

Empowering Persons with Disabilities in Eastern Ukraine



CONTENTS

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS.....	3
ABOUT THE SCORE.....	4
ABOUT THE PARTNERS.....	4
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY	6
ACRONYMS	7
INTRODUCTION.....	8
METHODOLOGY	14
RESULTS AND DISCUSSION.....	18
MARGINALISATION	19
MENTAL WELLBEING	23
ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT.....	27
SOCIAL AND CIVIC EMPOWERMENT	35
KEY FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS	44
MARGINALISATION	44
MENTAL WELLBEING	46
ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT	47
SOCIAL AND CIVIC EMPOWERMENT	49
GLOSSARY	51
REFERENCES	55
ANNEX	58

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Authors

Marian Machlouzarides

The author and research team express their appreciation to colleagues at UNDP Ukraine and SeeD who contributed to the research design and analysis of the present report. Special thanks are extended to (in alphabetical order)

Nestor Cheryba
Ilke Dagli-Hustings
Andrii Dryga
Ildar Gazizullin
Alexander Guest
Olena Ivanova
Hanna Manoilenko
Orestis Panayiotou
Christoforos Pissarides
Nina Potarska
Nadiia Novosolova
Darina Solodova
Anton Tyshkovskyi

Cover photo

Andrei Krepkikh / UNDP in Ukraine

ABOUT THE SCORE

The Social Cohesion and Reconciliation Index (SCORE) for eastern Ukraine is a joint initiative funded by USAID to support the Democratic Governance in the East program (DG East) and implemented by the Centre for Sustainable Peace and Democratic Development (SeeD) in partnership with the United Nations Recovery and Peacebuilding Programme (UN RPP).

The aim of the SCORE Index is to assist national and international stakeholders in their peacebuilding efforts, providing an evidence base for developing policies and programs that strengthen national unity and social cohesion, as well as for monitoring the progress of their implementation.

The SCORE Index in Ukraine is implemented on an annual basis, and findings presented in this report are based on 19,292 face-to-face interviews conducted across Ukraine between January and May 2021, alongside 638 CATI interviews in the non-government-controlled areas.

The SCORE Index uses a mixed-methods participatory research approach, including multi-level stakeholder and expert consultations to design and calibrate indicators and develop relevant conceptual methods that can answer the context-specific research objectives. The SCORE Index was developed in Cyprus through the joint efforts of SeeD and UNDP's Action for Cooperation and Trust programme (UNDP-ACT), with USAID funding. Among other countries, it has been implemented in Afghanistan, Bosnia Herzegovina, Côte d'Ivoire, and Liberia.

ABOUT THE PARTNERS

The Centre for Sustainable Peace and Democratic Development (SeeD) works with international development organisations, governments, and civil society to design and implement people-centred and evidence-based strategies for promoting peaceful, inclusive, and resilient societies. Through its global project portfolio, SeeD provides social transformation policy recommendations that are rooted in citizen engagement strategies and an empirical understanding of the behaviours of individuals, groups, and communities. SeeD's approach focusses on understanding the root causes of societal challenges by developing an evidence-based theory of change which is empirically tested using the SCORE Index.

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 to eliminate

poverty, develop people's capacity, achieve equitable results, sustain the environment, and advance democratic governance.

To respond to the negative impacts of the Russian military invasion of Ukraine, the UNDP has designed a new comprehensive Resilience Building and Recovery (RBR) Programme. The RBR is intended to provide an umbrella for nexus work across the country and will be continually updated to respond to the scope and scale of needs, as well as emerging realities relating to UN access and the prevailing security environment, and possible future scenarios. The overall objective of the Programme is to preserve development gains in Ukraine as fully as possible, mitigating risks of descent into protracted crisis, embedding activities for recovery from the onset of the humanitarian effort, and facilitating a swift return to development pathways and processes for national attainment of the SDGs. The RBR is based on the experiences, methodologies, partnerships, and lessons learned from implementing other UNDP-led actions, including a comprehensive UN Recovery and Peacebuilding Programme (UN RPP).

USAID has partnered with Ukraine since 1992, providing more than US\$3 billion in assistance. USAID's current strategic priorities include strengthening democracy and good governance, promoting economic development and energy security, improving healthcare systems, and mitigating the effects of the conflict in the east.

USAID's DG East program is a five-year activity to improve trust and confidence between citizens and government in eastern Ukraine, building opportunities for the region to lead Ukraine's democratic transformation. DG East aims to strengthen the connection and trust between citizens and their government in eastern Ukraine by promoting good governance and inclusive civic identity, increasing interaction between citizens and civil society, and increasing collaboration between government and citizens and citizen participation in community development and local decision-making.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Disclaimer: This analytical report was prepared in November 2021 using data collected between January and May 2021, prior to Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine in February 2022. The analyses presented in this report remain relevant in understanding the rapidly changing situation in Ukraine. This is particularly pertinent, given that before the full-scale war, in February 2022, OCHA estimated that 23% of people in need were with disability – a figure expected to increase following the full-scale invasion – classifying this group as one of those most in need of humanitarian assistance even before the country-wide invasion (1).

Ukraine has been a signatory to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities since 2008, yet monitors and civil society consistently point to the absence of a rights-based approach to disability, ultimately preventing persons with disabilities from fully exercising their rights. The barriers obstructing persons with disabilities have been compounded in the context of the ongoing conflict in eastern Ukraine, alongside the COVID-19 pandemic, including on some of the most vulnerable groups – women and older persons with disabilities. The present study aims to provide quantitative evidence of the current realities of persons with disabilities in the oblasts of Donetsk, Luhansk and Zaporizhzhia, and presents actionable recommendations by which the state, international donors and civil society can foster an enabling environment for their continued empowerment. The results and recommendations were validated in two focus group discussions with persons with disabilities and representatives from organisations working with them. In line with previous research, SCORE results showed that persons with disabilities in Donetsk, Luhansk and Zaporizhzhia oblasts experience higher levels of marginalisation based on their health status, income and education level when compared to the comparable sample of those without disability status. Persons with disabilities report lower mental wellbeing, which is exacerbated in women with disabilities. The social, civic and economic empowerment of persons with disabilities are all linked to their mental and physical wellbeing. While limitations to the economic empowerment of persons with disabilities arise due to fewer employment opportunities, the deficit in civic activity, especially pronounced in youth with disabilities, is influenced by their access to education and their social inclusion. Nevertheless, youth with disabilities are passionate and optimistic about making a change in Ukraine, indicating that if the means are made available, far-reaching benefits could be reaped from their inclusion and empowerment. Actors seeking to solidify the empowerment of persons with disabilities should focus on combating intersectional discrimination, mainstreaming access to psychosocial support that is sensitive to gender and sociodemographic characteristics, and strengthening equal and inclusive education and employment opportunities for persons with disabilities.

ACRONYMS

CEDAW	Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women
CRPD	Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities
GCA	Government controlled areas
NGCA	Non-government controlled areas
PWD	Persons with disabilities
SCORE	Social Cohesion and Reconciliation Index
SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals

INTRODUCTION

According to the State Statistics Service of Ukraine, 2,703,006 persons with disabilities were registered in Ukraine as of 1st January 2020, comprised of 2,539,120 adults (2). Civil society representatives acknowledge that this figure is likely higher in reality, due to the barriers to registration that persons with disabilities may face, including financial obstacles in passing medical examinations and evaluations of sociomedical commissions, a lack of identity documents, and homelessness (3).

Although gender disaggregated statistics are scarce (4), existing evidence points to issues that disproportionately affect women and girls with disabilities, who are often subjected to multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination, particularly with regard to equal access to education, economic opportunities, social interaction, justice and equal recognition before the law (5,6). Of the 136,300 persons who registered their disability for the first time in 2019, 44 per cent were women (3), and by 2017 there were 160,000 single mothers with children with disabilities in Ukraine (7). Data indicates that just one third of women with disabilities of working age have a job, 65% visit a doctor less than once a year, and 76% have no access to a gynaecologist (5).

Data from eastern Ukraine has also revealed that 41 % of persons aged 60 years and over reported at least one significant or total disability based on the Washington Group Questionnaire¹, although only 4.8% of those had official disability status (8). This demonstrates the increased and overlapping vulnerabilities of older persons with disabilities, who are also more likely to suffer from chronic diseases, financial constraints and, particularly in eastern Ukraine, exposure to conflict, itself leading to intersectional discrimination and a general deterioration of services (3,9).

1 <https://www.washingtongroup-disability.com/question-sets/>

Ukraine has been a signatory to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD (10)) since 2009, which sets out state obligations to ensure that persons with disabilities can enjoy human rights on an equal basis with others (3), commitments reflected, in part, in Ukrainian legislation². Nevertheless, civil society, independent monitors, and the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (4,11,12) continue to stress their concerns about the absence of a human rights based approach to disability. In addition, both the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (11) and the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW (13)), emphasise the lack of policies and measures to safeguard the rights of women and girls with disabilities, and to protect them from intersecting forms of discrimination, violence and abuse (3).

Civil society and international monitors continue to point to the lack of legal remedies for persons with disabilities who face discrimination and to the absence of measures taken to raise awareness on the rights of persons with disabilities (4,11). Emphasis is also placed on the violation of the rights of children with disabilities and the absence of a systemic approach to preserve these rights, alongside the deprivation of persons with disabilities' equal recognition before the law (4). Advocates continue to point to the absence of community-based supported living (3,4), and, although progress has been made in strengthening inclusive education (14), a lack of accessible information around this, as well as a general deficit of information in formats that are accessible to persons with disabilities (4,11) a hurdle recognised in the Government of Ukraine's recent National Strategy for Barrier-Free Environment in Ukraine until 2030³ (15).

The above are also critical given 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 employ-

2 Legislation includes [the Protection of Persons with Disabilities, the Law on Rehabilitation of Persons with Disabilities, the Law on State Social Assistance to Persons with Disabilities from Childhood and Children with Disabilities](#)

3 The strategy further recognises that citizens of Ukraine do not currently have equal access to government and municipal websites, applications and electronic services, and that persons with visual, hearing and intellectual disabilities experience the biggest hurdles accessing socially important information, and that there is an absence of proper accessibility testing of these services.

ment (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) (3).

Compounding the realities introduced previously, monitors highlight that COVID-19 has further impacted persons with disabilities, noting a lack of access to healthcare⁴, an increase in feelings of isolation and social exclusion, increased exposure to domestic violence, lower employment rates, and, in certain cases, difficulties in obtaining disability allowances⁵ (3).

Recent reports continue to echo that persons with disabilities in Ukraine are unable to fully exercise their rights, particularly regarding education, healthcare, employment, transport, unimpeded access to housing, utility services and public facilities, access to information and electoral rights (12). Meanwhile, critics and human rights advocates repeatedly argue that even the terminology⁶ of the state when referring to persons with disabilities is inconsistent with the CRPD (11), enforcing the medical approach to disability, and serving to increase existing physical obstacles, stereotyping and segregation of persons with disabilities (16).

Persons with disabilities in Ukraine face specific barriers to their economic integration, including discrimination during hiring, worse pay or working conditions, and obstruction of career progression (17). Research also demonstrates that opportunities for persons with disabilities to participate equally in society, to realise their needs and abilities, and to be involved equally in public life also impact their competitiveness in the labour market (18). Civil society reiterates that there has been no progress in developing a hiring system to employ persons with disabilities in the public sector or to improve mechanisms which encourage the hiring of persons with disabilities in the open labour market, as well as a general absence of supported employment and workplace support for persons with disabilities (4). The Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities identifies a lack of employment opportunities for persons with disabilities and an absence of policies or programs for supported employment (11), existing against the backdrop of an employment quota for persons with disabilities which is not adequately enforced (11,19). Youth with disabilities have identified employment as

4 Supply constraints limiting access to life-saving medication have reportedly led to the death of five persons with disabilities, including children, during the COVID-19 pandemic (3).

5 The disability allowance is already lower than the minimum subsistence level calculated by the Ministry of Social Policy, 2499 UAH compared to 3846 UAH, respectively (3).

6 Policy and legal documents of the Government of Ukraine include references such as “children who require correction of physical and/or intellectual development”, “invalids” or “persons with limited abilities”, while lacking definitions for “inclusive education”, “universal design”, “reasonable accommodation” and other terms from the CRPD (4,11).

the primary factor most important for their role in society, paving the way for them to contribute to society effectively and to be independent (20). Meanwhile, evidence shows that the employment of persons with disabilities is just as important for the individuals themselves as it is for the state, increasing the living standards of persons with disabilities, their independence, and their possibilities for self-realisation (21).

The participation of persons with disabilities “in political and public life on an equal basis with others” (10) is widely recognised as a fundamental human right (22), and CRPD State Parties are obliged to actively involve representative organisations of persons with disabilities in all decisions that concern them (5). Yet, even ballots and election materials remain inaccessible to certain persons with disabilities in Ukraine (11,23), and civil society identifies that much remains in order to implement the laws which prohibit the discrimination on the basis of disability when it comes to participating in public life (16). Recent reports also indicate that persons with disabilities and the organisations representing them were not consistently consulted or involved in decision-making processes relevant to COVID-19 measures at national, regional or local levels, preventing disability-related concerns from being taken into account (3).

The social empowerment of persons with disabilities is further encompassed in the provision of the CRPD referring to “respect for the home and family” (10), recognising that families should not be separated based on the disability of the child or parent (24), and that persons with disabilities have the right to “live in the community with choices equal to others” (10,24). Reports continuously indicate that these rights are denied when families face pressure to place their children with disabilities in institutions (11,24). In addition to the obstacles that children with disabilities face when they cannot access early intervention strategies and inclusive education (4,11,20), children growing up in institutions are at risk of developmental delays, increased psychological and mental health difficulties, involvement in criminal behaviour, life-long institutionalisation, and suicide (25), further highlighting the importance of their social empowerment and inclusion.

On 14th of April 2021, the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine adopted the National Strategy for Barrier-Free Environment in Ukraine until 2030, which understands accessibility as a fundamental right of all people, setting it as a priority to Ukraine’s overall strategic course (15). The strategy aims to create a barrier-free environment for all groups of people, ensuring equal opportunities for everyone to exercise their rights and to receive services equally, by integrating physical, informational, digital, social and civic, economic and educational accessibility into all areas of public policy (15).

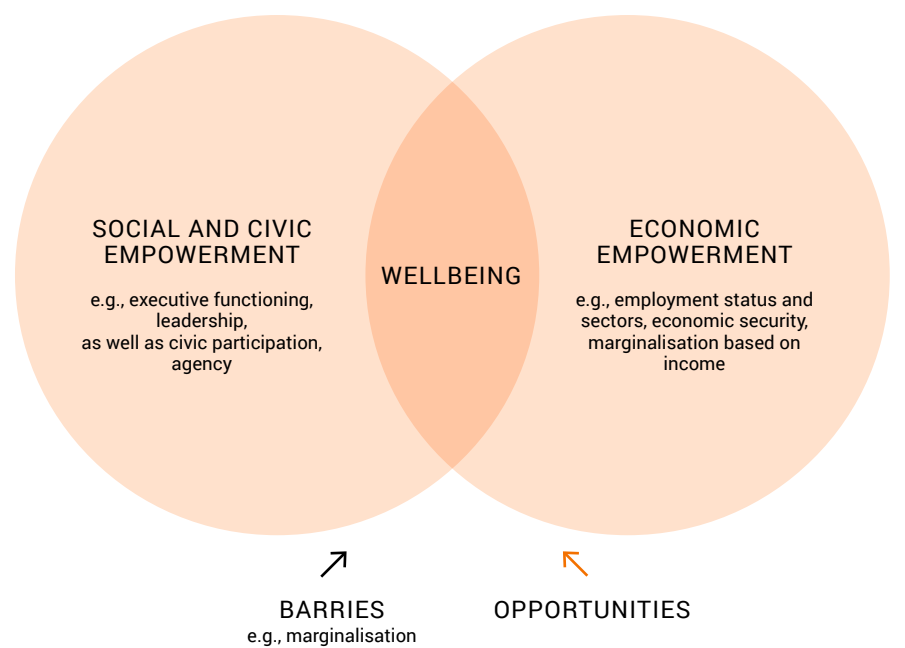
The existing literature on the rights and realities of persons with disabilities in Ukraine indicates a continued need to emphasise the pathways for realising the economic, social and civic empowerment of persons with disabilities. Based on this literature and on the preliminary results of this research, a conceptual framework was developed to provide an overarching understanding of the challenges and opportunities which arise and impact the economic, social and civic empowerment and equal participation of persons with disabilities (Figure 1). The SCORE indicators are uniquely placed to monitor this framework and understand the relationship between each of these dimensions.

Using quantitative data from the SCORE, the present report follows the conceptualisation above, and aims to provide evidence of the current realities of persons with disabilities in the oblasts of Donetsk, Luhansk and Zaporizhzhia, uncovering the mechanisms through which the state and other stakeholders can foster an enabling environment for their continued empowerment through policy and programme design.

Beginning with a situational overview of respondents’ perceptions of their inclusion and their self-reported health status and wellbeing, the analysis moves on to illustrate tendencies of economic empowerment, before concluding with pathways to the social and civic empowerment of persons with disabilities. Where applicable, unique characteristics of persons with disabilities are contrasted to respondents without disability status. Gender and age-specific observations are highlighted throughout, as are trends over time in Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts between 2019 and 2021.

FIGURE 1

Conceptual representation of interlinks between wellbeing, social, civic and economic empowerment of persons with disabilities.



The key findings from the report were independently validated by two consultative groups. Based on these consultations, the report concludes with evidence-based actionable recommendations for stakeholders at different levels, arising as a result of the key analysis findings.

The research addresses these topics by answering the following research questions:

- Do persons with disabilities in Ukraine face specific challenges when compared to the those without disability status? Are these influenced by the demographic profile of persons with disabilities, and do these vary between disability group categories?
- Does marginalisation based on health status or sociodemographic characteristics form a barrier to the economic and civic empowerment of persons with disabilities? How does marginalisation interact with other adversities that persons with disabilities may face? What are possible solutions to addressing these challenges?
- What challenges do persons with disabilities face with respect to their mental wellbeing? How can the mental wellbeing of persons with disabilities be supported?
- How does mental wellbeing pave the way to more included and empowered persons with disabilities?
- What are the barriers limiting persons with disabilities' economic empowerment?
- What barriers do persons with disabilities face in terms of their social and civic participation? How can these be overcome?
- Is there an association between the social isolation of persons with disabilities and their exclusion from civic life?

