⁷
10. As of August 2019, the Ukrainian Social Investment Fund repaired / built five housing facilities for temporary accommodation of IDPs (more than 287 IDPs received housing).
11. In the period 2017-2019, 31 sets of equipment for issuance of Ukrainian passports with embedded chips were purchased to improve administrative services for population, including those coming from ORDLO and IDPs in 16 cities of Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts.

Speaking about housing for IDPs, it is important to stress that insufficient accessibility of adequate housing has direct impact on migration trends and incidence of return to temporarily occupied areas or hostility zone. The Strategy’s action plan envisaged that local authorities would submit to the Cabinet of Ministers proposals on state budget allocations for IDP housing expenditures. However, it has been reported that local authorities do not submit such requests for financing of IDP housing funds, which suggests their low level of interest. One of the reasons behind this low interest could be the unit cost restrictions annually established by the Ministry of Regional Development for each region, when the established caps on value per square meter are not always aligned with the market value and cost of housing property in different settlements within a region (oblast centre versus other towns and villages).

¹⁵⁷ Resolution of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine of June 26, 2019 № 582 “On approval of the Procedure for forming housing funds for temporary residence of internally displaced persons and the Procedure for providing temporary use of housing from housing funds for temporary residence of internally displaced persons”.
<https://www.kmu.gov.ua/npas/pro-zatverdzhennya-poryadku-formuvannya-fondiv-zhitla-dlya-t260619>

One of the problematic issues of IDPs integration that for a long time remained unresolved was the possibility to **realize one's right to vote in local elections** conducted in host communities. For six years members of parliament, MTOT and NGOs (also with support of international organizations) were making attempts to regulate this issue, for example, by including IDPs into the local registries. However, no consensus was found both in Parliament and in Government. Only in May-June 2020, the Central Election Commission adopted a series of acts regulating the voting address, thus giving IDPs the opportunity to vote in local elections.^{158,159} At the same time, this decision raises concerns about the right and possibility to vote during elections conducted in areas of Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts that are currently outside the control of the Ukrainian authorities.

Among the still unresolved issues are purchase of own housing, compensations for destroyed or damaged property that remains in NGCA, employment / livelihood, pensions and welfare allowances, elimination of barriers to integration in host communities (although according to the national monitoring system, around 80% feel fully or partially integrated).¹⁶⁰

Birth and death registration for citizens residing within NGCA

With the loss of control over part of Ukraine's territory, it became almost impossible for people in ORDLO and Crimea to receive Ukrainian government-issued birth or death certificates, even when they wanted to. Absence of registration banned these people from access to healthcare, education and social services, they were at risk of becoming victims of abduction or human trafficking. On 24 February 2016, the Law was enacted amending the Civil Procedural Code of Ukraine regarding the establishment of birth or death in the temporarily occupied territory of Ukraine¹⁶¹ which allowed for a simplified judicial procedure. The law requires from courts to review applications immediately, which typically takes one or two days, and court decisions are immediately enforced.

According to the Ministry of Justice, on the basis of court decisions adopted under Article 314 of the Civil Procedural Code, in the period from 21.02.2016 to 29.02.2020 civil registration offices registered 45,168 births and 73,483 deaths that occurred within the temporarily occupied territory of Ukraine. The analysis of the Ministry of Justice data reveals that only around 12% of births and 3% of deaths that occurred within the temporarily occupied territory were registered and documented according to the Ukrainian legislation.¹⁶²

Introduction of administrative procedure for birth and death registration for ORDLO residents remains an open issue. In 2018, PACE urged Ukraine to introduce adequate procedures.

Despite the availability of a simplified judicial process, it has a number of shortcomings and is not sufficiently effective to achieve the reintegration objectives and maintain linkages with people in ORDLO and temporarily occupied areas. For example, before applying for judicial review, a person should contact a civil registration office in GCA, produce a birth certificate issued by the *de facto* authorities in NGCA and receive denial of birth registration. This denial shall serve as ground for a legal action. Another shortcoming is a disproportion between economic cost and achieved outcome.¹⁶³ For residents of NGCA and temporarily occupied areas, obtaining of a birth or death certificate is very expensive and time-consuming. The efforts involve expenses related to travel, accommodation, taking leave from a job, filing of an application in accordance with all procedural formalities, waiting for judicial review, obtaining of a court decision and taking it back to a civil registration body. Also, the risk of delay is quite high, given the overwhelming caseload of trial courts. In terms of cost, the situation was somewhat improved in 2018 by introducing exemption from court fees for this type of cases. However, not all applicants from temporarily occupied areas are aware of the exemption and thus not all applicants claim it. Also, the evidence of ineffective-

¹⁵⁸ Resolution of the Central Election Commission of May 18, 2020 № 88 "On the Procedure for Considering a Voter's Application to Change an Electoral Address in accordance with Part 3 of Article 8 of the Law of Ukraine "On the State Register of Voters": <https://act.cvk.gov.ua/acts/pro-poryadok-rozglyadu-zvernennya-vibortsya-shhodo-zmini-viborchoi-adresi-vidpovidno-dochastini-tretoi-statti-8-zakonu-ukraini-pro-derzhavnyi-reiestr-vibortsiv.html>

¹⁵⁹ Resolution of the Central Election Commission of June 11, 2020 № 103 "On the Procedure for Determining the Electoral Address of a Voter Who Does Not Have a Registered Residence": <https://act.cvk.gov.ua/acts/pro-poryadok-viznachennya-viborchoi-adresi-vibortsya-yakiy-ne-maie-zareiestrovanogo-mistsya-prozhivannya.html>

¹⁶⁰ IOM. National monitoring system report on the situation of internally displaced persons (September 2019). https://iom.org.ua/sites/default/files/nms_round_15_eng_screen.pdf

¹⁶¹ The Law of Ukraine of February 4, 2016 № 990-VIII "On Amendments to the Civil Procedure Code of Ukraine to establish the fact of birth or death of a person in the temporarily occupied territory of Ukraine": <https://zakon.rada.gov.ua/laws/show/990-19>

¹⁶² Draft Law "On Amendments to Certain Legislative Acts of Ukraine Concerning the Introduction of Administrative Procedure for State Registration of Births and Deaths Occurring in the Temporarily Occupied Territory of Ukraine in the Autonomous Republic of Crimea and the City of Sevastopol" №3713 of June 22, 2020. http://w1.c1.rada.gov.ua/pls/zweb2/webproc4_1?pf3511=69230

¹⁶³ Explanatory note to the Draft Law of Ukraine "On Amendments to Certain Legislative Acts of Ukraine Concerning the Introduction of Administrative Procedure for State Registration of Births and Deaths Occurring in the Temporarily Occupied Territory of Ukraine in the Autonomous Republic of Crimea and Sevastopol": <https://ips.ligazakon.net/document/GI02483A>

ness of this procedure is comparison of birth certificate issuance statistics: about 5,000 birth certificates were issued for children born in occupied territories in the first 6 months of 2019, whereas data from open sources in the Russian Federation shows more than 17,000 births in the same period.¹⁶⁴

According to the Ombudsman Report for 2019, despite the legally established requirement to review such cases immediately, judicial proceedings are quite lengthy. Thus, the time between the first visit to a registration office and actual issuance of certificate is from two to six weeks, and the entire time the applicant must stay in GCA, which means renting accommodation that entails additional costs.

Moreover, recognition of birth involves additional considerable complications. An applicant can seek issuance of Ukrainian documents under the administrative procedure only within one year after birth, otherwise the applicable procedure is restoration of registration entry which is at least three months long. Also, problems arise when mother's last name indicated in a marriage certificate issued by the occupation administration is not the same as her last name in the Ukrainian passport. In such cases the court cannot establish the fact of marriage or parenthood and as result a woman is registered as a single mother, and fatherhood is established through separate court proceeding.

Another shortcoming has to do with differences in the territorial jurisdiction of such cases: applications to establish birth can be filed for judicial review anywhere in Ukraine, whereas applications to establish death can be filed only to specifically listed courts. Regarding establishment of death in the temporarily occupied area, there is another significant gap: persons eligible to submit application do not include heirs of the deceased who have no kinship ties but have justified, legitimate interest in the official establishment of death. This rule makes realization of the inheritance rights by Ukrainian citizens considerably more complicated.¹⁶⁵

Possibilities for simplification and introduction of administrative procedure for the establishment of birth and death were opened with the adoption of the Law No. 2268 of 18 January 2018 "On special modalities of public policy regarding ensuring Ukraine's sovereignty in the temporarily occupied territories of Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts". It allowed to perform state registration of birth or death that occurred in ORDLO on the basis of documents confirming the event, to be appended to an application for state registration of birth and application for state registration of death (part three, Article 2).

Still, after two years since the Law came into force, the related administrative procedure has not been introduced. Thus, the need to design respective regulation remains to be relevant.

At the same time, in October 2019 an announcement was made on the official website of the Government of Ukraine that for the implementation of the above Law, the Cabinet of Ministers adopted Resolution on 23 October amending its Resolution No. 9 of 9 January 2013, regulating the procedure for review of documents confirming the event of birth or death of a person in NGCA. It was stated that a specially created commission would deal with validation of birth or death in areas where the state authorities temporarily do not discharge of their powers. The commission would have tools to conduct fact-finding in each individual case and produce a conclusion that would serve as a basis for birth or death registration by a civil registration office.¹⁶⁶

However, the text of Resolution of 23.10.2019 has never been officially published, even though it was subsequently amended on 16 May 2020, which raises doubts about its very existence. It should be also noted that in December 2017 MTOT initiated and Government adopted further amendments to this Resolution No. 9 of 9 January 2013,¹⁶⁷ introducing the non-judicial procedure for validation of birth and death in ORDLO. According to the version available on the official website of the Verkhovna Rada, the amendments of December 2017 are still effective.

¹⁶⁴ Annual report of the Commissioner of the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine for Human Rights on the state of observance and protection of human and civil rights and freedoms in Ukraine (March 2019). <https://mva.gov.ua/storage/app/sites/1/uploaded-files/zvit%20za%202019.pdf>

¹⁶⁵ Ibid.

¹⁶⁶ Government portal. The government simplifies the registration of births and deaths in the temporarily occupied territories (October 24, 2019). <https://www.kmu.gov.ua/news/kabmin-sproshchuye-reyestraciyu-faktiv-narodzhennya-ta-smerti-na-timchasovo-okupovanih-teritoriyah?fbclid=IwAR1NeyLWf5KRtMg0FFYz6Vp-nTJVknbfwCyMsMWtbIAde86tHRhgLuL2Eqw>

¹⁶⁷ Resolution of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine of December 6, 2017 № 1004 "On Amendments to the Procedure for Confirming the Birth of a Child Outside a Health Care Institution". <https://zakon.rada.gov.ua/laws/show/1004-2017-%D0%BF>

The non-judicial procedure proposed by MTOT stipulated that upon application of an authorized person a special commission of doctors at a healthcare facility would review documents and validate the event within two days.¹⁶⁸ Upon agreement, such commission can include representatives of international humanitarian organizations. The procedure provided several options of how to establish birth:

1. A woman (her representative) and a child arrived in GCA;
2. A woman and a child are examined in NGCA (*There is a possibility, on mother's request, for a specialist to arrive to conduct examination of a woman in an area where the state authorities temporarily do not discharge of their powers; this option is available on voluntary basis only, on conditions of safety, and only when woman and her child are unable to leave ORDLO within the time limits specified by law*);
3. Birth is established on the basis of genetic test, when woman and her child were not examined, and it is possible to provide documents confirming the likely date of birth. (*If a person is not able to come to a specialized public institution to submit genetic material, there is an option for genetic material to be collected by representative of an international humanitarian organization, members of which are part of the commission, who would transfer the obtained genetic material to a specialized public institution for testing.*)

The procedure outlined in the Resolution was never applied in practice because a month later after its adoption, on 18 January 2018 the Parliament adopted the Law “On special modalities of public policy regarding ensuring Ukraine’s sovereignty in the temporarily occupied territories of Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts” that changed the approach to recognition of documents confirming birth and death. However, the Resolution stays in effect and there are no legal obstacles to its implementation.

In 2019-2020, MTOT continued to work on legalizing the possibility of administrative procedure for state registration of birth and death that occurred in the temporarily occupied territory of Crimea and ORDLO, and prepared a draft law amending some legislative acts of Ukraine to enable introduction of such administrative procure. However, other public authorities did not support this draft. Then, following up on the received critical comments, it was proposed to amend the Law “On Ensuring the Rights and Freedoms of Citizens and the Legal Regime in the Temporarily Occupied Territory of Ukraine” to regulate introduction of administrative procedure for state registration of birth and death that occurred within the territory of Crimea. Currently the draft law is submitted to the Parliament.¹⁶⁹ There is another draft law pending review in the Parliament – on amendments to the Ukrainian Code of Administrative Offences to provide exemptions from administrative liability for the delay in filing application for state registration of birth of a child born within the temporarily occupied territory of Ukraine) (registration number 3714). The Ministry of Reintegration is one of co-authors of this legislative proposal the main purpose of which is “to address disproportional character and lack of justification in applying administrative liability to persons for the delay in state registration of birth that occurred in the temporarily occupied territories of Ukraine”.

Search for missing civilians

Since the onset of the armed conflict, the data on missing persons has been quite varied. For example, the Security Service of Ukraine reports 403 persons; ICRC speaks about 1,500 persons, having registered reports on the disappearance of 768 persons. The NGO “Peaceful Shore” reports 4,820 missing persons for the entire duration of conflict. However, even the last number does not reflect the true scale of the situation, because it concerns only those missing in the course of active combat. No records are kept of civilians missing in the temporarily occupied territories; it is also impossible to give the precise number of people who were abducted and brought of Russia.

On 12 July 2018, the Parliament adopted the Law “On the Legal Status of Missing Persons”,¹⁷⁰ guaranteeing the rights of missing persons and their relatives. It also stipulates a permanent commission on persons missing under

¹⁶⁸ Resolution of the Cabinet of Ministers of January 9, 2013 № 9 “On approval of the Procedure for confirming the birth of a child outside a health care institution”. <https://zakon.rada.gov.ua/laws/show/9-2013-%D0%BF>

¹⁶⁹ Draft Law “On Amendments to Certain Legislative Acts of Ukraine Concerning the Introduction of Administrative Procedure for State Registration of Births and Deaths Occurring in the Temporarily Occupied Territory of Ukraine in the Autonomous Republic of Crimea and the City of Sevastopol” №3713 of June 22, 2020. http://w1.c1.rada.gov.ua/pls/zweb2/webproc4_1?pf3511=69230

¹⁷⁰ The Law of Ukraine of July 12, 2018 № 2505-VIII “On the legal status of missing persons”. <https://zakon.rada.gov.ua/laws/show/2505-19>

special circumstances to be set up under the Cabinet of Ministers, and a unified data register with regard to persons reported missing under special circumstances.

The Law contains a number of important provisions including the stipulations that a court decision by which a person is announced missing shall not serve as ground for abandoning the search efforts; and if a missing person is announced deceased but the remains have not been found, the search shall continue until the place of stay, burial or location of remnants is established.

The Law introduces the new provision on the setting up of a commission on persons missing under special circumstances and a unified data register with regard to persons reported missing under special circumstances. The commission is a permanent advisory body of the Cabinet of Ministers that coordinates activity of state bodies tasked with record-keeping and/or tracing of missing persons (specifically, persons missing in the areas of active measures to ensure national security and defence, countering and deterrence of the armed aggression of the Russian Federation, and persons missing due to armed conflict, insurgency within the country, emergency situations or other events that can cause mass casualties). The commission is composed of representatives of ministries, parliament, central executive agencies, national and international NGOs.

A unified data register with regard to persons reported missing under special circumstances should aggregate information enabling identification of persons missing under special circumstances, data on unidentified human remains, related possessions, etc.

It should be noted that 14 state bodies should be involved in record-keeping and/or tracing of missing persons as well as other functions related to the implementation of the Law.

However, it is not only the state that can actively engage in tracing operations regarding missing persons. Recognizing the complexity of this issue due to the ongoing armed conflict, and as result an enormous number of missing persons, the Law allows NGOs, private legal entities and individuals to participate in search efforts. Moreover, these stakeholders are entitled to obtain from state bodies information about missing persons, routes and locations where it would be feasible to conduct tracing operations, and other information that can help effective tracing, with the exception of data obtained in the course of investigation or intelligence gathering.

The Law also regulates important aspects of guarantees of the rights and social protection not only for missing persons but also for their relatives and family members, in line with the norms of the international humanitarian law and human rights law.

The algorithm of search for missing persons includes the following steps:

- Missing person search application is filed to the local department of the National Police.
- The National Police transmits a report about a person missing under special circumstances or missing person search application to the commission on persons missing under special circumstances within three days after receipt of a report or application.
- The commission enters information contained in the application to the unified data register, within 24 hours after receipt of application from the National Police.
- The commission conducts inquiry by requesting information from state authorities, local self-governments, citizens' groups and international organizations.
- Having collected information, the commission consolidates it and within three days shares it with the National Police to carry out tracing operations, notifying the applicant thereof.

- The commission monitors the progress in missing person search efforts.
- On the basis of information received from the National Police, the commission provides a conclusion about the location of a missing person, place of burial or location of missing person's remains, sending this information to the applicant within three days after the conclusion is adopted.

On 17 June 2015, Ukraine joined the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance. The Law "On the Legal Status of Missing Persons" No. 2505 of 12 July 2018 defines the mechanism by which the status of a missing person is granted and the welfare entitlements of a missing person's family members, but it does not specify who should be granted the status of a person missing under special circumstances immediately after filing of an application about disappearance, and who should be granted this status by court decision. This Law also added Article 146¹ to the Criminal Code of Ukraine establishing liability for enforced disappearance, but so far there has not been a single court ruling under this provision.

Moreover, monitoring of the Law implementation shows that at the time of study its norms remain unrealized, also because of absence of necessary secondary legislation. Although the government adopted Regulation No. 248 of 10 April 2019 on the establishment of a commission on persons missing under special circumstances, and later Resolution No. 433 of 22 May 2019 approving the procedure for payment of average wage to persons charged with functions of the state who went missing during the armed conflict, hostilities, insurgency within the country or on the line of duty during response to natural disasters or technogenic catastrophes, it still did not address the situation. Also, a unified data register with regard to persons reported missing under special circumstances has still not been created.

Payment of pensions to citizens living in NGCA

Ukraine has around 700,000 persons who registered as IDPs and receive pensions. As of the end of 2019, the arrears in pensions as ruled by courts amounted to UAH 9 billion.

Ukraine's Constitution declares equal rights to all citizens. Each citizen, regardless of their residence, shall have the right to receive pension and other allowances stipulated by Ukrainian legislation. Civilians who found themselves hostages in NGCA have not stopped to be Ukrainian citizens, hence are entitled to receive pension.

Today, pensioners from NGCA receive pensions if they have registered as IDPs and spend certain amount of time in GCA. In this context we can observe peaks of checkpoint crossings on days when pension payments are made. A key problem lies with the identification of pensioners. Russian authorities claim that over a million people from NGCA in Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts moved to Russia. Today, in a situation of non-presence of the Ukrainian authorities in NGCA, it is impossible to work out a precise number of pensioners who remain in these areas.

The current legislation does not provide any mechanism for payment of pensions to people from ORDLO (without IDP's registration) in GCA and identification of citizens crossing the contact line to receive pensions. Relevant legislative proposals would have been helpful to address this gap. During the six years of ongoing conflict, parliamentarians and central government agencies have been involved in discussions about the needs and mechanisms of pension payments to people who stay in ORDLO. Some proposals have been formulated and drafted, for example, there are two alternative draft laws on amendments to some laws of Ukraine concerning the entitlement to pension (draft law No. 2083-д of 26.11.2019 and draft law No. 2083-1 of 14.02.2020) aiming to regulation provision or pensions for IDPs and people who remained to live in ORDLO.¹⁷¹

The pension payment mechanism in NGCA is also repeatedly discussed at the meetings of the Trilateral Contact Group in Minsk within the socio-economic subgroup. It is a complicated issue since para. 8 of the Minsk Agree-

¹⁷¹ Draft Law "On Amendments to Certain Laws of Ukraine Concerning the Exercise of the Right to a Pension" №2083-д of November 26, 2019. http://w1.c1.rada.gov.ua/pls/zweb2/webproc4_2?pf3516=2083-%D0%B4&skl=10

ments links all welfare transfers to tax payments. The Ukrainian side proposed various options to address the situation, including renewal of some parts of the banking system and return of respective authorities to ORDLO. However, these proposals were not supported by the Russian side.

The France and Germany group, responsible for this area within the Minsk Agreements recognizes that because the Ukrainian system of pension funds is decentralized (both in terms of revenues and operation) and there are no Ukrainian authorities in NGCA, it is impossible to organize payment of pensions in a way as it functions elsewhere in the country. Therefore, an option was proposed to organize services in close proximity to the contact line. This solution, however, entails considerable costs not only for the Pension Fund but also for the bank that performs identification. Discussion of alternative mechanisms has been going on for more than six years between the civil society and authorities, including Ukrainian parliamentarians.

Besides, there was a complaint filed to the ECHR regarding pensions, and decision was issued recognizing retirement allowances as property and awarding compensation. Ukraine should realize that there could be future ruling against it. Therefore, it is critically important to coordinate efforts with relevant stakeholders – Ministry of Social Policy, Ministry of Justice, advocacy and human rights organizations – and engage all in finding common solutions.

Domestic courts also rule in favour of citizens. For example, the Supreme Court ruling of 3 May 2018 in case No. 805/402/18 established that Bahkmut department of the Pension Fund in Donetsk oblast acted unlawfully when it terminated payment of pensions to an internally displaced person due to the verification process vis-à-vis lists compiled by the Security Service, checking the actual place of residence.

This case was identified as exemplary because as of 7 February 2018 Donetsk district administrative court had 226 typical cases pending, relating to the demand to declare certain actions unlawful and compel local offices of the Pension Fund to take certain actions.

The ruling of the Grand Chamber of the Supreme Court of 4 September 2018 in case No. 805/402/18 did not satisfy the appeal filed by Bahkmut department of the Pension Fund in Donetsk oblast to the Supreme Court ruling, thus upholding the Supreme Court ruling of 3 May 2018.

Unfortunately, the absence of relevant norms in special laws when it comes to IDPs' entitlement to pension forces the executive branch to establish procedures in secondary legislation, which often leads to incoherence and misalignment of various acts.

It should be noted that one of the objectives outlined in the Strategy for integration of IDPs and implementation of long-term solutions of internal displacement up to 2020 is to design a mechanism of safeguards for the IDPs' right to receive pension and welfare allowances at their actual place of residence / stay, without putting restrictions on this right compared to other persons.

Protection of property of persons who fled active combat zones

As mentioned earlier, seeking to safeguard property rights of persons whose property is located in GCA, in July 2019 MTOT initiated and Government introduced the non-judicial procedure for monetary allowance to persons whose houses (apartments) were destroyed as a result of military emergency caused by the armed aggression of the Russian Federation.

At the same time, the protection of property rights that would extend to persons in NGCA remains unregulated for a number of reasons.

For the purpose of application of all legally prescribed measures to protect the rights and freedoms of man and citizen, in particular the ongoing monitoring of the respect of these rights and freedoms and documentation of violations in NGCA and temporarily occupied territories, and for the implementation of part four, Article 6 of the Law “On special modalities of public policy towards assurance of Ukraine’s sovereignty in temporarily occupied territories in Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts”, the Cabinet of Ministers adopted Resolution No. 1059 of 12 December 2018 establishing an inter-agency commission tasked with consolidation of a legal stance of the State on countering and deterrence of the armed aggression of the Russian federation and preparation of a consolidated claim Ukraine versus Russia demanding Russia’s international legal liability for its armed aggression against Ukraine. The commission commenced its work in 2019 and conducted several meetings. However, since the beginning of 2020, there have been no reports on the activity of this commission.

From the start of the armed conflict, in order to protect property rights of persons whose property remained in NGCA, the applied legal mechanism was the one stipulated by the Law on Anti-Terrorism, according to which damages inflicted on citizens by an act of terrorism shall be compensated from the State Budget of Ukraine with subsequent recovery of costs at the expense of individuals who caused the damage, also in accordance with provisions of the Civil Defence Code.

Under this procedure, the burden of proof is on the claimant who is obliged to provide evidence and estimated scale of destruction. Moreover, drawing up of a report on damaged property inspection requires that damages are assessed according to the rates established in the order of the Ministry of Regional Development “Rates of indirect value of housing construction by regions of Ukraine” for the respective year. Impossibility to present documents certifying ownership rights or to provide proof of destruction in full scope prevented many victims from seeking judicial remedy.¹⁷²

According to Article 2 of the Law No. 2268 of 18 January 2018 “On special modalities of public policy regarding ensuring Ukraine’s sovereignty in the temporarily occupied territories of Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts”, liability for material or non-material damage caused to Ukraine due to the armed aggression of the Russian Federation is placed on Russia, as stipulated by the principles and norms of international law.

Ukrainian legislation offers civil and criminal legal remedies for violated property rights. The number of legal actions brought to claim monetary compensation for immoveable property damaged or destroyed in the course of ATO/JFO is continuously growing. Some claims are filed against Russia whereas others are filed against the Cabinet of Ministers, quoting the Law on Anti-Terrorism of 20 March 2003 and the Civil Defence Code.

The Law “On ensuring the rights and freedoms of citizens and legal regime in the temporarily occupied territory of Ukraine”¹⁷³ contains a provision reaffirming ownership and other property rights of legal entities and individuals regarding their property located in the temporarily occupied territory. It is also stipulated that change of owner (including through inheritance) can only take place according to the Ukrainian legislation and on government-controlled areas. Any deeds on immoveable property, including land plots, executed in violation of the rules defined by the Law do not produce any legal consequences.

The issue of property redress was reviewed by the ECHR in the case *Lisnyy and Others v. Ukraine and Russia*, where the applicants alleged violations of multiple articles of the European Convention on Human Rights by the shelling and damaging their homes. Although this case was declared inadmissible, the Court provided a detailed explanation of evidence that is advisable to submit in similar cases for them to be recognized admissible and referred to the relevant caselaw.¹⁷⁴ The evidence can include certificates of ownership, abstracts from land and tax registries, documents issued by local administration, charts, photographs, utility bills, proof of received correspondence, witness statements, and other relevant proof.

¹⁷² Council of Europe project “Internal Displacement in Ukraine: Building Solutions”. Improvement of National Legislation on the Protection of the Rights of IDPs. Revised Baseline Report (2019). <https://rm.coe.int/revised-baseline-analysis-2019/168099446a>

¹⁷³ The Law of Ukraine of April 15, 2014 No. 1207-VII “On ensuring the rights and freedoms of citizens and legal regime in the temporarily occupied territory of Ukraine” <https://zakon.rada.gov.ua/laws/show/1207-18>

¹⁷⁴ Council of Europe project “Internal Displacement in Ukraine: Building Solutions”. Improvement of National Legislation on the Protection of the Rights of IDPs. Revised Baseline Report (2019). <https://rm.coe.int/revised-baseline-analysis-2019/168099446a>

In order to create and maintain records of immovable property located in the temporarily occupied territories and NGCA of Ukraine with a view of conducting analysis to assess damages and losses, in 2018 MTOT initiated the adoption of a procedure for creation, maintenance and access to a database of immovable property located in the temporarily occupied territories. Respective legislative proposals were prepared and shared with other government stakeholders within the consultation procedure, and subsequently presented to the Cabinet of Ministers. However, the Government rejected them since the proposals were not accepted by the Ministry of Justice.

Prosecution for crime against humanity

The Ukrainian legislation that addresses responsibility for war crimes and crime against humanity is imperfect and contains partial misalignment with international norms that list such crimes, such as the Rome Statute.

The Rome Statute outlines the areas of jurisdiction of the International Criminal Court stating that it can prosecute individual for kinds of crimes: genocide, crimes against humanity, war crimes, and the crime of aggression.¹⁷⁵ These crimes are detailed in Articles 5 to 8. The Criminal Code of Ukraine includes some of the described acts, but some are missing, and yet others have different *actus reus*.

This inconsistency has led to the situation that for several years, instead of relying on articles on international crimes, criminal proceedings related to the effects of armed aggression were opened under other articles (act of terrorism, violent robbery, rape, etc.). Individuals culpable of committing the majority of war crimes are able to escape prosecution because the Criminal Code does not define respective elements of crime. Currently, the law enforcement qualifies such crimes under Article 438 “Violation of Laws and Customs of War” (138 criminal cases registered, 9 cases submitted to the court, and only one court ruling). For this reason, the existing legislation does not allow the national investigation authorities and the national judiciary to qualify war crimes and crime against humanity as international crimes not subject to the statute of limitations, which is important in the context of complaints filed by Ukraine against Russia.¹⁷⁶

In June 2019, Ukrainian Parliament approved in the first reading the draft law amending some legislative acts of Ukraine to ensure harmonization of criminal legislation with the international law (draft law No. 9438). The law was aimed to establish criminalization of the core international crimes – genocide, crimes against humanity, war crimes, and the crime of aggression); fulfil international commitments regarding the fight against impunity; improve the legal regime of criminal responsibility for torture in maximum compliance with the modern international law.¹⁷⁷ However, at the end of the day the law was not adopted due to the parliamentary elections.

Later, in December 2019, a new draft was registered in Parliament amending some legislative acts of Ukraine with a view to implementation of provisions of the international criminal and humanitarian law (draft law No. 2689). The proposed law is aimed to ensure full implementation of provisions of the international criminal and humanitarian law regarding criminal prosecution for the international crimes – genocide, crimes against humanity, war crimes, and the crime of aggression) and fulfilment of international commitments regarding the prevention of legal and actual impunity in relation to such crimes.

The draft law proposes to:

- introduce the principle of universal jurisdiction with regard to genocide, crimes against humanity, war crimes, and the crime of aggression;
- stipulate special modalities of criminal responsibility for military commanders or persons effectively acting as military commanders, other leaders for respective international crimes;

¹⁷⁵ Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court. https://zakon.rada.gov.ua/laws/show/995_588

¹⁷⁶ ArmyInform. Will war crimes be punished in Ukraine? (February 11, 2020). <https://armyinform.com.ua/2020/02/chy-karatymut-v-ukrayini-za-voyenni-zlochyny/>

¹⁷⁷ Draft Law “On Amendments to Certain Legislative Acts of Ukraine to Ensure Harmonization of Criminal Legislation with Provisions of International Law” №9438 of December 20, 2018. http://w1.c1.rada.gov.ua/pls/zweb2/webproc4_1?pf3511=65266

- amend a number of articles regulating procedure of establishment of penalty and exemption from criminal responsibility in order to establish the norms of special modalities of criminal responsibility for genocide, crimes against humanity, war crimes, and the crime of aggression;
- exclude from the Criminal Code Article 432 (Marauding), Article 433 (Violence against population in combat zones), and Article 435 (Illegal use and misuse of the Red Cross, Red Crescent, Red Crystal emblems);
- stipulate special modalities of criminal responsibility for crimes against peace, human security and international order (Section XX, Special Part of the Criminal Code).

The proposed Articles 438-438⁵ of the Code cover the entire scope of war crimes defined in Article 8 of the Rome Statute as well as other grave breaches of the Geneva Convention for the Protection of War Victims of 12 August 1949 and Additional Protocols.

Article 442¹ criminalizes crimes against humanity. The acts listed in this article, in compliance with the national legal drafting norms, reflect the scope of Article 7(1) of the Rome Statute, which is regarded as a benchmark of legal characterization of such crimes in modern international law.

The Prosecutor General's Office in Ukraine has created a department for the oversight of criminal proceedings on crimes committed in relation to armed conflict. Similar departments have been opened in Prosecutor's Offices in Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts, and are also expected to be formed in the Security Service, National Police and State Investigations Bureau.

Amnesty for persons who committed crimes related to their participation in the conflict

Punishment and immunity for persons who have participated in the armed conflict are issues that are part of conflict resolution process in virtually all lasting armed conflicts.

In Ukraine, there is no general public or political consensus on amnesty. At the time of the study, there are two known approaches reflected in a number of initiatives.

The first approach constitutes the extended definition of “collaboration” in the meaning of “cooperation with the enemy” that includes not only criminally punishable acts, but also other acts that are not qualified as crime under Ukrainian legislation.

In this case, wide groups of people may be subject not only to criminal liability but also “non-criminal” disenfranchisement, for example when it comes to voting or practicing a profession. This approach includes the presumption of guilt of certain groups for whom a special immunity procedure should be established and their cases should be reviewed by special commissions outside the scope of criminal legislation.^{178,179}

The second approach rejects any limitations and advocates for blanket immunity or pardon for all groups (with the exception of perpetrators who committed crimes against humanity).

There are also mixed conceptual models that combine various elements of the two approaches and offer different definitions of the scope and groups of persons who should be held accountable, as well as grounds and procedures for their exemption from liability.

¹⁷⁸ Draft Law “On protection of Ukrainian statehood from manifestations of collaborationism” No.7425 of December 20, 2017. http://w1.c1.rada.gov.ua/pls/zweb2/webproc4_1?pf3511=63192

¹⁷⁹ Draft Law “On Amendments to the Criminal Code of Ukraine (regarding collaboration and strengthening the responsibility for treason)” №7426 of December 20, 2017. http://w1.c1.rada.gov.ua/pls/zweb2/webproc4_2?pf3516=7426&skl=9

It should be noted that the Package of Measures mentions the need to “ensure pardon and amnesty by enacting a law that prohibits prosecution and punishment”, which means immunity only from criminal prosecution and punishment, whereas immunity from other types of liability for “collaboration” is not mentioned.

Article 3 of the Law “On the special local self-government regime in some areas of Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts”¹⁸⁰ stipulates that the state guarantees, according to the law, inadmissibility of criminal prosecution, bringing to criminal and administrative liability and punishment of persons who have participated in the events on the territory of Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts. Public authorities and officials (public servants) as well as enterprises, organizations and institutions of all forms of ownership are prohibited to discriminate, persecute and bring legal action against persons in relation to the events that took place in Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts.

The history of conflicts records several approaches to immunity for perpetrators who committed crimes in relation to their involvement in a conflict – from blanket immunity for all (for example, in Croatia) to identifying certain categories depending on the graveness of crime. Stepping back from the Ukrainian legislative context and looking into the lessons of other conflicts, we can see that amnesty can have several legal consequences for persons it has been applied to, such as: prevention of any new criminal investigations; termination of criminal investigations and trials; commutation of sentence; release from incarceration; pardon; expunction of record; exemption from civil liability.

