

# CIVILIAN DEATHS AND DISABLED PERSONS IN UKRAINE: A DATA-DRIVEN OVERVIEW VICTIMS OF ATTACKS

## Introduction

Since the onset of Russia’s full-scale invasion of Ukraine, civilians have borne an immense burden of suffering. Thousands have lost their lives, and many more have been left permanently disabled due to war-related injuries. The devastating consequences extend beyond physical harm, deeply affecting families, communities, and Ukraine’s future generations.

This newsletter seeks to provide a comprehensive overview of civilian casualties and war-disabled persons in Ukraine. Drawing from data provided by Ukrainian authorities, international organizations like the United Nations and WHO, and independent monitoring groups, we will analyze the scale of the losses, regional variations, and trends over time. Special attention will be given to the impact on children, the reliability of reported figures, and the broader social and psychological consequences of the conflict.

Beyond the statistics, this newsletter will explore the challenges faced by disabled civilians in accessing medical care, rehabilitation, and social reintegration. It will also examine existing national and international mechanisms for documenting, compensating, and supporting affected individuals, as well as the gaps that still need to be addressed.

Through this analysis, we aim to raise awareness of the war’s human toll, advocate for better support systems, and highlight the resilience of those affected.

## Civilian Deaths and Disabled Persons in Ukraine: A Data-Driven Overview

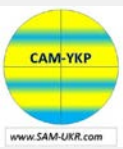
### Civilian Deaths: Scope and Regional Variations

In January 2025, at least 139 civilians lost their lives, and 738 others were injured in Ukraine, marking a 39% increase compared to December 2024 and a 27% rise from January 2024, when 169 people were killed and 524 wounded. The majority of civilian casualties (89%) and damage to educational and healthcare facilities (93%) occurred in Ukrainian-controlled territories. Short-range drones, particularly First-Person-View drones, were the leading cause of civilian harm, surpassing other weapons. In government-controlled areas of Kherson region, these drones accounted for 70% of all casualties. Several missile attacks in Zaporizhzhia City on January 8, 18, and 23 resulted in 17 deaths and 176 injuries, contributing significantly to the overall rise in casualties for the month. The front-line regions of Kherson, Zaporizhzhia, and Donetsk saw the highest number of casualties, accounting for 81% of the total.

On January 15, Russian forces launched a large-scale, coordinated assault on Ukraine’s energy infrastructure, damaging at least four gas production, transportation, and storage sites across three regions. This attack led to emergency power outages in seven regions.

Other major incidents in January included:

- January 8: Two aerial bombs struck an industrial facility in Zaporizhzhia City, killing 14 civilians (9 men and 5 women) and injuring 115 others (59 men, 55 women, and a girl). This was one of the deadliest attacks since the war began in February 2022.
- January 17: A missile strike hit a college building and a residential area in Kryvyi Rih, Dnipropetrovsk region, killing four women and one man, and injuring at least seven others (three women, three men, and a girl).
- January 20: An MLRS strike on the occupied village of Bekhtery (Kherson region) reportedly killed three people and injured 24. However, the Human Rights Monitoring Mission in Ukraine (HRMMU) has only verified seven of these casualties so far, with others still under investigation.
- January 23: A missile attack on Zaporizhzhia City killed one man and wounded 49 civilians (28 women, 20 men, and a boy).
- January 30: A loitering munitions attack on a residential building in Sumy City killed 11 people (six men and five women) and injured at least four others (two men, one woman, and one girl). Among the victims were three elderly couples, all over 60 years old.



## VICTIMS OF ATTACKS

A survivor of one of these attacks described the horror of being wounded: "I barely remember the explosion. I was deafened, my legs shattered by shrapnel. Bleeding out, I tried to tie a tourniquet myself, but it was nearly impossible. Ambulances don't come here anymore—drones hunt them. I survived only because a vehicle happened to pass by and assist me."

HRMMU compiles data on civilian casualties through various sources, including interviews with victims and witnesses, open-source materials such as photos and videos, forensic reports, official law enforcement and military statements, and medical records. All sources undergo rigorous verification and cross-checking.

