# Country Profile on Disability
# Ukraine

**August 2026**

**Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA)**

**International Development Center of Japan Inc.**
**Koei Research & Consulting Inc.**

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This study was commissioned by the Japan International Cooperation Agency (hereinafter referred to as "JICA") to the International Development Center of Japan Inc. and Koei Research & Consulting Inc. and implemented by these organizations. The contents of this study are based on literature and online research conducted in Japan and the analysis of questionnaires completed online by relevant stakeholders in the country concerned, for the period from December 2025 to August 2026.

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## Ukraine
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## List of Abbreviations

| | |
|---|---|
| CBM | Christian Blind Mission e.V. |
| CEACR | Committee of Experts on the Application of Conventions and Recommendations |
| CEDAW | Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women |
| CRC | Convention on the Rights of the Child |
| CRPD | Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities |
| EDF | European Disability Forum |
| GDP | Gross Domestic Product |
| HEAL | Health Enhancement And Lifesaving for Ukraine |
| HI | Humanity & Inclusion |
| ICF | International Classification of Functioning, Disability and Health |
| ILO | International Labour Organization |
| INSPIRE | Investing in Social Protection for Inclusion, Resilience and Effective Services |
| IRC | Inclusive Resource Center |
| JICA | Japan International Cooperation Agency |
| LOIPR | List of Issues Prior to Reporting |
| NAPD | National Assembly of People with Disabilities of Ukraine |
| NGO | Non-Governmental Organization |
| OPD | Organization of Persons with Disabilities |
| SDGs | Sustainable Development Goals |
| UNDP | United Nations Development Programme |
| UNESCO | United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization |
| UNICEF | United Nations Children's Fund |
| UNPRPD | United Nations Partnership on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities |
| UTOG | Ukraine Society of the Deaf |
| UTOS | Ukrainian Society of the Blind |
| VNR | Voluntary National Review |
| WHO | World Health Organization |

# 1. Basic Profile

## 1-1. Basic Indicators[1]

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Gross domestic product per capita[2] | 5,389.5 USD | 2024 |

Expenditure by sector

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Healthcare (as % of GDP) | 8.2 % | 2021 |
| Education (as % of GDP) | 5.1 % | 2021 |
| Social protection (as percentage of GDP)[3] | 17.4 % | 2022 |

Population

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Total population | 37,860,221 | 2024 |
| Male (% of total population) | 46.5 % | |
| Female (% of total population) | 53.5 % | |
| Urban population share | 69.5 % | |
| Rural population share | 30.5 % | |
| Life expectancy at birth (total) | 73.4 years | 2023 |
| Male | 66.9 years | |
| Female | 80.2 years | |

Health

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Prevalence of undernourishment (% of population) | 6.9 % | 2023 |
| Infant mortality rate (per 1,000 live births) | 7.8 | 2023 |

Education

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Education system[4] | | |
| Primary education | 4 years | |
| Compulsory education | 9 years | |
| Literacy rate (% of ages 15 and above) | 99.4 % | 2001 |
| Adult male | 99.7 % | |
| Adult female | 99.1 % | |

[1] Based on the World Bank (https://data.worldbank.org/indicator, Accessed: 19 January 2026).
[2] Gross Domestic Product (hereinafter referred to as "GDP").
[3] Based on ILO (2024) World Social Protection Report, https://www.ilo.org/sites/default/files/2024-09/WSPR_2024_EN_WEB_1.pdf (Accessed: 5 April 2026).
[4] The education system in Ukraine consists of primary education (4 years), lower secondary education (5 years), upper secondary education (2 years), and university (4 to 6 years). Based on Law of Ukraine No. 2145-VIII "On Education" (https://cis-legislation.com/document.fwx?rgn=101022) and the Report on the Implementation of the Convention against Discrimination in Education submitted to United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) (https://www.unesco.org/education/edurights/media/resources/file/UKRAINE.pdf).

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| School enrolment rate | | |
| Gross enrolment ratio, primary (total) | 91.1 % | 2021 |
| Male | 90.7 % | |
| Female | 91.5 % | |
| Gross enrolment ratio, lower secondary (total) | 84.6 % | 2021 |
| Male | 84.2 % | |
| Female | 85.0 % | |
| Gross enrolment ratio, tertiary (total) | 76.0 % | 2021 |
| Male | 71.4 % | |
| Female | 80.6 % | |

Employment

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Unemployment rate (total) | 9.8 % | 2021 |
| Male (% of male labor force) | 9.5 % | |
| Female (% of female labor force) | 10.1 % | |

1-2. Definition of Disability and Indicators on Disability

1-2-1. Definition of Disability

According to the initial report of the Government of Ukraine to the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (2012) (hereinafter referred to as the "initial State report"), the Law of Ukraine "On the Fundamentals of Social Protection of Persons with Disability in Ukraine" previously defined a person with disability as "a person who has a permanent impairment of bodily functions resulting from disease, injury or congenital defect, which leads to restrictions in daily life activities and the need for social assistance and protection." Subsequently, Article 2 of the same Law was amended by Law No. 4213 of 22 December 2011 so that, in line with the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (hereinafter referred to as the "CRPD"), a person with disability is defined as "a person who has a permanent impairment of bodily functions, which, in interaction with the external environment, leads to restrictions in daily life activities, as a result of which the State has an obligation to create the necessary conditions and ensure social protection so that such a person can exercise rights on an equal basis with others."

1-2-2. Indicators on Disability

According to the initial State report (2012), out of a population of 45.598 million, approximately 2.7 million persons with disabilities were recorded as of 1 January 2011, representing almost 6 % of the total population. In the combined second and third periodic

reports (2020), although the sources are not clearly indicated, the number of persons with disabilities is given as approximately 2.63 million, 2.65 million and 2.70 million for 2018, 2019 and 2020, respectively, suggesting that the figure has remained broadly stable. In its concluding observations (2024), the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities noted that Ukraine lacks a comprehensive system for collecting disaggregated data and a set of nationally unified indicators to identify barriers to the enjoyment and exercise of human rights by persons with disabilities. The Committee expressed concern about delays in introducing the Washington Group Short Set of Questions on functioning, and recommended that Ukraine use this tool and collect data disaggregated by age, sex, gender, ethnicity, urban or rural residence, and migrant, refugee and asylum-seeker status.

In addition, the World Bank (2024) reported that during the first 18 months following the start of the war, the number of persons with disabilities increased by 300,000 to 7.4 % of the population, and further indicated that the actual number may be close to the international disability prevalence rate of 16 %. Global Disability Fund/United Nations Partnership on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNPRPD) (2025) [5] likewise reported, based on a Multi-Sector Needs Assessment, that the proportion of persons with disabilities may reach up to 16 % of the population (around 5 million people), highlighting in particular the considerable registration gap among persons with psychosocial disabilities.

Table 1 Number of children and adults with disabilities (thousands)

| Category[6] | 2018 | 2019 | 2020 |
|---|---|---|---|
| Total | 2,635.6 | 2,659.7 | 2,703.0 |
| Group Ⅰ | 235.4 | 226.3 | 222.3 |
| Group Ⅱ | 899.3 | 896.1 | 900.8 |
| Group Ⅲ | 1,341.9 | 1,375.7 | 1,416.0 |
| Children with disabilities | 159.0 | 161.6 | 163.9 |

Source: Prepared by the survey team based on the annexes to the combined second and third periodic reports (2020).

[5] Based on https://globaldisabilityfund.org/new/wp-content/uploads/2025/03/Country-brief-Ukraine.pdf (Accessed: 8 April 2026)

[6] Persons whose vital activities are most severely restricted and who require constant supervision and care are classified as Group I; persons with significant restrictions (including those whose combined conditions, such as two or more diseases, result in significant limitations of vital activities and working capacity) are classified as Group II; and persons with moderate restrictions (who are able to engage in a certain level of employment and independent living if they receive support and use assistive devices) are classified as Group III. Based on https://unn.ua/en/news/disability-registration-in-ukraine-has-the-new-system-improved (Accessed: 8 April 2026)

Table 2 Number of children and adults with disabilities, by region

| Region | Total | Group I | Group II | Group III | Children with disabilities |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Ukraine (total) | 2,703,006 | 222,324 | 900,774 | 1,416,022 | 163,886 |
| Autonomous Republic of Crimea | - | - | - | - | - |
| Vinnytsia region | 124,234 | 11,045 | 32,826 | 73,413 | 6,950 |
| Volyn region | 83,352 | 8,831 | 27,126 | 41,768 | 5,627 |
| Dnipropetrovsk region | 174,453 | 13,613 | 47,573 | 100,084 | 13,183 |
| Donetsk region | 160,749 | 12,415 | 45,035 | 96,215 | 7,084 |
| Zhytomyr region | 111,770 | 10,843 | 42,731 | 52,105 | 6,091 |
| Zakarpatska region | 76,354 | 5,994 | 20,323 | 42,958 | 7,079 |
| Zaporisha region | 108,545 | 9,421 | 33,141 | 58,941 | 7,042 |
| Ivano-Frankivsk region | 106,181 | 8,777 | 32,464 | 58,749 | 6,191 |
| Kyiv region | 127,166 | 10,222 | 53,986 | 54,476 | 8,482 |
| Kirovograd region | 58,748 | 4,534 | 16,270 | 34,075 | 3,869 |
| Luhansk region | 49,475 | 4,123 | 16,685 | 26,434 | 2,233 |
| Lviv region | 211,067 | 17,120 | 51,095 | 131,510 | 11,342 |
| Mykolaiv region | 66,945 | 5,860 | 17,664 | 38,351 | 5,070 |
| Odesa region | 158,213 | 13,081 | 73,950 | 62,554 | 8,628 |
| Poltava region | 98,987 | 7,523 | 37,871 | 48,161 | 5,432 |
| Rivne region | 73,695 | 5,751 | 19,235 | 42,044 | 6,665 |
| Sumy region | 60,932 | 5,950 | 18,276 | 32,827 | 3,879 |
| Ternopil region | 70,321 | 5,854 | 18,790 | 40,832 | 4,845 |
| Kharkiv region | 163,696 | 10,863 | 61,037 | 82,442 | 9,354 |
| Kherson region | 51,689 | 4,131 | 13,899 | 29,604 | 4,055 |
| Khmelnytskyi region | 144,118 | 9,788 | 48,305 | 80,178 | 5,847 |
| Cherkasy region | 125,959 | 9,771 | 58,446 | 53,139 | 4,603 |
| Chernivtsi region | 56,460 | 4,846 | 14,609 | 32,507 | 4,498 |
| Chernihiv region | 79,142 | 8,649 | 25,160 | 40,916 | 4,417 |
| Kyiv City | 160,755 | 13,319 | 74,277 | 61,739 | 11,420 |
| Sevastopol | - | - | - | - | - |