METHODOLOGY

The data analysed in this report was part of a larger effort of quantitative survey data collection for the Ukraine SCORE 2021. The SCORE comprised face-to-face interviews with a nationally representative sample of 12,482 citizens, alongside additional sampling of major urban centres across Ukraine (N = 3,600), persons with disabilities (N = 325), ATO veterans (N = 519), youth⁷ (N = 1,000), an extended sample of respondents living along the contact line of government-controlled Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts (N = 1,010), as well as computer-assisted telephone interviews with 638 respondents in Donetsk and Luhansk NGCA. Respondents were selected using stratified random sampling unless otherwise stated in the report methodology.

The present report is based on data from 8,786 citizens in Donetsk, Luhansk and Zaporizhzhia oblasts, collected between January and May 2021, and consisting of 882 persons with disabilities and 7,904 people who did not have any disability status at the time of sampling.

Of persons with disabilities, 319 were selected using snowball selection, and the remaining 563 were selected from the random sampling of the nationally representative data collection. Of these interviews, 57% were back-checked for quality control, and the average duration of interviews was 50 minutes. The report also refers to data collected in Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts in 2019, in which the sample of 603 persons with disabilities was formed from the respondents randomly identified during the main survey (26).

7 In the present report, youth refers to respondents aged between 18 to 35, middle age refers to those between 36 and 59, and older respondents are those over the age of 60.

8 Please see Glossary for detailed summary of disability group assignment. In brief, Group I status is assigned in cases of stable, severe functional impairment leading to significant restriction of life activity, inability to self-service and need for constant external supervision, care or assistance. Group II status is assigned in cases of stable, functional impairment of expressed severity leading to significant restriction of life activity, but with kept ability to self-servicing and without need for constant external supervision, care or assistance. Group III status is assigned in cases of stable, functional impairment of moderate severity leading to moderately expressed restriction of life activity, including his/her workability so as social assistance and social protection are required (30,31).

The 882 persons with disabilities in the present report are distributed across the three disability groups⁸ in Ukraine (Table 1) in line with the expected distribution according to the State Statistics Service (27) in the oblasts of Donetsk, Luhansk and Zaporizhzhia. Both the sample of persons with disabilities and the comparative sample follow other demographic distributions in line with data from the State Statistics Service (Table 2). The proportion of persons with disabilities detected at national level in the random sampling for SCORE 2021 is also in line with national estimates from the state statistics service (Table 3).

TABLE 1

Distribution by Disability Category in Donetsk, Luhansk and Zaporizhzhia Oblasts, Aged Over 18.

	SCORE 2021		State Statistics Service	
	%	N	%	N
Disability Group I	13	114	9	25959
Disability Group II	31	276	31	94861
Disability Group III	53	464	60	181590
DK/NR	3	28	—	—
Total		882		302410

TABLE 2

Demographic Distribution of Donetsk, Luhansk and Zaporizhzhia Oblasts in Present Sample and According to State Statistics Service

	SCORE 2021, People with Disabilities		SCORE 2021, People without Disability Status		State Statistics Service, General Population	
	%	N	%	N	%	N
Male	48	424	44	3446	46	3587376
Female	52	458	56	4458	54	4282470
18–35	16	138	27	2114	24	1613898
36–59	44	387	42	3354	42	2812033
60+	41	357	31	2436	35	2349428
Urban	88	777	89	7002	87	6841598
Rural	12	105	11	902	13	1028248
Donetsk	50	443	55	4324	52	160749
Luhansk	31	271	28	2248	27	49475
Zaporizhzhia	19	168	17	1332	21	108545

TABLE 3

Comparison of percentage of persons with disabilities in SCORE random sampling and State Statistics Service estimates, %

	SCORE 2021 Representative Sample	State Statistics Service
Ukraine total	6	6
Vinnytsya	12	8
Volyn	3	8
Dnipropetrovsk	7	5
Donetsk	7	4
Zhytomyr	9	9
Zakarpattia	4	6
Zaporizhzhya	5	6
Ivano-Frankivsk	2	7
Kyiv	3	7
Kirovohrad	2	6
Luhansk	7	2
Lviv	3	8
Mykolayiv	4	6
Odesa	5	6
Poltava	6	7
Rivne	7	6
Sumy	3	5
Ternopil	3	6
Kharkiv	5	6
Kherson	7	5
Khmelnyskiy	8	11
Cherkasy	9	10
Chernivtsi	3	6
Chernihiv	7	8
Kyiv City	5	5

In the present report, statistical significance of the change in mean indicator scores of persons with disabilities in Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts between 2019 and 2021 was determined using ANCOVA, at significance level of $p < 0.05$ and controlled for age. Differences in mean indicator scores for persons with disabilities in all three oblasts compared to people with no disability status were also tested for statistical significance using ANCOVA, at significance level of $p < 0.05$ and controlled for age. Significant differences between intersecting groups, e.g., age groups and disability status or gender and disability status, were determined using ANOVA, with $F > 20$ or Cohen's D effect size above medium when comparing two groups, $p < 0.05$.

Correlation analyses are capped at significance level $p < 0.01$ and Pearson Correlation Coefficient (R) $\geq \pm 0.2$, controlled for age. A linear regression was conducted in SPSS to determine the drivers of sense of civic duty and of civic engagement in youth with disabilities. The model was run on disaggregated age groups (18 to 35, 36 to 59, over 60) in both persons with disabilities and respondents without disability status in Donetsk, Luhansk and Zaporizhzhia oblasts. Model fit indices and regression coefficients can be found in the Annex.

The results and recommendations in this report were validated in two focus group discussions with persons with disabilities, members of their representative organisations, and key stakeholders working with persons with disabilities in Ukraine. The discussion with persons with disabilities included two men and three women between the ages of 42 and 61 from urban and rural settlements in the three oblasts. The discussion with key stakeholders included three civil society representatives from Zaporizhzhia oblast, one government representative from Donetsk oblast and one from Luhansk oblast⁹.

9 The organisations were as follows: Regional Congress of Persons with Disabilities of Zaporizhzhia, Zaporizhzhia, Zaporizhzhia; Charitable Foundation "Hope of the Child", Orikhiv, Zaporizhzhia; "Early Intervention", Zaporizhzhia, Zaporizhzhia; Lyman Center for Comprehensive Rehabilitation of Children with Disabilities, Lyman, Donetsk; Department of Social Protection of Luhansk Regional Council, Sievierodonetsk, Luhansk.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Overall results showed that persons with disabilities in Donetsk, Luhansk and Zaporizhzhia oblasts experience higher levels of marginalisation due to their health status (highest in those with disability status Group I), income and education level when compared to those without disability status. Persons with disabilities report lower levels of mental wellbeing, a composite measure of the absence of depression and anxiety. Depression and anxiety are higher in persons with disabilities. At the intersection of disability and gender, women with disabilities had the highest scores in depression and anxiety. The social, civic and economic empowerment of persons with disabilities are all linked to their mental and physical wellbeing. While limitations to the economic empowerment of persons with disabilities arise due to fewer employment opportunities, the deficit in civic activity, especially pronounced in youth with disabilities, is influenced by access to education and social inclusion. Persons with disabilities have lower levels of leadership, which influences their social and civic participation, and lower levels of executive functioning, which is distinctly low in women with disabilities. Persons with disabilities are less ready for dialogue with people from different groups, indicating an additional facet of their social isolation.

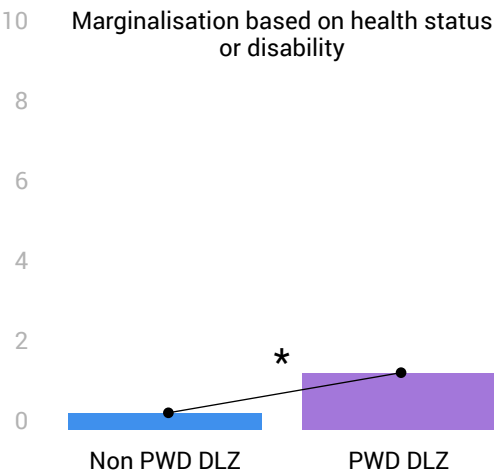
MARGINALISATION

One of the most striking differences between persons with disabilities and those without disability status was their increased experience of marginalisation, based on their health status, income and education level. The cooccurrence of marginalisation with domestic abuse, poor mental health and social isolation is also investigated in this section.

Persons with disabilities were found to have three-fold higher levels of marginalisation due to their health status or disability compared to respondents without disability status, independent of the effects of age (1.7 out of 10 compared to 0.4, Figure 2). This is exacerbated in respondents with Group I disability status, who have almost two-fold higher marginalisation due to health status compared to those in Group III (2.1 out of 10 compared to 1.1 out of 10¹⁰).

FIGURE 2

Mean score of marginalisation based on health status or disability, comparing persons with disabilities (PWD) and those without disability status (Non PWD) in Donetsk, Luhansk and Zaporizhzhia oblasts (DLZ). Asterisk () denotes a statistically significant difference between mean scores, as determined by ANCOVA, controlled for age, at significance level $p<0.01$ and $F>20$*



10 ANOVA with Cohen's D effect size medium between Group I and Groups II and III. Scores are 2.1 out of 10, 1.4 out of 10 and 1.1 out of 10, respectively. $p<0.01$.

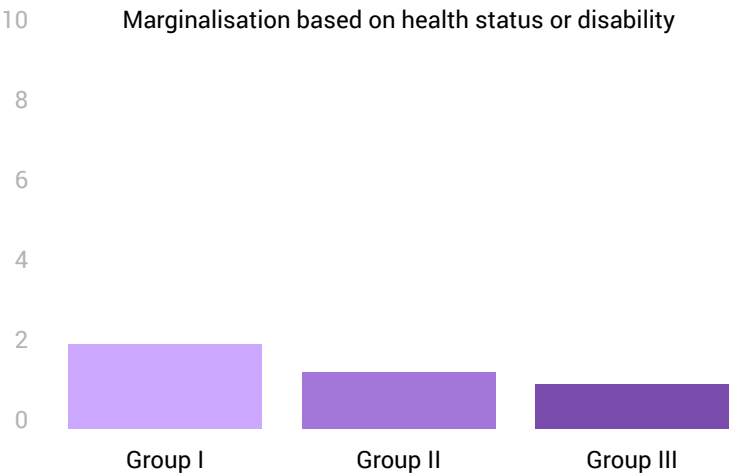
The focus group discussions revealed additional facets to the isolation of persons with disabilities, with a CSO respondent estimating that 9 in 10 persons with disabilities are excluded from society¹¹. Respondents noted that persons with disabilities in rural areas and small towns suffer the most from isolation, and pointed to a complete absence of centres for therapy and rehabilitation in rural areas, alongside a widespread lack of accessible parking, public transport, and accessibility ramps in public places. A separate panel study by SeeD, ACTED and IMPACT Initiatives between April and November 2021¹² found that the majority of experts from civil society, municipalities and local businesses surveyed in the cities of Mariupol (Donetsk Oblast), Berdyansk and Zaporizhzhia (Zaporizhzhia Oblast) rated the provision of disability-inclusive infrastructure as very inefficient or not very efficient.

“It is much easier to get services, education and work in the city. And this is a huge problem, because there are no sidewalks in rural areas, and the roads are all broken.”

— CSO representative

FIGURE 3

Mean score of marginalisation based on health status or disability, comparing persons with disabilities in Groups I, II, III. ANOVA at $p<0.01$, found differences of Cohen’s D effect size medium between Group I and Groups II and III.



Persons with disabilities also experience higher levels of marginalisation due to their income level, and due to their level of education (Table 4), the highest levels of which are observed in persons

11 FGD participant who was the head of an organisation of persons with disabilities.
12 The expert scoring panel was part of the project Support for Greater Resilience in the Sea of Azov Region (RASA), funded by the European Union’s Instrument contributing to Stability and Peace (IcSP) and implemented by SeeD together with ACTED and IMPACT Initiatives (IMPACT).





















with disabilities below the age of 59.¹³ This difference is especially evident when comparing youth with disabilities to those without disability status.¹⁴ Similar to findings from the SCORE data, focus group discussions also revealed that persons with disabilities perceive that they have among the lowest levels of support from the state.¹⁵

“...For example, a mother with a disabled child will rarely get a rehabilitation voucher, those with general illnesses will get them every 10 years, while [other groups] get a voucher annually.”

– CSO representative

TABLE 4

Percentage of respondents in Donetsk, Luhansk and Zaporizhzhia who have on at least one occasion experienced marginalisation based on the social characteristics listed. Asterisks () denote that there was a statistically significant difference between the mean scores of PWD and Non PWD, in that type of marginalisation, as determined by ANCOVA, controlled for age, at significance level $p < 0.01$, $F > 20$, %.*

You or your family have been marginalised due to the following “at least once”	PWD	Non PWD	
Health status or disability	 30	 9	*
Level of income	 20	 16	*
Level of education	 16	 13	*
Age	 15	 11	
Political opinions	 15	 14	
Native language	 14	 13	
Religious beliefs and opinions	 6	 6	
Nationality or ethnicity	 6	 6	
Gender	 5	 5	
Sexual orientation	 3	 4	

The unfair treatment of persons with disabilities is intertwined with the adversities experienced in their immediate environment and personal life. All forms of marginalisation experienced by

13 Scores out of 10: 1.3 for 18-35 year olds and 1.0 for 36-59 year olds in income-based marginalisation, 1.1 for 18-35 and 0.8 for 36-59 year olds in education-based marginalisation

14 Scores of 1.1 compared to 0.7 out of 10 for education-based, 1.3 compared to 0.8 for income-based. ANOVA with Cohen's D effect size medium, $p < 0.01$.

15 CSO representative in focus group discussion.

individuals with disabilities are linked to higher exposure to domestic abuse¹⁶. The marginalisation of persons with disabilities due to their health status is also linked to reduced mental well-being, particularly as a result of higher levels of depression¹⁷. Persons with disabilities are more likely to have experienced an accidental injury (mean score of 2.2 out of 10 compared to 1.6 in those without disability status¹⁸), an adversity that is particularly higher in men with disabilities¹⁹ and which may have occurred either before, after, or as a precursor of their disability status.

Marginalisation due to income in persons with disabilities is linked to higher levels of social threat from other groups²⁰, indicating the heightened exclusion and isolation felt by those persons with disabilities who are particularly vulnerable due to their income status. This is in line with previous research, in which an inverse relationship was found between the availability of social support and the threat appraisal by respondents with functional disabilities (28). In addition to the exclusion that persons with disabilities experience from their peers and from social networks, these findings could indicate that persons with disabilities may perceive unfair competition with their peers and other members of their community. The focus group discussions also revealed an intensified experience of isolation and social distancing by persons with disabilities.

All forms of marginalisation among persons with disabilities and in those without disability status are linked to higher levels of aggression²¹. There were no significant changes in marginalisation in Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts between 2019 and 2021 (see Annex).

Socialisation of persons with disabilities, particularly early socialisation, was also identified as a priority need in the focus group discussions, with respondents specifically emphasising the benefits of inclusive education both for minimising the isolation of persons with disabilities and for cultivating an awareness of diversity and acceptance of difference in society as a whole.

16 Pearson correlation coefficients between 0.3 and 0.4, compared to 0.2 for those without disability status. $p < 0.01$, controlled for age.

17 Pearson correlation coefficient 0.2 for persons with disabilities, compared to 0.1 for those without disability status. $p < 0.01$, controlled for age.

18 ANCOVA, $F = 23$, $p < 0.01$, controlled for age.

19 ANOVA, $F = 29$, $p < 0.01$. Mean score of 2.7 out of 10 compared to 1.8 in women with disabilities, 1.4 in women with no disability status and 2.0 in men with no disability status.

20 Pearson correlation coefficient 0.2 for PWD, compared to 0.1 for those without disability status. $p < 0.01$, controlled for age.

21 Pearson correlation coefficients of 0.4 and 0.3, respectively. $p < 0.01$, controlled for age.

MENTAL WELLBEING

The social, civic and economic empowerment and independence of persons with disabilities are all linked to their mental wellbeing, which is affected by income level, access to employment and services, and health status. This section outlines the situation of persons with disabilities, who report higher levels of depression and anxiety, and also presents the realities at the intersection of disability and gender, whereby women with disabilities had the highest scores in depression and anxiety.

Independent of their age, persons with disabilities report the highest levels of depression, with an average score of 3.7 out of 10 compared to those without disability status who score 3.1 out of 10²² (Figure 4). When comparing differences in depression within specific age groups based on disability status, youth with disabilities have the largest difference compared to their counterparts without disability status. Youth with disabilities have a mean score of 3.7 out of 10 for depression compared to 2.7 in those without disabilities, who have the statistically lowest score²³ Anxiety is also higher in persons with disabilities, independent of their age (Figure 4)²⁴

As expected, the converse is true for the composite measure, mental wellbeing (Figure 5), which is highest in young people with no disability status (6.9 out of 10) and lower in young persons with disabilities²⁵ (6.0 out of 10) as well as the oldest

22 ANCOVA, $F = 51$, $p < 0.01$, controlled for age

23 ANOVA, $F = 42$, $p < 0.01$, Cohen's D effect size between youth with disabilities and those without disability status is large.

24 There is no significant difference in the mental wellbeing indicators between the three disability categories.

25 ANOVA, $F = 78$, $p < 0.01$, Cohen's D effect size for youth with disabilities and those without disability status is large.

respondents with disabilities (5.5 out of 10). Mental wellbeing is also low for middle aged persons with disabilities (6.0 out of 10) compared to those without disability status (6.5 out of 10)²⁶

Mental wellbeing in persons with disabilities is linked to a stronger sense of civic duty and a higher income level;²⁷ demonstrating its link to both civic and economic empowerment (see following sections), the latter of which was also validated in the focus group discussions. Persons with disabilities who have higher levels of mental wellbeing are also more likely to have higher levels of executive functioning,²⁸ which influences their empowerment and independence, presenting a potential entry point through which executive functioning can support mental wellbeing.