As new information emerges, casualty figures may be revised. Many deaths and injuries—particularly from the early months of the full-scale invasion—remain unverified due to access restrictions and the high volume of reports. Cities such as Mariupol (Donetsk region), Lysychansk, Popasna, and Sievierodonetsk (Luhansk region), which experienced intense fighting in 2022, are believed to have significantly undercounted civilian casualties.

### Child Casualties and Causes

The conflict has had a devastating impact on children. According to a UNICEF report from November 18, 2024, at least 659 children have been killed, and 1,747 injured since the escalation of the war, averaging 16 child casualties per week. The majority of these casualties resulted from explosive weapons.

At a press briefing at the Palais des Nations in Geneva on February 21, 2025, UNICEF Ukraine's Chief of Advocacy and Communication, Toby Fricker, highlighted the devastating impact of the ongoing war on children in Ukraine.

### Emotional and Psychological Toll

According to a recent UNICEF-led survey involving more than 23,000 children, one in five reported losing a close relative or friend since the war escalated three years ago. Additionally, one in three expressed feeling so hopeless and distressed that they struggle to carry out their usual activities. These findings serve as a stark reminder of the deep grief and trauma that have become a part of childhood in Ukraine.

### Child Casualties and Escalation of Violence

UN-verified data confirms that over 2,520 children have been killed or injured since the start of the full-scale invasion, though the actual numbers are likely much higher. Alarming, child casualties surged by 50% in 2024 compared to the previous year, indicating a worsening situation.

### Attacks on Civilian Infrastructure

No place in Ukraine is truly safe for children. Schools, maternity wards, and pediatric hospitals have all suffered damage from attacks. UN-verified data reveals that approximately 780 healthcare facilities and over 1,600 schools have been either damaged or completely destroyed.

Just this week in Odesa, an attack severely damaged a health clinic that serves 40,000 children and a kindergarten attended by 250 young children. The destruction of essential infrastructure, such as hospitals, schools, and power grids, has long-term consequences, affecting children's well-being and development even if they survive these attacks.

### Education in Crisis

Schools are not only places of learning but also provide children with a sense of stability, safety, and hope for the future. However, nearly 40% of children across Ukraine now rely solely on online education or a combination of remote and in-person learning.

Speaking from an underground school in Zaporizhzhia, Fricker described how classrooms in basements and bomb shelters have become the new reality for many students. He emphasized that such conditions should never be considered normal for any child.



## UNICEF HIGHLIGHTS THE SEVERE IMPACT OF WAR ON UKRAINE'S CHILDREN

### UNICEF Highlights the Severe Impact of War on Ukraine's Children

**KYIV/NEW YORK, 21  
February 2025** – A new  
survey released by UNICEF  
reveals that one in five  
children in Ukraine has  
experienced the loss of a close  
relative or friend since the war  
escalated three years ago.

“For far too long, children in  
Ukraine have lived under the  
constant threat of violence,  
loss, and destruction,” stated  
UNICEF Executive Director  
Catherine Russell. “This level  
of suffering and instability  
disrupts every aspect of their  
lives.”

### Rising Child Casualties and Infrastructure Damage

The third year of full-scale war  
in Ukraine proved even more  
deadly for children than the  
previous year, with child  
casualties in 2024 increasing  
by over 50% compared to  
2023. Since the invasion began  
in February 2022, more than  
2,520 children have been killed  
or injured, though the actual  
figures are likely much higher,  
as these numbers only reflect  
cases verified by the UN.

Additionally, over 1,600  
educational institutions and  
nearly 790 healthcare facilities  
have been damaged or  
destroyed during the conflict,  
further limiting children's  
access to essential services.

## Challenges for Ukrainian Refugee Children

Currently, 6.86 million Ukrainians are registered as refugees worldwide, with nearly one million residing in Poland. A major challenge for refugee children remains access to education. In host countries, half of school-aged Ukrainian children are not enrolled in national education systems, limiting their ability to learn, interact with peers, and develop essential skills for Ukraine's future recovery.

UNICEF continues to work with governments to address these issues and ensure that all Ukrainian children, whether inside the country or abroad, receive the support they need to rebuild their lives.

