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REPORT



**LIVING IN THE VICINITY OF THE FRONTLINE:
EMERGENCES, ADAPTATION, AND
HUMANITARIAN NEEDS IN ZAPORIZHZHIA,
DONETSK, AND KHARKIV REGIONS**



BRIEF SUMMARY

This report provides an overview of the critical situation and humanitarian challenges faced by frontline communities in the Zaporizhzhia, Donetsk, and Kharkiv regions. From May 12-20, 2024, an international monitoring mission organized by the Charity Foundation 'East SOS' assessed the security situation, adaptation conditions, and humanitarian needs in 26 settlements across these regions.

The security situation in the visited communities continues to be extremely difficult and uncertain. In the Zaporizhzhia region, the frontline is more stable, while hostilities continue at a distance of about 20 kilometers from the Zaporizhzhia city. The frontline in the Donetsk region is advancing at an accelerated pace, including Chasiv Yar (at the time of the monitoring mission), jeopardizing key routes for the delivery of humanitarian aid and the evacuation of civilians. In the Kharkiv region, the situation has been exacerbated by the opening of a new front in the north, resulting in widespread destruction and a new wave of displacement.

Evacuations of civilians continue along the entire frontline, but with varying intensity. In the Zaporizhzhia region, primarily elderly individuals or those with reduced mobility are willing to leave. In the Kharkiv region, evacuations continue due to intense hostilities near Vovchansk and Lyptsi, with many people being forced to flee their homes for fear of reoccupation.

Evacuation missions demonstrate efficient coordination between regional and local military administrations, the State Emergency Service, the National Police, and civil society organizations.

The rescued people **are accommodated in temporary shelters**, where conditions are mostly inadequate. Of particular concern is the resettlement of persons with reduced mobility, as the availability of accommodations in specialized institutions or buildings equipped with stair lifts is dwindling at the national level. The total deinstitutionalization of facilities for persons with disabilities poses a significant challenge, given the difficulty of creating decent conditions for transitioning from one system to another (under the legal regime of martial law).

The monitoring mission also noted the emergence of **new strategies for institutional adaptation**, including the reorganization of the secondary education system, exemplified by the opening of the first underground school in Kharkiv. Additionally, education and healthcare institutions have been relocated from temporarily occupied territories, such as Tokmak Hospital in Zaporizhzhia, which has been operating under a contract with the National Health Service since autumn 2023.

Rebuilding destroyed housing and infrastructure remains one of the biggest challenges. In the Donetsk region, the destruction of housing and public utility infrastructure in some communities reaches 70-100%. Communities that are

not covered by the “eRecovery” (“e-Vidnovlennia”) program due to their proximity to the frontline or lack specialized staff authorized to register applications for housing damage or destruction in the public register are in acute need of repairing houses, schools, medical facilities, etc. In addition, owners of damaged houses who have never registered their private housing with the cognizant authorities (in rural areas it is about 60% of residents) are unable to receive compensation.

The report offers recommendations on the need to continue supporting the evacuated population, funding repairs and reconstruction work in frontline settlements, making efforts to improve access to water and electricity, providing material assistance to temporarily displaced communities, supporting efforts aimed at bringing children back to offline education, providing assistance in establishing underground children's educational institutions, developing employment and retraining programs, and providing legal assistance for the reissuance of identity papers and ownership titles.

BRIEF SUMMARY

The report is the result of an international monitoring mission to the frontline communities of Zaporizhzhia, Donetsk, and Kharkiv region, which was carried out on May 12-20, 2024. The mission was organized and conducted by the Charity Foundation “East-SOS” (Ukraine) as part of the project “Support for vulnerable and hard-to-reach groups in war-affected Ukraine” with the financial support from the European Union. The mission’s objectives encompassed monitoring the security and humanitarian situation in the frontline communities of the above-mentioned regions, identifying new ways of adjusting to life in the vicinity of war, as well as humanitarian challenges and needs.

The visited communities live in immediate contact with the combat zone and with a constant risk of a rapid deterioration of the security situation. They also present some differences with a stabilized frontline in the Zaporizhzhia region, areas of slow movement of the front, possible subsequent losses of government-controlled territories in the Donetsk region, and the opening of a new front by the Russian army in the Kharkiv region.