At the intersection of disability and gender, anxiety and depression are the highest in women with disabilities (5.6 and 4.0 out of 10), compared to all other groups²⁹ (Table 5). Women with disabilities also had the lowest levels of executive functioning (see Social and Civic Empowerment).

Focus group discussions with civil society actors working with persons with disabilities revealed that the situation is particularly acute for women with disabilities due to domestic violence and due to societal pressure to conform to gender roles and unrealistic standards of appearance and behaviour, but also noted that traditional gender norms prevent men from expressing their emotions, driving them to excessive alcohol consumption, aggression and even suicide.³⁰

Mental wellbeing is also linked to physical health status;³¹ representing the multifaceted challenges to wellbeing that persons with disabilities face, the cyclical relationship between mental and physical wellbeing, and indicating that the empowerment of persons with disabilities to overcome barriers due to their physical health status could have a reciprocal impact on their mental wellbeing. This is compounded by the negative impact of marginalisation on the mental wellbeing of persons with disabilities;³² a form of exclusion which extends to access to

26 ANOVA, $F = 78$, $p < 0.01$, Cohen's D effect size for the two middle aged groups is large.

27 Pearson correlation coefficients, 0.21, 0.22, $p < 0.01$, controlled for age.

28 Pearson correlation coefficient 0.39, $p < 0.01$, controlled for age.

29 ANOVA, $F = 205$ for anxiety, $F = 74$ for depression, $p < 0.01$, Cohen's D effect sizes are medium and large. Scores out of 10: men without disability status 3.6 in anxiety and 2.8 in depression, men with disabilities 4.3 in anxiety and 3.4 in depression, women without disability status 4.8 in anxiety and 3.3 in depression.

30 Focus group participant, representative of CSO working with persons with disabilities.

31 Pearson correlation coefficient 0.23, $p < 0.01$, controlled for age.

32 Pearson correlation coefficient with marginalisation due to health status, -0.2, $p < 0.01$, controlled for age.

healthcare services, which persons with disabilities rely on considerably.³³ These findings are in line with previous studies in eastern Ukraine, where access to healthcare was correlated with the independence of persons with disabilities, the majority of whom also reported feelings of depression and anxiety due to loneliness (9). The findings were also confirmed in the focus group discussions, where overlaps between mental wellbeing, marginalisation, and physical accessibility in persons with disabilities were highlighted.

FIGURE 4

Comparison of mean scores of depression and anxiety in persons with disabilities (PWD) and those without disability status (Non PWD) in Donetsk, Luhansk and Zaporizhzhia oblasts (DLZ). Asterisk () indicates statistically significant difference from ANCOVA, controlled for age, $F = 51$ (depression), $F = 35$ (anxiety) $p < 0.01$.*

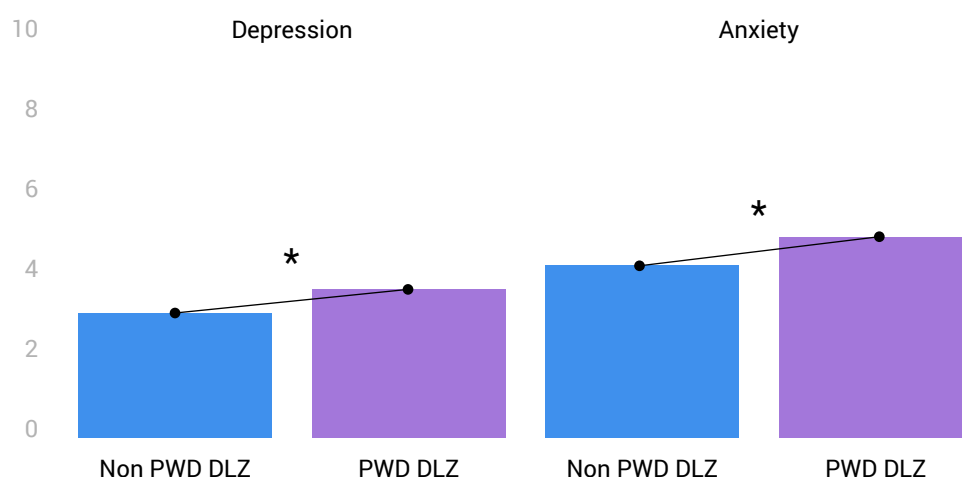


FIGURE 5

Mean score of mental wellbeing in persons with disabilities (PWD) and persons without disability status (Non PWD) in Donetsk, Luhansk and Zaporizhzhia oblasts (DLZ). Asterisk () indicates statistically significant difference, ANCOVA, controlled for age, $p < 0.01$, $F = 55$.*

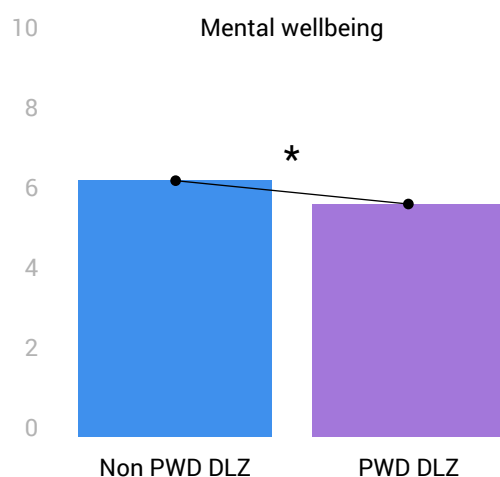


TABLE 5

Disaggregation of depression and anxiety indicators by disability status, age and gender (Donetsk, Luhansk and Zaporizhzhia oblasts).

	Non PWD				PWD			
	Depression		Anxiety		Depression		Anxiety	
	Men	Women	Men	Women	Men	Women	Men	Women
18–35	2.5	3.0	3.1	4.1	3.6	3.8	3.9	5.0
36–59	2.8	3.2	3.5	4.6	3.3	3.8	4.3	5.4
60+	3.1	3.7	4.2	5.5	3.5	4.1	4.6	5.8

“Everything is okay, everything is fine, but I can only see the sea if I am able to get to the second floor, although the sea is 3 km away. There are beautiful beaches there, but nobody can get to them.”

– 60 year-old woman with disabilities.

“In the city of ..., we installed a gynaecological transformer chair so that women could get an examination. This category is the most vulnerable to both accessibility issues and domestic violence. The doctor said that women still did not come for examinations. We had to take the lists and visit them at home with a social worker. Then we found out that these women did not have doctors at all and haven’t been outside for 8, 10, 12 years.”

– CSO representative.

“There are a lot of isolated people who can’t express their needs because they can’t go out in public. Some will get help, but many simply do not have this opportunity.”

– 45 year-old man with disabilities.

ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT

The motivations behind fostering the economic empowerment of persons with disabilities are multiple, not least of which is enforcing the equal right of persons with disabilities to work. Analysis illustrated that persons with disabilities experience higher levels of marginalisation due to their income, that income level and employment opportunities are linked to increased personal security, and that income influences mental wellbeing. These motivated the following section, which aims to outline the pathways to achieving increased economic independence for persons with disabilities.

While 64% of respondents under the age of 55 in the comparable sample are in full-time employment, the full-time employment rate for persons with disabilities is less than half of this value, at 31%. The parttime employment rate in persons with disabilities in this age group is double that of the comparable sample (12% compared to 6%, respectively). This group could represent a potential target for recruitment in employment positions which require fewer or flexible hours and working remotely or from home. The employment rate of persons with disabilities detected in this research is slightly higher than previously published statistics (only 28% of persons with disabilities were employed in 2019 (3)), a bias which may be attributed to the survey-based methodology of this research.

The rate of respondents who are under 55 and unemployed but looking for a job is similar for both persons with disabilities and those without disability status (10% and 9%, respectively). In contrast, 9% of persons with disabilities are unemployed and not looking for future employment, compared to 2% of those without disability status under the age of 55. Over one quarter (26%) of respondents with disabilities under the age of 55 classify themselves as pensioners (it may be that their main source

of income is welfare benefits). Of respondents above the age of 55 without disability status, 78% are pensioners, compared to 87% of respondents with disabilities over the age of 55.

TABLE 6

Distribution of respondents by employment and disability status. Donetsk, Luhansk and Zaporizhzhia oblasts.

	Non PWD				PWD			
	<55 years old		55+ years old		<55 years old		55+ years old	
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
Employed Full Time	3056	<div><div></div></div> 64	464	<div><div></div></div> 15	131	<div><div></div></div> 31	36	<div><div></div></div> 8
Employed Part Time	307	<div><div></div></div> 6	78	<div><div></div></div> 3	48	<div><div></div></div> 12	7	<div><div></div></div> 2
On maternity leave	249	<div><div></div></div> 5	0	<div><div></div></div> 0	6	<div><div></div></div> 1	0	<div><div></div></div> 0
Running a household	300	<div><div></div></div> 6	54	<div><div></div></div> 2	28	<div><div></div></div> 7	6	<div><div></div></div> 1
Pensioner	91	<div><div></div></div> 2	2409	<div><div></div></div> 78	108	<div><div></div></div> 26	402	<div><div></div></div> 87
Student	259	<div><div></div></div> 5	2	<div><div></div></div> 0	19	<div><div></div></div> 5	0	<div><div></div></div> 0
Unemployed and looking for a job	448	<div><div></div></div> 9	70	<div><div></div></div> 2	43	<div><div></div></div> 10	5	<div><div></div></div> 1
Unemployed but not looking for a job	86	<div><div></div></div> 2	31	<div><div></div></div> 1	36	<div><div></div></div> 9	7	<div><div></div></div> 2

TABLE 7

Distribution of persons with disabilities by disability group and employment status in Donetsk, Luhansk and Zaporizhzhia oblasts.

	Group I		Group II		Group III	
	N	%	N	%	N	%
Employed Full Time	16	<div><div></div></div> 14	28	<div><div></div></div> 10	115	<div><div></div></div> 25
Employed Part Time	9	<div><div></div></div> 8	13	<div><div></div></div> 5	33	<div><div></div></div> 7
On maternity leave	1	<div><div></div></div> 1	1	<div><div></div></div> 0	3	<div><div></div></div> 1
Running a household	6	<div><div></div></div> 5	11	<div><div></div></div> 4	15	<div><div></div></div> 3
Pensioner	71	<div><div></div></div> 62	192	<div><div></div></div> 70	238	<div><div></div></div> 51
Student	2	<div><div></div></div> 2	3	<div><div></div></div> 1	10	<div><div></div></div> 2
Unemployed and looking for a job	3	<div><div></div></div> 3	11	<div><div></div></div> 4	31	<div><div></div></div> 7
Unemployed but not looking for a job	6	<div><div></div></div> 5	17	<div><div></div></div> 6	19	<div><div></div></div> 4

Respondents with Group I and II disability status are most likely to be pensioners (62% and 70%, respectively, Table 7). One quarter of respondents with disability status Group III are in full time

employment (Table 7), in accordance with existing statistics that one quarter of adults with disabilities worked in Ukraine, most of which belong to the third category of disability (3). Of persons with disability status Group III under the age of 55, 19% are unemployed and 49% are employed either full or part time, compared to 11% and 70% of respondents with no disability status in this age group. This demonstrates that persons with disabilities continue to be underemployed. Further to underemployment, focus group respondents revealed a bias in the remuneration of employees with disabilities, and discrimination in the jobs offered to persons with disabilities.

“At work, after I got the disability status, I was demoted. And of course this affected my salary.”

– 52 year-old man with disabilities.

“If you are disabled, you are given a “dirty” job, or not given a better job. It is very rare to be given an opportunity to move up the career ladder.”

– 48 year-old man with disabilities.

Full time employment in all respondents is linked to a higher education level³⁴. Education level is also important for the social and civic empowerment of persons with disabilities (see Social and Civic Empowerment), and inclusive education was highlighted consistently by focus group participants, both for the socialisation of children and persons with disabilities, and for making society more tolerant.

TABLE 8

Comparison between income level for persons with disabilities (PWD) in Donetsk, Luhansk and Zaporizhzhia oblasts in 2021, compared to persons with no disability status (Non PWD).

	PWD		Non PWD	
	N	%	N	%
<i>How would you estimate the amount of your income?</i>				
We lack money even for food	205	23	903	11
We have enough money for food, but are not always able to buy clothes	347	39	2709	34
We always have money for food and clothes, but we cannot always afford household electronics or other expensive goods	275	31	3401	43
We have enough money for household electronics or other expensive goods, but we cannot afford a car or an apartment	42	5	778	10
We can afford a car or other goods of similar cost, when needed	7	1	73	1
DK	6	1	40	1

34 Pearson correlation coefficient 0.20, $p < 0.01$, controlled for age for both persons with disabilities and those without disability status in the three oblasts.

Youth with disabilities had a significantly lower income level than youth with no disability status (3.9 out of 10 compared to 4.6³⁵), as did respondents with disabilities between the ages of 36 and 59, compared to those with no disability status (scores of 3.2 and 4.1 out of 10, respectively)³⁶.

Across age groups, persons with disabilities in the three oblasts are more likely to estimate that they lack money even for food (23% as opposed to 11%), and that they are not always able to buy clothes (39% as opposed to 34%), while they are less likely to estimate that they can afford both food and clothes (31% as opposed to 43%) as seen from Table 8. The vulnerability of persons with disabilities becomes additionally evident given the link between lower income levels and lower mental wellbeing and personal security³⁷, observed specifically in persons with disabilities.

Personal security is also uniquely linked to employment opportunities in persons with disabilities³⁸, which taken with the previous observation may indicate that persons with disabilities feel increased vulnerability in public spaces. In both persons with disabilities in the three oblasts and in citizens nation-wide, employment opportunities are linked³⁹ to higher income and health security, and to reduced fears of economic instability, pointing towards a general tendency for cycles of poverty to occur across the country, as well as the added vulnerabilities that groups with low income and a lack of employment may face.

Persons with disabilities in Donetsk, Luhansk and Zaporizhzhia oblasts perceive more difficulties in finding a job that satisfies them, compared to those with no disability status, independent of their age (Figure 6). Youth with disabilities perceive less opportunities than those without disability status (2.7 out of 10, compared to 3.5 out of 10), and respondents with disabilities over the age of 35 are the most pessimistic about their employment opportunities (2.0 out of 10 for the 36-59 PWD age group and 1.9 out of 10 for those over 60).

35 ANOVA with Cohen's D large effect size between the two groups, $p < 0.01$.

36 ANOVA with Cohen's D medium effect size between the two groups, $p < 0.01$.

37 Pearson correlation coefficients of 0.2 and 0.3 for PWD compared to 0.1 for those without disability status. Significance level $p < 0.01$ and controlled for age.

38 Pearson correlation coefficient of 0.2 in PWD compared to 0.1 in national representative sample. Significance level $p < 0.01$, controlled for age.

39 Pearson correlation coefficients of 0.20 to 0.30, $p < 0.01$, controlled for age, in both samples.

FIGURE 6

Mean score in employment opportunities in respondents from Donetsk, Luhansk and Zaporizhzhia (DLZ) oblasts without disability status (Non PWD) and persons with disabilities (PWD). Asterisk (*) denotes a statistically significant difference between mean scores, as determined by ANCOVA, controlled for age, at significance level $p < 0.01$ and $F > 20$.

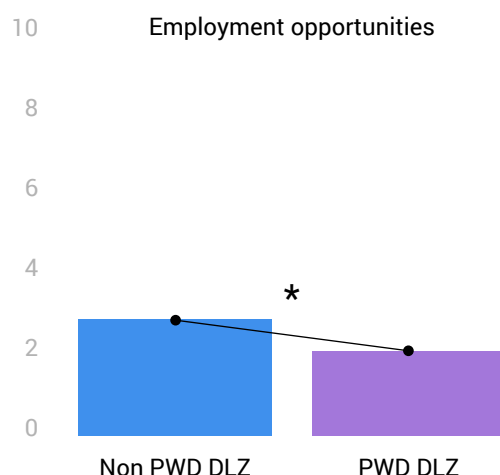


TABLE 9

Mean scores in employment opportunities by oblast, age and disability group. Orange texts marks differences between oblast and nationally representative sample that are larger than 0.9 units.

		Non PWD	PWD Group III	PWD Group II	PWD Group I
National representative sample	< 55 years old	3.9	3.4	2.9	2.8
	55 + years old	2.6	2.3	2.2	2.7
Luhansk oblast	< 55	2.9	2.4	1.7	2.4
	55 +	1.6	1.8	1.1	1.7
Donetsk oblast	< 55	3.5	2.5	2.1	1.9
	55 +	2.5	1.9	1.7	1.7
Zaporizhzhia oblast	< 55	3.5	2.9	1.2	1.8
	55 +	2.3	2.4	1.8	2.3

Obstacles to employment are a factor of both disability status and location. Perceived opportunities are especially low for persons with disabilities under the age of 55 with Group III and II disability status in Luhansk, Group II and I disability status in Zaporizhzhia, and for all groups in Donetsk oblast, compared to persons with disabilities at the national level (Table 9). In general, Luhansk oblast overwhelmingly lacks employment opportunities, with the third lowest score across the country (mean score 2.4 out of 10). Zaporizhzhia scores 13th out of the 25 oblasts (3.3 out of 10), and Donetsk is at 17th place (3.1 out of 10) in economic opportunities.

Focus group respondents also noted that changes in the economic profile of their communities from industrial to agricultural have made it harder for them to find jobs, that the training available for persons with disabilities does not translate into paid jobs, and that employers offer lower paid jobs to persons with disabilities.

When comparing economic indicators between 2019 and 2021, the most striking change is the decrease in the percentage of persons with disabilities in Donetsk and Luhansk who can rely on social payments. While 20% of respondents in 2019 said they could rely on social payments very much, this figure decreased to 11% in 2021 (Table 10). For Donetsk, Luhansk and Zaporizhzhia in 2021, this figure remained at 11% who can rely on social payments very much, and another 33% who can rely on them to some extent.

