



SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS FOR THE CHILDREN OF UKRAINE

NATIONAL REPORT



The “Sustainable Development Goals for the Children of Ukraine” national report provides a vision of benchmarks for the development of children and youth in the context of Ukraine’s efforts to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The report provides 31 strategic targets opening valuable opportunities to take action and to strengthen efforts for the advancement of the rights of the child. In 2019, the world community marks the 30th anniversary of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child. It is therefore advisable for the suggested first thematic report to draw the special attention of Ukrainian society to issues such as creation of conditions for harmonious development of children and youth.

The report was prepared by the Ministry of Economic Development and Trade of Ukraine, Ministry of Social Policy in Ukraine and State Statistics Service of Ukraine under the coordination of Natalia Gorshkova and approved by the High-Level Interministerial Working Group for implementing the SDGs in Ukraine under the chairmanship of the First Vice Prime Minister of Ukraine – the Minister of Economic Development and Trade of Ukraine. Scientific support was provided by Institute for Demography and Social Studies of the National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine and UN Children’s Fund (UNICEF) office in Ukraine.

Remark. Data for 2014-2017 are provided not taking into account the temporarily occupied territory of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea, the city of Sevastopol, and some areas of Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts (which are not controlled by the Government of Ukraine and in which, according to the Law of Ukraine “On the Special Procedure of Local Self-Governance in Some Areas of Donetsk and Luhansk Oblasts”, a special procedure of local self-governance has been introduced). Comparison of data for 2014-2017 with data for previous years is therefore methodologically incorrect.

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 Goal 1	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1.1. Reduce the child poverty level by 75 per cent, in particular through the elimination of its extreme forms 1.2. Increase the coverage of poor people, particularly socially vulnerable children with targeted social assistance programmes, and ensure equal access to medical, educational, cultural, and social services 1.3. Increase the resilience of families with children 	 Goal 2	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2.1. Improve the nutrition of households with children
 Goal 4	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 4.1. Ensure access to quality school education for all children and adolescents 4.2. Ensure access to quality pre-primary development for all children 4.3. Ensure access to vocational education 4.4. Improve the quality of tertiary education 4.5. Increase the coverage of youth with training to acquire knowledge and skills required for decent jobs and entrepreneurship 4.6. Ensure equal access to all levels of education for children with special educational needs and children in vulnerable positions 4.7. Ensure that all pupils and students acquire the knowledge and skills needed to promote sustainable development, including through education for sustainable development, human rights, peace and non-violence, and sustainable development culture 4.8. Create a modern learning environment in schools, including inclusive education, through innovative approaches 	 Goal 3	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3.1. Minimize preventable mortality among children under 5 3.2. Ensure universal, quality immunization of children and youth
 Goal 5	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 5.1. Create an environment for ending all forms of discrimination against women and girls, including by reducing the impact of gender norms that determine stereotypical treatment of women and men, girls and boys 5.2. Reduce the level of gender-based and domestic violence against children, and ensure efficient prevention of its manifestations and timely assistance to victims 5.3. Enhance young people's awareness of reproductive health, and reduce teenage fertility 	 Goal 8	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 8.1. Increase youth employment 8.2. Reduce the share of youth not in employment, education or professional training
 Goal 10	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 10.1. Ensure accelerated growth of income of the least well-off 40 per cent of households with children 10.2. Support legislatively and encourage active participation of children and youth in social, economic and political life regardless of sex, health status (disability/special needs), origin, religious, economic or other status 10.3. Prevent the use of child labour and manifestations of discrimination against children 10.4. Ensure access to social services for children 10.5. Ensure implementation of the social protection policy for the benefit of children and youth on equity principles 	 Goal 11	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 11.1. Ensure access to housing for families with children and for youth 11.2. Enable the use of safe, affordable, accessible and environmentally sustainable transport systems, and improve road safety for children, families with children, and youth 11.3. Provide universal access to safe, accessible and inclusive green and public spaces, in particular for women and children, including those from vulnerable groups
 Goal 16	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 16.1. Significantly reduce the prevalence of all forms of violence against children 16.2. End abuse, exploitation, trafficking and all forms of violence against and torture of children 16.3. Ensure legal support and equal access of children to justice 		<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 11.4. Ensure the development of children- and youth-friendly communities based on integrated planning and participatory management involving children and youth

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Ukraine joined the SDGs and, following an inclusive process for adapting them, built a national SDGs system (with 86 national development targets and 172 indicators for monitoring their achievement). Following SDG adaptation, a national discourse was launched in Ukraine to measure progress and improve the official statistics system. The national SDG system provides a solid foundation for future strategic planning of Ukraine's development and to build up the SDG monitoring system at state level.

The strategic 31 SDG targets thematically focused on development of children and youth were defined through an open process of discussion and an expert survey. The targets set will serve as key reference points for drafting upcoming strategic planning/policy documents concerning the development of children and youth from the perspective of securing the rights of the child. The SDG indicators suggested in the report will provide a foundation for monitoring of the situation of

UN Convention on the Rights of the Child				
Art. 6, 24	Art. 28, 29	Art. 19, 34-38	Art. 24	Art. 2, 12, 23, 26, 30
				
Every child survives and thrives	Every child learns	Every child is protected from violence and exploitation	Every child lives in a safe and clean environment	Every child has an equitable chance in life
 GOAL 2	 GOAL 4	 GOAL 5	 GOAL 11	 GOAL 1
 GOAL 3		 GOAL 8		 GOAL 5
		 GOAL 16		 GOAL 10
EU-Ukraine Association Agreement				
Title V	Title V	Title III	Title V	Title V
Economic and Sectoral Cooperation Ch. 21, 22	Economic and Sectoral Cooperation Ch. 23	Justice, Freedom and Security Ch. 14	Economic and Sectoral Cooperation Ch. 6	Economic and Sectoral Cooperation Ch. 21, 24, 25, 26

children and youth in Ukraine and for further monitoring of children's rights under the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC).