Meeting with representatives of the Luhansk Regional Military Administration in the city of Dnipro



Monitoring mission in Yarova village,
Donetsk Oblast

Mined field, Kharkiv Oblast



SECURITY SITUATION

The security situation is highly uncertain in the above-mentioned communities, not only because of the immediate proximity of the frontline, but also because of significant movements of the contact line as a result of the hostilities. While the frontline has changed little since the start of Russia's full-scale invasion in the Zaporizhzhia region, the fighting continues to rage around 20 kilometers from the city of Zaporizhzhia. Huliaipole and Orikhiv have been almost destroyed and emptied of most of their inhabitants, while villages further back, such as Tavriiske (14 kilometers from the city), are regularly shelled by the enemy. In Zaporizhzhia, moments of relative calm are systematically interrupted by shelling that targets vital infrastructure (such as the Dnipro Hydroelectric Station dam) or industrial or strategic sites (Zaporizhzhia airport), as well as residential areas. Enemy reconnaissance drones of the Russian Federation Army regularly hover above the city, sometimes for up to 36 hours at a time, giving the enemy visibility of everything that is happening in the city. S-300 missiles fired from Russian positions in the temporarily occupied territories of the Zaporizhzhia region reach the city in about 40 seconds, and hit before the air raid alert is sounded. Warnings about the threat of ballistic missile launches are commonplace for locals.



Destroyed school in Zarichne village,
Zaporizhzhia Oblast



Destroyed bridge in Bohorodychne village,
Donetsk Oblast

Under strong pressure from the Russian infantry and air forces, the frontline is advancing more rapidly in the Donetsk region. Intense fighting for control of Chasiv Yar poses a real threat to Pokrovsk, a major railway junction and, as such, both the main humanitarian aid supply route and civilian evacuation route, and to the Kostiantynivka-Druzhkivka-Kramatorsk-Sloviansk arterial road. The Pokrovsk-Kostiantynivka road is already within range of enemy fire.

The front's progress towards the towns of Karlivka and Kurakhove is also putting pressure on the settlements of the eponymous district to the south-east of Pokrovsk (the villages of Sribne, Komar, Kostiantynopil, and Bahatyr in the Volnovaha district). The inhabitants of these localities live in a state of uncertainty and feel great anxiety about the future. However, the path of displacement is often not the one chosen. In Sribne there are about 890 residents (including 55 internally displaced persons) out of 1,427 who lived there before the full-scale invasion. Even in Bahatyr, which has been regularly shelled by the enemy since autumn 2023, almost 1,000 people are living on site. The situation is quieter in the north of the Donetsk region, as in the town of Sviatohirsk and its surroundings, but it quickly deteriorates towards the town of Lyman, located in the immediate vicinity of the front line.

In early May 2024, a new front opened in the northeast, namely near Vovchansk and Lyptsi in the Kharkiv region. The enemy did this in order to push Ukrainian troops away from the border with the belgorod region (russian federation) and approach Kharkiv (to a distance accessible for artillery attacks). This worsened the situation, causing massive destruction and provoking a new wave of forced displacement. Since then, the city of Kharkiv has been under incessant shelling. The russian army is attacking the city with S-300 missiles fired from belgorod and impossible to intercept, as well as with drones carrying their explosive charges. In addition, the city is attacked with guided aircraft bombs that explode in the northeastern suburbs and in the city center, hitting both residential buildings and infrastructure. The heavy sound of explosions in the center and on the outskirts accompanied all the movements of the members of the observation mission in Kharkiv. However, despite the permanent danger and daily casualties, the city's inhabitants are in a state of expectation: there are no panic movements or hasty departures. The city is even receiving new groups of evacuees from the northern territories of the region, where the russian army had launched a major offensive.



Destroyed building in Sviatohirsk, Donetsk Oblast



EMERGENCY EVACUATION AND SHELTERING OF EVACUATED CIVILIANS

Frontline shifts are also having an impact on the evacuation of civilians from war zones. The relative stability of the frontline in the Zaporizhzia region explains the low number of evacuation missions. It is mainly elderly persons or persons with reduced mobility who are willing to leave and who have previously refused to flee their homes.

In the Donetsk region, evacuations are punctuated by the advance of russian troops, but do not give rise to mass displacements of populations as in the spring-summer of 2022.*

In the south-east of the Kharkiv region, the flow of compulsory or emergency evacuations that began in 2023 near the city of Kupiansk has slowed down. It was the russian offensive in the northern part of the region (near the border with the belgorod region) that created a new emergency in May 2024. Between June 10 and early June, almost 12,000 people had to be evacuated from Vovchansk and Lyptsi. In addition to the intensity of the shelling by the russian federation and hostilities, it was also the fear of experiencing occupation for a second time that drove many of these civilians to flee.