## Sharp Rise in Child Casualties in Ukraine as War Continues

KYIV, 9 August 2024 – The number of children killed or injured in Ukraine has increased by nearly 40% in the first half of this year, bringing the total number of child casualties in nearly 900 days of war to approximately 2,200, according to Save the Children.

July proved to be the deadliest month for children since September 2022, with at least 71 children killed or injured. Data from the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) indicates that 95% of these casualties were caused by explosive weapons.

A significant spike in child casualties followed a wave of deadly attacks on 8 July across multiple cities, which resulted in at least 43 civilian deaths, including five children. Among those injured were at least seven children at Okhmatdyt, Ukraine's largest children's hospital in Kyiv, which suffered extensive damage during the strikes.

Tamara\*, a mother from Kyiv, recounted how her 16-year-old son narrowly escaped harm when a missile exploded just 30 meters from their home:

“My children rushed into my room just as the missiles were being intercepted. My younger son and his older brother had barely entered the room before the shockwaves hit. The couch he had been sleeping on was covered with debris from the ceiling. If he hadn't moved, he could have been crushed. We are recovering, but it doesn't feel right... People used to have normal lives, and in an instant, everything can be taken away.”

Since the escalation of the conflict in February 2022, the OHCHR has documented 2,184 child casualties, with 633 children killed and 1,551 injured.

In the first seven months of 2024, 341 children were killed or injured—40% more than the 243 recorded in the last seven months of 2023.

Stephane Moissaing, Deputy Country Director for Save the Children in Ukraine, emphasized the relentless toll of war on children:

“For 900 days, nearly every single day has seen a child either killed or wounded in Ukraine. Late 2023 gave us a glimpse of hope when child casualties temporarily declined, but the respite was short-lived.

This year, the violence has intensified, and missiles, drones, and bombs continue to claim more young lives. As long as explosive weapons continue to strike towns and villages, families will keep suffering.”

## WAR-RELATED DISABILITIES

Comprehensive data on civilians who have acquired permanent disabilities due to war-related injuries remain limited. However, the significant number of injuries reported—over 29,000 civilians—suggests a substantial increase in individuals living with disabilities as a result of the conflict.

Accessing detailed regional or oblast-level data on war-related disabilities in Ukraine is challenging, as such specific information is not widely available in public sources. However, national-level statistics indicate a significant increase in disability cases since the onset of the conflict. According to Ukraine's Minister of Labor and Social Policy, Oksana Zholnovych, the number of people with disabilities has risen by approximately 300,000 since the start of Russia's full-scale invasion, increasing from 2.7 million to 3 million as of November 2024.

Additionally, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) reported a sharp rise in visual impairments linked to the war. In 2021, there were 17,478 individuals diagnosed with visual impairments; this number increased to 19,551 in 2022, and in the first seven months of 2023 alone, over 19,000 new cases were reported.

While these figures underscore the significant impact of the conflict on disability rates nationwide, obtaining specific data at the oblast or regional level would likely require access to specialized databases or direct communication with Ukrainian governmental agencies or organizations focused on disability statistics.

### The Impact of War on Persons with Disabilities in Ukraine

Since Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine on February 24, 2022, the country has been grappling with an unprecedented humanitarian crisis. The International Organization for Migration (IOM) reported that as of February 2024, there were over 3.4 million registered internally displaced persons (IDPs) in Ukraine. Meanwhile, data from the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) showed that the number of refugees fleeing the country exceeded 6.4 million by March 2024.

## Rising Numbers of Persons with Disabilities

Official statistics on disability in Ukraine since the invasion remain limited. However, prior to the war, in early 2021, there were over 2.7 million registered persons with disabilities in Ukraine. Experts suggest that this number was likely underreported due to several challenges, including barriers to registration, lack of identity documents, and homelessness.

Since the invasion, the number of persons with disabilities has risen significantly due to war-related injuries among both civilians and combatants. By September 2023, estimates indicated that more than 3 million people in Ukraine had disabilities. Some data sources suggest that the number of people with disabilities grew by approximately 27,000 in the first year after the invasion. Others point to a dramatic increase in new disability registrations, with figures showing a 3.5-fold rise—from 13,000 new registrations before the war to 45,000 in the first 10 months of the conflict.