As an example, we can look into the case of Northern Ireland. One of the essential arrangements in the Good Friday Agreement (or Belfast Agreement) signed in 1998 between the Republic of Ireland and the UK concerns the release of prisoners. In Northern Ireland, a differentiated approach to prisoners’ release was used: a mechanism of immediate release was applied to some categories, whereas others received commutation of sentence subject to certain conditions. The UK and Irish governments put in place mechanisms that allowed for expedite release of prisoners, including transferred prisoners convicted for scheming to commit crimes in Northern Ireland, and also those convicted outside Northern Ireland for similar crimes.

Special attention was given to prisoners associated with organizations rejecting full ceasefire. They were not subject to release, but the Good Friday Agreement stipulated a possibility for review of their treatment. The release was subject to certain conditionalities such as severity of crime committed as well as considerations of community safety after prisoners’ release.

Special procedure was applied to persons who had already served two years by the time the early release mechanism was introduced. If circumstances allowed, these persons were eligible for release.

Understanding the need of life stabilization for former prisoners, the UK and Irish governments agreed on a set of measures that helped integrate these persons in communities. They received assistance with employment, education, and re-training leading to a new trade or profession. For the effective implementation of the Good Friday Agreement as regards prisoners’ release, both governments adopted necessary legislation and the entire amnesty process was accompanied by ongoing communication with victims’ families to explain the necessity of such process as a pre-condition to stop violence.

It is essential for Ukraine to carefully study international practices and lessons regarding amnesty and pardon in countries that faced armed conflicts, involving in the discussion relevant competent authorities, international experts and practitioners. These issues are to be defined in the concept of transitional justice¹⁸¹ that is being developed by the working group within the Legal Reform Commission under the President of Ukraine. The concept will include classical elements of transitional justice, such as accountability of perpetrators, reparations for victims, the right to truth, guarantees of non-recurrence of violence. The transitional justice concept is expected to be approved by President’s Decree and the Cabinet of Ministers would be tasked with elaboration of its implementation plan.

¹⁸⁰ The Law of Ukraine of September 16, 2014 № 1680-VII “On the special local self-government regime in some areas of Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts”. <https://zakon.rada.gov.ua/laws/show/1680-18>

¹⁸¹ Radio Svoboda. The concept of transitional justice for Crimea and Donbass will be handed over to Bankova in the coming weeks - Korynevych (July 15, 2020). <https://www.radiosvoboda.org/a/news-korynevych-koncepciya-perehidnoho-pravosuddia/30726531.html>

2.2. Ukraine's commitments under international agreements with the EU and the Council of Europe regarding the protection of the rights of citizens affected by conflict and their implementation status

On 25 June 2015, the **Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe adopted Resolution 2067 (2015) on persons missing during the Ukrainian-Russian conflict, including in the occupied Crimea**. It highlights that the issue of missing persons requires a more comprehensive approach at governmental level and should include the co-ordination of the work of various volunteer and human rights organisations with regard to tracing and collecting information on missing persons. Furthermore, the medical, social and financial assistance offered to the families of missing persons requires special attention.

The Assembly urges the Ukrainian authorities to create a dedicated governmental mechanism, tasked with the co-ordination of the work of all governmental and non-governmental bodies working on the issue of missing persons, and in particular to ensure sufficient budgetary funds for the functioning of the mechanism and provide adequate funding for tracing operations; create and maintain a unified data register with regard to persons reported missing during the conflict in Ukraine; set up a mechanism of State compensation and support to the families of missing persons; introduce into the legislation a provision ensuring the right of families to know what has happened to relatives who remain unaccounted for, in compliance with the relevant provisions of international humanitarian law; consider the adoption of a specific law on missing persons which would introduce a legal status of “missing person” and “war victim”, allowing the families concerned to benefit from financial, social and legal assistance, including a mechanism of State compensation.

On 12 July 2018, the Parliament adopted the Law “On the Legal Status of Missing Persons” reviewed earlier in this document. On 14 August 2019, the Cabinet of Ministers adopted Resolution No. 726 approving the procedure for operation of a unified data register with regard to persons reported missing under special circumstances. According to the procedure, the owner of this data register is Commission on persons reported missing under special circumstances.

However, despite the adoption of some secondary legislation, the Law remains to have no real effect. Currently, the only organization that can conduct tracing operations and has access to NGCA is the ICRC that maintains its own database and adds data on missing persons whose relatives have requested search.

Resolution 2028 (2015) of Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe on the humanitarian situation of Ukrainian refugees and displaced persons calls on all sides of the conflict to guarantee the voluntary right of return to all people displaced by the current conflict; take measures to effectively protect the property left behind by IDPs with a view to securing restitution of such property in the future; ensure the unobstructed delivery of Ukrainian and international humanitarian aid for people in Ukrainian territories not under government control.

Furthermore, the Assembly calls on the relevant Ukrainian authorities to fully comply with international standards as defined in the 1998 Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement; continue implementing the law on the rights and freedoms of IDPs and ensure that the surrounding legal framework is complete, coherent and transparent, taking into account the views of relevant international organisations and civil society; ensure that IDPs are systematically informed and consulted about their rights and choices and respect their right to freely choose whether they want to return home, integrate locally or resettle in another part of the country, and take measures to assist them in fulfilling their choice; develop and put in place policies, structures and programmes for those IDPs who will be able to return safely to their homes, or find durable alternative solutions for those who may be prevented from returning; ensure the provision of essential State services for those living in temporarily occupied territories; investigate and, where appropriate, prosecute all human rights violations and violations of humanitarian law promptly; take appropriate measures to maintain harmonious relations between IDP and host communities, including by preventing possible stigmatisation of and discrimination against IDPs, and more generally to promote national unity and reconciliation.

Considering the acts adopted by the Government and reviewed earlier, we may recognize partial implementation of this Recommendation as regards addressing some issues of IDPs property, keeping IDPs informed and consulted about their rights and allowing them to freely choose whether they want to return home, integrate locally or resettle in another part of the country; partial provision of essential State services for those living in temporarily occupied territories; partial assurance of harmonious relations between IDP and host communities.

The Implementation Plan for the Association Agreement between the European Union and the European Atomic Energy Community and their Member States, of the one part, and Ukraine, of the other part, was adopted by the Cabinet of Ministers' Resolution No. 1106 of 25 October 2017.

MTOT is identified as implementing institution for the following objectives outlines in the Implementation Plan:

Objective 28 – Improving public policy on the protection of the rights and meeting interests of internally displaced persons;

Objective 29 – Harmonizing registration procedures for internally displaced persons;

Objective 30 – Ensuring implementation of an action plan aimed at realization of some core principles of domestic policy towards certain areas of Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts where the state authorities temporarily do not discharge of their powers, approved by the Cabinet of Ministers' Ordinance No. 8 of 11 January 2017;

Objective 32 – Cancelling court fees in cases involving judicial establishment of birth and death occurring within the temporarily occupied areas.

According to the Ministry of Reintegration, these objectives are considered to have been achieved.

2.3. Overview of current legislative framework and reforms / initiatives on dialogue and mediation

In 2015-2017, dialogue sessions were mostly conducted in eastern Ukraine. Starting from 2018, non-governmental organizations, mediators and facilitators facilitated dialogues have been increasingly conducted in southern and western parts of Ukraine.

Ukraine has a number of challenges that prevent effective implementation of dialogue as a tool to prevent and resolve conflict, namely: low demand both from population and authorities; lack of professional facilitators on the ground and difficulties with financing of dialogue activities; low awareness of people and local authorities about benefits of dialogue, ad hoc approaches to implementation of dialogue projects and security issues related to conducting such activities.

According to a study conducted by the Mediation and Dialogue Research Center of the National University of "Kyiv-Mohyla Academy", the dialogue activities that have been conducted in Ukraine over the last six years can be broadly divided into **two types**: dialogue that focuses on topics with a clear exception of achieved result, i.e. **solving a problem**, reaching agreement between participants, drafting a joint document, strategy, etc., and dialogue aimed at **reaching understanding** and increasing trust between people, with transformative effect on relations. In Ukraine, the demand is mostly for the first type of dialogue and popular topics include increased solidarity in community, tackling of concrete problems, decentralization, education and healthcare reforms, elections, development strategies.¹⁸²

¹⁸² Kyselova T., Bozhenko G. Mediation and Dialogue Research Center, NaUKMA. Understanding Dialogue in Ukraine: A Survey-Based Study: Analytical report on the results of the survey of dialogue participants in Ukraine (2018). <https://md.ukma.edu.ua/wp-content/uploads/2018/11/Understanding-Dialogue-Report-2018-eng.pdf>

Mediation has been practiced in Ukraine for 25 years but is still not defined in any law, the same is true for the status of a mediator. On 15 July 2020, the Parliament approved in the first reading the **draft Law on Mediation** (registration number 3504) outlining only the basic principles and key procedures explaining mediation. More detailed rules of mediation are defined by standards of operation or regulations of professional organizations of mediators or by a mediator who conducts mediation session. The law is expected to cover civil, family, labour, economic, and administrative relations, with the possibility to be applied in criminal proceedings in reaching reconciliation agreements.

It should be stressed that the proposed law does not concern mediation during armed conflict. Moreover, specialists engaged to conduct mediation / dialogue sessions and provide facilitation on issues related to the impacts of the armed conflict and destabilization at local level, or even at national level (integration of individual social groups, trust to authorities, national unity, security issues) typically come from the sphere of corporate conflicts and jurisprudence and therefore require additional, specialized training in the field.

In 2017-2018 the Government adopted a series of strategic decisions covering the following:¹⁸³

- Building linkages between people living in areas outside the government control and the State;
- Support to citizens living in areas outside the government control;
- Reducing tension and building cohesion in conflict-affected communities;
- Integration of IPDs in host communities and return of ATO/JFO fighters to civilian life.

To achieve results in the above areas, action plans were developed specifically mentioning the need for dialogue and mediation between various social groups, state authorities and local self-government. Action plans were informed by international experience of countries where conflicts were resolved or no longer experienced active phase, such as the Western Balkans, the UK, Moldova, Georgia and Columbia.

Focusing on conflict prevention both at local and national level, rebuilding of trust to authorities, social unity and cohesion, planned activities targeted both people living in areas directly affected by the armed conflict (in Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts) and people living in other regions of Ukraine. The decisions were adopted as middle-ground solutions agreed upon by all political forces (pro-government and opposition), taking into consideration the diversity of political and public views on reintegration of people and areas that for some time were outside the government control. As regards dialogue and mediation, government decisions include the following:

1. Action plan aimed at realization of some core principles of domestic policy towards certain areas of Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts where the state authorities temporarily do not discharge of their powers, approved by the Cabinet of Ministers' Ordinance No. 8- p of 11 January 2017.¹⁸⁴

It was the first legislative document that stipulated involvement of people from NGCA in activities conducted on GCA and the use of “people-to-people diplomacy” to maintain ongoing direct dialogue between people living on opposite sides from the contact line, who have been artificially separated by the armed conflict. Such activities included:

- Organization of cultural and arts activities involving people from NGCA, such as exhibitions, presentations, concerts, performances, etc. (observing necessary security requirements);
- Promotion and dissemination of books, albums, audio and audio-visual works of Ukrainian authors among people living in NGCA;
- Organization of dialogue between communities to address common issues related to humanitarian and other problems at local level;

¹⁸³ In most cases implementation timelines were by 2020

¹⁸⁴ Order of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine of January 11, 2017 № 8-p “On approval of the action plan aimed at implementing certain principles of state domestic policy in certain areas of Donetsk and Luhansk regions, where public authorities temporarily do not exercise their powers”. <https://zakon.rada.gov.ua/laws/show/8-2017-%D1%80>

- Interaction with trade unions of enterprises whose workers maintain operations of controlled facilities in NGCA, in order to support realization of their rights;
- Involvement of representatives of international organizations with experience in mediation to help facilitate peaceful conflict resolution and initiate dialogue between people living in GCA and NGCA;
- Involvement of young people and women to the civil society efforts through programmes supporting their role as peacekeepers; support to the civil society organizations that promote structured dialogue on building tolerance;
- Dissemination of social advertising and video clips promoting tolerance in society;
- Organization of dialogue between the state and religious organizations on practical implementation of tolerance principles, inadmissibility of propagation of enmity in any form towards non-believers and other religious groups;
- Organization of sports competitions and games involving people from NGCA (observing necessary security requirements);
- Delivery of workshops for mass media outlets on sensitive issues of the conflict to promote compliance with journalism standards.

In 2018, a similar document was approved by the Government with regard to citizens of temporarily occupied territories of Crimea and Sevastopol.¹⁸⁵

The action was strongly supported by international organization and development partners. Guided by the outlined framework, the international partners implemented projects in this area directly or involving local NGOs.

According to the available information, non-public (closed) meetings among certain professional and cultural groups (artists, teachers, doctors) were conducted with support of the governments of Germany and the US. Events and meetings of people living in GCA and NGCA are conducted by the NGO “Right to Protection” (Ukraine), Centre for Humanitarian Dialogue (Switzerland), UNICEF, UNDP and others. In 2018-2019, local authorities of Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts organized sports competitions and cultural events involving people from NGCA.

Several projects aimed to facilitate dialogue with people living in NGCA are implemented by the NGO “Anti-Crisis Media Centre” which serves as a regional media platform for Donbas.¹⁸⁶ For example, the project “Voices” help organize direct interaction between ordinary people who found themselves on the opposite sides of the contact line, also in the form of anonymous conversations between people who do not know each other on topics that are important and relevant for people living in GCA and NGCA, such as ongoing reforms, language, accessibility of services, biometric passports, etc.

With support from the USAID programme “Strengthening Public Trust” (UCBI II), Anti-Crisis Media Centre implemented the project “Without Borders” in the form of online dialogue-broadcast about the life of people both in GCA and NGCA in Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts and reform progress and developments at national and local levels. One of the goals of this project was also to improve communication between local authorities and the community.

Another example is a YouTube project of the NGO “Donetsk Institute of Information” in the form of a “compromise” show “The Contact Line” during which guests with opposite views engage in on-air dialogue in an effort to reach a concerted stance. The topics selected for broadcasts include those that are sensitive for people living on opposite sides of the contact line or otherwise raise important social issues. The USAID media project (Chemonics Int) helped create a TV series “Routes of Fate” that was broadcast on a national channel telling about hardships of civilians’ life in NGCA, human tragedies, and attitudes people living in NGCA face in government-controlled areas.

¹⁸⁵ Order of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine of March 28, 2018 № 218-p “On approval of the action plan aimed at implementing certain principles of state domestic policy regarding the temporarily occupied territory of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea and the city of Sevastopol.” <https://zakon.rada.gov.ua/laws/show/218-2018-%D1%80>

¹⁸⁶ Anti-crisis media center. Projects. <https://acmc.com.ua/category/projects/>

Given the limited access to information in NGCA about the activities of the Ukrainian authorities (blocking the websites and radio / TV signals of the authorities) and partners, the government of Ukraine has been taking measures since the beginning of the armed conflict to inform the affected groups with special attention to the population living in NGCA.

Thus, information on the activities of national / local authorities and assistance of partners, opportunities to obtain services, important issues of socio-political nature is communicated to target groups by broadcasting radio and TV channels, distribution of newspapers / magazines, leaflets, banners, creating special websites with useful information administered by the authorities or public organizations. To overcome the blocking of TV and radio signals by illegal armed groups from NGCA, the authorities are taking measures to strengthen the signal by installing new TV and radio towers, installing special equipment. Such activities are carried out in particular with the support of international partners (USA, Lithuania).

Also, the government of Ukraine created a TV channel that broadcast on NGCA and TOT of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea - UA TV (Foreign broadcasting), as well as in dozens of countries. In 2019 it was decided to change the format of the channel and to create a special TV channel exclusively for NGCA (now is subordinated to MTOT).

In addition, the Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts are provided with the broadcast of the regional branch of the Public broadcasting TV channel (National Public Broadcasting Company of Ukraine). There are also several projects created with the support of international partners that create television products and post them on social networks and on the air of some non-state national and regional TV channels.

As already mentioned, the blocking of official resources (websites, portals) by illegal armed groups on NGCA has led to the active use of social networks and Internet media by the authorities to communicate with the population living on NGCA and near the contact line. For example, to inform the residents of the NGCA about the educational services available to children, MTOT with the Ministry of education of Ukraine and with the support of USAID created special sites for entrants from the NGCA, conducted a large-scale advertising campaign in social networks to reach adults and children living in these territories. In 2017-2019, MTOT by using the same mechanisms conducted communication campaigns aimed at integrating the population of NGCA, forming unity and cohesion, in particular the campaign for the Independence Day of Ukraine - Position "Ordinary Ukrainian" (2018), for Children's Day - "One of us" (2019). Some campaigns concerned the formation of a positive image of IDPs and their positioning as an additional resource for the community (2017, 2019). These activities were supported by USAID and the Council of Europe Office in Ukraine.

2. The State Target Programme of Recovery and Peacebuilding in eastern Ukraine adopted by Resolution of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine No. 1071 of 13 December 2017.¹⁸⁷ Component III "Peacebuilding and Social Resilience", for example, stipulates interventions aimed to increase effectiveness of reconciliation dialogue in communities, raise tolerance and general culture, such as:

- Civil society engagement in structured dialogue on reconciliation with participation of respected and trusted community members (teachers, religious leaders, people from culture sector, local authorities, youth leaders, women's organizations, etc.);
- Organization of cultural events inviting recognized personalities and activists from different regions; dialogue and discussion of hot topics;
- Organization of dialogue between communities and the law enforcement to strengthen security and prevent gender-based violence.

¹⁸⁷ Resolution of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine of December 13, 2017 № 1071 "On approval of the State target program for the restoration and development of peace in the eastern regions of Ukraine". <https://zakon.rada.gov.ua/laws/show/1071-2017-%D0%BF>

Activities have been implemented both by the Ukrainian authorities, also at regional and local levels, and by international partners and NGOs. For example, since 2018 the OSCE in cooperation with MTOT has been implementing the project “Dialogue for Reform and Social Cohesion in Ukraine” that includes training on mediation for stakeholders from eastern and southern parts of the country. Also, since 2018 projects aimed at building social cohesion and conflict resolution in communities have been implemented by UNDP in eastern Ukraine under the UN Recovery and Peacebuilding Programme. It includes training of mediators and facilitators, mapping of cases of community-level conflicts, support to the activity of 32 working groups on security and cohesion in communities of Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts.

Over the last two years, the number of projects funded by international partners to train mediators and facilitators has increased; however, there is almost no information about actual dialogue sessions, including practices of engagement of people who enjoy trust and respect in communities. This can be explained by the lack of informing about such meetings by their participants / organizers, as well as the lack of involvement of authorities in dialogue activities and facilitated meetings, which thus cannot provide consolidated information on such activities to interested bodies and partners.

Facilitated thematic meetings and discussions with elements of dialogue are also conducted within the National Platform “Dialogue on Peace and Secure Reintegration” (the project “Solving Conflict Through Dialogue” implemented in Ukraine by Crisis Management Initiative). The National Platform is a communication platform for discussing current issues / plans for the peace process in the eastern Ukraine and for developing recommendations to the authorities. In general, meetings and discussions are held at the national and local levels (mainly in eastern and southern Ukraine).

Community policing or building cooperation and dialogue between the law enforcement and local residents is another area which has particular significance for Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts. However, **the currently existing programmes of cooperation and interaction between police and communities** do not take into account special challenges and modalities of law enforcement work in Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts, namely in liberated areas and near the contact line, such as issues of security, trust, human capacity, liaison with the military and local authorities.

In 2015, the country launched the reform of the National Police that included creation of a legal framework that would regulate the police activity in line with modern international standards. Article 11 of the Law on the National Police states that police should act and operate in close cooperation with population, local communities and citizens’ associations, based on the principles of partnership and serving their needs.

The International Research and Exchanges Board (IREX), in partnership with the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Ukraine, International Development Law Organization (IDLO), with financial support of the US Embassy in Ukraine are implementing the programme POLiC (Police and Community).¹⁸⁸ The purpose of the programme is to build collaboration between police and citizens, in particular by establishing civic platforms for communication and engagement of local police and citizens.

Another project supported by the US Embassy is the called “**Police Officer Serving Local Community**”. Its key idea is that each community should have a dedicated police officer who does not only work but actually lives there. Being fully empowered representatives of their own local community (that will also assume a certain share of costs for his/her work), such police officers would report not only to their superiors but to the public at large. The chief mission of these locally assigned police officers is to prevent crime, serving the interests of community. They will be more autonomous in their work and perform core law enforcement functions in close partnership with the leadership of amalgamated communities. The project is being implemented in Donetsk, Zaporizhzhia, Luhansk, Dnipropetrovsk, Kyiv, Mykolaiv, Zakarpattia, Zhytomyr, Kirovohrad, Lviv, Poltava, Rivne, Sumy, Ternopil and Khmelnytskyi oblasts.

¹⁸⁸ IREX. Citizen Engagement and Reform Communication. <https://www.irex.org/project/citizen-engagement-and-reform-communication>

The Dialogue Police is another project launched in July 2017. Installing the so-called “negotiators” as part of police units’ staff has been approved by the Cabinet of Ministers’ Ordinance drafted in collaboration between the Ministry of Internal Affairs and the EU Advisory Mission. Since March 2019, the dialogue police have become fully functional almost in all large cities across Ukraine, having around 200 dialogue police officers today.¹⁸⁹

In July 2020, chief police departments in Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts approved respective strategies of interaction with civil society organizations up to 2025, elaborated with support from UNDP.

3. Strategy for integration of IDPs and implementation of long-term solutions of internal displacement up to 2020, and respective implementation plan adopted by the Cabinet of Ministers’ Ordinance No. 944-p of 21 November 2018.¹⁹⁰ To facilitate integration of IDPs in host communities, the Strategy and the implementation plan envisaged the development of consultation mechanisms to engage IDPs in the decision-making process at local level, building dialogue between IDPs and local executive bodies, local self-governments and local residents, as outlined in such activities:

- Ensuring engagement of IDPs in development and implementation of regional policies, widely informing them about planned activities;
- Joint educational, social, cultural and other activities that promote dialogue between IDPs and people from host communities, taking into consideration the gender equality principle;
- Cultural outreach activities, professional exchanges, networking among creative groups and teams from different Ukrainian regions, engaging IDPs, support to communities in implementation and coordination of joint cultural projects.

Considering the complex nature of internal displacement issues that need to be addressed by the government, almost all authorities at national and regional level are involved in the implementation of Strategy activities. However, the 2018-2019 progress reports almost never mentioned any dialogue or mediation events targeting IDPs, other social groups and local authorities, not providing any information about concerns and conflicts addressed during dialogue sessions or with the help of facilitators. There can be several reasons for this: local authorities are not informed about conflicts and tension between IDPs and other social groups; local authorities do not prioritize addressing of such conflicts and tension; local authorities do not understand (do not have knowledge, capacity) the needs and mechanisms of dialogue, mediation and facilitated discussions. Essentially, activities related to IDPs integration in host communities conducted at local level can be grouped into three categories (based on reports of oblast administrations and central executive bodies):

1. Direct involvement of IDPs and/or NGOs dealing with IDPs advocacy in consultations, including them in advisory bodies and working groups;
2. Organization of the work of dedicated staff at welfare offices and employment centres who work with IDPs, training them on the basics of dialogue and mediation;
3. Educational and cultural projects for teachers, as well as children and young people among IDPs, fostering interaction between members of host communities and IDPs.

Such activities have been reported by Kirovohrad, Vinnytsia, Kharkiv, Poltava, Rivne, Kyiv, Kherson, Khmelnytsky and Odessa oblast administrations as well as Kyiv city administration. At the same time, the 2018-2019 progress reports almost never mentioned projects and activities implemented by international partners at local level in the area of dialogue or mediation as regards IDPs integration in host communities. This omission may suggest lack of adequate information sharing between project implementers and local authorities, which in turn can downplay the projects’ impact since engaging (informing) local governments in addressing conflicts or tension between people in local communities and IDPs is critical for effective and sustainable outcomes. Another explanation can be the fact that such projects are not very common at community level.

¹⁸⁹ Ukrainian Helsinki Human Rights Union. Blue vests: for whom and how the dialogue police work in Ukraine? (February 3, 2020). <https://helsinki.org.ua/en/articles/blue-vests-for-whom-and-how-the-dialogue-police-work-in-ukraine/>

¹⁹⁰ Order of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine of November 21, 2018 № 944-p “On approval of the action plan for the implementation of the Strategy for the integration of internally displaced persons and the implementation of long-term decisions on internal displacement until 2020”. <https://zakon.rada.gov.ua/laws/show/944-2018-%D1%80>

4. Order of MTOT on the adoption of Guidelines on conflict risk assessment in conflict-affected communities (January 2019). The purpose of the Guidelines is to define key indicators that may help better understand vulnerabilities, degree of social cohesion and identify risks of potential conflict. The Guidelines describe and explain the risk assessment process based on 52 indicators and how to use the assessment findings to develop activities to reduce tension in communities, address existing conflicts and prevent potential conflicts. Application of the Guidelines should help implement a wide range of activities aimed at strengthening resilience of conflict-affected communities, such as: improve protection of vulnerable groups, reconciliation within communities, social cohesion, enhanced public security, access to justice, etc.

In 2019-2020, with support of the OSCE Project Coordinator in Ukraine, conflict risk assessment was conducted in communities of Donetsk, Luhansk and Kherson oblasts with participation of CENSS experts. The assessment showed that the prevailing majority of the existing and potential conflicts / tensions could be solved through dialogue and mediation at different levels – local, regional and with engagement of central government bodies. Several cases were selected to conduct dialogue sessions and facilitated discussions that resulted in formulation of solutions for conflict resolution and respective roadmaps. Furthermore, meetings with local self-governments conducted as part of the assessment exercises revealed that they really needed the information obtained through the assessment and their staff required additional knowledge and training to be able to conduct such assessments on their own.

5. National Action Plan 2020 for the implementation of the UN Security Council Resolution 1325 “Women, Peace and Security”, approved by the Cabinet of Ministers’ Ordinance No. 113-p of 24 January 2016, stipulates objectives and measures aimed at fostering the culture of peace, intolerance of violence and discrimination, raising awareness on issues related to gender-based violence and sexual violence in conflict situations. It includes measures focusing on fostering firm tolerance and conflict prevention outlook among young people, engagement of girls and women in dialogue building in situations of community-level conflict, especially host communities for IDPs, using mediation and facilitation techniques.

The review of NAP implementation has shown low level of women’s engagement in dialogue and facilitation. (The 2018-2019 reports do not mention dialogue and conflict resolution activities involving women and youth, instead mentioning some women’s organizations that according to the information from oblast state administrations, carry out cultural and educational activities in communities and cooperate with local authorities and individual social groups.) Generally, the results demonstrate high degree of attention to women who are victims or potential victims of gender-based or domestic violence, especially in communities affected by the armed conflict (in close proximity to the contact line, with large numbers of IDPs and participants of ATO/JCO), and delivery of legal aid, counselling and social assistance to this group. At the same time, according to a study conducted by the Mediation and Dialogue Research Center of the National University of “Kyiv-Mohyla academy”, 66% of the participants in the dialogues are women, as well as 65.2% of the persons who facilitated the dialogue meetings. 94% of respondents noted that women took an active part in the discussions and all their statements were considered by men.¹⁹¹ Moreover, at the national level, women deputies are involved in the work of subgroups in the framework of Trilateral Contact Group meetings. Also, women are often facilitators and mediators of activities carried out by the authorities and international partners on important public policy issues that require consensus solutions, including communication with civil society.

Among other government documents, we should also mention the **Strategy for information reintegration of Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts**, approved by the Cabinet of Ministers’ Ordinance No. 539-p of 26 July 2016, that stipulates implementation of an effective mechanism to provide access to information space for Ukrainian citizens living in the temporarily occupied territories of Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts as well as adjacent areas, engagement of IDPs as a channel of information exchange with people living in NGCA. Since the Strategy is still not backed by an implementation plan, it is not possible at this time to analyse implementation of goals.

¹⁹¹ Kyselova T., Bozhenko G. Mediation and Dialogue Research Center, NaUKMA. Understanding Dialogue in Ukraine: A Survey-Based Study: Analytical report on the results of the survey of dialogue participants in Ukraine. (2018). <https://md.ukma.edu.ua/wp-content/uploads/2018/11/Understanding-Dialogue-Report-2018-eng.pdf>

A similar strategy is approved for the information reintegration of Crimea and Sevastopol,¹⁹² which is also not yet accompanied by an implementation plan.

Some actions stipulated by the aforementioned acts were included by the Government to the **Annual National Programme (ANP) under the auspices of the Ukraine-NATO Commission**.

After the change of government in 2019, no further strategic documents or decisions on issues related to fostering of social cohesion, resilience and peacebuilding, including those that would involve dialogue.

It is important to note that currently public dialogue and mediation at national level on conditions and possibilities of return and reintegration of areas currently outside the control of the Ukrainian authorities are conducted with support of several international organizations, in particular and Crisis Management Initiative (CMI, Finland) and Centre for Humanitarian Dialogue (Switzerland).

Early in 2014, CMI¹⁹³ launched the support to national-level dialogue between representatives of Ukrainian government, parliament and experts with participation of internationally recognized practical experts who had implemented peacebuilding and national unity measures in countries that experienced armed conflict.

Within the framework of this activity, CMI support the **National Platform “Dialogue on Peace and Safe Reintegration”**, a permanently functioning public forum promoting the establishment of sustainable and lasting peace in Ukraine. The National Platform provides a space for regular moderated discussions of reintegration policies and ways to ensure national unity in Ukraine as well as international practices related to building trust and sustainable peace. CMI also works to promote public awareness on these processes. The National Platform operates both at national and local levels.

Other international and foreign governmental and non-governmental organizations as well as national partners that implement projects and activities in the area of dialogue and mediation are listed in the Annex to this Report.

2.4. Strategic vision of development and implementation of public policy on veterans’ affairs and disarmament, demobilization and reintegration

As of today, more than one million persons have the status of war veterans, of which over 400,000 are those who served in ATO/JFO. This study focuses on the latter group. In the autumn of 2018, the Ministry for Veterans Affairs was created by reorganization of the state service on veterans and ATO members, assuming the responsibility for social protection of veterans (including those who served in ATO/JFO). The establishment of a dedicated ministry has been preceded by persistent advocacy of veterans’ and volunteers’ organizations and several parliamentarians. Presenting the newly established ministry, the then Minister Iryna Friz outlined the main challenges faced by veterans: absence of systemic support, underfunding of programmes for veterans, absence of a unified data register of veterans. She also announced the goals and objectives of the new ministry: strategy, introduction of a proper legal framework, including the new law on veterans and their families, simplification of procedures, welfare and healthcare for veterans, implementation of electronic services (e-Veteran system).¹⁹⁴

During the **18 months of the existence of the dedicated state institution**, part of the announced goals and objectives have remained unfulfilled, in particular concerning the development of a strategy and adoption of a new framework law as well as establishment of a unified data register of veterans.

¹⁹² Order of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine of July 26, 2018 № 539-p “On approval of the Strategy of information reintegration of Donetsk and Luhansk regions”. <https://zakon.rada.gov.ua/laws/show/539-2018-%D1%80>

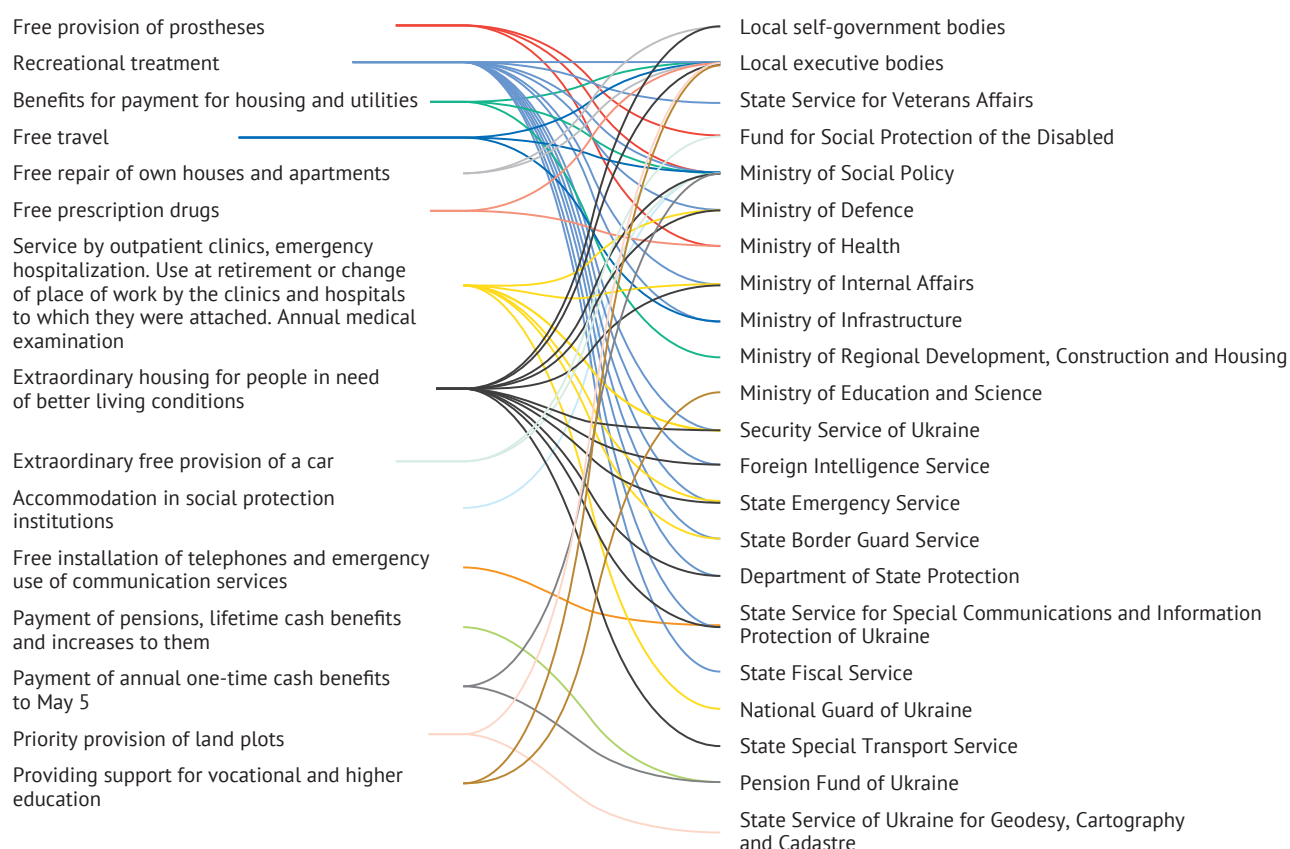
¹⁹³ CMI. Regions and themes. <http://cmi.fi/our-work/regions-and-themes/>

¹⁹⁴ Facebook. Press conference: “Basic principles and priorities of the Ministry of Veterans Affairs” (November 26, 2018). https://www.facebook.com/watch/live/?v=300839360771538&ref=watch_permalink

Veteran support functions are scattered among multiple institutions¹⁹⁵ and delivery of services is regulated by a whole array of acts at the level of government decisions or ministerial orders.

