

**EAST SOS CONDUCTED  
MONITORING OF 26 RESIDENTIAL  
CARE HOMES AND 18 COLLECTIVE  
SITES IN ODESA OBLAST**

(January – April 2026)



Between January and April 2026, the EAST SOS team conducted monitoring visits of 44 facilities providing accommodation for displaced persons in Odesa Oblast, including 18 collective sites and 26 residential care homes. EAST SOS specialists evaluated the quality of living conditions, accessibility, safety measures, and the main needs of residents during on-site visits.

**Odesa Oblast is a major destination for displaced people.** According to the Ministry of Social Policy, Family, and Unity of Ukraine, by December 2025, over 222,000 IDPs were registered in Odesa Oblast, with nearly 135,000 in the city of Odesa.

At the time of monitoring visits, a significant number of collective sites approved by the Ministry of Social Policy, Family, and Unity of Ukraine were in operation. These facilities receive state compensation for utility services, and displaced people can stay there free of charge.

The monitoring covered collective sites in:

- **the cities of** Odesa, Artsyz, Tepلودar, Podilsk, and Pivdenne;
- **the rural settlements of** Zakharivka and Shyriaieve;
- **the villages of** Kamianka, Troitske, Perekhrestove, Oleksiivka, Nastasiivka, Vynohradivka, Stari Shompoly, and Budzhak,

with a total of 362 residents living there, primarily displaced persons from Kherson and Donetsk oblasts.

The EAST SOS team also visited residential care homes in:

- **the villages of** Kontseba, Bessarabske, Pishchana, Myrnopillia, Mykolaivka, Malihonove, Nastasiivka, Novosilske, Lyman, Krynychne, Desantne, Chorne, Stara Kulna, Kruti, Znamianka, Zelenohirske, Ilichanka, Kotlabuh, Chervone, and Baitaly;
- **the rural settlement of** Zakharivka; and the cities of Odesa, Podilsk, Izmail, Rozdilna and Berezivka.

810 residents, mostly people with limited mobility, live there.

The inspected collective sites and residential care homes differ widely in size, type of building (dormitories, hotels, modular settlements, as well as facilities based in hospitals, sports halls, and social service centers), occupancy levels, and living conditions.



*Bathroom and laundry area in a collective center in Artsyz*



*Bedroom in a collective center in Teplodar*

Nearly 40% of collective sites offer residents decent basic living conditions. At the same time, **around 60% of the collective sites need repairs and repairs and extra equipment.** Among the most urgent needs are properly equipped shelters, better accessibility for people with limited mobility, bathrooms and showers with proper accessibility features, inclusive infrastructure, backup energy sources, and stronger psychological and legal support.

**At least 55% of residential rooms in collective sites are equipped with basic furniture, including beds, wardrobes, and bedside tables.** Residents also have access to bathrooms, showers, and shared kitchens where they can cook for themselves. Utility systems operate reliably, with either centralized or individual water supply and heating in place.

**A major issue is that these facilities do not meet accessibility standards.** During the monitoring, the EAST SOS team identified both facilities that already include some accessibility features and collective sites where adaptation of the space for people with limited mobility has not yet begun.



*Entrance to a collective center with ramp in Stari Shompoly*



*Platform lift for residents with limited mobility in a collective center in Pivdenne*

One collective site in Odesa is fully adapted with accessibility features in line with the requirements of the State Building Standards (hereafter – “SBS“). Collective sites in Podilsk, Artsyz, Teplodar, and Pivdenne have been partially equipped and include some accessibility features.

The collective site in Dibrivka lacks tactile elements, Braille signs, and internal navigation tools for people with visual impairments.

**The most common issues are bathrooms and shower rooms without proper accessibility features, as well as the lack of bomb shelters or bomb shelters that people with mobility impairments cannot access.**

Nearly 10% of collective sites have bomb shelters, but most of them still do not include the accessibility features that people with limited mobility need.

Facility administrations work with humanitarian organizations to carry out repairs, provide equipment and humanitarian aid, and ensure psychological and legal support for residents. Among these partners are the CF Right to Protection, ACTED, NGO The Tenth of April, CF NEW DAWN, the Ukrainian Red Cross Society, UNICEF, and the Swiss charity HEKS/EPER.

## **Occupancy and potential for expansion**

Some of the monitored collective sites visited by the team have vacant places and could host more displaced people. But for now, this potential is not fully used because some premises still need repairs, additional equipment or because organizational issues remain unresolved.



*Vacant room for potential expansion in Podilsk*

In Podilsk, some occupied collective sites could slightly increase their capacity – from 42 to 48.

Other collective sites are still being renovated and are expected to open soon. One of them is designed for 55 people, but it lacks accessibility features: the premises are located on the third floor, and the building has no platform lift or elevator. There are also no internal navigation tools, no horizontal handrails, and no Braille information signs.

Collective sites that are not yet occupied will start receiving state compensation for utilities after residents move in. At present, such facilities are maintained through state subventions and local budget funds, which cover repairs, equipment, and preparation of the premises for residence. After people are settled there, the state will compensate the organizations managing the facilities for utility costs.



*Unoccupied collective center in Shyriaieve*

In Shyriaieve, the collective site is designed to accommodate 30 people, but it has not been put into operation due to the unsatisfactory technical condition of the building and utility networks. To open the facility, it requires comprehensive repair and restoration works, including major repairs to the water supply and sewage systems, replacement or full renewal of the electrical wiring, restoration of the heating system, and repairs to the residential rooms, kitchen, and dining hall.

In Teplodar, comfortable conditions have been created for displaced people. The city has schools and kindergartens, employment opportunities, and regular transport connections with Odesa.

The collective site can accommodate 26 people, but it remains non-operational for now because it lacks essential household appliances, such as electric stoves, washing machines, refrigerators, and electric kettles, as well as basic household supplies.



*Modular town in Odesa*

Odesa also has another potential housing option: a modular settlement near the city center, consisting of 10 two-room houses. Each can accommodate 3 people, with a total capacity of 30 people. The settlement is almost ready to host people, however, no one currently lives there, as state compensation for consumed utilities is still being processed.

## Accessibility of collective sites for people with limited mobility



*Sanitary room in a collective center in Nastasiivka*

*Residential room in collective center in Oleksiivka*

*Entrance to bathroom in a collective center in Artsyz*

One of the biggest challenges in most of the monitored collective sites and residential care homes visited by the team is **the lack of accessibility**. Some buildings and infrastructure elements still do not meet the State Building Standards.

**In 90% of the monitored collective sites, there are no elevators or platform lifts, no horizontal handrails, no adapted bathrooms, no tactile elements, and no Braille signs.** This makes everyday movement more difficult for older people and people with disabilities living in these facilities. It limits their independence and can create additional risks in case of evacuation.

In Nastasiivka, 17 people currently live in the collective site designed for 30 residents. In Vynohradivka, collective site is also designed for 30 residents with 22 people currently living there, mostly older adults. The facility does not have accessibility features, lacks sufficient shower and toilet rooms, and has no separate spaces for leisure activities.

The collective site in Oleksiivka is designed for 8 people and is currently full. Older people live there, but the building does not provide proper barrier-free access. The entrance ramp does not meet the State Building Standards and needs repair and further adaptation.

In Artsyz, the collective site can accommodate 25 people with 15 people currently living there, including 2 people with disabilities and 2 children. The space is not adapted for barrier-free access: the doorways are too narrow, and the bathrooms are not accessible.

## Differences between collective sites in urban and rural areas



*Bedroom in a collective center in Odesa*

During the monitoring visits, the EAST SOS team noticed clear differences between collective sites in cities and those in rural areas, both in living conditions and in access to essential services.

In particular, **residents living in facilities in Odesa have better access to social services, healthcare, education, and transport**, which makes it easier to meet their everyday needs. However, such sites are usually designed for a larger number of people, which puts more pressure on the infrastructure and on staff.

By contrast, collective sites in rural areas are often located far from medical, social, and administrative services. People also face limited transport connections, difficult logistics, and, in some cases, the need to improve heating and electricity supply systems.

## Collective site in Odesa



*Common area and platform lift in a collective center in Odesa*

The collective site in Odesa operates on the premises of a municipal institution. It has the capacity for 160 residents, and 75 people currently live there. The five-storey building has residential rooms arranged along corridors. It has water, heating, and gas supply.

The facility has 65 residential rooms. All equipped with basic furniture: beds, wardrobes, bedside tables, tables, and chairs. This helps cover basic everyday needs of the residents. Collective site also has 8 toilets, 8 showers, and 4 washing machines.

Residents can use recreation rooms and a children's playroom, which partly meets the need for leisure activities. Some adults are employed, while children attend general secondary schools and preschool institutions. This shows that residents are gradually integrating into the host hromada (community).

The facility is located in the city and has access to essential infrastructure: healthcare, education, social services, and shops. The location is convenient for residents' everyday needs.

**Barrier-free access for people with limited mobility is mostly arranged:** there is a platform lift outside the building. However, the site still needs navigation signs and tactile orientation tools.

## **Collective site in Dibrivka**

Residents of the collective site in Dibrivka have very limited access to essential services. Schools, medical facilities, shops, and other social infrastructure are located more than 20 km away. There are no shops, pharmacies, or outpatient clinic in the village, and there are few opportunities for employment.

Logistics and access to external infrastructure are difficult. The nearest railway station is a 30-minute walk away, and there is no public transport.

The site is designed for 19 people, and 19 people currently live there. There are 2 toilets and 1 shower room, while another shower room is being repaired.

**The bathrooms and showers are in poor condition: there is mold, and the roof leaks.**

The facility has no gas supply, and the heating system is unsatisfactory: the solid-fuel boiler room does not provide a comfortable indoor temperature. Some doorways do not meet the requirements of the State Building Standards and need to be widened.



*Shower room in a collective center in Dibrivka*

## RESIDENTIAL CARE HOMES: KEY CHALLENGES AND NEEDS

During the monitoring, the EAST SOS team visited 26 residential care homes in Odesa Oblast. These facilities are running at high capacity: out of 1,040 available places, only 293 remain vacant.

That is why barrier-free access, adapted sanitary facilities, accessible shelters, and safe movement routes are critically important. At the same time, during the monitoring, the team found that most residential care homes only partially meet accessibility requirements and need additional adaptation.



*Corridor in residential care home Stara Kulna*    *Recreation area for residents of residential care home in Novosilske*

The most frequent issues are **missing or unsuitable ramps and platform lifts, narrow doorways, the absence of horizontal handrails, and bathrooms and showers that are not properly adapted for people with mobility impairments.** Another important issue is that staff often lack specialized training on how to support and communicate with people with limited mobility.

In some facilities, people with limited mobility are the majority of residents. These are mostly people with Group I and II disabilities, older people, and residents who need help with everyday care and moving around.

For example, in Berezivka, 25 of the 27 residents are people with Group I and II disabilities or people who cannot care for themselves without constant support. The situation is similar in other facilities: 21 of 24 residents in Znamianske, 22 of 23 in Mykolaivka, 15 of 21 in Katlabuh, 25 of 41 in Stara Kulna, and 78 of 112 in Myrнопillia. This means that such facilities should not be only partially accessible, but fully adapted to the daily needs of people who have difficulties with mobility and self-care.

## ■ Limited accessibility of bathrooms and shower rooms



*Bathroom in residential care home in Zakharivka*



*Shower room in residential care home in Baytaly*



*Bathroom in residential care home in Kruty*

One of the most common issues in residential care homes is that **sanitary facilities are not properly adapted**. In many residential care homes, bathrooms and showers do not meet accessibility standards: bathrooms and showers lack handrails, lack of space to move safely, or no specialized equipment, access is difficult for residents with limited mobility.

For example, in Mykolaivka, 22 of the 23 residents are people with limited mobility, but the building has only 2 toilets and 1 shower, which is critically insufficient. In Bessarabske, Kruty, Katlabuh, Baitaly, Zakharivka, and other residential care homes, bathrooms and showers need significant modifications to meet inclusive accessibility standards.

## ■ Lack of bomb shelters

Even though Odesa Oblast does not share a border with Russia, it is still regularly hit by airstrikes. Residential buildings, transportation, energy, and port infrastructure are all at risk. In this context, the absence or inaccessibility of shelters puts lives in serious danger.

**In most facilities, residents cannot evacuate independently during air alarms. Several locations either lack shelters or have shelters that are not adapted for people with limited mobility.**

For instance, Znamianske residential care home has no shelter, while Stara Kulna also lacks barrier-free access and bomb shelter. In Zakharivka, the shelter is not adapted for residents with limited mobility, and access is partially restricted. In Katlabuh, Kruty, and other facilities, setting up accessible bomb shelters remains a top priority.



*Entrance to shelter on residential care home grounds in Berezivka*



*Bomb shelter inside residential care home in Odesa*

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**Monitoring revealed** that collective sites and residential care homes provide basic living conditions for displaced people, including older adults and people with disabilities. Yet many facilities are still waiting for additional equipment, repairs, and systemic accessibility improvements.

**The most frequent issues observed include:** bathrooms and showers that are not adapted, lack of horizontal handrails, tactile signs and Braille labels, narrow doorways, thresholds, and other architectural barriers. A separate concern is the absence of bomb shelters or their inaccessibility for residents with limited mobility.

**Key priorities include** adapting sanitary facilities, creating safe movement routes, installing handrails, equipping bomb shelters, improving navigation, and providing backup energy sources for facilities affected by power cuts.

These measures will improve safety, quality of care, and dignity of residents, strengthening the capacity of hromadas to support people affected by the war.