## Reliability of Casualty Figures

Discrepancies exist among casualty figures reported by Ukrainian authorities, international organizations, and independent monitoring groups. The United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) acknowledges that the actual casualty numbers are likely higher than reported due to challenges in data collection during active conflict. This highlights the difficulty in obtaining accurate data in conflict settings and the need for cautious interpretation of the figures.

## KEY IMPACTS OF THE ONGOING CONFLICT: CASUALTIES, DISPLACEMENT, ECONOMY, AND PUBLIC SENTIMENT

### Civilian Economic Consequences

- Russia:
  - GDP growth since 2022: +5.6% (up to 2024)
  - Projected GDP growth for 2025: 1.6%
  - 2024 budget deficit: 1.7% of GDP
  - Russian ruble: Valued at \$0.0116 USD, a 3% decline since the invasion.
  - 3-year bond yield: 17.42%
- Ukraine:
  - GDP decline since 2022: -22.6% (up to 2024)
  - Projected GDP growth for 2025: 2.5%
  - 2024 budget deficit (excluding foreign aid): 20.4% of GDP
  - Ukrainian hryvnia: Valued at \$0.024 USD, a 27% decline since the invasion.
  - **3-year bond yield: 24.7%**

### ASSESSING THE IMPACT OF THE PSYCHOLOGICAL REHABILITATION PROGRAM «SHELTERED BY LOVE» ON THE MENTAL WELL-BEING OF UKRAINIAN CHILDREN DURING THE WAR

Results: The study's findings provide evidence of the efficacy of the Sheltered by Love psychological rehabilitation program. Post-intervention analyses showed statistically significant reductions in post-traumatic stress symptoms, including intrusive thoughts, emotional distress, and avoidance behaviors. Psychosocial functioning also improved, with fewer disruptions reported in communication and leisure activities. Physiological indicators demonstrated a slight decrease in heart rate, as well as improvements in sleep quality and deep sleep duration, further supporting the program's positive impact on the mental and physical well-being of the participants.

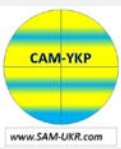
Conclusions: The findings highlight the effectiveness of the Sheltered by Love rehabilitation program in mitigating psychological distress, improving psychosocial functioning, and fostering adaptive coping strategies. Ultimately, the program enhanced the overall well-being of participants affected by the war. Further research could examine the long-term effects of such interventions and explore additional factors influencing children's psychological resilience in war-affected settings.

Keywords: psychological trauma, war-affected children, war-affected adolescents, Ukraine, mental health, psychological rehabilitation program, psychosocial functioning, intervention effectiveness, adaptive coping strategies, mental well-being.

### Documentation and Compensation Mechanisms

The Ukrainian government has implemented programs to document civilian casualties and provide compensation to affected families. International bodies, including the United Nations, are also involved in monitoring and reporting human rights violations. However, challenges remain in ensuring comprehensive documentation and timely compensation.

The Ukrainian government has implemented programs to document civilian casualties and provide compensation to affected families. International bodies, including the United Nations, are also involved in monitoring and reporting human rights violations. However, challenges remain in ensuring comprehensive documentation and timely compensation. Issues include bureaucracy, access to affected individuals, and the need for data verification in the ongoing conflict.



# NATIONAL LEGAL FRAMEWORKS FOR COMPENSATION

## Ukrainian Laws on War Victim Compensation

Ukraine has implemented legal provisions that provide financial assistance and social benefits to civilians affected by war. Key regulations include:

- **Law on Social Protection of War Victims (2022):** This law ensures financial compensation, medical treatment, and rehabilitation services for civilians injured due to military actions.
- **Government Decree on War-Related Disability Payments:** Civilians who sustain disabilities as a result of hostilities can apply for monthly disability pensions, the amount of which depends on the severity of the disability.
- **Law on Reparations for War-Damaged Property:** Ukraine has created legal pathways for citizens to apply for compensation for destroyed homes, but funding remains a challenge.

