

RESILIENCE OF REAR-AREA  
HROMADAS IN **KHARKIV OBLAST**  
BASED ON EAST SOS  
MONITORING VISITS

(September 2025 – March 2026)



From September 2025 to March 2026, the EAST SOS team monitored 21 hromadas in Kharkiv Oblast. Our specialists gathered information on the security situation, the state of infrastructure, access to basic services, the needs of local residents and internally displaced persons (IDPs), as well as the challenges hromadas continue to face in the middle of the full-scale war.

**The monitoring covered the following hromadas and settlements in Kharkiv Oblast:**

<b>Bohodukhiv hromada</b>	<i>the city of Bohodukhiv, the village of Hubarivka</i>
<b>Valky hromada</b>	<i>the village of Vysokopillia, the rural settlement of Koviahy, the villages of Hontiv Yar, Zamiske, Ohultsi, Oleksandrivka, Sydorenkove, and Snizhkiv</i>
<b>Berestyn hromada</b>	<i>the city of Berestyn, the village of Zoriane</i>
<b>Natalyne hromada</b>	<i>the village of Natalyne</i>
<b>Starovirivka hromada</b>	<i>the village of Starovirivka</i>
<b>Solonytsivka hromada</b>	<i>the rural settlements of Solonytsivka, Hryhorivka, and Pivdenne; the villages of Dvorichnyi Kut, Polova, Yaroshivka, Hukivka, Ternova, Viazove, Bezrukiv, and Protopopivka</i>
<b>Rohan hromada</b>	<i>the rural settlements of Rohan and Dokuchaievske</i>
<b>Novopokrovka hromada</b>	<i>the rural settlements of Novopokrovka and Eskhar</i>
<b>Sakhnovshchyna hromada</b>	<i>the rural settlement of Sakhnovshchyna</i>
<b>Vilkhivka hromada</b>	<i>the village of Vilkhivka</i>
<b>Vysokyi hromada</b>	<i>the rural settlement of Vysokyi</i>
<b>Bezliudivka community</b>	<i>the rural settlement of Bezliudivka</i>
<b>Blyzniuky hromada</b>	<i>the rural settlement of Blyzniuky</i>
<b>Oleksiivka hromada</b>	<i>the village of Oleksiivka</i>
<b>Pivdenne urban hromada</b>	<i>the rural settlement of Budy and the city of Pivdenne</i>
<b>Biliaivka hromada</b>	<i>the rural settlement of Biliaivka</i>
<b>Zlatopil hromada</b>	<i>the city of Zlatopil</i>
<b>Kolomak hromada</b>	<i>the rural settlement of Kolomak</i>
<b>Krasnokutsk hromada</b>	<i>the rural settlement of Krasnokutsk</i>
<b>Zachepylivka hromada</b>	<i>the rural settlement of Zachepylivka</i>

Most hromadas in Kharkiv Oblast receive support from Ukrainian and international non-governmental organizations. The host hromadas located near Kharkiv, including Vysokyi, Bezliudivka, Novovodolazka, and Bohodukhiv, are receiving regular assistance, including psychosocial support, legal consultations, mobile medical services, social transport, as well as support for educational, social, and critical infrastructure.

Organizations operating in the hromadas include EAST SOS, the Ukrainian Red Cross Society, the Right to Protection Charitable Foundation, the International Organization for Migration (IOM), the Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC), the International Rescue Committee (IRC), and the humanitarian organization Project HOPE.

## **Large Share of IDPs and Older People**

As of February 2026, according to [data](#) from the the Ministry of Social Policy, Family and Unity of Ukraine published by the Slovo i Dilo analytical portal, more than 4.6 million IDPs are registered in the country. **Kharkiv Oblast is one of the regions hosting the highest number of people – 508,100.** Over four years of full-scale war, the number of registered IDPs in the region increased by **271.7%**.