The strategic areas of implementation of the rights of the child can be tentatively divided into five key dimensions: 1. Every child survives and thrives; 2. Every child learns; 3. Every child is protected from violence and exploitation; 4. Every child lives in a safe and clean environment; and 5. Every child has an equitable chance in life.

The SDGs targets for children are the blueprint to achieve a better and more sustainable future for every child. They address the challenges we face, including those related to poverty, inequality, peace and justice. The Goals and targets interconnect and in order to 'leave no one behind', it is important that we achieve each target by 2030.

Every SDGs goal and target was reviewed from the perspective of its relevance to Ukraine, its significance for shaping the country's future, and how it can impact on the development of children and youth. An objective analysis of progress towards realization of EU-Ukraine Association Agreement, The National Development Strategy till 2020, the Medium-Term Priority Action Plan to 2020, the State Social Programme until 2021 "National Action Plan for the Implementation of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child" was undertaken, by reviewing existing problems, their causes and possible consequences, considering unfinished business and new challenges. Consultations were held to define a set of goals, targets and indicators of development of children (aged 0-17 years) and youth (up to 24 years) in order to elaborate a strategic vision for future development by screening the global and national targets.





The following requirements were formulated for the targets and indicators in the course of the report drafting in open and inclusive manner.

KEY REQUIREMENTS FOR THE TARGETS

In the course of the report drafting, it was envisaged that the targets should:

- unite all the elements of society (the authorities, the private sector and civil society), and use the impetus of development created by ongoing reforms in Ukraine;
- ensure achievement of inclusive sustainable economic, social, environmental, and institutional development;
- direct efforts towards tackling critical problems;
- strengthen synergy for the achievement of each individual goal;
- be understandable to the population and easily interpretable; and
- draw on public opinion and the priorities identified through consultations and social research.

KEY REQUIREMENTS FOR THE INDICATORS

In the course of the report drafting, it was agreed that the indicators should be:

- disaggregated as much as possible;
- limited in number and aligned with the national and global SDG indicators;
- simple, non-varying and unambiguously depicting the direct consequences of policies;
- able to be systematically monitored;
- based on consensus and systemic information, and aligned with international standards;
- built on reliable data sources;
- universal;
- results-oriented; and
- scientifically grounded.

INTRODUCTION

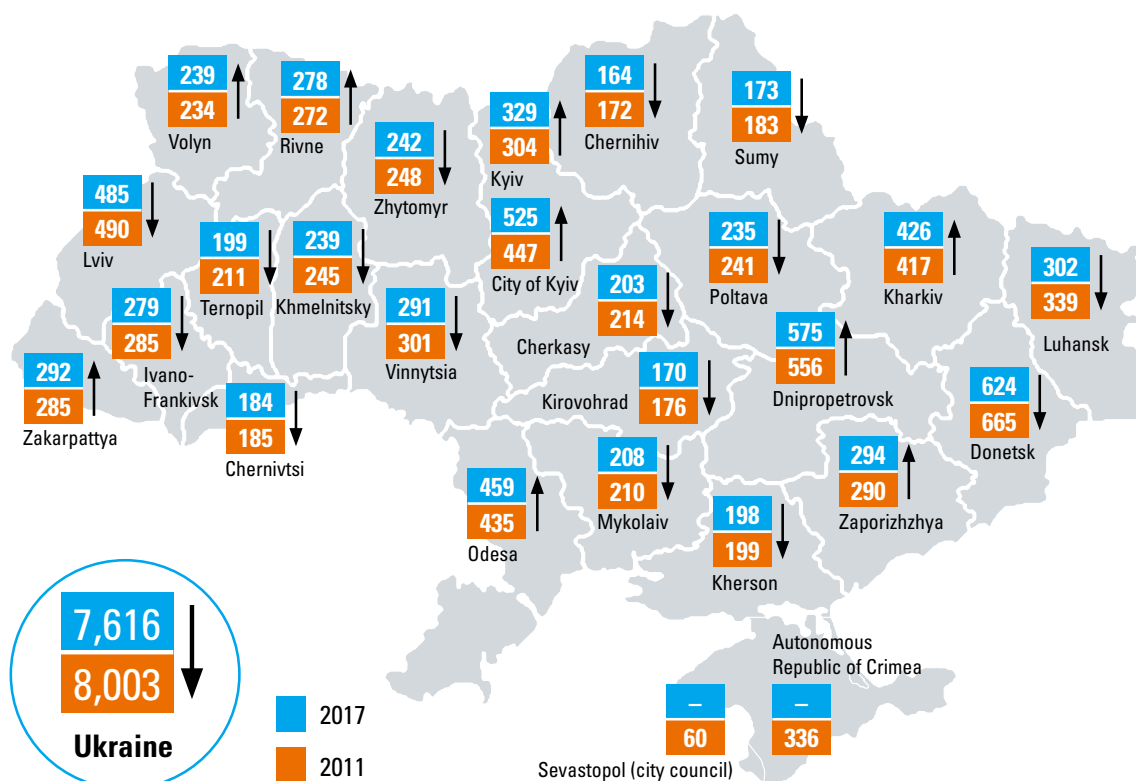
On 1 January 2016, the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development – adopted by world leaders in September 2015 at an historic UN Summit – officially came into force. Over the next fifteen years, with these new Goals that universally apply to all, countries will mobilize efforts to end all forms of poverty, fight inequalities and tackle climate change, while ensuring that no one is left behind. Many countries around the world adapted the goals and established country-specific development targets.