## Challenges in National Compensation Mechanisms:

- **Funding Gaps:** The Ukrainian government faces financial limitations in compensating all victims. Many rely on international aid.
- **Burden of Proof:** Victims must provide official medical records, witness statements, and police reports—often difficult to obtain in occupied or heavily damaged areas.
- **Delayed Payments:** Many applicants report delays due to overwhelmed government agencies processing high volumes of claims.

## International Legal Mechanisms for War Crimes and Reparations

### International Criminal Court (ICC)

- The ICC investigates war crimes, crimes against humanity, and genocide.

Ukraine has accepted ICC jurisdiction, and several cases against Russian military personnel and officials have been opened.

While the ICC prosecutes individuals, it does not directly provide compensation to victims, but convictions can lead to reparation orders.

## Prepared for UNDP by Aleksandra Ivanković, Oleksandra Boychenko, and Larisa Spahić (Victim Support Europe), February 2024

This report, developed under UNDP Ukraine's Democratic Governance portfolio and funded by the Government of Japan, assesses the Ukrainian criminal justice system's capacity to support victims of war crimes. It was conducted by Victim Support Europe NGO as part of the "Access to Justice for Victims of War Crimes" and "Promotion of Human Security in Ukraine" projects.

Using the term "victim" in line with EU legal terminology, the report highlights the importance of a unified, victim-centered national framework. Full implementation of the Victims' Rights Directive is essential, alongside long-term funding and expanded mental health services.

### Key recommendations include:

- Establishing a comprehensive victim support system
- Enhancing regional/international cooperation
- Creating a unified victim registry
- Ensuring special recognition for CRSV victims
- Expanding victim information campaigns and accessible materials
- Developing hybrid judicial mechanisms and dedicated war-crime chambers
- Conducting individual needs assessments from first contact with authorities
- Formalizing referral protocols among service providers
- Creating an effective, accessible compensation system
- Training professionals to improve empathy and communication

The trauma caused by war will have long-lasting effects. A coordinated, sustainable approach is critical for ensuring justice and support for all victims.

## Services for War-Disabled Civilians

The Ukrainian government, in collaboration with international organizations, provides **medical, rehabilitative, and psychological** support for war-disabled civilians. However, these services vary significantly by region, and rural areas often face **severe accessibility challenges** due to damaged infrastructure and economic constraints.

## SERVICES FOR WAR-DISABLED CIVILIANS

Addressing the extensive human costs of Ukraine's war requires a coordinated national and international effort to improve services for war-disabled civilians.

### 1. Healthcare and Rehabilitation

- **Expand Rehabilitation Centers** in under-served regions to reduce travel burdens for disabled civilians.
- **Increase Funding for Mental Health Services**, including mobile PTSD clinics for rural areas.
- **Introduce Universal Coverage for Advanced Prosthetics** to ensure equal access to cutting-edge medical technology.

### 2. Social Integration and Employment

- **Strengthen Job Training and Remote Work Opportunities** to integrate disabled civilians into the workforce.
- **Enforce Accessibility Laws** in public buildings and workplaces.
- **Create a National Disability Coordination Office** to streamline applications for aid, healthcare, and employment programs.

### 3. Legal and Financial Support

- **Simplify Bureaucratic Processes for Disability Status Registration** to ensure faster access to benefits.
- **Secure More International Funding for War-Disabled Support Programs** through partnerships with the UN, EU, and NGOs.
- **Develop a National Action Plan for War-Disabled Civilians**, ensuring long-term sustainability of rehabilitation and reintegration efforts.

Various services and assistance programs have been established by the Ukrainian government and international organizations to support civilians disabled by the war. These include medical treatment, rehabilitation, and psychological support. However, accessibility and availability of these services vary across different regions, with rural areas often facing significant challenges.

## Strategic Vision and Economic Recovery

The Ukraine Plan serves as a central framework for the country's recovery, reconstruction, and modernization efforts. It aims to accelerate Ukraine's path to EU membership by aligning its economy and governance with European standards, values, and policies. Through targeted reforms and investments across key sectors, the Plan seeks to foster sustainable economic growth and attract strategic investments over a four-year period. These reforms have been carefully prioritized based on Ukraine's needs, capacity, and long-term vision of becoming an integral part of the European community.