Source: Prepared by the survey team based on the annexes to the combined second and third periodic reports (2020)

# 2. Administration and Policy on Disability

## 2-1. Administration on Disability

<Central government>

Agencies responsible for disability affairs

Table 3 Main institutions responsible for disability issues in Ukraine

| No. | Institution | Overview |
|---|---|---|
| 1 | Ministry of Social Policy, Family and Unity of Ukraine[7] | The core ministry responsible for the implementation of the CRPD and social protection policy in the disability sector. It is responsible for policy planning and coordination for social services and supported services, including disability pensions and allowances, deinstitutionalization, and employment support. Through administering various social services for children and adults with disabilities, including personal assistants, daytime activities, employment support, workplace social support, and rehabilitation support including prosthetic and assistive devices, it plays a central role in promoting the rights and social participation of persons with disabilities. It also prepares reports to be submitted to the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.[8] |
| 2 | Ministry of Health[9] | Responsible for the project "Development of a Rehabilitation Support System," one of the priority areas under the National Strategy for Creating a Barrier-Free Environment in Ukraine until 2030. Through the development of educational programmes for rehabilitation professionals, establishment of clinical multidisciplinary rehabilitation centers of excellence, and formulation of rehabilitation standards, it promotes quality assurance, reduction of disparities in healthcare, and the development of a community-based rehabilitation delivery system |
| 3 | Ministry of Education and Science[10] | Through implementation of the National Strategy of Inclusive Education Development until 2029 and its 2024-2026 Action Plan, this ministry is responsible for specific measures such as improving the quality of services provided by Inclusive Resource Centers[11], developing inclusive educational environments in educational institutions, supplying the necessary resources to |

[7] Based on https://www.msp.gov.ua/en/otrymuvacham-soc-pidtrymky/osobam-ta-dityam-z-invalidnistyu (Accessed: 5 April 2026)

[8] Based on https://globaldisabilityfund.org/new/wp-content/uploads/2025/03/Country-brief-Ukraine.pdf (Accessed: 8 April 2026)

[9] Based on https://documents1.worldbank.org/curated/en/099032824073057091/pdf/P181236-d6feb077-28cd-456c-a506-92390987152a.pdf (Accessed: 8 April 2026)

[10] Based on https://mon.gov.ua/en (Accessed: 8 April 2026)

[11] A public institution that conducts psychological and educational assessments of the development of children aged 2 to 18 years with special educational needs and provides support by specialists. Hereinafter referred to as the "Inclusive Resource Center (IRC)."

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| | | those institutions, strengthening teachers' competencies, and improving monitoring systems for inclusive education. It plays a leading role in implementation and coordination among relevant stakeholders. |
| 4 | Ministry for Veterans Affairs | Responsible for national policy for veterans with disabilities resulting from the war and their families [12]. It oversees procedures for granting official status to "persons with war-related disabilities" and the operation of the interministerial commission for that purpose. It also conducts recognition procedures for children under 18 years of age with war-related disabilities[13] and implements education cost support projects, including full tuition compensation, for war veterans and children of persons with war-related disabilities[14]. |
| 5 | Ministry for Communities and Territories Development of Ukraine[15] | As the lead institution for the National Strategy for Creating a Barrier-Free Environment, it plays a central role in mainstreaming accessibility in the physical environment through flagship projects such as "Movement without Barriers." Specifically, its core functions are described as: (1) positioning the creation of a barrier-free environment as a government priority and overseeing implementation of the national strategy; (2) developing barrier-free routes in pilot regions and redesigning whole urban spaces including sidewalks, public buildings, and transport hubs; and (3) updating national standards for architecture and urban planning based on these results so that accessibility becomes a standard requirement from the design stage. |

Establishment status of domestic coordination committees[16]

According to Global Disability Fund/UNPRPD (2025), Ukraine has a complex institutional framework concerning the rights of persons with disabilities, and the roles and responsibilities of different actors are often unclear and overlapping. Overall responsibility lies with the Verkhovna Rada (the Parliament of Ukraine), which oversees legislation related to disability.

Parliament has established several committees covering different fields, including the following:

[12] Based on https://globaldisabilityfund.org/new/wp-content/uploads/2025/03/Country-brief-Ukraine.pdf (Accessed: 8 April 2026)
[13] Based on https://www.kmu.gov.ua/en/news/nezalezhno-vid-mistsia-perebuvannia-uriad-vdoskonalyv-protseduru-otrymannia-statusu-osoby-z-invalidnistiu-vnaslidok-viiny-dlia-tsyvilnykh (Accessed: 8 April 2026)
[14] Based on https://mva.gov.ua/prescenter/category/86-novini/derzhava-kompensuvatime-povnu-vartist-navchannya-dityam-osib-yaki-otrimali-invalidnist-vnaslidok-uchasti-u-revolutsii-gidnosti (Accessed: 8 April 2026)
[15] Based on https://mindev.gov.ua/en/proiekty/bezbarierni-marshruty (Accessed: 8 April 2026)
[16] Based on https://globaldisabilityfund.org/new/wp-content/uploads/2025/03/Country-brief-Ukraine.pdf (Accessed: 8 April 2026)

- Committee on Social Policy and Protection of Veterans' Rights: handles laws relating to the rights of persons with disabilities, including employment and rehabilitation.
- Committee on National Health, Medical Care and Medical Insurance: drafts bills relating to disability determination and access to healthcare, including mental health.
- Committee on Education, Science and Innovation: focuses on the right of children with disabilities to education, with emphasis on inclusive education and deinstitutionalization of children with disabilities.
- Government Commissioner for the Rights of Persons with Disabilities: a national-level position that promotes policy on the rights of persons with disabilities within the government and coordinates among ministries and regional governments. During 2022-2023, this office supported emergency responses for persons with disabilities in conflict-affected areas and supervised regional-level commissioners; however, at the time of the report, the post was vacant, and many regions also lacked responsible officials.
- Council on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities: an advisory body under the Cabinet of Ministers, operated under the Deputy Prime Minister, in which large organizations of persons with disabilities that have a presence in at least 15 regions participate. It is responsible for policy development, coordination, supervision of CRPD implementation, and oversight of the national strategy, while also promoting interministerial cooperation in areas such as social protection, employment, accessibility, and healthcare. However, its activities have been suspended since 2021 following the establishment of the Barrier-Free Council.
- Barrier-Free Council: a temporary advisory body under the Cabinet of Ministers led by the Prime Minister's Office. Representatives of 16 ministries, 24 regions, UN agencies, and organizations of persons with disabilities participate. At the time of the report, it was the most active coordination mechanism, although it focused primarily on accessibility and lacked executive authority. It oversees the National Strategy for Creating a Barrier-Free Environment until 2030 and carries out interministerial and local government coordination, reform monitoring, and policy recommendations improve accessibility in public spaces, transport, information, digital services, employment, and community-based services.
- Ukrainian Parliament Commissioner for Human Rights (Ombudsman): as the national human rights institution, this office monitors human rights violations, including those occurring in institutions, as well as accessibility and disability-related discrimination.

The same report (2025) points out that Ukraine does not have an "independent mechanism" for monitoring implementation of the Convention as required by Article 33 of the CRPD. Although multiple actors are involved, the Ministry of Social Policy is primarily responsible for data collection and the submission of government reports to the CRPD Committee and does not conduct broader monitoring of implementation. For this reason, the report concludes that gaps remain in monitoring, enforcement, and the participation of organizations of persons with disabilities.

<Local government>

According to the annexes to the combined second and third periodic reports (2020), accessibility committees have been established within oblast and local state administrations as well as local self-government bodies (city councils), but their specific activities are unclear.

2-2. Laws and Policies on Disability

| | |
|---|---|
| Law title | Law of Ukraine No. 875-XII "On the Fundamentals of Social Protection of Persons with Disability in Ukraine"[17] |
| Year of entry into force | 1991 |
| Overview | This is the basic law on the social protection of children and adults with disabilities. It explicitly provides for equality of rights of persons with disabilities and the prohibition of discrimination on the ground of disability, and sets out the obligations of the State, local authorities, and enterprises in fields such as employment, education, healthcare, rehabilitation, social protection, and physical and information accessibility. It also provides statutory employment quotas and institutional and financial support for organizations of persons with disabilities in order to promote social participation. |

| | |
|---|---|
| Law title | Law of Ukraine No. 2961-IV "On Rehabilitation of Persons with Disability in Ukraine" [18] |
| Year of entry into force | 2005 |
| Overview | This law establishes the basic legal, socioeconomic, and organizational conditions for eliminating or compensating for limitations in daily life functions caused by persistent deterioration in health associated with disability. It defines the term "person with disability" and presents the concept of comprehensive rehabilitation comprising medical, psychological, educational, vocational, labour, sports, and social assistance |

