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Suffering in hope for the future: the status of vulnerable women and children in Ukraine and identifying post-conflict solutions to support their reintegration and resocialization (UUT11)

Period: February 28, 2023 - August 30, 2023

UK partner information	Information about the partner in Ukraine
Dr Leah Fox , Senior Lecturer, Department of Criminal Investigation. Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences. School of Criminology and Criminal Justice (SCCJ), University of Portsmouth	Dr.Ec.Sc. Svitlana Filyppova , Professor, Director of the Institute of Economics and Management of the Odessa Polytechnic National University



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1. The purpose of the project and the subject of research

Subject of research



The impact of the current conflict on affected women and children, the current strategies of organizations that protect and work with them during this time



The purpose of research: two aspects



1. To determine how the conflict with Russia has affected and continues to affect the women and children of Ukraine, as well as the impact of increased levels of traumatic experiences and violence on their physical and mental well-being.

2. Assess the existing level of support and services provided to these vulnerable groups by specialized governmental and non-governmental organizations and propose solutions for post-conflict reconstruction in order to promote the use of gender aspects in the development of state and city policies where these vulnerable population groups live.



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2. Project tasks

Tasks of research

basic:

- ✓ Assess the degree and impact of trauma on women and children of the conflict;
- ✓ Identify types of vulnerable groups;
- ✓ Determine the degree and scope of the intervention, including any barriers and facilitators, the readiness of the environment and society to "accept" new vulnerable population groups;



additional:

- ✓ Identify post-conflict strategies and solutions to support the reintegration and resocialization of women and children back into society.





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3. Methodology and expected results of the project

Expected project activities, based on a combination of a review of domestic and foreign literary sources, field research and analysis:

- **Development of two online questionnaires for surveying:**
 - 1) vulnerable categories of the population during the conflict (affected women and children);
 - 2) professionals from social services, non-governmental organizations, charitable foundations and volunteer organizations, individual volunteers who work with vulnerable women and children from displaced persons.
- **2 types of online surveys:** 1) 60-100 vulnerable women and children and 2) 200 professionals from social services, non-governmental organizations, charitable foundations and voluntary organizations, individual volunteers to obtain data on conflict-affected people and opportunities to help these people.
- **Focus group discussions** (6 focus groups consisting of 6-10 participants from vulnerable categories of the population (affected women and children)).
- **Interviews with 30 strategic heads** of municipalities responsible for social security strategy and planning (Odesa City Council, territorial united communities in Odesa, Mykolaiv, and Kherson regions).
- **An in-depth analysis** of the impact of the current conflict on affected women and children, the current strategies of organizations that protect and work with them during this time.
- **Proposed outcomes:** recommendations on the necessary changes in post-conflict strategies and solutions to support the reintegration and resocialization of women and children back into society.
- **Publication and dissemination** of project results (analytical report, articles, conferences, presentation of results).

Dissemination Plans

The project provides for obtaining the following final results:

- **Analytical report** in English and Ukrainian for posting on the website of the economic scientific portal of Odessa Polytechnic: <https://economics.net.ua/analytics>
- **Reports at scientific conferences** (for example, <https://economics.net.ua/en/conferences>)
- **Publications in 3 specialized journals** (for example, <https://economics.net.ua/en/journal>, <https://economics.net.ua/en/journal-print>, <https://mdt-opu.com.ua/index.php/mdt>)
- **A package of proposals for the Strategy of the Economic and Social Development of the City of Odessa** (https://omr.gov.ua/images/File/DODATKI_2016/sessia_XII/Strat_05_17.pdf), clause 1.10 of the strategy "Development of the network and efficiency of public organizations, self-organizational bodies of the population, the level of interaction of the authorities with public organizations and private structures": take into account changes in expectations and needs, the structure of vulnerable sections of the city's population, which become fundamentally new starting conditions for its development



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4. Road map of the project

Project roadmap for 2023

March-April	April-May	May-June	June-July	July-August**
Previous stage	Planning	Implementation	Analysis	Completion
Formation of the theoretical basis of the research	Study of the current state of vulnerable categories in the conditions of martial law in Ukraine	Development of questionnaires, focus groups, interview formats, translation and coordination with ethical commissions of partner universities	Launch of surveys, focus groups. interviews to determine the impact of the war on women and children of Ukraine and to identify strategies and interventions to protect their health and well-being after the end of the war	Qualitative and quantitative analysis of received data, <i>preparation of publications, analytical reports and dissemination of results (extended until December)</i>