The Plan is also designed to support Ukraine's EU accession process, gradually aligning its legislative framework with EU requirements. Nearly 45% of the proposed reforms have been recommended by international programs, including the European Commission's 2023 Enlargement Report, the International Monetary Fund Extended Fund Facility (IMF EFF), and the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development Development Policy Loan (IBRD DPL), among others.

Key principles guiding the implementation of the Plan include:

- **"Build Back Better"** – ensuring that reconstruction efforts lead to more resilient and modern infrastructure.
- **Financial sustainability** – maintaining fiscal responsibility while implementing reforms.
- **Inclusiveness, transparency, and accountability** – fostering public trust and ensuring international funding is used effectively.

As part of its commitment to EU integration, Ukraine is actively implementing the Association Agreement, including the Deep and Comprehensive Free Trade Area (DCFTA), to stimulate economic growth and job creation.

## Key Priorities for Ukraine's Recovery and EU Integration

The Ukraine Plan focuses on several core government priorities, including:

- Completing the European Commission's seven recommendations necessary to initiate EU accession negotiations.
- Expanding integration with the EU Single Market through the DCFTA and participation in EU sectoral programs and funding initiatives.

Enhancing cross-border cooperation with neighboring EU countries in transportation, energy, and digital connectivity, leveraging programs such as the Connecting Europe Facility, Transport Community, and Energy Community.

Removing non-tariff trade barriers to facilitate further trade liberalization.

- Strengthening Ukraine's institutional capacity to engage in effective policy dialogue within the EU enlargement framework.
- Conducting a thorough screening of Ukraine's policies to assess their alignment with EU legislation, identifying necessary reforms for full EU membership.

## PSYCHOLOGICAL AND SOCIAL IMPACT

The psychological trauma and social challenges faced by civilians, particularly disabled individuals and families of deceased children, are profound. While specific statistical data are limited, numerous reports highlight increased instances of post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), depression, and social isolation among affected populations.

This study, titled *Psychological Assistance to Civilians in the Context of the Negative Impact of War: The Problem of Improving Legislation*, was conducted by Vasyl Dufynets, Tetiana Shcherban, Volodymyr Hoblyk, Iryna Bretsko, and Victoriya Varha. It was received on 20.02.2024, revised on 19.05.2024, and accepted on 26.06.2024.

The study aimed to develop strategies to enhance the effectiveness of psychological support for Ukrainians affected by the Russia-Ukraine war. To achieve this, the research analyzed Ukraine's current legislation, surveyed the affected civilian population, and reviewed international practices in providing psychological assistance in conflict and crisis situations.

The results highlighted significant gaps in the existing regulatory framework, especially regarding coordination among various services, funding for programs, and addressing the specific needs of different population groups (such as children, women, the elderly, and internally displaced persons). These shortcomings contributed to inefficiencies in delivering psychological aid and limited access to the necessary services during the war.

Survey results on the availability and quality of psychological support revealed that 28% of participants in Group 1 (those who had experienced traumatic events, including occupation) rated the availability of assistance highly, while 59% in Group 2 (other affected individuals) reported a similar assessment. These findings indicated substantial differences in how various groups perceived the accessibility of support, which seemed to correlate with the level of trauma experienced and the effectiveness of the existing support programs.

To improve the situation, the study recommended legislative changes, including public awareness campaigns to reduce the stigma surrounding mental health disorders and educate the population about available services.

## Infrastructure Damage

- Russia: Investigative reports in March 2024 estimated that Ukrainian strikes had disabled facilities responsible for one-sixth of Russia's gasoline and diesel fuel production.
- Ukraine: 64% of power generation capacity (36 out of 56 GW) has been either destroyed or is under occupation. The country now relies on three operational Soviet-era nuclear power plants, which remain under Ukrainian control, for two-thirds of its electricity supply.

### Public Sentiment

- Russia: 61% of the population favors peace negotiations.
- Ukraine: 51% of the population supports peace talks.

## Gender and Age Distribution

Detailed demographic breakdowns of civilian casualties, including gender and age distributions, are not comprehensively available in the public domain. Further research and transparent reporting are necessary to provide a clearer understanding of these aspects.