[17] Based on https://www.refworld.org/legal/legislation/natlegbod/1991/122846?lang=uk (Accessed: 8 April 2026)
[18] Based on https://cis-legislation.com/document.fwx?rgn=10162 (Accessed: 8 April 2026)

| | |
|---|---|
| | components. It also sets out the content of different forms of rehabilitation, including vocational rehabilitation, labour rehabilitation, sports rehabilitation, social reintegration, and psychological recovery, as well as the framework for places of implementation and workplace adaptation. |

| | |
|---|---|
| Law title | Law of Ukraine No. 5207-VI "On Principles of Prevention and Combating Discrimination in Ukraine" [19] |
| Year of entry into force | 2012 |
| Overview | This law introduced a definition of "discrimination," established the principle of non-discrimination throughout the legal system of Ukraine, and prohibited all forms of discrimination, including discrimination on the ground of disability. A person who believes that he or she has been subjected to discrimination has the right to file a complaint with state authorities, the authorities of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea, local self-government bodies and their officials, the Ukrainian Parliament Commissioner for Human Rights, or the courts, and has the right to compensation for pecuniary and non-pecuniary damage resulting from discrimination. |

| | |
|---|---|
| Law title | Law of Ukraine "On Ensuring the Functioning of Ukrainian as the State Language" [20] |
| Year of entry into force | 2019 |
| Overview | Article 4, "Status of Ukrainian Sign Language and Language Rights of Sign Language Users," positions Ukrainian Sign Language as the language of the sign language user community and explicitly states that it is a natural visual-manual language system with its own vocabulary and grammatical structure. It further guarantees everyone in Ukraine the right to freely use, learn, and maintain Ukrainian Sign Language in social life and to receive education through that sign language. In addition, the law provides that no provision of the law shall be interpreted in a way that narrows the sphere of use of Ukrainian Sign Language. |

| | |
|---|---|
| Law title | Law of Ukraine No. 2145-VIII "On Education" [21] |
| Year of entry into force | 2017 |
| Overview | This law explicitly provides for inclusive education and the development of an inclusive educational environment, and sets out as a principle that children with special educational needs should be able to study together with other children without discrimination on any ground, including |

[19] Based on https://protocol.ua/ua/pro_zasadi_zapobigannya_ta_protidii_diskriminatsii_v_ukraini/ (Accessed: 8 April 2026)

[20] Based on https://kodeksy.com.ua/pro_zabezpechennya_funktsionuvannya_ukrayins_koyi_movi_yak_derzhavnoyi.htm (Accessed: 8 April 2026)

[21] Based on https://cis-legislation.com/document.fwx?rgn=101022 (Accessed: 9 April 2026)

| | |
|---|---|
| | disability, and that the necessary conditions for this must be ensured. It also stipulates that, for children with special educational needs, an "individual development programme" specifying the necessary psychological and educational support shall be jointly developed by specialists and parents, and that developmental support services shall be provided based on programme. |

| | |
|---|---|
| Law title | Law of Ukraine No. 2671-VIII "On Social Services" [22] |
| Year of entry into force | 2019 |
| Overview | Under Article 5, social services are provided to persons with disabilities in the following two forms: (a) material assistance, including cash, food, hygiene and personal care items, childcare items, clothing, footwear, other daily necessities, fuel, and rehabilitation equipment including technical assistive devices; and (b) social services, including services provided at home as well as services provided in residential, accommodation, rehabilitation, day-care, short-term and long-term care facilities, community service centers, and other social support (care) institutions. |

| | |
|---|---|
| Law title | Law of Ukraine No. 5067-VI "On Employment of Population" [23] |
| Year of entry into force | 2012 |
| Overview | This law positions persons with disabilities as beneficiaries of "additional employment guarantees" and provides support measures such as compensation for wages and social insurance contributions when employing persons with disabilities who are registered as unemployed. It also indicates that, for employers who hire registered unemployed persons, including persons with disabilities, in newly created positions for at least two years, various compensation schemes are available, including reimbursement equivalent to the single social contribution and partial wage compensation. |

Policies

| | |
|---|---|
| Policy title | National Action Plan for the Implementation of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities until 2025[24] |
| Year of entry into force | 2021-2025 |
| Overview | This plan organizes specific actions to be taken by central and local governments, municipalities, and public bodies through 2025 in order to systematically advance implementation of the CRPD. In line with the structure of the CRPD, it defines legal amendments, standard-setting, facility development, training, service expansion, and data collection |

[22] Based on https://cis-legislation.com/document.fwx?rgn=115476 (Accessed: 9 April 2026)
[23] Based on https://protocol.ua/ua/pro_zaynyatist_naselennya/ (Accessed: 9 April 2026)
[24] Based on https://www.kmu.gov.ua/npas/pro-zatverdzhennya-nacionalnogo-pla-a285r (Accessed: 9 April 2026)

| | |
|---|---|
| | measures, together with responsible ministries and local authorities and implementation timelines, across areas including equality, the rights of women and children, awareness-raising, accessibility, life and safety, emergency response, legal capacity and access to justice, prevention of abuse, community living, education, healthcare and rehabilitation, employment, social protection, political participation, culture and sports, statistics and data, international cooperation, and monitoring. |

| | |
|---|---|
| Policy title | National Strategy for Creating a Barrier-Free Environment in Ukraine until 2030[25] |
| Year of entry into force | 2021-2030 |
| Overview | This is a comprehensive framework that positions barrier-free access as a cross-cutting national principle in all areas of Ukrainian society and aims to systematically remove barriers in the physical environment, information and digital domains, social and civic life, education, and the economy. It sets strategic objectives, tasks, and outcome indicators requiring accessibility and inclusion in areas ranging from buildings and transport infrastructure to public information and media, the internet and e-government services, social, educational, healthcare, justice, welfare, and sports services, as well as employment and entrepreneurship opportunities. Through the adoption of biennial action plans, monitoring involving central and local governments, civil society, and international organizations, and annual reporting based on indicators, it establishes a mechanism for integrating barrier-free principles into all policies and budgets, including post-war recovery and reconstruction. |

| | |
|---|---|
| Policy title | National Strategy of the Inclusive Education Development until 2029[26] |
| Year of entry into force | 2024-2029 |
| Overview | With the aim of creating schools capable of responding to children with special educational needs, the Government of Ukraine formulated this national strategy and also approved an action plan for 2024-2026. The strategy is built around the development of inclusive educational environments, teacher training, and support for pupils and students, and promotes improvement of the monitoring system, strengthening of Inclusive Resource Centers, resource provision, and enhancement of teachers' capacities. It also emphasizes individualized education, promotion of understanding of diversity, reduction of discrimination, support for efforts by local authorities, and smooth transitions between stages of education. |

[25] Based on https://zakon.rada.gov.ua/laws/show/366-2021-%D1%80#Text (Accessed: 9 April 2026)
[26] Based on https://fact-news.com.ua/en/the-government-adopted-the-national-strategy-for-the-development-of-inclusive-education-until-2029/ (Accessed: 9 April 2026)

2-3. Measures on Disability

1) Healthcare

According to the combined second and third periodic reports (2020), in Ukraine, financial measures for healthcare institutions have been implemented through the Medical Guarantees Programme since 1 April 2020. Under this programme, the Government guarantees full State budget coverage for emergency medical care, primary care, secondary and tertiary care, palliative care, medical rehabilitation, healthcare for children under 16 years of age, care related to pregnancy and childbirth, and medicines. With regard to the physical accessibility of healthcare institutions, since 1 January 2021, healthcare institutions and individual entrepreneurs seeking to obtain a license for economic activities related to medical practice and to conclude contracts for the provision of medical services to the public have been required to ensure free access for persons with disabilities and compliance with standards concerning the area and location of medical institutions.

In the field of mental health, the "Concept for the Development of Mental Health Care in Ukraine until 2030" was approved in 2017, setting out goals such as the gradual establishment of State guarantees for supported living and employment support for persons with psychosocial and intellectual disabilities, as well as ensuring access to education. In addition, the rules governing the application of compulsory medical measures in psychiatric institutions were revised, and the preparation of individualized psychosocial rehabilitation plans was required. From the budget related to the State Action Plan for 2015-2019, UAH 6.9 billion (Ukrainian hryvnia; hereinafter referred to as "UAH") was allocated to the provision of rehabilitation and assistive devices for persons with disabilities and children with disabilities, and approximately 3.084 million rehabilitation and assistive devices were provided. Mechanisms were also introduced to provide high-function prosthetic and orthotic devices to participants in anti-terrorist operations, as well as to provide monetary compensation for the self-purchase of assistive technology and rehabilitation equipment. Additionally, pilot projects for early intervention mechanisms were launched in four regions in December 2016, and by the beginning of 2020, early intervention services were being provided in 28 institutions across 7 regions by 14 multidisciplinary teams, with support from local budgets, NGOs, and international assistance. In addition, revisions to occupational classifications introduced new professions, including prosthetist and orthotists, physical and rehabilitation medicine physicians, occupational therapists, and physiotherapists, and a graduate-level specialization in "Physical Therapy and Occupational Therapy" was introduced. These developments, however, reflect the state of institutional development prior to Russia's full-scale invasion.

According to the World Bank (2024) [27], under wartime conditions, procedures for obtaining and renewing disability certification were simplified, allowing remote disability assessment regardless of place of residence or current location, and individualized rehabilitation programmes and disability and care benefits for persons already certified as of 24 February 2022 were automatically extended. The Government has accelerated the introduction of the International Classification of Functioning, Disability and Health (hereinafter referred to as "ICF"), approved it as a national classification in April 2022, and adopted an action plan for reform of the medical-social expert commissions, while also working to establish service packages based on individual needs and a transparent, accessible service delivery mechanism including digital tools. At the same time, current commissions still assess disability primarily in terms of impairment, and a shift toward needs- and environmental-based assessment remains a challenge[28].

The Ministry of Health provides rehabilitation services through 261 inpatient facilities and 410 outpatient facilities. At the same time, legal arrangements have been advanced to allow the provision of prosthetic and orthotic devices without requiring disability certification, six specialized rehabilitation centers have been established, and training standards and ICF-related training have been introduced; however, according to the same report, many services remain centered in medical institutions, and further expansion of community-based rehabilitation is needed. While the National Health Service has introduced inpatient and outpatient rehabilitation packages and individualized rehabilitation plans are being integrated into eHealth, improving transparency and user-friendliness in the service delivery mechanism remains an ongoing issue.