Collective Centre in the city of Pokrovsk, Donetsk Oblast

*Note: The situation changed in June 2024 due to the deterioration of the situation in the region.

The evacuation process demonstrated a high level of coordination between both regional and local military administrations, the State Emergency Service and the National police, as well as local civil society organizations, which were heavily involved and stepped up to help. In Kharkiv, it was the Coordination Humanitarian Center, set up in 2022 by local civil society representatives and the regional military administration, which took charge of the evacuees' further accommodation. This formula for cooperation between civil society and state institutions proved its effectiveness in an emergency. The transit point set up in an educational institution on the outskirts of Kharkiv brought together civil society organizations and charity foundations.

Most of the organizations among those engaged in the rescue are Ukrainian initiatives (local and national), and international organizations are also actively involved in the assistance. This is a sign of the vitality and consistent solidarity efforts in responding to emergencies. At the transit point, various services are offered to evacuees: hot meals, temporary accommodation, distribution of clothing, food kits and hygiene products, aids for individuals with reduced mobility, registration for financial assistance in the amount of UAH 10,800, medical assistance and medicines, and psychological assistance. Most of the evacuees are in a state of stress, having survived the horror of the enemy bombings, and having lost everything.

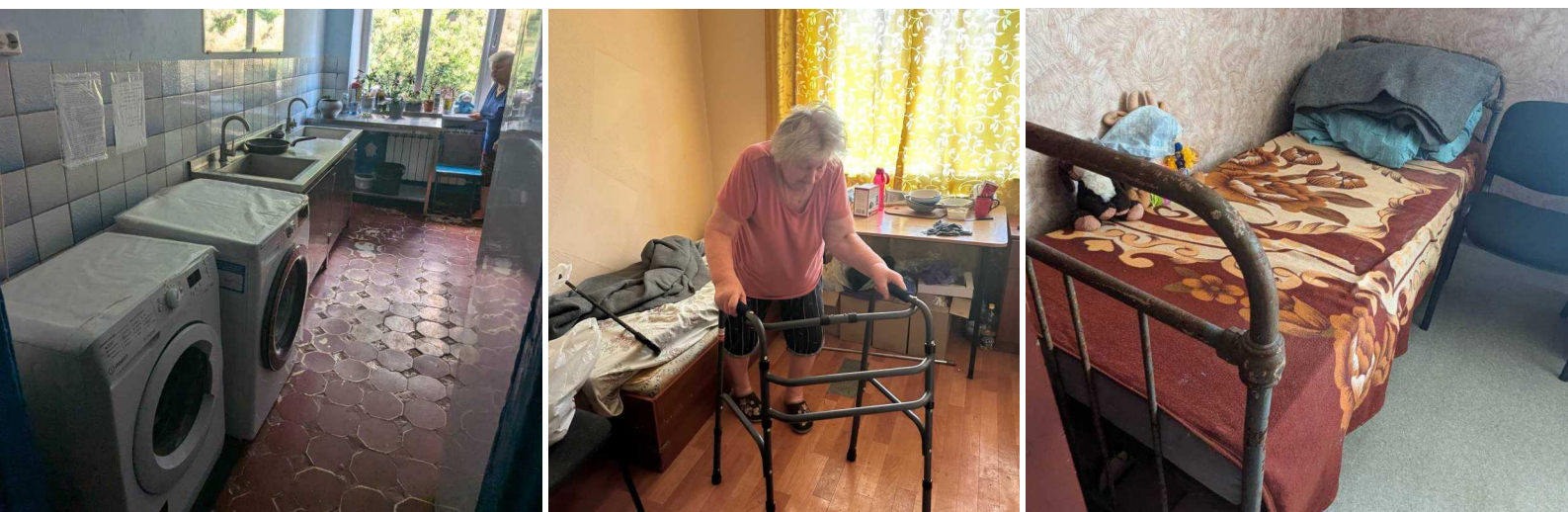


Transit hub in the city of Kharkiv, where evacuees are received

From the transit point, evacuees are taken to temporary shelters, which are primarily university dormitories, designed as transit facilities and provided by municipal or local authorities. Members of the monitoring mission visited such centers on May 17-18, 2024. Many of these premises are old and obsolete, cramped, poorly equipped and furnished, lacking kitchens and showers, and elevators often do not work in multi-storey buildings. The quality of these transit accommodations must be improved, especially as temporary difficulties turn into permanent problems for evacuees who have nowhere to return to.