Just like before the establishment of the ministry,¹⁹⁶ benefits and services for veterans are still regulated by 156 legal acts and 22 state bodies. This was confirmed by the Minister for Veterans Affairs during his public reporting on the ministry's activity at the end of June 2020.¹⁹⁷

Figure 5. Executive bodies that implement state policy in the field of providing benefits and other state guarantees to veterans¹⁹⁸



As of 01.07.2020, **397,062 persons who served in ATO/JFO were granted the status of combatants**. The numbers broken by years are as follows:

- In 2014 – 8,295 persons;
- In 2015 – 156,082 persons;
- In 2016 – 110,062 persons;
- In 2017 – 49,572 persons;
- In 2018 – 30,966 persons;
- In 2019 – 23,138 persons;
- In 2020 – 18,947 persons.

¹⁹⁵ See Annex 1.1. Ensuring the rights of ATO/JFO veterans

¹⁹⁶ NGO "Legal Hundred". White Book: An Analysis of the State Support System for Veterans and Their Families in Ukraine (2018). <https://legal100.org.ua/wp-content/uploads/2019/06/Bila-Knyga-Legal100.pdf>

¹⁹⁷ Ministry of Veterans. Briefing of the Minister for Veterans of Ukraine Serhiy Bessarab: "100 days of work of the Ministry of Veterans" (June 25, 2020). <https://mva.gov.ua/ua/galleries/briefing-ministra-u-spravah-veteraniv-ukrayini-serhiya-bessaraba-na-temu-100-dniv-roboti-minveteraniv>

¹⁹⁸ NGO "Legal Hundred". White Book: An Analysis of the State Support System for Veterans and Their Families in Ukraine (2018). <https://legal100.org.ua/wp-content/uploads/2019/06/Bila-Knyga-Legal100.pdf>

The majority are registered with the Ministry of Defence (about 240,000), followed by the Ministry of Internal Affairs (about 35,000), the National Guard (about 35,000), Administration of the State Border Guard Service (about 20,000), the Security Service (about 11,000).

In the existing circumstances, it is hard to predict the expected number of combatants for three to five years ahead. The situation will depend on a number of factors, such as the number of people serving under the military enlistment contracts, duration of these contracts, and intensity of combat actions in eastern Ukraine. In view of the fact that since 2019 Ukraine has shifted to the mid-term budgeting system (with budget requests prepared for three upcoming years instead of one), state authorities should give proper attention to related estimates, since they would govern respective ear-marked allocations (budget programmes) to fund welfare, healthcare, housing and benefits for combatants.

The 2019-2020 state programmes of financial aid to veterans stipulated seemingly large amounts of funding (see table 1). Until 2020, the major part of funding was managed by the Ministry of Social Policy (the state service on veterans and ATO members was subordinated to this ministry), and starting from 2020, by the Ministry for Veterans Affairs. Some funding designated for the provision of some services to members of the military who are veterans of ATO/JFO are part of the Ministry of Defence budget. Funding allocated as grants is transferred to oblasts or to the local level for implementation of respective activities by oblast state administrations and/or local self-governments.

Table 1. State programmes of financial aid to veterans

Title of budget programme in the State Budget Law (2019 & 2020)	Funding in 2019, UAH thousand	Funding in 2020, UAH thousand
Financial support to veterans' organizations	9,001.0	8,560.2
Psychological rehabilitation, social and professional adaptation, recreational treatment for affected participants of the Revolution of Dignity, ATO/JFO.	112,679.6	246,705.0
Grant from the state budget to local budgets for payment of monetary compensations for housing for families specified in para. 5-8 of item 1, Article 10 of the Law "On the status of veterans and the guarantees of their social protection", for persons with disabilities classified as groups I-II that resulted from injury, contusion, severe bodily harm or illness during direct participation in ATO/JFO, who require improved housing conditions.	305,145.3	305,145.3
Grant from the state budget to local budgets for payment of monetary compensations for housing for IDPs who defended independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity of Ukraine and directly participated in ATO/JFO and recognized as persons with disabilities resulting from war classified as group III or combatants who require improved housing conditions.	25,000.0	248,445.0
Grant from the state budget to local budgets for payment of monetary compensations for housing for families specified in para. 14 of item 1, Article 10 of the Law "On the status of veterans and the guarantees of their social protection", for persons with disabilities classified as groups I-II that resulted from injury, contusion, severe bodily harm or illness during participation in the Revolution of Dignity, who require improved housing conditions.	24,667.5	7,626.4
Recreational treatment for war veterans, persons covered by the Law "On the status of veterans and the guarantees of their social protection" and the Law "On Victims of Nazi Persecution" and persons with disabilities.	193,165.9	209,612.4
Annual one-off allowance to war veterans and victims of Nazi persecution, and social assistance to persons with special or special labour merit before the Fatherland.	1,323,733.4	1,382,540.6

However, considering that the total number of combatants is almost 400,000 persons, **annual per capita allocations for recreational treatment amount to UAH 500, and for psychological rehabilitation – UAH 280 in 2019 and UAH 615 in 2020.** Thus, by far **not all combatants would have the possibility to use benefits and services, and delivery level will be quite low.** A similar situation is observed with housing. The ministry reports that in 2020 it is expected that 533 persons will be able to purchase housing by using respective monetary compensations.

Given the absence of a single strategy on the rights of veterans, their social protection and reintegration, and based on the information provided by the Ministry for Veterans Affairs and statements of its leadership, **the ministry appears to have the following priorities:**

- 1) initiation of job creation for veterans, building of cooperation with the State Employment Centre;
- 2) building the veterans rehabilitation system;
- 3) revision and simplification of procedure for granting the status and benefits to veterans;
- 4) in February 2021, launching the piloting of the unified state register of war veterans and a chat-bot to facilitate communication (software development for the unified state register has started, tender has been announced for the developer, together with IREX in Ukraine);
- 5) providing recreational treatment and psychological rehabilitation, physical and mental health recovery to over 70,000 veterans and their families;
- 6) payment of monetary compensations for housing to over 4,500 ATO/JFO veterans, affected participants of the Revolution of Dignity, combatants who fought on the territory of other states and their family members, and IDPs who defended independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity of Ukraine;
- 7) development of a comprehensive programme for veterans heroization, building a positive image of veterans in society, and ensuring veterans' compliance with the image;
- 8) engagement of veterans in school and afterschool national patriotic upbringing of young people, i.e. through in-service training to teach respective subjects;
- 9) opening of the national military memorial cemetery and the memorial for diseased defender of Ukraine, ceremonial burials of war veterans with special merit before the Fatherland;
- 10) provision of social and professional adaptation, and possibilities for own development, employment and opening business for over 20,000 veterans and their families.

2.5. Overview of current legislative framework and reforms / initiatives on disarmament, demobilization and reintegration

Legal status and social protection of combatants who served in government military forces

Ukrainian legislation classifies a broad range of groups as combatants. The main law that defines the status, benefits and services for combatants is the Law “On the status of veterans and the guarantees of their social protection”.¹⁹⁹ Article 5 of the Law defines that combatants are persons who participated in combat operations to defend the Fatherland serving in military units, forces and troops of all branches of the Armed Forces of the active army (navy), in guerrilla regiments and other units both in wartime and in time of peace.

This study focuses on combatants who served in ATO-JFO both as part of government military forces and “volunteer” regiments that were not part of government troops.

¹⁹⁹ The Law of Ukraine of October 22, 1993 № 3551-XII “On the status of war veterans, guarantees of their social protection”, <https://zakon.rada.gov.ua/laws/show/3551-12>

According to Article 6, classifies the following persons as combatants who fought as part of **government military forces** who defended independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity of Ukraine and were directly involved in the anti-terrorist operation, national security and defence interventions, countering and deterrence of the aggression waged by the Russian Federation in Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts, supporting these interventions being immediately present in zones and in the period of such actions:

- members of the military (reservists, persons liable for military duty) of the Armed Forces of Ukraine, National Guard, Security Service, Foreign Intelligence, State Border Guard Service, Special Transport Service;
- servicemen in military prosecutor's offices;
- enlisted personnel in units providing operational support to the ATO zone of the central executive body that implements tax and customs policy;
- police officers, enlisted personnel and servicemen of the Ministry of Internal Affairs, State Security Department, Special Communications and Data Security Service, State Emergency Service, State Penitentiary Service, and other military units established according to laws of Ukraine.

On the other hand, combatants who fought as **“volunteer” forces** that were not part of government troops are:

- persons who were part of self-organized volunteer regiments that had been created to defend independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity of Ukraine, and were directly involved in ATO, with immediate presence in the ATO zone, on condition that subsequently such volunteer regiments integrated with the Armed Forces of Ukraine, forces of the Ministry of Internal Affairs, National Guard or other military and law enforcement units established according to the laws of Ukraine;
- persons who at the time of enactment of the Law “On special modalities of public policy towards assurance of Ukraine’s sovereignty in temporarily occupied territories in Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts” were part of self-organized volunteer regiments that had been created to defend independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity of Ukraine, and had been directly involved in ATO with immediate presence in the ATO zone for at least 30 calendar days, also cumulatively, interacting with the Armed Forces of Ukraine, forces of the Ministry of Internal Affairs, National Guard or other military and law enforcement units established according to the laws of Ukraine.

In order to be officially recognized as combatant, a person who fought in ATO/JFO as part of volunteer forces must present documented evidence of direct involvement in delivery of ATO objectives or national security and defence interventions, countering and deterrence of the aggression waged by the Russian Federation in Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts in the ATO zone. Such evidence can include excerpts from orders of the Chief of the Anti-Terrorist Centre under the Security Service / General Staff of the Armed Forces of Ukraine, and documents confirming direct encounter and gunfight with the enemy, reconnaissance operations, etc.²⁰⁰

The first combatant IDs were issued to volunteer troops only in March 2020, and only 11 individuals received them. According to the Minister, in 2020 the Ministry for Veterans Affairs plans to issue 128 combatant IDs to volunteer fighters.

Upon issuance of combatant ID, members of government and volunteer forces become equal in status and access to government services and guarantees.

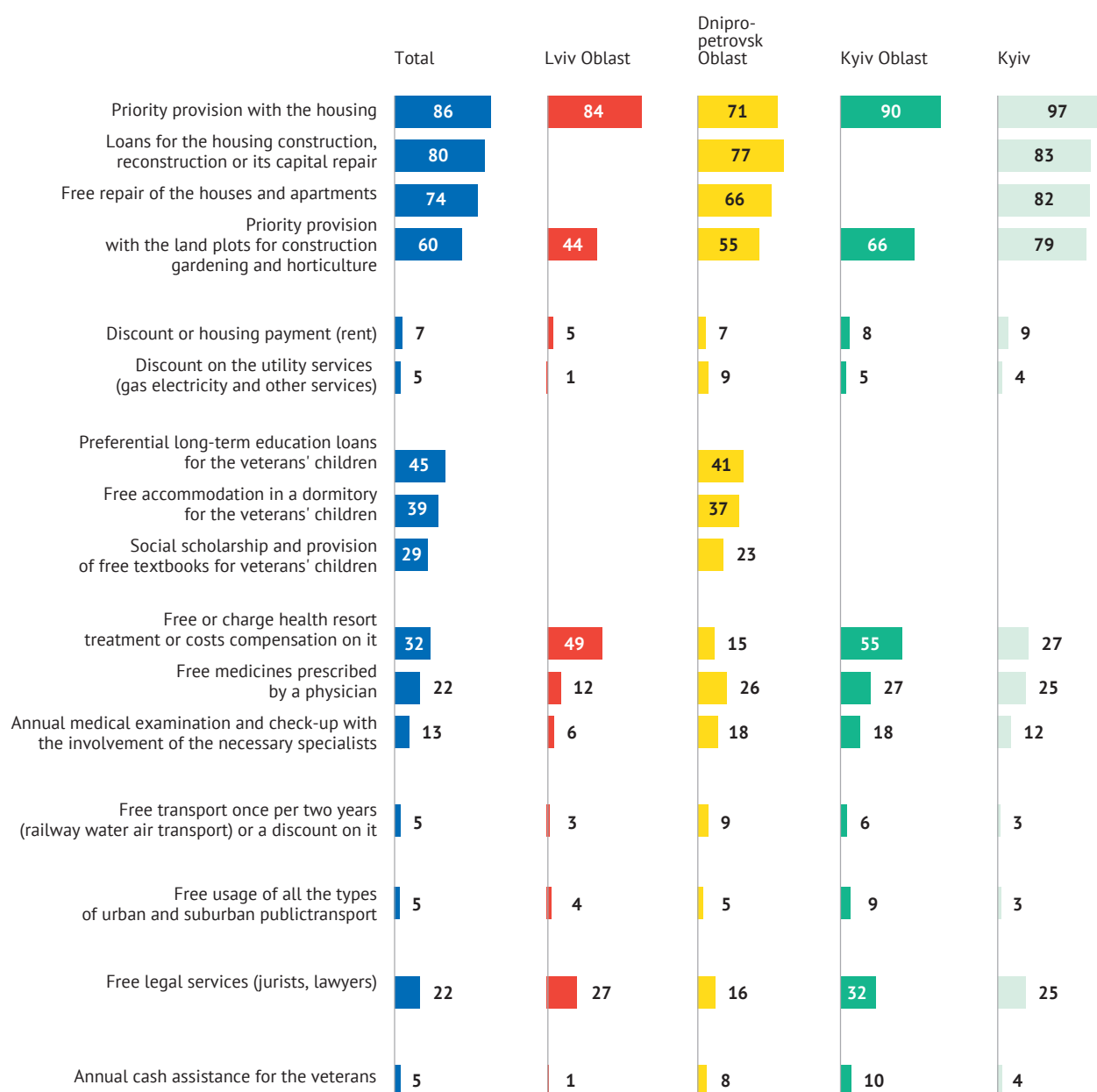
The Law envisaged 22 kinds of benefits for combatants, covering healthcare, recreational treatment, education, housing (use and construction) and utilities, allocation of land plots, public transport fare, assistance related to temporary incapacity to work, annual leaves, taxation. Besides benefits, veterans enjoy state guarantees.

²⁰⁰ Resolution of the Cabinet of Ministers of August 20, 2014 № 413 “On Approval of the Procedure for Granting and Depriving the Status of a Participant in Combat Persons Who Defended the Independence, Sovereignty and Territorial Integrity of Ukraine and Participated Directly in the Anti-Terrorist Operation, security and defence, repulse and deterrence of the armed aggression of the Russian Federation in Donetsk and Luhansk regions, ensuring their implementation”. <https://zakon.rada.gov.ua/laws/show/413-2014-%D0%BF>

Veterans' needs and services

According to the study conducted by IOM in January 2020 on accessibility of services for combatants, 71% of respondents reported not being able to receive at least one type of service or assistance.²⁰¹ The least accessible are services and benefits related to housing: 86% had not received priority access to housing provision, and 80% had not received loans for construction, renovation or capital repair of housing. As regards education benefits, almost half of respondents (45%) had not received long-term student loans. Each fifth respondent (22%) reported not being able to access free prescription drugs, and each third respondent (32%) reported not being able to access free recreational treatment (rehabilitation). Also, the majority (68%) indicated that they learn about benefits and services from their social group (veterans).

Figure 6. Share of those who failed to receive services or assistance, % of those who tried²⁰²



²⁰¹ IOM. Life after conflict: Survey on the sociodemographic and socioeconomic characteristics of veterans of the conflict in eastern Ukraine and their families (January 2020). http://ukraine.iom.int/sites/default/files/veterans_reintegration_survey_2020_eng.pdf

²⁰² Ibid.

According to the Law “On Free legal Aid”, combatants are eligible for free secondary legal aid. Preparing this report, CENSS collected information from several legal aid centres about the number of veterans who had received free secondary legal aid and respective areas of interest.

For example, the legal aid centre in Sumy oblast on average is contacted by about 100 combatants annually. At the same time, according to the report on the work of free legal aid centres, these centres received **6,783 requests for free secondary legal aid across Ukraine**.

As reported by a number of legal aid centres, in 2019-2020 the most frequently requested legal services claimed by veterans include provision of free legal aid, essentially meaning informing them about the rights and freedoms, related procedures and legal rehabilitation in cases of rights violation, appeal procedure against decisions, actions or silence of state authorities, local self-governments and officials. As regards secondary legal aid, the most frequently requested legal services are related to representation of interests of eligible persons in courts and drawing up procedural documents. The issues with which combatants (ATO/JFO veterans) most frequently contact legal aid centres include allocation of land plots specifically stipulated for ATO/JFO veterans, recovery of unpaid compensation for unused additional leave stipulated for ATO/JFO veterans, recovery of unpaid compensation related to the discharge from service, appeal procedure against decisions, actions or silence of state authorities, local self-governments and officials, as well as other issues relating to family, civil, and administrative relations unrelated to the status of combatant (ATO/JFO veteran).

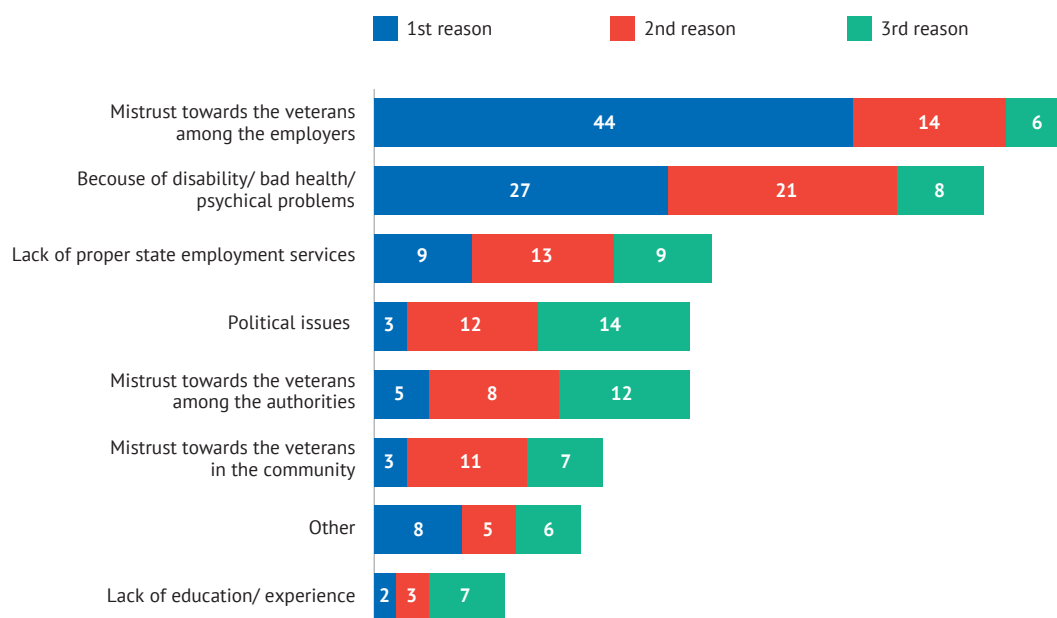
Employment of veterans

According to Article 119 of the Ukrainian Labour Code, for individuals employed prior to joining active military service, their place of employment and position shall be kept for them until their return. Today, the country does not have a strategy to address problems related to veterans’ employment. If some measures that are taken, they only complement the existing general employment programmes. Developing strategies and action plans for veterans’ employment, the responsible institutions – Ministry of Social Policy, State Employment Service – should focus not only on occupations and qualification levels but also take into the perspective the additional burden born by employers that recruit returning veterans (granting of additional time off, sick leaves, retention of workplace for the time of contract-based service in the armed forces, etc.).

The 2017 World Bank survey of socio-economic impacts of internal displacement and veteran return showed²⁰³ that obstacles to finding employment included employers’ concerns that veterans would display symptoms of post-traumatic stress disorders (PTSD) and mental distress and create conflict situations at work, threatening safety of other employees. Also, employers had misgivings that veteran employees might be conscripted again if there was to be an escalation of conflict in Donbas. On the other hand, many employers expressed the feeling of patriotism and gratitude towards veterans and were willing to help. Many veterans would want to start own business, but for the reported challenges, most commonly of which were lack of start-up capital and necessary knowledge and skills (in accounting, strategy and planning, etc.).

²⁰³ The World Bank Group. Socio-economic impacts of internal displacement and veteran return. Summary report (May 2017). <http://documents1.worldbank.org/curated/en/571011497962214803/pdf/116489-REVISED-Updated-Report-Socioeconomic-Impacts-Internal-Displacement-Veteran-Ret.pdf>

Figure 7. Obstacles to finding employment by veterans, (percent of those verans who think it's more difficult to find a job for a veteran) ²⁰⁴



During the focus groups conducted by IOM, some veterans reported that they hardly planned to return to their former place of employment because of major shift in the outlook. Respondents mentioned experiencing difficulties with tasks involving communication with other people because of the perceived erosion in their relationship with colleagues.²⁰⁵

More than a quarter (29%) reported that their jobs had not been retained for them. Recruitment possibilities of veterans are often limited due to deterioration of health and acquired chronic medical condition. They also felt that being involved in hostilities and actual fighting had changed their world outlook, understanding of self and their purpose in life, which in turn affected their demands to professional activity, making them reluctant to return to their previous jobs.

With this regard we would like to note that IOM is implementing a project aimed to assist the Ukrainian government in provision of support to veterans and their families to facilitate their effective re-adjustment to civilian life and active participation in socio-economic development of communities.

Also, the NATO Trust Fund was established to create a system of transition from military to civil career with the overarching objective to develop and implement a sustainable, effective and integrated approach to the re-training and social adaptation of military personnel. The project has been ongoing since 2015, with the budget of € 435,000.

Psychological rehabilitation, social and professional adaptation

According to the Ministry for Veterans Affairs data on services for ATO/JFO personnel, in 2017-2019 psychological rehabilitation services were provided to 5,432 persons, recreational treatment to 5,921 persons and professional adaptation services to 15,146 persons.

²⁰⁴ The World Bank Group. Socio-economic impacts of internal displacement and veteran return. Summary report (May 2017). <http://documents1.worldbank.org/curated/en/571011497962214803/pdf/116489-REVISED-Updated-Report-Socioeconomic-Impacts-Internal-Displacement-Veteran-Ret.pdf>
²⁰⁵ IOM. Life after conflict: Survey on the sociodemographic and socioeconomic characteristics of veterans of the conflict in eastern Ukraine and their families (January 2020). http://ukraine.iom.int/sites/default/files/veterans_reintegration_survey_2020_eng.pdf

It is expected that in 2020, 6,541 persons will receive psychological rehabilitation. However, the situation is such that in the first half of the year 3,454 applications were received but only 339 contracts have been signed and actual rehabilitation was provided to 89 veterans. The target for recipients of social and professional adaptation services is 3,882. In the first half-year 5,430 applications were received, 995 contracts have been signed to provide professional training to 1,115 persons and 345 persons have completed training.

In October 2019, the Centre for Veterans Mental Health and Rehabilitation started to receive clients from all over Ukraine. The Centre was created as part of the state veterans' hospital "Lisova Poliana" run by the Ministry of Health that specializes in treatment of combat post-traumatic stress disorders, conditions related to traumatic brain injury and substance abuse.

The Ministry for Veterans Affairs, in consultations with the Ministry of Health, is compiling a menu of medical services for veterans and their families that are not covered by the general government healthcare guarantees but instead will be paid for under additional government guarantees. Currently, the ministry has a working group working on such medical services to be financed from the state budget.

Also, the Ministry for Veterans Affairs developed Guidelines for the creation and operations of centres that provide assistance to veterans, enacting the Guidelines by Order No. 8 of 13 January 2020.

According to legislation, social and professional adaptation services are to be made available to all ATO fighters (employed, unemployed, out-of-work, military and law enforcement personnel, etc.) who have been granted the status of combatants, persons with disabilities resulting from war, and war participants.

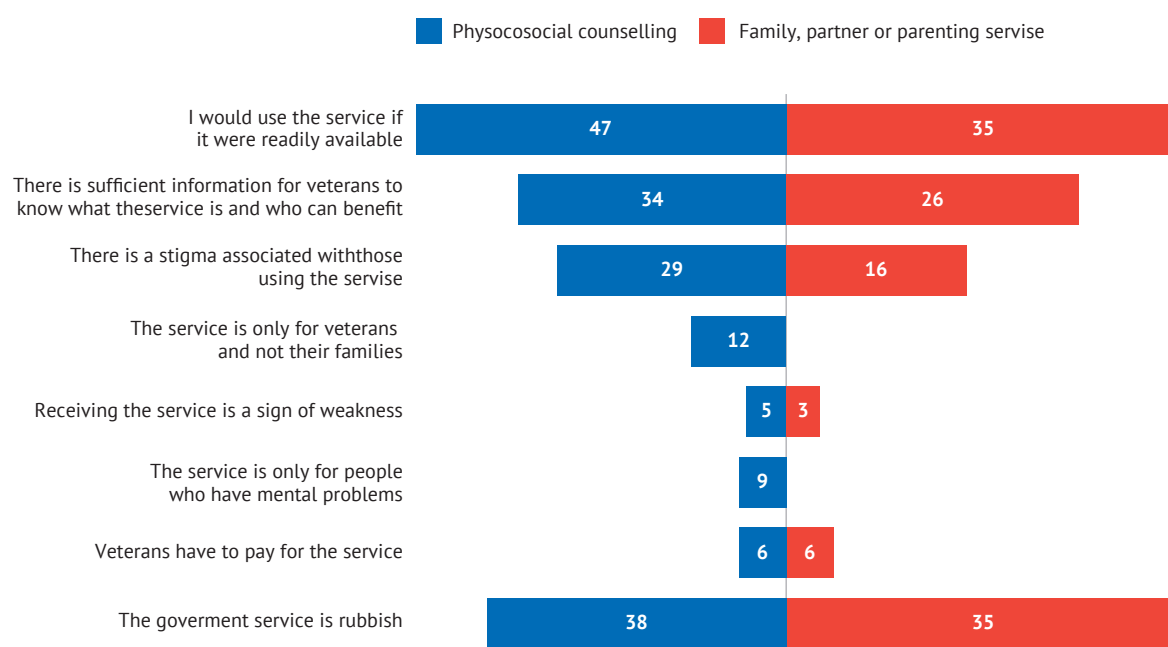
In 2015-2019, 23,182 members of ATO/JFO received training as part of social and professional adaptation services, which is by 3,265 persons more than the initially planned target.

Given the total number of registered combatants and the demand for counselling among veterans, the figures presented by the ministry do not look optimistic.

The 2017 World Bank survey showed that scepticism and non-acceptance of counselling was not a common perception among veterans. 47% said they would use such service if it were readily available. At the same time, 38% agreed with the statement that the government counselling service was substandard, and only 34% believes that there was sufficient information for veterans to know what the service was and how to benefit.²⁰⁶

²⁰⁶ The World Bank Group. Socio-economic impacts of internal displacement and veteran return. Summary report (May 2017). <http://documents1.worldbank.org/curated/en/571011497962214803/pdf/116489-REVISED-Updated-Report-Socioeconomic-Impacts-Internal-Displacement-Veteran-Ret.pdf>

Figure 8. Attitude toward psychosocial counselling/psychosocial support for family members (% of all veterans)²⁰⁷



Three years later, veterans' needs regarding counselling remain essentially unchanged. To the point, in March 2020 the international charity "Ukrainian Foundation for Public Health" conducted an effectiveness assessment of pilot mobile counselling teams for ATO/JFO combatants and their families in Mykolaiv and Kyiv oblasts, with psychologists making an attempt to identify key problems faced by combatants upon their return to civilian life and compare the responses with views expressed by their families.²⁰⁸ The findings have revealed significant divergence of views of veterans' immediate circle regarding the typical obstacles to their re-adjustment to civilian life.

²⁰⁷ The World Bank Group. Socio-economic impacts of internal displacement and veteran return. Summary report (May 2017). <http://documents1.worldbank.org/curated/en/571011497962214803/pdf/116489-REVISED-Updated-Report-Socioeconomic-Impacts-Internal-Displacement-Veteran-Ret.pdf>

²⁰⁸ Ukrainian Civil Health Foundation International Charitable Foundation. Report on the results of the study of the effectiveness of pilot mobile brigades of social and psychological assistance to combatants in the ATO/JFO and members of their families in the Mykolayiv and Kyiv regions (March 2020). https://ukraine.unfpa.org/sites/default/files/pub-pdf/mt_jfo_report_final_compressed_1.pdf

Figure 9. Key problems that arise in the process of adaptation to peaceful life, according to the combatants, %²⁰⁹

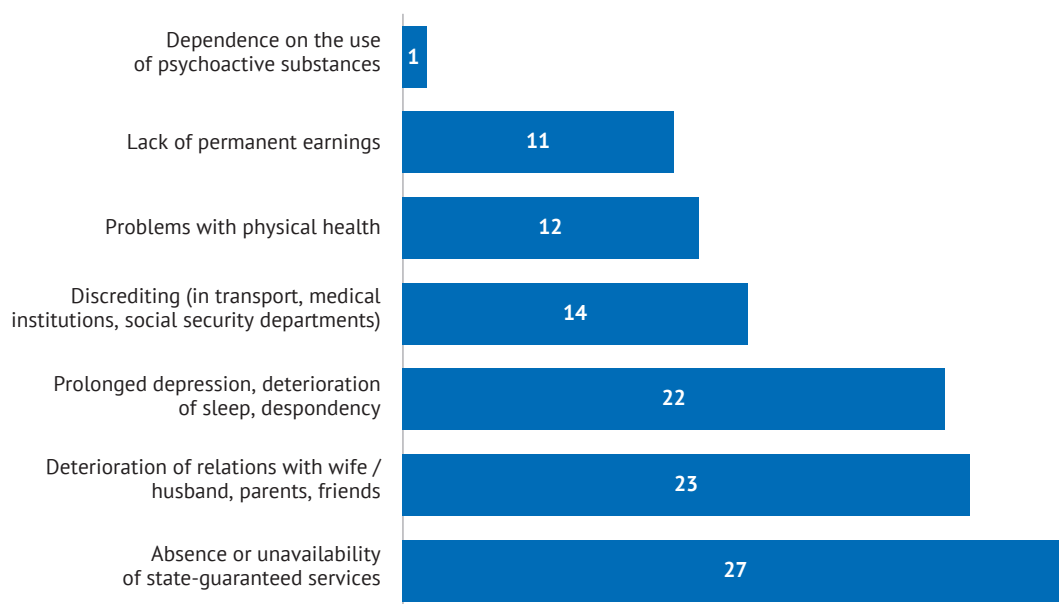
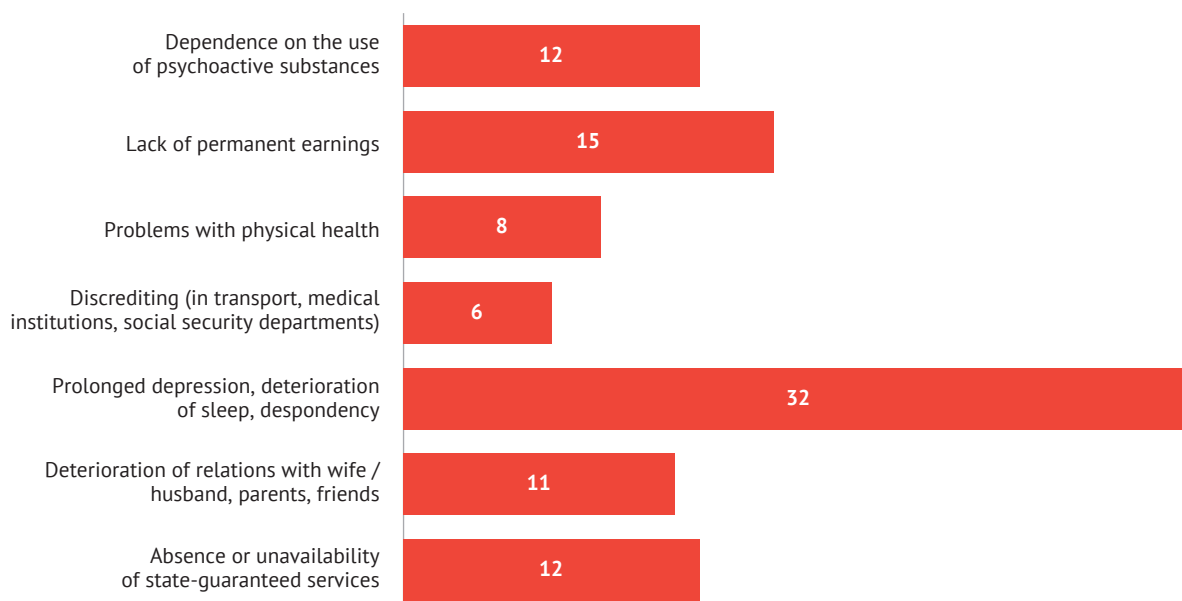


Figure 10. Key problems that arise in the process of adaptation to peaceful life, according to family members of the combatant, %²¹⁰



The analysis of needs of combatants and their families in Mykolaiv and Kyiv oblasts in the process of re-adjustment to civilian life has revealed that 41% of respondents expect to receive adequate professional counselling (including 27% of respondents who reported the need for family counselling); 23% count on a wide range of supporting services related to claiming of benefits, subsidies and unemployment allowances; 19% require recreational treatment and physical rehabilitation; and 16% expect to receive legal advice (on issuance of documents, including 5% who mentioned land-related documents).