Global Disability Fund/UNPRPD (2025) [29] also reports recent Government efforts. As healthcare reform aims to build a more inclusive system, the Government has been expanding access to rehabilitation services, mental health support, and assistive devices through its health recovery plan. Under the First Lady's mental health programme, awareness-raising on mental health, training in psychological first aid, and expansion of mental health services in hospitals and communities have been carried out; however, difficulties in access remain due to shortages of psychologists, insufficient accessibility of facilities, and the limited availability of sign language interpretation and information in accessible formats. In the field of rehabilitation, although the Medical Guarantees Programme covered 44 types of rehabilitation service packages as of 2023, it has been noted that staff

[27] Based on https://documents1.worldbank.org/curated/en/099032824073057091/pdf/P181236-d6feb077-28cd-456c-a506-92390987152a.pdf (Accessed: 9 April 2026)

[28] Based on https://documents1.worldbank.org/curated/en/099032824073057091/pdf/P181236-d6feb077-28cd-456c-a506-92390987152a.pdf (Accessed: 9 April 2026)

[29] Based on https://globaldisabilityfund.org/new/wp-content/uploads/2025/03/Country-brief-Ukraine.pdf (Accessed: 9 April 2026)

shortages and inefficient resource allocation constrain its effectiveness. With regard to prosthetic and assistive devices, the budget of the Ministry of Social Policy expanded from UAH 1.55 billion in 2022 to UAH 5.3 billion in 2024, and measures have been introduced to respond to post-war needs, including the establishment of new service centers, temporary lending of prosthetic and orthotic devices through medical institutions, repair of devices damaged in the war, and public coverage of maintenance costs for prostheses fitted abroad. At the same time, long waiting periods, complex procedures, additional verification requirements for internally displaced persons, and insufficient device quality and customization are identified as remaining challenges.

2) Education

According to the combined second and third periodic reports (2020), since September 2017, Ukraine has stopped new admissions to preparatory grades and first grades in special schools for children with intellectual disabilities, and has shifted its policy toward providing education either in regular classes in general schools near children's places of residence or in special classes within general schools. To support inclusive education, a subsidy system from the oblast budget to local budgets was also introduced in 2017, and it is reported that a total of UAH 1.8365 billion was allocated during 2017-2019 to support children with special educational needs, including support for education, additional specialist staff, and the purchase of teaching materials and equipment.

The Global Disability Fund/UNPRPD (2025) also states that, since 2017, schools in Ukraine have been required to establish inclusive classes upon request by parents and others. The World Bank (2025) notes the same trend and reports that the number of children enrolled in inclusive classes has nearly tripled since the 2018-2019 academic year. According to the same report, in the 2022-2023 school year, 54 % of schools had inclusive classes, and 33,861 children with special educational needs were studying in regular classrooms with the support of 22,685 teaching assistants.

In addition, according to the combined periodic report (2020), in 2018, the former psychological, medical, and pedagogical consultation institutions based on a medical approach were replaced by Inclusive Resource Centers (IRCs) for children with special educational needs, creating a system intended to cover 12,000 children in urban areas and 7,000 children in rural areas. According to the World Bank (2025), 664 of the 690 centers continue to operate, providing remedial and developmental support services to children with special educational needs, including internally displaced children. In addition, through the "Ukraine Inclusion" application, parents can easily search for the nearest center, and for internally displaced children, procedures have been simplified; it is reported that more than

404,000 applications have been processed through the application. At the same time, 37 centers have been damaged or destroyed, and it is also reported that many centers lack the human and financial resources needed to support all children and that specialized psychosocial support needs are not being met.

Thus, while some progress has been made in inclusive education, the World Bank (2025) points out that children with special educational needs have been particularly affected by the invasion and that their access to education has been severely disrupted. Even where schools can provide face-to-face classes, barriers remain, including the fact that shelters are generally not barrier-free, many students lack the assistive technologies needed to participate in online classes, and access to specialized care and rehabilitation services is limited.

3) Gender (women and girls with disabilities)

According to the combined second and third periodic reports (2020), the "State Programme on Ensuring Equal Rights and Opportunities for Women and Men (2018-2021) [30]" calls for attention to the needs of particularly vulnerable women and girls, including women with disabilities and older women in rural areas. In particular, for women with disabilities and older persons living in rural areas, the programme identifies securing access to social services, healthcare, education, labour and employment services, infrastructure, new technologies, administrative services, and opportunities for political participation as objectives.

The "Instruction on the Integration of Gender Approaches in the Law-Making Process" has been introduced, and it requires consideration at each stage of analysis, planning, and evaluation for diverse groups, including "women with disabilities in rural areas." The instruction also provides that, as stakeholders, consultations should be held not only with civil society organizations working on gender equality and gender issues but also with organizations representing women with disabilities. From the perspective of preventing gender-based discrimination, an Expert Council on Prevention and Counteraction to Gender-Based Discrimination has been established within the Ministry of Social Policy, which reviews and issues recommendations concerning gender-discriminatory advertising. It is reported that, in 2019, advertisements judged to be discriminatory by this council were withdrawn or subject to litigation, and awareness-raising videos were produced and broadcast with the aim of correcting prejudice against "women exposed to multiple discrimination," including women facing discrimination on the ground of disability.

In the field of social protection, the "State Standard for Social Support for Families and

[30] Based on https://www.kmu.gov.ua/storage/app/uploads/public/5ad/48d/511/5ad48d511a597619047245.doc (Accessed: 9 April 2026)

Individuals in Difficult Life Circumstances" has been developed, positioning support for families experiencing overlapping factors such as disability, poverty, and single parenthood, as well as single-parent households raising children with disabilities.

With regard to internally displaced persons, it is reported that in 2019 more than 37,300 people received support through social protection institutions, and the breakdown included the numbers of women and girls with disabilities. For example, of the 19,694 persons who received rehabilitation services in 2019, 1,019 were women with disabilities and 6,333 were girls with disabilities.

4) Vocational Training, Employment and Work

According to the initial report of the Government of Ukraine (2012), employers, such as enterprises and public institutions, are obliged to reserve a statutory employment quota for persons with disabilities equivalent to 4 % of their full-time workforce, or to one post in workplaces with 8 to 25 employees. In cases of non-compliance, an administrative fine is imposed, and the resulting revenue is used to create and maintain employment for persons with disabilities, adapt workplaces for their employment, and support vocational training and retraining. The State Employment Service[31] provides employment support for persons with disabilities at employment centers and offers information corners containing materials on relevant legislation and on the social protection, rehabilitation, employment, and training opportunities for persons with disabilities, as well as special workstations that can be used independently by persons with disabilities and free internet access for job searches. At major employment centers, individual employment counsellors are assigned to assist persons with mobility or communication difficulties, and social services are provided in accessible and adapted work environments.

The initial State report also states that employers who meet the statutory employment quota, or who have paid the administrative fine, may receive funding to create special positions for persons with disabilities who are registered as unemployed with the State Employment Service, special funding for posts intended for persons with disabilities, special loans for up to three years related to the creation of employment for persons with disabilities, and support for the training of employees with disabilities. It is also reported that, for women who have children with disabilities, special labour protections are recognized, including prohibition of overtime work or business travel without their consent, entitlement to reduced working hours, and an additional 10 days of paid annual leave.

[31] The only public employment service institution in Ukraine, providing services through 637 employment centers nationwide. It offers free services comparable to Japan's Public Employment Security Offices ("Hello Work"), including vocational counselling, job placement, and arrangements for vocational training for jobseekers, as well as receiving job offers and introducing candidates for employers.

The combined second and third periodic reports of Ukraine (2020) likewise indicate that support for the employment of persons with disabilities has been progressing. For example, a career-advising system has been introduced, under which employability is assessed through the profiling of unemployed persons and job-seekers, and individualized service plans are to be developed. Since 2019, social insurance contributions have been reduced for self-employed persons with disabilities, and employers are provided with insurance contribution subsidies for up to one year, subject to continued employment. Similar subsidies are also available to small and medium-sized enterprises that create new jobs. In addition, lump-sum payments are provided to unemployed persons wishing to start a business, and from 2016 to 2019, 704 persons with disabilities started businesses. In 2019, 4,300 persons with disabilities participated in vocational training, of whom 3,800 found employment. National standards for employment services have also been developed, including provisions for accommodating persons with intellectual and psychosocial disabilities.

From 2015 to 2019, administrative fines collected from enterprises that failed to meet employment quotas were used to create 248 job opportunities and support employment for 1,904 persons. In addition, from 2016 to 2019, 173,000 persons with disabilities received vocational guidance services. As of July 2020, the number of employed persons with disabilities was 776,000, representing 73.9 % of persons with disabilities aged 18 to 60, of whom 48.5 % were women. From 2016 to 2019, 52,800 persons with disabilities found employment, and many also participated in public works and vocational training.

5) Social Security and Disability Welfare Services

According to the initial report of the Government of Ukraine (2012), Article 46 of the Constitution guarantees the right to social protection for persons who have completely, partially, or temporarily lost their capacity to work. The means of such protection include cash benefits, such as pensions, various allowances, and lump-sum payments, as well as the provision of medicines, prosthetic and orthotic devices, special publications, hearing aids, and services for daily living and household support. Benefit levels are based on the subsistence level, and the amounts of various benefits are calculated accordingly.

According to the same Government report, in the area of social welfare services, families raising children with disabilities and persons with disabilities are granted priority in housing improvement. In addition, under Article 5 of the Law on Social Services, persons with disabilities are entitled to receive both material assistance, including cash, food, hygiene and personal care items, child care items, clothing, footwear, other basic necessities, fuel, and prosthetic and orthotic devices, and social services, including home-help services and services provided in residential institutions, accommodation facilities, rehabilitation facilities, day-care

centers, short-term and long-term care facilities, and community service centers.

The State Party's Report states that, a total of 735 community service centers had been established in districts and cities to provide home care and daytime activities, and that approximately 50 types of social services were being provided, including services for persons with disabilities. These centers provided home-based care services, including household assistance, shopping support, accompaniment to medical visits, and other daily-life support. For low-income persons with disabilities, in-kind benefits included meals, food distribution, clothing, footwear, bedding, household appliances, and rehabilitation services. For persons with disabilities who had become unable to continue living at home, small-scale residential care facilities accommodating around 10 to 50 people, including long-term and short-term stay centers, had also begun to be established at the community level.

The combined periodic report (2020) suggests that, against the background of internal displacement and population ageing, benefits and social services for internally displaced persons, children and adults with disabilities, and older persons were made more specific and expanded during 2015-2020, while the basic framework provided, including pensions, various social welfare services, and the provision of community-based services, remained broadly unchanged.

By contrast, the World Bank (2025) identifies measures to strengthen the protection of persons with disabilities in wartime Ukraine following the Russian invasion, including automatic extension of benefits, expansion of cash benefits for internally displaced persons, rapid access to social services, substantial budget increases, more advanced provision of prosthetic and orthotic devices and employment support, and the expansion of digital applications.