The humanitarian needs of evacuees are multiple: food kits, clothing, kitchen utensils, bedding, equipment for people with reduced mobility, psychosocial assistance, assistance in finding a job (which implies a long-term support process, as job search cannot begin immediately after relocation and requires ongoing guidance), food and carriers for animals that people do not leave behind during the evacuation.

Of particular concern are cases of evacuees with reduced mobility or disability. Shelters for these people are sorely lacking in Kharkiv and are often set up by volunteer groups with irregular funding. In student dormitories transformed into collective centers, persons with reduced mobility are often accommodated on the upper floors, as they are usually the last ones to be evacuated, increasing their dependency, and worsening their living conditions. The problem of evacuating such people is becoming increasingly acute at the national level, as places for accommodation in specialized institutions in the remote regions, or in adapted buildings equipped with stair lifts, are being exhausted. It is urgent to build new institutions to accommodate persons with reduced mobility, as well as assisted living facilities. In this context, the total deinstitutionalization of facilities for persons with disabilities clearly poses a problem, given the impossibility of creating decent conditions for moving from one system to another in wartime.



Temporary shelters for evacuees, Kharkiv Oblast



INDIVIDUAL AND INSTITUTIONAL COPING STRATEGIES

The continuity of life near the frontline, in conditions of permanent physical insecurity, is due to the adaptive capacities of populations and is proof of the institutions' resilience in the face of the Russian full-scale invasion. The individual coping strategies were elaborated in 2014 in Donetsk and Luhansk regions, and since 2022 in the other frontline communities. The strategies range from developing rules of conduct in a full-scale war to maintaining personal and professional activities, enabling people to reassert their capacity for action as well as their responsibilities towards others.

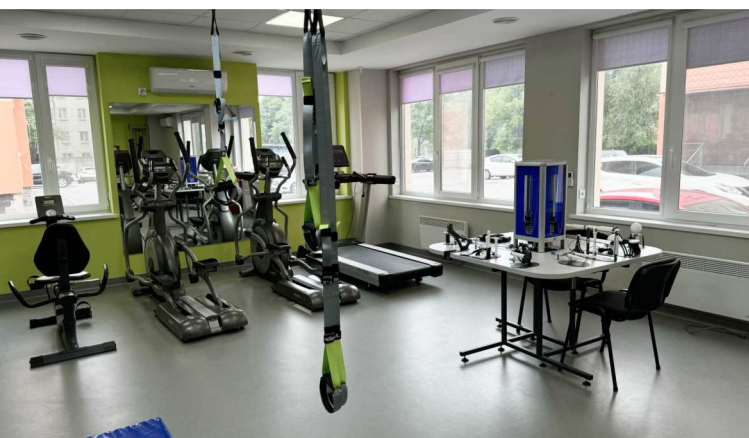
The monitoring mission also noted the development of new strategies for institutional adaptation, notably the reorganization of secondary education in frontline communities to move away from the exclusively online format towards more classroom-based forms of teaching. Kharkiv is a pioneer in this respect. Having experimented with subway in-station schooling for schoolers from 6 to 18 years old at the start of the 2023-2024 school year, the city has inaugurated its first underground school in April 2024, designed to accommodate almost 450 schoolers. The facility's capacity has been extended to 900 pupils, with classes being organized in two shifts. In this way, 11 schools in the area have been able to bring their schoolers together in assigned rooms and thus address the problem of socialization of children who had been studying remotely for more than 4 years during the war and the pandemic. The underground school is outfitted with all modern equipment (furniture, interactive whiteboards, computers, Internet, inclusive lifts for children with disabilities), as well as a catering area and a nurse's cabinet. This experience, considered to be exemplary, is being followed by other cities. Zaporizhzhia has also launched the first construction site for an underground school and plans to open at least several such educational institutions.

Among other examples of institutional adaptation to new conditions, representatives of Zaporizhzhia's State Emergency Service of Ukraine (SES) explained to the mission members that they had been forced to adapt their response techniques to the Russian army's tactic of multiple strikes on the same site. The service has thus developed better coordination with the military, able to warn them of threats in real time. The SES of Ukraine units are also doing everything possible to protect their teams, withdrawing some rescuers in the case of a threat of a second strike, while allowing them to continue their rescuing activities on a voluntary basis.