As of 2016, a High-Level Inter-Ministerial Working Group to organise the implementation of the SDGs in Ukraine has been set-up, with 17 Working Subgroups (one for each goal). Around 1000 experts from the subject areas covered by the SDGs have joined the national SDGs identification process (officials, managers, specialists from UN agencies, diplomats, scientists, economists, demographers, health professionals, epidemiologists, ecologists, educators, jour-

nalists, businessmen, civil society representatives). The process has set the targets, established the baseline for 15-year SDG-monitoring, and launched the national dialogue on Agenda 2030¹. Responsibility for achieving the established targets was placed on the ministries and agencies, which should report annually on progress against designated indicators. Progress still has to be measured against this baseline, and Ukraine will participate for the first time in the Voluntary National Review (VNR) at the 2020 High-Level Political Forum on SDGs. Work is now underway to create an open information SDG platform, localize the SDGs, and implement projects in thematic areas.

This first thematic report in Ukraine focuses on children. Children account for more than a quarter of the country's population (25.3 per cent). Almost 10.7 million children and young people live in Ukraine, with the 15-19 age group being the smallest (1.8 million), and the 5-9 age group the largest (2.4 million).

Fig. 1. Number of children in Ukraine, by region in 2011 and 2017, thousands



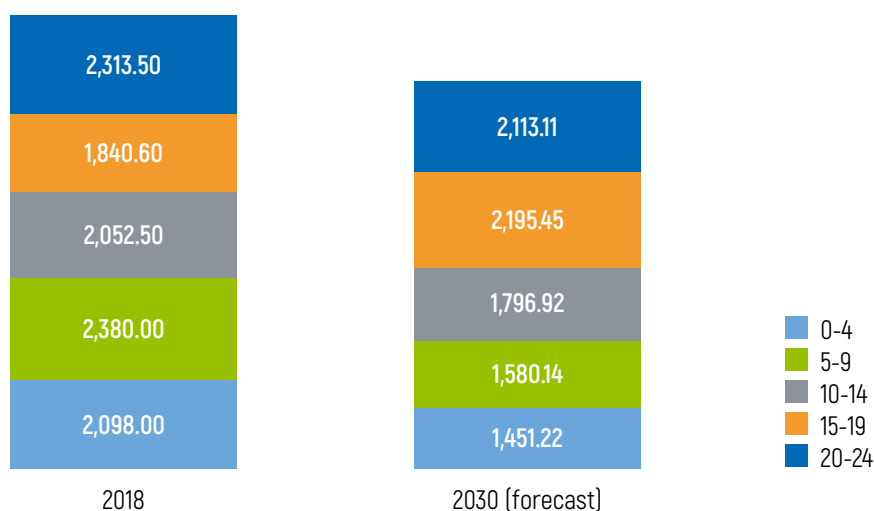
Source: State Statistics Service of Ukraine.

¹ See the MEDT-UN report: "Sustainable Development Goals: Ukraine. 2017 National Baseline Report".

According to projected estimates, the number of children and youth will fall by 2030 (to 9.1 million, equivalent to a decline of about 15 per cent). The age structural shifts will be reflected in a proportionately larger decline in the number of children under 15. Unlike most European

countries, where a migration inflow is found that not only increases the total population but also promotes its rejuvenation, Ukraine has seen fertility remaining at low levels for a long period, and this has aggravated by a migration outflow of people of childbearing age, particularly youth.

Fig. 2. Number of children and youth in 2018 and 2030 (forecast), beginning of the year, thousand



Source: calculations by the Institute for Demography and Social Studies of the National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine.





Goal 1. End poverty



INDICATORS

- Share of households with children whose average per capita equivalent total expenditure is lower than the actual (estimated) subsistence minimum, %
- Share of children whose daily consumption is below USD 5.05 at purchasing power parity (PPP), %
- Share of the poor households with children covered by state social support, %
- Proportion of funds received by poor households with children in the total amount of social support funds (aid to families with children, aid to low-income families, housing subsidies, social benefits), %
- Share of households with children (including large ones) where any household member could not receive medical aid, buy medicines and medical products during recent 12 months when necessary
- Share of households with children under 6 that suffer from absence of pre-school education institutions near their home, %
- Share of the 9th form graduates of daily general secondary education institutions who do not continue studies to obtain complete general secondary education, %
- Share of households with children without the Internet access at home, %
- Coverage of children with special needs with rehabilitation services, %
- Share of households with children that spend more than 60% of their aggregate expenditure on food, %
- Share of households with children who have less than 10% of the aggregate resources left after incurring expenditure on food and compulsory payments for housing and utility services, %
- Children's poverty level based on the actual subsistence minimum criterion subject to 20% increase in the limit value, %
- Share of households with children that cannot afford a week-long family recreation out of home once a year due to shortage of funds, %
- Share of children under 18 living in overcrowded housing, %