First, in March 2022, measures were introduced to automatically extend social benefits for those caring for children and adults with disabilities from childhood, as well as for persons caring for persons with disabilities classified in Groups I-II due to psychosocial disabilities, without requiring renewal procedures such as reassessment or re-registration. This automatic extension is stated to apply for the period of martial law plus one additional month.

In addition, on 20 March 2022, the social assistance programme to help cover living expenses for internally displaced persons was significantly expanded, and approximately 2.6 million people were receiving monthly benefits, of whom more than 160,000 were persons with disabilities. The benefit amount is reported to be UAH 3,000 per month for persons with disabilities or children with disabilities, and UAH 2,000 per month for persons without disabilities.

In 2023, the budget allocated to social protection for persons with disabilities increased by 60 % compared with 2022. During the period of martial law, access requirements for social

services for older persons and persons with disabilities were also eased, and registration procedures were simplified so that access to social services such as counseling, shelter, supported living, home care, residential care, day care, psychosocial rehabilitation, and in-kind benefits could begin within one day upon submission of an application only.

As an improvement in access through digitalization, wider use of the e-government platform is also noted. This platform has approximately 20 million users and allows online applications for seven types of social assistance schemes, including social assistance for children and adults with disabilities and social assistance for children with long-term adverse health conditions.

6) Transportation and Urban Development

According to the combined second and third periodic reports (2020), in the field of construction, the 2018 Building Standards "Buildings and Structures - Inclusive Buildings and Structures - Basic Provisions" were adopted and designated as the principal accessibility standards document. These standards apply to the design, construction, reconstruction, restoration, major repair, and technical re-equipment of both existing and newly built public buildings and structures, and prescribe requirements including reasonable accommodation for the needs of persons with limited mobility.

In the field of road transport, amendments to road traffic legislation were made to accommodate wheelchair users, and the operation of road traffic was adjusted accordingly. At the same time, tender procedures for bus passenger transport were amended to make the introduction of buses capable of transporting persons with disabilities and others with limited mobility an explicit requirement. In addition, in vehicle type-approval procedures, technical requirements were introduced for vehicles suitable for the transport of such persons, and accessibility requirements were incorporated into buses and other urban passenger transport vehicles. Applicants seeking to operate urban and suburban bus routes are also subject to additional requirements concerning the use of vehicles suitable for persons with limited mobility.

In the field of railway transport, Ukrainian Railways (Ukrzaliznytsia) reported that it had developed infrastructure intended for persons with disabilities, especially wheelchair users, including 875 rest areas, 27 rest rooms, 103 lounges, 80 ticket offices, 122 toilets, 35 sanitary rooms, 173 baggage storage facilities, 173 call buttons, 22 elevators, 272 ramps, 173 parking spaces, 24 mobile boarding lift devices, 139 wheelchairs for use within stations, and 146 wheelchairs for movement within trains. In addition, 15 passenger train sets accessible to persons with disabilities have been introduced.

With regard to airports, it is reported that information on services for persons with

disabilities and the availability of accessibility features is available on individual airports' websites, and that audio guides for persons with visual impairments are installed near terminal entrances and exits. Facilities within airports are equipped with Braille signage, and assistance is provided by certified staff. In addition, major facilities such as railway stations and central post offices have been equipped with navigation and guidance elements, including audio beacons, tactile paving, warning contrast lines, information boards, pictograms, and Braille signage.

In postal services, the State postal operator Ukrposhta reportedly conducted accessibility audits of 824 post office buildings for persons with disabilities and others with limited mobility, undertook renovations in 158 of those offices, and installed guidance signs designed for persons with visual impairments.

As for medical institutions, since 1 January 2021, in order to conclude a medical service provision contract and engage in medical activities, it has been a condition for licensing that institutions ensure free and unobstructed access for persons with disabilities and comply with required area and layout standards in accordance with the 2001 State Building Standards "Buildings and Structures - Healthcare Institutions."

With respect to educational facilities, it is stated that accessibility requirements set out in the building standards "Buildings and Structures - Educational Institutions" and "Buildings and Structures - Preschool Educational Institutions" apply to the construction of new institutions and the renovation of existing ones.

With regard to internally displaced persons, evacuation planning for persons with disabilities and others is included as a separate section within general evacuation plans for the population, and lists of evacuation facilities for these groups, together with inspections of their preparedness, have been conducted. For example, the evacuation plan for Luhansk oblast prioritized the evacuation of persons with disabilities, particularly those in medical, educational, and social protection institutions, and envisaged the deployment of 149 dedicated vehicles and 74 ambulances.

As a monitoring and consultation mechanism supporting these efforts, it is also reported that from 2016 to 2020, the former Ministry of Infrastructure held repeated meetings with the Presidential Commissioner for the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, transport and postal service providers, and organizations of persons with disabilities to discuss accessibility issues in public transport, road infrastructure, and postal facilities. In 2017, a permanent working group on accessibility of transport, road infrastructure, and postal facilities for persons with disabilities was established, with the participation of representatives of organizations of persons with disabilities. Railway stations have been subject to monitoring and inspections to determine whether accessibility elements such as boarding platforms comply with State

building standards and related requirements.

7) Information Accessibility

According to the initial report of the Government of Ukraine (2012), the Law of Ukraine No. 875-XII "On the Fundamentals of Social Protection of Persons with Disability in Ukraine" provides that the State is obliged to identify and remove barriers that prevent persons with disabilities from exercising their rights and satisfying their needs, including barriers to access to information and communication. The same law also officially recognizes sign language as a means of communication and education for persons with hearing impairments and positions it as an object of State protection. The State is required to promote the dissemination of sign language, the linguistic identity of persons with hearing impairments, the protection, study, and development of sign language, and the use of sign language as a means of upbringing, training, education, communication, and creative activity. Additionally, it is explicitly stated that it is the duty of the State to provide means of communication, including sign language interpretation, so that persons with hearing impairments can communicate with social protection bodies, emergency services, medical institutions, educational institutions, and others. The same Government report (2012) notes that 556 trained sign language interpreters were available and that, on average, 80 were trained annually by organizations of persons with disabilities and Drahomanov National Pedagogical University.

In terms of communication support, within the free legal aid system, a support mechanism including sign language interpretation was developed in cooperation with the Ukrainian Society of the Deaf. At administrative service centers, video sign language interpretation services are provided through the "Connect PRO" mobile application and can be used at service counters. In addition, sign language interpreters are mandatory in court proceedings involving persons with hearing impairments, and trials of remote sign language interpretation via Skype were also conducted. Training programmes for newly recruited police officers also include methods of communication with persons with various disabilities, including persons with hearing impairments.

It is reported that the library of the Ukrainian Society of the Blind produced 1.6 million pages of books and magazines in Braille and also made available books and magazines in audio format, totaling 6,957 hours. In the courts, the number of buildings equipped with Braille signage increased from 17 in 2019 to 43. In addition, information boards and large-print schedule displays were introduced. It is also noted that 30,000 Braille pamphlets were printed to provide information on the free legal aid system.

As for the Marrakesh Treaty (Marrakesh Treaty to Facilitate Access to Published Works for

Persons Who Are Blind, Visually Impaired, or Otherwise Print Disabled), which aims to improve access to published works for persons with visual impairments and others with print disabilities, the initial State report (2012) described preparations for accession, and Ukraine subsequently acceded to the Treaty in June 2023, with entry into force on 8 September 2023[32].

8) Disaster Risk Reduction

According to the combined second and third periodic reports (2020), procedures have been approved for identifying and supporting persons with disabilities and persons with limited mobility who reside in areas where emergencies have occurred or may occur. Based on these procedures, information on the locations of protective facilities such as shelters and evacuation facilities has been published as interactive maps on government websites, including those equipped for use by persons with disabilities. Measures for the evacuation of persons with disabilities are explicitly stated as a separate section within population evacuation plans, and the preparation of such plans is entrusted to local administrations and municipalities. Public institutions and facilities related to social protection also regularly conduct practical training for staff on assisting persons with disabilities in emergencies.

In the evacuation plan for Luhansk oblast, persons with disabilities, including those in detention facilities, medical institutions, educational institutions, and social protection institutions, are designated for prioritized evacuation. The plan includes the deployment of 149 specialized vehicles and 74 ambulances, and local evacuation commissions have been supplemented by responsible teams tasked with identifying persons with disabilities and others with limited mobility. At the field level, inventories of evacuation facilities prepared for these groups as well as inspections of their state of readiness are also carried out. Representatives of organizations of persons with disabilities participate in humanitarian assistance committees established within local administrations and are involved in determining the priority allocation of humanitarian assistance based on the needs of persons with disabilities.

With regard to internally displaced persons, as of 31 August 2020, 1,454,275 persons, corresponding to 1,178,177 households, were registered, of whom 51,436 were with disabilities. For internally displaced persons with disabilities, monthly targeted assistance to cover living expenses, including housing and utilities, is determined according to disability group. For households of persons with disabilities and internally displaced households receiving pensions, special provisions have been established to raise the maximum payment ceiling and facilitate continued receipt of benefits.

[32] Based on https://www.wipo.int/wipolex/zh/treaties/notifications/details/treaty_marrakesh_95 (Accessed: 9 April 2026)

## 3. International Treaties and International Cooperation

### 3-1. Status of Implementation Following the Ratification of the CRPD[33]

Ukraine signed the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) on 24 September 2008 and ratified it on 16 December 2009. It subsequently submitted its initial State report on 12 April 2012, and the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities adopted the List of Issues in April 2015. In response, the Government submitted its replies in July of the same year, and the Committee adopted its concluding observations on the initial report on 4 September 2015. In follow-up to those concluding observations, the Government of Ukraine submitted a follow-up report on 13 September 2017.

In the next reporting cycle, the Committee prepared the List of Issues Prior to Reporting (hereinafter referred to as "LOIPR") on 20 September 2019, and the Government of Ukraine submitted its combined second and third periodic reports based on the LOIPR on 5 October 2020. Thereafter, the Government submitted additional replies on 29 August 2024, and on the basis of those materials, the Committee adopted its concluding observations on those reports on 5 September 2024.

Civil society and the national human rights institution have also actively submitted parallel reports and related materials in each cycle. For the combined second and third periodic reports, organizations of persons with disabilities, Human Rights Watch, the Parliamentary Commissioner for Human Rights, and others submitted information and parallel reports for the LOIPR during 2019-2020. In addition, during the 2024 review period, Disability Rights International, the European Disability Forum, and federations of disability organizations in Ukraine provided information for the session.