TABLE 10

Comparison between income level and reliance on social payments for persons with disabilities in 2019 and 2021 for Donetsk and Luhansk only.

		2019 Donetsk & Luhansk		2021 Donetsk & Luhansk	
<i>How would you estimate the amount of your income?</i>		N	%	N	%
We lack money even for food		138	<div><div></div></div> 23	178	<div><div></div></div> 25
We have enough money for food, but are not always able to buy clothes		271	<div><div></div></div> 45	276	<div><div></div></div> 39
We always have money for food and clothes, but we cannot always afford household electronics or other expensive goods		161	<div><div></div></div> 27	209	<div><div></div></div> 29
We have enough money for household electronics or other expensive goods, but we cannot afford a car or an apartment		28	<div><div></div></div> 5	39	<div><div></div></div> 6
We can afford a car or other goods of similar cost, when needed		5	<div><div></div></div> 1	7	<div><div></div></div> 1
Difficult to answer		0	<div><div></div></div> 0	5	<div><div></div></div> 1
<i>Do you feel that you can rely on social payments if you ever needed them?</i>	Not at all	119	<div><div></div></div> 20	154	<div><div></div></div> 22
	Not really	177	<div><div></div></div> 29	236	<div><div></div></div> 33
	Yes, to some extent	179	<div><div></div></div> 30	232	<div><div></div></div> 33
	Yes, very much	120	<div><div></div></div> 20	81	<div><div></div></div> 11
	Don't know	8	<div><div></div></div> 1	11	<div><div></div></div> 2

Despite their lower score in economic opportunities, persons with disabilities in Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts are slightly less pessimistic about finding a job compared to 2019 (Table 11). In contrast, there is an increase from 61% to 82% in the proportion of persons with disabilities that perceive local businesses to be closing down, and a decrease in those thinking of starting their own business (89% to 80%, Table 12). Smaller increases are also seen in the proportion of persons with disabilities who expect a dramatic increase in prices (86% to 93%) and who are preparing for rough times (83% to 91%).

TABLE 11

Comparison of economic opportunities responses in persons with disabilities in Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts only, between 2019 and 2021.

		2019 Donetsk & Luhansk		2021 Donetsk & Luhansk	
		N	%	N	%
<i>How difficult would it be for you to find a job in your locality if you were looking for it?</i>	0 It would be difficult for me to find a job that satisfies me	320	53	306	43
	1	45	7	91	13
	2	43	7	69	10
	3	28	5	64	9
	4	26	4	41	6
	5	48	8	55	8
	6	15	2	24	3
	7	13	2	15	2
	8	13	2	14	2
	9	5	1	7	1
	10 I would easily find a job that satisfies me	26	4	10	1
	DK	21	3	18	3

TABLE 12

Comparison of respondents with disabilities' perceptions of economic instability in Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts from 2019 to 2021, %.

		2019 Donetsk & Luhansk		2021 Donetsk & Luhansk	
		N	%	N	%
<i>I expect prices will rise dramatically in the next couple of years</i>	Strongly disagree	19	3	11	2
	Somewhat disagree	48	8	34	5
	Somewhat agree	230	38	222	31
	Strongly agree	288	48	441	62
	DK	18	3	6	1
<i>In terms of the economy, I am preparing for rough times</i>	Strongly disagree	21	3	19	3
	Somewhat disagree	61	10	46	6
	Somewhat agree	213	35	217	30
	Strongly agree	289	48	431	60
	DK	19	3	1	0
<i>Economy in my locality and business investments are closing down constantly</i>	Strongly disagree	68	11	22	3
	Somewhat disagree	102	17	78	11
	Somewhat agree	137	23	190	27
	Strongly agree	231	38	395	55
	DK	65	11	29	4
<i>Are you thinking about starting your own business in the next year or two?</i>	No	536	89	571	80
	Maybe	21	3	69	10
	Yes	46	8	67	9
	DK	0	0	7	1

SOCIAL AND CIVIC EMPOWERMENT

Analysis showed that attitudinally youth with disabilities are driven to make a change in Ukraine, but that they face certain barriers in actively taking part in civic life. This section presents specific pathways through which youth with disabilities develop a sense of civic duty, and how this, alongside other factors, cultivates civic engagement, bringing to light multiple drivers, from access to education to social inclusion. This section also outlines the situation of these factors for persons with disabilities, using these to inform policy recommendations.

Active citizenship is low in youth with disabilities, particularly when compared to youth with no disability status.⁴⁰ Almost 2 in 3 (65%) youth with disabilities are not willing to do anything to change conditions in their community, compared to around half (51%) of youth with no disability status (Table 13). The proportion of youth with disabilities who would use peaceful means of change (31%), more closely resembles the proportion of older people (with and without disability status, 25% and 28%) than youth without disability status (46%, Table 13). A small but significant decrease in active citizenship was also observed in respondents with disabilities in Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts from 2019 to 2021, demonstrating negative progress on the civic empowerment of persons with disabilities, a trend compounded by COVID-19 measures and observed in the general population.

40 Scores of 3.1 out of 10 and 4.6 out of 10, respectively. ANOVA, $F = 46$, $p < 0.01$, Cohen's D effect size difference between the two groups is medium.

TABLE 13

Comparison of responses to one of the citizenship questions for persons with disabilities (PWD) and respondents without disability status (Non PWD) by age group in Donetsk, Luhansk and Zaporizhzhia oblasts, %.

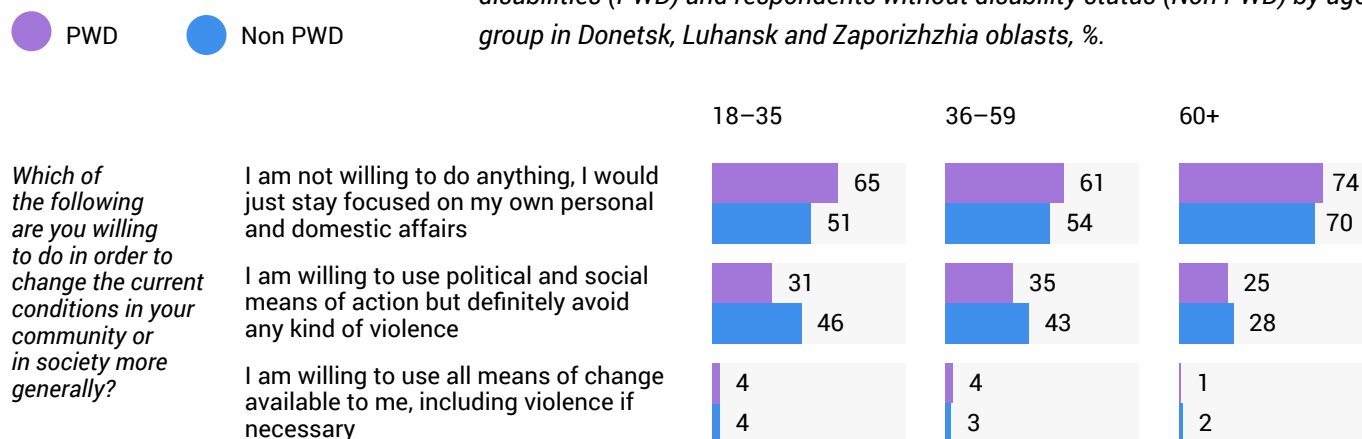
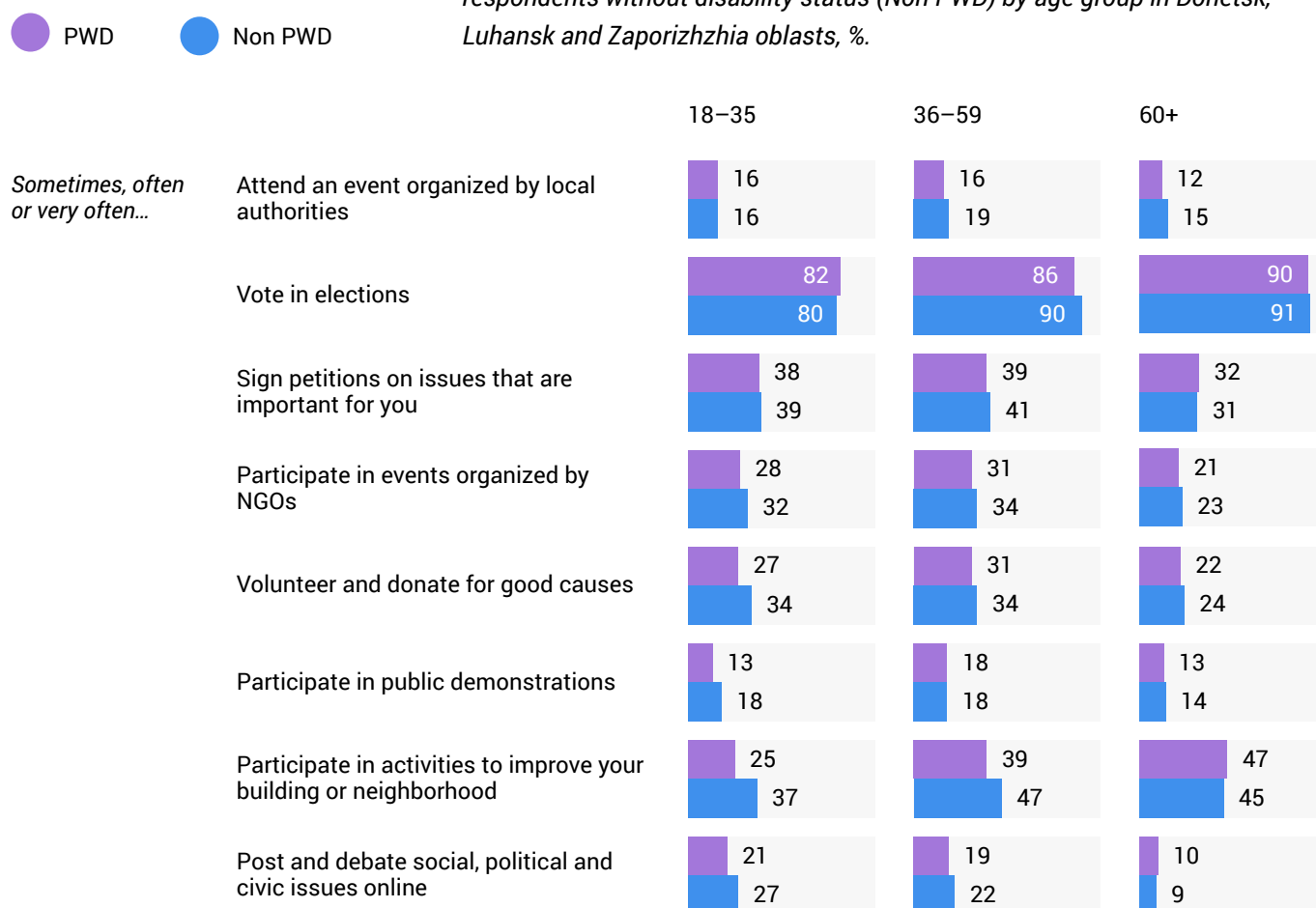


TABLE 14

Proportion of respondents who participate at least once in a range of civic activities, comparison between persons with disabilities (PWD) and respondents without disability status (Non PWD) by age group in Donetsk, Luhansk and Zaporizhzhia oblasts, %.

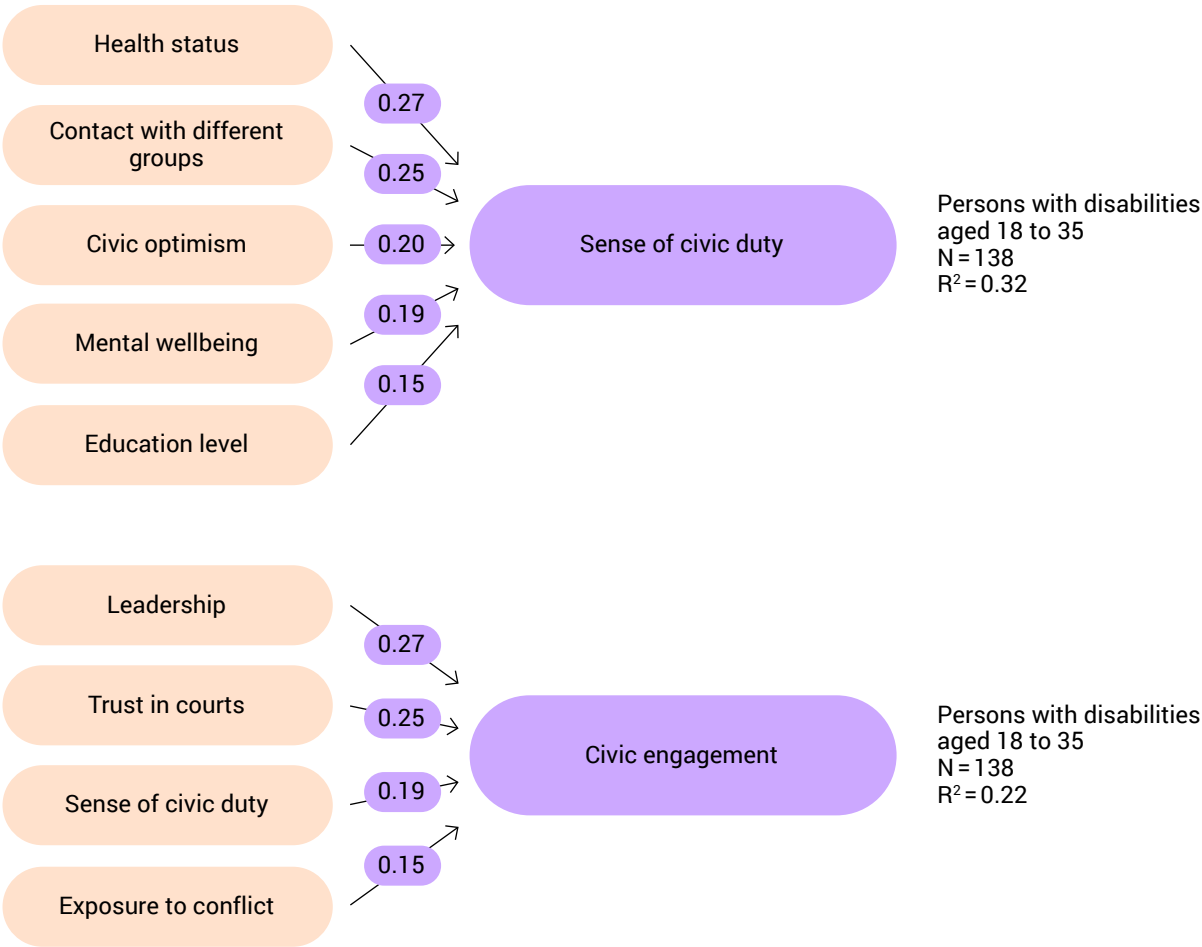


In contrast, a sense of civic duty is equally high in youth with disabilities and youth without disability status⁴¹ This indicates that, while attitudinally young respondents are driven to make a change in Ukraine, there are specific barriers preventing youth with disabilities from achieving these higher levels of active citizenship and civic engagement, and that civic empowerment is a combination of having a strong sense of civic duty and being actively engaged in civic life.

The pathways that can lead to increased civic empowerment of youth with disabilities were investigated using predictive modelling. Linear regression uncovered specific drivers increasing young persons with disabilities' civic duty, which in turn influences higher civic engagement (Figure 7). By comparing model fit indices and regression coefficients (Annex), it is possible to conclude that these drivers are specific for youth with disabilities.

FIGURE 7

Schematic of two linear regressions with outcomes sense of civic duty and civic engagement. For comparative results in other demographic subsamples, see Annex.



41 Mean scores of 5.6 and 5.5, respectively. ANOVA, Cohen’s D effect size difference between the two groups is negligible.

Both physical and mental wellbeing underscore the civic empowerment of youth with disabilities, seen from the positive predictive effect that mental wellbeing and health status have on their sense of civic duty (Figure 7). Equal education is also important, and youth with disabilities who have a higher education level also feel a stronger sense of civic duty. Not surprisingly, a higher level of education is also associated with employment and a higher income level;⁴² and inclusive education was raised repeatedly during focus group discussions as a priority both for the socialisation of persons with disabilities and for building increased tolerance across society.

Civic optimism, the extent to which citizens feel that consecutive generations in Ukraine are increasingly better off, also paves the way to more civic empowerment. Though civic optimism is the same in all youth, regardless of disability, optimism decreased significantly in Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts among persons with disabilities between 2019 and 2021 (scores of 4.0 to 2.8 out of 10).⁴³

“Losing faith in one’s ability to achieve something is disappointing. A person already knows that they will go and spend their energy and nerves only to get zero outcome.”

– 60 year-old woman with disabilities

Finally, an overlap emerges between the social and civic empowerment of youth with disabilities, as those who have higher frequency of contact with other social, political and ethnic groups have a stronger sense of civic duty. On the contrary, this demonstrates that the social isolation of youth with disabilities functions to the detriment of their civic isolation in turn.

Cultivating a sense of civic duty in youth with disabilities merits particular attention due to its unique placement as a driver of civic engagement. While civic duty benefits from access to education, social inclusion, mental and physical wellbeing, civic engagement is determined by the levels of trust that youth with disabilities have in the justice system, and by their leadership skills. It is also crucial to be aware of situational factors which drive the civic engagement of youth with disabilities, namely, their exposure to conflict. This indicates that youth with disabilities may become empowered and inclined towards activism in

42 Pearson correlation coefficient 0.2, $p < 0.01$, controlled for age.

43 ANCOVA, $F = 71$, $p < 0.01$, controlled for age.

response to conflict⁴⁴ and, although not a policy to be followed, should be brought to the attention of stakeholders.

The focus group respondents confirmed the relevance of these findings, elaborating on the difficulties that persons with disabilities have in accessing polling stations, the absence of efforts to ensure the electoral participation of persons with disabilities, and cycles of low participation of carers of persons with disabilities (often mothers) which result in the low participation of their children.