REDEPLOYMENT OF TEMPORARILY DISPLACED COMMUNITIES AND INSTITUTIONS

The monitoring mission also focused on the adaptation strategies of the temporarily displaced territorial communities that were forced to leave their territories following the temporary occupation by Russian troops, and had relocated during 2022 to territories controlled by the government of Ukraine. Having lost control of their territories, premises, and a large part of their material assets, the administrations and various institutions (healthcare, education, etc.) of these communities are trying to maintain and even develop the link with their residents, who themselves have been forced into displacement and have, for the most part, registered as internally displaced persons. In particular, the members of the monitoring mission met with representatives of the Tokmak community, which has been temporarily occupied since February 26, 2022, and has been relocated to Zaporizhzhia since May 7, 2022. This community, which oversaw 36,000 people before the large-scale invasion, now numbers 3,640 members in and around Zaporizhzhia, including 934 children, 250 of whom are of school age. As part of its duties, the city military administration (CMA) offers them a wide range of administrative services, provides monthly humanitarian assistance, and organizes the work of hotlines.



Relocated Rubizhne Hospital in
the city of Kharkiv



Premises of the relocated Tokmak Community
in Zaporizhzhia

The Tokmak CMA also helps the community's healthcare and educational facilities to relocate, assisting them in their search for premises and equipment to resume their work as relocated institutions. Having found premises in the city center and obtained official registration as a facility working under the contract with the National Health Service of Ukraine, the Tokmak hospital has thus opened its doors in autumn 2023, and has since been offering a range of services: medical tests, consultations by a family doctor, physical rehabilitation, endocrinology and gynecology. With the support of international and Ukrainian humanitarian organizations, the CMA has helped the facility to fit out its premises and to find the equipment it needed to expand its range of services. This involvement has made it possible to maintain a core group of Tokmak medical staff (7 out of the 12 persons), as well as to recruit medical personnel from other temporarily occupied cities, such as Berdiansk.

The administration endeavors also to support teachers and students in the community. An educational hub opened its doors in spring 2024, offering face-to-face academic and extracurricular activities, as well as speech therapy and psychological assistance, for schoolers of different ages from Tokmak's 10 relocated schools. The distance learning mode also makes it possible to maintain contact with some of the schoolers who remain under occupation: 580 of them follow courses based on an individual teaching program with subjects to be validated and exercises to be done proposed by teachers.

The same efforts to relocate their local administrations and facilities (hospitals, schools) are being made by other territorial communities. The Luhansk region has successfully redeployed 46 medical facilities to government-controlled territories, although 20 others are still unable to resume their activities. 87 educational facilities in Luhansk have maintained their licenses and are offering distance learning courses.

Discussions with representatives of other communities (Chernihivka, Andriivka, and Osypenko Communities of the Zaporizhzhia region), as well as with representatives of the SES of Ukraine departments temporarily displaced from the TOT helped to identify the difficulties faced by these actors:

- lack of resources in a situation where state subsidies remain the main source of their funding;
- lack of premises and/or equipment for the redeployment;
- competition for target audiences (patients, students) between healthcare and educational facilities of hosting territories and temporarily relocated facilities (while the number of education seekers/recipients of healthcare services and the services provided to them is particularly important for qualifying for State subventions).

In the case of SES of Ukraine, there is no competition for target audiences, and relocated departments are given a broad spectrum of responsibilities, but they all face the problem of a shortage of resources to purchase office equipment, protective and professional gear for rescuers. Charitable organizations and foundations often help to meet these needs.



RECONSTRUCTION OF DESTROYED HOUSING

According to the mission members' observations, repair or reconstruction of private housing and public buildings damaged by hostilities remains one of the biggest challenges in all monitored frontline settlements. Having suffered extensive destruction of their housing and vital infrastructure (schools, medical facilities, water, electricity and heating supply networks), and deprived of their financial resources due to the partial or total breakdown of their economy, these communities are struggling to repair the damage caused. Settlements like Yarova, Oleksandrivka, and Sosnove in the Lyman territorial community (the Donetsk region) have suffered 70%, 90%, and 100% destruction of housing and public utility infrastructure. Nearly 90% of Liman and 80% of Sviatohirsk, including all administrative buildings, were destroyed by the enemy.