Stages of the project according to the road map

The name of the stage	March	April	May	June	July	August*
I. Previous	Analytical literature review (review report), questionnaire format, translation (Ukrainian-English)					
II. Planning		Review and approval of the questionnaire in English, translation (English-Ukrainian), preparation of field work				
III. Implementation			Approval of the Ukrainian questionnaire, focus group format, participation in 3 conferences			
IV. Analysis				Launch a survey, focus groups, interviews		
V. Completion					Qualitative and quantitative analysis, <i>presentation of results at a conference in Great Britain, Final report (extended until December)</i>	



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5. Received project results

- **Positive conclusions and data collection permissions were obtained** from the Ethics Committee of the University of Portsmouth and the Ethics and Conflict Management Commission of the Odesa Polytechnic National University.
- **Questionnaires for collecting analytical data for the project** have been posted. **180** people (women, children), **213** other respondents (volunteers, municipal management) were surveyed.
- **6** focus groups were conducted. 44 people from 6 regions of Ukraine (Kherson, Odesa, Mykolaiv, Kharkiv, Kyiv, Mariupol regions), **35** strategic leaders were interviewed (*processing and translation are ongoing, thematic analysis to analyze findings*).
- **Analytical report in English and Ukrainian** for posting on the website of the economic scientific portal of Odessa Polytechnic: <https://economics.net.ua/analytics> (*done, translation in progress*).
- **Reports at 3 scientific conferences** (<https://economics.net.ua/en/conferences>) (*done*).
- **Publications in 3 specialized journals** (category B) (<https://economics.net.ua/en/journal>, <https://economics.net.ua/en/journal-print>, <https://mdt-opu.com.ua/index.php/mdt>) (*prepared*).
- **A package of proposals for the Strategy of Economic and Social Development of the City of Odessa** to take into account changes in expectations and needs, the structure of the city's vulnerable population, which become fundamentally new starting conditions for its development (*developed*).
- **Presentation of the project at UKFIET or a similar international conference** on education in Great Britain (*expected*).

Analysis of the impact of the military conflict with Russia on women and children of Ukraine

Tool: Google Form. Format: online survey <https://forms.gle/QChQkajwTLwKKuiR8>. Respondents: 180 people (affected women and children).

Grouping of results	Analysis of the impact of the current conflict on affected women and children: some indicators and conclusions
1. General aspects of the survey: description of the respondents' portrait	The participants are mostly women (92.8%), who meet the requirements of the project, aged from 19 to 70 years. The largest number of respondents are between 40-49 years old (31.7%) with the status of IDPs (71.7%), which indicates that due to the conflict, women and children were forced to leave their homes and move to safer places in their view, the cities of Ukraine.
2. Regional aspect	The largest number of respondents left from Kherson region (31.1%), Donetsk region (25.6%), Kharkiv region (10.6%). Depending on the proximity of the region to hostilities, the number of forced migrants to safer regions of Ukraine is increasing.
3. Vulnerability analysis (according to the Washington criteria)	More vulnerable categories - single mother/father/guardian (one person lives and raises minor children or the guardian of an adult disabled) - are 16% of respondents, a person with a serious illness (6%), large families (5.6%), but the vast majority of respondents chose other signs of vulnerability (66.7%).
4. Violence (by types)	The majority of respondents experienced violence - 61.7%. Of them, psychological (emotional) violence was experienced - 43.9%, economic violence - 41.1%). They did not encounter this phenomenon - 38.3%. The majority of respondents who experienced violence did not receive help from the state (58.8%), and the majority of respondents who experienced violence received help from non-governmental organizations (52%).
5. The needs of households and their coverage at the expense of assistance	In general, 88 people (48.9%) do not need help from state and non-state organizations. Need help in the form of a standard individual grocery set - 51.9% of respondents (79.3%), as well as a family hygiene set for a family of 3 people (63%). In general, 9.4% of respondents do not have the ability to meet basic hygiene needs, and 8.3% of respondents do not have the ability to meet their food needs.
6. Awareness of assistance programs	More than half of the respondents (51.1%) do not have information about aid programs that require measures for its distribution by state and non-state organizations.
7. Discrimination when receiving assistance	The vast majority of respondents were not excluded from support programs (80.1%), but there are cases of exclusion from support regarding: monetary assistance (18%), psychological counseling (1.2%), legal assistance (0.6%).