“Even cultural institutions and schools are mostly inaccessible, let alone polling stations.”

– 60 year-old woman with disabilities

Focus group respondents spoke of positive experiences, giving examples of how they have managed to effect change in their local communities, albeit after repeated lobbying and a lot of effort.

“We have been demanding to install traffic lights for the visually impaired for 7 years. They have been installed at 15 crossroads. For 2 years we’ve been demanding a 500-metre sidewalk for the visually impaired – we manage to achieve that. This positive experience shows that officials can be broken at will, but it requires a lot of effort and time, writing dozens of letters, making calls, inviting television. This is a lot of energy.”

– 47 year-old man with disabilities.

“I spent six months trying to get the banisters installed in my apartment building. Only when I got to the very top, they had them installed. Yes, we can achieve it, but it costs time and nerves... And this is so humiliating because I have the right, but I cannot exercise it.”

– 60 year-old woman with disabilities.

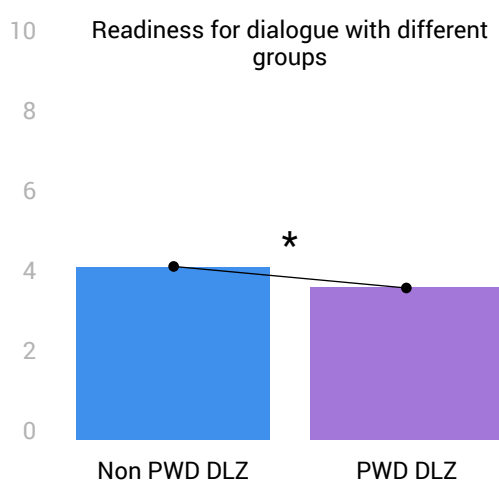
Beyond the specific pathways outlined above, persons with disabilities also report differences in the levels of the most pertinent drivers in these pathways, when compared to the comparable sample.

44 This effect is not concluded to be due to conflict-induced disability, as less than 3% of the sample took part in the conflict in eastern Ukraine and less than 1% have UBD status.

In addition to social contact driving civic duty, the overlap between social and civic empowerment also becomes evident from the link between readiness for dialogue with different groups, which is linked to more contact with different groups, and to higher levels of active citizenship in persons with disabilities⁴⁵. Readiness for dialogue is lower in persons with disabilities compared to those without disability status (mean scores of 3.8 and 4.3 out of 10, respectively,⁴⁶ Figure 8), and the youngest and oldest respondents with disabilities report more barriers to dialogue.⁴⁷

FIGURE 8

Mean score in readiness for dialogue in respondents from Donetsk, Luhansk and Zaporizhzhia oblasts without disability status (Non PWD) and persons with disabilities (PWD). Asterisk () denotes a statistically significant difference between mean score, ANCOVA controlled for age, $F > 20$, $p < 0.01$.*



Leadership skills, a key determinant of civic engagement (Figure 7), are also lower in persons with disabilities⁴⁸ (Figure 9). Nevertheless, although lower than their counterparts without disability status, youth with disabilities have higher scores in leadership than older respondents with disabilities⁴⁹. Leadership is lowest in respondents with Group I disability status;⁵⁰ indicating that leadership is linked to both age and disability status.

45 Pearson correlation coefficient 0.2, $p < 0.01$, controlled for age.

46 ANCOVA, $F = 24$, $p < 0.01$, controlled for age

47 ANOVA, $p < 0.01$. Youth with disabilities have a mean score of 3.6 out of 10, older persons with disabilities have mean score of 3.5 out of 10. Both have Cohen's D effect size of medium when compared to the corresponding age group without disability status. Other mean scores out of 10: middle aged persons with disabilities 4.0, youth without disability status 4.4, middle aged without disability status 4.3, older people without disability status 4.1.

48 5.3 for PWD compared to 5.9 out of 10 in those without disability status, ANCOVA, $F = 20$, $p < 0.01$, controlled for age.

49 6.0 out of 10 for youth with disabilities, 6.6 for youth without disability status, 5.6 for middle aged with disabilities and 4.8 for older respondents with disabilities. ANOVA, $F = 100$, $p < 0.01$. Cohen's D effect size between two youth groups is medium.

50 4.7 out of 10 compared to 5.1 and 5.6 for Groups II and III. ANOVA, Cohen's D effect size between Group I and III is medium, $p < 0.01$

FIGURE 9

Mean scores in leadership skills and executive functioning in respondents from Donetsk, Luhansk and Zaporizhzhia (DLZ) oblasts without disability status (Non PWD) and persons with disabilities (PWD). Asterisk (*) denotes a statistically significant difference between mean score, ANCOVA controlled for age, $F>20$, $p<0.01$

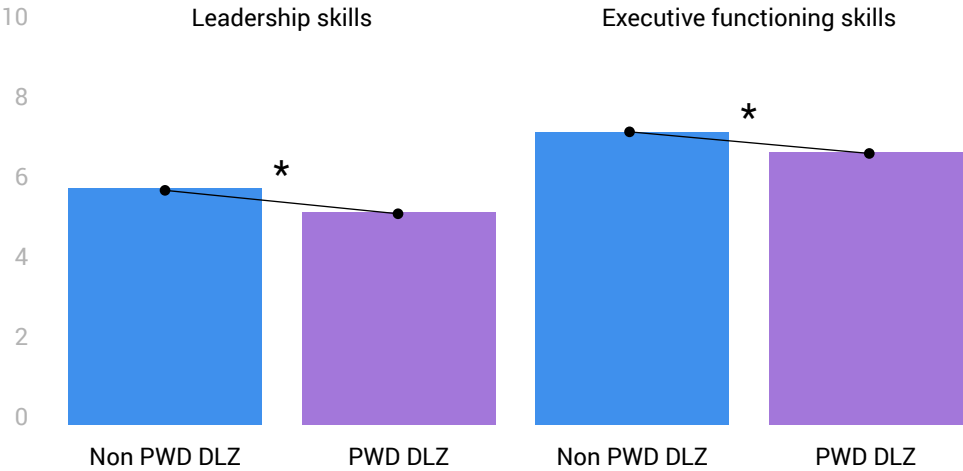
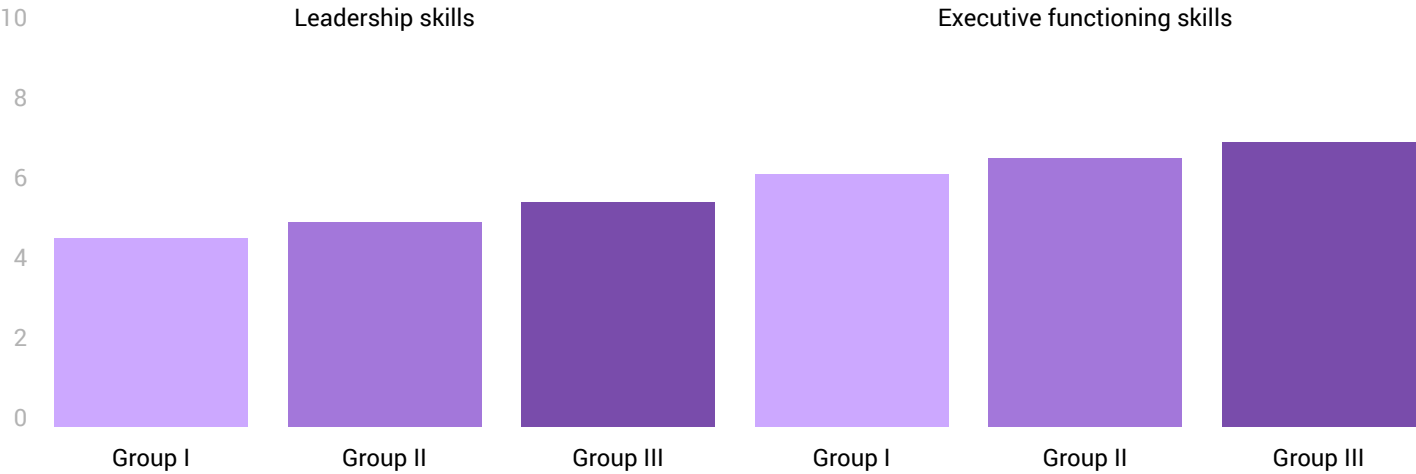


FIGURE 10

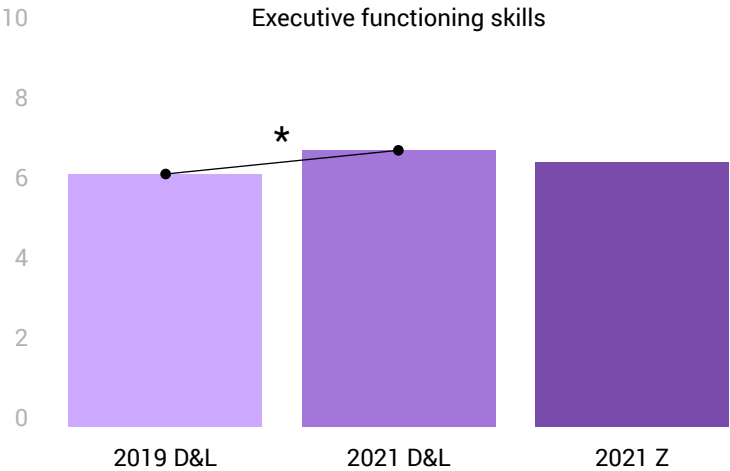
Mean scores in leadership skills and executive functioning in persons with disabilities with Group I, II and III disability status. For both leadership and executive functioning, ANOVA at $p<0.01$ found Cohen's D effect size of medium between Group I and III.



Leadership is also linked to executive functioning, associated with improved mental wellbeing, critical thinking and growth mindset⁵¹. Executive functioning is distinctly lower in persons with disabilities independent of their age (mean score of 6.8 for respondents with disabilities compared to 7.3 out of 10;⁵² Figure 9) and women with disabilities have the lowest scores in executive functioning (6.6⁵³). Executive functioning is also lowest in respondents in disability Group I (6.3), compared to respondents in Group II (6.7) and Group III (7.1⁵⁴). Encouragingly, an increase in the executive functioning scores for persons with disabilities is observed in Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts from 2019 to 2021 (Figure 11)⁵⁵.

FIGURE 11

Comparison of mean scores in executive functioning skills for Donetsk and Luhansk (D&L) oblasts, persons with disabilities, from 2019 to 2021. Asterisk () indicates statistically significant difference in ANCOVA, controlled for age, $F>20, p<0.01$. Data for Zaporizhzhia oblast 2021 (Z) also shown.*

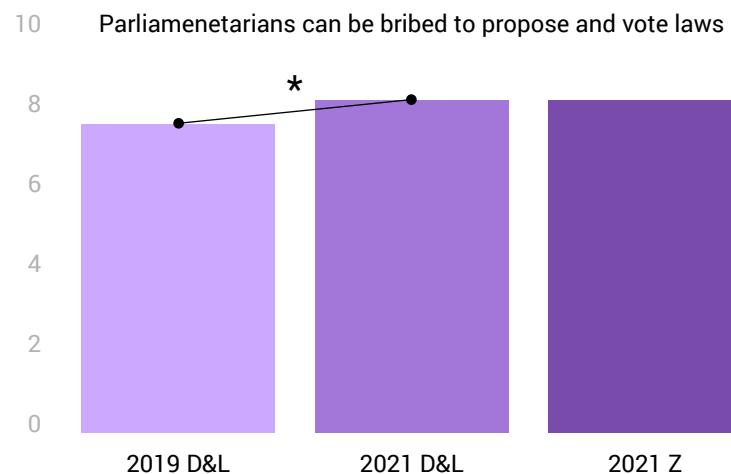


51 Pearson correlation coefficients 0.26, 0.40, 0.30, 0.34, controlled for age, $p<0.01$.
52 ANCOVA, $F=30, p<0.01$.
53 ANOVA, $F=38, p<0.01$. Mean scores out of 10: 7.0 for men with disabilities (Cohen’s D effect size medium compared to women with disabilities), 7.1 for women without disability status (Cohen’s D effect size small), 7.5 for men without disability status (Cohen’s D effect size medium).
54 ANOVA, Cohen’s D effect size between Group I and III is medium, $p<0.01$.
55 An increase was observed in all age groups but particularly in those above 35 years old.

The relationship that persons with disabilities have with their institutions was found to play a key role in their civic empowerment, with trust in courts leading to higher levels of civic engagement. Persons with disabilities also have a significantly higher perception that police cover up organised crime⁵⁶ while youth with disabilities have the strongest perceptions that local authorities ask for additional payments in exchange for services⁵⁷. The perception that parliamentarians can be bribed to pass laws also increases between 2019 and 2021 in Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts (7.7 out of 10 to 8.3 out of 10⁵⁸), although this increase is not unique to persons with disabilities, as it was also observed in the nationally representative sample (7.6 to 8.1 out of 10).

FIGURE 12

Comparison of mean scores for perception of parliamentarians' corruption for persons with disabilities in Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts (D&L) in 2019 and 2021. Asterisk () denotes statistical significance in ANCOVA, controlled for age, $p < 0.01$. Data for Zaporizhzhia oblast (Z) in 2021 also shown.*



56 7.9 compared to 7.4 out of 10. ANCOVA, $F = 25$, $p < 0.01$, controlled for age

57 Mean score of 5.7 out of 10 for youth with disabilities, compared to scores between 4.7 and 5.0 for all other age and disability statuses (Cohen's D medium and large), ANOVA at $p < 0.01$.

58 ANCOVA, $F = 16$, $p < 0.01$, controlled for age

KEY FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

MARGINALISATION

	Recommendations	National, regional & local authorities	International organisations & donors	Civil society organisations	Supporting documents and relevant programmes
Persons with disabilities report three-fold higher levels of marginalisation due to their health status or disability. This is exacerbated in respondents with Group I disability status.	Strengthen legislation, making it punishable by law to fail to provide reasonable accommodation to all areas of life for persons with disabilities, serving to combat marginalisation.	●			See principal areas of concern and recommendations of the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (11)
Persons with disabilities are also more marginalised based on to their income and education levels.	Establish measures within legislation to protect persons with disabilities from multiple and intersectional forms of discrimination, particularly based on income and education.	●			See principal areas of concern and recommendations of the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (11)
Income-based marginalisation in persons with disabilities is linked to feelings of social threat from other people, indicating the compounded isolation and vulnerability of those persons with disabilities with a lower income status.	Build the legal capacity of persons with disabilities and their representative organisations, enabling the use of legal remedies by persons with disabilities facing discrimination. For individuals, this includes awareness-raising, workshops and training on their rights. For civil society, this includes training on legal skills and the necessary formalities associated with taking legal action.	●	●	●	For example, the organisation Kharkiv Blind Lawyers works to improve access to justice by educating key stakeholders in the judicial system on the CRPD and by providing legal aid to persons with disabilities.
	Strengthen community-based services and support, paving the way for the inclusion of persons with disabilities. Immediate approaches could include mobility support or mobile services, but would also require long-term strategies to support independent living, community inclusion and equally accessible service-provision in both urban and rural areas.	●	●		Focus group discussions revealed that successful initiatives for combatting isolation include territorial centres for persons with disabilities which become platforms for communication, exchange of experiences and interaction. For example, UN RPP-EU sponsored Centers for Administrative Service Provision (TsNAPs) which also provide social services are already equipped for and accessible to persons with disabilities in eastern Ukraine. Further, the Government of Ukraine recently

adopted the National Strategy for Barrier-Free Environment in Ukraine by 2030 (15) which specifically mentions accessibility, as a fundamental human right for all people.

Marginalisation tends to cooccur with exposure to domestic abuse and depression in persons with disabilities.

Build partnerships with media to increase outreach for countering-discrimination and increasing visibility.



For example, the association Cherkassy Youth works with media to improve the representation of persons with disabilities. In 2020 the Council of Europe launched a manual for journalists for covering social rights and vulnerable groups in Ukrainian media, including ideas on tackling stereotypes and discrimination, as well as including persons with disabilities on content-creation. Between 2013-15, the UN Partnership on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities for created over 400 publications to raise awareness about disability rights, accessibility and universal design, distributed on online, social and print media, and on television, estimated to have reached up to 3.5 million people in Ukraine.

Commit resources to education and awareness-raising among the general public, policy-makers, and professionals on the equal rights of persons with disabilities, with the aim of building the visibility of persons with disabilities, through public campaigns, social events, professional training, school curricula, etc.



E.g., the National Assembly of Persons with Disabilities previously worked on educating the wider community about reducing discrimination against persons with disabilities through implementation of the national human rights strategy. See naiu.org.ua. E.g., NGO Wings Spread, Lviv, is involved in social advertising, media, exhibitions and inclusive events for children. The NGO Institute of Ukrainian Studies in Lviv also organises daily activities to foster cooperation among local youth and ensure their participation in local life.

Develop guidelines and incentives for public-private partnerships, to ensure that social assistance and programmes reach the most vulnerable persons with disabilities – those with lower income and education – that may otherwise be left behind.



E.g., joint initiatives between organisations for persons with disabilities, local businesses and the police to deliver food to persons with disabilities in isolation during Covid-19 measures.

Develop guidelines for the prevention of ill-treatment, sexual and gender-based violence, and other forms of violence against persons with disabilities. Further, increase the availability of accessible social services and channels for reporting abuse and seeking assistance, including accessible centres for victims/survivors of violence and programmes for persons with disabilities with a history of abusive behaviour. In addition, increase monitoring mechanisms on the implementation and enforcement of relevant existing legislature.



See the law of Ukraine About social services (29).