²⁰⁹ Ukrainian Civil Health Foundation International Charitable Foundation. Report on the results of the study of the effectiveness of pilot mobile brigades of social and psychological assistance to combatants in the ATO/JFO and members of their families in the Mykolayiv and Kyiv regions (March 2020). https://ukraine.unfpa.org/sites/default/files/pub-pdf/mt_jfo_report_final_compressed_1.pdf

²¹⁰ Ibid.

As shown by the survey of mobile team psychologists, the main issues on which combatants seek counselling include conflicts in family – 54%; psychosomatic symptoms of stress (sleep and eating disorders, anxiety) – 24%; uncontrolled fits of aggression – 12%; suicidal ideation / self-harm – 6%; problems with substance abuse – 4%.

The Ministry for Veterans Affairs has also reported that IREX is implementing the Veterans Reintegration Programme aimed at building strong support structures for veterans, increasing access to quality mental health services and economic empowerment of veterans. The Programme is implemented in 2019-2021, with total budget of \$5,000,000.

Seeking to support Ukraine, NATO established the Medical Rehabilitation Trust Fund (focusing on prosthesis) for military personnel. The Fund assists active and former servicemen, supports the civil security and defence sector, organizes urgent rehabilitation and prosthesis abroad as well as access to professional sports rehabilitation. Its more general goal is to promote the development of physical rehabilitation system in Ukraine to guarantee the availability of quality and reliable services to active and former servicemen and civilian staff of the civil security and defence sector. The project is ongoing since 2016, with total budget of € 2,250,000.

Fostering a positive image of veterans

With a view to shaping and implementing the policy on fostering a positive image of veterans, the Ministry for Veterans Affairs established a dedicated expert group on 4 May 2020, tasked with the following:

- ensuring development and implementation of public policy on fostering a positive image of veterans of war, persons with special merit before the Fatherland, affected participants of the Revolution of Dignity (hereinafter – veterans);
- planning, organization and implementation of communication campaigns and activities aimed at fostering a positive image of veterans, popularization of military history, building communication between different generations of veterans, related to celebration of national holidays, commemorations, and historical anniversaries, and coordination of executive bodies and local self-governments on these issues;
- coordinating activity of executive bodies and, when prescribed by the law, local self-government bodies in the promotion and fostering a positive image of veterans;
- promoting the engagement of civil society and the public at large in fostering a positive image of veteran.

The expert group plans to introduce in 2021 the budget programme entitled “The programme for heroization of the image of defender and fostering of positive perception of veterans by society, carrying out activities to honour soldiers and veterans during life and honour the memory of the fallen, raising the level of national patriotic upbringing”. It proposes to include expenditures towards fostering a positive image of veteran in society, designing and implementing a study of the image of veteran – defender of Ukraine.

The expert group is also working on identifying advantages and shortcomings of the existing image of veteran and is considering activities aimed at strengthening the positive sides; development of legal acts regulating this policy area; building cooperation with other central government stakeholders, in particular within the defence and security sector, on fostering the image of veteran based on values underlying the image of a soldier, military officer, etc.; development and implementation of information campaigns, including those promoting heroization of the defenders who gave their lives fighting for Ukraine; engagement of civil society and the public at large in fostering a positive image of veteran; conducting a survey among young people tapping into their perception of veterans and what should be the key features of veterans; dissemination of veterans’ positive stories.

Veterans’ NGOs that seek to engage with other social groups at local level and with local self-governments, and to involve veterans in local affairs also contribute to positive image of veterans.

Interaction with Veterans' NGOs in 2018-2020

In 2018 and the first half of 2019, interaction with Veterans' NGOs was ensured by the state service on veterans and ATO members. Starting from July 2019, according to the Regulation on the Ministry for Veterans Affairs these powers have been transferred to the Ministry.

The Ministry cooperates with NGOs in the establishment and implementation of priority policy areas falling within its competence, awards competitive grants, according to the legally defined procedure, for the implementation of programmes (projects, activities), and conducts monitoring and analysis of effectiveness of programmes (projects, activities) implemented by veterans' NGOs with financing allocated from the state budget.

Since 2018, budget funding channelled to support veterans' NGOs are distributed through competition. The procedure for competitive grant award is defined in regulation specifying programmes (projects, activities) developed by NGOs to be supported by grants, approved by the Cabinet of Ministers' Resolution No. 1149 of 12 October 2011.²¹¹ The spending mechanism for grants stipulated in the state budget to support veterans' NGOs in the implementation of national programmes (projects, activities), activities relating to attendance of military burials and military monuments, celebrations and commemorations is approved by the Cabinet of Ministers' Resolution No. 156 of 14 February 2018.²¹²

To ensure NGOs equal access to grant support stipulated in the state budget for the implementation of national programmes (projects, activities) on the basis of competitions, since 2018 the possibility of such grant award is stipulated for any veterans' NGO without mandatory requirement of the all-Ukrainian status. Thus, it is important to ensure equal access to competitions, robust selection and monitoring of project outcomes.

In 2018, the competitive allocation of grants to support of 10 veterans' NGOs for the implementation of 15 projects distributed UAH 4,317,961.8. In 2019, the competitive allocation of grants to support of 9 veterans' NGOs for the implementation of 11 projects distributed UAH 5,247,715.68. In 2020, the recipients of grant awards are 24 veterans' NGOs that plan to implement 26 projects with total value of UAH 6,000,000.

ATO/JFO veterans and illegal circulation of weapons

Using the monthly crime monitoring data in 2019-2020 presented in public announcements of the law enforcement, CENSS has analysed in which cases the law enforcement identified persons in possession of weapons.

In some cases, individuals found in situations involving confiscation or use of weapons are combatants. This indicates absence or inadequacy of engagement with combatants upon their return to civilian life, in particular counselling, support with employment, etc. It is not rare when such persons use weapons in domestic conflicts.

The analysis points to a highly probable correlation between increased incidence of illegal use or keeping of weapons in Dnipropetrovsk, Lviv, Zhytomyr, Vinnytsia, Sumy, Mykolaiv and Ivano-Frankivsk oblasts and significant numbers of ATO/JFO fighters in these regions who were mobilized in 2014-2016.

An important characteristic of the situation with illegal circulation of weapons is the fact that in Ukraine there are people who keep parts of ammunition, fuses and detonators of mines and grenades, bomb cases and TNT blocks in their homes. Illegal making and remodelling of firearms, ammunition or explosives remains to be characteristic for Ukraine for several reasons. In particular, it is one of the consequences of the armed conflict during which the military and other members of ATO/JFO became skilful in using weapons, remodelling or making of improvised weapons and explosive devises.

²¹¹ Resolution of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine of October 12, 2011 №1049 "On approval of the Procedure for conducting a competition to identify programs (projects, activities) developed by civil society institutions, for the implementation (realization) of which financial support is provided". <https://zakon.rada.gov.ua/laws/show/1049-2011-%D0%BF>

²¹² Resolution of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine of February 14, 2018 № 156 "Some issues of providing financial support to public associations of veterans". <https://zakon.rada.gov.ua/laws/show/156-2018-%D0%BF>

Reports of incidents involving illegal circulation and use of weapons by the military and other members of ATO/JFO are also found in thousands of court decisions, including criminal convictions registered in the unified state register of court decisions. The preliminary analysis of such decisions reveals typical cases of illegal circulation and use of weapons by this group. They include taking weapons from the duty station, use of assigned arms to resolve domestic conflict, illegal buying of weapons originating from ATO/JFO, also involving malfeasance.

Reports of incidents involving active duty servicemen suggest lack of control over the arms circulation and handling as well as insufficient awareness-raising and preventative efforts in some units of the defence, security and law enforcement sectors.

2.6. Alignment between the strategic vision and the way forward with some initiatives at the levels of government and international partners, lessons learnt from prior cooperation

Since the very outbreak of the armed conflict in eastern Ukraine, the international community has been strongly supporting Ukraine through delivery of humanitarian aid, international technical assistance and international loans. It is the seventh year that the international humanitarian team has been active in country, comprising UN humanitarian agencies, the ICRC, foreign governments' humanitarian institutions, foreign and domestic non-governmental organizations.

In 2014-2015, the humanitarian coordination was conducted at the level of Prime Minister (Mr. Yatseniuk held weekly meetings with heads of humanitarian missions in Ukraine). With the establishment of the State Agency for Donbas Recovery (later transformed into MTOT), coordination of the humanitarian team became the task of this new institution, and this coordination system is still in place.

At regional level, humanitarian organizations coordinate their activity with local military-civil administrations (mainly at oblast level) and the leadership of the JFO Staff. On behalf of humanitarian organizations, the general coordination in Ukraine is performed by the UN OCHA. It prepares annual humanitarian response plans covering the needs of affected population on both side of the contact line and plans for responding to the humanitarian needs of most vulnerable groups. However, since 2014 humanitarian response plans have never received full funding.

In the period spanning 2014-2020, coordination of development partners evolved in several phases. Among the first organizations that initiated activities on the borderline between humanitarian aid and development was UNDP that launched early recovery projects in eastern Ukraine in 2014. The Ukrainian government's efforts to coordinate and institutionalize the activity of development partners started in late 2015, with the launch of the State Agency for Donbas Recovery.

According to legislation, information exchange and monitoring of international technical assistance projects is supposed to the responsibility of the Ministry for Economic Development, as prescribed by the government regulation "On the establishment of a single system of mobilization, use and monitoring of international technical assistance",²¹³ namely by registration of projects and programmes. However, this regulation was adopted back in 2002 and contains cumbersome bureaucratic procedures that are not flexible and should have been adjusted at the very onset of the armed conflict to avail smooth operations of development partners in their delivery of assistance for recovery and peacebuilding in Ukraine. Moreover, given cumbersome bureaucratic procedures, sometimes development partners avoided registering their projects according to prescribed rules.

²¹³ Resolution of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine of February 15, 2002 № 153 "On the establishment of a single system for attracting, using and monitoring international technical assistance", <https://zakon.rada.gov.ua/laws/show/153-2002-%D0%BF>

Following the Recovery and Peacebuilding Assessment (RPA) led jointly by the World Bank, the European Union, and the United Nations, and officially endorsed by the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine (Ordinance of the No. 797 of 5 August 2015), MTOT initiated and the Cabinet of Ministers regulated the establishment of the Council on Recovery and Peacebuilding in eastern Ukraine in view of the need to ensure implementation of public policy in this area. The RPA called for certain institutional measures, in particular setting up of a cross-sectoral and multi-agency body that would include ministries responsible for key areas of recovery, local self-governments, civil society and international community, including donors. The Council was supposed to assume the functions of this body, operating under the Government, as specified in the RPA.

The Council on Recovery and Peacebuilding was established on 14 September 2016 as a temporary auxiliary body of the Cabinet of Ministers tasked with examination of issues related to implementation of recovery and peacebuilding policy in areas affected by the armed conflict in Ukraine and support of government-led coordination of development partners.

It was envisaged that the Council would be chaired by Deputy Prime Minister – Minister for Regional Development, and the deputy chair would be Minister responsible for temporarily occupied territories and IDPs. The Council was supposed to include representatives from ministries, oblast state administrations, local self-governments and international partners.

The **key tasks assigned to the Council** were as follows:

- to support coordination of state authorities and local self-governments as regards recovery and peacebuilding;
- to improve the legal framework on recovery and peacebuilding;
- to study and disseminate foreign governments' experience in addressing recovery and peacebuilding;
- to attract and mobilize investment, grants and loans for recovery and peacebuilding in Ukraine;
- elaborate proposals on the strategy for implementation of public policy on recovery and peacebuilding in areas affected by the armed conflict in Ukraine;
- to support the communities affected by the armed conflict, social cohesion and resilience in the face of economic and other challenges;
- to determine ways, mechanisms and methods for addressing problems arising in the course of implementation of public policy on recovery and peacebuilding;
- monitor the implementation progress of actions stipulated by the RPA, including implementation of the financial strategy, also using the mechanisms of Multi-Partner Trust Fund established for Ukraine.

Initiated as a powerful coordination and analytical mechanism, the Council, regrettably, never even started its work for reasons related to absence of political will and support to its functioning.

One of the envisaged tasks of the Council was to play a strategic role in operation of Multi-Partner Trust Funds (MPTFs) established for Ukraine in October 2016. The MPTFs establishment was stipulated by the RPA recommendations and the Government's Priority Actions for 2016, and the corresponding Memorandum of Understanding was signed on 22 October between the Government of Ukraine, the UN and IBRD.



Photo 3. Signing of the Memorandum on the establishment of Multi-Partner Trust Funds for Ukraine, October 2016²¹⁴

The key objectives of MPTFs were to allocate funding for prompt recovery and peacebuilding measures recommended by the RPA, focusing on priorities that had not been financed from the state budget or through credit facilities; to improve coordination by the Government of Ukraine to minimize duplication and fragmentation of support; and to provide capacity building, technical and analytical support.

The MPTFs were proposed to be launched for the initial four-year programme to support recovery and peacebuilding starting spanning 2016 to 2020.

The main tasks included:

- general coordination of recovery and peacebuilding activities in eastern Ukraine, covering Kharkiv, Dnipropetrovsk, and Zaporizhzhia oblasts (promoting dialogue and interaction, allocating and monitoring of financing, coordinating analytical work, assessments and technical assistance);
- use of investment and credit resources as well as private sector development (co-funding and technical support, support to projects, capacity building, development of sectoral strategies, etc.);
- closing major gaps in financing of recovery and peacebuilding activities (priority areas which are not funded / underfunded from other sources);
- delivery of support / development of analytical outputs;
- monitoring and evaluation;
- capacity building;
- strategic communication.

Sources of financing: dual structure – the UN Trust Fund and the World Bank Trust Fund.

Operational Framework: The UN and the World Bank administer their respective funds using joint governance mechanisms to ensure the wide choice of granting mechanisms, implementation conditions and technical support of priorities defined in the RPA.

²¹⁴ UNIAN. Signing of a memorandum between the IBRD, the World Bank and Ukraine (October 28, 2016). <https://photo.unian.ua/photo/742112-podpisanie-memoranduma>

Advantages of the MPTFs structure include the possibility of independent administration of the UN Trust Fund and the World Bank Trust Fund and delivery of support leveraging their comparative strengths. At the same both are accountable to the joint body, the Recovery and Peacebuilding Council, and are to operate within the agreed priorities.

It was expected that this approach would be based on complementarity of these institutions’ experience and expertise:

- **The United Nations:** initiation of the UN Fund that would administer programmes directly through UN agencies and NGO partners; broad mandate to encompass a wide range of early recovery and peacebuilding objectives and presence in conflict-affected areas; needs-based programming of early response in eastern Ukraine;
- **The World Bank Group:** mid-term and long-term socio-economic recovery, rebuilding of infrastructure and recovery of economy in the eastern part of the country; strong links with larger national credit operations, support in macro-economy and budget spheres, private sector development and support utilizing national and local systems (support “from the budget”), expertise in assistance to the development of programmes targeting conflict-affected groups (IDPs, host communities across Ukraine, communities in conflict zones, and returning combatants).

The main focus is on capacity building at national, regional and local levels to develop recovery and peacebuilding plans and programmes and finance projects through national systems.

Joint governance mechanisms

It was proposed to create a three-tier funds management structure: (1) Council on Recovery and Peacebuilding established by the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine in 2016 to define general areas of the recovery and peacebuilding strategy and policy; (2) a small executive committee as a management body of the MPTFs tasked with operational decision-making; (3) regional advisory boards at stakeholder institutions at regional and local level to define the needs, review programmes and projects of financing and propose recommendations; (4) a secretariate placed within MTOT to support functioning of the entire governance structure.

Figure 11. Proposed management structure of the MPTFs, 2016



Programmes and projects could be proposed either through regional advisory boards or through the executive committee at national level.

The implementing recipients are institutions of the executive branch (ministries, local state administrations), local self-governments, NGOs, research institutions, international organizations and other potential implementing partners.

Regretfully, the MPTFs has not lived up to its full potential. Despite signing of the Memorandum on the MPTFs in October 2016, due to the complexity of international and domestic bureaucracy the World bank component was essentially launched only in 2018 with two donors – the Governments of Sweden and Canada – and funding of \$2 million.

UN component of the MPTFs has not actually started its work: no funding has been allocated and no projects have been implemented. At the same time, the UN focused on the work under the multi-donor Recovery and Peace-building Programme initiated in 2015 with total funding of dozens of millions of US dollars and about 10 donors – national governments. Having a strong office in eastern Ukraine, UNDP exchanged information with oblast military-civil administrations.

By the time of the MPTFs establishment in 2016, the majority of development partners had already had three-year experience of working in Ukraine, approved strategies, allocated funding by projects, functional cooperation with stakeholders, authorities and recipients, and did not have the need to invest into the MPTFs.

At the same time, projects initiated under the MPTFs administered by the World Bank cover donor coordination, capacity building, and counselling support to affected population.

In 2017, the Government adopted three strategic policy documents on:

- 1) IDPs integration in host communities and implementation of long-term solutions to address ongoing internal displacement;²¹⁵
- 2) plan of measures to maintain linkages with people living in NGCA, service provision and ensuring their rights;²¹⁶
- 3) recovery and peacebuilding in conflict-affected areas.²¹⁷

The adoption of these policies coincided in time with the medium-term planning of international technical assistance for Ukraine by international organizations and partner states, such as the World Bank, some UN agencies, USAID and the EU. This allowed the international partners to take into consideration the tasks and priorities set by Ukrainian government in their programming, and in the absence of dedicated national budget allocations for some actions, they helped to bridge the gaps with their contributions to achieve policy objectives.

At the same time, lack of adequate coordination between the government, donors and local authorities was leading to certain duplication of efforts, hampering effective implementation of development projects. For example, many donors concentrated efforts on the same communities or areas of activity, such as support to civil society, training of mediators, helping veterans and IDPs start own business.

²¹⁵ Order of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine as of November 15, 2017 № 909-p "On approval of the Strategy for integration of internally displaced persons and implementation of long-term decisions on internal displacement until 2020". <https://zakon.rada.gov.ua/laws/show/909-2017-%D1%80>

²¹⁶ Order of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine of January 11, 2017 № 8-p "On approval of the action plan aimed at implementing certain principles of state domestic policy in certain areas of Donetsk and Luhansk regions, where public authorities temporarily do not exercise their powers". <https://zakon.rada.gov.ua/laws/show/8-2017-%D1%80>

²¹⁷ Resolution of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine of December 13, 2017 № 1071 "On approval of the State target program for the restoration and development of peace in the eastern regions of Ukraine". <https://zakon.rada.gov.ua/laws/show/1071-2017-%D0%BF>

Also, in 2016-2018 some projects were lacking oversight or follow-up on outcomes or impacts. For example, having received a grant for development or starting own business, some recipients would not use the money according to the intended purpose, or encountered challenges with accounting and taxation, or did not have sufficient capacity to continue building their business. As a result, some would later quit or become non-competitive. After 2018, the international partners changed their approach and tried to organize the follow-up for their target groups, sometimes partnering with other programmes or projects, including local ones, as well as local authorities and education institutions.

For example, in order to coordinate efforts at local level seeking to avoid duplication while working in the same region or sub-region (eastern, southern or western parts of Ukraine), international partners organized themselves around one major project. Thus, the USAID project “DG EAST” and the UN Recovery and Peacebuilding Programme (implemented by UNDP, several other UN agencies and funded by the EU, Sweden, Switzerland, Norway, Denmark, Japan and others) assumed coordination functions in one of the spheres in Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts.

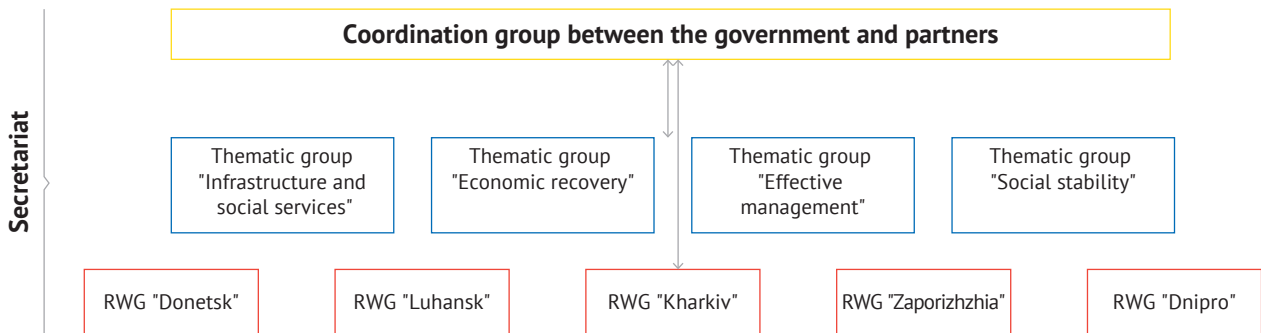
The contributing factors were the presence of strong offices of international organizations and their projects in target oblasts and the position of regional authorities (oblast military-civil administrations) that there was no need to agree all activates separately with ministries and agencies.

However, information exchange is not always sufficient even within the donor community. For example, in 2017 one of the implementing organizations prepared profiles for dozens of communities in Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts and conducted local self-government capacity assessment, identifying problem issues addressing of which would contribute to their development. However, the assessment findings remained within the implementing organization, and reportedly not all of them were subsequently used by this organization, whereas if disseminated among partners and shared with government, the assessment would have helped to provide a more comprehensive support to some communities.

The attempt to build coordination between the government, local authorities and development partners was also made within the MPTFs administered by the World Bank. Active efforts were undertaken in spring and summer 2019, and the Coordination Platform on Recovery and Peacebuilding was presented to international partners on 5 July.

Figure 12. The recommended structure of the coordination platform proposed by MTOT and WB

1. Coordination Group on cooperation between the government and partner organizations (the Council)
2. Thematic working groups (TWG)
3. Regional working groups (RWG)



An approach was outlined for the functioning of this Platform. The Government of Ukraine would take the co-ordinating role, leaning on the existing mechanisms such as the state target programme, IDP strategy, regional programmes, etc. The coordination was envisaged at several levels: the needs, projects and expertise would be identified and consolidated at local level and feed into the development of regional and national concepts. For the monitoring purpose it was proposed to set up thematic working groups co-chaired by development partners (representatives of international organizations). The subjects of thematic groups would be aligned with areas defined by government strategic documents – the Strategy for IDP Integration and Recovery and Peacebuilding Programme for eastern Ukraine.

Figure 13. The recommended model of the coordination platform proposed by MTOT and WB

	PROPOSED MEMBERS	PROPOSED FUNCTIONS	HOW TO MEET
Coordination group on cooperation between the government and partners	PROFILE MANAGERS (deputy) ministers, heads of Oblast state administrations and Rayon state administrations, local authorities, heads of international organizations <i>Decide on the chairmanship</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · SUPPORT FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF NATIONAL POLICY AND STRATEGY · MANAGEMENT OF FUND MOBILIZATION · COORDINATION OF WORK AT THE INTERDEPARTMENTAL LEVEL · MONITORING OF THE GENERAL IMPLEMENTATION PROGRESS 	Once or twice a year
Thematic working group	IMPLEMENTERS Representatives of relevant agencies, Oblast state administrations, international organizations, leading NGOs / International NGOs <i>Co-chair: International NGOs / International organizations</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · EXCHANGE AND DISSEMINATION OF INFORMATION · PROPOSALS FOR STRATEGIES, NATIONAL POLICY, LEGISLATIVE CHANGES IN RELEVANT AREAS · DEVELOPMENT OF JOINT APPROACHES (AT THE LEVEL OF ANALYTICS AND PROGRAMS) IN RELEVANT AREAS · PROVISION OF INFORMATION / MONITORING OF IMPLEMENTATION 	every six months or quarterly; in Kyiv or in the regions; in subgroups
Regional working group	LOCAL REPRESENTATIVES Representatives of regional and local authorities, representations of international agencies at the local level, local NGOs <i>Co-chairs: REGIONS / MTOT</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · DETERMINATION OF NEEDS - LOCAL STRATEGIES · EXCHANGE / DISSEMINATION OF INFORMATION AT THE LOCAL LEVEL · PLANNING / SUPPORT OF THE IMPLEMENTATION PROCESS · COORDINATION OF CAPACITY BUILDING ACTIVITIES / TRAINING · PROJECT MONITORING – AT THE FRONT 	quarterly; periodic joint meetings with TWG

To ensure access to up-to-date information about all programmes and projects working to alleviate the consequences of the armed conflict in Ukraine, it was proposed to use the portal of economic and social recovery²¹⁸ that was created in 2017 and appreciated by the international community during its presentation at the Stockholm Forum on Peace and Development and in the IBRD headquarters.

By the time of the coordination model presentation, MTOT with support from the World Bank had completed all preparatory work: conducted training for local authorities on interaction and portal maintenance, thematic meetings and joint activities with representatives of ministries and agencies, including visits to eastern regions, identified co-chairs of thematic and regional working groups, developed and agreed work plans. However, this initiative was not completed due to change of government at the end of 2019, and the proposed format of coordination was not further implemented.

Later, in November 2019, the general system of government coordination of international technical assistance changed. The competence of the Ministry of Economic Development regarding registration and monitoring of international technical assistance was transferred to the Secretariat of the Cabinet of Ministers. A dedicated Direc-

²¹⁸ Portal of economic and social recovery: <https://portal.mtot.gov.ua/>

torate is established within the Secretariat to coordinate all international technical assistance provided to Ukraine in all sectors. As of September 2020 the coordination structure was at the stage of finalization and, according to available information, it is proposed to be organized in three levels:

1. Development Partnership Forum (Forum)

The main purpose of the Forum is to provide strategic monitoring of reforms and overall development process. The Forum is chaired by Prime Minister of Ukraine and includes Deputy Prime Minister, selected ministries, Secretariat of the Cabinet of Ministers, directors of cooperation, representatives of the UN and international financial institutions. The Forum meets once or twice annually.

2. Development Partnership Platform (Platform)

The main purpose of the Platform is to provide strategic coordination between international technical assistance and Government priorities, including commitments and obligations of the European integration and National Sustainable Development Goals. The Platform is co-chaired by representatives of the Government and development partners, and includes Secretariat of the Cabinet of Ministers, respective deputy ministers, directors of cooperation, representatives of the UN and international financial institutions. The Platform meets two or three times annually.

3. Sectoral working groups and thematic sub-groups (SWGs)

The main purpose of SWGs is to coordinate international technical assistance with sectoral reform priorities and actions plans of respective ministries. SWGs are co-chaired by respective line ministries with lead responsibility for reforms and development partners (on rotation basis), and include deputy ministers, Directorate within Secretariat of the Cabinet of Ministers in charge of international technical assistance coordination, representatives of development partners. SWGs meet on the quarterly basis.

According to the Ministry for Reintegration, as of drafting of this report the SWG on Reintegration and Recovery conducted its first meeting (18 September 2020). The SWG will coordinate technical assistance delivered by Ukraine's international partners in the areas of Ministry's competence.

It should be stressed that the basis of coordination is national ownership of the process, recognition of international expertise and robust incorporation of international support into the national framework. Over the last three years the government has defined the strategic framework on recovery and peacebuilding priorities and strands focusing on communities' needs, comprehensible for international partners and aligned with international best practices. This approach has ensured alignment between partners' efforts and government strategies. At the same time, lack of political will to coordinate properly with development partners at all levels – national, regional and local – has been curtailing opportunities to achieve good results and use available resources effectively.

According to available information, around 130 international technical assistance projects have been registered as of September 2020 since 2014 in the following areas:

- The rule of law and access to justice in conflict-affected areas;
- Dialogue and mediation;
- Disarmament, demobilization and reintegration (DDR);
- Support to communities.

Considering similarity of activities in these areas in regions and communities (especially in eastern and southern parts of Ukraine), development partners can joint efforts to achieve higher effectiveness both in terms of numbers of recipients and comprehensiveness of assistance and long-term impact.

Detailed information about projects is provided in Annex 2 to the report.

3. Conclusions and recommendations

1. It is obvious that Ukraine and Russia are in the process of conflict that involves both military and non-military methods.

In Ukraine, it is not only the eastern part but the entire country that is the target of Russia's influence aiming to substitute the Ukrainian identity or support the existing Russian identities of Ukrainian citizens (the so-called identification with the "Russian world"). Beside people with strong Ukrainian identity, there are also groups with dual and oscillating identity.

Ukrainian society has various perceptions about essential elements of national identity, such as values, origin, culture, language, co-existence within one state for a certain historical period, religion, etc. This is exploited not only by the external forces, but also by some political forces within Ukraine in order to mobilize the base during elections or lobbying for or against certain decisions of Ukrainian authorities. In the absence of long-established democratic traditions and effective organizational forms of political and other types of dialogue, the internal polarization may tend to increase, making society more vulnerable.

The culture of dialogue, democratic procedures for important decision-making, and continuous, meaningful communication with the public should become a foundation for increased trust to state authorities and local governments, eventually building a more resilient society.

As was mentioned earlier, the entire territory of Ukraine has been affected by the armed conflict. Host communities of internally displaced persons have faced additional challenges and continue to require special attention and assistance from local-level and national-level authorities. Similar attention is needed by communities from where members of the military were mobilized to serve in government forces.

Also, the whole government-controlled territory is targeted by Russia's non-military means of conflict. This situation requires strategic solutions and rapid response to counteract these measures, in particular building of resilient and sustainable society, national unity, development of critical thinking and media literacy, fostering the culture of dialogue, protection of human rights and safeguarding of the rule of law. These actions ought to be taken both at national and local levels.

Recommendations for national-level authorities:

- Carry out (commission) a major survey exploring citizens' perceptions of their identity and its elements, to identify possible risks for increased polarization and divisions in society and emergence of conflicts;
- Develop strategic documents aimed to build national unity and resilient society as a pre-requisite for democratic development;
- Adopt strategic documents aimed to build national unity and resilient society with clear implementation plan;
- Identify central government institution(s) to be responsible for development and implementation of public policy on national unity, creating an efficient and effective mechanism for continuous interaction with civil society;
- Engage wider public and various groups in the development of strategic documents and implementation plans;
- Promote and support advanced, effective forms and methods of national dialogue based on best practices and lessons learnt;
- Ensure adequate coordination between state authorities and international donors in promotion of media literacy and critical thinking.

Recommendations for local self-government:

- Conduct risk assessment with regard to group conflicts in communities and use findings to develop and approve local conflict prevention and/or conflict resolution plans;
- Build resilient communities in line with identified national priorities towards building resilient and sustainable society and national unity;
- Introduce advanced methods of dialogue and mediation in communities;
- Develop local plans of IDPs and veterans' integration;
- Assist in delivery of courses and workshops on media literacy and critical thinking in communities.

Communities in Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts require special attention.

2. Issues of “war and peace” and relations with Russia play an important role for society. Visions of how to achieve peace in Ukraine can both unite and split the society.

Thus, there must be sufficient clarity on these issues, so that the public would understand the general vision proposed by the governing elite for ways to achieve peace and major steps to be taken as well as related risks. This approach would be in line with the principles of functioning democracy and require close and well-designed communication with the public in general and individual target groups.

Also, in view of the lack of necessary knowledge and experience among members of the parliament (the Verkhovna Rada), government and local self-governments, it is important to offer special educational projects for them, based on international best practices and lessons learnt in conflict prevention and resolution.

It is critical to continuously adjust and update Ukraine's policy aimed to maintain linkages with people living in areas controlled by Russian authorities or other administrative bodies established by Russia. This should be done not only as a reaction to certain actions of Russia (such as simplification of procedures for Ukrainians to acquire Russian citizenship and such like) but also proactively – to support and strengthen the feeling of belonging to the Ukrainian state and Ukrainian society, preservation of Ukrainian national identity. The government should provide appropriate financing of corresponding programmes and projects.

3. Effective counteracting of external threats in a non-military context requires well-coordinated efforts of relevant institutions. Reforming these institutions is also among top priorities: they should be relieved of non-essential functions, have clearly defined competences, and procedures of their parliamentary, presidential, government and civil society oversight should be in line with the highest democracy standards. Trust and confidence in the country's intelligence community, law enforcement and security forces is a characteristic of democratic society, and contributes to the overall trust to democratic institutions.

In eastern areas where a large number of armed forces, intelligence, law enforcement and security units have been deployed from other parts of Ukraine, new efficient forms of interaction and cooperation with local self-governments should be introduced.

In this context, it would be valuable to study the experience of Northern Ireland with community policing, where a special interaction mechanism was created at community level. We should also keep in mind that the above-mentioned forces have a centralized hierarchical structure and considerable proportion of their personnel are located in communities in Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts on the basis of rotation.

The work with groups prone to violence, especially political violence, require development and implementation of special programmes.

4. The uptick in violence in society has been caused, among other factors, by the abundance of illegal weapons and day-to-day insecurity. To a large extent, sustainability and security in a community depend on the pos-

sibilities for the use of weapons as means to resolve conflicts. Given the exiting protest sentiment and public discontent as well as the abundance of weapons in the areas of hostilities in eastern parts of Ukraine and accessibility to these and other illegal weapons, there is formidable threat of weapons being used in situations of conflict, both at interpersonal level and during protests, rallies, provocations and various forms of pressure on authorities.

Having access to weapons in the areas of hostilities, ATO/JFO veterans often take them back home for the purpose of “self-defence” or trafficking. Thus, weapons are used to resolve domestic conflicts against family members, police or neighbours.

Weapons proliferation in Ukraine is a risk not only for internal but also for regional security. In this regard, it is essential to:

- Track the dynamics of use of weapons, sources, vehicles of illegal trafficking and related threats;
 - Carry out a study of the mechanisms for confiscation / buyback / surrender of weapons in possession of population, looking into best practices of countries that experienced conflict, and analyse legal mechanisms of weapons legalization;
 - Initiate expert and wider public discussion about proliferation, possession, and keeping of illegal weapons and related threats;
 - Conduct conflict risk assessments in communities with highest incidence of use and keeping of weapons;
 - Carry out outreach campaigns to minimize incidence of use and keeping of weapons and raise public awareness about the requirements and obligations related to legal weapon possession. These campaigns should target those geographic areas and groups that have the highest incidence of firearm possession.
5. Despite numerous legal acts, advocacy efforts, and cooperation with non-governmental sector, veterans and IDPs still require support and are not fully integrated in the settings. Ensuring the rights and delivery of services to these groups are not included in to 10 priorities of government or parliament. At local level, in the vast majority of cases, veterans and IDPs receive attention thanks to financing from international programmes and projects. Transfer of responsibility for services and benefits for veterans and IDPs from national level to local level is often not supported by sufficient financing or any financing at all, without prior estimation of local resources, reserves and possibilities to implement certain measures (for example, provision of temporary accommodation for IDPs, or allocation of land plots to ATO/JFO veterans).