### 3-2. Status of Implementation of the Marrakesh Treaty

The Government of Ukraine acceded to the Marrakesh Treaty on 8 June 2023, which facilitates access to copyrighted works for persons with visual impairments and other print disabilities, and the Treaty entered into force for Ukraine on 8 September 2023. However, the concluding observations of the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities in 2024 express concern that there is no national plan for implementation of the Treaty with specific targets and timelines. On that basis, the Committee recommended that the Government of Ukraine promptly implement the Marrakesh Treaty.

[33] Based on https://tbinternet.ohchr.org/_layouts/15/treatybodyexternal/TBSearch.aspx?Lang=en&TreatyID=4&CountryID=183 (Accessed: 9 April 2026)

### 3-3. Initiatives on Disability Issues within SDG-related Policies

The 2020 Voluntary National Review (VNR)[34]states that OPDs participated in its preparation. The Review primarily presents initiatives and remaining challenges across education, data development, and processes. In the field of education, the "share of schools implementing inclusive education" was set as indicator 4.7.3, and it is reported that this increased from 8.98 % in 2016 to 35.14 % in 2019. The Review shows that, under the 2017 Law on Education, as noted above, students with special educational needs were guaranteed inclusive classes, remedial and developmental support based on individualized development programmes, the placement of teaching assistants, and the establishment of a network of Inclusive Resource Centers. In addition, it is stated that 183 national indicators for SDG monitoring were established and that a mechanism was institutionalized through government documents to collect data disaggregated by attributes, which is described as an initiative toward more detailed monitoring, including with respect to disability.

At the same time, as a challenge, the Review points out that prejudice and discrimination against certain groups are reinforced by the intersection of multiple characteristics such as sex, age, ethnicity, disability, and place of residence, and that responses to such intersectionality are needed. With regard to statistics and monitoring, it identifies as challenges the lack of sufficiently disaggregated data, including disability-related data, in many fields, as well as the limited human and technical resources necessary to develop and analyze statistical and administrative data. In the section on action directions, improving the quality and accessibility of services for vulnerable groups, including persons with disabilities, and addressing prejudice and discrimination through an intersectional approach are identified as future tasks.

### 3-4. Ratification of and Initiatives regarding Other International Treaties related to Disabilities and Development

Ukraine ratified the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women in 1981[35]. In 2022, the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (hereinafter referred to as "CEDAW Committee") reviewed the ninth periodic report of Ukraine and adopted its concluding observations in October 2022. The CEDAW Committee expressed concern that the human rights of women and girls in Ukraine had been severely affected by the continuing armed conflict, including the situation concerning the Autonomous Republic of Crimea and the city of Sevastopol since 2014 and subsequent

[34] Based on https://hlpf.un.org/sites/default/files/vnrs/2021/26295VNR_2020_Ukraine_Report.pdf (Accessed: 9 April 2026)

[35] Based on https://www.mofa.go.jp/mofaj/gaiko/josi/3b_001_1.html#section5 (Accessed: 9 April 2026)

military actions. It also expressed grave concern about conflict-related sexual violence and the impact on disadvantaged women and girls, including internally displaced persons, and recommended that the State party strengthen measures for prevention of harm, prosecution of perpetrators, and compensation and support for victims. The CEDAW Committee pointed out that support, rehabilitation, and access to education remain insufficient for women and girls with disabilities, women and girls who were injured and acquired disabilities as a result of the war, and children, including children with disabilities, and called for concrete measures to guarantee these rights.

Ukraine ratified the Convention on the Rights of the Child in 1991[36]. In 2022, the Committee on the Rights of the Child (hereinafter referred to as "CRC Committee") reviewed the combined fifth and sixth periodic reports of Ukraine and adopted its concluding observations in September 2022. The CRC Committee expressed deep concern that children with disabilities had been subjected to long-term emotional neglect in certain institutions, that shortages of staff and inadequate training had led to poor quality of care and harmful practices such as the use of restraints, and that children with disabilities had not been sufficiently included in deinstitutionalization policies. In addition, following the outbreak of armed attacks on 24 February 2022, the CRC Committee expressed serious concern that some children with disabilities with high support needs had been left behind in institutions with inadequate personnel and equipment, where they were reportedly tied to beds, kept in dark, poorly ventilated, and unhygienic rooms, and returned to their families without proper assessment of the family situation due to the closure of boarding schools and institutions. In light of the above, the CRC Committee recommended that the State party adopt a human rights-based approach to disability and promote comprehensive inclusion policies, early identification and intervention, elimination of discrimination and stigma, further promotion of deinstitutionalization, and expansion of support services in families and communities. It also recommended that children with disabilities be fully included in evacuation plans, that accessible shelters and accessible emergency information and communication channels be provided, that immediate measures be taken to ensure the safety and health of children with disabilities who require particularly intensive support, and that international assistance be used to secure essential goods, medical and rehabilitation services, and adequate staffing, as well as to ensure nurturing care environments through family-based care and small-scale, high-quality group homes. In addition, it recommended that internally displaced and refugee children with disabilities be provided with protection and support tailored to their individual needs and that appropriate reception facilities and accommodation be made available in

[36] Based on https://www.unicef.or.jp/about_unicef/about_rig_list.html (Accessed: 9 April 2026)

order to prevent family separation. The CRC Committee further expressed grave concern that the armed conflict had severely affected children's development and mental health, leading many children to experience acute and chronic stress, anxiety, depression, and post-traumatic stress disorder. It therefore recommended that the Government of Ukraine and the States receiving children fleeing the conflict give priority and allocate resources to multilayered psychosocial support and trauma-responsive programmes in order to protect the mental health of children and their caregivers.

Finally, Ukraine ratified the International Labour Organization (hereinafter referred to as "ILO") Convention concerning Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment (Disabled Persons), 1983 (Convention No. 159) in 2003. In its Direct Request[37] to Ukraine, adopted in 2024 and published at the 113th Session of the International Labour Conference in 2025, the Committee of Experts on the Application of Conventions and Recommendations (hereinafter referred to as "CEACR") confirmed that, even under wartime conditions, the Government of Ukraine had prepared a draft decree providing for reimbursement of workplace adaptation costs and wage costs to employers who hire persons with disabilities, and that employment service centers were providing counselling, job placement, vocational training, and other services, while reporting statistics on users and job placements. At the same time, the CEACR noted that the employment rate of persons with disabilities, including internally displaced persons, remained low and that significant barriers to employment persisted, and that information on measures taken to promote the participation of persons with disabilities in the labour market and in society remained insufficient. It therefore requested the Government of Ukraine to continue to provide in its future reports detailed and up-to-date information on the content and implementation of national policies on vocational rehabilitation and employment of persons with disabilities, the impact of measures taken to increase their employment rate, the status of consultations with OPDs and other stakeholders, the implementation of support in rural and remote areas, and the training and deployment of specialized staff responsible for vocational guidance, training, and job placement.

### 3-5. International Cooperation on Disability[38]

- The Government of Japan[39]

<Grant Assistance for Japanese NGO Projects>

[37] Based on https://normlex.ilo.org/dyn/nrmlx_en/f?p=1000:13100:0::NO:13100:P13100_COMMENT_ID,P13100_COUNTRY_ID:4413071,102867:NO (Accessed: 9 April 2026)

[38] Project names are listed exactly as they appear in the original text. However, this does not apply in cases where there is no English name or the English name is unknown.

[39] Based on the Cabinet Office White Paper on Persons with Disabilities and the website of the Embassy of Japan in Ukraine.

- Project for Disability-Inclusive Reconstruction Support for Communities Affected by Damage Caused by Landmines and Other Explosive Ordnance in Mykolaiv Oblast (Fiscal Year 2024) [40]

<Grant Assistance for Grassroots Human Security Projects>

- Project for the Development of the Brovary Municipal Social Rehabilitation Centre for Children with Disabilities (2015)
- Project for the Development of Rehabilitation Equipment at the Ukrainian Research Institute of Prosthetics and Rehabilitation (2015)

<Technical Cooperation Projects>

- Emergency Recovery and Reconstruction Project[41] (Provision of rehabilitation equipment such as rehabilitation robot suits and mobile shower wheelchairs to 11 facilities including the Kyiv City Rehabilitation Centre for Children with Disabilities)

<Others>

- Country-focused Training "Capacity Development in the Health Sector: Rehabilitation" [42]
- Thematic Training "Psychosocial Care in Disasters" [43]
- Data Collection and Confirmation Survey on Mental Health Care and Cancer Treatment in Ukraine[44]
- Data Collection and Confirmation Survey on Strengthening the Rehabilitation System in Ukraine[45]

• Other donors

<International organizations>

United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)[46]

In cooperation with the Ministry of Social Policy and the Dzherelo Centre[47], which provides social services and rehabilitation services in Lviv city, UNICEF has been expanding early intervention services nationwide for children with developmental delays and disabilities. Specifically, it trains staff of local governments and civil society organizations to assess the development of children, including internally displaced children, and to refer them to specialized services such as social services and rehabilitation. It also strengthens community-based support systems through the development of models for disability-inclusive integrated social services at the community level, the provision of assistive devices, psychosocial support

[40] Based on https://www.mofa.go.jp/mofaj/gaiko/oda/region/pagew_000001_00320.html (Accessed: 10 April 2026)
[41] Based on https://www.jica.go.jp/overseas/ukraine/information/topics/2025/1572467_58072.html (Accessed: 10 April 2026)
[42] Based on https://www.jica.go.jp/domestic/kansai/information/topics/2024/241001_jm01.html (Accessed: 10 April 2026)
[43] Based on https://www.jica.go.jp/domestic/kansai/information/topics/2024/241001_jm01.html (Accessed: 10 April 2026)
[44] Based on https://www.jica.go.jp/domestic/kansai/information/topics/2024/241001_jm01.html (Accessed: 10 April 2026)
[45] Based on https://www.jica.go.jp/domestic/kansai/information/topics/2024/241001_jm01.html (Accessed: 10 April 2026)
[46] Based on https://reliefweb.int/report/ukraine/unicef-urges-humanitarian-response-includes-all-children-disabilities-enuk (Accessed: 10 April 2026)
[47] Based on https://dzherelo.org.ua/en/about/ (Accessed: 10 April 2026)

for families, and the development of support guidelines for children with disabilities resulting from landmine injuries and other causes.