MENTAL WELLBEING

Recommendations		National, regional & local authorities	International organisations & donors	Civil society organisations	Supporting documents and relevant programmes
<p>Persons with disabilities report the highest levels of depression and anxiety, and these are also linked to having a poorer health status.</p> <p>At the intersection of disability and gender, anxiety and depression are the highest in women with disabilities.</p>	<p>Provide essential, lifelong mental health and psychosocial support services in formats that are accessible to persons with disabilities, alongside accessible information on the availability of those services. Potential pathways to supporting mental health can include executive functioning strengthening, which may equip persons with disabilities with mechanisms to manage their anxieties, or combining psychosocial support with entrepreneurial initiatives.</p>	●	●	●	<p>E.g., UNDP is already working to train civil servants on the accessibility of their websites and resources. See ua.undp.org. The Government of Ukraine also recently adopted the National Strategy for Barrier-Free Environment in Ukraine by 2030 (15) which specifically mentions digital accessibility, and its role in equal access to vital information and government services. Focus group discussions revealed that a successful project, “Caritas”, which enabled interaction between veterans and persons with disabilities, building skills for creating their own NGO or business, seeking financing, and provided psychosocial assistance.</p>
	<p>Provide essential psychosocial support to carers of persons with disabilities, a role more frequently occupied by women, and for whom risks of depression and anxiety are greater (3).</p>	●	●	●	<p>E.g., all internet resources should be in line with the Web Content Accessibility Guidelines (WCAG).</p>
	<p>Ensure that mental health and psychosocial support services comply with non-discriminatory access for all persons with disabilities. Practical steps would include providing accessible transportation to support services on a regular basis, and would also require ensuring the built accessibility of the service locations or the accessible design of online platforms offering these services and their communication to the public in alternative formats. Further, mental health professionals should be trained to ensure effective communication with people with visual, hearing, cognitive and communication impairments.</p>	●	●		
	<p>Conduct psychosocial support needs assessments.</p>	●	●	●	
	<p>Build awareness among mental health professionals and policy makers on the specific situation of women and girls with disabilities, who report higher levels of anxiety and depression.</p>	●	●	●	

Ensure compliance with the recommendations by the CEDAW Committee (13), adopting comprehensive programmes and policies to protect the rights and wellbeing of women and girls with disabilities.



Fund civil society working on the empowerment of women and girls with disabilities, ensuring there are adequate grants and funding opportunities available, and providing the necessary application support for those organisations.



Increase representation of women on councils and policy bodies that make decisions on disability rights.



ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT

Recommendations		National, regional & local authorities	International organisations & donors	Civil society organisations	Supporting documents and relevant programmes
The employment rate of persons with disabilities is low.	Introduce incentives, technical and financial support for businesses and social enterprises employing persons with disabilities.	●			For example, Rodyna in Kyiv.
Persons with disabilities have lower income levels and face more difficulties finding a job that satisfies them.	Introduce incentives, including affirmative action programs, for employers, employees and business owners with disabilities.	●			
Persons with disabilities who have a higher education level also have a higher income and more employment opportunities.	Develop assistance guides to inform about available incentives for businesses and social enterprises who employ persons with disabilities.			●	
Low income is linked to decreased mental wellbeing and personal security in persons with disabilities. A lack of employment opportunities is also linked to lower personal security. This highlights the increased vulnerability of persons with disabilities.	Ensure the implementation of employment quotas by developing and enforcing regular monitoring mechanisms, ensure the enforcement of employment quotas in the public sector.	●	●	●	Monitoring could also include tracking of economic empowerment indicators in future SCORE data collection for persons with disabilities.
	Improve measures and ensure the funding and provision of relevant services, e.g., state-sponsored training or implementation grants, to strengthen job placements, supported employment and workplace support (including built accessibility) for persons with disabilities in the open labour market.	●			E.g., Volyn-based Generation for Successful Action works on promoting employment by developing internship programs with local authorities and the private sector.

Access to social payments has decreased since 2019.	Develop platforms to connect employers and potential employees with disabilities, both in the online space and through local events. Ensure that such platforms have accessible functionality.	●	●	●	E.g., partnership of UNDP, Government of Denmark, and CSO Bezbariarnist "Business without Barriers" section of Diia.Business portal. See https://business.diia.gov.ua/cases/business-without-barriers .
	Ensure and increase the funding of accessible habilitation and rehabilitation services for persons with disabilities to allow them to remain financially independent, safeguarding their economic opportunities and the wellbeing that is derived from having a reliable income level.	●		●	Focus group respondents gave the example of useful initiatives that train people on business planning and setting up their own businesses.
	Provide accessible training and retraining opportunities to enhance the employability of persons with disabilities, compensating for any deficits in education level that form a barrier to employment and, therefore, a higher income level.	●		●	
	Adopt legislative frameworks to prohibit all forms of discrimination, including harassment and denial of reasonable accommodation in recruitment, continuance, career advancement and working conditions, and which mandates fair and equal rights to leave entitlement and remuneration for persons with disabilities.	●			See Equal access to employment recommendations in (5)
	Provide legal support to persons with disabilities who have faced discrimination in the workplace (e.g., in labour dispute committees and courts).	●	●		
	Increase disability allowances to meet the minimum subsistence level, prolong the period of validity of people's disability status (particularly given difficulties in reapplying due to conflict or pandemic-related measures), and implement a buffer period for continuing to pay disability allowances for persons whose disability status has expired.	●			
	Increase advocacy for the improved access to of poverty reduction and social assistance to all persons with disabilities.		●	●	Particularly important for rural respondents with disabilities who had lower access to public transport than their urban counterparts (ANCOVA controlled for age, $F=38$, $p<0.01$, mean scores 4.7 and 6.3). This effect is replicated in the comparable sample of respondents without disability status.
	Ensure that emergency or humanitarian response efforts take into account disability concerns and enforce non-discriminatory access to assistance.		●		

SOCIAL AND CIVIC EMPOWERMENT

Recommendations		National, regional & local authorities	International organisations & donors	Civil society organisations	Supporting documents and relevant programmes
<p>Civic empowerment is a combination of a sense of civic duty and civic engagement.</p> <p>These barriers limit the civic empowerment of persons with disabilities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Social isolation • Poor physical and mental health • Lower education level • Lower leadership • Mistrust in courts 	<p>Provide reasonable accommodation for persons with disabilities to engage in civic life, providing accessible formats and built accessibility for participation in elections and local consultations, and to be informed about upcoming decision-making. This includes developing and enforcing legislation, and monitoring the progress on these provisions.</p>	●	●	●	<p>E.g., following successful lobbying Initiatives of the Slobozhanshchyna, NDI and Group of Influence worked with the Central Election Commission to create accessible versions of voter-registration websites. The Government of Ukraine also recently adopted the National Strategy for Barrier-Free Environment in Ukraine by 2030 (15) which specifically mentions digital accessibility, and its role in equal access to vital information and government services.</p>
	<p>Meaningfully consult with persons with disabilities and the organisations representing them when making decisions that affect them.</p>	●	●	●	
	<p>Employ interpreters in public services and ensure a sufficient amount of broadcasting and information sharing services are accessible to persons with disabilities.</p>	●	●	●	
	<p>Make community-based services and support accessible to all, enabling the full participation of persons with disabilities.</p>	●	●	●	
	<p>Create inclusive spaces where members of local communities can gather for versatile, public events, both educational and extracurricular.</p>	●	●	●	
	<p>Commit to transparent strategies that support the deinstitutionalisation of persons with disabilities and the shift to community-based supported living for all.</p>	●	●	●	
	<p>Make inclusive education accessible for all, mainstreaming inclusive education and early intervention. This includes training of educators, improving built accessibility, providing accessible teaching material, and conducting advocacy to promote equal education.</p>	●	●	●	

Outline the national strategy for transitioning from segregated to inclusive education with a clear timeframe and budget. Non-state actors should monitor this strategy.	●	●	●	
Ensure that legislation protects everyone's equal right to inclusive education, prohibiting the exclusion of persons with disabilities from mainstream education.	●			See principal areas of concern and recommendations of the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (11)
Develop initiatives that support persons with disabilities to acquire higher education, and initiatives that strengthen leadership and executive functioning.	●		●	For example, Universal Aid for Children based in Odessa runs programs to support persons with disabilities living in institutions to develop job skills, allowing them to transition to an independent life. They also provide a disability-inclusive scholarship program for institutionalised young people. See uacukraine.org.
Raise awareness on the importance of the participation of persons with disabilities in decision-making, and include persons with disabilities in leadership positions.	●	●		
Develop targeted initiatives that empower, educate and encourage persons with disabilities to run for elected positions and to participate in local decision-making. This can include convening networks of persons with disabilities who are involved in decision-making to provide mentorship to youth.		●	●	Focus group respondents noted that the regional governor has employed an assistant with disabilities since 2014, giving this as a successful example of inclusion.
Ensure equal access to judicial and administrative proceedings for persons with disabilities, including physical accessibility, mobile services to reach remote or isolated people, and documents in accessible formats. Develop legal aid programs to enable persons with disabilities to obtain access to justice.	●	●	●	For example, UN RPP-EU sponsored Centers for Administrative Service Provision (TsNAPs) which also provide social services are already equipped for and accessible to persons with disabilities in eastern Ukraine. The Government of Ukraine also recently adopted the National Strategy for Barrier-Free Environment in Ukraine by 2030 (15) which specifically mentions digital accessibility, and its role in equal access to vital information and government services.

GLOSSARY

Active citizenship	The extent to which respondents are willing to use political and social means of action to change the current conditions in their community or society, but definitely without using any kind of violence.
Active citizenship orientation scenario	The likelihood that respondents report they would participate peacefully in protests and public debates, ensuring that they avoid provoking violence, in a situation of widespread public outcry in response to authorities' incapability.
Aggression	The extent to which respondents display aggressive tendencies, including, getting into fights often, having threatened people and their likelihood of hitting another person if provoked.
Anxiety	The extent to which respondents report that they worry about things that could happen and are unable to stop themselves from worrying.
Civic engagement	The frequency of respondents' participation in public life, including NGO events, volunteering, signing petitions, attending demonstrations, voting, local authorities' events, activities to improve their neighbourhood, and debating social, political and civic issues online.
Civic optimism	The extent to which respondents believe that each generation in Ukraine is better off than the previous one.
Contact with different groups	The frequency to which respondents report having everyday interaction and communication with people from different socio-political or ethnic groups to their own.

Critical thinking	The extent to which respondents report that they can explain newly acquired information in their own words, whether they corroborate new information from several sources and make an effort to separate facts from opinions, and whether they base their thinking on objective and verifiable evidence.
Depression	The extent to which respondents report that they feel very sad, are apathetic about daily life, and feel guilty about things they have done.
Disability Group I	According to the Instruction on the disability group assignment, approved by the Order of the Ministry of Health dated 05.09.2011 No. 561 (registered in the Ministry of Justice on November 14, 2011 under No. 1295/20033) assignment of Disability Group I is based on stable, severe functional impairment in the body, caused by disease, trauma or birth defect, leading to significant restriction of the person's life activity, inability to self-servicing and causing need for constant external supervision, care or assistance. This is divided into two groups, depending on the degree of health loss, scope for need for constant external care, assistance or clinical supervision. Subgroup A includes persons with extremely high degree of health loss, extreme dependence on constant external care, assistance or clinical supervision from other persons, and who are actually incapable of self-servicing. Subgroup B includes persons with high degree of health loss, significant dependence of other persons in carrying out vital domestic social functions and who are partially able to perform some elements of self-servicing (30,31).
Disability Group II	According to the Instruction on the disability group assignment, approved by the Order of the Ministry of Health dated 05.09.2011 No. 561 (registered in the Ministry of Justice on November 14, 2011 under No. 1295/20033) assignment of Disability Group II is based on stable, functional impairment in the body of expressed severity caused by disease, trauma or birth defect, leading to significant restriction of the person's life activity, but with kept ability to self-servicing and without need for constant external supervision, care or assistance. The criteria for its assignment is the loss of health, resulting in expressed II degree restriction of one or several categories of the person's life activity (30,31).
Disability Group III	According to the Instruction on the disability group assignment, approved by the Order of the Ministry of Health dated 05.09.2011 No. 561 (registered in the Ministry of Justice on November 14, 2011 under No. 1295/20033) assignment of Disability Group III is based on stable, functional impairment in the body of moderate severity caused by disease, trauma or birth defect, leading to moderately expressed restriction of the person's life activity, including his/her workability so as social assistance and social protection system are required. The criteria for its assignment

is the loss of health, resulting in moderately expressed I degree restriction of one or several categories of the person's life activity. (30,31)

Distress tolerance	The extent to which respondents report that they remain hopeful in the face of adversities, that they can handle unpleasant feelings, and that they are able to deal with bad events and become stronger in the face of difficulties.
Education level	The highest level of education that the respondent has completed, from primary or unfinished secondary, to postgraduate, including secondary academic or vocational school.
Employment opportunities	The extent to which respondents report that it would be easy to find a job that satisfied them in their locality, if they were looking for one.
Executive functioning	The extent to which respondents report that they are able to learn complex activities, set competing priorities, and prevent themselves from active on impulse.
Exposure to conflict	The extent to which respondents, their close friends or their family, have heard or seen actual fighting or shelling, experienced home or property damage due to military actions, lost someone due to the conflict in the east, or witnessed someone being shot, wounded, violently attacked or killed.
Exposure to domestic abuse	Whether respondents or their close friends or family have been subject to emotional or physical violence perpetrated by someone in their household.
Growth mindset	The extent to which respondents report that they consider feedback and criticism to improve themselves, put effort into learning and developing new skills, believe that they can improve on things with practice, and are interested in expanding their horizons.
Health status	The extent to which respondents perceive that their health status is good and that they almost never suffer from serious health problems, as opposed to very poor health status with multiple chronic or underlying health conditions.
Income level	The extent to which respondents estimate the amount of their household income, ranging from affording food to affording to buy luxury goods, such as an apartment or a car.
Leadership	The extent to which respondents report that they are able to generate future directions in a team environment, identify strengths within a team and use these for impactful collaboration, inspire other people to find direction, and are confident in being a leader.

Locality satisfaction	The extent to which respondents have access to leisure activities in their locality, and whether they believe their locality is a good place to raise a family, to live and to work.
Marginalisation	The extent to which respondents feel that they are treated unfairly based on certain social characteristics, namely, their health status or disability, education level, income level, native language, gender, religious beliefs, nationality or ethnicity, sexual orientation, political opinions, or age.
Mental wellbeing	The extent to which respondents report good mental health, measured as an absence of anxiety (constant worrying) and depression (sadness, apathy and guilt).
Personal security	The extent to which respondents feel safe from violence in their daily life, feel safe walking alone at night in their local area, and feel that the police can protect them from violence.
Persons with disabilities	This group includes those who have long-term physical, mental, intellectual, or sensory impairments which in interaction with various barriers may hinder their full and effective participation in society on an equal basis with others (1,2).
Reasonable accommodation	Necessary and appropriate modification and adjustments not imposing a disproportionate or undue burden, where needed in a particular case, to ensure persons with disabilities the enjoyment or exercise on an equal basis with others of all human rights and fundamental freedoms (2).
Readiness for dialogue with different groups	The extent to which respondents believe that people from different socio-political or ethnic groups would be willing to hear their arguments and discuss with them, and whether they believe they could have mutually beneficial dialogue.
Sense of civic duty	The combined extent to which respondents display a sense of agency and civic responsibility, i.e., they believe that ordinary people can make a change in Ukraine, that they can contribute to politics, that the future of Ukraine is of a concern to them, and that there is value in them voting in elections.
Sense of pride in local industry and production	The extent to which respondents are proud of industry and production in their locality.
Social threat	The extent to which respondents believe that the presence of different socio-political or ethnic groups will undermine the unity of their community.
Trust in courts	The extent to which respondents trust the courts in Ukraine.