The EAST SOS team received information about the number of displaced people from official letters and through communication with the heads of hromadas. The largest numbers of IDPs were recorded in Novopokrovka, Vysokyi, and Krasnokutsk hromadas, where displaced people make up almost 69–70% of the population.

In Starovirivka, Kolomak, Valky, Novovodolazka, Bohodukhiv, and Solonytsivka hromadas, more than half of all residents are IDPs. A significant share of IDPs also lives in Bezliudivka hromada and in Pivdenne urban hromada – almost 30% of the population; in Rohan hromada – more than 29%; and in Berestyn hromada –almost 28%. In Blyzniuky hromada, this figure is around 27%, in Zlatopil hromada approximately 25%, and in Sakhnovshchyna hromada almost 24%.



*Residential care homes, the rural settlements of Khorosheve and Krasnokutsk*

Social services, hospitals, educational institutions, and municipal infrastructure in cities are working under a heavier workload than before the start of the full-scale invasion.

Meanwhile, **smaller towns and starosta okruhs face a different challenge:** population decline due to a lack of jobs and educational opportunities for children, as well as a high percentage of older people who require regular social and medical support.

For example, in Vilkhivka, 770 out of 1,089 residents are people aged 60 and older. In Oleksiivka hromada, which has a population of almost 6,400 people, more than 2,700 residents are older people.

## **Security Situation and Destruction Caused by russian Shelling**

Although some hromadas in Kharkiv Oblast are now considered rear-area or relatively safe, many of them were located in areas of active hostilities or under temporary occupation by the russian army in 2022. Hromadas still live with the consequences: heavily damaged homes, destroyed infrastructure, mined areas, and the constant threat of new enemy attacks.

Shahed-type drone attacks have been recorded in Sakhnovshchyna, Vysokyi, Valky, Novovodolazka, and Berestyn hromadas. Due to their proximity to the frontline and to Kharkiv, some hromadas also remain at risk of missile strikes.

For example, Vilkhivka hromada was occupied by russian troops in the first days of the full-scale invasion and liberated at the end of March 2022. Rohan hromada, located close to Kharkiv, became an area of intense hostilities and suffered extensive damage to housing and critical infrastructure.

At the same time, **the security situation in some hromadas continues to deteriorate. In April 2026,** russian troops intensified attacks on Bohodukhiv hromada, particularly the city of Bohodukhiv. According to Mayor Volodymyr Bielyi, in just four days, almost 110 drones caused more destruction than in all the previous years of the full-scale invasion. Residential buildings, gas stations, and critical infrastructure facilities have come under attack.

### **Level of Destruction in Selected Communities:**

**Vilkhivka hromada** – as a result of hostilities, almost 70% of residential buildings were damaged, while another 30% were completely destroyed. Many areas on the outskirts of settlements remains mined, and demining work continues.

**Rohan hromada** – more than 1,100 buildings were destroyed, including almost 900 private residential houses. The rest are infrastructure facilities, municipal buildings, and non-residential premises.

**Bohodukhiv hromada** – destruction has reached almost 30%. Residential buildings and civilian infrastructure facilities were damaged.

**Blyzniuka hromada** – the overall level of destruction is almost 5%. In the village of Kvitneve, 25 residential buildings were damaged. In total, 19 settlements of the hromada were most affected by hostilities.

**Oleksiivka hromada** – 5-10% of buildings were damaged. Isolated strikes and destruction of residential buildings were recorded in the village of Kyseli and the rural settlement of Slobidske.

**Bezliudivka hromada** – approximately 4% of buildings were damaged. Due to its proximity to Kharkiv, the hromada remains at risk of drone and missile attacks.

## Access to Education in Hromadas

In most hromadas of Kharkiv Oblast, children study in a blended format that combines online and in-person classes. This approach allows them to gradually reintegrate into the school environment, rebuild social connections, and maintain access to education.