United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)

In cooperation with the Government of Ukraine (such as the Ministry of Economy and the Ministry of Internal Affairs), and with support from major donors including the European Union, Japan, Germany, Sweden, the Netherlands, and the Republic of Korea, UNDP is implementing assistance that places emphasis on the inclusion and independence of persons with disabilities[48]. Through the provision of specially adapted training vehicles[49], universal design training[50], and support for the rehabilitation and vocational training of persons with disabilities resulting from the war, it aims to promote the socioeconomic integration of persons with disabilities and improve their quality of life.

World Health Organization (WHO)[51]

In response to the growing demand for rehabilitation associated with war-related trauma and amputations, as well as stroke and chronic diseases, WHO is supporting the strengthening of specialized services and comprehensive systems. It also places particular emphasis on improving access to mental health and psychosocial support. In order to facilitate social recovery and reintegration of displaced persons, veterans, and others, it is promoting the development of frameworks for community-based rehabilitation support. In addition, WHO plays an important role in providing technical support for health system reform and in coordination with international partners[52].

World Bank

Under the HEAL Ukraine Project (Health Enhancement and Lifesaving Ukraine Project), rehabilitation services at regional and primary healthcare levels, the development of safe spaces for mental health, and the supply of rehabilitation equipment are being carried out, and persons with disabilities, including those with disabilities resulting from the war, are among the main beneficiaries[53]. In the field of social protection, the INSPIRE Project (Investing in Social Protection for Inclusion, Resilience, and Efficiency Project) explicitly includes

[48] Based on https://www.undp.org/ja/japan/press-releases/undp-launches-innovative-rehabilitation-initiatives-war-affected-ukraine (Accessed: 10 April 2026)
[49] Based on https://www.undp.org/ja/japan/press-releases/undp-delivers-adapted-vehicles (Accessed: 10 April 2026)
[50] Based on https://www.undp.org/ukraine/press-releases/universal-design-school-launches-new-cycle-advance-inclusive-and-barrier-free-recovery-ukraine (Accessed: 10 April 2026)
[51] Based on https://www.who.int/ukraine/ (Accessed: 10 April 2026)
[52] Based on file:///C:/Users/a9136/Downloads/WHO-EURO-2024-9329-49101-73236-eng%20(1).pdf (Accessed: 10 April 2026)
[53] Based on https://documents.worldbank.org/pt/publication/documents-reports/documentdetail/099155012092231772 (Accessed: 10 April 2026)

"support for persons with disabilities, orphans, and children under guardianship" and is strengthening 29 social assistance programmes with a total budget of USD 1.2 billion[54]. At the same time, it has been reported that OPDs have criticized this programme for prioritizing the reconstruction of institutions and thereby running counter to the principle of moving away from institutional dependence[55].

<International NGOs>

Humanity & Inclusion (HI)[56]

Following the full-scale invasion in February 2022, HI deployed emergency response teams throughout Ukraine and in Moldova, and between 2022 and 2023 opened offices in Chernivtsi, Lviv, Vinnytsia, Dnipro, Poltava, Kharkiv, and Mykolaiv to implement a multi-sectoral emergency response. As of 2025, it has operational bases in Kharkiv, Mykolaiv, and Dnipropetrovsk oblasts and a coordination office in Kyiv. It continues to provide physical and functional rehabilitation through mobile teams and hospitals, mental health and psychosocial support, identification of the needs of vulnerable persons and provision of protection services, reduction of armed violence and support for victims through explosive ordnance risk education, and disability inclusion training and awareness-raising for the humanitarian community.

European Disability Forum（EDF）[57]

Since March 2022, EDF has launched a war response in cooperation with OPDs in Ukraine and neighbouring countries and in April of the same year established its Ukraine response programme. It has implemented humanitarian assistance including cash, assistive devices, transport, food, hygiene items, medicines, and medical and rehabilitation services, advocacy and training for diverse stakeholders, and support for cooperation among OPDs in Ukraine and neighbouring countries. It completed Phase 1 (from April 2022 to June 2023) and Phase 2 (from July 2023 to March 2025), and at the time of preparation of this report, it was implementing the Empower Ukraine project in six oblasts in Ukraine.

CBM (Christian Blind Mission, formal name CBM Christoffel-Blindenmission Christian Blind Mission e.V.) [58]

[54] Based on https://reliefweb.int/report/ukraine/social-assistance-programs-poor-and-vulnerable-ukraine-benefit-world-bank-support-enuk (Accessed: 10 April 2026)
[55] Based on https://globaldisabilityfund.org/new/wp-content/uploads/2025/03/Country-brief-Ukraine.pdf (Accessed: 10 April 2026)
[56] Based on https://www.hi.org/en/country/ukraine (Accessed: 10 April 2026)
[57] Based on https://www.edf-feph.org/ukraine/ (Accessed: 10 April 2026)
[58] Based on https://www.cbm.org/our-work/what-we-do/humanitarian-action/ukraine-cbm-response.html (Accessed: 10 April 2026)

In partnership with local NGOs and OPDs, CBM is implementing activities such as inclusive healthcare and rehabilitation (including medical transportation, referrals to specialized institutions, and provision of assistive devices), cash assistance for households facing high access barriers, mental health support for internally displaced persons and returnees, protection services for internally displaced persons and persons with disabilities, education and livelihood improvement programmes, and capacity development for local organizations.

# 4. Disability-related Organizations and Activities

## 4-1. Organizations of Persons with Disabilities

| Name of organization | Overview |
|---|---|
| National Assembly of People with Disabilities of Ukraine: NAPD<br>https://naiu.org.ua/en/ | Founded in 2001. It is the largest federation of organizations of persons with disabilities in Ukraine, with approximately 120 OPDs as members, and is also a member of the European Disability Forum. It provides information on disability certification and benefits, free legal counseling, vocational education, strengthening of rights protection during humanitarian response and recovery processes, and organizational and capacity development. In cooperation with international organizations, foreign embassies, and international NGOs, it supports persons with disabilities and older persons through information dissemination during wartime, promotion of universal design, provision of free legal counseling, publication of news digests, and other activities. |
| Ukraine Society of the Deaf: UTOG<br>https://utog.org/pro-utog/ | Founded in 1933. It provides sign language interpreting and information services in Ukrainian Sign Language, projects to enhance psychological safety and security, cultural activities such as newspaper publication and theatre troupe management, and humanitarian assistance (including provision of temporary accommodation and psychological support for persons with hearing impairments during the war). |
| Ukrainian Society of the Blind: UTOS<br>https://utos-doc.narod.ru/PRO_UTOS.htm | Founded in 1933. It carries out humanitarian assistance such as distribution of food, clothing, and assistive devices, mental health counseling, employment creation, and rights advocacy. Its Braille library is open on weekdays from 9:00 to 14:00 and lends audio books and Braille books; for users who have difficulty visiting the library, it also provides free home delivery. |
| All-Ukrainian NGO "Coalition of NGOs for Intellectual Disability" [59]: VGO Coalition | Founded in 2004. It is a federation composed of around 14,000 families nationwide (including persons with intellectual disabilities, their families, and professionals) and 118 related organizations. It engages in rights advocacy for persons with intellectual disabilities at both national and local levels and works to expand services such as supported living, day care, supported employment, and supported decision-making. In cooperation with the Office of the Ukrainian Parliament Commissioner for Human Rights, it also works to |

[59] One of the organizations that submitted a parallel report in 2019. Although no official website could be identified, the report makes public its email address (vgo.coalition@gmail.com).

| | |
|---|---|
| | prevent institutionalization and eliminate discrimination. |
| Fight for Rights<br>https://ffr.org.ua/en/about-us/ | Founded in 2017 by women with disabilities. It carries out disability rights advocacy, policy proposals, accessibility improvement, human rights education, and public awareness-raising. Following the full-scale Russian invasion in 2022, it launched emergency response activities including support for evacuation of persons with disabilities within and outside the country, psychological support, legal advice, and documentation and dissemination of war crimes. It operates with approximately 30 staff members and around 10 volunteers and is frequently covered by international media. |

4-2. Disability Support Organizations

| Name of organization | Overview |
|---|---|
| EAST SOS<br>https://east-sos.org/en/ | Founded in 2014. It initially began its activities with support for civilians in eastern Ukraine and Crimea, and following the full-scale Russian invasion in 2022, expanded to comprehensive support for all war-affected persons. It provides evacuation and accommodation support, renovation of temporary shelters, documentation on war crimes, education and humanitarian assistance, and legal and psychological support. Persons with disabilities are also among its target groups, and since 2022, it has evacuated more than 2,000 persons with disabilities and provided wheelchairs, assistive devices, and medical supplies to more than 300 persons. It also operates nine barrier-free temporary shelters equipped with wheelchair ramps, Braille signage, and sign language interpreting. |

## 5. Barriers and Needs Faced by Persons with Disabilities[60]

### 5-1. Barriers to and Needs regarding Healthcare Services

According to the joint parallel report "Situation on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities in Ukraine" (2024) prepared by multiple NGOs in Ukraine, by July 2024, medical facilities had become targets of attack in the context of the full-scale invasion by the Russian Federation, resulting in approximately 1,200 medical facilities being damaged and 190 facilities being completely destroyed. As a result, during the early stages of the invasion, access of persons with disabilities to basic medical services was severely restricted. Interviews with persons with disabilities resulting from the war indicate that, while evaluations of the medical services themselves provided are generally positive, a lack of support and assistance, particularly in cases where they are supporting the treatment of injured spouses, has been strongly emphasized. In addition, procedures for disability certification have become prolonged, with about 30 % of cases taking more than six months to be finalized. This waiting period overlaps with a lack of funds needed for treatment and rehabilitation.

The same report states that a total of 36 comprehensive rehabilitation centers, including those in temporarily occupied territories and areas of intense fighting, have suspended operations, and that even for centers that remain operational, there is a high risk that rehabilitation systems will collapse due to changes in funding schemes. Community-based rehabilitation services and programmes are not sufficiently developed; according to a survey cited in the report, 61.5 % of respondents stated that they had not received rehabilitation services after being injured. The main barriers identified were a lack of information on service availability (51.9 %), the absence of service providers in their place of residence (21.2 %), and the need to forgo necessary services because they could not afford the costs.