Therefore, to achieve effective results, all central-level decisions that will be fully or partially trickled down for implementation by local self-governments should be adopted in a participatory process, with engagement of local authorities, assessment of capacities and discussion of key issues with all stakeholders. Disregard of this principle may lead to parallel existence of several conflicts and tensions – local versus central authorities over the lack of resources, IDPs / veterans versus community members over competition for access to resources and services; community members versus local authorities over unjust distribution of resources and suboptimal provision of services and benefits.

The key problems faced by IDPs and veterans remain to be related to housing and livelihood. The problem related to housing for veterans is closely related to similar problems of housing for military personnel during their active service. Provision of housing can be a condition of long-term contracts, but it obviously requires financial resources from the state budget to be channelled to institutions where members of the military serve.

This approach requires clear planning according to the projected number of troops in government armed forces, duration of contracts and other factors, such as specifics and stationing of military units.

After discharge from service, servicemen can retain the accommodation on certain conditions, if all contract obligations have been fulfilled. This entitlement can be passed on to their family members, for example, in the event of loss of life. In this case, having received the status of combatant (veteran), such people would not have to be enrolled in corresponding programmes for veterans. However, long-term planning of housing schemes would require close cooperation between the Ministry of Defence, Ministry of Internal Affairs, Security Service and other institutions, on the one hand, and the Ministry for Veterans Affairs, on the other hand, as well as cooperation between the latter and the Ministry of Finance.

Whereas the issue of housing is about finding resources for implementation of the existing mechanisms, the issue of employment is not only about finding jobs, but also about coming up with mechanisms to provide guarantees both for employers and the employed. It is especially important in the context of labour relations with veterans, where employers bear additional burden of ensuring all benefits and guarantees related to additional time off and retention of workplace for the time of contract-based service in the armed forces. Being aware of this burden, employers are reluctant to hire veterans. In this situation, the state should create a compensation mechanism for employers, giving incentives to recruit veterans.

6. As evidenced by multiple studies, after the six years since the onset of conflict, some IDPs and the majority of ATO/JFO members remain to be cut off from other social groups. IDPs often do not feel part of their host communities and do not feel motivated to participate in public life, even despite employment and access to education, healthcare and other services. Only in some communities do veterans play active role in regular national patriotic upbringing, apart from appearing on special days of commemoration. They also do not frequently engage with local authorities. A part of Ukrainian society still perceives veterans as additional burden on local social infrastructure.

Stereotypes often underly conflicts between different groups within community, and local authorities typically do not pay much attention to them. For this reason, it is important that authorities and IDPs and veterans' non-governmental organizations join efforts to develop strategic documents on their integration, promote their positive image and present them as valuable resource for communities, engaging active IDPs (especially women and young people) and veterans in local activities, local decision-making, leveraging their knowledge and expertise to improve life in community.

IDPs are powerful channel for information exchange with people living in NGCA, and thus their integration and perspective on the level of trust to Ukrainian authorities, reforms and transformations in Ukrainian society will influence the perceptions of people in NGCA and strengthen important linkages.

7. The basis of effective implementation of international programmes and projects is adequate coordination of all stakeholders and national ownership. The international expertise in post-conflict recovery and peacebuilding and participation of international development partners in these processes is an enormous accessible resource that should be incorporated in national frameworks.

Communication in the process of coordination of development partners should be enhanced through dialogue and platforms that would help mobilize resources and minimize costs. Today, the government has all necessary pre-conditions for in place: strategic documents created by predecessor government teams that have been endorsed by partners and are aligned with their programming for Ukraine; well-designed coordination mechanisms based on international best practices; implemented digital solutions simplifying the monitoring and coordination tasks.

Agility and possibility for adaptation to the present-day demands and contexts, use of capacity and resources offered by the international community will help accelerate achievement of results.

Given its experience and expertise regarding post-conflict countries and vulnerable societies, the Folke Bernadotte Academy is in the position to significantly contribute to the above-listed initiatives and recommendations and assist state authorities and local governments in achieving positive developments in related areas.

List of references

Normative legal acts, documents of the authorities of Ukraine

1. The Law of Ukraine of October 22, 1993 № 3551-XII «On the status of war veterans, guarantees of their social protection». <https://zakon.rada.gov.ua/laws/show/3551-12>
2. The Law of Ukraine of April 26, 2001 № 2402-III “On Child Protection”. <https://zakon.rada.gov.ua/laws/show/2402-14>
3. The Law of Ukraine of March 20, 2003 № 638-IV “On Combating Terrorism”. <https://zakon.rada.gov.ua/laws/show/638-15>
4. The Law of Ukraine of April 15, 2014 No. 1207-VII “On ensuring the rights and freedoms of citizens and legal regime in the temporarily occupied territory of Ukraine” <https://zakon.rada.gov.ua/laws/show/1207-18>
5. The Law of Ukraine of September 16, 2014 № 1680-VII “On the special local self-government regime in some areas of Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts” <https://zakon.rada.gov.ua/laws/show/1680-18>
6. The Law of Ukraine of October 20, 2014 № 1706-VII “On ensuring the rights and freedoms of internally displaced persons”. <https://zakon.rada.gov.ua/laws/show/1706-18>
7. The Law of Ukraine of February 4, 2016 № 990-VIII “On Amendments to the Civil Procedure Code of Ukraine to establish the fact of birth or death of a person in the temporarily occupied territory of Ukraine”. <https://zakon.rada.gov.ua/laws/show/990-19>
8. The Law of Ukraine of January 18, 2018 No. 2268-VIII “On special modalities of public policy regarding ensuring Ukraine’s sovereignty in the temporarily occupied territories of Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts” <https://zakon.rada.gov.ua/laws/show/2268-19>
9. The Law of Ukraine of July 12, 2018 № 2505-VIII “On the legal status of missing persons”. <https://zakon.rada.gov.ua/laws/show/2505-19>
10. The Law of Ukraine of December 6, 2018 № 2642-VIII “On mine action in Ukraine”. <https://zakon.rada.gov.ua/laws/show/2642-19>
11. Resolution of the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine of March 1, 2018 № 2312-VIII “On the Appeal of the Verkhovna Rada to Parliaments of Foreign States and Parliamentary Assemblies of International Organizations calling for condemning Russia’s political repressions against Ukrainian citizens as a result of its armed aggression against Ukraine and for freeing political prisoners – citizens of Ukraine”. <https://zakon.rada.gov.ua/laws/show/2312-19>
12. Resolution of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine of 17 April, 2019 No. 372 “On the adoption of the Rules for Marking Mine and ERW Hazards”. <https://zakon.rada.gov.ua/laws/show/372-2019-%D0%BF>
13. Resolution of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine of October 1, 2014 № 505 “On providing monthly targeted assistance to internally displaced persons to cover living expenses, including housing and communal services”. <https://zakon.rada.gov.ua/laws/show/505-2014-%D0%BF>
14. Resolution of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine of December 11, 2019 № 1122 “On some issues of social and legal protection of persons deprived of their liberty as a result of armed aggression against Ukraine, after their release”. <https://zakon.rada.gov.ua/laws/show/1122-2019-%D0%BF>
15. Resolution of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine of December 12, 2018 № 1059 “On the establishment of the Interdepartmental Commission for the generalization of the legal position of the state to repel and deter armed aggression of the Russian Federation and prepare a consolidated claim of Ukraine to the Russian Federation to implement its international legal responsibility for armed aggression against Ukraine”. <https://zakon.rada.gov.ua/laws/show/1059-2018-%D0%BF>

16. Resolution of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine of October 12, 2011 №1049 “On approval of the Procedure for conducting a competition to identify programs (projects, activities) developed by civil society institutions, for the implementation (realization) of which financial support is provided”.
<https://zakon.rada.gov.ua/laws/show/1049-2011-%D0%BF>
17. Resolution of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine of December 13, 2017 № 1071 «On approval of the State target program for the restoration and development of peace in the eastern regions of Ukraine».
<https://zakon.rada.gov.ua/laws/show/1071-2017-%D0%BF>
18. Resolution of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine of February 14, 2018 № 156 “Some issues of providing financial support to public associations of veterans”. <https://zakon.rada.gov.ua/laws/show/156-2018-%D0%BF>
19. Resolution of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine of February 15, 2002 № 153 “On the establishment of a single system for attracting, using and monitoring international technical assistance”.
<https://zakon.rada.gov.ua/laws/show/153-2002-%D0%BF>
20. Resolution of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine of December 16, 2015 № 1094 «On approval of the Comprehensive State Program for support, social adaptation and reintegration of citizens of Ukraine who moved from the temporarily occupied territory of Ukraine and areas of anti-terrorist operation to other regions of Ukraine until 2017». <https://zakon.rada.gov.ua/laws/show/1094-2015-%D0%BF>
21. Resolution of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine of December 18, 2013 No. 947 “On the adoption of Procedure regulating granting and determining the amount of financial aid to persons affected by emergencies, residential buildings (apartments) of which were destroyed as a result of a military emergency caused by the armed aggression of the Russian Federation”. <https://zakon.rada.gov.ua/laws/show/947-2013-%D0%BF>
22. Resolution of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine of April 18, 2018 No. 328 “On approving the procedure for spending the national budget allocations towards protection and ensuring the rights and interests and social rehabilitation of persons detained by illegal armed groups, occupation administration, and/or Russian Federation authorities on the temporarily occupied territories of Ukraine and/or on the territory of Russia on the grounds of public or political activity of such persons and their family members, including reimbursement of costs relating to visitation and provision of legal aid to such persons, medical and social services, payment of Levko Lukianenko scholarship”. <https://zakon.rada.gov.ua/laws/show/328-2018-%D0%BF>
23. Resolution of the Cabinet of Ministers of August 20, 2014 № 413 “On Approval of the Procedure for Granting and Depriving the Status of a Participant in Combat Persons Who Defended the Independence, Sovereignty and Territorial Integrity of Ukraine and Participated Directly in the Anti-Terrorist Operation, security and defence, repulse and deterrence of the armed aggression of the Russian Federation in Donetsk and Luhansk regions, ensuring their implementation”. <https://zakon.rada.gov.ua/laws/show/413-2014-%D0%BF>
24. Resolution of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine of April 25, 2018 № 306 “Some issues of establishing the connection of disability with injuries or other damage to health”. <https://zakon.rada.gov.ua/laws/show/306-2018-%D0%BF>
25. Resolution of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine of June 26, 2019 № 582 “On approval of the Procedure for forming housing funds for temporary residence of internally displaced persons and the Procedure for providing temporary use of housing from housing funds for temporary residence of internally displaced persons”.
<https://www.kmu.gov.ua/npas/pro-zatverdzhennya-poryadku-formuvannya-fondiv-zhitla-dlya-t260619>
26. Resolution of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine of May 30, 2018 № 453 “On approval of the State Social Program” National Action Plan for the implementation of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child “for the period up to 2021”. <https://zakon.rada.gov.ua/laws/show/453-2018-%D0%BF>
27. Resolution of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine of April 5, 2017 No. 268 “On the adoption of Procedure for granting the status of a child affected by armed conflict”. <https://zakon.rada.gov.ua/laws/show/268-2017-%D0%BF>
28. Resolution of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine of December 6, 2017 № 1004 “On Amendments to the Procedure for Confirming the Birth of a Child Outside a Health Care Institution”.
<https://zakon.rada.gov.ua/laws/show/1004-2017-%D0%BF>

29. Resolution of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine of June 8, 2016 № 376 “Some issues of the Ministry of Reintegration of the Temporarily Occupied Territories”. <https://zakon.rada.gov.ua/laws/show/376-2016-%D0%BF>
30. Resolution of the Cabinet of Ministers of January 9, 2013 № 9 “On approval of the Procedure for confirming the birth of a child outside a health care institution”. <https://zakon.rada.gov.ua/laws/show/9-2013-%D0%BF>
31. Resolution of the Central Election Commission of June 11, 2020 № 103 “On the Order of the Ministry of Social Policy of Ukraine of September 25, 2018 № 1411 “On approval of the Regulations on the interdepartmental commission to establish the facts of injuries or other injuries received by persons from explosives, ammunition and military weapons on the territory of the anti-terrorist operation”. <https://zakon.rada.gov.ua/laws/show/z1186-18>
32. Procedure for Determining the Electoral Address of a Voter Who Does Not Have a Registered Residence”. <https://act.cvk.gov.ua/acts/pro-poryadok-viznachennya-viborchoi-adresi-vibortsya-yakiy-ne-maie-zarei-estrovanogo-mistsya-prozhivannya.html>
33. Resolution of the Central Election Commission of May 18, 2020 № 88 “On the Procedure for Considering a Voter’s Application to Change an Electoral Address in accordance with Part 3 of Article 8 of the Law of Ukraine “On the State Register of Voters”. <https://act.cvk.gov.ua/acts/pro-poryadok-rozglyadu-zvernennya-vibortsya-shhodo-zmini-viborchoi-adresi-vidpovidno-do-chastini-tretoi-statti-8-zakonu-ukraini-pro-derzhavniy-reiestr-vibortsiv.html>
34. Draft Law “On Amendments to Certain Laws of Ukraine Concerning the Exercise of the Right to a Pension” №2083-д of November 26, 2019. http://w1.c1.rada.gov.ua/pls/zweb2/webproc4_2?pf3516=2083-%D0%B4&skl=10
35. Draft Law “On Amendments to Certain Legislative Acts of Ukraine Concerning the Introduction of Administrative Procedure for State Registration of Births and Deaths Occurring in the Temporarily Occupied Territory of Ukraine in the Autonomous Republic of Crimea and the City of Sevastopol” №3713 of June 22, 2020. http://w1.c1.rada.gov.ua/pls/zweb2/webproc4_1?pf3511=69230
36. Draft Law “On Amendments to Certain Legislative Acts of Ukraine to Ensure Harmonization of Criminal Legislation with Provisions of International Law” №9438 of December 20, 2018. http://w1.c1.rada.gov.ua/pls/zweb2/webproc4_1?pf3511=65266
37. Draft Law “On Amendments to the Law of Ukraine” On Mine Action in Ukraine” №2618 of December 18, 2019. http://w1.c1.rada.gov.ua/pls/zweb2/webproc4_1?pf3511=67674
38. Draft Law “On Amendments to the Criminal Code of Ukraine (regarding collaboration and strengthening the responsibility for treason)” №7426 of December 20, 2017. http://w1.c1.rada.gov.ua/pls/zweb2/webproc4_2?pf3516=7426&skl=9
39. Draft Law “On protection of Ukrainian statehood from manifestations of collaborationism” No.7425 of December 20, 2017. http://w1.c1.rada.gov.ua/pls/zweb2/webproc4_1?pf3511=63192
40. Draft Law “On the Status and Social Protection of Peaceful (Civilian) Citizens Affected by Combat or Armed Conflict” №1115 of August 29, 2019. https://w1.c1.rada.gov.ua/pls/zweb2/webproc4_1?pf3511=66399
41. Order of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine of August 5, 2015 No. 797 “On approval of the Ukraine Recovery and Peacebuilding Assessment Report by the joint mission of the European Union, the United Nations Organization, and the World Bank”. <https://zakon.rada.gov.ua/laws/show/797-2015-%D1%80>
42. Order of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine of January 11, 2017 № 8-p “On approval of the action plan aimed at implementing certain principles of state domestic policy in certain areas of Donetsk and Luhansk regions, where public authorities temporarily do not exercise their powers”. <https://zakon.rada.gov.ua/laws/show/8-2017-%D1%80>
43. Order of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine as of November 15, 2017 № 909-p “On approval of the Strategy for integration of internally displaced persons and implementation of long-term decisions on internal displacement until 2020”. <https://zakon.rada.gov.ua/laws/show/909-2017-%D1%80>

44. Order of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine of November 21, 2018 № 944-p “On approval of the action plan for the implementation of the Strategy for the integration of internally displaced persons and the implementation of long-term decisions on internal displacement until 2020”. <https://zakon.rada.gov.ua/laws/show/944-2018-%D1%80>
45. Order of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine of November 23, 2015 № 1393-p “On approval of the action plan for the implementation of the National Strategy in the field of human rights until 2020”. <https://www.kmu.gov.ua/npas/248740679>
46. Order of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine of July 26, 2018 № 539-p “On approval of the Strategy of information reintegration of Donetsk and Luhansk regions”. <https://zakon.rada.gov.ua/laws/show/539-2018-%D1%80>
47. Order of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine of March 28, 2018 № 218-p “On approval of the action plan aimed at implementing certain principles of state domestic policy regarding the temporarily occupied territory of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea and the city of Sevastopol”. <https://zakon.rada.gov.ua/laws/show/218-2018-%D1%80>
48. Decree of the President of Ukraine of April 14, 2014 No. 405/2014 “On decision of the National Security and Defence Council of April 13, 2014 “On urgent measures to counter the terrorism threat and preservation of Ukraine’s territorial integrity”. <https://zakon.rada.gov.ua/laws/show/405/2014>
49. Decree of the President of Ukraine of March 15, 2017 №62/2017 “On the decision of the National Security and Defence Council of Ukraine of March 15, 2017 “On urgent additional measures to combat hybrid threats to the national security of Ukraine”. <https://www.president.gov.ua/documents/622017-21470>
50. Decree of the President of Ukraine of December 7, 2018 № 417/2018 “On state scholarships named after Levko Lukianenko”. <https://zakon.rada.gov.ua/laws/show/417/2018>
51. Annual report of the Commissioner of the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine for Human Rights on the state of observance and protection of human and civil rights and freedoms in Ukraine. (March 2019). <https://mva.gov.ua/storage/app/sites/1/uploaded-files/zvit%20za%202019.pdf>

Documents, statements of international organizations and international judicial institutions, multilateral agreements

1. Convention (IV) relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War. Geneva, 12 August 1949. <https://ihl-databases.icrc.org/ihl/INTRO/380>
2. European Court of Human Rights. Factsheet - Armed conflicts (March 2020). https://www.echr.coe.int/Documents/FS_Armed_conflicts_ENG.pdf
3. European Union, United Nations, World Bank. Joint Declaration on Post-Crisis Assessments and Recovery Planning (September 25, 2008). https://ec.europa.eu/fpi/sites/fpi/files/joint_declaration.pdf
4. European Union, United Nations, World Bank. Ukraine: Recovery and Peacebuilding Assessment (March 2015). http://www.un.org.ua/images/V1-RPA_Eng_Vol1.pdf
5. European Union. The EU’s Russia policy: Five guiding principles. Briefing (February 2, 2018). https://www.europarl.europa.eu/thinktank/en/document.html?reference=EPRS_BRI%282018%29614698
6. High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy. Joint staff working document: Association Implementation Report on Ukraine (December 12, 2019). https://eeas.europa.eu/sites/eeas/files/swd_2019_433_f1_joint_staff_working_paper_en_v4_p1_1056243.pdf
7. IMAS 04.10. Glossary of mine action terms, definitions and abbreviations (January 1, 2003). https://www.mineactionstandards.org/fileadmin/MAS/documents/standards/Glossary_of_mine_action_terms_and_abbreviations_Ed.2_Am.10.pdf

8. NATO Parliamentary Assembly. Resolution 437 (October 9, 2017). Stability and Security in the Black Sea Region. <https://www.nato-pa.int/document/2017-resolution-437-black-sea-219-cds-17-e>
9. NATO. Joint statement of the NATO-Ukraine Commission (July 10, 2017). https://www.nato.int/cps/uk/natohq/official_texts_146087.htm?selectedLocale=uk
10. OSCE Parliamentary Assembly. Declaration and Resolutions adopted at the 26 Annual Session. <https://www.oscepa.org/documents/all-documents/annual-sessions/2017-minsk/declaration-25/3555-declaration-minsk-eng/file>
11. OSCE. Memorandum on the implementation of the provisions of the Protocol following the consultations of the Tripartite Contact Group on steps aimed at implementing the Peace Plan of the President of Ukraine Petro Poroshenko and the initiatives of the President of Russia Vladimir Putin (September 19, 2014). <https://www.osce.org/files/f/documents/a/1/123807.pdf>
12. OSCE. Protocol resulting from consultations of the Trilateral Contact Group on joint measures aimed at implementation of the Peace Plan of Ukrainian President Poroshenko and initiatives of Russian President Putin (September 5, 2014). <https://www.osce.org/files/f/documents/a/a/123258.pdf>
13. PACE. Resolution 1988 (2014). Recent developments in Ukraine: a threat to the functioning of democratic institutions. <http://assembly.coe.int/nw/xml/XRef/Xref-XML2HTML-en.asp?fileid=20873>
14. PACE. Resolution 1990 (2014). Review of the merits of the previously ratified powers of the Russian delegation. <http://assembly.coe.int/nw/xml/XRef/Xref-XML2HTML-en.asp?fileid=20882>
15. PACE. Resolution 2028 (2015). The humanitarian situation of Ukrainian refugees and displaced persons. <http://assembly.coe.int/nw/xml/XRef/Xref-XML2HTML-en.asp?fileid=21480>
16. PACE. Resolution 2034 (2015). Challenge, on substantive grounds, of the still unratified credentials of the delegation of the Russian Federation. <http://assembly.coe.int/nw/xml/XRef/Xref-XML2HTML-en.asp?fileid=21538>
17. PACE. Resolution 2067 (2015). Missing persons during the conflict in Ukraine. <http://assembly.coe.int/nw/xml/XRef/Xref-XML2HTML-en.asp?fileid=21970>
18. PACE. Resolution 2112 (2016). The humanitarian concerns with regard to people captured during the war in Ukraine. <https://assembly.coe.int/nw/xml/XRef/Xref-XML2HTML-en.asp?fileid=22750>
19. PACE. Resolution 2132 (2016). Political consequences of the Russian aggression in Ukraine. <http://assembly.coe.int/nw/xml/XRef/Xref-XML2HTML-en.asp?fileid=23166>
20. Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe. Resolution 2133 (2016). Legal remedies for human rights violations on the Ukrainian territories outside the control of the Ukrainian authorities. <http://assembly.coe.int/nw/xml/XRef/Xref-XML2HTML-en.asp?fileid=23167>
21. Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe. Resolution 2209 (2018). State of emergency: proportionality issues concerning derogations under Article 15 of the European Convention on Human Rights. <http://assembly.coe.int/nw/xml/XRef/Xref-XML2HTML-en.asp?fileid=24680&lang=en>
22. Protocol Additional to the Geneva Conventions of August 12, 1949 and relating to the Protection of Victims of International Armed Conflicts (Protocol I), 8 June 1977. <https://ihl-databases.icrc.org/applic/ihl/ihl.nsf/INTRO/470>
23. Protocol Additional to the Geneva Conventions of August 12, 1949 and relating to the Protection of Victims of Non-International Armed Conflicts (Protocol II), 8 June 1977 <https://ihl-databases.icrc.org/applic/ihl/ihl.nsf/INTRO/475>
24. Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court. https://zakon.rada.gov.ua/laws/show/995_588
25. The Office of the Prosecutor of the International Criminal Court. Report on Preliminary Examination Activities (2019). <https://www.icc-cpi.int/itemsDocuments/191205-rep-otp-PE.pdf>

26. The Office of the Prosecutor of the International Criminal Court. Report on Preliminary Examination Activities (2016). https://www.icc-cpi.int/iccdocs/otp/161114-otp-rep-PE_ENG.pdf
27. UN General Assembly Security Council. Resolution A/49/765 (December 19, 1994). Memorandum on Security Assurances in Connection with Ukraine's Accession to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons. https://www.un.org/en/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=A/49/765
28. UN General Assembly. Resolution A/RES/73/263 (December 22, 2018). Situation of human rights in the Autonomous Republic of Crimea and the city of Sevastopol, Ukraine. <https://undocs.org/en/A/RES/73/263>
29. UN General Assembly. Resolution A/RES/74/17 (December 9, 2019). Problem of the militarization of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea and the city of Sevastopol, Ukraine, as well as parts of the Black Sea and the Sea of Azov. <https://undocs.org/en/A/RES/74/17>
30. UN Security Council. Resolution 2202 (17 February 2015). Package of Measures for the Implementation of the Minsk Agreements. [https://undocs.org/en/S/RES/2202\(2015\)](https://undocs.org/en/S/RES/2202(2015))
31. World Bank. Practical Guide to Multilateral Needs Assessments in Post-Conflict Situation (August 2004). <http://documents1.worldbank.org/curated/en/224281468762594718/pdf/298220PAPER0SDP0WP151Web.pdf>

Official documents and regulations of other countries

1. Crimea Declaration, Press Statement, Michael R. Pompeo, Secretary of State (July 25, 2018) <https://2017-2021.state.gov/crimea-declaration/index.html>
2. Decree of the President of the Russian Federation of April 24, 2019 "On determining for humanitarian purposes the categories of persons entitled to apply for citizenship of Russia in a simplified manner". <http://kremlin.ru/acts/news/60358>
3. Decree of the President of the Russian Federation of January 10, 2000 № 24 "On the Concept of National Security of the Russian Federation". <http://www.kremlin.ru/acts/bank/14927>
4. Order of the Government of the Russian Federation of December 15, 2014 №2537-p "On the interdepartmental commission for the provision of humanitarian support to the affected areas of the south-eastern regions of Donetsk and Luhansk regions of Ukraine". <http://government.ru/docs/16219/>

Information and reference sources

1. #LetMyPeopleGo campaign. The list of Ukrainian citizens deprived of freedom in occupied Crimea and Russia on political motives. <http://letmypeoplego.org.ua/list/>
2. Asymmetric Warfare Group. Russian new generation warfare handbook, Version 1 (December 2016). <https://info.publicintelligence.net/AWG-RussianNewWarfareHandbook.pdf>
3. Council of Europe project "Internal Displacement in Ukraine: Building Solutions". Improvement of National Legislation on the Protection of the Rights of IDPs. Revised Baseline Report (2019). <https://rm.coe.int/revised-baseline-analysis-2019/168099446a>
4. Danish Refugee Council-Danish Demining Group. Assessment report: Mine Victim Assistance Needs (October 2019). https://www.unicef.org/ukraine/media/2261/file/mine_victim_assistance_eng_web.pdf
5. Database of the State Border Guard Service of Ukraine regarding crossing of the border control points: <https://app.powerbi.com/view?r=eyJrIjoieTYtdiM2VlOGUeYTYdZi00OWI4LTlhNTgtZGFhNWwNkMGZiMmZjIiwidCI6IjdhNTE3MDMzLTE1ZGYtNDQ1MC04ZjMyLWE5ODJmZTBhYTEyNSIsImMiOiJh9>
6. International Campaign to Ban Landmines – Cluster Munition Coalition. Landmine Monitor 2019 (November 2019). <http://www.the-monitor.org/media/3074086/Landmine-Monitor-2019-Report-Final.pdf>

7. IOM. Life after conflict: Survey on the sociodemographic and socioeconomic characteristics of veterans of the conflict in eastern Ukraine and their families (January 2020).
https://ukraine.iom.int/sites/default/files/veterans_reintegration_survey_2020_ukr.pdf
8. IOM. National monitoring system report on the situation of internally displaced persons (September 2019).
https://iom.org.ua/sites/default/files/nms_round_15_ukr_screen.pdf
9. Kyselova T., Bozhenko G. Mediation and Dialogue Research Center, NaUKMA. Understanding Dialogue in Ukraine: A Survey-Based Study: Analytical report on the results of the survey of dialogue participants in Ukraine (2018). <https://md.ukma.edu.ua/wp-content/uploads/2018/11/Understanding-Dialogue-Report-2018-eng.pdf>
10. Mine action subcluster database: <https://app.powerbi.com/view?r=eyJrIjoIn2NiZGI3MTktYjA1ZC00YjlkxLWI-1MmUtYTcxZTJmMmQ1OWY2IiwidCI6ImU1YzZM3OTgxLTy2NjQtNDZlNC04YTBlLTy1NDNkMmFmODBiZSIsImMiOiJh9>
11. NGO “Legal Hundred”. White Book: An Analysis of the State Support System for Veterans and Their Families in Ukraine (2018). <https://legal100.org.ua/wp-content/uploads/2019/06/Bila-Knyga-Legal100.pdf>
12. OCHA UN. Ukraine. Crossing points snapshot: May-June 2020 (July 21, 2020).
https://www.humanitarianresponse.info/sites/www.humanitarianresponse.info/files/documents/files/ukraine_crossing_points_snapshot_20200720_eng.pdf
13. OHCHR. Report on the Human Rights Situation in Ukraine, 16 November 2019 to 15 February 2020. https://www.ohchr.org/Documents/Countries/UA/29thReportUkraine_EN.pdf
14. OSCE. Report of the OSCE Observation Mission along the Ukrainian-Russian Border (4 August 2014). <https://www.osce.org/om/122341>
15. Pew Research Center. Religion and nationality in Central and eastern Europe (May 10, 2017). <https://assets.pewresearch.org/wp-content/uploads/sites/11/2017/05/10104852/CEUP-Overview-Russian-FOR-WEB.pdf>
16. Portal of economic and social recovery: <https://portal.mtot.gov.ua/>
17. Razumkov Center. Public opinion on the situation in Donbass and ways to restore Ukraine’s sovereignty over the occupied territories (February 26, 2020). <http://razumkov.org.ua/napriamky/sotsiologichni-doslidzhennia/gromadska-dumka-pro-sytuatsiiu-na-donbasi-ta-shliakhy-vidnovlennia-suverenitetu-ukrainy-nad-okupovanyimi-terytoriiami-liutyi-2020r>
18. The World Bank Group. Socio-economic impacts of internal displacement and veteran return. Summary report (May 2017). <http://documents1.worldbank.org/curated/en/571011497962214803/pdf/116489-REVISED-Updated-Report-Socioeconomic-Impacts-Internal-Displacement-Veteran-Ret.pdf>
19. Ukraine’s lawsuits against the Russian Federation. Official portal: <https://lawfare.gov.ua/cases>
20. Ukrainian Civil Health Foundation International Charitable Foundation. Report on the results of the study of the effectiveness of pilot mobile brigades of social and psychological assistance to combatants in the ATO/JFO and members of their families in the Mykolayiv and Kyiv regions (March 2020).
https://ukraine.unfpa.org/sites/default/files/pub-pdf/mt_jfo_report_final_compressed_1.pdf
21. UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs. Humanitarian Response Plan Ukraine 2020 (January 2020). https://www.humanitarianresponse.info/sites/www.humanitarianresponse.info/files/documents/files/ukraine_2020_humanitarian_response_plan_en.pdf
22. UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs. Ukraine 2016 Humanitarian Needs Overview (February 17, 2016). <https://www.humanitarianresponse.info/en/operations/ukraine/document/ukraine-humanitarian-needs-overview-hno-2016>
23. UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs. Ukraine 2016 Humanitarian Needs Overview (February 17, 2016). <https://www.humanitarianresponse.info/en/operations/ukraine/document/ukraine-2017-humanitarian-needs-overview-hno>
24. UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs. Ukraine: 2020 Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP) - Revised Requirements due to the COVID-19 Pandemic (June 9, 2020). <https://www.humanitarianresponse.info/en/operations/ukraine/document/ukraine-2020-humanitarian-response-plan-hrp-revised-requirements-due>

Annex 1. Main national institutional actors and their competences in certain areas

Annex 1.1. Ensuring the rights of ATO/JFO veterans²¹⁹

Area of competence	Granting the status of a participant in hostilities	Free medicine	Free dental care	Sanatorium and health-resort treatment	Discount on payment for the use of housing	Discount on payment for utility services	Free pass for public transport	Medical care after retirement	Annual medical examination	Psychological rehabilitation, social and vocational adaptation	Guarantees of the labour rights	Provision of housing and monetary compensation	Provision of land	Loans for repair and/or construction of housing	Annual monetary aid	Special conditions of use of intercity transport	Tax benefits	Service provision at Administrative Services Centers	Targeted educational support	Support for veterans NGO
0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
Government authorities																				
Ministry of Health		+	+																	
Ministry of Veterans Affairs	+			+						+	+	+						+		+
Ministry of Social Policy				+	+	+				+	+				+			+		
Ministry for Communities and Territories Development												+		+						
Ministry of Education and Science																				
Local governments (village, settlement, city, regional councils)			+		+	+	+		+	+		+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
Ministry of Internal Affairs (and subordinate authorities)	+							+	+			+						+		
Ministry of Defence (and subordinate authorities)	+							+	+			+								
Special purpose authorities, which include military personnel	+							+	+			+								
State Employment Service										+	+	+							+	
Social Insurance Fund											+									
Employers											+									
State Tax Service																	+			

²¹⁹ In accordance with the Law of Ukraine "On the status of veterans, guarantees of their social protection" and the provisions on government authorities

1. Granting the status of a participant in hostilities;
2. Free medication, medicines, medical immunobiological preparations and medical devices according to doctors' prescriptions;
3. Priority free dental prosthetics (except for prosthetics made of metal of value);
4. Free provision of sanatorium and health-resort treatment;
5. 75% discount on the housing use fee (apartment fee) within the limits provided by the current legislation;
6. 75% discount on utility bills;
7. Free pass by all types of urban passenger transport, public transport in rural areas, as well as rail and water transport suburban and buses suburban and intercity routes;
8. Use of polyclinics and hospitals at retirement (regardless of the time of retirement) or change of employment;
9. Annual medical examination and screening with the attraction of necessary specialists;
10. Psychological rehabilitation, social and professional adaptation;
11. Guarantees of the labour rights (additional leave, disability benefits, job retention and wages);
12. Primary provision of accommodation space to persons in need of improvement of living conditions and monetary compensation for residential premises suitable for obtaining;
13. Primary allocation of land plots for individual housing construction, gardening and horticulture, priority repair of houses and apartments of these persons and provision of fuel;
14. Loan for construction, reconstruction or major repairs of residential buildings and premises (The procedure of providing benefits is not adopted);
15. Annual monetary aid to veterans, payments to veterans by memorable dates;
16. Free travel once every two years (back and forth) by rail, water, air or intercity road transport, regardless of the presence of rail traffic, or travel once a year (back and forth) by the aforementioned modality of transport with a 50% discount;
17. Benefits for the payment of taxes, fees, duties and other payments to the budget in accordance with tax and customs legislation;
18. Service provision at Administrative Services Centers;
19. State targeted support for obtaining professional (vocational), professional and higher education;
20. Support for veterans' non-governmental associations.