Blended learning format is in place in Bohodukhiv, Valky, Berestyn, Natalyne, Starovirivka, Solonytsivka, Sakhnovshchyna, Vilkhivka, Vysokyi, Bezliudivka, Kolomak, Blyzniuky, Oleksiivka, Biliaivka, Zlatopil, Zachepylivka, and Krasnokutsk hromadas.



*Educational institution, the village of Kamiana Yaruha*

At the same time, some hromadas still rely entirely on online learning. This is the case in Rohan and Novopokrovka hromadas, and in Pivdenne urban hromada, where in-person classes remain limited because of security risks, a lack of shelters, and damaged or destroyed educational institutions.

Although the educational process is gradually being restored, hromadas still face a number of systemic challenges.

### Key challenges in education:

- limited access to in-person learning due to the security situation;
- a shortage of shelters or the need to upgrade and fully equip existing ones;
- the need for furniture, equipment, and multimedia devices;
- a shortage of generators and alternative energy sources;
- the need to organize transportation for children;
- insufficient accessibility and barrier-free environments in educational institutions.

## **Economic Situation**

Natalyne, Blyzniuky, Berestyn, Vysokyi, Bezliudivka, Starovirivka, Solonytsivka, Biliaivka, Zlatopil, and Zachepylivka hromadas remain relatively economically stable thanks to the work of local enterprises, the development of the agricultural sector and processing industry, job availability, and their proximity to the city of Kharkiv.

Natalyne hromada remains economically stable thanks to the operation of enterprises involved in gas extraction, the agricultural sector, and service industries. Blyzniuky hromada has a sufficient number of enterprises that support the local economy and provide employment for residents. Berestyn hromada relies on its agricultural and industrial potential.

Vysokyi hromada is one of the relatively resilient suburban hromadas. It hosts active enterprises in the fields of agrochemical production, service industries, and light industry.

In Bezliudivka hromada, enterprises in food processing, vegetable oil production, enterprises producing metal-plastic products, and other local industries continue to operate.



*Settlement council,  
the rural settlement Rohan*



*Residential care home,  
the rural settlement of Khorosheve*

The economy of Starovirivka hromada is based mainly on agriculture and the work of agricultural enterprises involved in crop production and grain procurement. In Solonytsivka hromada, economic resilience is partially supported by transport connection to the city of Kharkiv, energy infrastructure, especially the CHP plant, and local enterprises. Biliaivka hromada relies significantly on agricultural, processing, and municipal enterprises, as well as entities related to natural gas extraction.

The economy of Zlatopil hromada relies on the processing industry, especially flour and bread production. It also has grain elevators and enterprises producing metal-plastic products. Zachepylivka hromada has remained relatively stable due to local development programs and infrastructure projects.

At the same time, some hromadas remain more economically vulnerable. Oleksiivka and Vilkhivka hromadas have no major industrial enterprises, and their local economies depend on agriculture, farming, livestock, gardening, trade, and small businesses. In Sakhnovshchyna hromada, most revenues come from agricultural enterprises, trade, and the grain elevator, but people are leaving because there are not enough jobs.

In Krasnokutsk hromada economic activity is concentrated primarily in the administrative center, while remote starosta okruhs experience a shortage of jobs. The same problem exists in small villages of Valky hromada, where some people depend on household farming or have to commute to other settlements for work. In Kolomak hromada, the economy mostly depends on farming and seasonal employment.

Novovodolazka hromada has significant potential, but the security situation has seriously affected its economy. In October 2025, an enemy attack on an agricultural enterprise caused a fire over 13,600 sq. m. eight livestock buildings burned down, and 13,000 animals were killed.

In Rohan hromada, before the full-scale invasion, a large tobacco manufacturer played an important role in the local economy. After the start of hostilities, production was suspended, and in January 2026, part of the company's warehouse premises was destroyed by a russian missile strike. Since 2023, a cardboard factory has resumed operations in the hromada. However, the shortage of jobs forces part of the population to commute to the city of Kharkiv for work.