Destroyed houses in Yarova village, Donetsk Oblast

Having been situated in the vicinity of the frontline and thus classified as the red zone of active hostilities, Lyman (the Donetsk region) and Tavriiske (the Zaporizhzhia region) communities face a particularly acute problem of repairing and restoring damaged buildings, as they are not covered by the state program “eRecovery” (“e-Vidnovlennia”) due to their proximity to the frontline. Residents and representatives of these communities can only rely on support from Ukrainian or international organizations.

The situation is less complicated from this point of view in the visited communities that have been classified as the orange zone of possible hostilities: Sviatohirsk or Pokrovsk territorial communities in the Donetsk region, and Iziur community in the Kharkiv region. The “eRecovery” (“e-Vidnovlennia”) program operates there, but these communities are facing other problems, such as the lack of dedicated staff, empowered to register declarations of housing damage or destruction in the public register of destruction caused. This registration is necessary to start the process of assessing the destruction and paying compensation. In the village of Sribne,

the Pokrovsk city community, it takes almost three months to register a declaration of damage and a claim for compensation with the public register. In addition, the “eRecovery” (“e-Vidnovlennia”) program is available only to property owners having valid ownership documents at their disposal. Yet, large proportions of rural areas’ residents in Ukraine – up to 60 % – have never registered their private housing with the cognizant authorities. This informal practice, which has existed for more than three decades, has become a trap in the conditions of war and war-related destruction. Registering ownership requires a good understanding of administrative procedures and often the assistance of a lawyer, as well as time and money (up to UAH 20,000, equivalent to EUR 500), which not all residents of remote communities can afford.

It is also important to note that a large portion of residents who have returned to the frontline communities are elderly persons and, although they receive a compensation certificate from the state enabling them to purchase building materials, in most cases they are unable to carry out repair work on their own. Because of this and due to the lengthy procedures of the state compensation programs, many residents of the frontline communities still live in destroyed and inadequate housing.



Destroyed house in Kamianka village, Kharkiv Oblast



RECOMMENDATIONS

- 1 Continue providing assistance to civilians evacuated in emergency from frontline settlements:**
 - Improve the quality of transit accommodation in dormitories;
 - Establish special shelters for persons with reduced mobility and disabilities, ensuring these facilities receive regular funding;
 - Address the humanitarian needs of evacuees, such as hot meals, clothing, hygiene products, kitchen utensils, bedding, and equipment for those with reduced mobility.
- 2 Provide financial support for repair and reconstruction efforts in frontline settlements,** particularly those classified as red zones of active hostilities and deprived of state funding. This support should also extend to orange zone areas.
- 3 Channel resources toward the complete reconstruction or conservation of the most severely damaged public and private buildings, with plans to implement further repairs after the end of hostilities.**
- 4 Engage local construction teams to repair private housing for older people and people with reduced mobility,** using materials supplied by international and Ukrainian humanitarian organizations or purchased through government compensation programs.
- 5 Make efforts to improve access to essential utilities, such as water and electricity,** in the frontline communities.
- 6 Provide material assistance** to temporarily displaced territorial communities and institutions, including premises, equipment, and materials for educational and healthcare facilities.
- 7 Support efforts to bring children back to offline education** in frontline communities (particularly for families who decided not to evacuate to safer regions).
- 8 Provide assistance in setting up of secondary schools and kindergartens in underground premises** in compliance with safety requirements; this solution will help to address the problem of long-term desocialization among children.
- 9 Develop a network of extracurricular clubs and activities** for small groups of children and adolescents in bomb shelters, that meet safety requirements. Fostering cooperation between educational institutions, youth hubs, safe spaces, and other centers established by charitable organizations will help facilitate socialization and mitigate educational losses.

- 10 **Provide technical assistance (such as interactive whiteboards, computers, tablets) to schools in frontline or temporarily displaced communities**, along with psychological assistance to teaching staff and students.
- 11 **Actively support frontline communities in repairing damaged buildings and infrastructure, providing medical care, free transport to nearby cities, building materials, and material assistance to educational and healthcare facilities.** While the need for food assistance in these communities is now being met, the demand for hygiene products and heating materials remains urgent.
- 12 **Support the development of employment and retraining programs (including for individuals aged 45-65).** As people return to dangerous frontline settlements, unemployment is widespread due to the scale of destruction and damage to the local economy and infrastructure.
- 13 **Provide legal assistance with issues such as the reissuance of identity papers and ownership titles, as well as psychological and social support to all frontline residents, including representatives from different gender, professional, and age groups.** A mobile team model consisting of lawyers, social workers, and psychologists, ensuring regular presence in the most remote and hard-to-reach localities, has proven particularly effective.
- 14 **Guarantee a high degree of flexibility in the provision of assistance**, allowing adjustments to meet new needs in real time as emergencies arise due to developments on the frontline during the Russian Federation's war against Ukraine. This flexibility requirement should be integrated into support programs and grants from international donors.
- 15 **Respect the principles and rules of localization of international humanitarian aid, ensuring** that assistance goes directly to Ukrainian humanitarian actors who are working in the field and have demonstrated their responsiveness and effectiveness, particularly in the emergency evacuation of the northern territories of the country.

VISITED SETTLEMENTS

Zaporizhzhia region

The city of Zaporizhzhia; the villages of Yulivka, Vilnianka, Veselianka, Hryhorivka, Novoleksandrivka, Zarichne, Vilniansk, and Tavriiske

Dnipropetrovsk region

The city of Dnipro

Donetsk region

The cities of Pokrovsk, Lyman, and Sviatohirsk; the villages of Yarova, Drobysheve, Sribne, Komar, Bahatyr, and Kostiantynopil, Bohorodychne

Kharkiv region

The cities of Kharkiv, Izium, and Chuhuiv; the villages of Dokuchaievske, Lypchanivka, and Kamianka

FRONTLINE AND DE-OCCUPIED TERRITORIES MONITORING

Since 2014, the team at the East SOS Charitable Foundation has diligently monitored the humanitarian situation in frontline settlements across Ukraine. These efforts have been instrumental in informing both national and international advocacy initiatives.

Our monitoring missions encompass visits to both frontline and de-occupied regions of Ukraine. This approach allows us to accurately identify and assess the pressing needs of affected settlements, facilitating the development of recommendations for humanitarian response.

We invite you to scan the QR codes provided below to delve deeper into the insights gleaned from our monitoring reports, which we produce every six months.

Additionally, if you wish to receive early access to our latest reports, kindly reach out to us via email at info@east-sos.org.



PREVIOUS MONITORING REPORTS



May 2023:
The Condition of Frontline
Settlements in Zaporizhzhya
and Donetsk Regions



June 2023:
The Aftermath of
the Kakhovka Dam Explosion
by the Russian Army



October 2023:
Assessing the Settlements
One Year After Liberation
from Russian Occupation

CHARITABLE FOUNDATION «EAST SOS»

Since 2014, the Charitable Foundation «East SOS» has been assisting Ukrainian citizens affected by Russian aggression. This includes advocacy, support for human rights and freedoms, organizing educational events, documenting war crimes committed by representatives of the Russian Federation, supporting vulnerable population groups and education sectors, as well as providing charitable, psychological, and legal support.

Since the onset of full-scale Russian invasion, our operations cover all territories under the control of the Ukrainian government, with a team of over 300 individuals. Since then, we have been implementing the full cycle of evacuation with the possibility of accommodating residents from frontline and de-occupied areas. Every day, near the single border crossing point with Russia in the Sumy region, we welcome people returning from the temporarily occupied territories. We set up shelters and geriatric centers for displaced persons, people with disabilities, and representatives of other vulnerable population groups, procure equipment for resilience points and shelters, deliver charitable aid, and repair war-damaged houses, educational, and medical institutions in affected communities.

Additionally, we continue to support education development, collaborate with numerous international and Ukrainian human rights and civil society organizations, coordinate efforts with authorities, and strengthen the work of rescue services. Mobile teams providing psychosocial and legal support operate in frontline and de-occupied areas, and a hotline operates six days a week to receive requests from affected individuals.

In 2022, we also established the All-Ukrainian network of safe spaces for women and girls called «Затишно space», consisting of 6 centers. Since then, many women in difficult life situations have benefited from free services provided by specialists, such as individual psychosocial and legal assistance, courses and lectures, group sessions and workshops, film screenings, career guidance meetings, and more. Most of them have become regular visitors.

For more information, please visit our website <https://vostok-sos.org/>. You can also find more information about the Foundation's activities by clicking here: <https://bit.ly/3vGRL4Q>.

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