- Lack of Demographic Data in Ukraine Amid War, Expert Says
- During the ongoing war with Russia, Ukraine has not only withheld information about the number of fallen defenders but also various other demographic data, according to Oleksandr Hladun, Doctor of Economics and Deputy Director at the Institute for Demography and Life Quality Problems of the National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine.

## The War's Demographic Impact

Hladun emphasized that although demographers are not upset about the lack of data, they understand the need to keep certain information confidential during wartime, particularly regarding casualties and their age. He pointed out that Russia is effectively attacking Ukraine's demographic structure in several ways:

1. The loss of both military and civilian lives
2. The forced deportation of Ukrainians to Russian territories
3. The settlement of Russian citizens in Ukrainian territories

Additionally, many Ukrainians have fled abroad, and some may never return, further impacting the country's population.

The Growing Importance of Demographic Data Hladun noted that before Russia's full-scale invasion, Ukraine didn't place much emphasis on demographic data, as population trends largely followed their natural course. However, the war has made it clear that demographic factors are now critical to the state's survival and functioning.

# UNMET NEEDS AND SERVICE GAPS

## Conclusion and Recommendations

### Improving Documentation Accuracy

Accurate and comprehensive documentation of war-related disabilities is essential for ensuring proper compensation, access to medical treatment, and legal justice.

#### Key Actions:

- **Standardized Digital Record-Keeping:**
  - Implement a **centralized, digital database** for tracking civilian injuries, disabilities, and war-related trauma.
  - Ensure integration between **hospitals, NGOs, and government agencies** to prevent data loss or duplication.
- **Fast-Track Verification Systems:**
  - Develop **automated verification tools** to reduce bureaucratic delays in processing disability claims.
  - Use **telemedicine and digital platforms** to verify medical conditions in areas with limited access to doctors.
- **Legal Documentation for Reparations:**
  - Work with **international legal bodies (ICC, ECHR, UN)** to document war-related disabilities as evidence in war crime cases.
  - Provide **legal aid programs** to help civilians register their cases for potential future reparations.

### Expanding Psychological and Medical Support Services

- **Enhancing PTSD and Mental Health Support:**
- **Increase the number of trauma counselors** available, especially for veterans, amputees, and civilians suffering from PTSD.
- Expand **telemedicine and online mental health support** for those unable to travel to major cities.
- **Strengthening Rehabilitation Infrastructure:**
- Establish regional rehabilitation centers in areas with high disability rates to improve access to prosthetics, physiotherapy, and neurological care.
- Partner with international medical **organizations to provide** training for Ukrainian healthcare workers **on treating complex** war injuries.
- **Providing Mobile Medical Services:**
  - Deploy **mobile rehabilitation teams** to remote and rural regions to assist individuals who cannot travel for treatment.

## Continuous Advocacy and Increased Awareness

For any of these measures to succeed, ongoing **advocacy, public awareness, and political commitment** are necessary.

### Key Actions:

- **Engaging Civil Society and Media:**
  - Use **documentaries, social media campaigns, and survivor testimonies** to raise global awareness.
  - Work with **journalists and human rights organizations** to document challenges faced by war-disabled civilians.
- **International Legal and Political Advocacy:**
  - Urge global leaders to **impose reparations mechanisms** for war-disabled victims through the **UN, EU, and ICC**.
  - Pressure international organizations to **increase humanitarian funding** for disability programs.

### Final Thoughts

Addressing the war's long-term human costs requires a **multifaceted, coordinated effort** that goes beyond immediate relief efforts. By improving documentation systems, expanding medical and psychological support, enhancing accessibility, integrating disability services into national recovery plans, and increasing global advocacy, Ukraine can **lay the foundation for a more inclusive and supportive society for war-disabled civilians**.

Despite existing efforts, significant gaps remain in addressing the needs of war-disabled civilians. Barriers to healthcare access, social reintegration, and long-term support persist, highlighting the need for enhanced resources and targeted interventions.

### Conclusion and Recommendations

Addressing the needs of war-affected civilians requires sustained national and international efforts. Strengthening documentation processes, improving accessibility to services, and expanding psychological support networks are critical steps forward.

For further inquiries, insights, or collaboration opportunities, please visit our website or reach out directly: