

A Resilient Picture: Experiences of Persons with Disabilities in Ukraine



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Authors

.....
Marian Machlouzarides and Selin Uretici.
.....

Peer reviewed by **Anastasiia Chernova, Federica Dispenza and Darina Solodova.**
.....

Validation and qualitative input provided by **Iryna Fedorovych and Daria Sydorenko.**
.....

The views, conclusions, and recommendations presented in this document do not necessarily reflect the position of USAID, UNDP, the EU or their partners.

About reSCORE Ukraine

reSCORE Ukraine, which is a joint initiative funded by the USAID and UNDP, and implemented by SeeD, continues to serve as an annual assessment tool of societal resilience and recovery that informs the policies and programming of national, regional, and international partners. Like its predecessor, the Ukraine SCORE 2018 to 2021, it aims to identify pathways and respond to complex needs, geared at strengthening individual and collective coping mechanisms, and fostering a democratic, just, inclusive, and cohesive Ukraine.

About Partners

The **Centre for Sustainable Peace and Democratic Development (SeeD)** works with international development organisations, governments, and civil society leaders to design and implement evidence-based, people-centered strategies for the development of peaceful, inclusive, and sustainable societies. Working globally, SeeD provides policy advice for social transformation that is based on citizen engagement strategies and empirical understanding of the behaviour of individuals, groups, and communities.

The **United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)** supports strategic capacity development initiatives to promote inclusive growth and sustainable human development. Through partnerships with national, regional, and local governments, civil society, and the private sector, UNDP strives to support Ukraine in its efforts to eliminate poverty, develop the population's capacity, achieve equitable results, sustain the environment, and advance democratic governance.

Democratic Governance East Activity (DG East) is an 8-year programme of The United States Agency for International Development (USAID). DG East works with civil society, local government entities, and independent media outlets in and from eastern and southern Ukraine to strengthen the connection and trust between citizens and their government. The overall objectives of DG East are to 1) support greater acceptance of a shared civic culture based on common values and understanding; and 2) promote participation to improve Ukraine's governance, reform processes, and help resolve community problems. The programme addresses immediate war-response needs, promotes good governance, and strengthens an inclusive civic identity.

USAID's **Transformation Communications Activity (TCA)** is a six-year activity of the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), which aims to strengthen Ukrainian democracy through comprehensive research, innovative communication initiatives, and the creation of socially meaningful content.

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Introduction

Following Russia's full-scale invasion on February 24th 2022, Ukraine has been facing an unprecedented and multifaceted humanitarian crisis. According to the International Organisation for Migration (IOM) there were over 3.4 million registered internally displaced people in Ukraine in February 2024¹, with UNHCR reporting that the number of refugees fleeing Ukraine surpassed 6.4 million in March 2024², and the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) estimating that over 14.6 million people in Ukraine will require humanitarian assistance in 2024³. Noting that the severe adverse effects of the invasion have been felt throughout the population, vulnerable groups, including persons with disabilities, are experiencing disproportionate adversities.

Although official data following Russia's full-scale invasion is scarce, there were over 2.7 million persons with disabilities in Ukraine at the beginning of 2021⁴. Acknowledging that numbers predating the invasion were likely to be underreported due to various obstacles including barriers to registration, lack of identity documents, and homelessness⁵, the current figure is estimated to be even higher as a result of the invasion, given the number of combatants and civilians who have suffered war-related injuries. Figures cite over 3 million persons with disabilities in Ukraine in September 2023⁶, with estimates that the number of persons with disabilities had increased by approximately 27,000 in the year following the invasion⁷, while others cite a 3.5-fold increase in the number of new disability registrations (from 13,000 new disability registrations before the war to 45,000 after) over the first 10 months of the war compared to 2021⁸. According to the damage and needs assessment conducted by the World Bank Group⁹ for 2022-2023, 130,000 persons acquired disability status in Ukraine, and around 1.3 million internally displaced people reported having at least one household member with a disability.

Since 2009, Ukraine has been on a positive trajectory for the development of a comprehensive framework to safeguard the rights, freedoms, and livelihoods of persons with disabilities, becoming a signatory to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) in 2009¹⁰.

1 International Organization for Migration (IOM). February 2024. [Registered IDP Area Baseline Assessment Dashboard](#).

2 United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR). March 2024. [Ukraine Refugee Situation](#).

3 United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA). [Ukraine](#).

4 State Statistics Service of Ukraine. 2021. [SOCIAL PROTECTION OF THE POPULATION OF UKRAINE IN 2020](#). Statistical Publication, Kyiv: State Statistics Service of Ukraine.

5 United Nations Human Rights Monitoring Mission in Ukraine. 2020. [Impact of the COVID-19 Pandemic on Persons with Disabilities in Ukraine](#). OHCHR.

6 Міністерство з питань реінтеграції тимчасово окупованих територій України. [Ministry of Reintegration of the Temporarily Occupied Territories of Ukraine]. 2023. В Україні налічується 3 мільйони людей з інвалідністю [There are 3 million people with disabilities in Ukraine]. 22 September.

7 Коробкін Сергій [Korobkin Serhiy], social.com.ua. 2023. [За рік кількість людей з інвалідністю зросла на 27 тисяч](#) [Over the year, the number of people with disabilities increased by 27,000]. February.

8 Інтерфакс-Україна [Interfax-Ukraine]. 2023. [Інвалідність за 10 місяців війни у 2022 році отримали понад 45 тис. українців](#) [More than 45,000 Ukrainians received disability for the 10 months of the war in 2022]. 30 June.

9 World Bank; Government of Ukraine; European Union; United Nations. 2023. [Ukraine Rapid Damage and Needs Assessment: February 2022 – February 2023 \(English\)](#). Washington, D.C.: World Bank Group.

10 United Nations Ukraine. 2021. [UN Policy Paper on Disability | United Nations in Ukraine](#). RCO. Accessed 12 11, 2023.

Ukraine's commitments to the CRPD are reflected in the country's legislation. Recent¹¹ legislative milestones include the adoption of the National Strategy for a Barrier-Free Environment in 2021¹², which aims to improve accessibility across physical, informational, digital, social, civic, educational, and economic domains; the endorsement of a "National Action Plan for the implementation of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities until 2025" in April 2021¹³; and the Draft Law 5344-d on "Amendments to Certain Laws of Ukraine on Ensuring the Rights of Persons with Disabilities to Work" in 2022¹⁴. Another significant milestone in 2022 was the adoption of the World Health Organization's International Classification of Functioning, Disability and Health (ICF)¹⁵, on which the process of determining disability will be based, alongside the development of an electronic module for assessing the level of functioning, disability and health¹⁶.

Notwithstanding the important legal and policy responses enacted by the Ukrainian government over the years to address the multifaceted challenges faced by persons with disabilities, several areas for improvement remained even prior to Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine. As mentioned by the OECD¹⁷, Russia's full scale invasion of Ukraine is exacerbating pre-existing disadvantages of vulnerable groups. Reports and monitoring conducted before the full-scale invasion of Ukraine in February 2022 point to issues of discrimination, to the absence of a systemic approach to safeguard the rights of persons with disabilities¹⁸, to the lack of access to healthcare and information, and to issues of social isolation, and exclusion, higher exposure to domestic violence, and lower employment rates that limit persons with disabilities' ability to fully exercise their rights¹⁹.

Regarding the barriers that persons with disabilities face in the area of economic integration, previous research²⁰ found that persons with disabilities frequently experienced discrimination during hiring, worse pay or working conditions, and obstruction of career progression. The statements made by the CRPD²¹ predating the aforementioned "Amendments to Certain Laws of Ukraine on Ensuring the Rights of Persons with Disabilities to Work" in 2022²² further highlighted that these barriers are compounded by the lack of employment opportunities and an absence of policies for supported employment. The impact of these barriers was reflected in previous SCORE data in 2021 where persons with disabilities scored lower than the general population in employment opportunities, and 23% indicated that they lacked money even for food, compared to 11% of the general population²³.

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- 11 Previous milestones include Decrees of the President of Ukraine of 03.12.2015 No. 678/2015 "On Enhancing Activity to Ensure the Rights of Persons with Disabilities", and of 13.12.2016 No. 553/2016 "On Measures to Ensure Respect for the Rights of Persons with Disabilities"; Resolutions of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine of September 14, 2016 No. 628 "On Establishment of the Council on Persons with Disabilities", of February 16, 2011 No. 121 "On Approval of the Regulation on the Centralized Database on Disability Issues", of August 01, 2012 No. 706 "On Approval of the State Target Program "National Action Plan for the Implementation of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities" to 2020", of March 14, 2018 No. 183 "On Approval of the Procedure on Use of Funds Budgeted for Financial Support of Public Associations of Persons with Disabilities".
 - 12 Верховна Рада України [Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine]. 2021. ["Про схвалення Національної стратегії із створення безбар'єрного простору в Україні на період до 2030 року Документ 366-2021-р \[National Strategy for Barrier-Free Environment in Ukraine until 2030 Document no:366-021-p\]."](#) Ukraine.
 - 13 Ministry of Social Policy of Ukraine. 2021. [Government endorses a National Action Plan for the implementation of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities until 2025.](#) April.
 - 14 Верховна Рада України [Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine]. 2022. [Проект Закону про внесення змін до деяких законів України щодо забезпечення прав осіб з інвалідністю на працю \[Draft Law on Amendments to Certain Laws of Ukraine on Ensuring the Rights of Persons with Disabilities to Work\].](#)
 - 15 World Health Organization. 2024. [International Classification of Functioning, Disability and Health \(ICF\).](#)
 - 16 Міністерство охорони здоров'я України [Ministry of Health of Ukraine]. 2022. [Класифікатор функціонування, обмеження життєдіяльності та здоров'я \[Classifier of functioning, limitation of vital activity and health\].](#)
 - 17 The Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD). 2022. [Policy Responses: Ukraine Tackling The Policy Challenges | Social policies for an inclusive recovery in Ukraine.](#) OECD.
 - 18 Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW). 2017. ["Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women: Concluding observations on the eighth periodic report of Ukraine."](#)
 - 19 United Nations Human Rights Monitoring Mission in Ukraine. 2020. [Impact of the COVID-19 Pandemic on Persons with Disabilities in Ukraine.](#) OHCHR.
 - 20 Overchuk, Victoria. 2021. ["Problems and prospects of socio-psychological and economic integration of people with disabilities in Ukraine."](#) Lambert Academic Publishing.
 - 21 Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. 2015. ["Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities: Concluding observations on the initial report of Ukraine."](#)
 - 22 Верховна Рада України [Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine]. 2022. [Проект Закону про внесення змін до деяких законів України щодо забезпечення прав осіб з інвалідністю на працю \[Draft Law on Amendments to Certain Laws of Ukraine on Ensuring the Rights of Persons with Disabilities to Work\].](#)
 - 23 UNDP, SeeD. 2021. ["Empowering Persons with Disabilities in Eastern Ukraine."](#)

Addressing such challenges is also critical in light of Ukraine's commitment to implementing the 2030 Agenda and Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), which includes protection of the rights and freedoms of persons with disabilities through poverty eradication (SDG 1), ending hunger (SDG 2), healthcare access (SDG 3), gender equality and elimination of gender-based discrimination and violence (SDG 5), reducing violence and improving service access after armed conflict (SDG 16) (3). Disability is also central in the SDGs which guarantee inclusive and accessible education environments (SDG 4), inclusive economic growth and employment (SDG 8), social, economic, and political inclusion (SDG 10), accessible cities, water resources, transport, and public spaces (SDG 11) and, finally, the collection of disability disaggregated data for monitoring of the SDGs (SDG 17).

Recent reports found that while pre-war unaddressed issues continue to exist, new pressing adversities are arising for persons with disabilities as a direct consequence of the ongoing invasion. This includes the severe challenges persons with disabilities face regarding accessibility standards²⁴, including surrounding access to basic resources and services, which play a pivotal role in the protection of persons with disabilities in times of crisis. As mentioned by the International Disability Alliance²⁵, the full-scale invasion of Ukraine is a "crisis within a crisis" for persons with disabilities, exposing persons with disabilities to extremely vulnerable situations. As of November 2022, 23 boarding facilities were located in the non-government-controlled territory of Ukraine, while contingency measures to relocate residential care facilities and boarding houses for the elderly and persons with disabilities to safer areas of the country were not set in place by the Ukrainian government²⁶. Moreover, persons with disabilities continue to face particular challenges concerning their access to critical information, due to insufficient accessibility of government websites (despite significant improvements), lack of use of Braille, sign language and subtitles, and lack of socially important information in language that is easy to understand²⁷.

Thus, in the context of the full-scale invasion, researchers are urgently calling for more data to be collected on the impact of the conflict on persons with disabilities, particularly regarding their psychological wellbeing. While a humanitarian crisis impacts the psychological wellbeing of a nation as a whole, studies found that persons with disabilities are disproportionately vulnerable to developing symptoms of psychological illness and that individuals with more severe disabilities are at a greater risk of developing post traumatic stress disorder (PTSD)²⁸.

Scholars, NGOs, and international organisations such as the European Disability Forum and Inclusion Europe²⁹ further highlight the need for disability-inclusive emergency responses to Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine along with a disability-inclusive recovery plan. Calls to include due consideration of the rights and freedoms of persons with disabilities in emergency responses and recovery plans are further strengthened when considering previous findings from SCORE in 2021, which outline trends of increasing migration tendencies and social isolation for persons with disabilities³⁰. It is further necessary to develop multidimensional and intersectional policy responses informed by the experiences of women, children, the elderly, LGBT and Roma communities to sufficiently and effectively address the multilayered challenges that persons with disabilities face following Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine.

24 European Disability Forum. 2023. [Rights of persons with disabilities during the war in Ukraine](#). European Disability Forum.

25 Alena Bieling EURACTIV. 2022. [Persons with disabilities in Ukraine face a 'crisis within a crisis'](#). 15 March.

26 European Disability Forum. 2023. [Rights of persons with disabilities during the war in Ukraine](#). European Disability Forum.

27 Kang, Tarandeep S., Robin Goodwin, Yaira Hamama-Raz, Elazar Leshem, and Menachem Ben-Ezra. "Disability and post-traumatic stress symptoms in the Ukrainian General Population during the 2022 Russian Invasion." *Epidemiology and psychiatric sciences* 32 (2023): e21.

28 European Disability Forum. 2023. [Ukraine Facility: ensuring equal opportunities for persons with disabilities](#). 26 September.

29 Inclusion Europe. 2022. [Do not use Ukraine recovery money for institutions, but for support to independent living – Raisa Kravchenko](#). 22 September. Accessed December 09, 2023.

30 UNDP, SeeD. 2021. [Empowering Persons with Disabilities in Eastern Ukraine](#).

The present research addresses these topics and provides current data on the impact of Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine along with policy recommendations by answering the following questions:

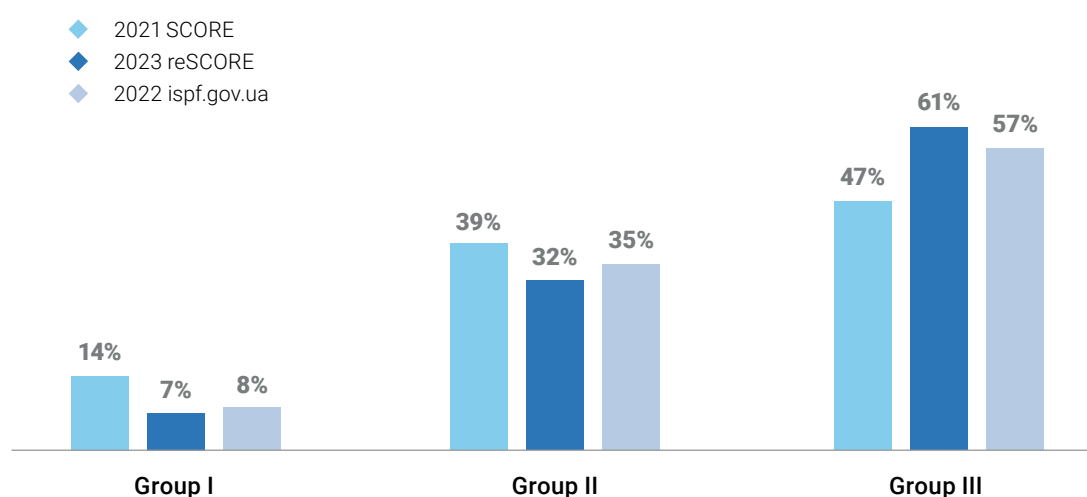
- What barriers do persons with disabilities face regarding accessibility standards (resources, services, information) following Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine?
- How are these barriers influenced by the demographic profile of persons with disabilities? Does the severity of these barriers vary between different disability status categories?
- Do persons with disabilities face specific challenges regarding their mental well-being following Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine? Has Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine affected the mental wellbeing of persons with disabilities in Ukraine?
- Are persons with disabilities disproportionately affected by social isolation? Has this been affected by Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine?
- Do persons with disabilities experience more economic challenges than persons without disabilities? How has Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine affected the economic position of persons with disabilities within Ukrainian society?
- Do persons with disabilities have a higher migration tendency than persons without disabilities? How does this align with previous findings and has this changed compared to before the full-scale invasion?
- Do persons with disabilities have higher exposure to war or other adversities compared to persons without disabilities?

Methodology

Data from persons with disabilities in 2023 contains persons with disabilities surveyed through random sampling at the national level (N = 549), representative of all government-controlled areas excluding Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts and the Autonomous Republic of Crimea, alongside snowball sampling of persons with disabilities in seven target oblasts (N = 507) – Chernihiv, Dnipropetrovsk, Kharkiv, Mykolaiv, Poltava, Sumy, and Zaporizhzhia oblasts.

Data was collected between 14 July and 16 August 2023. The total sample size, including that from random and snowball sampling, of persons with disabilities was 1,056. The average duration of the snowball sample interviews was 71 minutes, with interviews reaching an average of 101 minutes for persons with Group I disability status and 68 minutes for persons with Group III status. The findings detailed in the present report were validated in a qualitative consultation with two experts from organisations that advocate for the rights and interests of persons with disabilities in Ukraine.

◆ **Figure 1:** Proportion of respondents with disabilities by disability group in the national sample of SCORE 2021, reSCORE 2023, and according to the *Fund for Social Protection of Persons with Disabilities* for 2022.



Comparative data for 2023 refers to persons without disabilities, surveyed through random sampling, representative at national level for all government-controlled areas of Ukraine, excluding Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts and the Autonomous Republic of Crimea. Data was collected between March 26 and June 12, 2023. The total sample size of persons without disabilities was 5,365. Throughout the report, the comparative representative sample at national level excludes persons with disabilities.

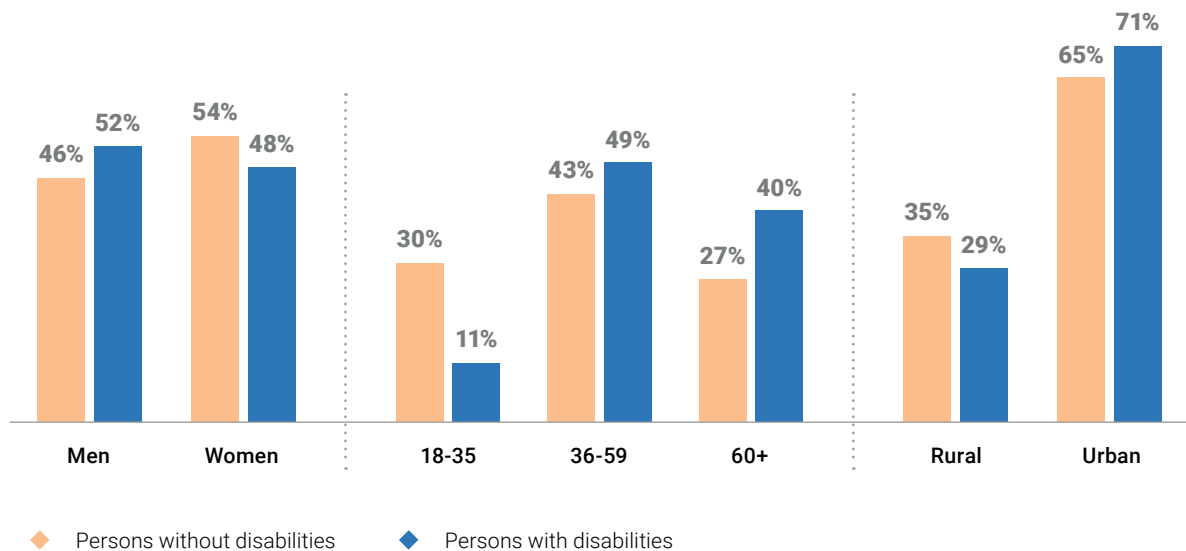
Comparative data from 2021 refers to persons with disabilities surveyed through random sampling, representative at national level for all government-controlled areas of Ukraine at the time. Data was collected between January and May 2021. The total sample size was 714.

The mean age of persons with disabilities in the sample is 54 years, compared to 46 years for persons without disabilities³¹. In the national representative sample from 2021, the mean age of persons with disabilities was 58 years, compared to 47 for persons without disabilities. The gender distribution of the sample is outlined in Figure 2.

Analysis of variance (ANOVA) was used to determine the statistical significance of differences between various groups of respondents in this analysis. The significance level was $p < 0.05$. Differences are considered marked in cases where the F statistic is larger than 20, and in cases where the Cohen's d effect size is "large" (greater than 0.8) or "medium" (greater than 0.4). Pearson correlation coefficients were used to determine significant associations between key variables in the analysis. The significance level was $p < 0.05$, and Pearson correlation coefficients larger than are 0.2 considered noteworthy.

Gender differences, age differences and differences between other demographic groups were investigated throughout the report and are mentioned where significant.

◆ **Figure 2:** Demographic distribution of the two 2023 samples used in the present analysis. Total sample size of persons with disabilities 1,056; persons without disabilities 5,365.



31 ANOVA, $p < 0.01$, $N = 6,421$. $F = 222.58$, Cohen's d effect size 0.50.

Where relevant, the present report disaggregates the sample by the macroregions outlined in Table 1.

◆ **Table 1:** Categorisation of oblasts by macroregion

Rear	Frontline proximity (S-300, artillery fire, partial exposure to combat)	Frontline (full exposure to combat, constant fighting)
Kyiv City Kyiv Oblast Chernihiv Oblast Zhytomyr Oblast Cherkasy Oblast Poltava Oblast Kirovograd Oblast Vinnytsia Oblast Rivne Oblast Volyn Oblast Khmelnytskyi Oblast Ivano-Frankivsk Oblast Lviv Oblast Ternopil Oblast Zakarpattia Oblast Chernivtsi Oblast Odesa Oblast	Kharkiv Oblast Sumy Oblast Dnipropetrovsk Oblast Mykolaiv Oblast	Zaporizhzhia Oblast Kherson Oblast
Persons without disabilities N = 4,177 Persons with disabilities N = 591	Persons without disabilities N = 931 Persons with disabilities N = 388	Persons without disabilities N = 257 Persons with disabilities N = 77



Results

Summary of key findings

Accessibility of services and information

- Persons with Group I disability status report the lowest levels of provision justice, public transportation, and administrative services, compared to those with Group II and III status.
- Overall, persons with disabilities do not report lower Provision of services than those without disabilities, and there are no statistically significant gender differences in the perceived provision of services. In contrast, persons with disabilities as a group report higher usage of welfare payments and humanitarian aid, which is particularly evident when comparing women with disabilities to women without disabilities.
- Persons with disabilities living in rural areas also face location-specific accessibility issues, reporting the lowest availability of psychosocial counselling and support services. This further highlights the importance of considering different demographic groups of persons with disabilities when analysing differences in access to services and when designing interventions.
- Access to information for persons with disabilities has improved between 2021 and 2023. Nevertheless, respondents with Group I disability status are the least likely to have efficient access to the internet. It follows that the specificities of different disability groups must be taken into consideration when designing further support to improve access to information, and services.

Social and economic inclusion

- In line with 2021 SCORE findings, the present data echoes that economic indicators are among the most salient barriers that persons with disabilities face. Persons with disabilities reporting higher household Subjective poverty and lower employment opportunities than persons without disabilities.
- Persons with Group I disability status experience the most economic barriers, reflected by even lower Employment opportunities and higher levels of Subjective poverty compared to those with Group II and III disability status.
- Women with disabilities also experience intersectional disadvantages concerning their economic status, reporting the highest levels of household Subjective poverty.
- Scores for Migration tendency and Locality satisfaction do not differ to a great extent between persons with and without disabilities, and did not change greatly from 2021 to 2023.
- Civic participation is lower in persons with disabilities compared to those without.

Resilience and experience of adversities

- The findings illustrate a picture of resilience and adaptability among persons with disabilities. Indications of anxiety and depression have not increased for persons with disabilities from 2021 to 2023, while an increase has been observed for persons without disabilities.
- Marginalisation is linked to increased tendencies for depression and to Aggression. Considering that persons with disabilities report high levels of marginalisation due to their health status, even in the face of the perceived stability of persons with disabilities' mental wellbeing over time, addressing Marginalisation is likely to be a powerful tool to further support their mental wellbeing and resilience.
- Persons with disabilities, particularly women, report lower levels of Personal security than respondents without disabilities.

Accessibility of services and information

Key findings

- Compared to data from 2021, the differences in the perceived Provision of services between persons with disabilities and those without disabilities have decreased, with no significant differences observed in 2023. However, the differences in the accessibility of services become more notable when the sample is disaggregated by disability groups.
- Persons with Group I disability status report the lowest levels of provision justice, public transportation, and administrative services, compared to those with Group II and III status. Justice services are rated as efficient by 19% of persons with Group I disability status, compared to 37% of persons without disabilities. Corresponding figures for public transportation are 63% and 73%, and for administrative services 51% and 66%. Considering that access to administrative and transportation services are linked to Locality satisfaction, addressing the accessibility standards of these services for persons with Group I disability status is critical.
- Persons with disabilities living in rural areas also face location-specific accessibility issues, reporting the lowest availability of psychosocial counselling and support services, with just 12% reporting that these are sufficiently available. This further highlights the importance of considering different demographic groups of persons with disabilities when analysing differences in access to services and when designing interventions.
- Access to information for persons with disabilities has improved between 2021 and 2023, with persons with disabilities reporting increased internet accessibility along with higher usage of social and online media. Although Ukraine has made strides towards improving information accessibility, success is uneven, given that respondents with Group I disability status are the least likely to have efficient access to the internet, reported as efficient by 70% of respondents in this group, compared to 84% of persons without disabilities. It follows that the specifics of different disability groups must be taken into consideration when designing further support to improve access to information, as well as access to other administrative and social services.

Access to services and necessities

Overall, persons with disabilities report similar levels of service provision compared to persons without disabilities. Persons with disabilities report marginally lower provision of basic schooling³², justice³³, healthcare³⁴, public transportation³⁵, higher education³⁶, and administrative services³⁷, although they rate welfare³⁸ services as more efficient, and report the same levels of emergency service provision³⁹ compared to persons without disabilities. These observations remain when controlling for whether respondents actually use these services.

It emerges that persons with Group I disability status and persons with disabilities living in rural areas report barriers in accessing certain services and necessities. Furthermore, persons with disabilities as a group particularly continue to face challenges in the accessibility of public transport, with respondents with Group I disability status reporting the least usage of public transport compared to both persons without disabilities and persons with disabilities in Groups II and III⁴⁰. Compared to respondents without disabilities, persons with Group I disability status report the lowest efficiency of public transportation, with 63% saying it is provided somewhat or very efficiently, compared to 73% of persons without disabilities⁴¹ (Table 2). During the validation process, experts noted that there are specific promising initiatives which aim to improve barrier-free environments, such as those introduced by Ukrainian Railways.

Respondents with Group I disability status also report less efficient provision of administrative services, with 51% reporting that these services as provided efficiently, compared to 60% of Group II, 63% of Group III and 66% of persons without disabilities (Table 2). Administrative services are also perceived as less effective by respondents with disabilities residing in rural areas, with just 55% reporting that these are provided efficiently, compared to 64% of respondents with disabilities living in urban areas (Table 3). The efficient provision of both administrative services and public transport are positively linked to higher levels of locality satisfaction⁴².

Justice services provision is rated as being particularly less efficient by rural respondents with disabilities⁴³, with just 22% reporting that these services are provided efficiently (Table 3). Respondents with Group I disability status also report less efficient provision of justice services compared to other groups (Table 2). This finding was further validated in the qualitative consultations, where experts suggested that the lack of physical accessibility of buildings such as courthouses, combined with barriers in access to information on justice services, prevent persons with disabilities from using these services efficiently.

All respondents who live in frontline full exposure areas⁴⁴ report less efficient provision of healthcare compared to respondents further away from the frontline. Somewhat or very efficient healthcare is reported by 42% of persons with disabilities in frontline areas, compared to 49% of persons without disabilities in frontline areas, and 62% of persons with disabilities in rear locations (Table 4).

32 ANOVA, $p < 0.01$, $N = 6,421$. $F = 28$ Cohen's d effect size 0.18. Mean score persons with disabilities 6.4, persons without disabilities 6.8 out of 10.

33 ANOVA, $p < 0.01$, $N = 6,421$. $F = 24$ Cohen's d effect size 0.17. Mean score persons with disabilities 5.4, persons without disabilities 5.8 out of 10.

34 ANOVA, $p < 0.01$, $N = 6,421$. $F = 20$ Cohen's d effect size 0.15. Mean score persons with disabilities 6.7, persons without disabilities 7.0 out of 10.

35 ANOVA, $p < 0.01$, $N = 6,421$. $F = 16$ Cohen's d effect size 0.13. Mean score persons with disabilities 7.0, persons without disabilities 7.3 out of 10.

36 ANOVA, $p < 0.01$, $N = 6,421$. $F = 7$ Cohen's d effect size 0.09. Mean score persons with disabilities 4.5, persons without disabilities 4.8 out of 10.

37 ANOVA, $p < 0.01$, $N = 6,421$. $F = 6$ Cohen's d effect size 0.08. Mean score persons with disabilities 7.0, persons without disabilities 7.2 out of 10.

38 ANOVA, $p < 0.01$, $N = 6,421$. $F = 29$ Cohen's d effect size 0.18. Mean score persons with disabilities 8.0, persons without disabilities 7.6 out of 10.

39 Mean score 8.1 out of 10.

40 ANOVA, $p < 0.01$, $N = 6,421$. Cohen's d effect sizes between Group I and others 0.6-0.7.

41 Across the sample, usage of a service is correlated with better perceptions about that service's efficiency.

42 Pearson correlation coefficients, $r = 0.225$ for administrative services and locality satisfaction, $r = 0.226$ for public transport in persons without disabilities ($N = 5,359$, $p < 0.05$). $r = 0.15$ for administrative services and locality satisfaction, $r = 0.299$ for public transport in persons with disabilities ($N = 1,056$, $p < 0.05$).

43 ANOVA, $p < 0.01$, $N = 6,421$. Cohen's d effect size between rural persons with disabilities and urban persons with disabilities is 0.54, and between rural persons with disabilities and rural persons without disabilities is 0.29.

44 Zaporizhzhia and Kherson oblasts.

- ◆ **Table 2:** Proportion of responses for Provision of services by disability group, 2023. Respondents were asked to what extent they consider services to be provided efficiently in their locality. Sample sizes: Group I – 73, Group II – 342, Group III – 641.

How efficient do you consider the provision of these services?

	Persons without disabilities	Persons with disabilities, Group III	Persons with disabilities, Group II	Persons with disabilities, Group I
Access to the Internet	84%	81%	77%	70%
Provision of basic utilities	82%	81%	80%	79%
Emergency services	79%	81%	77%	71%
Public transportation	73%	67%	66%	63%
Welfare payments for those in need	69%	82%	77%	86%
Health care	68%	62%	61%	58%
Administrative services	66%	63%	60%	51%
Basic schooling	55%	44%	44%	51%
Quality of roads	42%	38%	40%	34%
Justice services	37%	29%	29%	19%
Higher education	36%	29%	28%	30%

Proportion "provided somewhat" + "very" efficiently in locality

- ◆ **Table 3:** Proportion of responses for Provision of services by disability status and urbanity, 2023. Respondents were asked to what extent they consider services to be provided efficiently in their locality. Sample sizes: rural persons with disabilities – 302, urban persons with disabilities – 754; rural persons without disabilities – 1,838, urban persons without disabilities – 3,527.

How efficient do you consider the provision of these services?

	Persons without disabilities, rural	Persons without disabilities, urban	Persons with disabilities, rural	Persons with disabilities, urban
Access to the Internet	82%	84%	74%	81%
Provision of basic utilities	79%	84%	74%	83%
Emergency services	79%	80%	77%	80%
Public transportation	67%	76%	62%	68%
Welfare payments for those in need	70%	69%	80%	81%
Health care	69%	68%	60%	62%
Administrative services	64%	67%	55%	64%
Basic schooling	60%	52%	46%	43%
Quality of roads	39%	43%	34%	40%
Justice services	36%	37%	22%	31%
Higher education	29%	39%	17%	34%

Proportion "provided somewhat" + "very" efficiently in locality

Persons with disabilities in frontline full exposure areas report higher efficiency of administrative and welfare services compared to persons without disabilities in these locations (Table 4). These observations remain when controlling for whether respondents actually use these services. Differences in the provision of other services do not emerge in the data, and no gender differences in the perceived provision of services were detected.

◆ **Table 4:** Proportion of responses for Provision of services by disability status and frontline proximity, 2023. Respondents were asked to what extent they consider services to be provided efficiently in their locality. Sample sizes: Persons with disabilities rear – 591, frontline proximity – 388, frontline full exposure – 77; persons without disabilities rear – 4,177, frontline proximity – 931, frontline full exposure 257.

How efficient do you consider the provision of these services?

	Persons without disabilities, rear	Persons without disabilities, frontline proximity (S-300, artillery fire, partial exposure to combat)	Persons without disabilities, frontline (full exposure to combat, constant fighting)	Persons with disabilities, rear	Persons with disabilities, frontline proximity (S-300, artillery fire, partial exposure to combat)	Persons with disabilities, frontline (full exposure to combat, constant fighting)
Access to the Internet	84%	86%	68%	77%	80%	84%
Provision of basic utilities	82%	89%	76%	78%	83%	88%
Emergency services	79%	81%	80%	76%	81%	94%
Public transportation	73%	74%	67%	66%	68%	66%
Welfare payments for those in need	69%	76%	44%	79%	86%	70%
Health care	69%	69%	49%	62%	66%	42%
Administrative services	66%	71%	40%	59%	65%	57%
Basic schooling	58%	43%	27%	51%	35%	36%
Quality of roads	43%	37%	20%	41%	36%	31%
Justice services	37%	37%	32%	29%	24%	39%
Higher education	37%	32%	26%	31%	26%	29%

Proportion "provided somewhat" + "very" efficiently in locality

Persons with disabilities as a group report higher usage of welfare payments and humanitarian aid⁴⁵ than persons without disabilities. Two-thirds (66%) of persons with disabilities in the sample use welfare payments frequently compared to 29% of persons without disabilities, and 13% of persons with disabilities use humanitarian aid frequently, compared to 6% of persons without disabilities.

⁴⁵ ANOVA, $p < 0.01$, $N = 6,421$. $F = 659.39$ and Cohen's d effect size 0.86 for welfare payments, $F = 225.95$ and Cohen's d effect size 0.51 for humanitarian aid. Mean scores for usage of welfare payments 4.3 out of 10 for persons without disabilities, 7.9 out of 10 for persons with disabilities. Mean scores for usage of humanitarian aid 2.0 out of 10 for persons without disabilities, 3.7 for persons with disabilities. A score of 0 would indicate absolutely no use ("Never"), a score of 10 would indicate frequent use ("Frequently").

Persons with disabilities are also more dependent on healthcare⁴⁶, with 31% using these services frequently, compared to 15% of persons without disabilities.

Women with disabilities use more healthcare, welfare, and humanitarian aid than women without disabilities⁴⁷, although no differences are detected between women and men with disabilities.

Persons with disabilities living in frontline areas report the highest usage of healthcare⁴⁸. Over half (53%) of respondents with disabilities in frontline⁴⁹ areas use healthcare frequently, compared to 9% of persons without disabilities, 25% of persons with disabilities in frontline proximity⁵⁰ areas, and 33% of persons with disabilities in rear areas. Persons with disabilities in frontline areas are also slightly more dependent on humanitarian aid, with 33% using this frequently compared to 26% of persons without disabilities in these areas, 21% of persons with disabilities in frontline proximity areas and 5% of persons with disabilities in rear areas.

Persons with disabilities are less likely to report that bomb shelters and equipped facilities are sufficient in their local area⁵¹. While 34% of the general population say that bomb shelters are sufficient, 27% of persons with Group III disability status say they are sufficient, alongside 23% of persons with Group II status and 22% of those with Group I status. Persons with disabilities living in rural areas also report inadequate availability of bomb shelters (Table 6). This is in line with the opinion of experts, who noted that evacuation-related difficulties and the inaccessibility of bomb shelters are among the prominent challenges directly linked to the full-scale invasion for persons with disabilities. Although acknowledging that there are new state standards which prescribe that shelters are accessible, regulation is lacking.

Respondents with disabilities in rural areas report the lowest availability of psychosocial counselling and support, with just 12% reporting that these are sufficient in their locality, lower than respondents without disabilities in rural areas (18%) and respondents with disabilities in urban areas (33%) (Table 5). Cultural centres and leisure activities are also less available for respondents with disabilities in rural areas (33% say these are sufficient in their locality), followed by respondents without disabilities in rural areas (41%, Table 5). Overall, just over half (55%) of respondents with disabilities and 59% of respondents without disabilities report that cultural centres and leisure facilities are sufficient in their locality. The absence of accessible cultural centres and leisure activities was identified by experts as a key challenge for persons with disabilities, while the data indicates that the lack of these facilities is also a challenge in rural areas as a whole.

Respondents with disabilities in frontline areas do not report lower availability of basic needs, compared both to persons without disabilities in frontline areas and to persons with disabilities in rear locations (Table 6).

46 ANOVA, $p < 0.01$, $N = 6,421$. $F = 196.94$, Cohen's d effect size 0.47. Mean scores 5 out of 10 for persons without disabilities, 6.5 out of 10 for persons with disabilities.

47 ANOVA, $p < 0.01$, $N = 6,421$. For healthcare, $F = 115.51$, Cohen's d effect size between women with disabilities and women without disabilities 0.45. For welfare, $F = 266.15$, Cohen's d effect size 0.74. For humanitarian aid, $F = 81.76$, Cohen's d effect size 0.51.

48 ANOVA, $p < 0.01$, $N = 6,421$. $F = 42.91$. Cohen's d effect size 0.95 compared to persons without disabilities in frontline areas. Cohen's d effect size 0.41-0.44 compared to persons with disabilities further from the frontline.

49 Zaporizhzhia and Kherson oblasts.

50 Kharkiv, Sumy, Dnipropetrovsk and Mykolaiv oblasts.

51 ANOVA, $p < 0.01$, $N = 6,421$. $F = 34.36$.

- ◆ **Table 5:** Proportion of responses for Access to basic necessities by disability status and urbanity, 2023. Respondents were asked to evaluate the availability of the following services in their current locality. Sample sizes: rural persons with disabilities – 302, urban persons with disabilities – 754; rural persons without disabilities – 1,838, urban persons without disabilities – 3,527.

Please evaluate the availability of the following items and services

	Persons without disabilities, rural	Persons without disabilities, urban	Persons with disabilities, rural	Persons with disabilities, urban
Electricity in your home	97%	97%	95%	97%
Food	94%	98%	92%	97%
Water supply in your home	79%	93%	78%	93%
Mobile reception	79%	86%	75%	88%
Waste disposal	71%	89%	65%	93%
Fuel	76%	84%	73%	82%
Medicine	55%	88%	50%	88%
Housing	73%	76%	71%	72%
Cash to withdraw	41%	88%	42%	84%
Childcare	62%	59%	57%	50%
Cultural centres & leisure facilities	41%	68%	33%	63%
Bomb shelters & equipped facilities	31%	36%	21%	27%
Psychological counselling & support	18%	32%	12%	33%

Proportion "sufficient" availability in current locality

Table 6: Proportion of responses for Access to basic necessities by disability status and proximity to the frontline, 2023. Respondents were asked to evaluate the availability of the following services in their current locality. Sample sizes: Persons with disabilities rear – 591, frontline proximity – 388, frontline full exposure – 77; persons without disabilities rear – 4,177, frontline proximity – 931, frontline full exposure 257.

Please evaluate the availability of the following items and services

	Persons without disabilities, rear	Persons without disabilities, frontline proximity (S-300, artillery fire, partial exposure to combat)	Persons without disabilities, frontline (full exposure to combat, constant fighting)	Persons with disabilities, rear	Persons with disabilities, frontline proximity (S-300, artillery fire, partial exposure to combat)	Persons with disabilities, frontline (full exposure to combat, constant fighting)
Electricity in your home	97%	98%	93%	96%	97%	99%
Food	96%	96%	93%	96%	95%	97%
Water supply in your home	87%	94%	91%	87%	91%	96%
Mobile reception	83%	86%	73%	80%	88%	88%
Waste disposal	83%	89%	50%	84%	86%	92%
Fuel	82%	74%	73%	80%	76%	94%
Medicine	75%	84%	70%	74%	79%	84%
Housing	76%	73%	65%	73%	66%	87%
Cash to withdraw	70%	81%	67%	66%	81%	74%
Childcare	63%	52%	28%	60%	41%	48%
Cultural centres & leisure facilities	59%	62%	37%	57%	50%	65%
Bomb shelters & equipped facilities	36%	29%	26%	29%	22%	22%
Psychological counselling & support	27%	26%	26%	24%	27%	49%

Proportion "sufficient" availability in current locality

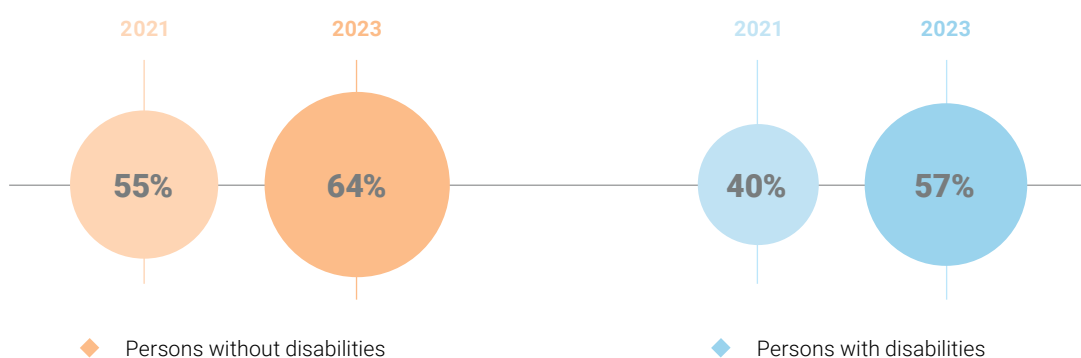
Access to information

Access to the internet has statistically significantly increased only in persons with disabilities from 2021 to 2023, with mean scores of 7.4 out of 10 in 2021 to 8.0 in 2023. Promisingly, this could indicate that the gap in accessible information is decreasing, as there is no longer a large difference between the internet access of persons with disabilities and the general population⁵², although this may be in part attributed to the younger sample of persons with disabilities in 2023 compared to 2021 (mean age of 54 compared to 58 years, respectively). Similarly, persons with disabilities report more use of social and online media in 2023 than they did in 2021. In 2023, 57% of persons with disabilities use news websites at least once a week for information about politics and current events, and 66% use social media. In 2021, these figures were 40% and 36%, respectively. These findings are promising, given the new Ukrainian standard⁵³ which came into force in June 2022 and aims to ensure that all government websites, mobile applications and electronic documents are accessible⁵⁴.

Online media is especially popular among persons with disabilities living in frontline areas, with 73% using news websites more than once a week, and 77% using social media. Corresponding figures for persons without disabilities in these locations are 60% and 73%, respectively. In frontline proximity areas, corresponding figures for persons with disabilities are 58% and 66%, alongside 54% and 65% of those in rear locations. Across the country, 45% of people with Group I disability status use news websites more than once a week and 56% use social media, compared to 57% and 64% of those with Group II status, 58% and 69% of those with Group III status, and 64% and 75% of people without disability status.

◆ **Figure 3:** Proportion of responses for persons with disabilities and persons without disabilities, 2021 and 2023. Respondents were asked how often they use a range of sources for information about political affairs. Sample sizes: persons with disabilities 2023 – 1,056 and 2021 - 683; persons without disabilities 2023 – 5,365 and 2021 – 11,799.

% who use news websites for information about political affairs at least once a week



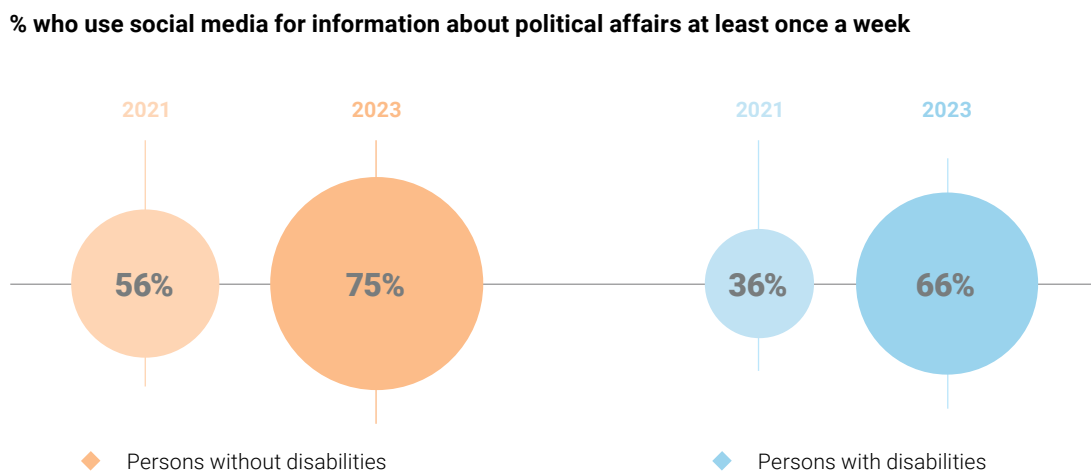
52 In 2021, Internet access for the general population was 7.8 out of 10, compared to 7.4 out of 10 for persons with disabilities, a Cohen's d effect size of 0.21. In 2023, Internet access in the general population is 8.1, compared to 8.0 for persons with disabilities, a negligible Cohen's d effect size of 0.09.

53 Ukrainian standard DSTU EN 301 549:2022 "Information technology. Requirements for the Accessibility of ICT Products and Services".

54 UNDP Ukraine. 2022. [Promoting web accessibility: Working to make government websites in Ukraine accessible to everyone.](#)

Despite apparent improvements in accessibility, respondents with Group I disability status are the least likely to say that their access to the internet is somewhat or very efficient (70% compared to 77% of Group II, 81% of Group III and 84% of persons without disabilities, see Table 2). Older respondents with disabilities also report lower access to the internet than those aged 18 to 35, with 73% and 89% reporting somewhat or very efficient access, respectively. This agrees with previous findings from June 2023, where focus group discussions identified existing barriers to accessing information for older persons and persons with disabilities in Ukraine⁵⁵.

- ◆ **Figure 4:** Proportion of responses for persons with disabilities and persons without disabilities, 2021 and 2023. Respondents were asked how often they use a range of sources for information about political affairs. Sample sizes: persons with disabilities 2023 – 1,056 and 2021 - 683; persons without disabilities 2023 – 5,365 and 2021 – 11,799.



55 UNDP Ukraine, IMPACT, SeeD. 2021. ["Ukraine Human Impact Assessment June 2023"](#).

Social and economic inclusion

Key findings

- In line with 2021 SCORE findings and expert consultations, the 2023 study further reiterates that economic indicators are among the most salient barriers that persons with disabilities face. This is well highlighted in the present findings, with persons with disabilities reporting higher household Subjective poverty and lower employment opportunities than persons without disabilities.
- Similar to findings regarding access to services, the results indicate that persons with Group I disability status experience the most economic barriers, reflected by even lower Employment opportunities and higher levels of Subjective poverty compared to those with Group II and III disability status. While 16% of persons with Group I disability status and 14% of those with Group II disability status say their household lacks money even for food, this decreases to 10% of persons with Group III status and 6% of persons without disabilities. The mean score of Employment opportunities is 2.8 out of 10 for respondents with Group I disability status, compared to 3.4 for Group II, 3.5 for Group III, and 4.2 out of 10 for persons without disabilities.
- Women with disabilities also experience intersectional disadvantages concerning their economic status, reporting the highest levels of household Subjective poverty than the rest of the sample; 13% of women with disabilities report that their household lacks money even for food, compared to 7% of women without disabilities.
- Scores for Migration tendency and Locality satisfaction do not differ to a great extent between persons with and without disabilities, and did not change greatly from 2021 to 2023. The lack of an identified trend toward increased Migration tendency and decreased Locality satisfaction is a positive finding for the recovery attempts of Ukraine, suggesting that people in the sample did not have an increased desire to leave Ukraine.
- Persons with disabilities encounter barriers in their civic participation, reporting lower Civic engagement and participation in civic resistance than persons without disabilities.

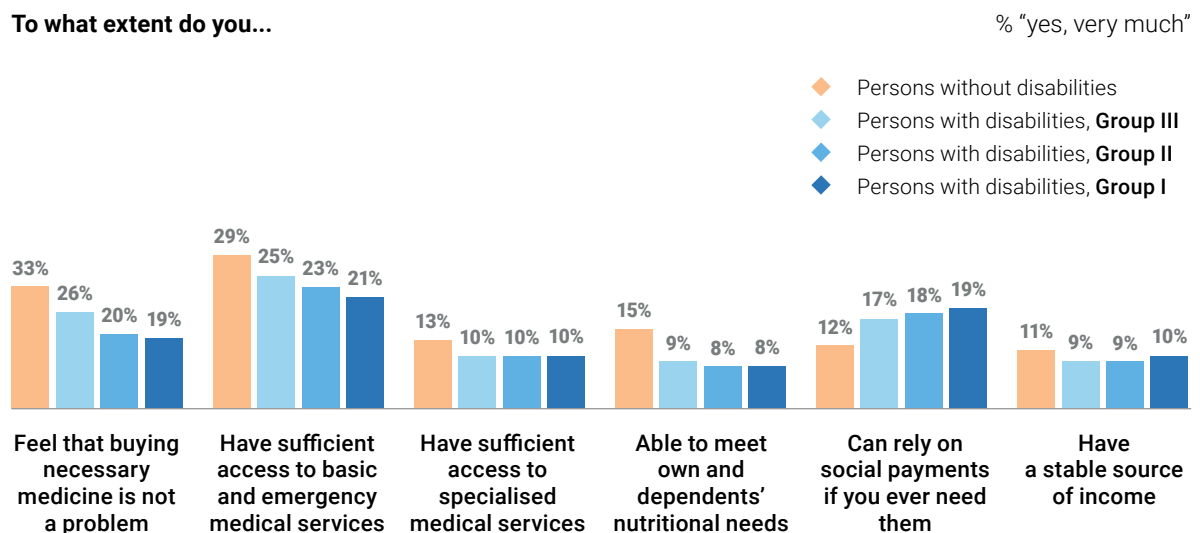
Economic security and employment opportunities

The differences observed between persons with and without disabilities in economic indicators are much more pronounced than those observed in access to services. Persons with disabilities report higher household Subjective poverty⁵⁶ than persons without disabilities⁵⁷ and, as detailed above, persons with disabilities report higher usage of welfare payments and humanitarian aid. Over one in ten (12%) respondents with disabilities said that their household lacks money even for food, compared to 6% of the general population.

As identified in the reSCORE Gender Snapshot from September 2023⁵⁸, women with disabilities report the highest levels of Subjective poverty compared to men with disabilities and compared to women without disabilities. Of women with disabilities, 13% report that their households lack money even for food, compared to 7% of women without disabilities, 10% of men with disabilities, and 5% of men without disabilities. Persons with disabilities also report a lower presence of Employment opportunities in their locality⁵⁹, an aspect linked to lower levels of Locality satisfaction⁶⁰.

Subjective poverty is highest for respondents with Group I disability status⁶¹ followed by those with Group II status (Figure 6). Employment opportunities are also lower for those with Group I disability status (Figure 7).

◆ **Figure 5:** Proportion of responses for Economic security and Health security and Economic security, 2023. Respondents were asked to what extent they feel they can do each of the items. Sample sizes: Group I – 73, Group II – 342, Group III – 641, persons without disabilities – 5,365.



56 Respondents' self-rating on their household economic situation, from being unable to afford even food, to being able to afford expensive goods, such as a car or apartment.

57 ANOVA, $p < 0.01$, $N = 6,421$. $F = 152.98$, Cohen's d effect size 0.42. Mean score 4.4 out of 10 for persons without disabilities, 3.5 for persons with disabilities.

58 Machlouzarides M, Novosolova N, Uretici S, SeeD. 2023. "Ukraine Gender Snapshot September 2023".

59 ANOVA, $p < 0.01$, $N = 6,421$. $F = 66.55$, Cohen's d effect size 0.27. Mean score 4.2 for persons without disabilities, 3.4 for persons with disabilities.

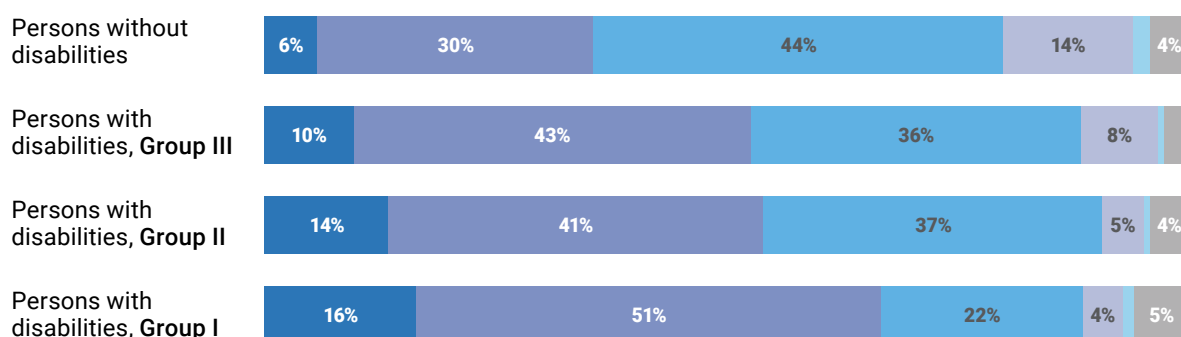
60 Pearson correlation coefficient for Employment opportunities and Locality satisfaction $r = 0.302$ for persons without disabilities, $r = 0.248$ for persons with disabilities.

61 ANOVA, $p < 0.01$, $N = 6,421$. $F = 53.28$. Cohen's d effect size for Group I with Group I and III 0.2-0.3. Cohen's d effect size between persons without disabilities and Group I is 0.65, and Group II is 0.47.

In line with these findings, during the validation consultations experts highlighted that employment remains one of the most pressing challenges for persons with disabilities, despite recent legislative improvements such as the Draft Law 5344-d on “Amendments to Certain Laws of Ukraine on Ensuring the Rights of Persons with Disabilities to Work” in 2022⁶². Experts further called attention to the intricacies of economic barriers faced by persons with disabilities, mentioning discriminatory practices in credit and lending as well as insurance that further exacerbate the disadvantages persons with disabilities have in taking advantage of economic opportunities.

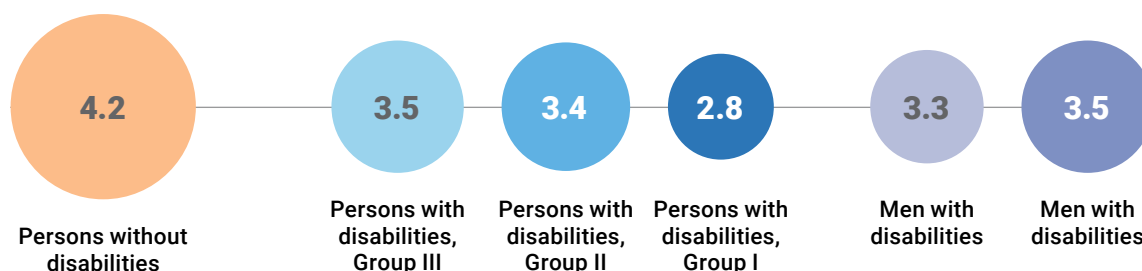
◆ **Figure 6:** Proportion of responses for Subjective poverty, 2023y. Respondents were asked how they would estimate the amount of their income. Sample sizes: Group I – 73, Group II – 342, Group III – 641, persons without disabilities – 5,365.

How would you estimate the amount of your income?



- ◆ We lack money even for food
- ◆ We have enough money for food, but are not always able to buy clothes
- ◆ We always have money for food and clothes, but we cannot always afford household electronics or other expensive goods
- ◆ We have enough money for household electronics or other expensive goods, but we cannot afford a car or an apartment
- ◆ We can afford a car or other goods of similar cost, when needed
- ◆ Difficult to answer

◆ **Figure 7:** Mean score from a scale of 0 to 10 for Employment opportunities, 2023. A score of 0 corresponds to “It would be difficult for me to find a job that satisfies me”, a score of 10 to “It would be easy to find a job that satisfies me” in the respondent’s locality. Sample sizes: Group I – 73, Group II – 342, Group III – 641, persons without disabilities – 5,365; women with disabilities – 506, men with disabilities – 550.



62 Верховна Рада України [Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine]. 2022. [Проект Закону про внесення змін до деяких законів України щодо забезпечення прав осіб з інвалідністю на працю](#) [Draft Law on Amendments to Certain Laws of Ukraine on Ensuring the Rights of Persons with Disabilities to Work].

Marginalisation

Persons with disabilities report high levels of marginalisation due to their health status⁶³. A staggering 30% of persons with Group I disability status report ever having been treated unfairly due to their health status or disability. This compares to 22% of persons with Group II status and 20% of those with Group III status (Table 7). Young persons (aged 18 to 35) with disabilities report the highest levels of marginalisation due to their health status⁶⁴. There are no gender differences in marginalisation indicators.

◆ **Table 7:** Proportion of responses for Marginalisation by disability group, 2023. Respondents were asked how often they, or members of their family and close friends, are treated unfairly because of the following. Sample sizes: Group I – 73, Group II – 342, Group III – 641, persons without disabilities – 5,365.

How often are you, members of your family, and close friends treated unfairly because of...

	Persons without disabilities	Persons with disabilities	Persons with disabilities, Group I	Persons with disabilities, Group II	Persons with disabilities, Group III
Level of education	16%	13%	15%	13%	13%
Native language	15%	14%	12%	15%	14%
Level of income	21%	19%	16%	19%	18%
Gender	8%	5%	3%	5%	5%
Religious beliefs and opinions	11%	9%	7%	11%	8%
Nationality or ethnicity	8%	6%	4%	8%	6%
Sexual orientation	5%	3%	3%	4%	3%
Political opinions	21%	19%	21%	21%	19%
Age	12%	9%	7%	10%	9%
Health status or disability	11%	21%	30%	22%	20%

Proportion "sometimes" + "often" + "very often"

63 ANOVA, $p < 0.01$, $N = 6,421$. $F = 92.99$. Mean score persons with disabilities 0.9, persons without disabilities 0.4 out of 10. Cohen's d effect size 0.32.

64 ANOVA, $p < 0.01$, $N = 6,421$. $F = 21.88$. Mean score 18-35 year olds with disabilities 1.4, 36-59 year olds with disabilities 0.9, persons with disabilities over the age of 60 0.8 out of 10. Cohen's d effect sizes between 0.20 and 0.58. Corresponding scores for persons without disabilities are 0.5, 0.4, 0.5 out of 10, respectively.

- ◆ **Table 8:** Proportion of responses for Marginalisation by disability status and age, 2023. Respondents were asked how often they, or members of their family and close friends, are treated unfairly because of the following. Sample sizes: 18 to 35 year olds with disabilities – 118, without disabilities – 1,617; 36 to 59 year olds with disabilities – 518, without disabilities – 2,313; respondents over the age of 60 with disabilities – 420, without disabilities – 1,435.

How often are you, members of your family, and close friends treated unfairly because of...

	Persons without disabilities, 18-35	Persons without disabilities, 36-59	Persons without disabilities, 60+	Persons with disabilities, 18-35	Persons with disabilities, 36-59	Persons with disabilities, 60+
Level of education	20%	16%	12%	27%	14%	8%
Native language	20%	14%	12%	23%	14%	12%
Level of income	26%	22%	15%	25%	20%	15%
Gender	11%	7%	6%	10%	4%	4%
Religious beliefs and opinions	13%	10%	9%	12%	9%	9%
Nationality or ethnicity	10%	8%	7%	12%	6%	6%
Sexual orientation	7%	5%	4%	8%	2%	3%
Political opinions	25%	21%	18%	21%	18%	21%
Age	14%	10%	13%	12%	7%	11%
Health status or disability	11%	10%	11%	28%	22%	18%

Proportion "sometimes" + "often" + "very often"

- ◆ **Table 9:** Pearson correlation coefficients of Marginalisation, 2023. Only correlations above 0.195 shown. Sample sizes: persons with disabilities – 1,056, persons without disabilities – 5,365.

	Persons without disabilities	Persons with disabilities
Migration tendency	0.247	
Depression	0.209	0.195
Aggression	0.279	0.337
Normalisation of domestic violence		0.239
Personal exposure to domestic abuse	0.244	0.322
Personal exposure to physical assault	0.197	0.246
Personal exposure to false imprisonment		0.289

Correlations of Marginalisation (overall)

Overall, Marginalisation is linked to increased tendencies for depression⁶⁵, as well as higher levels of Aggression (Table 9). Furthermore, both the 2021 SCORE report⁶⁶ and the current findings identified a positive link between Marginalisation and Exposure to domestic abuse. In addition, focus group discussions with civil society actors in 2021 also revealed that the situation is particularly acute for women with disabilities due to an increased likelihood of having experienced domestic violence. Additional dimensions of marginalisation experienced by persons with disabilities were revealed during the validation sessions, where experts stated that marginalisation is heightened by the inaccessibility of public or community environments, highlighting that marginalisation and social isolation are magnified through the additional effort persons with disabilities are required to make in their daily lives to access public locations and services.

65 $r = 0.209$ between Marginalisation and depressive tendencies for persons without disabilities, $r = 0.193$ for persons with disabilities.

66 UNDP, SeeD. 2021. [“Empowering Persons with Disabilities in Eastern Ukraine”](#).

Civic participation

Despite the barriers faced by persons with disabilities in their civic participation, more than half of persons with disabilities in the sample participate in Civic resistance⁶⁷ with 56% of respondents with disabilities having taken part in at least one resistance activity in response to the full-scale invasion. However, the findings indicate that barriers to participation remain, given that this figure is lower than the 71% of respondents without disabilities who have taken part in at least one civic resistance activity. Just 48% of respondents with Group I disability status have taken part in any civic resistance activities, compared to 54% of those with Group II status and 59% of those with Group III status (Figure 8).

Persons with disabilities are less likely to have donated money following Russia's full-scale invasion, with 39% having done this compared to 52% of people without disabilities (Table 10), an observation which may come as a result of the lower income levels that persons with disabilities report⁶⁸ (see Economic security and employment opportunities).

◆ **Table 10:** Proportion of responses for Civic resistance, 2023. Respondents were asked if they have done any of the following since the 24th February 2022. Sample sizes: persons with disabilities – 1,056, persons without disabilities – 5,365.

Which of the following actions did you take, or are you already taking, since the Russian invasion of Ukraine on February 24, 2022?

	Persons without disabilities	Persons with disabilities, Group I	Persons with disabilities, Group II	Persons with disabilities, Group III
Donate money	52%	29%	36%	42%
Volunteer to help people in need	30%	14%	25%	27%
Volunteer to help the Armed Forces of Ukraine	24%	12%	15%	20%
Host IDPs free of charge	7%	10%	7%	7%
Report war crimes	3%	3%	2%	2%
Participate in cyber attacks and information resistance	3%	1%	1%	1%

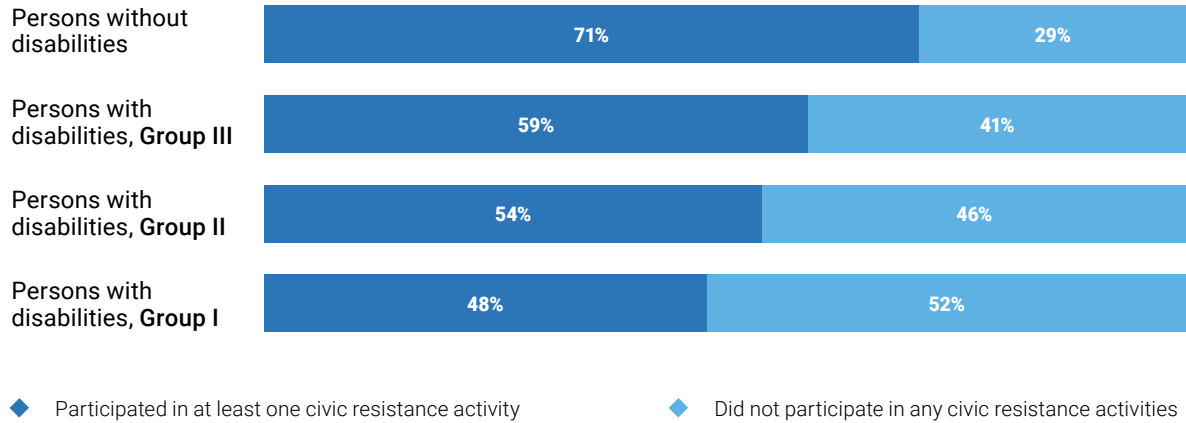
Proportion of respondents who said "yes"

67 Whether respondents have taken part in any civic activities following Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine on 24 February 2022.

68 Pearson correlation coefficient between Income level (reverse of Subjective poverty) and donating money is 0.199 for persons with disabilities, 0.160 for persons without disabilities ($p < 0.05$).

- ◆ **Figure 8:** Proportion of respondents participating in at least one civic resistance activity, 2023. Sample sizes: Group I – 73, Group II – 342, Group III – 641, persons without disabilities – 5,365.

Which of the following actions did you take, or are you already taking, since the Russian invasion of Ukraine on February 24, 2022?



These trends extend to other forms of Civic engagement, which is lower in persons with disabilities overall⁶⁹. While persons without disabilities report increased Civic engagement from 2.1 out of 10 in 2021 to 2.5 in 2023⁷⁰, persons with disabilities do not report this increase, with a score of 2.1 out of 10 at both time points.

- ◆ **Table 11:** Proportion of responses for Civic engagement, 2023. Respondents were asked how often they take part in the following activities. Sample sizes: Group I – 73, Group II – 342, Group III – 641, persons without disabilities – 5,365.

How often do you...

	Persons without disabilities	Persons with disabilities, Group I	Persons with disabilities, Group II	Persons with disabilities, Group III
Attend an event organised by local authorities	16%	14%	15%	12%
Vote in elections	88%	90%	90%	90%
Sign a petition	46%	32%	37%	38%
Participate in the events organised by NGOs	41%	23%	30%	32%
Volunteer or donate	58%	37%	49%	51%
Participate in public demonstrations	28%	14%	19%	21%
Participate in activities aimed at improving neighbourhood	53%	30%	44%	51%
Post and debate social issues via online	37%	23%	26%	27%

Proportion "sometimes" + "often" + "very often"

69 ANOVA, $p < 0.01$, $N = 6,421$. $F = 43.53$, Cohen's d effect size 0.22. Mean score 2.5 for persons without disabilities, 2.1 for persons with disabilities.

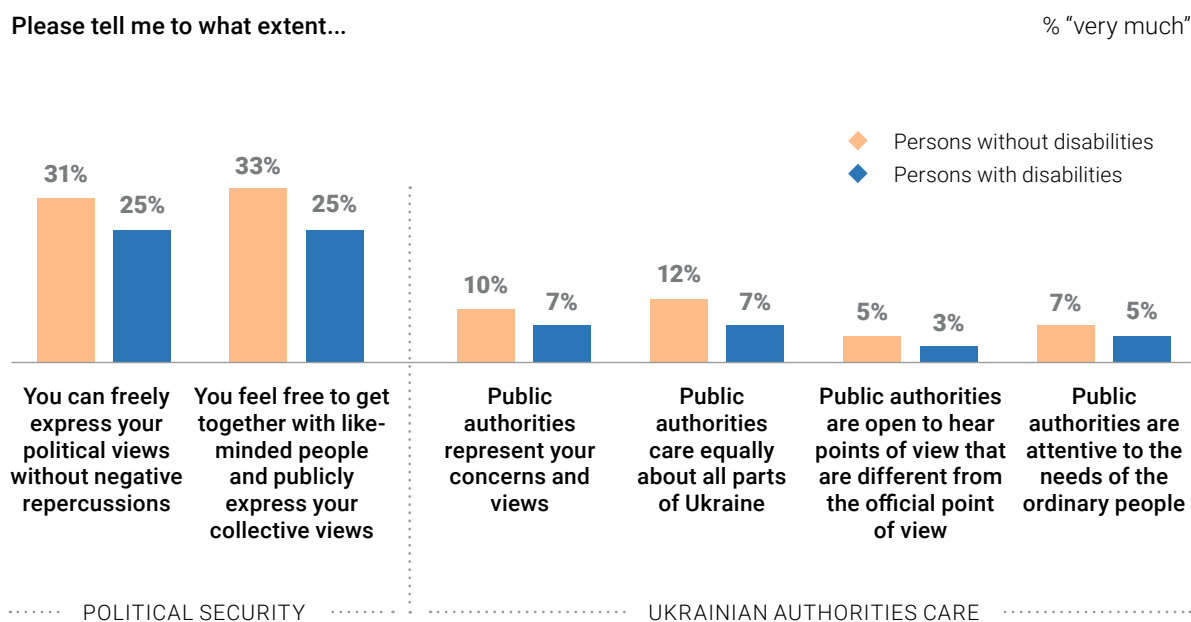
70 ANOVA, $p < 0.01$, $N = 17,202$. Cohen's d effect size = 0.26.

Young persons with disabilities⁷¹ were more likely to volunteer to help people in need in response to the full-scale invasion (36% said they have done this), compared to both young persons without disabilities (31%) and to older persons with disabilities (27% for those aged 36 to 59, 21% for those over 60 years old). Regarding other forms of Civic engagement, younger persons with disabilities report similar levels of participation compared to those without disabilities, except for taking part in activities that improve their building or neighbourhood, in which 36% of the former have ever participated, compared to 45% of the latter⁷².

Persons with disabilities living in frontline areas are slightly more likely to have volunteered to help people in need (43%), compared to both persons without disabilities in frontline areas (34%), and to persons with disabilities living further from the frontline (26% to 22%). There are no marked gender differences in the civic participation tendencies of persons with disabilities.

Persons with disabilities express lower levels of Political security⁷³, perceptions that Ukrainian authorities care⁷⁴ and a lower Sense of civic duty⁷⁵ compared to persons without disabilities, although the latter has increased significantly for persons with disabilities and persons without disabilities alike⁷⁶. Women with disabilities report slightly lower Sense of agency than men with disabilities and women without disabilities⁷⁷; 18% of women with disabilities believe that ordinary people like them cannot change anything, compared to 12% of men with disabilities, and 13% of women without disabilities.

◆ **Figure 9:** Proportion of responses for Political security and Ukrainian authorities care, 2023. Respondents were asked to what extent they feel each item. Sample sizes: persons with disabilities – 1,056, persons without disabilities – 5,365.



71 Aged 18 to 35.

72 For more on the civic participation of youth in Ukraine, see the upcoming report by SeeD and UNDP [here](#).

73 ANOVA, $p < 0.01$, $N = 6,421$. $F = 20.09$. Mean score 6.8 for persons without disabilities, 6.4 for persons with disabilities.

74 ANOVA, $p < 0.01$, $N = 6,421$. $F = 22.64$. Mean scores 4.6 for persons without disabilities, 4.3 for persons with disabilities.

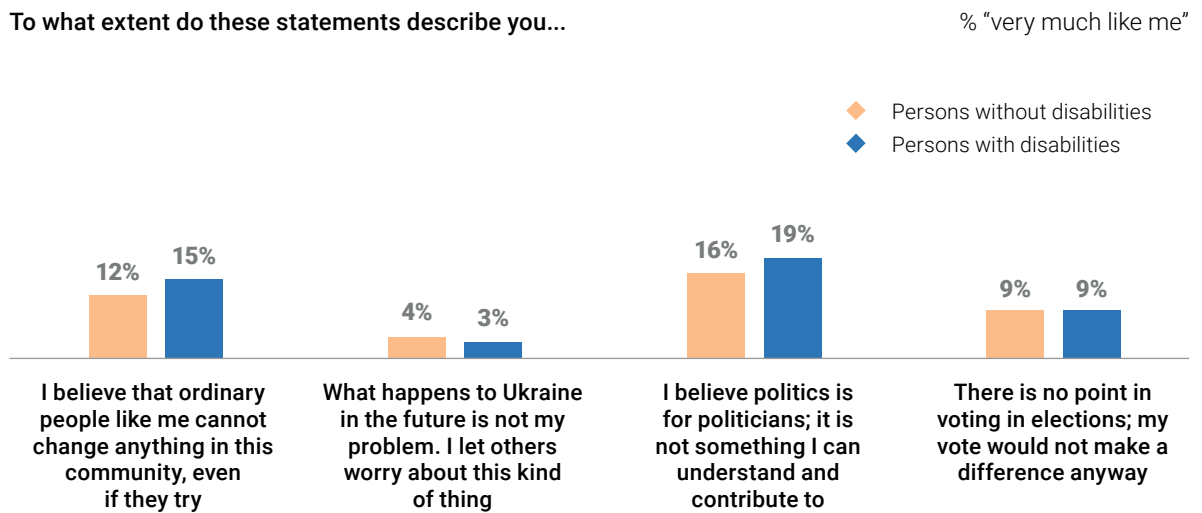
75 ANOVA, $p < 0.01$, $N = 6,421$. $F = 26.25$. Mean score 6.7 for persons without disabilities, 6.3 for persons with disabilities.

76 ANOVA, $p < 0.01$, $N = 18,903$. Mean scores: Persons with disabilities 2023 6.3 out of 10, persons without disabilities 2023 6.7, persons with disabilities 2021 5.3, persons without disabilities 2021 5.4. Cohen's d effect sizes between comparable groups are larger than 0.4.

77 ANOVA, $p < 0.01$, $N = 6,421$. $F = 11.69$. Mean score 5.9 for women with disabilities, 6.4 for men with disabilities, 6.6 for women and men without disabilities. Cohen's d effect sizes between women with disabilities and other groups larger than 0.2.

Across the 2023 sample, trust in institutions has increased compared to 2021, yet women with disabilities report a marginal decrease in trust in the head of their town or village, from 5.6 out of 10 in 2021 to 5.1 in 2023. For all other groups, the level of trust in the head of the town or village has not changed over time. Although trust in institutions was found to have increased across the sample compared to 2021, experts revealed that for persons with disabilities there is still low trust in the ability of government programmes to help them.

◆ **Figure 10:** Proportion of responses for Sense of civic duty, 2023. Respondents were asked to what extent each statement describes them. Sample sizes: persons with disabilities – 1,056, persons without disabilities – 5,365.

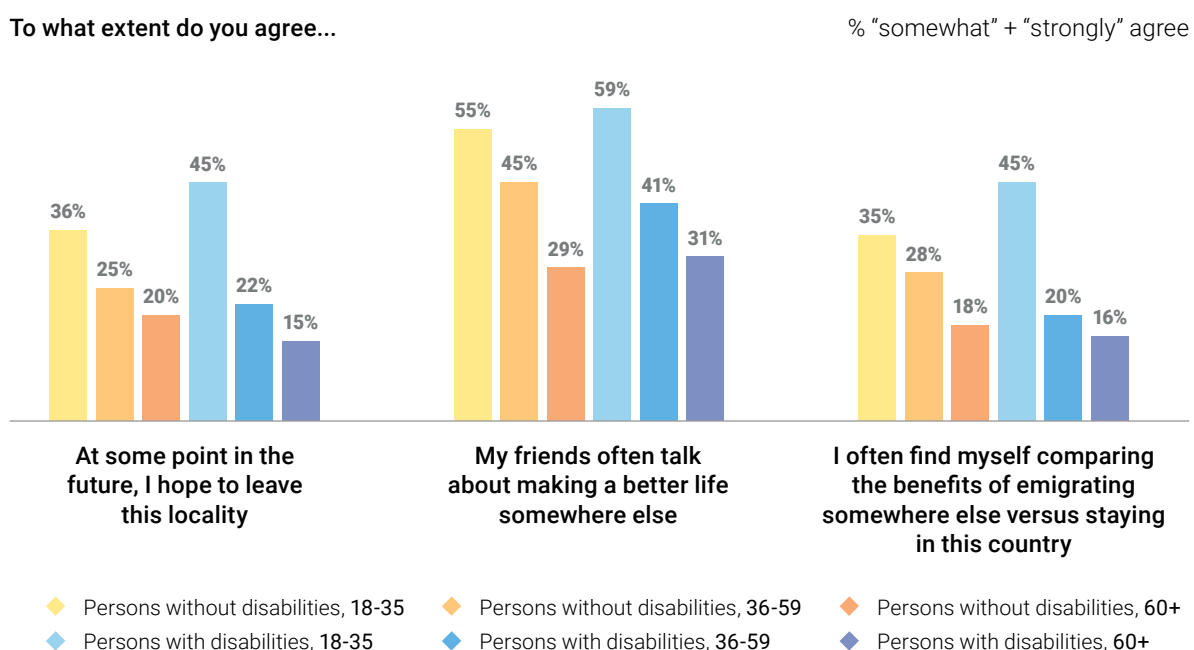


Migration tendency and locality satisfaction

Although Locality satisfaction is lower⁷⁸ for persons with disabilities, they also report lower Migration tendency compared to persons without disabilities⁷⁹. Reasons for this may include that persons with disabilities perceive themselves as less mobile, or more tied to specific systems of specialised healthcare in the localities in which they reside, although these cannot be determined from the data in the present study. Migration tendency has increased slightly in persons with disabilities, who are older than the general population in the sample, from 2021 to 2023⁸⁰. A similar increase⁸¹ in Migration tendency was previously noted in persons with disabilities in Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts from 2019 to 2021⁸².

In general, all respondents aged 18 to 35 report higher Migration tendency compared to older respondents⁸³. Although overall levels of Migration tendency are the same, 45% of young persons with disabilities say that they hope to leave their locality at some point in the future, compared to 36% of those without disabilities, and 45% report that they often find themselves comparing the benefits of leaving Ukraine, compared to 35% of young persons without disabilities (Figure 11). This group also reports the lowest Sense of belonging to their region and settlement, and the lowest levels of Pride in locality⁸⁴.

◆ **Figure 11:** Proportion of responses for Migration tendency, 2023. Respondents were asked to what extent they agree or disagree with the statements. Sample sizes: 18 to 35 year olds with disabilities – 118, without disabilities – 1,617; 36 to 59 year olds with disabilities – 518, without disabilities – 2,313; respondents over the age of 60 with disabilities – 420, without disabilities – 1,435.



78 ANOVA, $p < 0.01$, $N = 6,421$. $F = 20.39$, Cohen's d effect size 0.15.

79 ANOVA, $p < 0.01$, $N = 6,421$. $F = 39.44$, Cohen's d effect size 0.21.

80 ANOVA, $p < 0.01$, $N = 1,701$. Cohen's d effect size 0.15.

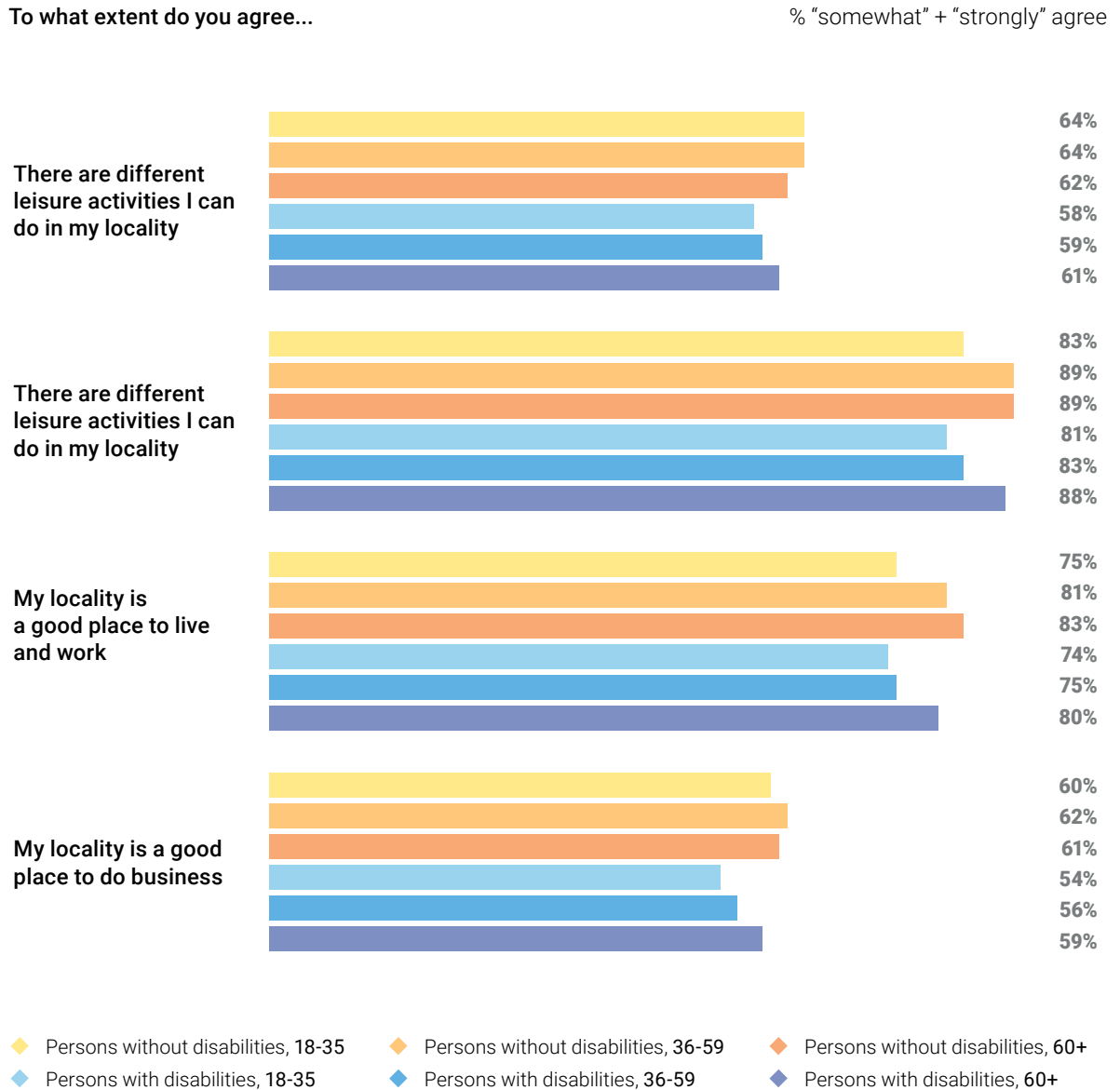
81 ANOVA, $p < 0.01$, $F = 8.94$.

82 UNDP, SeeD. 2021. "Empowering Persons with Disabilities in Eastern Ukraine".

83 ANOVA, $p < 0.01$, $F = 86.37$. Mean score 18-35 year olds with disabilities 4.6 out of 10, 36-59 year olds with disabilities 3 out of 10, persons with disabilities over 60 years old 2.5 out of 10. Mean score for 18-35 year olds without disabilities 4.4 out of 10, 36-59 year olds 3.6 out of 10, over 60 years old 2.6 out of 10.

84 ANOVA, $p < 0.01$, $N = 6,421$. Cohen's d effect size between young persons with disabilities and other groups is larger than 0.3 for Pride in locality, and larger than 0.2 for Sense of belonging to the region and Sense of belonging to the settlement.

◆ **Figure 12:** Proportion of responses for Locality satisfaction. Respondents were asked to what extent they agree or disagree with the statements. Sample sizes: 18 to 35 year olds with disabilities – 118, without disabilities – 1,617; 36 to 59 year olds with disabilities – 518, without disabilities – 2,313; respondents over the age of 60 with disabilities – 420, without disabilities – 1,435.



Persons with disabilities in frontline areas report slightly higher Migration tendency than persons without disabilities in these areas⁸⁵; 30% of persons with disabilities in frontline areas say they hope to leave this locality at some point in the future, compared to 16% of persons without disabilities. Persons with disabilities in frontline areas have among the highest levels of Sense of belonging to the country, compared to both persons without disabilities and to persons with disabilities in other locations (Table 12).

85 ANOVA, $p < 0.01$, $N = 6,421$. Cohen's d effect size 0.31.

◆ **Table 12:** Proportion of responses for Sense of belonging, 2023. Respondents were asked how attached they feel to the following. Sample sizes: Persons with disabilities rear – 591, frontline proximity – 388, frontline full exposure – 77; persons without disabilities rear – 4,177, frontline proximity – 931, frontline full exposure – 257.

How attached do you feel to the following...

	Persons without disabilities, rear	Persons without disabilities, frontline proximity (S-300, artillery fire, partial exposure to combat)	Persons without disabilities, frontline (full exposure to combat, constant fighting)	Persons with disabilities, rear	Persons with disabilities, frontline proximity (S-300, artillery fire, partial exposure to combat)	Persons with disabilities, frontline (full exposure to combat, constant fighting)
To the country	80%	83%	79%	80%	81%	94%
To the region	64%	71%	71%	66%	71%	79%
To the village, town or city	64%	71%	72%	65%	71%	71%

Percent "very attached"

Resilience and experience of adversities

Key findings

- The findings concerning persons with disabilities' mental wellbeing illustrate a picture of resilience and adaptability. Indications of anxiety and depression have not increased for persons with disabilities from 2021 to 2023, while an increase has been observed for persons without disabilities. The stability of the mental wellbeing of persons with disabilities is an important demonstration of their ability to adapt and persevere in the face of adversity.
- Linking the findings on mental wellbeing of persons with disabilities to their levels of Marginalisation, it becomes clear how important it is to capture a more detailed and nuanced picture of the mental and social wellbeing of persons with disabilities in Ukraine. Marginalisation was found to be linked to increased tendencies for depression and Aggression. Considering that persons with disabilities report high levels of marginalisation due to their health status, even in the face of the perceived stability of persons with disabilities' mental wellbeing over time, addressing Marginalisation is likely to be a powerful tool to further support their mental wellbeing and resilience.
- It is worth understanding why persons with disabilities report lower levels of Personal security than respondents without disabilities. Women with disabilities in particular suffer from a lack of Personal security, with the majority of them reporting that they do not feel very safe from violence in their daily life. Tellingly, just 13% of women with disabilities feel very safe, compared to 20% of women without disabilities and 19% of men with disabilities.

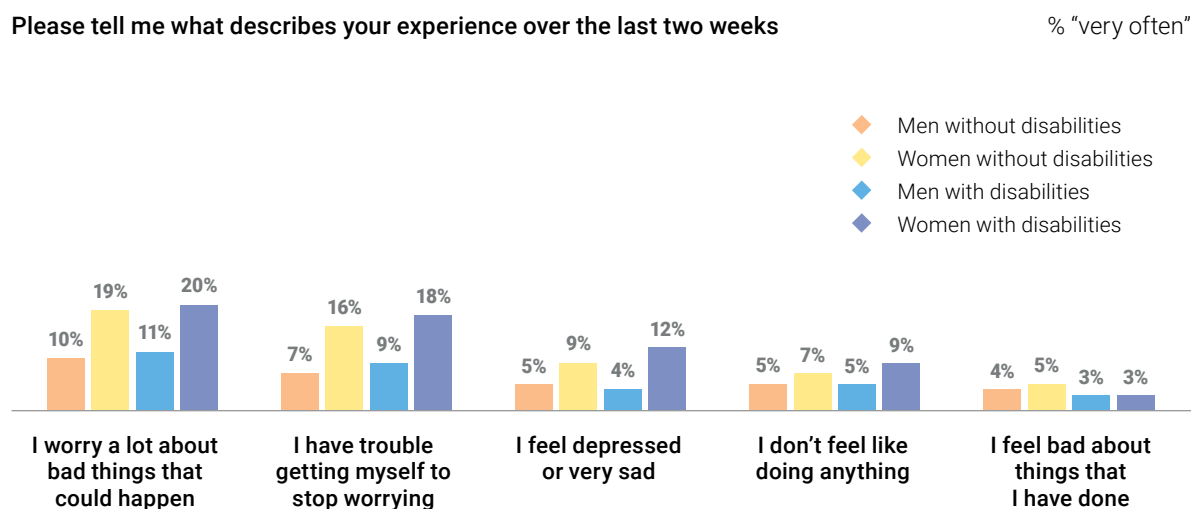
Mental wellbeing

Indications of anxiety and depression have not increased to a great extent from 2021 to 2023 for persons with disabilities, although persons with disabilities report marginally higher tendencies for depression than persons without disabilities⁸⁶ in 2023. In contrast, the levels of anxious and depressive tendencies have increased in persons without disabilities from 2021 to 2023. Women consistently report higher indications of depression and anxiety than men⁸⁷, irrespective of their disability status.

Respondents with disabilities in frontline areas have slightly higher tendencies for depression compared to both respondents with disabilities located elsewhere, and to respondents without disabilities in frontline areas⁸⁸. In contrast, persons with disabilities in frontline areas also report higher Distress tolerance than other groups⁸⁹, an indication of their resilience.

Despite the resilient picture painted by the findings, expert consultations continue to highlight the need for mental health and psychosocial support for persons with disabilities, noting that reporting on levels of depression and anxiety in a quantitative format may not perfectly reflect the real-life experiences of persons with disabilities. Experts further highlighted that their on-field experiences suggest that some persons with disabilities are experiencing higher levels of stress as a result of the full-scale invasion.

◆ **Figure 13:** Proportion of responses for anxious (first two items) and depressive tendencies, 2023. Respondents were asked what best describes their experience over the last two weeks. Sample sizes: men with disabilities – 550, women with disabilities – 506; men without disabilities – 2,478, women without disabilities – 2,887.



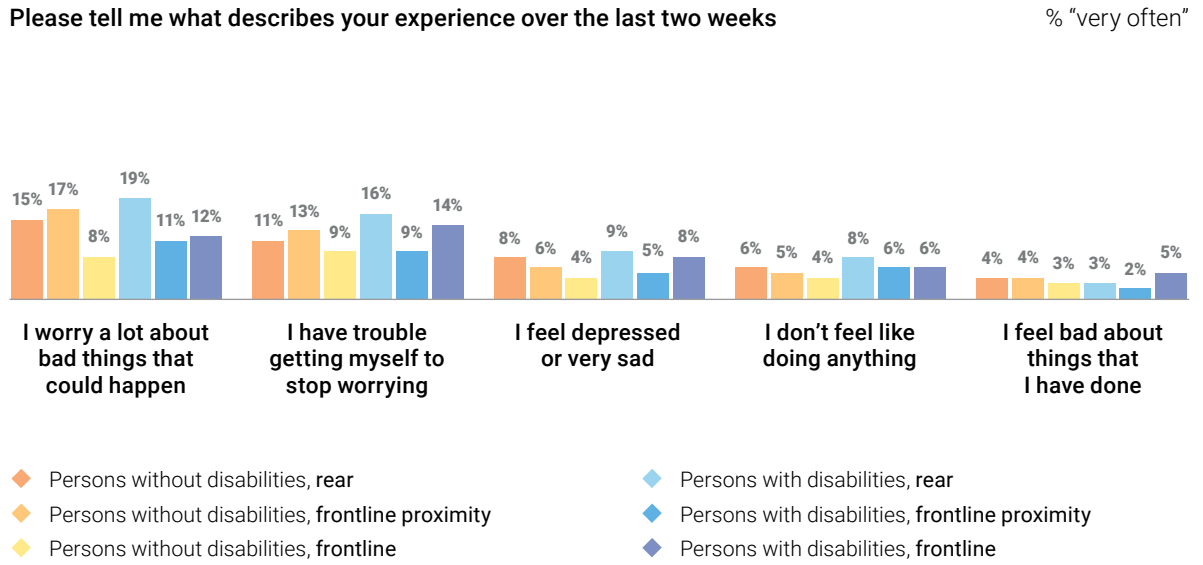
86 ANOVA, $p < 0.01$, $N = 6,421$. $F = 17.45$, Cohen's d effect size 0.14. Mean scores of 3.7 and 3.9.

87 ANOVA, $p < 0.01$, $N = 6,421$. Depression $F = 31.77$, Anxiety $F = 114.59$. Depression Cohen's d effect size 0.23, mean score for women with disabilities 4.1 out of 10, for men 3.7. Anxiety Cohen's d effect size 0.40, mean score for women with disabilities 5.6 out of 10, for men 4.5. Depression Cohen's d effect size 0.22, mean score 3.9 for women without disabilities, 3.4 for men without disabilities. Anxiety Cohen's d effect size 0.47, mean score 5.4 for women without disabilities, 4.3 for men without disabilities.

88 ANOVA, $p < 0.01$, $N = 6,421$. $F = 10.14$. Cohen's d effect size between persons with disabilities and persons without disabilities in frontline areas is 0.27, between persons with disabilities in frontline areas and in frontline proximal areas is 0.48, and between persons with disabilities in frontline areas and rear areas is 0.20.

89 ANOVA, $p < 0.01$, $N = 6,421$. $F = 6.76$. Cohen's d effect size between persons with disabilities in frontline areas and those without disabilities is 0.36, between persons with disabilities in frontline and frontline proximal areas is 0.47, and between frontline and rear areas is 0.52.

◆ **Figure 14:** Proportion of responses for anxious (first two items) and depressive tendencies, 2023. Respondents were asked what best describes their experience over the last two weeks. Sample sizes: persons with disabilities rear – 591, frontline proximity – 388, frontline full exposure – 77; persons without disabilities rear – 4,177, frontline proximity – 931, frontline full exposure – 257.



Exposure to war and other adversities

Persons with disabilities report lower levels of perceived Personal security⁹⁰ than persons without disabilities. Personal security is the lowest in women with disabilities, compared both to men with disabilities and women without disabilities⁹¹. Just 13% of women with disabilities feel very safe from violence in their daily life, compared to 20% of women without disabilities and 19% of men with disabilities (Figure 17). Less than one in ten (9%) women with disabilities feel safe alone in the street at night, compared to 19% of men with disabilities, 14% of women and 28% of men without disabilities (Figure 17). Persons with disabilities in general feel less confident that the police can protect them; this confidence is felt strongly by 8% of women with disabilities and 9% of men with disabilities, compared to 12% and 14% of the general population (Figure 17).

Persons with disabilities living in frontline areas have low levels of Trust in the police; just 26% trust the police somewhat, and 0% trust them fully, compared to persons without disabilities in these locations, for which figures are 41% and 3%, respectively. Irrespective of disability status, respondents in frontline areas generally have lower Trust in local institutions than those living further from the frontline.

Persons with disabilities in frontline areas have slightly higher levels of personal exposure to physical assault (13%) and have a higher likelihood of having been robbed (20%), compared to persons without disabilities in frontline areas (4% and 12%, respectively) and compared to persons with disabilities further from the frontline. In general, respondents in frontline areas have higher levels of personal exposure to domestic abuse; 14% of persons with disabilities in frontline areas have experienced verbal abuse, compared to 15% of persons without disabilities, and 17% have experienced physical abuse, compared to 13% of persons without disabilities. These figures drop to between 7% and 9% experiencing verbal abuse and 4% to 5% experiencing physical abuse in locations further from the frontline. As previously noted, (see Marginalisation section), both the 2021 SCORE report⁹² and the current findings identified a positive link between Marginalisation and Exposure to domestic abuse.

Persons with disabilities have experienced slightly higher levels of personally hearing or seeing actual fighting or shelling, reported by 24%, compared to 19% of persons without disabilities. Men with disabilities report the highest levels of physical injury due to the war, compared to both women with disabilities and men without disabilities⁹³. Further, 7% of men with disabilities say they have personally suffered physical injury due to the war, compared to 3% of men without disabilities, 1% of women with disabilities and 2% of women without disabilities. Young persons with disabilities also report higher levels of physical injury due to war, reported by 11%, compared to 3% of young persons without disabilities. Young persons with disabilities are more likely to report that they have witnessed someone being killed (9%) compared to young persons without disabilities (3%), and compared to older persons with disabilities (less than 3%).

There is a slightly higher percentage of persons with disabilities who have personally been exposed to war in Kharkiv and Mykolaiv oblasts, in which 23% and 26% of the sample are persons with disabilities with personal exposure to war (compared to 5% at the national level for persons with and without disabilities). Persons with disabilities with personal exposure to war report the highest usage of humanitarian aid⁹⁴.

90 ANOVA, $p < 0.01$, $N = 6,421$. $F = 27.77$. Mean score 5.5 for persons without disabilities, 5.1 for persons with disabilities.

91 ANOVA, $p < 0.01$, $N = 6,421$. $F = 52.24$. Cohen's d between women with disabilities and men with disabilities is 0.33, between women with disabilities and women without disabilities is 0.22.

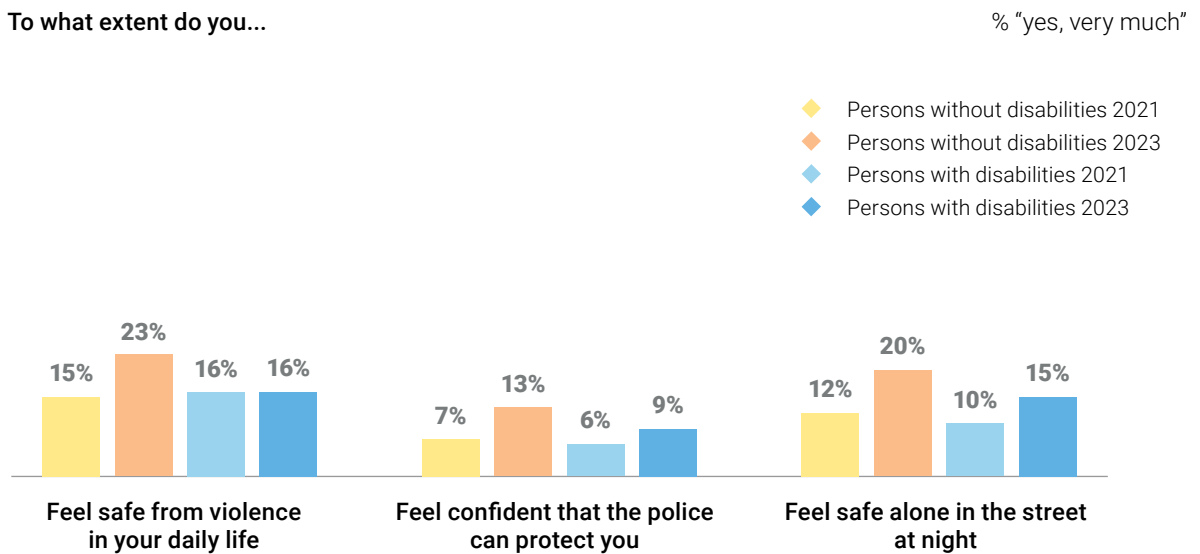
92 UNDP, SeeD. 2021. "Empowering Persons with Disabilities in Eastern Ukraine".

93 ANOVA, $p < 0.01$, $N = 6,421$. $F = 23.98$. Cohen's d effect size between men with disabilities and women with disabilities is 0.31, between men with disabilities and men without disabilities is 0.23.

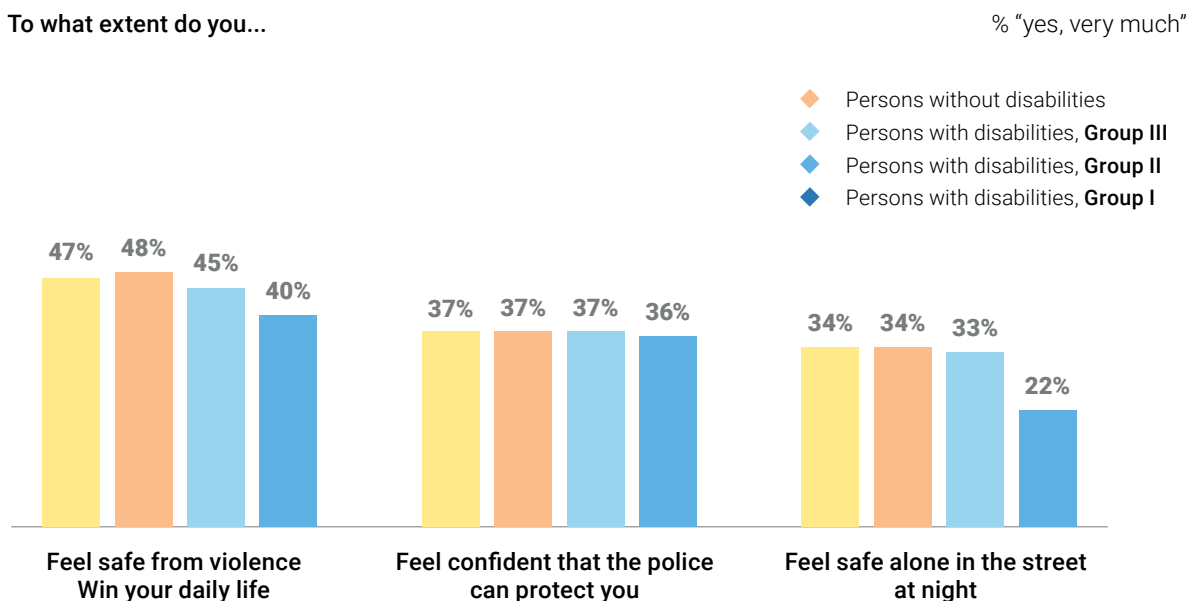
94 ANOVA, $p < 0.01$, $F = 255.13$. Mean score 5.3 for persons with disabilities exposed to war, compared to 3.4 for persons without disabilities exposed to war, 2.9 for persons with disabilities not exposed to war, and 1.6 for persons without disabilities not exposed to war.

Almost one quarter (24%) of persons with disabilities who have personally been exposed to war use humanitarian aid frequently, and 31% use humanitarian aid occasionally. In contrast, of persons without disabilities who have personally been exposed to war, 13% use humanitarian aid frequently and 21% use it occasionally.

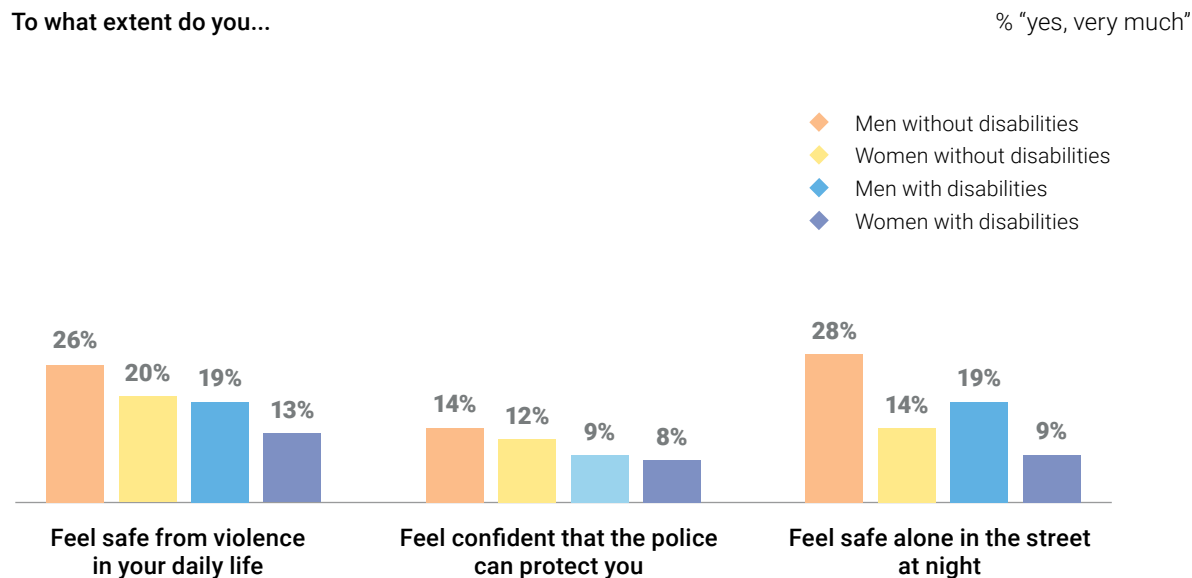
◆ **Figure 15:** Proportion of responses for Personal security by year and disability status. Respondents were asked to what extent they feel each item. Safety from violence in daily life specifically excludes war. Sample sizes: persons with disabilities 2023 – 1,056 and 2021 – 683; persons without disabilities 2023 – 5,365 and 2021 – 11,799.



◆ **Figure 16:** Proportion of responses for Personal security by disability group, 2023. Respondents were asked to what extent they feel each item. Safety from violence in daily life specifically excludes war. Sample sizes: Group I – 73, Group II – 342, Group III – 641, persons without disabilities – 5,365.



◆ **Figure 17:** Proportion of responses for Personal security by disability status and gender, 2023. Respondents were asked to what extent they feel each item. Safety from violence in daily life specifically excludes war. Sample sizes: men with disabilities – 550, women with disabilities – 506; men without disabilities – 2,478, women without disabilities – 2,887.



Recommendations

Improving Accessibility

Findings: Persons with disabilities report lower provision of basic schooling and higher education

- Recommendations:**
- Ensure compliance with Article 24 of CRPD⁹⁵ with regards to education, making inclusive education available at all levels including tertiary, vocational and adult education, safeguarding persons with disabilities right to receive required support and the employment and training of teachers with disabilities as set by the CRPD.
 - Encourage Ukrainian partnerships with International Organisations specialised in inclusive education such as the European Agency for Special Needs and Inclusive Education and the Alliance for Inclusive Education.
 - Ensure schools address the academic, social and life skills of each student, encouraging individualised education plans for students with disabilities.

Findings: Persons with disabilities report less efficient provision of justice and administrative services, with persons with Group 1 disability status reporting the lowest efficiency of justice services

- Recommendations:**
- Ensure government buildings are accessible for all and the infrastructure of these structures are maintained.
 - Ensure legal and bureaucratic information on rights and freedoms are readily available in accessible formats and easy language, supporting awareness raising campaigns on the rights of persons with disabilities and on the availability of free legal aid for persons with disabilities.
 - Ensure the practitioners within the free legal aid system and administrative services are equipped to aide persons with disabilities (availability of brochures in braille, availability of sign language translators, etc.).
 - Support law enforcement, security service providers, technical and non-technical court staff, to increase awareness around the rights of women and men with disabilities, and the specific measures that should be applied to accommodate their needs.

⁹⁵ UN Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD), *General comment No. 4 (2016), Article 24: Right to inclusive education*, 2 September 2016, CRPD/C/GC/4, available at: <https://www.refworld.org/docid/57c977e34.html> [accessed 11 January 2024]

Findings: Persons with disabilities report less effective provision of healthcare, with respondents who live in frontline full exposure areas reporting less efficiency of healthcare than those living in rear locations

- Recommendations:**
- Ensure the continuation and efficiency of medical aid (trauma, primary and secondary care) in frontline full exposure areas.
 - Deploy training programmes for generalist healthcare workers and nurses on providing healthcare to persons with disabilities.
 - Include persons with disabilities in decision-making regarding healthcare provision, including by encouraging independent monitoring reports and further research on the quality of healthcare provision for persons with disabilities. Support the meaningful participation of persons with disabilities in monitoring the efficiency of healthcare provision.
 - Set up initiatives by the international community and civil society to support the accessibility standards of healthcare in frontline areas, such as mobile doctors who can provide healthcare on demand for those who cannot easily access medical facilities.

Finding: Persons with disabilities report lower efficiency of public transport with persons with Group 1 disability status reporting the lowest levels of efficiency

- Recommendations:**
- Support innovative inclusivity solutions specialising in urban infrastructure such as the Dostupno.UA Map⁹⁶.
 - Involve disability experts in decision making for urban planning and integrated transport.

Findings: Respondents with disabilities in rural areas report the lowest availability of psychosocial counselling

- Recommendations:**
- Introduce systemic changes to the ways in which the mental wellbeing of persons with disabilities is addressed, including specialised assistance to persons with disabilities and their families or care providers.
 - Provide efficient and specialised mental health and psychosocial support services to persons with disabilities accompanied by awareness raising campaigns on the availability of these services.
 - Deploy training programmes for care givers and staff in institutions caring for persons with disabilities on the psychological wellbeing of persons with disabilities.

Findings: Persons with disabilities are less likely to report that bomb shelters and equipped facilities are sufficient in their local areas

- Recommendations:**
- Improve the accessibility of apps with the inclusion of voice search features such as the Air Raid Alert Map of Ukraine⁹⁷ and Kyiv Digital⁹⁸ which allows users to see a map of bomb shelters and report if the shelters are closed or inaccessible nationwide.
 - Continue to support the opening of safe shelters⁹⁹ designed to accommodate persons with disabilities.
-

Political Empowerment

Finding: Persons with disabilities score lower in Political security and are less likely to perceive that Ukrainian authorities care. Women with disabilities report the lowest levels of trust in local authorities and the lowest Sense of agency

- Recommendations:**
- Develop capacity building programmes targeting persons with disabilities, especially women, reinforcing their right to be involved in political parties and form political platforms.
 - Affirmative action in parliaments to counteract the discrimination and disadvantages that persons with disabilities face with regards to their direct involvement in political decision making.
 - Require political parties to carry out accessibility assessments of their campaigns, activities and internal structures.
 - Develop sensitisation programmes for government officials and local leaders on how to meaningfully interact with and meet the needs of persons with disabilities.
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97 alerts.in.ua/en

98 The Innovation in Politics Institute. (n.d.). *KYIV DIGITAL – PUBLIC SERVICES AND E-DEMOCRACY IN ONE APP.*

99 Reliefweb. (2023). *Restored bomb shelter in Zaporizhzhia opens with EU and UNDP support* [EN/UK] – Ukraine | ReliefWeb.

Social Empowerment

Findings: Persons with disabilities report high levels of marginalisation due to their health status. Increased Marginalisation is linked to increased tendencies for depression and Aggression, and to higher exposure to domestic abuse

- Recommendations:**
- Deploy anti-discrimination awareness raising media campaigns.
 - Collaborate with media, which can play a role in increasing the visibility of persons with disabilities by focusing on portrayals of persons with disabilities as active and present in Ukrainian society.
 - Strengthen and enforce anti-discrimination legislations in all areas of life including education, employment, culture and leisure.
 - Increase support for community-based support initiatives and inclusive community spaces that combat isolation through creation of venues for communication and interaction.

Economic Empowerment

Finding: Persons with disabilities report higher household Subjective poverty and face consistent barriers in Employment opportunities

- Recommendations:**
- Enforce employment quotas in the public sector for persons with disabilities.
 - Introduce incentives and support for businesses hiring persons with disabilities.
 - Support initiatives which bridge businesses with employees with disabilities, such as employment agencies, along with campaigns that improve visibility on the availability of such services.
 - Support capacity development for employers and specifically human resources departments on reasonable accommodations to be made in the workplace and during hiring processes, to ensure the full enjoyment of economic rights for persons with disabilities.