An analysis of the activities of social service professionals, non-governmental organizations, charitable foundations and volunteer organizations, individual volunteers working with vulnerable displaced women and children on research issues related to the impact of the ongoing conflict

Tool: Google Form. Format: online survey <https://forms.gle/TfwwPCnAXmy2ehXN7>. Respondents: 213 people from volunteer organizations.

Grouping of results	Analysis of volunteer organizations
1. General questions	Confirmed consent to information processing (99.1% of respondents) and familiarization with the content of the project.
2. Demographic characteristics of specialists involved in the provision of services (role, gender, age, experience)	The majority of respondents are women (82.9%) aged 30-39 (31.8%) Representatives of volunteer organizations - 26.5%, private volunteers - 21.3%, persons engaged in other types of charitable activities - 53.1%, most of whom work in Odesa region (65.4%). The main direction of activity is the provision of various types of assistance, including to victims of Russian aggression. The majority of volunteers (61.1%) have one year of work experience, which is due to the occurrence of a conflict.
3. Interaction with displaced persons	Help is provided to vulnerable categories of the population during the war - 90.5% of respondents: women with many children (57.8%), women with disabilities (54.7%), children with disabilities (46.4%) from different regions of Ukraine. 46.9% of volunteers sought help from people experiencing violence (74% psychological, 51.2% economic, 48% physical, 12.2% sexual).
4. Identified humanitarian needs	Most of the vulnerable categories of the population need cash assistance and assistance with food and clothing.
5. Interventions identified for displaced victims (type, frequency, training of specialists)	Most often, women with many children and women with disabilities seek help. 89.6% of benefactors provide real assistance (provision of things, medicines, etc.) and 24.2% perform online volunteering for affected women. The majority of volunteers (46.4%) have special education and experience in this field.
6. Impact of working with displaced women and children on practitioners (including well-being)	Constant work with affected women and children causes a deterioration in the psychological and emotional state of volunteers (50.2%), burnout (48.8%), the emergence of moral and ethical dilemmas (44%), an increase in the level of stress (chronic stress) - 43, 6% and other complications that require monitoring of their health, both physical and emotional.
7. Willingness/receptivity of local authorities to support migrant women and children	24.2% of volunteers noted the highest level of receptivity of local authorities to support displaced women and children, complete absence – 3.8%. The majority of respondents (35.1%) rate the willingness of local authorities to support migrants at 3 points out of 5, which indicates that it is necessary to increase the interaction of authorities with volunteer organizations.

Structural characteristics of survey participants according to focus group data (vulnerable population categories)

Tool: Google Meet. Format: online survey, photo report upon consent of participants, bilingual transcripts of meetings.

Participants: 6 focus groups. 44 people from 6 regions of Ukraine, a certified psychologist.

Grouping of results	Results according to focus groups
1. Regional aspect	Kherson – 16 (36%), Odesa – 8 (18%), Kharkiv – 6 (14%), Mykolaiv – 6 (14%), Mariupol – 6 (14%), Kyiv – 2 (4%).
2. Age of the participants	Adult population – 35 (80%), youth representatives – 9 (20%).
3. Gender	Women – 43 (98%), men – 1 (2%).
4. According to indicators of vulnerability	32 people (73%) consider themselves vulnerable.
5. Applying for and receiving assistance during relocation	34 people (77%) applied for help and received it during relocation.
6. Reason for moving	A sense of danger, fear for the lives of children and their own lives, the impossibility of education for children.
7. Suggestions, recommendations	Prolonged socio-psychological assistance to vulnerable population groups; Specialized care for affected women and children; Conducting seminars on psychological assistance to women who have experienced violence; Creation of clubs, sports sections, etc. for children with IDP status; Solving environmental problems (Kherson) and problems with drinking water (Kherson, Mykolaiv); Creating conditions for the return of qualified personnel (doctors, teachers).

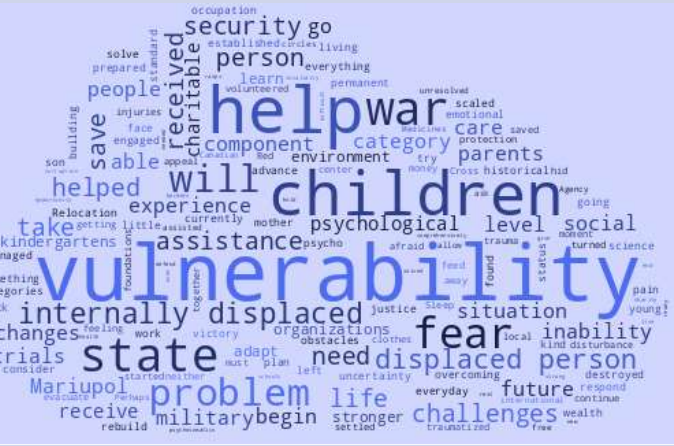
Survey of strategic managers of municipalities responsible for social security strategy and planning

Tool: Google Meet, phone call. Format: online survey, audio interview, photo report with the consent of the participants.