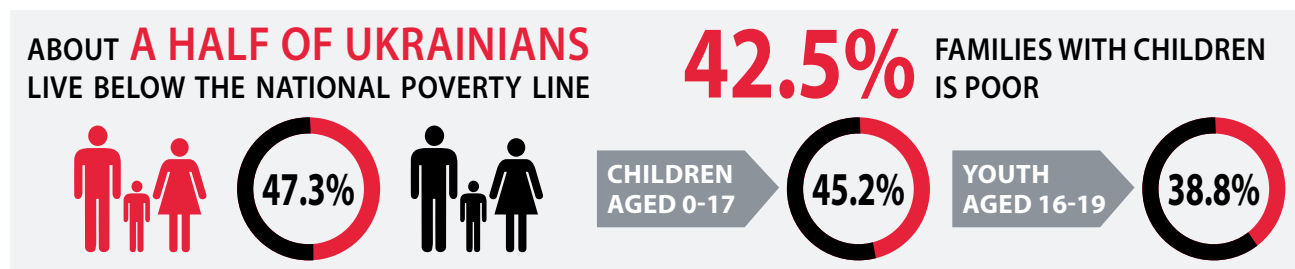
Families with children in Ukraine are highly vulnerable because of low labour remuneration standards, social transfers targeted mainly at older age groups, and inefficiency in re-distribution policy in general and of social support programmes in particular. The scale of monetary poverty among children is higher than in other population groups, and risks of poverty are particularly high among large families. These monetary problems are aggravated by limited access to social services, especially in rural areas. The unsatisfactory financial situation reduces the resilience of families with children, meaning they are unable to resist challenges in the socio-economic environment. Therefore, a large proportion of families with children risk falling into poverty because of adverse economic, political, environmental or social impacts. For example, in the context of hostilities in Donbas, families with children found themselves most vulnerable because they did not have enough savings to move to new locations and restore their lost property.

The limited economic capacity of families with children in Ukraine is a barrier to children's full-scale development because consumption is limited to food and housing expenses and in-

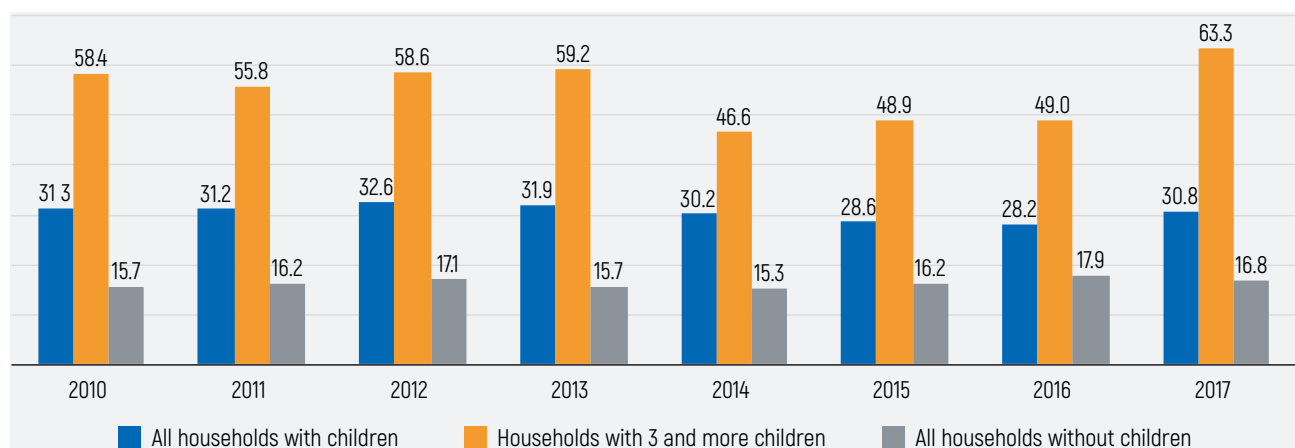
vestments in health, education, recreation and all-round development are not prioritized amid the total family budget austerity. In such situations, young people face restrictions in choice for the future due to both low availability of free vocational education and to expansion of inherited status attributes. The emergence and consolidation of intergenerational poverty, under which children grow up on governmental social aid and see no other prospects in their lives, remains a distinct problem.

Poverty and the resilience of vulnerable categories of children require special attention. Families with children with disabilities are especially vulnerable: on the one hand, their needs are considerably higher, because of extra expenses for medical treatment, rehabilitation, health improvement, education and mobility; while on the other hand, their income is limited, consisting at the best of a wage earned by one parent and social aid.

Indicators for monitoring patterns of child poverty and social exclusion in Ukraine are fragmented. This complicates any comprehensive assessment of changes in the situation of children, especially those in vulnerable groups.



Relative poverty rate trends for households with and without children, 2010-2017, %



Source: State Statistics Service of Ukraine.



Goal 2. End hunger, promote sustainable agriculture



INDICATORS

- Share of households with children consuming excessive quantity of fats, %
- Share of households with children that experience under-consumption of key food product groups, %

Balanced nutrition is a basic driver of a child's healthy and harmonious development, disease prevention, and adaptation to the environment. Child obesity is one of the most serious challenges to public health in the 21st century. According to the Medical Statistics Centre under the Ministry of Health, 15,500 new child overweight cases are recorded every year in Ukraine. The total number of such children in Ukraine in 2016 was about 70,000, or almost one in a hundred. The fat intake in the diets of 84 per cent of Ukrainian families with children exceeds the prescribed standard.

To meet the daily need for essential food substances and energy, one should consume a sufficient quantity of healthy products from the following key groups: colourful vegetables and legumes; fruit and berries; whole grain products; meat; milk and dairy products; eggs; fish; and nuts. However, from year to year households with children consume significantly less of these products than the standards: consumption of fruit, berries, grapes, and nuts is 39–47 per cent of the standard; consumption of milk and dairy products is 53–55 per cent of the standard; consumption of vegetables, melons and gourds is 53–60 per cent of the standard; and consumption of meat and meat products is 58–62 per cent of the standard.

As a result of insufficient consumption of these products, a child's body does not re-

ceive the vitamins and nutrients indispensable for healthy growth and development, leading to weakened resistance to various diseases, metabolic disorders and gastrointestinal tract impairments, as well as reduced visual acuity, nervous disorders, deterioration of mental abilities, and, hence, reduced opportunities for full-scale growth, development and learning. This adversely affects children's quality of life both now and in the future.