REFERENCES

- 1 OCHA. Ukraine Humanitarian Needs Overview 2022. 2022 Feb.
- 2 State Statistics Service of Ukraine. Social Protection of the Population of Ukraine in 2019 [Internet]. 2020 [cited 2021 Oct 5]. Available from: https://ukrstat.org/uk/druk/publicat/kat_e/2020/09/zb_szn_2019_e.pdf
- 3 United Nations Human Rights Monitoring Mission in Ukraine. Impact of the COVID-19 Pandemic on Persons with Disabilities in Ukraine. 2020 Oct.
- 4 National Assembly of People with Disabilities of Ukraine. Additional information for the UN Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. 2015.
- 5 UN Women Ukraine. Human Rights of Women and Girls with Disabilities: A Brief Guide to the Intersectional Approach through the Implementation of CEDAW and CRPD in Ukraine. Kyiv; 2019.
- 6 UN Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD). General comment No. 3 (2016), Article 6: Women and girls with disabilities, CRPD/C/GC/3. 2016 Sep.
- 7 Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine. Parliamentary Hearings on the Prevention of and Addressing the Discriminations of Women from Vulnerable Social Groups. 2018 Oct 10.
- 8 HelpAge International. Older women and men needs assessment in COVID-10 pandemic. 2020 May.
- 9 World Health Organization. Regional Office for Europe. Access to health-care services for older persons and persons with disabilities living in Eastern Ukraine along the “line of contact” [Internet]. 2021 [cited 2021 Oct 11]. Available from: <https://apps.who.int/iris/handle/10665/341237>

- 10 United Nations. Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. 2008.
- 11 Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities: Concluding observations on the initial report of Ukraine. 2015 Oct.
- 12 Ukrainian Parliament Commissioner for Human Rights. 2019 Annual Report of Ukrainian Parliament Commissioner for Human Rights on Observance and Protection of Human Rights and Freedoms of Citizens of Ukraine. 2020.
- 13 Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women. Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women: Concluding observations on the eighth periodic report of Ukraine. 2017 Mar.
- 14 Міністерство освіти і науки України. Інклюзивне навчання: СТАТИСТИЧНІ ДАНІ [Internet]. 2022 [cited 2022 Jun 1]. Available from: <https://mon.gov.ua/ua/osvita/inklyuzivne-navchannya/statistichni-dani>
- 15 Верховна Рада України [Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine]. 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:366-2021-p. 366-2021-p Ukraine: zakon.rada.gov.ua; Apr 14, 2021].
- 16 Kharkiv Human Rights Protection Group. 20. Rights of the Persons with Disabilities [Internet]. 2013 [cited 2021 Oct 13]. Available from: <https://khpg.org/en/1362808745>
- 17 Overchuk VA. Problems and prospects of socio-psychological and economic integration of people with disabilities in Ukraine. Lambert Academic Publishing. 2021;115.
- 18 Overchuk V, Kushnir J, Shportun O, Matokhniuk L, Sydorenko Z, Vasyuk K, et al. Improving the Quality of Life of Persons with Disabilities by Promoting Their Professional Rehabilitation. Universal Journal of Public Health. 2021 Jun;9(3).
- 19 Lavreniuk S, Odusanvo V. Стіна з бар'єрів: працевлаштування людей з інвалідністю в Україні [Internet]. Спільне Commons. 2021 [cited 2021 Nov 12]. Available from: <https://commons.com.ua/en/pracevlashtuvannya-lyudej-z-invalidnistyu-v-ukrayini/>
- 20 Soloviova TG, Gladyshev MO, Leshchenko OG, Zaveryko NV, Matskevich YR. Impact of the Education System on Social

- 21 Klymenko K. Human Rights of Persons with Disabilities in Ukraine. In: Yanush O, Latygina A, editors. The Science of the XXI Century: Challenges of the Contemporaneity - III All-Ukrainian Scientific and Practical Student Conference. Kyiv: Kyiv National University of Trade and Economics; 2020. p. 43–7.
- 22 Lord JE, Stein MA, Fiala-Butora J. Facilitating an Equal Right to Vote for Persons with Disabilities. Journal of Human Rights Practice. 2014 Mar 1;6(1).
- 23 USAID/ENGAGE. Advancing a More Inclusive Ukrainian Society [Internet]. 2020 [cited 2021 Oct 13]. Available from: <https://engage.org.ua/eng/advancing-a-more-inclusive-ukrainian-society/>
- 24 Mathews E, Rosenthal E, Ahern L, Kurylo H. No Way Home: The Exploitation and Abuse of Children in Ukraine's Orphanages. 2015.
- 25 Disability Rights International, European Network on Independent Living, Validity Foundation. Joint contribution of disability rights organisations to the 2021 EU-Ukraine Human Rights Dialogue. 2021.
- 26 Gazizullin I, Solodova D. How People with Disabilities Live in the Donetsk and Luhansk Oblasts: SCORE Results [Internet]. 2019 [cited 2021 Oct 5]. Available from: https://scoreforpeace.org/files/publication/pub_file//PUB_DGEUKR19_Brief_Disability_ENG.pdf
- 27 State Statistics Service of Ukraine. Resident Population of Ukraine by Sex and Age [Internet]. Kyiv; 2021 [cited 2021 Oct 5]. Available from: http://database.ukrcensus.gov.ua/PXWEB2007/ukr/publ_new1/2021/zb_rpn21_ue.pdf
- 28 McNett SC. Social Support, Threat, and Coping Responses and Effectiveness In the Functionally Disabled. Nursing Research. 1987 Mar;36(2):98–103.
- 29 Верховна Рада України. ЗАКОН УКРАЇНИ Про соціальні послуги № 2671-VIII. Ukraine; Jan 17, 2019.
- 30 Міністерство охорони здоров'я України. Про затвердження Інструкції про встановлення груп інвалідності. № 561 Ukraine: <https://zakon.rada.gov.ua/laws/card/en/z1295-11>; Sep 5, 2011.
- 31 The Government of Ukraine. 8th National Report on the implementation of the European Social Charter (revised) [Internet]. 2014 [cited 2021 Oct 8]. Available from: https://www.ecoi.net/en/file/local/1211885/1226_1471431679_ukraine8-report-en-pdf.pdf

TABLE 15

Employment status and sector comparison for persons with disabilities in Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts, using SCORE data from 2019 and 2021.

		2019 Donetsk & Luhansk		2021 Donetsk & Luhansk	
		N	%	N	%
<i>Can you please tell me the sector you work in?</i>	Employed / Working, Full Time (includes military and self-employment)	51	15	140	20
	Employed/ Working, Part Time (includes military and self-employment)	15	4	39	6
	On maternity leave	1	0	5	1
	Running a household / looking after family	7	3	27	4
	Pensioner	195	67	420	59
	Student	0	0	14	2
	Unemployed and looking for a job	12	4	40	6
	Unemployed but not looking for a job	23	5	29	4
<i>What is your current employment status?</i>	Manual construction work	6	1	12	2
	Factory or mine work	11	2	21	3
	Cleaning or maid work	2	0	7	1
	Clerical support work	3	0	10	1
	Service sector, trade (e.g. chief, salesman)	25	4	41	6
	IT sector	2	0	8	1
	Agricultural work	3	0	6	1
	Technician work	8	1	9	1
	Healthcare or education work	13	2	22	3
	Management	1	0	7	1
	Professional	13	2	23	3
	Other	35	6	18	3
	Refuse to Answer	481	80	530	74

TABLE 16

Linear regression with dependent variable sense of civic duty

Sample	Dependent variable	R ²	Unstandardised B	Std. Error	Standardised B	t	Sig.
18–35 PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES	Sense of civic duty	0.315					
Independent variables	(constant)		0.216	0.761		0.284	0.777
	Civic optimism		0.173	0.065	0.201	2.663	0.009
	Mental wellbeing		0.242	0.097	0.194	2.498	0.014
	Contact with different groups		0.336	0.101	0.245	3.336	0.001
	Health status		0.25	0.071	0.272	3.497	0.001
	Education level		0.176	0.089	0.148	1.985	0.049
36–59 PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES	Sense of civic duty	0.151					
Independent variables	(constant)		1.058	0.551		1.918	0.056
	Civic optimism		0.115	0.046	0.119	2.491	0.013
	Mental wellbeing		0.162	0.066	0.12	2.449	0.015
	Contact with different groups		0.354	0.079	0.218	4.482	0
	Health status		0.132	0.05	0.128	2.633	0.009
	Education level		0.211	0.073	0.141	2.886	0.004
60+ PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES	Sense of civic duty	0.146					
Independent variables	(constant)		1.089	0.494		2.204	0.028
	Civic optimism		0.143	0.045	0.159	3.158	0.002
	Mental wellbeing		0.27	0.059	0.233	4.56	0
	Contact with different groups		0.247	0.087	0.141	2.835	0.005
	Health status		-0.021	0.053	-0.02	-0.396	0.692
	Education level		0.224	0.068	0.165	3.28	0.001

Sample	Dependent variable	R ²	Unstandardised B	Std. Error	Standardised B	t	Sig.
18–35 NO DISABILITY STATUS	Sense of civic duty	0.105					
Independent variables	(constant)		1.959	0.318		6.159	0
	Civic optimism		0.163	0.018	0.195	9.327	0
	Mental wellbeing		0.196	0.027	0.153	7.258	0
	Contact with different groups		0.212	0.033	0.135	6.432	0
	Health status		0.048	0.027	0.037	1.792	0.073
	Education level		0.114	0.028	0.085	4.058	0
36–59 NO DISABILITY STATUS	Sense of civic duty	0.077					
Independent variables	(constant)		2.119	0.231		9.177	0
	Civic optimism		0.135	0.015	0.156	9.262	0
	Mental wellbeing		0.168	0.022	0.13	7.706	0
	Contact with different groups		0.152	0.026	0.098	5.777	0
	Health status		0.056	0.02	0.047	2.833	0.005
	Education level		0.146	0.026	0.096	5.657	0
60+ NO DISABILITY STATUS	Sense of civic duty	0.297					
Independent variables	(constant)		1.883	0.201		9.392	0
	Civic optimism		0.089	0.017	0.101	5.12	0
	Mental wellbeing		0.195	0.024	0.165	8.283	0
	Contact with different groups		0.194	0.03	0.129	6.5	0
	Health status		0.055	0.021	0.054	2.691	0.007
	Education level		0.149	0.025	0.115	5.847	0

TABLE 17





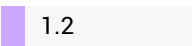
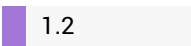











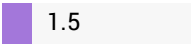
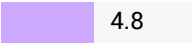



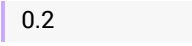
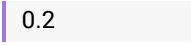


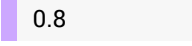
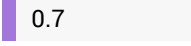




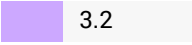

















Linear regression with dependent variable civic engagement





























































Sample	Dependent variable	R ²	Unstandardised		Standardised	t	Sig.
			B	Std. Error	B		
18–35 PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES	Civic engagement	0.220					
Independent variables	(constant)		-0.322	0.349		-0.924	0.357
	Sense of civic duty		0.105	0.05	0.176	2.078	0.04
	Leadership skills		0.133	0.045	0.237	2.929	0.004
	Exposure to conflict		0.144	0.066	0.171	2.181	0.031
	Trust in courts		0.126	0.049	0.205	2.598	0.01
36–59 PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES	Civic engagement	0.223					
Independent variables	(constant)		-0.089	0.219		-0.408	0.684
	Sense of civic duty		0.217	0.032	0.33	6.852	0
	Leadership skills		0.101	0.029	0.167	3.538	0
	Exposure to conflict		0.116	0.035	0.154	3.306	0.001
	Trust in courts		0.071	0.031	0.103	2.266	0.024
60+ PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES	Civic engagement	0.145					
Independent variables	(constant)		0.816	0.172		4.733	0
	Sense of civic duty		0.172	0.029	0.307	5.963	0
	Leadership skills		0.019	0.023	0.041	0.799	0.425
	Exposure to conflict		0.124	0.037	0.166	3.337	0.001
	Trust in courts		-0.04	0.029	-0.07	-1.408	0.16


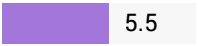










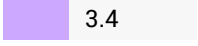
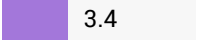
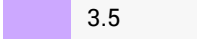
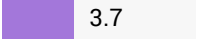





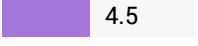





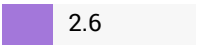





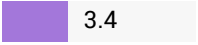
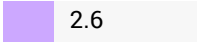
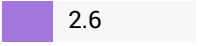


















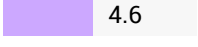


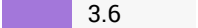
Sample	Dependent variable	R ²	Unstandardised		Standardised	t	Sig.
			B	Std. Error	B		
18–35 NO DISABILITY STATUS	Civic engagement	0.093					
Independent variables	(constant)		0.59	0.107		5.525	0
	Sense of civic duty		0.143	0.013	0.239	11.156	0
	Leadership skills		0.025	0.013	0.041	1.911	0.056
	Exposure to conflict		0.098	0.016	0.132	6.288	0
	Trust in courts		0.029	0.011	0.055	2.624	0.009
36–59 NO DISABILITY STATUS	Civic engagement	0.109					
Independent variables	(constant)		0.577	0.079		7.342	0
	Sense of civic duty		0.152	0.01	0.252	15.072	0
	Leadership skills		0.065	0.01	0.112	6.697	0
	Exposure to conflict		0.064	0.012	0.088	5.376	0
	Trust in courts		0.051	0.01	0.086	5.253	0
60+ NO DISABILITY STATUS	Civic engagement	0.113					
Independent variables	(constant)		0.693	0.068		10.215	0
	Sense of civic duty		0.126	0.011	0.231	11.632	0
	Leadership skills		0.08	0.009	0.172	8.652	0
	Exposure to conflict		0.042	0.014	0.059	3.097	0.002
	Trust in courts		0.025	0.01	0.047	2.454	0.014



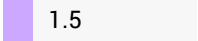


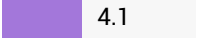




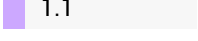
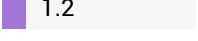





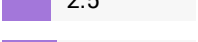
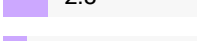
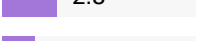
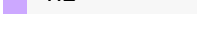
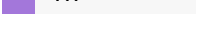









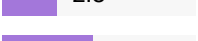

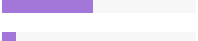
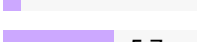



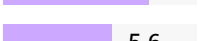










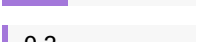
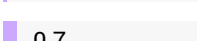
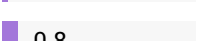


TABLE 18











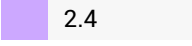
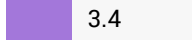


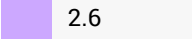
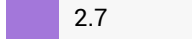


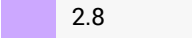
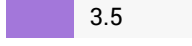


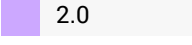
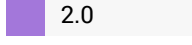



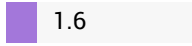


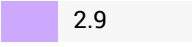
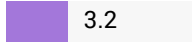
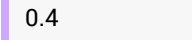
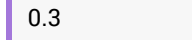


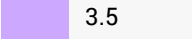
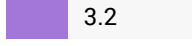
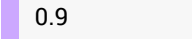
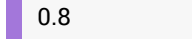










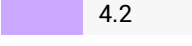
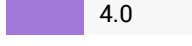




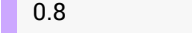
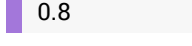


Persons with disabilities in Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts only, comparison of SCORE data from 2019 to 2021. Asterisk () indicates statistical significance of difference in ANCOVA, controlled for age, $p < 0.05$. Indicator names in bold correspond to indicators which were presented in the previous report (26). For indicator definitions see Glossary or app.scoreforpeace.org.*

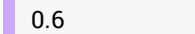
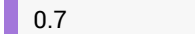
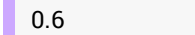
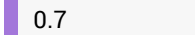
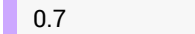
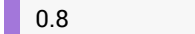
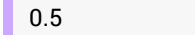
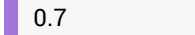
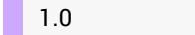
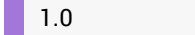
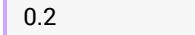
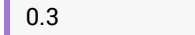
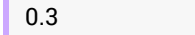
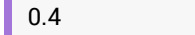
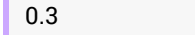
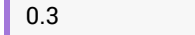
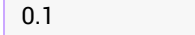
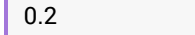
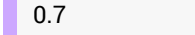
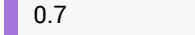
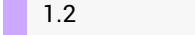
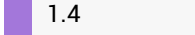
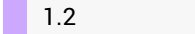
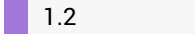
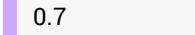
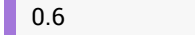
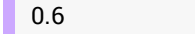
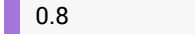
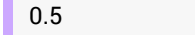
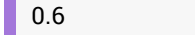
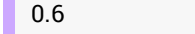
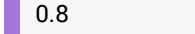
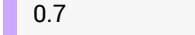
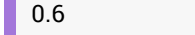
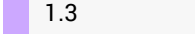
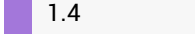
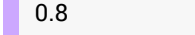
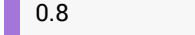
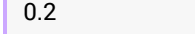
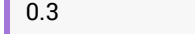
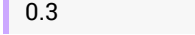
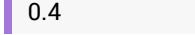
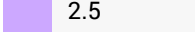
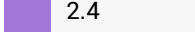
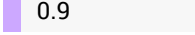
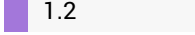
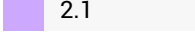

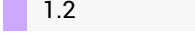
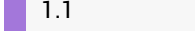


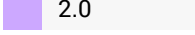
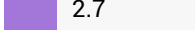
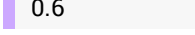
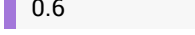
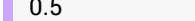
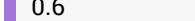
Indicator	2019 Mean	2021 Mean	Significance of change	Direction of change	F	Sig.
Ukrainian language knowledge	 6.6	 6.2	*	-	5.05	0.02
Russian language knowledge	 8.3	 8.4		+	1.96	0.16
English language knowledge	 1.2	 1.2		+	1.40	0.24
Sense of belonging to the settlement	 8.4	 7.9	*	-	4.81	0.03
Sense of belonging to the region	 8.4	 7.7	*	-	9.44	0.00
Sense of belonging to the country	 8.5	 7.8	*	-	12.44	0.00
Sense of belonging (overall)	 8.4	 7.8	*	-	10.67	0.00
Identity: Ukrainian	 5.2	 4.8		-	2.63	0.11
Identity: Russian	 1.8	 1.5		-	1.65	0.20
Identity: Citizen of Ukraine	 4.8	 5.3	*	+	4.40	0.04
Identity: European	 0.2	 0.3		+	1.26	0.26
Identity: Other	 0.2	 0.2		-	0.21	0.65
Religiosity	 4.7	 5.3	*	+	11.06	0.00
Parenthood	 0.8	 0.7	*	-	9.15	0.00
Provision of infrastructure	 5.4	 5.6	*	+	6.71	0.01
Provision of basic schooling	 6.4	 6.1	*	-	5.48	0.02
Provision of higher education	 3.2	 4.2	*	+	32.01	0.00
Provision of health care	 4.9	 5.1		+	1.25	0.26
Provision of justice services	 4.5	 4.8	*	+	4.18	0.04
Provision of administrative services	 5.8	 6.4	*	+	22.19	0.00
Provision of welfare payments	 6.8	 6.8		+	0.07	0.79
Quality of roads	 4.3	 4.8	*	+	15.01	0.00
Quality of public transport	 5.8	 6.1		+	3.30	0.07
Provision of utilities	 6.0	 6.0		+	0.03	0.86
Internet access	 7.1	 7.3		+	0.82	0.36

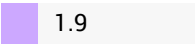
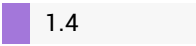




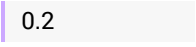
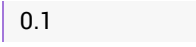
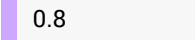
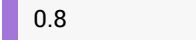
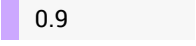
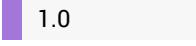
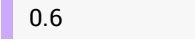
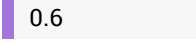
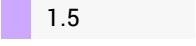
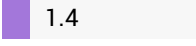
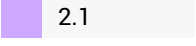
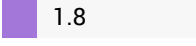
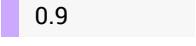
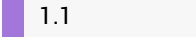
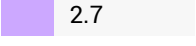
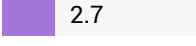
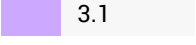
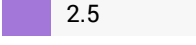
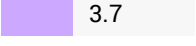
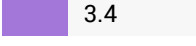
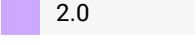