Annex 1.2. Ensuring the rights of internally displaced persons²²⁰

Area of competence	Government authorities												
	Housing (including reimbursement of expenses for housing and utilities)	Retirement benefit	Social benefits and monetary assistance	Services at Administrative Services Centers	Registration of place of residence (register of amalgamated communities)	Medical support	Educational services	Employment	Support for small and medium-size businesses	Registration and account of IDPs	Reintegration into host communities	Compensation to employers who have employed IDPs	Free legal aid
0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
Ministry of Digital Transformation				+							+		
Ministry for Reintegration of Temporary Occupied Territories	+	+	+	+			+	+			+		
Ministry of Social Policy	+	+	+					+		+			
Ministry of Community and Territories Development	+										+		
Ministry of Culture and Information Policy of Ukraine											+		
Ministry of Economic Development, Trade and Agriculture				+					+		+	+	
Ministry of Internal Affairs				+									
Ministry of Health					+	+					+		
Ministry of Education and Science							+				+		
Ministry of Justice				+									+
Pension fund		+											
Local governments (elected bodies: village, settlement, urban, and regional councils)	+		+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	
Regional State Administrations	+		+								+		
District state administrations	+		+								+		
State Employment Service			+					+	+			+	

²²⁰ In accordance with the Law of Ukraine "On Ensuring the Rights and Freedoms of Internally Displaced Persons" and the provisions on government authorities

Annex 1.3. Institutional actors and their competences in dialogue and mediation²²¹

Area of competence	Government authorities										
	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
		Building trust in amalgamated communities affected by the armed conflict	Carrying out dialogues on reconciliation in amalgamated communities	Building capacity of amalgamated communities for conflict management	Holding dialogues on culture and tolerance, religious and ethnic issues	Attraction of NGOs in the processes of recovery and peacebuilding	Provision of services to residents of temporarily occupied territories	Building trust between citizens and security sector	People's diplomacy, maintaining relations with residents of temporarily occupied territories	Attraction of international mediators	Access to information for residents of NGCA, IDPs
Ministry for Reintegration of Temporary Occupied Territories		realizes measures and performs the coordination function in all areas									
Ministry of Culture and Information Policy	+				+				+		+
Ministry of Digital Transformation							+		+		
Ministry of Social Policy							+				
Ministry of Internal Affairs							+	+			
Ministry of Justice of Ukraine	+						+				
National Police	+							+			
Ministry of Education and Science							+				
Regional State Administrations	+	+	+			+	+	+	+		
Local governments (village, settlement, city, regional councils)	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+		
State Service of Special Communication and Information Protection											+
State Committee for Television and Radio Broadcasting											+
National Council of Television and Radio Broadcasting											+
State Enterprise «Ukrposhta»							+				+
Ministry of Foreign Affairs										+	
State Border Guard Service							+	+			
State Tax Service							+				

²²¹ Determined on the basis of the provisions on the government authorities, the State Target Program for Recovery and Peacebuilding in the eastern regions of Ukraine; the Strategy of Integration of Internally Displaced Persons and Implementation of Long-Term Solutions to Internal Displacement until 2020 and Action Plan; as well as the Action Plan aimed at implementing some principles of state internal policy on certain areas of Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts NGCA, where the state authorities temporarily do not exercise their powers in full

Annex 2. International cooperation in conflict resolution and mitigation in Ukraine

Annex 2.1. Registered international technical assistance projects as of September 2020 according to the Secretariat of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine

Nº	Project Title	Project budget	Currency	Start date	End date	Donor	Recipient	Contractor	Project's objective	Sector
1	Counter- ing human trafficking in Ukraine	16 023 815	USD	20.08.04	01.01.23	USA	NGO Ternopil City Women's Club «Revival of the Nation»	International Organization for Migration	Provision of support to the Govern- ment of Ukraine in reducing human trafficking, implement the National Mechanism of Interaction between entities implementing counter trafficking activities at the national and local levels based on recent leg- islative amendments, including decen- tralization reform. Building capacity at the local level to provide high quality assistance to persons affected by human trafficking, including newly discovered victims among internally displaced persons. Participation of civil society organizations in provision of quality reintegration assistance to persons affected by human trafficking	Rule of law and access to justice
2	Community development	2 992 800	USD	01.03.06	31.12.22	USA	Ukrainian non-governmental and charitable organizations, local authorities and local governments, libraries, other stakeholders and municipal institutions (at the place of volunteer assignments)	US Peace Corps in Ukraine	Building capacity of citizens to participate in addressing relevant is- sues of local communities, promoting sustainable organizational develop- ment of Ukrainian governmental and non-governmental organizations, expanding economic opportunities for citizens	Dialogue and mediation, support to com- munities
3	Response to human rights violations and building legal capacity of citizens and human rights defenders in Ukraine (Hu- man rights in action)	4 000 000	USD	08.09.14	30.09.22	USA	Citizens of Ukraine, including citizens affected by the con- flict and occupation, internally displaced persons	All-Ukrainian Association of Public Organi- zations Ukrain- ian Helsinki Human Rights Union	Strengthen accountability for human rights violations and war crimes resulting from the conflict in the East of Ukraine and the illegal annexation of Crimea, as well as building the foundation for sustainable peace and social unity	Rule of law and access to justice

4	Social infrastructure development due to increase in the number of internally displaced persons in Ukraine	55 150 000	EUR	01.02.16	28.02.21	Germany	Communities, local governments, local authorities and NGOs, which are determined on a competitive basis, Berdiansk city council of Zaporizhia oblast (EDRPOU 20525153), Pervomaisk city council of Kharkiv oblast (EDRPOU 35926170).	German Corporation for International Cooperation GmbH (GIZ)	Provision of improved social infrastructure for internally displaced persons and the local population in selected host communities of Kharkiv, Dnipropetrovsk and Zaporizhia oblasts via: - major repairs and development of new premises, - provision of training for amalgamated communities on planning demand and needs, development of construction projects and submission of applications for funding, - establishment of demand-driven housing concepts in selected communities.	Integration of IDPs, support to communities
5	Decentralization brings better results and efficiency (DOBRE)	50 000 000	USD	08.06.16	07.06.21	USA	All-Ukrainian Association of Village and Settlement Councils NGO "Ukrainian Crisis Media Center" Executive Committee of Zelenodolsk City Council of Dnipropetrovsk oblast Executive Committee of Vasykivka Village Council of Dnipropetrovsk oblast Executive Committee of Myrove Village Council of Dnipropetrovsk oblast Executive Committee of Hrechani Pody Village Council of Dnipropetrovsk oblast Executive Committee of Sofiivka Village Council of Dnipropetrovsk oblast Executive Committee of Petrykivka Village Council of Dnipropetrovsk oblast Pishchanka Village Council of Dnipropetrovsk oblast Mykolaiv Village Council of Dnipropetrovsk oblast Nyzhnii Verbizh Village Council of the amalgamated community of Ivano-Frankivsk oblast Mateivtsi Village Council of the amalgamated community of Ivano-Frankivsk oblast Piadyky Village Council of the amalgamated community of Ivano-Frankivsk oblast Dzvyniach Village Council of the amalgamated community of Ivano-Frankivsk oblast Lanchyn Village Council of the amalgamated community of Ivano-Frankivsk oblast Tlumach City Council of the amalgamated community of Ivano-Frankivsk oblast Bilshivtsi Village Council of the amalgamated community of Ivano-Frankivsk oblast Dmytrivka Village Council of Kirovohrad oblast Nova Praha Village Council of Kirovohrad oblast Smolyn Village Council of Kirovohrad oblast Pomichna City Council of Kirovohrad oblast Kompaniivka Village Council of Kirovohrad oblast	Global Communities	Assistance to local governments in building capacity of resource management and services that meet the community priorities	Dialogue and mediation, support to communities

								Verkhnia Village Council of the amalgamated community of Ivano-Frankivsk oblast Merefa City Council of Kharkiv oblast Askania-Nova Village Council of Kherson oblast Muzykivka Village Council of Kherson oblast Kochubeivka Village Council of the amalgamated community of Kherson oblast Bobrynets City Council of Kirovohrad oblast Bashtanka City Council of Mykolaiv oblast Oleksandrivka Village Council of Mykolaiv oblast Prybuzhany Village Council of Mykolaiv oblast Husiatyn Village Council of Ternopil oblast Zavodske Village Council of Ternopil oblast Mykulyntsi Village Council of Ternopil oblast Skali-Podilskii Village Council of Ternopil oblast Baikivtsi Village Council of Ternopil oblast Ivanivka Village Council of Ternopil oblast	Ministry for Reintegration of TOT	Ministry for Reintegration of TOT	Building institutional capacity of the Ministry for Reintegration of Temporary Occupied Territories of Ukraine, realization of pilot measures to respond to development issues caused by displacement of persons and return of combatants	Integration of IDPs/ATO participants, support to communities
6	Conflict Response and Recovery Pilot and Capacity Building Project	3 550 000	USD	20.09.16	31.12.20	IBRD		Ministry for Reintegration of Ukraine Higher Qualification Commission of Judges of Ukraine National School of Judges of Ukraine High Council of Justice Ministry of Justice of Ukraine Ministry of Education and Science of Ukraine Yaroslav Mudryi National Law University Yuriy Fedkovych Chernivtsi National University Ukrainian Catholic University National University «Odesa Law Academy» National University of «Kyiv-Mohyla Academy» NGO «Podilsk human rights foundation» Taras Shevchenko National University of Kyiv National Agency for Higher Education Quality Assurance Supreme Court Higher Anti-Corruption Court Antimonopoly Committee of Ukraine NGO «Legal Development Network» NGO «Association of Investigative Judges of Ukraine» Chuhuiv City District NGO «Chuhuiv Human Rights Group» NGO «Chernihiv Public Committee for Human Rights Protection»	Chemonics International, Inc	Support for the establishment of conditions for an independent, accountable, transparent and effective justice system that upholds the rule of law, and the countermeasures against corruption in Ukraine	Rule of law and access to justice	
7	Justice Sector Reform Program «New Justice»	21 193 693	USD	01.10.16	07.02.21	USA						

8	Partnership for Urban Development	19 489 340	CAD	27.03.15	30.06.21	Canada	<p>Association of Local Governments «Association of Ukrainian Cities»</p> <p>Executive Committee of Berdiansk City Council</p> <p>Enerhodar City Council</p> <p>Executive Committee of Melitopol City Council</p> <p>Zaporizhia City Council</p> <p>Dolyna City Council</p> <p>Executive Committee of Ivano-Frankivsk City Council</p> <p>Kolomyia City Council</p> <p>Executive Committee of Yaremche City Council</p> <p>Executive Committee of Khmelnytsky City Council</p> <p>Ladyzhyn City Council</p> <p>Executive Committee of Zhmerynka City Council</p> <p>Vinnitsia City Council</p> <p>Executive Committee of Komsomolsk City Council</p> <p>Executive Committee of Kremenchuk City Council</p> <p>Myrhorod City Council</p> <p>Poltava City Council</p> <p>NGO «Innovations and investments», Zaporizhia city, Zaporizhia oblast</p> <p>Public Union "Melitopol Cherry Growers' Association", Melitopol city, Zaporizhia oblast</p> <p>NGO « Ukrainian Association of Medical Tourism», Khmilnyk city, Vinnitsia oblast</p> <p>Public Union «Zhmerynka Industrial Cluster», Zhmerynka city, Vinnitsia oblast</p> <p>Communal organization «Institute of City Development» of Poltava City Council</p> <p>Charity organization «Charity Fund «Anything is possible», Melitopol city, Zaporizhia oblast</p> <p>NGO «Changes are possible», Myrhorod city, Poltava oblast</p> <p>Public Union «Myrhorod Ceramics Center», Myrhorod city, Poltava oblast</p> <p>NGO «Center for Entrepreneurship Development», Vinnitsia city</p> <p>Local Economic Development Agency of Ladyzhyn city, Vinnitsia oblast</p> <p>NGO «Italian Cultural Center Emily», Berdiansk city, Zaporizhia oblast</p> <p>NGO «Information and Resource Center for Cultural Communications Dialogue» Berdiansk city, Zaporizhia oblast</p> <p>Youth NGO «Revival», Enerhodar city, Zaporizhia oblast</p> <p>Public Union «Association of cultural entrepreneurship «Pick-Art», Vinnitsia city</p> <p>Communal organization «Melitopol Development Agency» Melitopol City Council of Zaporizhia oblast</p> <p>NGO «It's time», Kolomia city, Ivano-Frankivsk oblast</p> <p>Local History Museum «Boikovshchina» of Tetiana and Omelian Antonovych, Dolyna city, Ivano-Frankivsk oblast</p> <p>NGO "VOO" Union of Entrepreneurs "Stina" Vinnitsia city</p> <p>NGO "Insha zhinka" Kremenchuk city, Poltava oblast</p> <p>NGO "Center for Social and Business Initiatives", Yaremche city, Ivano-Frankivsk oblast</p>	Federation of Canadian Municipalities	Strengthening the municipal sector in Ukraine by building capacity in sixteen cities to promote democracy and economic development at the local level, establishing a more favorable environment for entrepreneurship and local economic development, promoting decentralized development planning at integrated development planning at local, regional and national levels	Dialogue and mediation, support to communities
---	-----------------------------------	------------	-----	----------	----------	--------	--	---------------------------------------	--	--

9	Media program in Ukraine	35 000 000	USD	01.10.18	30.09.23	USA	<p>Organization "Entrepreneurship Support Fund", Horishni Plavni city, Poltava oblast</p> <p>NGO "Center for Innovation and Social Business Initiatives", Kremenchuk city, Poltava oblast</p> <p>NGO "Development Institute of Yaremche", Yaremche city, Ivano-Frankivsk oblast</p> <p>NGO "Local Development Agency of Enerhodar city", Enerhodar city, Zaporizhia oblast</p> <p>NGO "Zakarpattia regional organization "Uzhhorod press-club", Uzhhorod city</p> <p>NGO "Mykolaiv Center for Journalistic Investigations", Mykolaiv city</p> <p>NGO "Lviv Press Club", Lviv city</p> <p>NGO "Platform for Human Rights", Kyiv city</p> <p>NGO "Reanimation Package of Reforms Coalition", Kyiv city</p> <p>LLC "Television and Radio Company "TV-7", Mariupol city</p> <p>NGO "All-Ukrainian Democratic Forum", Kyiv city</p> <p>NGO "Analytics and Advocacy Institute", Poltava city</p> <p>NGO "Kryholam", Kyiv city</p> <p>NGO "Bakhmut Fortress", Bakhmut city</p> <p>CF "Association of adolescents and youth "Tinerzhizer", Kyiv city</p> <p>NGO "Communications for change", Kyiv city</p> <p>NGO "Safe place", Mariupol city</p> <p>NGO "Center for Social Perspectives Research of Donbas", Kyiv city</p> <p>LLC "Television and Radio Company "Rivne1", Rivne city</p> <p>NGO "Sloboda Krai", Kharkiv city</p> <p>NGO "VOX UKRAINE", Kyiv city</p> <p>LLC "Television and Radio Company "Vilne Radio", Kyiv city</p> <p>LLC "Communicative Hub "Economika", Kyiv city</p> <p>LLC "Radio Company "Zahidnyi Polius", Ivano-Frankivsk city</p> <p>NGO "Foundation for Media Development", Kyiv city</p> <p>NGO "Agency for Investigative Journalism "Chetverta Vlada", Rivne city</p> <p>NGO "Slidstvo.info", Kyiv city</p> <p>NGO "Internews-Ukraine", Kyiv city</p> <p>International Charitable Foundation "Academy of Ukrainian Press", Kyiv city</p> <p>NGO "Institute for Democracy named after Philip Orlik", Kyiv city</p> <p>NGO "Institute for Mass Information", Kyiv city</p> <p>NGO "Media Detector", Kyiv city</p> <p>NGO "Kharkiv Press Club of Market Reforms", Kharkiv city</p> <p>NGO "Institute for Regional Press Development", Kyiv city</p> <p>NGO "Ternopil Press Club", Ternopil city</p> <p>NGO "TOM 14", Kyiv city</p> <p>NGO "Hromadske Radio", Kyiv city</p>	Internews Network	Strengthening the role of the mass media in the democratic processes in Ukraine, increasing the access of citizens to quality information	Dialogue and mediation
---	--------------------------	------------	-----	----------	----------	-----	---	-------------------	---	------------------------

10	Civil society for the development of democracy and human rights in Ukraine	4 280 822	USD	01.04.17	31.03.22	UN	<p>NGO "Donetsk Institute of Information", Kyiv city</p> <p>NGO "Institute for Political Information", Odesa city</p> <p>NGO "Volyn Press Club", Lutsk city</p> <p>NGO "Foundation Suspilnist", Kyiv city</p> <p>NGO "Information Press-Center", Kyiv city</p> <p>NGO "Center for Democracy and Rule of Law", Kyiv city</p> <p>NGO "National Media Association", Kyiv city</p> <p>LLC "ZN UA", Kyiv city</p> <p>JSC "National Public TV and Radio Company of Ukraine"</p> <p>NGO "LOCAL MEDIA DEVELOPMENT AGENCY "ABO"", Kyiv city</p> <p>LLC "Publishing House "Media-DK", Kyiv city</p> <p>International NGO "Kyiv Economic Institute", Kyiv city</p> <p>NGO "Your city Lviv", Lviv city</p> <p>Odesa regional organization of All-Ukrainian NGO Committee of voters of Ukraine</p> <p>NGO "Association of Free Journalists", Kyiv city</p> <p>LLC "Television and Radio Company "TVA", Chernivtsi city</p> <p>NGO "Nashi hroshi", Kyiv city</p> <p>LLC "Agency of Media Technologies "SID Inform", Lutsk city</p> <p>LLC "Information Agency "LigaBusinessInform", Kyiv city</p> <p>NGO "Ukrainian Toronto Television", Kyiv city</p> <p>NGO "Center for Journalistic Investigations "Power of Truth", Lutsk city</p> <p>All-Ukrainian NGO "Commission on Journalist Ethics", Kyiv city</p> <p>LLC "7 INFORM", Chuhuiv city, Kharkiv oblast</p> <p>LLC "City television and radio company Chernivtsi", Chernivtsi city</p> <p>NGO "Ukrainian Association of Media Business", Kyiv city</p> <p>Advertising and Information Agency K&K LLC, Starobilsk city, Luhansk oblast</p> <p>LLC "Radio Station "Velykiy Luh", Zaporizhia oblast</p> <p>LLC "Sloboda Krai", Kharkiv city</p> <p>NGO "Lviv Media Forum", Lviv city</p> <p>NGO "Analytics and Investigations Center", Kyiv city</p>	Civil society organizations that will be selected on a competitive in the course of project implementation	UN Development Programme in Ukraine	Strengthening of civil society organizations in order to promote democracy, ensure a constructive and effective dialogue between the government and civil society organizations, strengthen the ability of NGOs to promote and protect human rights in Ukraine	Dialogue and mediation
----	--	-----------	-----	----------	----------	----	--	--	-------------------------------------	--	------------------------

11	Confidence Building Initiative (UCBI - II)	51 692 208	USD	11.04.17	09.04.21	USA	<p>State institution «All-Ukrainian Youth Center» Kyiv city</p> <p>NGO «Smart Point Uzhhorod» Uzhhorod city</p> <p>NGO «Educational Era» Kyiv city</p> <p>NGO «Donetsk Institute of Information» Kyiv city</p> <p>NGO «Cultural Agency A» Kharkiv city</p> <p>NGO «BUSINESS-ASSOCIATION» «WE KHERSONIANS» Kherson city</p> <p>State institution «All-Ukrainian Youth Center» Kyiv city</p> <p>LLC «Info Sapiens» Kyiv city</p> <p>NGO «Young initiative» Skadovsk city</p> <p>NGO «Misto sad» Kyiv city</p> <p>CF «Charity Fund «Warm city» Ivano-Frankivsk city</p> <p>NGO «Your city Lviv» Lviv city</p> <p>State institution «Office of Reforms of Kherson oblast» Kherson city</p> <p>Zaporizhia Scientific Society named after Novytsky Zaporizhia city</p> <p>LLC «KNC» Kyiv city</p> <p>NGO «Dmytro Tymchuk Ukrainian Center for Security Studies»</p> <p>NRVITSIA PLENET LLC Kyiv city</p> <p>TEENSPIRIT LLC Kyiv city</p> <p>CF «Lviv Educational Foundation» Lviv city</p>	Chemonics International Inc.	Expansion of the circle of supporters of the reform based on tolerance and Western values; Increase citizens' trust and participation in the reform process at the local level; Reduce vulnerability to external manipulation and information.	Dialogue and mediation, support to communities, integration of IDPs/ATO participants
12	Professional integration of internally displaced persons	5 000 000	EUR	01.09.17	31.07.21	Germany	<p>MTOT: Internally displaced persons; vulnerable groups in host communities and other persons to be identified during project implementation</p>	German Corporation for International Cooperation GmbH (GIZ)	Increasing the employment rate of internally displaced persons and local population in selected communities hosting internally displaced persons	Integration of IDPs, support to communities
13	Mobile administrative centers for provision of services for conflict-affected population in eastern Ukraine	5 000 000	CAD	27.03.19	30.06.22	Canada	<p>Kurakhiv City Council of Mariinka District of Donetsk oblast</p> <p>Seversk City Council of Bakhmut District of Donetsk oblast</p> <p>Vuhledar City Council of Donetsk oblast</p> <p>Mariinka District State Administration of Donetsk oblast</p> <p>Executive Committee of Popasna City Council of Luhansk oblast</p> <p>Sievierodonetsk City Council of Luhansk oblast</p> <p>Stanitsa Luhanska Village Council of Luhansk oblast</p> <p>Novoaidar Village Council of Luhansk oblast</p> <p>Civil-Military Administration of Zolote city and Katerynivka village, Popasna district, Luhansk oblast</p> <p>Civil-Military Administration of Schastia city, Novoaidar District, Luhansk oblast</p>	UN Development Programme in Ukraine (UNDP)	Provision of state, social, information, administrative and legal assistance services to the most vulnerable and marginalized population groups affected by the conflict on the territory of Ukraine	Rule of law and access to justice, support to communities

14	Community Engagement Promotion Program «Join!»	22 000 000	USD	01.10.16	30.09.21	USA	<p>NGO «Center UA», Kyiv city</p> <p>NGO «Transparency International Ukraine», Kyiv city</p> <p>NGO «Center for Combating Corruption», Kyiv city</p> <p>NGO «Center «New Europe», Kyiv city</p> <p>NGO «Center for Political and Legal Reforms», Kyiv city</p> <p>NGO «Voks Ukraine», Kyiv city</p> <p>NGO «Ukrainian Academy of Leadership», Kyiv city</p> <p>Charity organization «Charity Fund «Democratic Initiatives named after Ilko Kucheriv», Kyiv city</p> <p>NGO «Global Office», Kyiv city</p> <p>NGO «Center for Contemporary Development «Astra», New Kakhovka city, Kherson oblast</p> <p>NGO «Railway without Corruption», Sumy city</p> <p>NGO «Mediavisia», Zaporizhia city</p> <p>NGO «Sumy Public Circle», Sumy city</p> <p>NGO «Friedom», Enerhodar city, Zaporizhia city</p> <p>NGO «Development together», Zmiiv city, Kharkiv oblast</p> <p>Chuguevsky Municipal Public Organization Chuhuiv City and District</p> <p>NGO «Chuhuiv Human Rights Group», Chuhuiv city</p> <p>NGO «Ukrainian Toronto Television», Kyiv city</p> <p>NGO «All-Ukrainian Association of Musical Events», Kyiv city</p> <p>NGO «Bureau of Legal Communications», Sumy city</p> <p>Public Union «Osvitoria», Kyiv city</p>	Pact, Inc.	<p>Raise the level of awareness of citizens and their participation in active civil life at the national, regional and local levels by improving civil education, promoting the establishment of effective national, regional and local public coalitions and initiatives to accelerate democratic reforms, improving the organizational capacity of civil society organizations, developing local capacity to ensure long-term participation in democratic reforms</p>	Dialogue and mediation, support to communities
15	Promotion of Social Infrastructure Development (UFSI VI)	9 000 000	EUR	01.12.18	01.06.22	Germany	<p>Ministry of Social Policy of Ukraine</p>	Ukrainian Social Investment Fund (USIF)	<p>Restoration of residential buildings for IDPs (houses, individual apartments, hostels, and other buildings) and social infrastructure such as preschool and school facilities in communities with IDPs</p>	Integration of IDPs, support to communities

16	Democratic governance in eastern Ukraine	57 051 252	USD	01.10.18	30.09.23	USA	<p>NGO «Nova Druzhkivka», Druzhkivka oblast, Donetsk oblast</p> <p>Mariupol City Council of Donetsk oblast</p> <p>NGO «Anti-crisis Media - Center», Kramatorsk city, Donetsk oblast</p> <p>NGO «Hromadske Radio», Kyiv city</p> <p>NGO «Media View», Pokrovsk city, Donetsk oblast</p> <p>NGO «Mariupol Youth Union», Mariupol city, Donetsk oblast</p> <p>NGO «Strong communities», Kyiv city</p> <p>NGO «Crisis Media Center «Siversky Donets», Sievierodonetsk city, Luhansk oblast</p> <p>Luhansk regional administration of Association of Ukrainian cities, Sievierodonetsk city, Luhansk oblast</p> <p>NGO «Misto-sad», Kyiv city</p> <p>NGO «Center for Promotion of Activity and Development of Public Initiative «Ednannia», Kyiv city</p> <p>Sieverodonetsk City Council, Sievierodonetsk city, Luhansk oblast</p> <p>Department of Culture, Youth and Sports of Kreminna District State Administration of Luhansk oblast, Kreminna city, Luhansk oblast</p> <p>NGO «Council of Condominium Chairmen of Mariupol city», Mariupol city, Donetsk oblast</p> <p>Rubizhne City Council of Luhansk oblast</p> <p>State Institution Department of Social Protection of Sloviansk City Council, Sloviansk city, Donetsk oblast</p> <p>CF «Lviv Educational Foundation», Lviv city</p> <p>NGO «Our house is Sloviansk», Sloviansk city, Donetsk oblast</p>	Chemonics International, Inc.	Strengthening communication and trust between citizens and the government in eastern Ukraine	Rule of law and access to justice, support to communities, integration of IDPs/ATO participants, dialogue and mediation
17	Support for judicial reform	8 273 116	CAD	28.03.16	31.12.20	Canada	<p>The Supreme Court; High Council of Justice; the Higher Qualification Commission of Judges of Ukraine; the State Judicial Administration of Ukraine; the Council of Judges of Ukraine; the Judicial Protection Service.</p>	National Judicial Institute (NJI) of Canada	Strengthening democracy and the rule of law in Ukraine via implementation of a targeted multi-year justice sector reform strategy aimed at strengthening judicial reform and the judiciary in Ukraine	Rule of law and access to justice
18	Provision of social services in the community	2 850 000	EUR	01.12.18	31.10.22	IBRD	Ukrainian Social Investment Fund (USIF)	Ukrainian Social Investment Fund (USIF)	Improve access of vulnerable groups to social services in selected communities	Support to communities
19	Internal displacement in Ukraine: development of long-term solutions	1 800 000	EUR	14.12.18	30.09.20	Council of Europe	MTOT; other recipients will be identified in the course of project implementation	Council of Europe Office in Ukraine	Building capacity of internally displaced persons (IDPs), displaced professionals, institutions and other key partners to influence the improvement of the human rights protection system and access to justice in Ukraine in accordance with the standards of the Council of Europe	Rule of law and access to justice, support to communities, integration of IDPs/ATO participants, dialogue and mediation

20	Involvement of citizens in the decision making process via public consultations	2 600 000	GPB	01.07.18	31.03.21	UK	All-Ukrainian public association «Institute Republic»	National Democratic Institute for International Affairs (NDI)	Assistance to the Government of Ukraine in developing and implementing a strategy for sustainable, regular and flexible mechanism for implementing public consultations in Ukraine	Dialogue and mediation
21	«Pedagogy of peace» for the restoration of civil dialogue in Ukraine	1 280 000	EUR	09.06.17	31.12.20	Germany	State Scientific Organization «Institute for Modernization of Educational Content»	German Corporation for International Cooperation GmbH (GIZ)	Develop forms and methods of implementation of educational technology «pedagogy of peace» to contribute to overcoming worldview differences and building a culture of civil dialogue in Dnipropetrovsk, Zaporizhia and Kharkiv oblasts	Dialogue and mediation
22	Support for the implementation of judicial reform in Ukraine	1 110 000	EUR	03.04.19	30.11.20	Council of Europe	Higher Qualification Commission of Judges of Ukraine	Council of Europe	Support Ukraine in completing judicial reform and implementing recently adopted legislation to ensure the independence, fairness and efficiency of the judicial system in line with the standards and recommendations of the Council of Europe	Rule of law and access to justice
23	Support for women leaders in Ukraine	4 805 352	CAD	29.03.19	31.03.22	Canada	NGO «Ukrainian Women's Congress», International Charitable Foundation «Ukrainian Women's Foundation».	National Democratic Institute for International Affairs (NDI)	Building the institutional capacity of the NGO «Ukrainian Women's Congress» as a platform to ensure equal rights and opportunities for women and men	Dialogue and mediation
24	Development of the executive authority capacity in Ukraine - strengthening the implementation of court decisions (Phase II)	280 000	EUR	06.03.19	31.12.21	EBRD	Ministry of Justice of Ukraine	International Development Law Organization (IDLO)	Provision of technical and expert assistance to improve the efficiency of court decisions enforcement in Ukraine	Rule of law and access to justice
25	Police of the amalgamated community	3 000 000	USD	01.05.19	31.12.20	USA	National Police of Ukraine and its subdivision: State Institution «Service Center for Units of the National Police of Ukraine».	Law Enforcement Affairs Office of the U.S. Embassy in Ukraine, International Criminal Investigative Training Assistance Program (ICI-TAP), Engility Corporation	Increase the efficiency of activity and improvement of public perception of the National Police of Ukraine in small towns and villages via implementation of police services in amalgamated communities and increase professionalism of policemen who will serve these communities	Dialogue and mediation, support to communities

26	Decentralization reforms and security in society: Transformative approaches to gender equality and women's empowerment in Ukraine	15 000 000	DKK	01.02.18	31.12.22	Denmark	International Charitable Foundation «Ukrainian Women's Foundation» (EDRPOU 25916711); International Charitable Foundation «Ukrainian Public Health Foundation».	United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN Women) in Ukraine	Ensure participation of women, particularly vulnerable groups, benefit equally from decentralization reform and community security processes. The project will support the Government of Ukraine in integrating gender equality priorities in these areas by building capacity of executive authorities	Dialogue and mediation
27	Human Rights for Ukraine	30 000 000	DKK	01.01.19	31.12.23	Denmark	Secretariat of the Commissioner for Human Rights of the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine, National Agency of Ukraine for Civil Service Issues, NGOs to be selected on a competitive basis in the course of the project implementation	UN Development Programme in Ukraine (UNDP)	Affirm human rights through strengthening the ability of national actors to effectively promote, protect and observe human rights and integrate human rights-based principles into national and local policies throughout Ukraine, including the conflict zone	Rule of law and access to justice
28	Women in Ukraine: involved, capable, unbreakable	4 750 000	CAD	25.03.19	30.06.24	Canada	All-Ukrainian public organization «Center for Democracy Development»; International Charitable Foundation «Ukrainian Public Health Foundation».	Pact Institute	Enhancing the enjoyment of human rights by women and girls and promoting gender equality	Dialogue and mediation
29	Support the protection of human rights via improved access to constitutional justice	872 408	EUR	01.04.19	31.03.21	OSCE	Constitutional Court of Ukraine	OSCE Project Co-ordinator in Ukraine	Supporting the ability of the Constitutional Court of Ukraine to protect human rights by improving access to constitutional justice	Rule of law and access to justice
30	Building national and local capacities to effectively provide security, justice and reintegration services in conflict-affected territories of Ukraine	5 000 000	USD	01.04.19	31.03.22	Netherlands	National Police of Ukraine (EDRPOU 40108578) and its territorial authorities: Department of Patrol Police, Kyiv city (EDRPOU 40108646), Main Department of the National Police in Donetsk oblast, Mariupol city (EDRPOU 40109058), the Main department of National police in Luhansk oblast, Sievierodonetsk city; the State Emergency Service of Ukraine and its territorial authorities: the Main department of the State Emergency Service of Ukraine in Donetsk oblast, Mariupol city, the Main Department of the State Emergency Service of Ukraine in Luhansk oblast, the city of Sievierodonetsk city; non-governmental organizations to be identified in the course of the project implementation and in the framework of grant contests.	UN Development Programme in Ukraine (UNDP)	Enhancing personal and public security and strengthening peacebuilding mechanisms in eastern Ukraine	Support to communities, rule of law and access to justice, integration of ATO participants/IDPs, dialogue and mediation