Providing the child population with healthy nutrition should become a priority for governmental programmes.

Ukrainian's diet is unbalanced, the animal products account for 28 per cent of the required calories versus the optimum level of 55 per cent. An average consumption of meat and meat products is 64 per cent of the science-based standard, milk and dairy products – 55 per cent, fish products – 43 per cent. Consumption of fruit and berries, which are the main source of vitamins for the children, is also significantly (by 43 per cent) lower than standard indicators. Spending on food is unreasonably high (the share of the subject expenses amounted to 55 per cent of the total cumulative spending).

Providing an affordable and balanced diet for the children, especially for poorest groups, has to become a policy priority.

Ratio between real and normative consumption of main food product groups by households with children, %

Product groups	2013	2014	2015	2016
Meat and meat products	89.1	94.3	94.3	93.5
Milk and dairy products	95.4	94.2	94.8	94.9
Eggs	79.7	81.6	81.7	81.9
Fish and fish products	69.1	73.5	82.7	85.3
Potatoes	87.2	88.7	88.8	88.4
Vegetables, melons and gourds	93.9	97.3	97.1	95.1
Fruit, berries, nuts, grapes	92.2	84.3	86.3	76.2
Bread and bakery products	67.8	51.1	54.9	56.4
On average	84.3	83.1	85.1	84.0

Source: State Statistics Service of Ukraine.



Goal 3. Healthy lives and well-being



INDICATORS

- Neonatal mortality rate (number of babies who died within 28 days of being born, per 1,000 live births), %
- Child mortality rate from external causes of death, per 100,000 of respective age
- Youth mortality rate from infectious and parasitic diseases, per 100,000 of respective age
- Child disability rate, per 10,000 aged under 18
- Shares of parents (of children under 15) and young persons who positively appraise access to quality basic medical and sanitary services; to safe, efficient, quality and inexpensive essential drugs and vaccines; to sexual and reproductive health care services, %

Ensuring a child's right to life, survival and development is one of the fundamental principles in the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child. High levels of protection for against dangerous diseases and death in early childhood, restrictions to the impact of risk factors, and enhanced resistance to them are only possible if a country has achieved a certain degree of socio-economic development. Mortality among children under 5 in Ukraine has been falling for an extended period. However the figures are higher than for advanced European countries. The infant mortality rate recorded in Ukraine for 2017 (7.6 per 1,000 live births) was less than in 2015 (7.9 per 1,000). The trend in infant mortality during this period closely follows changes in neonatal mortality.

The rate and structure of mortality among older school-age children indicate that Ukraine has the potential to reduce it: primarily thorough measures such as observance of safe behaviour rules on the roads in water bodies, and adolescent suicide prevention. External causes also make up a significant proportion of youth mortality in Ukraine (especially among men). Significant causes that should be minimized include tuberculosis and AIDS. Generally, incidence of disease, disability and mortality among children and youth in Ukraine points to an urgent need to intensify efforts to shape healthy lifestyles (among parents and children) and to develop effective prevention of the most dangerous diseases.

One of the key existing risks to preservation of children's life and health is posed by

the unsatisfactory immunization situation for a number of dangerous infectious diseases in Ukraine. The epidemic situation in the country in terms of vaccine-preventable diseases has been unstable in recent years with incidence of measles, rubella, epidemic parotitis, pertussis and diphtheria becoming uncontrollable. Large-scale implementation of immunization programmes would lead to considerable successes in prevention of these infectious diseases.

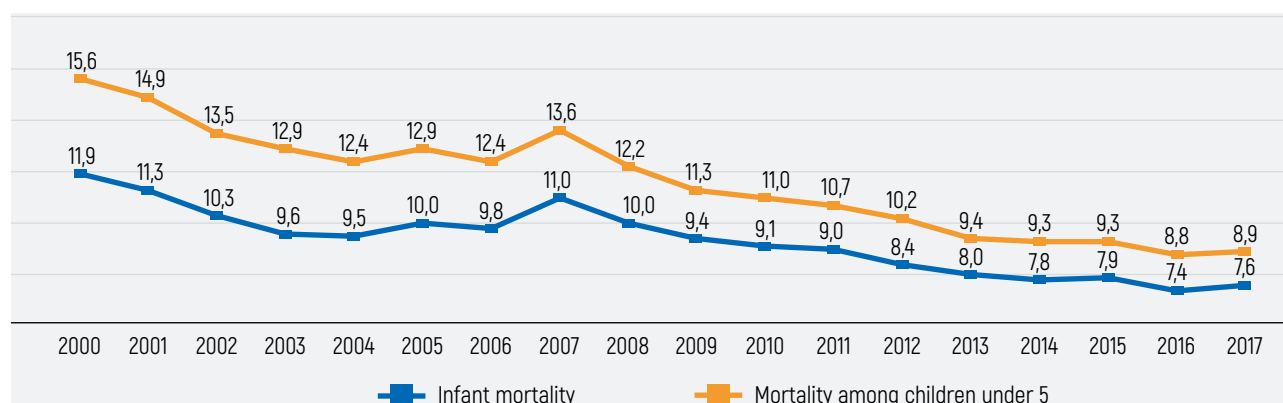
Immunization coverage of infants in Ukraine has generally been growing in recent years. However it still remains insufficient, especially concerning *Haemophilus influenzae* infections. The progress in implementation of vaccination plans for older children currently varies between 22–28 per cent (vaccination with ADT-M, second dose, at the age of 7 and over; and BCG-2, at the age of 7) and 88–89 per cent (vaccination with MMR-2 (at the ages of 6, 7 and over). This creates a pronounced risk of epidemics, as less than 95 per cent of the population is covered with vaccination.

THE MORTALITY RATE AMONG CHILDREN UP TO FIVE YEARS OF AGE DECREASED



FROM 15.6 IN 2000 TO 8.9 IN 2017

Infant mortality and mortality among children under 5 (per 1,000 live births) in Ukraine, 2000-2017



Source: State Statistics Service of Ukraine.



Goal 4. Quality education



INDICATORS

- Net general pre-primary enrolment rate for children aged 5, %
- Share of households with children that suffer from a lack of money to enable any family member to obtain any vocational education, %
- Enrolment rate of youth aged 15-24 in formal and informal forms of education and professional training in the last 4 weeks, %
- Share of youth who reported using the Internet over the past 12 months, %
- Share of rural GSEIs with Internet access, %
- Share of rural GSEIs with computer software training, %
- Share of full-time GSEIs with inclusive education, %
- Number and share of education recipients with disabilities at educational institutions, persons / %
- Number and share of education recipients with special educational needs at educational institutions, persons / %
- Share of children with special educational needs receiving education in special and inclusive classes of full-time GSEIs, %
- Number and share of educational institutions involved in the "education for sustainable development" capacity building, institutions/%
- Number and share of teaching and academic teaching staff who were trained / upgraded their skills on sustainability, persons/%

Supporting and encouraging education from early childhood, and ensuring equal access to quality education of all levels for every child should be an absolute priority. Education has considerable synergetic potential to achieve multidimensional social and economic progress, and build an equitable and sustainable society.

To achieve the SDGs, it is important to implement key ideas of sustainable development in every person's life, first of all through formal education, starting from pre-school education.

The availability of pre-school facilities enables both full-fledged development of children and development of livelihoods strategy for young families. The economic potential of Ukrainian households is limited and insufficient for investment in education. Primary and secondary school completion rates are traditionally high in Ukraine. However, delays to upgrading and modernizing existing schools pose serious obstacles to improving school leavers' competitiveness and adopting new forms of inclusive education.

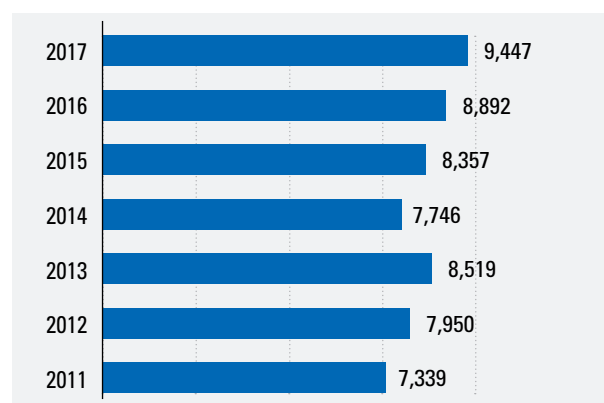
Empowering every child to obtain education is hindered by lack of resources for providing proper learning conditions in every school full-scale updating of school curriculums, and digitalizing the entire 'educational ecosystem'. Vocational education is only available for those who can afford it. Given past trends of education coverage, higher education will remain the most attractive educational level for young people. However, a growing level of educational migration abroad

and intensification of competition in the global educational services market are a challenge to Ukraine.

Qualitative monitoring requires more detailed disaggregation of indicators, by age, sex, place of residence, level of education and so on.

A significant issue for Ukraine is education for children with disabilities and special needs. It is necessary to eliminate gender inequality in vocational and higher education by different professions, which is based on gender stereotypes about the roles of women and men in society – which is one of the reasons for the deepening occupational segregation. For example, women accounted for almost 77 per cent of education workers in Ukraine (pre-school education – 98 per cent).

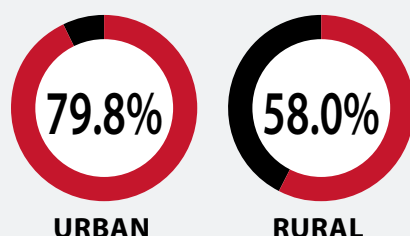
The number of children with disabilities in pre-school institutions in Ukraine, persons



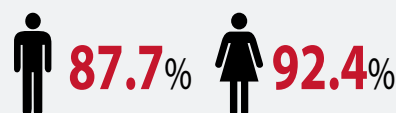
Source: Ministry of Social Policy of Ukraine.

98.4% OF CHILDREN OF SECONDARY-SCHOOL AGE ARE ENROLLED IN **FULL-TIME EDUCATION**

CHILDREN ENROLLED IN PRE-SCHOOL EDUCATION



THE **INTERNET** IS AVAILABLE FOR YOUTH



HALF OF YOUNG PEOPLE ARE ENROLLED IN HIGHER EDUCATION



Goal 5. Gender equality



INDICATORS

- Share of girls among higher educational institution students who study in the STEM-oriented fields (science, technology, engineering, mathematics), % of all students
- Share of girls and share of boys engaged in domestic work every day, % of children of respective sex aged 10 and 12
- Share of men aged 18-24 who agree that men should engage in domestic work equally with women, %
- Share of girls aged 15-17 who have experienced physical or sexual violence, %
- Number of complaints regarding family violence from children,
- Number of live births per 1,000 women aged 15-19
- Share of all married women and unmarried sexually active women aged 15-19 who have ever used any method of contraception, %
- Number of abortions among girls under 18,

Ensuring gender equality envisages eradication of any forms of sex-based discrimination as well as provision of equal opportunities for women and men in all fields of life. As the gender norms typical of a society are internalized already at an early age, achieving SDG 5 requires the cultivation of suitable attitudes to gender equality. Later, perceptions about gender equality determine young people's attitudes to future professions, family relations, and division of authority in the family. Modern manifestations of inequality in economic, political or representative opportunities for women and men are largely caused by the impact of gender stereotypes that are reproduced in family upbringing, the education system, and the information space (media, advertising, and so on). In particular, traditional perceptions concerning 'female' and 'male' occupations can lead to girls and boys choosing different fields of higher education, which subsequently increases gender segregation in the labour market.

Certain gender differences also differentiate opportunities for implementation of the rights of children and youth. In particular, greater involvement of girls than boys in domestic work limits girls' opportunities for education, personal development and leisure. Family responsibilities (cleaning, cooking, and caring for children and incapacitated family members) begins to be seen as a purely female occupation as early as in childhood. In adult life, the disproportionate burden of household work increases gender inequality and restricts women's opportunities for self-realization outside the family.

Children's and youth's high vulnerability to sexual and family violence is an acute problem. In addition to direct harm to physical and reproductive health (for girls and young women), the post-traumatic consequences of such experiences in childhood can be long-lasting and worsen the quality of life of victims in adulthood.

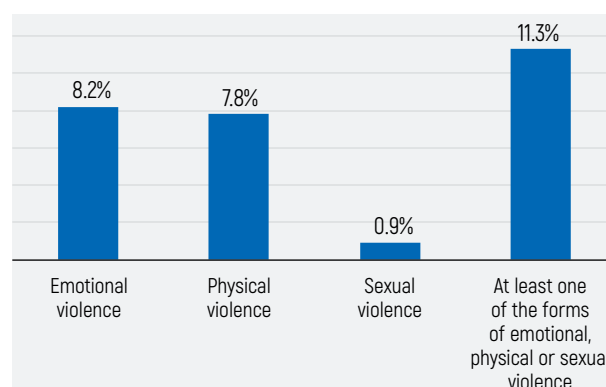
Gender-based violence is still hushed up as victims are sometimes afraid to seek help from specialized services because they feel fear and shame, expect to be accused of provocative behaviour, or are not aware of available services. Asking for help is even more difficult to children, who not always understand that their rights are being infringed and who can perceive manifestations of violence as a usual model of relationship. Importantly, children and adolescents can be not only direct victims but also witnesses of violence in their own families. For the first time, the new Law of Ukraine 'On Preventing and Counteracting Domestic Violence' (2017) provides a special victim status for children who have witnessed domestic violence, which entitles them to use relevant social services.

Reproductive health problems among youth continue to be gender-sensitive: neglect of guidelines for safe behaviour and insufficient awareness of preventive means result in the spread of sexually transmitted infections including HIV, as well as teenage pregnancy and abortions. Importantly, adolescent pregnancy not only has adverse demographic and health consequences but also increases gender inequality, as early motherhood can limit girls' opportunities for quality education, professional self-realization and personal development.

Monitoring achievement of SDG 5 in the context of well-being of children and youth requires collection of data that would indicate equal opportunities of women and men, girls and boys in all areas of life.



Share of women aged 15-24 who have ever been married and experienced various forms of violence perpetrated by their current or recent husband/partner



Source: Incidence of Violence against Women and Girls, GfK Ukraine and UNFPA, 2014



Goal 8. Decent work and economic growth



INDICATORS

- Employment rate among youth aged 15-24, %
- Employed population aged 15-24, thousands
- Share of youth aged 15-24 not in employment, education or professional training in the total number of those aged 15-24, %
- Economically inactive population aged 15-24, thousands
- Unemployed population aged 15-24, thousands

Decent work embraces a set of opportunities that ensure productive and fair incomes. For an economically active young person, work is the main source of income, and thus of livelihood and means for development, societal integration, self-realization, and ensuring self-esteem and self-respect.

Enabling young people's development and self-realization is one of the most important tasks of the State in promoting social progress. In the modern world of information technology, with the scope of knowledge rapidly growing, young people's creativity and activity is a driver of sustainable development. New challenges have arisen in Ukraine in recent years concerning under-utilization of labour resources aged 15–24. As a result of this, migration of active young individuals abroad has drastically increased. Youth have no incentives to actively involve themselves in social processes in Ukraine because of low pay, the impossibility of obtaining affordable housing, underdeveloped social infrastructure, absence of opportunities for career growth through ability alone, lack of social mobility, difficulties with starting one's own business, and so on.

The employment rate among youth aged 15–24 was 27.9 per cent in 2017. The youth employment problem is driven by many factors, including the following: difficulties finding a first job; working in a different field from that trained in; impossibility of finding employment in a chosen profession; insufficient practical abilities and skills among recent graduates; and slow development of youth entrepreneurship.

Young individuals not in employment, education or professional training are at continuous risk of political and social exclusion. Due to the armed conflict and difficulties in manufacturing, the poorly performing finance, banking, trans-

port and communications sectors, the share of working-age unemployed has increased (to about 9.5 per cent in 2017). Youth aged 15–24 have the highest unemployment rate of all age groups. Young people's transition from training to stable and satisfactory employment remains difficult and slow. About 40 per cent of young people are completing their transition to the labour market: approximately 30 per cent are these in the transition process whereas the others have not yet started it. This reveals problems and the need to match supply in the educational service market with demand in the labour market. Of those young persons not in employment, education or professional training, 39.1 per cent were youth with no gainful occupation but actively searching for employment or trying to start their own businesses.