With regard to assistive devices and support equipment, although there are regulations aimed at facilitating access and improving quality control, challenges remain regarding the quality of assistive devices, the lack of innovative assistive technologies, insufficient reimbursement amounts for devices purchased at one's own expense, and limitations in the types of devices eligible for reimbursement. It is also reported that persons with intellectual disabilities and psychosocial disabilities receive almost no assistive devices. With regard to prosthetics and orthotic services, 19.2 % of respondents indicated a need for such services, of whom 11.5 % had already received services while 7.7 % still required them. Users rely on out-of-pocket payments or free provision by charitable organizations, and there have been no reports of devices being provided at state expense.

The main barriers cited are the high costs and the absence of prosthetic and orthotic services

[60] This description is based on the parallel report submitted to the CRPD Committee.

in areas of intense fighting.

In the field of mental health, the same report notes that, although many psychological support services are in operation and certain measures have been taken, such as the provision of sign language interpretation for video materials, support for persons with disabilities resulting from the war and their families remains insufficient. It also reports that 12 social welfare institutions and 24 social welfare institutions and seven institutions under the Ministry of Health (mainly psychiatric institutions) have been destroyed or damaged, and that these institutions, along with their residents, remain in areas outside the control of Ukraine.
There is no systematic framework to monitor and protect these institutions and their residents.

According to a report by the Global Disability Fund/UNPRPD (2025), although health sector reforms in Ukraine aim to build an inclusive system, significant barriers remain in accessibility, service delivery, and rehabilitation. The war has further strained medical services and facilities, making access even more difficult for persons with disabilities and others. The report highlights key challenges, including the physical inaccessibility of many healthcare facilities and mental health services, shortages of trained psychological professionals, limited availability of sign language interpretation, and the lack of information provided in accessible formats.

With regard to rehabilitation, although a legal framework exists, implementation remains insufficient, and multidisciplinary teams are often confined to hospitals, with few community-based services. In addition, shortages of professionals and outdated equipment, as well as transport and security constraints, hinder access to services. With regard to assistive devices and assistive technology, while budget increases and new schemes have been introduced, reports point to long waiting times, bureaucratic delays, inadequate quality and individual adaptation of devices, and the existence of persons with disabilities who are unaware of how to access state-funded assistive devices.

### 5-2. Barriers to and Needs regarding Education

According to three documents, the World Bank (2024), Global Disability Fund/UNPRPD (2025), and a joint parallel report (2024) by multiple NGOs in Ukraine, barriers and needs related to education for children with disabilities and children with special educational needs under wartime conditions in Ukraine include the following.

First, the World Bank (2024) notes that children with special educational needs have been disproportionately affected by the invasion and that their access to education has been significantly disrupted. Even when schools are able to provide in-person classes, many air-raid shelters are not barrier-free, assistive technologies needed to participate in online classes are

insufficient, and access to specialized care and rehabilitation is limited. In addition, overlapping factors such as disability, institutionalization, and internal displacement restrict opportunities for children with special educational needs to acquire necessary skills and knowledge. Although the number and use of inclusive classes and IRCs are increasing, shortages of human and financial resources mean that certain needs, particularly for specialized psychosocial support, are not being adequately met.

Next, according to Global Disability Fund/UNPRPD (2025), since 2017, schools have been required to establish inclusive classes upon request, and children with special educational needs have been enrolled; however, it is not clear how many of these children are with disabilities. Although most IRCs nationwide remain in operation even under wartime conditions, many schools lack sufficient specialized staff to adequately support students with disabilities. While initiatives such as Braille textbooks, modified school buses, and "School of Superheroes" programmes for hospitalized children are being promoted, budgetary, personnel, and data shortages are hindering progress in inclusive education. As also pointed out by the World Bank (2024), many schools have been damaged or destroyed by the war, and as learning has shifted to online modalities or to shelters, constraints have emerged, including insufficient funding for repair and maintenance of assistive devices, delays in making school facilities—including transport and shelters—barrier-free, lack of accessible learning materials, and stigma regarding disability among teaching staff.

According to the joint parallel report (2024) by multiple NGOs, access to services for children with disabilities provided at the local level is inadequate due to environmental and informational barriers, lack of knowledge on the part of society, and insufficient development of services themselves. It also notes that OPDs are not systematically involved in decision-making on children with disabilities and that the voices of persons concerned are not sufficiently reflected in policies affecting children's lives, including education.

### 5-3. Barriers to and Needs regarding Employment

The joint parallel report (2024) by multiple NGOs states that persons with disabilities have expressed many negative evaluations regarding their experiences using employment centers. The main issues identified are inadequate accessibility to centers, restrictions on employment imposed by the medical and social expert commissions, negative attitudes towards disability among center staff, and prejudice on the part of employers; these are described as structural barriers to employment through employment services.

According to the report by the Global Disability Fund/UNPRPD (2025), compliance with the 4 % employment quota for persons with disabilities stood at 14.32 % in public institutions as of 2023, whereas in the private sector, where sanctions are stricter, compliance was higher at

78.68%. However, government supervision is insufficient, and many companies and employers avoid fines by claiming that there were no “suitable applicants with disabilities,” thereby in practice narrowing employment opportunities. Only a limited number of employers provide accessible working environments, and job advertisements rarely mention the provision of reasonable accommodation. The report notes that employment opportunities for persons with intellectual disabilities are particularly scarce. In addition, the war-related displacement and internal movement of people have increased unemployment, making it even more difficult for internally displaced persons with disabilities to find new employment. As a result, many persons with disabilities receive only low disability pensions, are forced to live below the poverty line, and have become increasingly dependent on humanitarian assistance.

5-4. Barriers to and Needs regarding Transportation

According to the joint parallel report (2024) by multiple NGOs, at the outset of hostilities, many persons with disabilities were trapped in buildings that were not barrier-free and were unable to evacuate to air-raid shelters. The report notes that physical barriers remain, such as high curbs and improperly constructed ramps in outdoor infrastructure, hindering the mobility of wheelchair users and others. With regard to public transport, there are no disability-accessible buses on routes connecting places of residence with the nearest cities, and transport itself constitutes a major constraint. Additionally, many shelters (including metro stations, basements of buildings, and basements of houses and factories) are practically unusable for persons with disabilities, despite existing accessibility regulations, and are not adapted to the needs of persons with intellectual or psychosocial disabilities.

According to the report by the Global Disability Fund/UNPRPD (2025), the “National Strategy for Creating a Barrier-Free Environment in Ukraine (2021–2030)” aims to improve the accessibility of public spaces, but a lack of comprehensive accessibility data makes it difficult to measure progress. Although accessible building standards are mandatory, enforcement is insufficient because inspections are limited under wartime conditions. It is noted that local governments and NGOs monitor and report gaps but lack the authority to enforce corrective measures. A 2021 survey found that only 10 % of approximately 33,000 public facilities were assessed as fully accessible. As in the joint parallel report (2024), the lack of accessibility of shelters remains a problem, and it is noted that persons with disabilities continue to face danger during air raids and evacuation. The report also points out that the National Transport Strategy (“Drive Ukraine 2030”) sets a target of making 60 % of railway infrastructure and 50 % of urban transport accessible by 2030, but progress has been slow. Although public transport accessibility is mandated by law, 71.9 % of persons with disabilities

report difficulties using transport infrastructure. The main barriers identified include a lack of accessible bus stops (44.2 %), non-barrier-free pedestrian routes (21.9 %), a lack of assistance when boarding and alighting (24.9 %), and a shortage of accessible toilets in transport hubs (18.2 %). These conditions indicate that many persons with disabilities, including wheelchair users, face restrictions in both daily mobility and emergency evacuation.

### 5-5. Barriers to and Needs regarding Information Access

According to the report by Global Disability Fund/UNPRPD (2025), in Ukraine, public broadcasters are required to provide accessible content (such as sign language interpretation and subtitles) for at least 5 % of programmes, while private media are not subject to the same obligations. It is reported that sign language interpretation is not provided in major public services such as hospitals, police stations, and public transport, and that persons with hearing impairments are unable to access important information. In addition, many government websites and mobile applications are not accessible, making it difficult, particularly for persons with visual, hearing, or intellectual disabilities, to access information on various services, up-to-date information in emergencies, and financial support.

According to the joint parallel report (2024) by multiple NGOs, there are also information access barriers in the area of access to justice, such as insufficient provision of sign language interpretation and easy-to-understand information. Although procedural law guarantees the provision of sign language interpretation, this option is not sufficiently publicized, and some women with hearing impairments are reported as saying that they will “only seek to defend their rights in court if they can communicate in a form accessible to them. Additionally, by December 2023, institutions in the justice sector and the Ministry of Justice were required to introduce augmentative communication formats, such as easy-to-read versions, that provide information in formats understandable to persons with intellectual disabilities and others, however, this has not yet been implemented. The report also notes that, although there has been some progress in improving access to free legal aid, challenges remain from the perspective of information access, including the fact that the use of sign language interpretation is limited to the stage of “secondary legal aid” (and is not used for primary legal aid such as consultations) and the absence of standards for direct engagement with persons with intellectual and psychosocial disabilities.

### 5-6. Barriers and Needs regarding Gender

According to the joint parallel report (2024) by multiple NGOs, women and girls with disabilities face gender-specific challenges under wartime conditions, including gender-based violence, abuse, and marginalization. Overall, there are no up-to-date statistics

on women with disabilities, making it difficult to understand their general situation, while only partial data on internally displaced women and persons with disabilities are available.
The report notes that, following the closure of educational institutions, the burden of childcare, education, and psychological care in emergencies has in many cases fallen on women. Women who have become internally displaced persons and are mothers of girls with disabilities report that, in their new communities, their daughters' outings and social participation are hindered by barriers such as the loss of friendships, lack of educational services, non-barrier-free infrastructure, and stigma.

The report also points out that intersectionality (such as disability and gender) has not been sufficiently taken into account in the planning and provision of temporary shelters and crisis response services, and that many services are not accessible. Nevertheless, it is reported that the number of calls from women and girls with disabilities reporting domestic violence to hotlines has increased under wartime conditions. It is also noted that women and girls with psychosocial disabilities may be refused services in crisis shelters due to a lack of understanding on the part of staff and other users.

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