31	Economic support of eastern Ukraine	61 818 364	USD	27.08.18	26.08.23	USA	<p>Luhansk Regional Civil-Military Administration</p> <p>Donetsk Regional Civil-Military Administration</p> <p>International Charitable Foundation "Ukrainian Women's Fund", Kyiv city</p> <p>NGO "Ukrainian Academy of Leadership", Kyiv city</p> <p>NGO "SOCIAL BUST", Kyiv city</p> <p>IE Tsyhankov Oleksandr, Sievierodonetsk city of Luhansk oblast</p> <p>NGO "Grand Expert", Mykolaiv city</p> <p>Luhansk National Agrarian University</p> <p>IE Sviatchenko Vladyslav, Sloviansk city of Donetsk oblast</p> <p>IE Kosilkyn Dmytro, Lysychansk city of Luhansk oblast</p> <p>Public Union "Global Compact Network in Ukraine", Kyiv city</p> <p>Ukrainian Joint Credit Union, Kyiv city</p> <p>NGO "Youth Movement "Shift" Kramatorsk city of Donetsk oblast</p> <p>NGO "Agency for Regional Development of eastern Donbas", Sievierodonetsk city of Luhansk oblast</p> <p>Kurakhiv Professional Lyceum, Kurakhiv city of Donetsk oblast</p> <p>LLC "Online Ukraine", Berdiansk city of Zaporizhia oblast</p> <p>Mariupol Professional Lyceum of Motor Transport, Mariupol city of Donetsk oblast</p> <p>IE Kostenko Serhii Viktorovich, Lysychansk city of Luhansk oblast</p> <p>IE Telychko Hanna, Vuhledar city of Donetsk oblast</p> <p>Volodymyr Dahl East Ukrainian National University, Sievierodonetsk city of Luhansk oblast</p> <p>IE Matkovska Snizhana, Mykolaivka village of Luhansk oblast</p> <p>State Higher Education Institution «Pryazovskyi State Technical University», Mariupol city of Donetsk oblast</p> <p>NGO «Sievierodonetsk Youth Rada», Sievierodonetsk city of Luhansk oblast</p> <p>Agricultural service cooperative «Ovochi Stanychnykyv», Stanitsa Luhanska city of Luhansk oblast</p> <p>LLC «Scientific and Production Enterprise «INTECO», Sievierodonetsk city of Luhansk oblast</p> <p>Donetsk Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Kramatorsk city of Donetsk oblast</p> <p>IE Pliushch Oleksandr, Avdiivka city of Donetsk oblast</p> <p>NGO «Grand Experts» International monitoring of chemical treatment of plants, Mykolaiv city</p> <p>IE Vynohradov Ihor, Pokrovska city, Donetsk oblast</p> <p>Markiv Professional Agricultural Lyceum, Markivka urban settlement, Luhansk oblast</p> <p>NGO «Ukrainian Institute for International Policy», Kyiv city</p>	DAI Global LLC, «SDM Engineering Ukraine» LLC, FHI360	Support economic stabilization in eastern Ukraine and sustainable development of small and medium-sized enterprises	Integration of IDPs/ATO participants, support to communities
----	-------------------------------------	------------	-----	----------	----------	-----	--	---	---	--

32	Canada-Ukraine Police Development Project (CUPDP)	6 500 000	CAD	24.07.19	31.01.23	Canada	National Police of Ukraine; State Institution «Service Center for Units of the National Police of Ukraine»; State Institution «Academy of Patrol Police»; State Institution «Rivne Academy of Patrol Police»; State Institution «Kryvyi Rih Academy of Patrol Police»; NGO «Ukrainian Association of Representatives of Law Enforcement Agencies».	Agriteam Canada Consulting Ltd.	Contribute to the strengthening of public security and stability in Ukraine through the effective work of the public-oriented police force	Dialogue and mediation, support to communities
33	Strengthening accountability on gender equality and the empowerment of women in the area of national reforms, peace and security	49 000 000	SEK	01.05.17	30.04.21	Sweden	Ministry of Justice of Ukraine, NGOs to be selected on a competitive basis	United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN Women) in Ukraine	Ensure changes in the field of gender equality, observance and expansion of women's rights in Ukraine by means of inclusion of obligations on gender equality and women's rights in national reforms and processes of renewal of peace and security, as well as introduction of mechanisms of proper financing, realization, monitoring and assessment	Dialogue and mediation
34	Ensuring effective citizen participation in the implementation of reforms for gender equality	6 249 899	CAD	29.03.19	09.03.24	Canada	Central Election Commission	International Foundation for Electoral Systems (IFES)	Improvement of institutional, legal and political systems in Ukraine to overcome stereotypes and practices on gender norms. Strengthening women's roles as public and institutional leaders, politicians and voters. Raising public awareness of the importance of inclusiveness and gender equality at both the social and individual levels	Dialogue and mediation
35	Development of social human rights as a key factor for sustainable democracy in Ukraine	500 000	EUR	19.12.19	31.07.21	Council of Europe	Ministry of Social Policy of Ukraine	Council of Europe Office in Ukraine	Make a significant contribution to strengthening the sustainability of democracy through the expansion of social rights in accordance with European standards	Integration of IDPs/ATO participants
36	Socially responsible business as a driver of decentralization reform in Ukraine. Establishment of a joint success story	1 243 449	UAH	06.12.19	30.09.20	Switzerland	Volochysk city amalgamated community	Deloitte & Touche LLC	Carry out an evidence-based and general process of forming a Roadmap for Social Development using innovative business analytical approaches; demonstration of the role of business in the transformation of society and promoting this successful experience for further dissemination of knowledge in business initiatives, as well as in international technical assistance projects	Dialogue and mediation, support to communities

37	E-Governance for Accountability and Participation Program (EGAP)	5 080 000	CHF	01.07.19	30.06.23	Switzerland	Ministry of Digital Transformation of Ukraine; Ministry of Social Policy of Ukraine; Ministry of Health of Ukraine; National Health Service of Ukraine; State Enterprise «Electronic Health»; State Enterprise «DIA»; Vinnytsia Regional State Administration; Volyn Regional State Administration; Dnipropetrovsk Regional State Administration; Odesa Regional State Administration; Luhansk Regional Civil-Military Administration.	International Charitable Foundation «eastern Europe Foundation» (EDRPOU 35142329)	Promotion of a peaceful and inclusive society for sustainable development, access to justice, and effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels. Building sustainable infrastructure, promoting inclusive and sustainable industrialization and innovation.	Rule of law and access to justice
38	Support for the reform of the criminal justice sector in Ukraine	1 600 000	USD	11.02.20	31.12.20	USA	Office of the Prosecutor General, Training Center for Prosecutors of Ukraine	Law Enforcement Affairs Office of the U.S. Embassy in Ukraine, International Development Law Organization (IDLO)	Contribute to the reform of the prosecution system in Ukraine by: conducting a multi-stage, transparent process of certification of prosecutors at the regional and local levels; holding open competitions for external candidates; provision of advisory and consultative assistance in areas such as investigation of complex crimes, internal security, ethics, leadership and international cooperation; establishment of a modern Training Center for Ukrainian prosecutors, etc.	Rule of law and access to justice
39	The initiative of sectoral support of civil society in Ukraine	9 974 249	USD	01.10.19	30.09.24	USA	Reanimation Package of Reforms Coalition NGO, Kyiv city Zaporizhia Regional Charitable Foundation «Child's Smile», Zaporizhia city NGO «Media detector» NGO «Institute for Public Development «Ortega-and-Gasset» Kharkiv NGO «Modern Woman». NGO «DEURE FOUNDATION» All-Ukrainian NGO «Union of Ukrainian Youth in Ukraine». NGO «KyivPride» All-Ukrainian NGO «Mahnolia» NGO «Spilno HUB» Charitable Foundation «Ilko Kucheriv Democratic Initiatives» NGO «Ternopil Agrarian Advisory Service» NGO «Siaivo Sertsia» NGO «Open University of Maidan». HPLGBT Khmelnytskyi District NGO «PRAVO» NGO «International Association for the Promotion of Sustainable Development in Southern Ukraine «Eurostrategy» Ivano-Frankivsk regional organization «Moloda Prosvita» Public Order Protection Unit «Haidamaky»	NGO «Initiative Center to Support Social Action» («Ednannia»), NGO «Ukrainian Center for Independent Political Research» (UCIPR), NGO «Centre for Democracy and Rule of Law» (CEDEM).	Build the institutional capacity of civil society organizations; improve legal environment; promote research and studies on sectoral problems, opportunities and best practices of civil society	Dialogue and mediation, support to communities
40	Strengthening resources for sustainable development of host communities in eastern Ukraine	4 000 000	EUR	22.11.19	31.12.22	Germany	Communities, local authorities, local governments, NGOs and other legal entities to be determined in the course of the project implementation	German Corporation for International Cooperation GmbH (GIZ)	Improve the capacity of relevant actors and institutions in the host communities to implement effective, demand-driven and integrated delivery of social and health services for sustainable and peaceful development of host communities	Support to communities, Integration of IDPs/ATO participants

41	Special program to support eastern Ukraine (Government-controlled areas)	10 000 000	EUR	01.11.19	31.10.22	Germany	Communities, local authorities, local governments, NGOs and other legal entities to be determined in the course of the project implementation	German Corporation for International Cooperation GmbH (GIZ)	Improvement of the provision of medical and social services in the Government-controlled area of Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts of Ukraine	Support to communities, Integration of IDPs/ATO participants
42	Development of democratic, peaceful and gender-equal society in Ukraine	28 211 084	NOK	04.12.17	31.12.20	Norway	Ministry of Internal Affairs of Ukraine, National Police of Ukraine, Zaporizhia Charity Foundation «Ednist for the future» Zaporizhia city; ICF «Ukrainian Women's Fund» Kyiv city, ICF "Ukrainian Public Health Fund», Kyiv city	United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN Women) in Ukraine	Enhance security for women and girls in communities in eastern Ukraine through their involvement, participation and impact on recovery, peace and security processes; promoting the realization of a prevention strategy and responses to gender-based violence	Dialogue and mediation
43	Strengthened partnership for sustainable development (pilot phase)	5 000 000	SEK	10.12.18	31.12.20	Sweden	Regional and local authorities, local communities, civil society organizations, enterprises, scientific circles	UN Development Programme in Ukraine (UNDP)	Contribution to the improvement of efficiency of local authorities and local governments, their ability to interact and cooperate transparently with the business sector, civil society and communities to ensure sustainable local development, using the opportunities arising from the decentralization process in Ukraine and the experience of the European Union member states	Dialogue and mediation, support to communities
44	Promoting Internet Freedom in Ukraine	1 165 925	USD	29.09.20	30.09.22	USA	Ministry of Justice of Ukraine; Coordination Center for the provision of legal aid	American Bar Association Rule of Law Initiative (ABA ROLI)	Enhance the rights and opportunities of Internet freedom advocates - lawyers and representatives of various sectors of society - to develop and support laws and policies that promote Internet freedom and freedom of speech on the Internet	Governance and Civil Society
45	Support in improving access to constitutional justice	78 500	EUR	01.04.20	31.12.20	OSCE	Constitutional Court of Ukraine	OSCE Project Co-ordinator in Ukraine	Strengthen expert discussion and exchange of views among all actors interested in the implementation of constitutional legal proceedings on existing tendencies and opportunities for more intensive protection of human rights via the constitutional justice tools	Rule of law and access to justice
46	Veterans reintegration program	5 037 031	USD	11.09.19	10.09.21	USA	Ministry of Veterans Affairs of Ukraine, Charity Organization «Charity Fund «Veteran HAB++», war veterans	International Research & Exchanges Board (IREX)	Support the process of reintegration of war veterans in Ukraine and the process of establishing the capable support structures for war veterans, increasing the availability of high-quality mental health services and provide the following services and significant economic opportunities for war veterans	Integration of veterans, support to communities

47	Support for decentralization in Ukraine (Phase II)	41 710 000	SEK	01.01.20	31.12.22	Sweden	All-Ukrainian Association of Local Governments «Association of Amalgamated Communities»	Swedish Association of Local Authorities and Regions (SALAR)	Strengthen democracy, improve governance and provide services to citizens of Ukraine	Support to communities, dialogue and mediation
48	Promoting the development of national and local institutions to protect the lives and rights of people affected by the conflict in eastern Ukraine	1 100 000	USD	01.07.19	30.06.21	USA	IDPs and conflict-affected populations of Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts	Danish Refugee Council	Improvement of protection of the fundamental rights of the most vulnerable groups of the IDPs and the population affected by the conflict, reduction of the danger to life and injury from explosives	Support to communities, integration of IDPs, dialogue and mediation
49	Promoting dialogue on reforms in Ukraine	105 000	EUR	30.04.20	31.12.20	OSCE	Secretariat of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine	OSCE Project Co-ordinator in Ukraine	Building capacity of central executive staff involved in reforms to use dialogue approaches and tools for implementing reforms and raising awareness on achieved results	Dialogue and mediation
50	Strengthening self-regulation of Ukrainian media	486 500	EUR	01.11.19	30.11.22	OSCE	All-Ukrainian NGO «Commission on Journalistic Ethics» (CJE) (EDRPOU 26409287)	OSCE Project Co-ordinator in Ukraine	Increase the capacity of Ukrainian media to use self-regulation to promote ethical, quality journalism, including in terms of crisis	Dialogue and mediation
51	Humanitarian and socio-economic support to internally displaced persons and affected population in the East of Ukraine	873 290	USD	25.03.20	24.03.21	Japan	Administration of the State Border Guard Service of Ukraine and its divisions: Donetsk Border Guard Unit of the State Border Guard Service of Ukraine (m/u 9937) (EDRPOU 14321726), Kramatorsk Border Guard Unit of the State Border Guard Service of Ukraine (m/u 2382) (EDRPOU 14321883), Luhansk Border Guard Unit named after Hero of Ukraine Colonel Yevhen Pikus of the State Border Guard Service of Ukraine (m/u 9938) (EDRPOU 14321736), medical care institutions of Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts along the contact line on the GCA, which will be determined in the course of the project.	International Organization for Migration	Facilitate the efforts of the Government of Ukraine to support the socio-economic recovery of internally displaced persons and the conflict-affected population along the contact line and entry/exit checkpoints in the East of Ukraine	Integration of IDPs, support to communities, assistance to the population
52	Support for professional training of judges	55 000	EUR	01.01.20	31.12.20	OSCE	National School of Judges of Ukraine	OSCE Project Co-ordinator in Ukraine	Expand access of Ukrainian judiciary community to modern domestic and international standards and practices in the field of human rights protection	Rule of law

53	Improvement of the legislative framework and the ability of the Ukrainian government and civil society organizations to cooperate effectively	116 000	EUR	01.03.20	31.12.20	OSCE	Ministry of Youth and Sports of Ukraine	OSCE Project Co-ordinator in Ukraine	Support the development of a legislative framework and the ability of executive authorities and civil society to cooperate effectively based on international best practices	Dialogue and mediation
54	Social and psychological rehabilitation of the population affected by the conflict	85 000	EUR	01.01.20	31.12.20	OSCE	Ministry of Veterans Affairs of Ukraine	OSCE Project Co-ordinator in Ukraine	Strengthen the capacity of the Ministry of Veterans Affairs of Ukraine to develop a national system of rehabilitation of the population affected by the conflict by developing appropriate mechanisms	Integration of ATO participants/IDPs, dialogue and mediation
55	Respect for human rights in the criminal justice system of Ukraine	1 000 000	EUR	01.07.19	31.12.20	Council of Europe	Prosecutor General's Office	Council of Europe	Ensure the effective operation of Ukraine's criminal justice system in accordance with European human rights standards	Rule of law and access to justice
56	Support to civil society in monitoring trials	30 000	EUR	01.01.20	31.12.20	OSCE	Secretariat of the Commissioner of the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine on Human Rights	OSCE Project Co-ordinator in Ukraine	Provide civil society with tools to monitor criminal trials and make recommendations to improve access to justice in conflict-affected territories	Rule of law and access to justice
57	Support to the Supreme Court in developing consistent and transparent judicial practice	40 000	EUR	01.04.20	31.12.20	OSCE	Supreme Court	OSCE Project Co-ordinator in Ukraine	Building capacity of the Supreme Court and other stakeholders to develop consistent and transparent judicial practice in the context of judicial reform	Rule of law and access to justice
58	Reducing disaster risk vulnerability in eastern Ukraine	1 400 000	USD	01.08.19	31.07.21	USA	Popasna District State Administration (Popasna District Civil-Military Administration) of Luhansk oblast (EDRPOU 21823467); Torets Civil-Military Administration of Donetsk oblast (EDRPOU 41.55292.9); Volnovakha District State Administration of Donetsk oblast (EDRPOU 05.419927) Bakhmut District State Administration of Donetsk oblast (EDRPOU 04.052896); Yasinuvata District State Administration (Yasinuvata District Civil-Military Administration) of Donetsk oblast (EDRPOU 05.420221).	Agency for Technical Cooperation and Development «ACTED»	Improve understanding, promotion and implementation of disaster readiness activities in conflict-affected areas in eastern Ukraine	Support to communities

59	Integrated emergency response to the needs of the population affected by the conflict in the East of Ukraine III	1 600 000	USD	01.10.19	30.09.20	USA	Residents of Luhansk and Donetsk oblasts	People in Need	Reduce the impact of the conflict on the population in Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts by providing comprehensive, multi-purpose assistance that addresses the most important needs of people	Assistance to the affected population, support to communities
60	Support to the sustainability of independent, community-based regional media	94 500	EUR	01.05.20	31.12.20	OSCE	NGO «Development Center «Media Forum» (EDRPOU 40573560)	OSCE Project Co-ordinator in Ukraine	Building regional media capacity for sustainable functioning in amalgamated communities	Support to communities, dialogue and mediation
61	Support to the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Ukraine in countering domestic violence, human trafficking and cybercrime in Ukraine	193400	EUR	01.03.20	31.12.20	OSCE	Ministry of Internal Affairs of Ukraine (EDRPOU 00032684) and its departments: Lviv State University of Internal Affairs (EDRPOU 08571995), Odesa State University of Internal Affairs (EDRPOU 08571570), National Police of Ukraine (EDRPOU 40108578) and its agencies: Cyber Police Department of the National Police of Ukraine (EDRPOU 40116400), Main Directorate of the National Police in Kyiv oblast (EDRPOU 40108709), Main Directorate of the National Police in Rivne oblast (EDRPOU 40108761), Main Directorate of the National Police in Sumy oblast (EDRPOU 40108777), General Directorate of the National Police in Kharkiv oblast (EDRPOU 40108599), General Directorate of the National Police in Khmelnytskyi oblast (EDRPOU 40108824), General Directorate of the National Police in Chernihiv oblast (EDRPOU 40108651), General Directorate of the National Police in Kyiv oblast (EDRPOU 40108616)	OSCE Project Co-ordinator in Ukraine	Building capacity of the National Police of Ukraine to respond effectively to cases of domestic violence, human trafficking and cybercrime by drawing on national and international best practices	Dialogue and mediation, integration of ATO participants
62	Supporting entrepreneurship and employment development on the Azov coast in Donetsk and Zaporizhia oblasts	19 000 000	DKK	31.12.19	31.12.21	Denmark	Recipients will be identified in the course of the project implementation and in the framework of grant contests.	UN Development Programme in Ukraine (UNDP) in partnership with the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)	Increase the level of sustainability of the local population affected by the conflict and prevent further deterioration of the economic situation in areas along the Azov coast in Donetsk and Zaporizhia oblasts	Support to communities, integration of IDPs

63	Supporting IDPs and people affected by the conflict via establishment of job places and restoration of economic infrastructure in Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts and along the Azov coast in Zaporizhia oblast	909 090	USD	18.03.20	18.03.21	Japan	Recipients will be identified in the course of the project implementation and in the framework of grant contests.	UN Development Programme in Ukraine (UNDP)	Increase the resilience of conflict-affected populations and increase opportunities for sustainable livelihoods, develop a solid foundation for peace and economic well-being of women and men who reside in Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts and along the Azov coast in Zaporizhia oblast	Integration of IDPs, support to communities
64	Improving the quality of administrative services for the population in Kherson oblast	131 177	EUR	15.09.14	14.09.17	EU	Department of Economic, Regional Development and Trade of Kherson Regional State Administration; Kherson Regional Organization of Employers «Association of Producers and Processors of Agricultural Production».	Department of Economic, Regional Development and Trade of Kherson Regional State Administration	Improve the availability and quality of administrative services provided by local government to Ukrainians	Support to communities
65	Community involvement in urban space planning	340 758	EUR	01.08.14	01.09.17	EU	Ladyzhyn City Council of Vinnytsia oblast; Executive Committee of Dobropillia City Council of Donetsk oblast; NGO «Community «Socially Responsible Business»; Pavlohrad City NGO «Agency for Economic Development of Pavlohrad city»	Ladyzhyn City Council of Vinnytsia oblast	Improve cooperation between local governments and NGOs by involving them in the process of urban territorial planning. Improve the capacity of NGOs and local governments in the field of urban territorial planning; develop an effective model for consultations between NGOs and local governments; conduct pilot projects; draft information materials; training.	Support to communities, dialogue and mediation
66	Strengthening the Information Society in Ukraine	2 762 056	EUR	21.01.14	20.12.15	EU	National Council of Ukraine on Television and Radio Broadcasting; Internet Association of Ukraine	Council of Europe	Strengthen human rights and fundamental freedoms by ensuring: greater freedom, diversity and pluralism in the mass media; an open, comprehensive, sustainable and citizen-centered approach to the Internet based on human rights; an effective system of citizens' protection, taking into account their right to private life and control over their own personal data	Rule of law

67	Integrated emergency response for the vulnerable population of Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts of Ukraine	4 500 000	EUR	31.10.14	29.02.16	EU	Donetsk Regional State Administration; in particular, Mariinka District State Administration; Krasny Liman, Kramatorsk (including Semenivka village), Sviatohirsk, Sloviansk, Kurakhiv, Vyhledar, Mariupol, Debaltsevo, Avdiivka City Councils; Luhansk Regional State Administration, in particular Novoaidar and Popasna District State Administrations, Shchastia, Lysychansk, Sieverodonetsk, Hirske, Zolote, Popasna, Krasny Yar, Luhansk, and Pervomaisk.	CLOVEK V TISNI OPS, PIN (International NGO «People in Needs»)	Comprehensive assistance to the most vulnerable groups of the population of Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts affected by the armed conflict by providing housing, food and non-food items.	Assistance to the affected population, support to communities
68	Support for temporarily displaced persons (TDPs) with diabetes and chronic kidney disease in Mykolaiv oblast	338 985	EUR	15.01.15	14.07.16	EU	Mykolaiv Regional Clinical Hospital	Mykolaiv Regional Clinical Hospital	Establishment and provision of specialized vital medical care for people with diabetes and chronic kidney failure.	Integration of IDPs, support to communities
69	Social integration and reconciliation of internally displaced families and children in Kyiv oblast	1 971 137	EUR	16.01.15	15.07.16	EU	Service of Children Affairs of Kyiv Regional State Administration; International Charity Organization «Partnership for Every Child».	Service of Children Affairs of Kyiv Regional State Administration	Establish conditions for the social integration and social welfare of internally displaced families and children in Kyiv oblast in areas with large groups of internally displaced populations by improving social infrastructure, living conditions and social services, and strengthening reconciliation and mutual assistance processes. Carry out internal renovation of «Peremoha» sanatorium for families with children; renovate the existing social housing building; and establish a medical center in Myronivka city; arrangement of emergency temporary accommodation for families with children in Novi Petrivtsi city; assistance for foster families; analysis of social service needs; and training for social workers.	Integration of IDPs, support to communities
70	Support for local government reform in Ukraine	662 299	EUR	30.12.14	01.05.17	EU	NGO «Institute for Civil Society»; NGO «Bukovyna Center for Reconstruction and Development»; Donetsk City Youth Arts Center «Eco Art»; NGO «Agency for Sustainable Development of Luhansk oblast»; International Charity Organization «eastern Europe Fund».	NGO «Institute of Civil Society»	Capacity building of NGOs and local governments in pilot regions and provision of legislative assistance for realization of local government and territorial organization reforms in Ukraine; Building capacity of NGOs and local governments in pilot regions; raising awareness of the Concept of Local Government and Territorial Organization Reform in Ukraine and e-government; assistance in improving legislation on decentralization; conduct information events	Support to communities

71	Housing for internally displaced persons in Dnipropetrovsk oblast	1 573 081	EUR	18.02.15	18.10.15	EU	Charity organization «Charity Fund «Dopomoha Dnipra» (EDRPOU 39251188)	Charity organization «Charity Fund «Dopomoha Dnipra» (EDRPOU 39251188)	Repair and arrangement of selected premises in communal ownership in order to provide internally displaced persons (IDPs) with adequate housing conditions	Integration of IDPs, support to communities
72	Development and establishment of accommodation for internally displaced persons in Zhytomyr oblast	254 200	EUR	26.01.15	26.12.15	EU	Department of Family, Youth and Sports of Zhytomyr Regional State Administration; Zhytomyr Regional Council; Zhytomyr Specialized Children and Youth Sports School of Olympic Reserve in Athletics of Zhytomyr Regional Council; Zhytomyr Regional School of Higher Sportsmanship of Zhytomyr Regional Council; Community Children's Recreation and Rehabilitation Center «Orliatko» of Zhytomyr Regional Council.	Zhytomyr Regional State Administration	Arrange and establish accommodation facilities for internally displaced persons in Zhytomyr oblast. Address issues and shortcomings in the transport accessibility of educational, health care and public and social services for internally displaced persons; address issues and shortcomings in energy conservation and heating at the sports and recreation center and «Sportynyi» hotel; and repair the premises of «Orliatko» children's health care facility (Levkiv village of Zhytomyr oblast)	Integration of IDPs, support to communities
73	Improvement of living conditions and social adaptation of internally displaced persons in Chernivtsi oblast	251 860	EUR	20.01.15	19.05.16	EU	Chernivtsi Regional Council; Executive Committee of Chernivtsi City Council; Department of Social Protection of Population of Chernivtsi Regional State Administration	Chernivtsi Regional Council	Strengthen the capacity of regional authorities in Chernivtsi oblast to ensure social stability and cohesion among internally displaced persons and local communities. Repair 2 residential buildings for families with children and other socially vulnerable categories to meet the basic needs of IDPs, purchase household appliances and tableware; assistance in resolving issues of IDPs employment, assistance in starting their own business; social consulting and support of IDPs; and activities aimed at forming a tolerant attitude of local residents to IDPs and a tolerant attitude of IDPs towards local residents.	Integration of IDPs, support to communities
74	Let's build the future together!	711 801	EUR	13.03.15	12.03.17	EU	Kirovohrad Regional Council; Kirovohrad Regional State Administration	Kirovohrad Regional State Administration	Contribute to the implementation of a national strategy on refugees and relieve social tensions among temporarily displaced persons and residents of territories that host refugees. Carry out a major overhaul of the hostel and preschool educational institution «Svitliachok» in Novhorodok urban settlement of Novhorod oblast; purchase equipment, furniture and household items; improve the premises of the hostel and preschool educational institution «Svitliachok»; build a playground and lay the square foundation; and carry out information activities.	Integration of IDPs, support to communities

75	Direct monetary assistance in preparation for the winter period and providing basic protection equipment for internally displaced persons in the south-east of Ukraine	1 000 000	EUR	01.11.14	01.05.15	EU	Persons affected by the armed conflict in eastern Ukraine who are located on the territory of Dnipropetrovsk oblast (according to the list).	International NGO «Danish Refugee Council»	Providing internally displaced persons in Dnipropetrovsk oblast, in particular vulnerable families, with monetary assistance in preparation for winter period and the basic elements of protection, including needs assessment and information support, as social support Selection of potential beneficiaries of assistance; assessment of the needs of internally displaced persons; provision of monetary assistance to selected families; provision of social and psychological support.	Integration of IDPs, support to communities
76	Adaptation center for displaced persons and entrepreneurs from the ATO zone and Crimea in Vinnytsia oblast	358 477	EUR	26.03.15	25.07.16	EU	Department of Regional Economic Development of Vinnytsia Regional State Administration	Department of Regional Economic Development of Vinnytsia Regional State Administration	Establish conditions in Vinnytsia oblast for displaced persons from conflict zones to start or relocate businesses. Establish a consulting and information service for displaced persons and entrepreneurs from the conflict zone; establish an Internet portal for interregional cooperation and investments in Vinnytsia oblast; establish a mechanism to assist displaced entrepreneurs to start or relocate their businesses; establish information and cooperation activities with the participation of displaced entrepreneurs, representatives of regional/local governments, financial institutions and business circles; carry out an information campaign; and ensure the project management process.	Integration of IDPs, support to communities
77	New opportunities for living, studying, employment for internally displaced persons in Mykolaiv city	238 031	EUR	06.03.15	06.03.16	EU	Executive Committee of Mykolaiv City Council; Department of Labour and Social Protection of Mykolaiv City Council; Department of Housing and Communal Services of Mykolaiv City Council; Department of Education of Mykolaiv City Council; Mykolaiv City Center of Social Services for Family, Children and Youth; Regional Fund for Support of Entrepreneurship in Mykolaiv oblast; City Center of Social Services (Provision of Social Services).	Executive Committee of Mykolaiv City Council	Formation of decent living conditions for IDPs from the temporarily occupied territory and from the ATO zone Carry out repair works in the department of the Municipal Territorial Social Service Center (provision social services) and preschool educational institution No. 52 and No. 141; organize an effective educational process for school and preschool age children; furnish renovated premises; purchase clothing; provide psychological and therapeutic support to displaced persons; and set up a social and economic support center on the basis of the Regional Fund for the Support of the Entrepreneurship in Mykolaiv oblast.	Integration of IDPs, support to communities

78	Accommodation for displaced persons	721 060	EUR	03.04.15	03.12.17	EU	Sloviansk City Council; Department of Education of Sloviansk City Council; Department of Health of Sloviansk City Council.	Sloviansk City Council	Provide comfortable housing for internally displaced persons from the ATO zone and residents of Sloviansk who have lost their homes. Develop design and planning estimates; carry out repair works; arrangement of hostels.	Integration of IDPs, support to communities
79	Restoration of operation of Volodymyr Dahl East Ukrainian National University, evacuated from Luhansk city to Sievierodonetsk city	529 500	EUR	25.03.15	25.03.16	EU	Volodymyr Dahl East Ukrainian National University	Volodymyr Dahl East Ukrainian National University	Establish conditions for continuing education of university students and provide jobs for teachers who due to the armed conflict had to move to Sievierodonetsk city, on the basis of the University's structural unit in the city. Create conditions for provision of educational services to students who were forced to leave the occupied territory; address the issue of employment for a significant number of evacuated university staff members; establish comfortable living conditions in a hostel for students and staff who were adversely affected as a result of the armed conflict; provide qualified specialists to enterprises of the region.	Integration of IDPs, support to communities
80	Strengthening of Kherson amalgamated community to overcome the issues of IDPs	723 747	EUR	29.05.15	29.11.16	EU	Department of Social Policy of Kherson City Council; Kherson City Center of Social Services for Family, Children and Youth of Kherson City Council; Kherson Regional Youth Organization «Fund for Promotion of Public Action»; Charitable Association «Center for Social Programs».	Department of Social Policy of Kherson City Council	Support the integration of internally displaced persons in Kherson city, provide temporary housing, public services and social support to IDPs, as well as stimulate economic activity. Carry out basic repair and equipment of hostels in Kherson city; provide social services (social support, legal and psychological assistance) to IDPs; assistance in self-employment of IDPs by providing information and methodological assistance and stimulating economic activity; provision of medical and social assistance to displaced persons.	Integration of IDPs, support to communities
81	Provision of living conditions to the most vulnerable IDPs and Kramatorsk city residents affected by the conflict	1 819 093	EUR	17.04.15	17.09.17	EU	Executive Committee of Kramatorsk City Council of Donetsk oblast; Department of Housing of Kramatorsk City Council; Department of Municipal Services of Kramatorsk City Council; Communal Production Enterprise «Kramatorsk Water Canals»; Communal Enterprise «Mist».	Executive Committee of Kramatorsk City Council of Donetsk oblast	Establish basic living conditions for IDPs and local residents affected by the conflict in Kramatorsk city. Introduce measures to reconstruct the local infrastructure; assistance to IDPs in vocational training, employment and integration into the cultural life of the city; carry out information measures.	Integration of IDPs, support to communities

82	Social and economic adaptation of temporarily displaced persons in Ternopil city	236 937	EUR	20.04.15	20.04.16	EU	Ternopil City Council; Foundation for Development of NGOs «Western Ukrainian Resource Center».	Ternopil City Council	Establish conditions for the socio-economic adaptation of displaced persons from Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts and Crimea by opening additional groups in preschool institutions and implementing an entrepreneurship development program. Carry out repair work in preschool institutions; purchase furniture and equipment; create a co-working center; conduct training; and provide monetary assistance for the implementation of 7 business plans.	Integration of IDPs, support to communities
83	Poltava oblast for internally displaced persons	1 154 209	EUR	15.06.15	14.06.17	EU	Poltava Regional State Administration; Poltava City Council; Gadyach City Council; Poltava Regional Organization of the Red Cross of Ukraine; Charity Organization «Light of Hope».	Poltava Regional State Administration	Establish conditions for the stay and integration of at least 1 200 internally displaced persons in Poltava oblast. Establish living conditions for IDPs in the region; improve access of IDPs to priority and specialized medical, social, administrative services, including social and psychological rehabilitation services; establish conditions for improved interaction and integration of IDPs in host communities, including access to education and local labour market.	Integration of IDPs, support to communities
84	Protection of the rights of internally displaced persons in Ukraine	1 789 055	EUR	19.06.15	19.02.16	EU	NGO «Kharkiv Human Rights Protection Group»; Charity Organization «Charity Fund «Hope for the East»; Charity Organization «Charity Fund «Country Above All»; Charity Fund «Kharkiv Station»; Kharkiv City Charity Fund «Blahoh».	NGO «Kharkiv Human Rights Protection Group»	Facilitate the realization of the rights of internally displaced persons (IDPs) in Kharkiv oblast and inform IDPs about their rights in 6 regions of Ukraine. Informing, advising and providing legal assistance to IDPs in 6 regions of Ukraine; facilitate the relocation of IDPs from the conflict zone (Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts) and provide them with temporary housing; promote the rights of IDPs in Kharkiv oblast to housing, labour and an adequate standard of living; promote the rights of IDPs to medical care and social security; carry out monitoring the implementation of the Law of Ukraine «On ensuring the rights and freedoms of internally displaced persons» in 6 regions of Ukraine.	Integration of IDPs, rule of law, support to communities