*Agricultural facility destroyed in a massive drone attack by the russian army in the Novovodolazka hromada  
Photo: State Emergency Service of Ukraine*



*Tobacco factory warehouses destroyed by a russian missile strike  
Photo: State Emergency Service of Ukraine*

In Novopokrovka hromada, several enterprises operate in plastic production and grain processing. At the same time, a significant part of the population relies on household farming, while working-age residents frequently commute to Kharkiv for work.

The rear-area suburban hromadas of Pivdenne, Vysokyi, and Bezliudivka are located around 15-30 km from the city of Kharkiv and should be considered separately. Good transport connectivity provides residents with broader employment opportunities and better access to services. However, because many residents

commute to the regional center, the local economy depends heavily on the situation in Kharkiv, meanwhile, the hromadas themselves lack large employers and a sufficient number of local jobs. At the same time, the pressure on local infrastructure (schools, kindergartens, outpatient clinics, and municipal services) continues to grow.

## **Main Needs of Hromadas**

### ***Legal Assistance***

Legal assistance remains one of the most frequently reported needs in hromadas. People need support with restoring documents, applying for pensions, social benefits, compensation for damaged or destroyed property, and confirming statuses and family ties. Such support is especially important for internally displaced persons, older people, people with disabilities, and residents living in remote villages.

### ***Psychosocial Support***

In Sakhnovshchyna hromada, there is a need to strengthen the capacity of the Center for Social Services to provide psychological support. Vilkhivka, Vysokyi, Bezliudivka, Blyzniuky, and Oleksiivka hromadas also report a need for additional psychological support for local residents.

The need for psychosocial support is connected with the long-term impact of the war, displacement, and the increasing pressure on social services.

### ***Water Supply and Municipal Infrastructure***

In Rohan hromada, the water supply in the rural settlement of Dokuchaievskе remains a major concern, where aging networks and the impact of hostilities cause frequent disruptions in water supply.



*Khrestyshche starosta district,  
the village of Khrestyshche*



*The rural settlement of Sakhnovshchyna*

Bezliudivka hromada requires a reliable water supply and the drilling of new wells. In Zachepylivka hromada, repairs are required for the water pipeline and a well in local settlements and a relevant project has already been developed. In Pivdenne

urban hromada, the replacement and modernization of water towers remains an urgent issue. In Blyzniuky hromada, there is a need to improve the quality of drinking water and to install wells and water purification systems. In Novopokrovka hromada, the installation of a water post-treatment station is needed to ensure that residents have access to safe, quality drinking water.

### ***Educational Infrastructure and Shelters***

The hromadas also require further strengthening of their educational infrastructure and the equipping of shelters.

Novovodolazka hromada still requires furniture and learning equipment for the underground school. In Vysokyi and Bezliudivka hromadas, the educational network remains operational, but requires shelter modernization, backup generators, and technical upgrades.

In Oleksiivka hromada, the educational infrastructure requires further strengthening, including the provision of furniture and equipment, as well as ensuring barrier-free accessibility. In Blyzniuky hromada, the need to modernize a bomb shelter has been identified.

### ***Social and Medical Infrastructure***

In Krasnokutsk hromada, the central hospital needs alternative sources of energy supply. In Biliaivka hromada, investment is needed to repair and equip premises for a social service center for people with limited mobility, with the possibility of developing residential care and supported living services in the future.

In Novopokrovka hromada, the repair of the social center in the rural settlement of Eskhar remains important so that residents can have better access to social services.

### ***Strengthening the Capacity of Hromadas***

Hromadas are increasingly asking not only for humanitarian aid but also for tools that support long-term development. Specifically, they require training in grant proposal writing, project management, strategic planning, working with the DREAM system, building partnerships, and attracting investment.

This is important development, since hromadas seek not only to address current needs but also to independently attract resources, plan recovery, and develop local services.