Participants: 35 people from 3 regions of Ukraine.

Grouping of results	Results of a survey of strategic leaders
The purpose of the survey	Processing of proposals for development at the state and regional level Reintegration strategy/consideration - based on the data of questionnaire proposals, focus groups and interviews of strategic leaders (representatives of territorial communities, Odesa, Kherson councils, Pervomaiska council of Mykolaiv region, Odesa regional employment center, Youth council at the mayor of the city of Odesa, heads of charitable foundations, the Odesa regional military administration, the Security Service of Ukraine).
1. Participants from Odesa, Kherson, and Mykolaiv regions	Invited: 40 leaders, 35 people participated: Odesa City Council - 6 (17%), Odesa Regional Military Administration - 2 (6%), Odesa Oblast Employment Center - 6 (17%), Youth Council under the Odesa Mayor - 1 (3%), Avangard territorial community - 5 (14%), Yuzhne territorial community - 1 (3%), Black Sea territorial community - 1 (3%), Pervomaysk district council of Mykolaiv region - 9 (25%), Olshan settlement council of the Mykolaiv region - 2 (6%), Kherson city council - 2 (6%).
2. Assessment of the role of local authorities in supporting IDPs	Format – self-assessment of own work: 28 (91%) – at a sufficient level, 2 (6%) – partially satisfactory, 1 (3%) – unsatisfactory.
3. Measures of local authorities regarding assistance to IDPs (current)	Provision of humanitarian assistance, creation of compact living spaces for IDPs, free drinking water, accommodation in dormitories, provision of financial assistance, recreation of children in summer camps, treatment, provision of legal advice, holding of job fairs, provision of vouchers for education.
4. Local programs, charitable funds and organizations supporting IDPs	Programs: "Community where everyone is comfortable", "Program of integration and social adaptation of IDPs on the territory of the community"; Charitable foundations and organizations: "Prolisok", "Caritas Ukraine", "Winds of Childhood", "Source of Light", "April 10", employment assistance center "Zayakorin in Odesa", humanitarian headquarters "Center for assistance to the rescued".
5. Accessibility of IDPs to information about assistance	Mass media, information stands, social networks.

Focus group findings (emerging)

Grouping of results	Results according to focus groups
1. Impact of the war on women and children 	The main effects of exposure: - PTSD, - sleep deprivation, - anxiety, - nervous cough, - severed connections with friends and relatives, - phonophobia, - loss, - not being «allowed to be vulnerable» and grieve, - «I forbade myself to be happy», - psychological trauma.
2. Vulnerability	Persistent sense of unpredictability, lack of control and/or planning...yet optimism for the future and positive attitude amidst preparedness to be «ready for any challenges».
3. Coping mechanisms	Helping others, efforts to retain humanity, feeling of hope (to return to Ukraine, see friends), new environment (...because «we will be different»).
4. Support received	- Humanitarian/financial help, - Post conflict strategies, Financial support, housing, psychological (mental) help (e.g phantom gunshots).

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A banner for the 'ECONOMIC SCIENTIFIC PORTAL'. The text is in white, serif, all-caps font, centered on a dark grey horizontal bar. The background of the banner is a blurred image of a classical building with columns and a statue on a pedestal.

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Thank you for attention!

leah.fox@port.ac.uk – Leah Fox, Dr., Senior Lecturer at the University of Portsmouth
s.filyppova@op.edu.ua – Svitlana Filyppova, Dr.Ec.Sc. Professor of the Odessa Polytechnic National University
swinarewa@op.edu.ua – Hanna Svinarova, Dr.Ec.Sc. Professor of the Odessa Polytechnic National University
10465957@stud.op.edu.ua – Ganna Gramatik, PhD Student of the Odessa Polytechnic National University

Detailed information about the project can be found at the following link:
on the [Odessa Polytechnic website](#) or on the [Economic Science Portal](#)