85	Comprehensive stabilization support for internally displaced persons and affected population in Ukraine	4 500 000	EUR	05.12.14	05.06.16	EU	Ministry of Social Policy, State Migration Service of Ukraine	International Organization for Migration, represented in Ukraine by the Representative Office of the International Organization for Migration in Ukraine	Address the needs of internally displaced persons (IDPs) to sustain their situation and integration, as well as promote social stabilization and confidence building in Ukraine. Support communities that host IDPs to implement stabilization and development initiatives; provide IDPs with information support through a hotline; assist communities in return areas to implement confidence building measures; assist IDPs to improve their professional level and skills through targeted training and employment activities; support state authorities in implementing the system of registration of IDPs.	Integration of IDPs, rule of law, support to communities
86	Urgent assistance to the affected population of Ukraine	1 870 000	EUR	02.02.15	31.12.15	EU	Persons in Zaporizhia and Donetsk oblasts affected by the conflict in eastern Ukraine	A separate division of a foreign NGO «Representative Office of Save Children International in Ukraine».	Provide emergency assistance to children and their families from eastern Ukraine affected by the conflict. Select potential recipients of assistance; provide assistance in repairing damaged housing; monetary assistance to selected families; provide operational support in preparation for the winter period; establish mobile children's centers to provide social and psychological support to children and their parents.	Assistance to the affected population, support to communities
87	Protection of vulnerable populations affected by the conflict in Luhansk oblast of eastern Ukraine: improving the ability to respond to urgent needs through the provision of relevant resources	1 000 000	EUR	01.09.15	01.04.16	EU	Population of Ukraine affected from the crisis in Luhansk oblast	International NGO GOAL	Provide emergency assistance to vulnerable and conflict-affected families in Luhansk oblast	Assistance to the affected population, support to communities

88	Administrative center for provision of services as an innovative tool for interaction between government and communities	1 077 599	EUR	01.02.16	31.05.18	EU	Department of Development, Investment and European Integration of Volyn Regional State Administration; Department of Information and Public Relations of Lviv Regional State Administration; Department of Economic Development and Trade of Rivne Regional State Administration; Executive Committee of Lutsk City Council.	Department of Development, Investment and European Integration of Volyn Regional State Administration	Form a model of standard Administrative centers for provision of services for small settlements and amalgamated communities in the context of decentralization (on the example of Volyn, Lviv and Rivne oblasts) through the introduction and dissemination of best practices of good governance	Rule of law, support to communities
89	Provision of multi-disciplinary emergency assistance to the most vulnerable population in the conflict zone, both in the Government-controlled and non-Government controlled areas and with complicated access to the non-Government controlled territory in Donetsk, Luhansk oblasts of eastern Ukraine, Ukraine	4 541 728	EUR	01.05.16	30.04.17	EU	The population of Ukraine affected by the crisis	Charity organization «People in Needs» (CLOVEK VTISNI, OPS)	Emergency multisectoral assistance to people who reside in the conflict zone and in the frontline territories via provision of food kits, hygiene items, provision of drinking water and preparation of housing for winter.	Assistance to the affected population, support to communities
90	Protection and assistance to internally displaced persons and the population affected by the conflict in the East of Ukraine	500 000	EUR	01.04.16	30.09.17	EU	Internally displaced persons and the population of Ukraine affected by the conflict in the East of Ukraine	International NGO «Norwegian Refugee Council» via «Representative Office of the Norwegian Refugee Council in Ukraine».	Ensure access to the most vulnerable categories of IDPs and the population affected by the conflict to prompt and effective protection and assistance, as well as assist in the realization of rights of IDPs and population by providing information and legal assistance	Assistance to the affected population, rule of law

91	Protection of vulnerable populations affected by the conflict in Donbas, eastern Ukraine: multisectoral response to acute needs	1 200 000	EUR	01.06.16	31.12.16	EU	The population of Ukraine affected by the crisis in Luhansk oblast	International NGO GOAL	Respond to the most urgent needs of vulnerable families in the buffer zone of Luhansk oblast to provide improved access to food, essential goods and shelter by monetary assistance	Assistance to the affected population, support to communities
92	Establishment of a comprehensive system of assistance to internally displaced persons from the ATO zone and Berdiansk city	1 337 535	EUR	04.09.15	03.12.17	EU	Executive Committee of Berdiansk City Council	Executive Committee of Berdiansk City Council	Resolution of differences and full integration of those IDPs who will decide to stay in Berdiansk city forever among local communities so that they can make full use of social and economic opportunities, contributing together to local development and without the social and economic barriers that separate them.	Integration of IDPs, support to communities
93	Improvement of access to water in the conflict-affected community of Kreminna city	1 756 961	EUR	16.12.16	15.06.18	EU	Kreminna City Council	Kreminna City Council	Improve access to water supply services for the local population, including internally displaced persons and local enterprises in Kreminna city. Development of engineering constructions for repair of water supply system in Kreminna city: construction works on repair of water supply infrastructure in Kreminna city, including pumping systems; implementation of information campaign with resource-saving approaches, mobilization of local activists, information and awareness raising activities; experience exchange.	Assistance to the affected population, support to communities
94	Introduction of the best European practices in order to build the institutional capacity of the Secretariat of the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine for the protection of human rights and freedoms	1 500 000	EUR	03.01.17	02.01.19	EU	Secretariat of the Commissioner of the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine on Human Rights	Institute of Law of the Republic of Lithuania, Ludwig Boltzmann Institute of Human Rights (Austria)	Building capacity of the Secretariat of the Commissioner of Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine for Human Rights to act as an effective mechanism of parliamentary control over the observance of human rights and freedoms at the national level; ensuring the effective prevention of violations of human rights and freedoms and the effective response of the Secretariat of the Commissioner of Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine for Human Rights to any identified violations; improving the legislation and administrative practice by means of structural changes and internal measures of the Secretariat of the Commissioner of Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine for Human Rights in accordance with EU best practices	Rule of law

95	Contribution to the reconstruction and sustainable solution of the issues of internally displaced persons (IDPs) and the conflict-affected population in Ukraine	4 214 400	EUR	09.01.17	08.07.18	EU	Donetsk Border Guard Unit of the eastern Regional Department of the State Border Guard Service of Ukraine (m/u 9937); Kramatorsk Border Guard Unit of the eastern Regional Department of the State Border Guard Service of Ukraine (m/u 2382); Luhansk Border Guard Unit of the eastern Regional Department of the State Border Guard Service of Ukraine (m/u 9938); Main Communication, Automation and Information Protection Center (m/u 2428)	International Organization for Migration, represented in Ukraine by the Representative Office of the International Organization for Migration in Ukraine	Comprehensive assistance to internally displaced persons and members of host communities in matters of stabilization, reconstruction, integration needs and confidence building in Ukraine.	Integration of IDPs, rule of law
96	Establishment of a safe environment for children and their families in eastern Ukraine	1 310 000	EUR	01.05.16	31.03.17	EU	Children and families affected in the course of the conflict in eastern Ukraine	A separate division of a foreign NGO «Representative Office of Save Children International in Ukraine».	Providing assistance to children and families with children affected by the conflict in Ukraine, namely: establish safe conditions for vulnerable and marginalized children and their families through the Center for Child Protection and Quality Education; reduce vulnerability of children to the crisis in eastern Ukraine by providing immediate protection and life-saving assistance.	Assistance to the affected population
97	«Hromadskiy Polias Donbasu»	657 707	EUR	01.07.16	01.07.18	EU	Charitable Foundation «Foundation for Development of NGOs «Western Ukraine Resource Center»; NGO «Lion Society»; NGO «Center for Public Advocacy».	Charitable Foundation «Fund for the Development of NGOs «West-Ukrainian Resource Center».	Strengthening the role of civil society to promote democratic reforms in Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts.	Dialogue and mediation, rule of law
98	Twinning project. Supreme Court: Building the institutional capacity of the Supreme Court of Ukraine to protect human rights at the national level	1 311 731	EUR	06.03.17	05.03.19	EU	Supreme Court of Ukraine; National School of Judges of Ukraine	The German Foundation for International Legal Cooperation (Germany) in partnership with the Ministry of Justice of the Republic of Latvia (Republic of Latvia)	Building institutional capacity of the Supreme Court of Ukraine by creating a unified judicial practice in the administration of justice, correct application of existing legislation and avoidance of judicial errors, as well as ensuring access to justice and the principles of the rule of law in Ukraine. Bringing the legal framework related to the activity of the Supreme Court of Ukraine in line with European best practices; increasing the level of professionalism of the Supreme Court of Ukraine judges; building the institutional capacity of the Supreme Court of Ukraine through training of employees; improving public access to information about the role, status and activities of the Supreme Court of Ukraine.	Rule of law

99	Provision of integrated and comprehensive assistance to the conflict-affected population of eastern Ukraine regions	1 200 000	EUR	01.05.17	31.03.18	EU	The most affected segments of the population that were affected by the conflict in eastern Ukraine	PREMIERE URGENCE INTERNATIONAL, PUI (Charity organization «Charity Fund «Premier Urgence International»).	Facilitating the provision of pre-hospital counseling to people at the first aid points at three checkpoints between the Government-controlled (GCA) and non-Government-controlled territory (NGCA) in Donetsk oblast, namely: Maiorsk, Marinka and Novotroitske.	Assistance to the affected population
100	Provision of multi-purpose humanitarian aid to persons affected by the combat actions in the East of Ukraine	4 100 000	EUR	01.05.17	30.04.18	EU	The population of Ukraine affected by the crisis in Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts	CLOVEK V TISNI OPS, PIN (International NGO «People in Need»)	Improve the humanitarian situation of the most vulnerable groups living in eastern Ukraine by providing food security and necessary means of livelihood, housing rehabilitation and repairment of housing, provision of basic non-food items, drinking water supply and rehabilitation of water supply systems.	Assistance to the affected population
101	Technical assistance for civil society development in Ukraine	1 663 400	EUR	02.10.17	01.10.19	EU	NGO Center for Democracy and Rule of Law; NGO «DIXIE GROUP»; Institute for Economic Research and Policy Consulting.	Consortium headed by FCG Swedish Development AB (Sweden) as a part of International Consulting Expertise EEIG (ICE, Belgium), Eurasia Social Change LTD (United Kingdom)	Strengthening Ukrainian civil society through strengthening the role of civil society organizations in promoting and monitoring democratic reforms and comprehensive socio-economic development in Ukraine. Engaging civil society in political and sectoral dialogue. Participation of civil society organizations in domestic policy, communication, advocacy and knowledge management; monitoring, management and special activities for civil society projects, funded by the EU	Dialogue and mediation, rule of law
102	Social cohesion and governance: European studios	39 638	EUR	01.09.17	31.08.20	EU	Drahomanov National Pedagogical University	Drahomanov National Pedagogical University	Development and introduction of new courses on European social cohesion in educational programs; improvement of professional skills program for civil society leaders and government officials; development of new educational and methodological materials for distance learning.	Support to communities

103	U-LEAD with Europe: Ukraine – Local Empowerment, Accountability and Development Programme - Pillar 2: Establishment of administrative centers for the provision of services and raising public awareness on local governments	22 785 000	EUR	18.08.16	22.04.21	EU	Ministry of Regional Development, Construction and Housing and Communal Services of Ukraine; Administrative Centers for Provision of Services in the regions of Ukraine to be identified in the course of the project implementation	Swedish International Development Agency SIDA	Improve the delivery of local services to increase the benefits to citizens. Selection of Administrative centers for provision of services, including renovation works, furniture and IT equipment; staff development; information campaigns on local government activities, advertising, etc.	Support to communities, rule of law
104	Protection of the population affected by the conflict in eastern Ukraine via legal assistance and mine action	947 368	EUR	01.06.17	01.05.18	EU	Internally displaced persons (IDPs) and conflict-affected populations in eastern Ukraine	International NGO «Representative Office of the Danish Refugee Council».	«Legal Aid» pillar - provision of services combined with targeted advocacy and policy change; «Mine Action» pillar - activities aimed at areas affected by the conflict, both through the current contact line and in areas of Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts where territories remain contaminated with explosive remnants of war.	Assistance to the affected population, rule of law
105	Support for Justice and Justice Reforms in Ukraine (PRAVO-JUSTICE)	15 290 000	EUR	07.12.17	06.12.20	EU	High Council of Justice	“Expertise France” Agence Française d’Expertise Technique Internationale (AFETI)	Ensuring equal access to justice practice, based on the principles of the rule of law and respect for European democratic values and standards; improving governance of justice sector reform; strengthening the independence, efficiency, quality, integrity and transparency of the judicial system, access to a fair trial; increasing the percentage of enforcement of court decisions	Rule of law

106	Women promote change, peace restoration and conflict prevention at the regional level in Ukraine	623 405	EUR	26.12.17	26.12.19	EU	International Charitable Foundation «Ukrainian Women's Foundation»	International Charitable Foundation «Ukrainian Women's Foundation»	Promote women's participation in peace restoration and conflict prevention processes by supporting local stakeholders in the process of development, implementation and monitoring of action plans for the implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 1325 Improving understanding of the principles and objectives of UN Security Council Resolution 1325 among local stakeholders and empowering them to implement initiatives aimed at promoting women's participation in peace restoration processes; providing grant support to local stakeholders; exchange of experience; information events.	Support to communities, dialogue and mediation					
107	Support for reforms to develop the rule of law in Ukraine (PRAVO)	36 000 000	EUR	18.12.17	17.06.21	EU	National Police of Ukraine; State Institution «Service Center for Units of the National Police of Ukraine».	The United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS)	Assistance in reforming the rule of law system in Ukraine and bringing it into line with European and international best practices; assistance in establishment an effective law enforcement system that respects human rights.	Rule of law					
108	Operational support in provision of strategic advice on civil security sector reform in Ukraine (2018-2019)	5 200 000	EUR	01.06.19	31.08.21	EU	State Judicial Administration of Ukraine, Territorial Administration of the State Judicial Administration of Ukraine of Lviv oblast, Territorial Administration of the State Judicial Administration of Ukraine Kharkiv oblast, National School of Judges of Ukraine, Odesa Court of Appeal, Security Service of Ukraine, Security Service of Ukraine of Kharkiv oblast, Security Service of Ukraine of Lviv oblast, Department of the Security Service of Ukraine of Rivne oblast, Department of the Security Service of Ukraine of Vinnytsia oblast, Department of the Security Service of Ukraine of Odesa oblast, Department of the Security Service of Ukraine of Kirovohrad oblast, Main Department of the Security Service of Ukraine of Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts, Main Department of the Security Service of Ukraine of Kyiv city and Kyiv oblast, Security Service of Ukraine of Zaporizhia oblast, Security Service of Ukraine of Mykolaiv oblast, Security Service of Ukraine of Kherson oblast, Security Service of Ukraine of Dnipropetrovsk oblast, Security Service of Ukraine of Chernivtsi oblast, Security Service of Ukraine of Poltava oblast, Security Service of Ukraine in Zakarpattia oblast, Prosecutor's General Office of Vinnytsa oblast, Prosecutor's General Office of Dnipropetrovsk oblast, Prosecutor's General Office of Donetsk oblast, Prosecutor's General Office of Zhytomyr oblast, Prosecutor's General Office of Zakarpattia oblast, Prosecutor's General Office of Zaporizhia oblast, Prosecutor's General Office of Ivano-Frankivsk oblast, Prosecutor's General Office of Kyiv city, Prosecutor's General Office of Kyiv oblast, Prosecutor's General Office of Kirovohrad oblast, Prosecutor's General Office of Luhansk oblast, Prosecutor's General Office of Lviv oblast, Prosecutor's General Office of Mykolaiv oblast, Prosecutor's General Office of Odesa oblast,						Advisory Mission of the European Union in Ukraine	Ensuring effective implementation of the reforms being implemented in Ukraine, in particular: coordination and launching of relevant strategies and action plans in the area of civil security sector reform in Ukraine; improving the efficiency of law enforcement and prosecutorial agencies of Ukraine.	Rule of law

152

109	Protection of persons affected by the conflict in eastern Ukraine via legal assistance and mine clearance activities	947 368	EUR	01.07.18	30.06.19	EU	Internally displaced persons (IDPs) and conflict-affected populations in eastern Ukraine	International NGO «Representative Office of the Danish Refugee Council»	Improve the protection of civil rights and reduce the threat of mines and explosive remnants of war among the most vulnerable groups of the IDPs and conflict-affected populations	Assistance to the affected population, rule of law
110	EU Support for eastern Ukraine - Recovery, Peacebuilding and Governance	25 000 000	EUR	01.08.18	31.07.22	EU	Luhansk Regional State Administration - Civil-Military Administration; Donetsk Regional State Administration - Civil-Military Administration. Other recipients will be identified in the course of program implementation through grant competitions.	UN Development Programme in Ukraine (UNDP) in partnership with UN Population Fund (UNFPA), UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), UN Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN Women)	Promote peace, economic recovery and reconciliation in eastern Ukraine through social and economic revival, where special attention will be paid to the territories of Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts GCA	Assistance to the affected population, integration of IDPs, dialogue and mediation, support to communities
111	Provision of protection and assistance to communities affected by conflicts on the contact line in the East of Ukraine (Government-controlled areas), Ukraine	1 004 415	EUR	01.04.18	31.03.19	EU	Internally displaced persons and population affected by the conflict in eastern Ukraine	International NGO «Norwegian Refugee Council» via «Representative Office of the Norwegian Refugee Council in Ukraine».	Providing protection and assistance to communities affected by conflicts on the contact line in eastern Ukraine (GCA), Ukraine	Assistance to the affected population
112	Support for reintegration of combat veterans in the East of Ukraine	3 000 000	EUR	21.12.18	20.06.20	EU	Ministry of Veterans Affairs of Ukraine	International Organization for Migration, represented in Ukraine by the Representative Office of the International Organization for Migration in Ukraine	Assistance to the Government of Ukraine in providing assistance to the veterans of the conflict in the East of Ukraine and their families for effective reintegration into civilian life, as well as active participation in the socio-economic development of communities	Integration of veterans, support to communities

113	Strengthening the protection of human rights and freedoms of internally displaced and conflict-affected communities in eastern Ukraine	316 527	EUR	01.01.18	31.12.19	EU	Internally displaced persons and population affected by the conflict in eastern Ukraine	International NGO «Norwegian Refugee Council» via «Representative Office of the Norwegian Refugee Council in Ukraine».	Raising awareness, promoting rights and providing access to basic needs of people affected by the conflict in the East of Ukraine	Assistance to the affected population, rule of law
114	Increasing education, employment and participation in conflict-affected areas of Georgia and Ukraine	767 589	EUR	18.12.18	18.12.20	EU	Young internally displaced persons (IDPs) and local youth affected by the conflict in Donetsk oblast	International NGO «Representative Office of the Danish Refugee Council» and NGO «Mariupol Youth Union».	Assistance to internally displaced persons from the temporarily occupied territories of Ukraine, including young people, in stabilizing their lives and achieving durable solutions through employment, self-employment and vocational training	Integration of IDPs, support to communities
115	Support of the European Union for eastern Ukraine	9 500 000	EUR	21.12.18	21.12.22	EU	Representatives of small and medium-size enterprises of Luhansk and Donetsk oblasts, GCA, partner institutions, which will be identified in the course of the program; German-Ukrainian Foundation (NUF).	Credit Institute for Reconstruction (KfW) through the German-Ukrainian Fund (NUF)	Provide access to financing for small and medium enterprises in Donbas	Integration of IDPs, support to communities
116	Mediation: Training and Society Transformation (MEDATS)	270 102	EUR	15.11.18	14.11.21	EU	University of Economics and Law «Krok»; Karazin Kharkiv National University; Yuriy Fedkovych Chernivtsi National University	Netherlands Business Academy	Assistance to mediation processes in Ukraine, Azerbaijan, Georgia to improve democracy and objective problem-solving through the acquisition of European best practices; development and implementation of the Master's program «Mediation»; establishment of a mediation federation.	Dialogue and mediation
117	Humanitarian protection and assistance to citizens affected by conflicts in the East of Ukraine	440 530	EUR	01.04.19	31.03.20	EU	Internally displaced persons and population affected by the conflict in eastern Ukraine	International NGO «Norwegian Refugee Council» via «Representative Office of the Norwegian Refugee Council in Ukraine».	Strengthen humanitarian protection, promotion of rights and providing access to basic needs of people affected by the conflict in the East of Ukraine	Integration of IDPs, support to communities, assistance to the affected population

118	Promotion and protection of human rights, fundamental freedoms and security of citizens who are at risk of experiencing injuries from explosive remnants of war as a result of the conflict in eastern Ukraine	526 316	EUR	01.07.19	30.06.20	EU	Internally displaced persons and affected population of Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts	International NGO «Representative Office of the Danish Refugee Council»	Ensure access to civil rights protection and reducing the threat of mines and explosive remnants of war among people living in close proximity to the contact line in eastern Ukraine (GCA)	Assistance to the affected population, rule of law
119	The European Union and the Council of Europe are working together to strengthen human rights protection in Ukraine. Pillar 1: The European Union and the Council of Europe are working together to support media freedom in Ukraine. Pillar 2: The European Union and the Council of Europe are working together to strengthen the operational capacity of the Ombudsman in protecting human rights	4 160 800	EUR	09.07.19	09.02.21	EU	Pillar 1: State Committee for Television and Radio Broadcasting of Ukraine; Pillar 2: Secretariat of Commissioner of the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine on Human Rights	Council of Europe	Support for consolidation of national legislation and practice in the field of media and human rights protection in Ukraine with European standards	Rule of law

120	Enhancing the educational and scientific role of the National University of Economics and Trade named after Mykhailo Tuhan-Baranovskyi (DonNUET) as an internally displaced institution of higher education in the community of Donetsk oblast	852 632	EUR	24.12.19	23.12.22	EU	Donetsk National University of Economics and Trade named after Mykhailo Tuhan-Baranovsky (DonNUET)	Donetsk National University of Economics and Trade named after Mykhailo Tuhan-Baranovsky (DonNUET)	Promote social cohesion and economic development of Donetsk oblast community via building the educational and scientific capacity of the DonNUET, in particular: updating the curriculum in accordance with the needs of Donetsk oblast community; improving the management system of the DonNUET; restoration the infrastructure of Mariupol College and Sviatohirsk institution.	Support to communities
121	Strengthening of teachers' influence in Luhansk oblast on reconciliation and peace establishment processes	1 582 842	EUR	26.12.19	25.12.22	EU	Luhansk Taras Shevchenko National University; Luhansk Regional Charitable Foundation «Alma Mater»; NGO «Agency for Educational Initiatives»; NGO «Agency for Sustainable Development of Luhansk oblast»; Luhansk Regional Institute for Post-graduate Pedagogical Education	Luhansk Taras Shevchenko National University	Promote peace and reconciliation in the East of Ukraine by strengthening the network of resource centers in Luhansk oblast; improving the infrastructure of National University of Luhansk named after Taras Shevchenko; improving the conditions for effective work of administrative and teaching staff; developing and improving services for students	Support to communities, integration of IDPs
122	Reducing disaster risk and vulnerability of the population in eastern Ukraine	1 038 422	EUR	01.05.19	31.10.20	EU	Communities of Luhansk and Donetsk oblasts, which are concentrated in Popasna, Volnovakha, Bakhmut, Yasynuvata districts and Torets city	International NGO «ACTED» presented by Agency for Technical Cooperation and Development «ACTED»	Mitigating the consequences and improving the readiness of the authorities and the population for the risks associated with the conflict	Support to communities
123	Revival of Ukrainians through education	926 293	EUR	20.12.19	20.06.22	EU	Donbas National Academy of Civil Engineering and Architecture	Donbas National Academy of Civil Engineering and Architecture	Reconstruction and renovation of Donbas National Academy of Civil Engineering and Architecture infrastructure, facilities and premises; modernization of educational programs; improvement of opportunities for providing services to students	Support to communities

124	Open educational space for students and community	1 348 273	EUR	12.02.20	11.02.23	EU	Donetsk Law Institute; Executive Committee of Mariupol City Council	Donetsk State University of Management	Promote better social cohesion and economic development in the eastern region by strengthening the provision of higher education and expanding the knowledge base on social challenges from the students' point of view: improving the quality of education in institutions; reconstruction of the premises; establishment of an open educational space for students and communities; harmonization of curriculum with market needs and social problems in the region.	Support to communities
125	Modernization of Master programs for future judges, prosecutors, investigators, taking into account European human rights standards	471 185	EUR	15.01.19	14.01.22	EU	Ivan Franko National University of Lviv; Yaroslav Mudryi National Law University; National University «Odessa Law Academy».	University of Graz	Modernization of higher legal education for future specialists in the field of criminal justice by introducing and developing specialized master's programs	Rule of law
126	Improvement of the quality and relevance of vocational education for the New Ukrainian School in Donetsk oblast	747 113	EUR	17.12.19	16.12.21	EU	NGO «Center for Development of Philology»	NGO «Center for Development of Philology»	Capacity building of Horiivka Institute of Foreign Languages as a leading center for teacher training in Donetsk oblast; renovation of the hostel for students and teachers; introduction of new digital teaching materials and tools; improvement of conditions for administrative staff	Support to communities, integration of IDPs
127	Support for the restoration and development of Luhansk State Medical University	1 019 491	EUR	19.12.19	18.12.22	EU	Luhansk State Medical University	Luhansk State Medical University	Improve quality of higher medical education and training base of the university; repair and equip the university infrastructure; harmonization of educational programs in accordance with the principles of the Bologna process; organization of the Center for certification and professional development of medical workers of Luhansk oblast.	Support to communities, integration of IDPs
128	Humanitarian mine action in the East of Ukraine	3 000 000	EUR	01.08.19	31.01.21	EU	State Emergency Service of Ukraine	HALO TRUST (UK) through the Representative Office HALO TRUST in Ukraine	Support and strengthen long-term security, stability and development of Ukraine by reducing negative consequences of the current conflict	Assistance to the affected population, support to communities

129	Revival of frontline communities via humanitarian clearance and livelihood support	2 000 000	EUR	01.01.20	30.06.21	EU	Internally displaced persons and conflict-affected populations of eastern Ukraine	Danish Refugee Council (DRC) (Denmark)	Building capacity of community residents affected by the consequences of the conflict in the buffer zone GCA to ensure overall resilience and physical security.	Assistance to the affected population, support to communities
130	Strengthening of intersectoral cooperation to enhance social cohesion (SC3)	1 111 111	EUR	03.02.20	03.02.23	EU	Kherson Regional Charity Fund «Obiednannia»; NGO «Strong Community»; NGO «Youth Platform».	British Council	Ensure effective response to challenges and realization of promising development opportunities at the local level through improved cooperation between civil society organizations and local governments in Ukraine	Support to communities, dialogue and mediation

Annex 2.2.

International technical assistance projects in the context of integration of veterans

for which there is no registration information on official resources of the Secretariat of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine and the Ministry of Economic Development, Trade and Agriculture of Ukraine (as of September 2020)

1. **“Lifeline Ukraine” is psychological support hotline for veterans.** “Lifeline Ukraine” is part of the Project “All4One” of the **Eastern Europe Foundation**. Financial support is also provided by the British Embassy in Ukraine. The project is non-governmental but was established in cooperation with the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Veterans Affairs. The grant from the British Embassy is GBP 580 000. The peer-to-peer psychological support groups are planned to be launched in the regional veterans’ centers as well, which will be set up by the Ministry of Veterans Affairs. Most of the team will consist of veterans. In total, up to 40 specialists will work there.
2. **Participation of ATO/JFO veterans’ non-governmental organizations in strengthening public security and conflict transformation via provision of effective and innovative services in Dnipropetrovsk, Donetsk, Zhytomyr and Luhansk oblasts**

Administered by ISAR “Yednannia” and funded by the **UN Recovery and Peacebuilding Programme**. The funding was provided with the support of the Kingdom of the Netherlands. It is aimed at participation of ATO/JFO veterans’ non-governmental organizations in strengthening public security and conflict transformation via provision of effective and innovative services.

The Project is targeted:

- on improvement of mechanisms and strengthening the level of public security in communities where the ATO/JFO veterans reside;
- on reintegration of the ATO/JFO veterans into community through improved coordination between the ATO/JFO veterans and the community (in particular, between veterans and local authorities and governments, security service providers, local entrepreneurs, opinion leaders and other stakeholders in public safety issues);
- on use of public resources to reintegrate the ATO/JFO veterans into community;
- on improvement of services in the community (psychological, medical, social, rehabilitation), which are key for successful reintegration of the ATO/JFO veterans;
- on establishment of innovative solutions to support the reintegration of the ATO/JFO veterans into the host community;
- on raising awareness of the ATO/JFO veterans on public security, human rights, protection mechanisms and risks associated with conflict;
- raising awareness and the host community’s attention to the reintegration challenges faced by ATO/JFO veterans and strategic communications to support the reintegration process;
- on involvement of other vulnerable groups in the activities to support the reintegration of the ATO/JFO veterans in community;
- on support of the cooperation between the police and the ATO/JFO veterans on the principles of partnership;
- on promotion of gender equality, as well as empowerment of women ATO/JFO veterans;
- prevention and counteraction to gender-based violence;
- on promotion of the protection and advocacy of the rights of the ATO/JFO veterans at the community level;
- on establishment and support of dialogue platforms (including the use of modern information technologies and innovations);
- on support of the initiatives aimed at building partnerships in families, communicating the importance of the role of the father in child development and upbringing, and promotion of responsible parenthood idea to prevent gender-based and domestic violence in communities;

- on introduction of social, educational, community development, advocacy, and leadership initiatives aimed at addressing pressing issues in communities where the ATO/JFO veterans reside;
 - on promotion of the idea of mentoring youth by the ATO/JFO veterans;
 - on establishment of cooperation and coordination between veteran organizations in several communities.
3. **Project “Bez broni” is a unified base of proven initiatives to assist ATO veterans**, it was established in 2015. Their web page contains all the initiatives that provide free assistance to the ATO veterans. It is possible to search for them by geographical principle and type of assistance. It is realized under the UCBI project and with support from the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID).
4. **“Development of social cohesion in Ukraine through strengthened regional and local social protection of internally displaced persons, veterans and other conflict-affected persons.”** Implemented by the non-governmental organization “Stabilization Support Services” with support from the British Embassy in Ukraine.

The purpose of the project is to guarantee comprehensive social protection to all residents of the amalgamated communities without exception, in particular those who were adversely affected as a result of combat actions and occupation. These are, first of all, displaced persons, ATO/JFO veterans, children and the elderly. The project is based on the experience and needs assessments previously conducted by the program “Radnyk on IDPs”.

5. **Veterans’ Houses is one of the stages of the project “Development of social cohesion in Ukraine through strengthened regional and local social protection of IDPs, veterans, and other conflict affected persons”.**

CF “Stabilization Support Services” in partnership with the Ministry of Veterans Affairs of Ukraine and the Canadian organization “Stabilization Support Services” provides veterans and their families with psychological, legal and social support and training in Mykolaiv, Zhytomyr, Rivne and Odesa oblasts.

6. The **RIZNA project** is realized by the NGO “Free People Employment Center” with the support of the Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands within the framework of the program “Improving the competitiveness of women in the labour market”. Women from Kyiv and oblast from among ATO veterans, wives of veterans, displaced women could be covered by the project.

Project’s objectives:

- vocational counselling, career and life coaching (selection of individual programs for personal and professional development)
- consultations on employment (assistance in writing a resume, labour market orientation, selection of vacancies on request, preparation for an interview)
- psychologist consultations (handling uncertainty during the interview, finding yourself, how to find a way out of a difficult life situation, how to understand each other in a relationship, and the like)
- dynamic training program (self-presentation skills, personal development, financial and legal literacy)
- meetings with inspiring people (leading employers, HR specialists, professional development specialists, and the like)

7. **The Defenders of Ukraine Fund. Grants to Defenders of Ukraine Fund to support war veterans in Ukraine** were implemented with the support of the Congress of Ukrainian Canadians and the Canada-Ukraine Foundation. The project is aimed at assisting the wounded warriors of ATO.

8. Program for protection of the rights of IDPs and ATO veterans with disabilities. The draft Program contains effective steps to establish sustainable mechanisms for the provision of free legal assistance to IDPs and ATO veterans with disabilities on the basis of non-governmental organizations and local governments, raising awareness of IDPs and ATO veterans with disabilities to protect their rights and to establish unified standards of access of people with disabilities in social facilities and government agencies. “Initiative of active citizens in support of IDPs and ATO participants - persons with a disability in Donbas” is implemented by NGO “Public Legal Aid Service” in the framework of the project “Ukrainian Regional Platform of Public Initiatives”, which is administered in the region by Donetsk regional organization “Committee of Voters of Ukraine”. All-Ukrainian administration of the project is carried out by NGO “Center “Women’s Prospects” **with the financial support of the European Union.**

9. IV All-Ukrainian Forum “Enthusiastic about life. Success Stories of ATO veterans”; in the course of which the vacancies from leading companies in Ukraine were presented; advice on passing interviews from HR; relevant courses and training programs from the NGO “Free People Employment Center”.

The event was held in the framework of the project “Decent Work for the Warrior” of NGO “Free People Employment Center” with the support of UCBI - Ukraine Confidence Building Initiative.

Social project “Hardworking Ukraine”, WOG Ukraine, “NGO Pobratymy” were the partners of the event.

10. Project “Protection of rights and socio-psychological adaptation of IDPs and ATO veterans with disabilities in eastern Ukraine” is realized by NGO “Kharkiv Human Rights Protection Group” with the support of the Foundation for Democracy of the U.S. Embassy in Ukraine.

11. Project “Norway-Ukraine. Professional adaptation. Integration into the state system”

The basis of the project is professional retraining of the target group for civil specialties that are in demand on the labour market of Ukraine, assistance to participants of the project in social adaptation to the conditions of life in civil society.

Project’s objective: effective implementation of the model of professional adaptation of servicemen, veterans and their family members into the state system of Ukraine.

The tasks of the project are to increase the degree of social and professional adaptation of servicemen, retired to the reserve, veterans and members of their families to the conditions of civil life; development and application in practice of a sustainable model of social and professional adaptation of servicemen, participants of military operations and members of their families.

The project is financed by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of Norway. Nord University is a direct partner of the project on the Norwegian side.

12. Trust fund for medical rehabilitation (prosthetics) for servicemen. The purpose of the fund is to assist current and retired servicemen, civilian personnel of the security and defence sector, provide emergency rehabilitation and prosthetic services outside the country, as well as access to professional sports rehabilitation; promote the development of physical rehabilitation system in Ukraine to ensure the availability of funds to provide quality and reliable services to current and retired servicemen, civilian personnel of the security and defence sector. The project has been realized since 2016 and has a budget of EUR 2 250 000.

13. The NATO Trust Fund for the transition of military careers into professional civilian career, which objective is to assist in development and implementation of sustainable, effective and integrated approach to the retraining process and social adaptation of servicemen. The project has a budget of EUR 435 000 and has been realized since 2015.