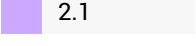
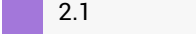
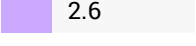
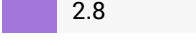
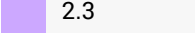
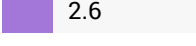
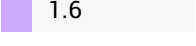
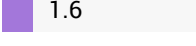
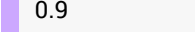
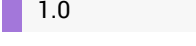
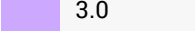
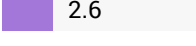
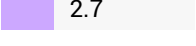
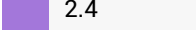
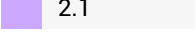
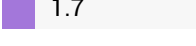
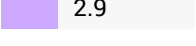
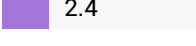
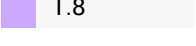
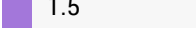
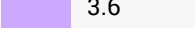
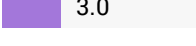
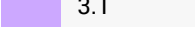
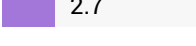
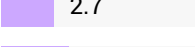
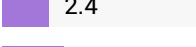
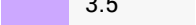
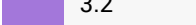
Indicator	2019 Mean	2021 Mean	Significance of change	Direction of change	F	Sig.
Economic security	 4.6	 4.1	*	-	14.73	0.00
Health security	 4.3	 4.1		-	2.99	0.08
Health security (USE18 comparable)	 4.1	 4.0		-	1.33	0.25
Environmental security (DGE19 comparable)	 4.1	 4.3		+	2.42	0.12
Personal security	 3.4	 3.8	*	+	4.44	0.04
Political security	 4.2	 4.2		+	0.01	0.93
Human security (DGE19 comparable)	 4.1	 4.0		-	0.40	0.53
Ukrainian authorities care	 2.3	 1.9	*	-	8.68	0.00
Accountability of authorities	 2.4	 2.2	*	-	4.85	0.03
Perceived level of corruption	 7.0	 7.1		+	0.63	0.43
Perception that police are covering up organised crime	 7.9	 7.9		+	0.10	0.76
Perception that parliamentarians can be bribed to propose and vote laws	 7.7	 8.3	*	+	15.84	0.00
Perception that judges and prosecutors can be bought	 8.2	 8.1		-	0.92	0.34
Perception that doctors are willing to provide higher quality assistance if they receive additional payments	 8.0	 7.7	*	-	4.53	0.03
Perception that teachers give higher marks if one pays	 6.3	 6.4		+	0.38	0.54
Perception that local authorities ask for additional payments to provide services	 4.4	 5.0	*	+	7.54	0.01
Perception that police won't register traffic violations if paid	 6.9	 6.7		-	1.07	0.30
Tolerance to corruption	 4.7	 4.3	*	-	7.93	0.00
Trust in central institutions (overall)	 3.6	 2.0	*	-	172.43	0.00
Trust in local institutions (overall)	 3.8	 3.4	*	-	7.83	0.01
Trust in the President	 5.1	 2.4	*	-	261.17	0.00
Trust in Verkhovna Rada	 3.3	 1.7	*	-	136.27	0.00
Trust in the Cabinet of Ministers	 3.4	 1.6	*	-	139.95	0.00
Trust in courts	 2.7	 2.1	*	-	16.58	0.00
Trust in police	 3.3	 2.8	*	-	9.24	0.00
Trust in oblast state administration	 3.4	 2.9	*	-	11.65	0.00
Trust in town or village administration	 3.9	 3.5	*	-	6.54	0.01
Trust in head of the town/village	 4.1	 3.8		-	2.72	0.10
Trust in Ukrainian Army	 4.8	 3.9	*	-	26.42	0.00
Trust in non-governmental organisations	 5.5	 4.5	*	-	37.57	0.00

Indicator	2019 Mean	2021 Mean	Significance of change	Direction of change	F	Sig.
Pride in locality	 6.1	 5.5	*	-	17.18	0.00
Pride in local nature	 7.2	 6.8		-	3.40	0.07
Pride in local cultural heritage	 6.8	 6.0	*	-	15.95	0.00
Pride in local famous people	 7.5	 6.7	*	-	13.84	0.00
Pride in local cuisine	 6.8	 6.1	*	-	11.32	0.00
Pride in local traditions	 6.8	 6.0	*	-	13.85	0.00
Pride in local safety	 3.4	 3.4		+	0.01	0.90
Pride in local industry and production	 3.5	 3.7		+	0.13	0.72
Pride in local hospitality	 7.3	 6.4	*	-	16.30	0.00
Pride in local creativity	 6.6	 5.5	*	-	32.17	0.00
Pride in local community bonds	 5.3	 4.5	*	-	12.55	0.00
Scepticism about reforms	 6.3	 7.5	*	+	85.46	0.00
Support for decentralization reform	 4.2	 3.3	*	-	49.90	0.00
Support for health reform	 3.6	 2.6	*	-	68.76	0.00
Support for reforms (DGE19 comparable)	 3.9	 3.0	*	-	80.92	0.00
Health Reform Awareness	 5.2	 5.0		-	0.95	0.33
Support for EU membership	 3.7	 3.4	*	-	5.90	0.02
Support for NATO membership	 2.6	 2.6		-	0.24	0.62
Support for EEU membership	 5.4	 4.9	*	-	4.26	0.04
Support for non-aligned status	 5.6	 6.0		+	2.20	0.14
Pro-Russia orientation	 5.8	 5.5		-	2.69	0.10
Cooperation with Russia (all)	 8.3	 7.7	*	-	19.25	0.00
Support for political cooperation with Russia	 7.6	 6.8	*	-	14.06	0.00
Support for economic cooperation with Russia	 8.3	 7.7	*	-	13.28	0.00
Support for cultural cooperation with Russia	 8.2	 7.7	*	-	11.16	0.00
Support for civil society cooperation with Russia	 8.4	 7.7	*	-	17.02	0.00
Support for maintaining family ties with Russia	 9.1	 8.5	*	-	19.53	0.00
Confidence in EU stability	 4.6	 4.8		+	1.46	0.23
Perceived EU benefit	 3.8	 3.6		-	1.63	0.20

Indicator	2019 Mean	2021 Mean	Significance of change	Direction of change	F	Sig.
Pluralistic Ukrainian identity	 6.9	 7.1		+	0.81	0.37
Ukrainian nationalism	 1.5	 1.7		+	2.86	0.09
Support for European values	 4.2	 4.1		-	1.92	0.17
Support for linguistic diversity	 6.3	 6.1		-	1.65	0.20
Support for preservation of Soviet monuments	 8.8	 8.7		-	0.27	0.60
Endorsement of military operation	 1.1	 1.2		+	0.41	0.52
Future vision for NGCA: Part of Ukraine	 6.9	 7.3		+	3.83	0.05
Future vision for NGCA: Special status	 5.2	 4.9		-	2.20	0.14
Future vision for NGCA: Part of Russia	 2.0	 2.5	*	+	8.54	0.00
Future vision for NGCA: Independent countries	 2.3	 2.8	*	+	6.40	0.01
Future vision for NGCA: Status quo	 1.2	 1.7	*	+	11.29	0.00
Traditional media consumption	 5.8	 5.0	*	-	33.46	0.00
Online media consumption	 4.9	 5.9	*	+	10.15	0.00
Information consumption from friends&family	 8.0	 7.7		-	3.40	0.07
Civic engagement	 1.9	 1.9		-	0.84	0.36
Civic optimism	 4.0	 2.8	*	-	70.52	0.00
Gender stereotypes	 5.4	 4.7	*	-	42.52	0.00
Normalisation of domestic violence against women	 0.9	 0.7	*	-	7.37	0.01
Gender equality mindset	 5.7	 6.3	*	+	44.77	0.00
Belief in human rights	 7.5	 6.9	*	-	37.35	0.00
Community cooperation	 5.6	 5.1	*	-	8.10	0.00
Sense of civic duty	 4.9	 5.0		+	0.02	0.90
Sense of agency	 5.0	 4.9		-	0.58	0.45
Sense of civic responsibility	 4.8	 5.0		+	1.03	0.31
Family & friends in NGCA	 4.1	 3.4	*	-	8.11	0.00
Relationship to conflict: Personal	 0.2	 0.3		+	0.52	0.47
Relationship to conflict: Family member or friend	 0.7	 0.8		+	0.16	0.69

Indicator	2019 Mean	2021 Mean	Significance of change	Direction of change	F	Sig.
Social tolerance	 6.0	 6.5	*	+	6.53	0.01
Social tolerance towards immigrants	 6.9	 8.2	*	+	45.35	0.00
Social tolerance towards Muslims	 6.8	 7.8	*	+	21.64	0.00
Social tolerance towards Jews	 7.3	 8.4	*	+	35.13	0.00
Social tolerance towards Roma	 5.7	 6.7	*	+	21.50	0.00
Social tolerance towards LGBT	 2.4	 3.4	*	+	16.32	0.00
Social tolerance towards people with a different colour of skin	 7.7	 8.1		+	3.42	0.06
Social tolerance towards drug addicts	 2.6	 2.7		+	0.02	0.89
Locality satisfaction	 5.3	 5.3		+	0.27	0.60
Migration tendency	 2.8	 3.5	*	+	8.94	0.00
Fear of economic instability (DGE19 comparable)	 7.8	 8.4	*	+	31.41	0.00
Employment opportunities	 2.0	 2.0		+	0.13	0.72
Entrepreneurship mentality	 5.7	 5.9		+	0.17	0.68
Political violence	 1.7	 1.6		-	0.83	0.36
Passive citizenship	 6.6	 6.5		-	0.00	0.99
Active citizenship	 2.9	 3.2		+	0.48	0.49
Violent_Citizenship	 0.4	 0.3		-	2.98	0.08
Passive citizenship orientation (Scenario)	 6.7	 6.9		+	3.82	0.05
Active citizenship orientation (Scenario)	 3.5	 3.2	*	-	3.90	0.05
Violent citizenship orientation (Scenario)	 0.9	 0.8		-	2.42	0.12
Distress tolerance	 7.7	 7.7		-	0.84	0.36
Critical thinking (DGE19 comparable)	 6.8	 6.9		+	0.01	0.93
Leadership skills (DGE19 comparable)	 5.4	 5.8		+	1.08	0.30
Growth mindset	 6.6	 6.9		+	3.15	0.08
Anxiety	 5.4	 5.1		-	1.63	0.20
Depression (DGE19 comparable)	 4.2	 4.0		-	0.09	0.77
Executive functioning skills	 6.3	 6.9	*	+	22.37	0.00
Empathy	 7.1	 7.3		+	1.82	0.18
Aggression	 0.8	 0.8		+	0.67	0.41
Family coherence	 8.7	 8.7		+	0.04	0.83

Indicator	2019 Mean	2021 Mean	Significance of change	Direction of change	F	Sig.
Marginalization	 0.6	 0.7		+	0.95	0.33
Marginalization because of the age	 0.6	 0.7		+	1.93	0.16
Marginalization because of the level of education	 0.7	 0.8		+	0.37	0.54
Marginalization because of the native language	 0.5	 0.7		+	2.90	0.09
Marginalization because of the level of income	 1.0	 1.0		+	0.23	0.63
Marginalization because of the gender	 0.2	 0.3		+	0.99	0.32
Marginalization because of the religious beliefs and opinions	 0.3	 0.4		+	0.33	0.56
Marginalization because of the nationality or ethnicity	 0.3	 0.3		+	0.33	0.56
Marginalization because of the sexual orientation	 0.1	 0.2		+	2.00	0.16
Marginalization because of the political opinions	 0.7	 0.7		+	0.01	0.91
Marginalization because of the health status or disability	 1.2	 1.4		+	0.83	0.36
Exposure to verbal abuse: Personal	 1.2	 1.2		+	0.02	0.88
Exposure to verbal abuse: Family or friend	 0.7	 0.6		-	1.44	0.23
Exposure to physical abuse: Personal	 0.6	 0.8		+	1.23	0.27
Exposure to physical abuse: Family or friend	 0.5	 0.6		+	0.06	0.80
Exposure to physical assault: Personal	 0.6	 0.8		+	0.58	0.45
Exposure to physical assault: Family or friend	 0.7	 0.6		-	0.61	0.44
Being robbed: Personal	 1.3	 1.4		+	0.04	0.84
Being robbed: Family or friend	 0.8	 0.8		-	0.04	0.84
Detained or imprisoned without cause: Personal	 0.2	 0.3		+	0.10	0.75
Detained or imprisoned without cause: Family or friend	 0.3	 0.4		+	0.00	0.98
Suffered an accidental injury: Personal	 2.5	 2.4		-	0.38	0.54
Suffered an accidental injury: Family or friend	 0.9	 1.2		+	1.35	0.25
Home damaged: Personal	 2.1	 1.8		-	2.93	0.09
Home damaged: Family or friend	 1.2	 1.1		-	0.14	0.71
Heard or saw fighting: Personal	 5.2	 4.9		-	1.69	0.19
Heard or saw fighting: Family or friend	 2.0	 2.7	★	+	7.48	0.01
Lost a close one due to the conflict: Personal	 0.6	 0.6		+	0.06	0.81
Lost a close one due to the conflict: Family or friend	 0.5	 0.6		+	1.31	0.25

Indicator	2019 Mean	2021 Mean	Significance of change	Direction of change	F	Sig.
Witnessed violence: Personal	 1.9	 1.4	*	-	6.76	0.01
Witnessed violence: Family or friend	 0.7	 0.7		+	0.00	0.97
Witnessed death: Personal	 0.5	 0.5		-	0.21	0.65
Witnessed death: Family or friend	 0.2	 0.1		-	1.26	0.26
Exposure to Domestic Abuse: Total	 0.8	 0.8	*	+	0.00	0.99
Exposure to Domestic Abuse: Personal	 0.9	 1.0		+	0.21	0.65
Exposure to Domestic Abuse: Family or friend	 0.6	 0.6		-	0.33	0.57
Exposure to Conflict: Total	 1.5	 1.4		-	0.49	0.49
Exposure to Conflict: Personal	 2.1	 1.8		-	4.27	0.04
Exposure to Conflict: Family or friend	 0.9	 1.1		+	1.65	0.20
Contact with different groups (DGE19 comparable)	 2.7	 2.7	*	-	0.70	0.40
Contact with people living in NGCA	 3.1	 2.5		-	16.97	0.00
Contact with IDPs	 3.7	 3.4		-	5.41	0.02
Contact with people from western Ukraine	 2.0	 1.8		-	3.69	0.05
Contact with people from eastern Ukraine	 6.4	 6.7		+	2.87	0.09
Contact with ATO or JFO military personnel	 2.1	 2.1		-	0.36	0.55
Contact with pro-Russia oriented people	 2.6	 2.8		+	1.10	0.29
Contact with pro-EU oriented people	 2.3	 2.6		+	1.91	0.17
Contact with people who support NGCA separation	 1.6	 1.6		-	0.19	0.67
Contact with Ukrainian nationalists	 0.9	 1.0		+	0.09	0.76
Social threat from different groups (DGE19 comparable)	 3.0	 2.6		-	10.34	0.00
Social threat from people living in NGCA	 2.7	 2.4		-	3.60	0.06
Social threat from IDPs	 2.1	 1.7		-	5.61	0.02
Social threat from people from western Ukraine	 2.9	 2.4		-	7.62	0.01
Social threat from people from eastern Ukraine	 1.8	 1.5		-	4.68	0.03
Social threat from ATO or JFO military personnel	 3.6	 3.0		-	9.01	0.00
Social threat from pro-Russia oriented people	 3.1	 2.7		-	5.92	0.02
Social threat from pro-EU oriented people	 2.7	 2.4		-	3.02	0.08
Social threat from people who support NGCA separation	 3.5	 3.2		-	3.23	0.07

Indicator	2019 Mean	2021 Mean	Significance of change	Direction of change	F	Sig.
Social threat from Ukrainian nationalists	 4.8	 4.1	*	-	10.13	0.00
Social proximity towards different groups (DGE19 comparable)	 5.6	 6.1	*	+	8.63	0.00
Social proximity towards people living in NGCA	 6.4	 6.5		+	0.16	0.69
Social proximity towards IDPs	 6.8	 6.9		+	0.50	0.48
Social proximity towards people from western Ukraine	 5.9	 6.4	*	+	4.80	0.03
Social proximity towards people from eastern Ukraine	 7.0	 7.3		+	2.47	0.12
Social proximity towards ATO or JFO military personnel	 5.1	 5.7	*	+	8.96	0.00
Social proximity towards pro-Russia oriented people	 5.4	 5.9	*	+	8.38	0.00
Social proximity towards pro-EU oriented people	 5.7	 6.1		+	3.70	0.05
Social proximity towards people who support NGCA separation	 4.7	 5.5	*	+	15.37	0.00
Social proximity towards Ukrainian nationalists	 3.4	 4.3	*	+	18.32	0.00
Soviet nostalgia	 8.4	 8.1		-	0.45	0.50
Confidence that different groups will listen (DGE19 comparable)	 5.6	 6.1		+	3.64	0.06
Confidence that people living in NGCA will listen (DGE19 comparable)	 6.1	 6.4		+	0.72	0.40
Confidence that IDPs will listen (DGE19 comparable)	 6.8	 7.2		+	1.13	0.29
Confidence that people from western Ukraine will listen (DGE19 comparable)	 5.5	 6.0		+	2.64	0.10
Confidence that people from eastern Ukraine will listen (DGE19 comparable)	 7.3	 7.7		+	2.81	0.09
Confidence that ATO or JFO military personnel will listen (DGE19 comparable)	 5.4	 5.7		+	0.53	0.47
Confidence that pro-Russia oriented people will listen (DGE19 comparable)	 5.6	 6.1		+	2.99	0.08
Confidence that pro-EU oriented people will listen (DGE19 comparable)	 5.7	 6.1		+	1.05	0.31
Confidence that people who support NGCA separation will listen (DGE19 comparable)	 4.9	 5.6	*	+	6.15	0.01
Confidence that Ukrainian nationalists will listen (DGE19 comparable)	 3.5	 4.3	*	+	8.08	0.00