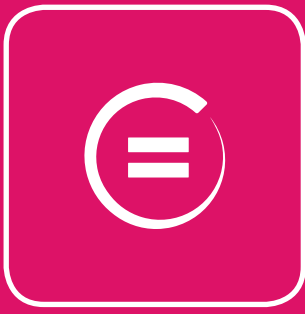
The economy of Ukraine has shown negative processes of de-industrialization, prevalence of low-tech commodity production, loss of scientific potential and outflow of professionals, growing moral and physical depreciation of the main assets for a long time. Accordingly, the structure of exports is dominated by products and services with low added value. The excessively high imports dependency of the Ukrainian economy was caused by the inability to adequately meet the domestic demand for non-food commodities and energy with a large capacity of the market and access to good domestic potential. In addition, the ongoing economic decline is accompanied by loss of jobs, economic downturn of settlements, mass labour migration of youth to other countries.



Youth not in employment, education or training, 2015-2017

Year	Youth not in employment, education or professional training		Including unemployed	
	Thousands	Share in total number of persons aged 15-24, %	Thousands	Unemployment rate, %
2015	795.2	17.7	361.2	22.4
2016	772.1	18.2	340.7	23.0
2017	666.3	16.5	262.0	18.9

Source: State Statistics Service of Ukraine.



Goal 10. Reduce inequality



INDICATORS

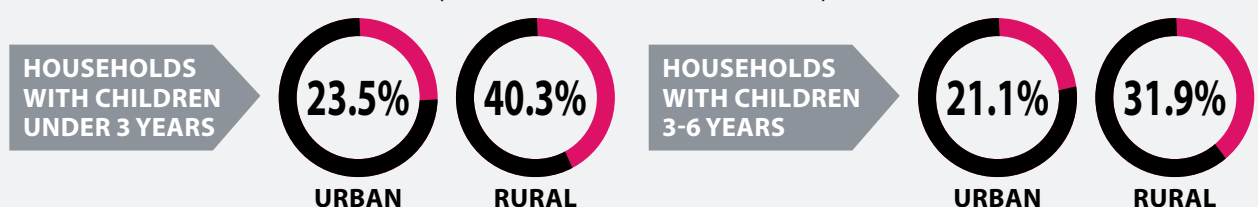
- Per capita aggregate income ratio of the least well-off 40% of households and all households with children
- Share of children aged 15-17 involved in child labour, %
- Share of households with children that suffer from absence of pre-school institutions (kindergartens, nurseries) near their home, %
- Share of households with children that suffer from a lack of money to obtain any vocational education, %
- Share of households with children that suffer from absence of timely emergency (ambulance) services in their settlement, %
- Share of social protection expenditure for the benefit of children in the state budget, %

Excessive growth of inequality is recognized as one of the greatest threats in the modern world. The rates of income growth of the planet's poorest population substantially lag behind the figures for richer individuals. This situation is rapidly escalating, and entering the poorest parts of society – which means poverty, social exclusion and lack of opportunities to live a full-fledged life – is becoming irreversible. Inequality among children is a particularly acute problem. Children have no choice of the family they are born into, and the family environment creates pre-requisites for, or considerable obstacles to, children's development from the earliest childhood. Material, or income-based, inequality is the most notable manifestation, and generally also leads to other forms of inequality. Therefore, ensuring faster income growth among the least well-off 40 per cent of households with children is essential to support their resilience and create adequate conditions for child development and well-being. Failing to address this

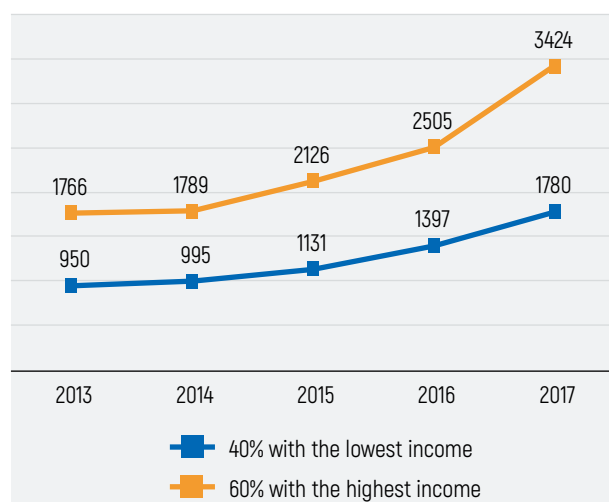
increase the risk that children will not receive a full education, will suffer poor health and will not be competitive in the labour market in the future.

It is important to address child labour, which is detrimental to children's development. Given the increasing proportion of services that need to be paid for, and the deteriorating conditions of social infrastructure, large families and rural residents who are unable to meet even their basic needs are the most vulnerable. To guarantee children's barrier-free access to social services and development opportunities requires implementation of an appropriate, equity-based social policy to benefit children and youth. Monitoring of efforts to address inequality should also evaluate the efficiency of the use of budget funds designated for child and youth development. Special studies should be commissioned to monitor child and youth engagement in decision-making, as well as child labour.

FAMILIES SUFFERING FROM FOUR OR MORE DEPRIVATION ATTRIBUTES (DEEP MATERIAL DEPRIVATION)



Per capita monthly income of the least well-off families with children and other families with children, UAH



Source: State Statistics Service of Ukraine.

Share of persons suffering from four or more deprivation attributes (deep material deprivation), %

Persons by age	Urban households	Rural households
All persons living in households including children:	24.1	32.5
Under 3 years	23.5	40.3
3-6 years	21.1	31.9
7-13 years	25.6	29.3

Source: State Statistics Service of Ukraine.



Goal 11. Sustainable development of cities and communities



INDICATORS

- Share of households with children and young families that received housing under state programmes in the total number of those in need of better housing conditions, %
- Share of public transport equipped/ adapted for parents with perambulators and for persons with disabilities, in the total number of vehicle stock, %
- Area of public green space per person, sq. m
- Number of communities that received a candidate status or a child and youth friendly community status in due course

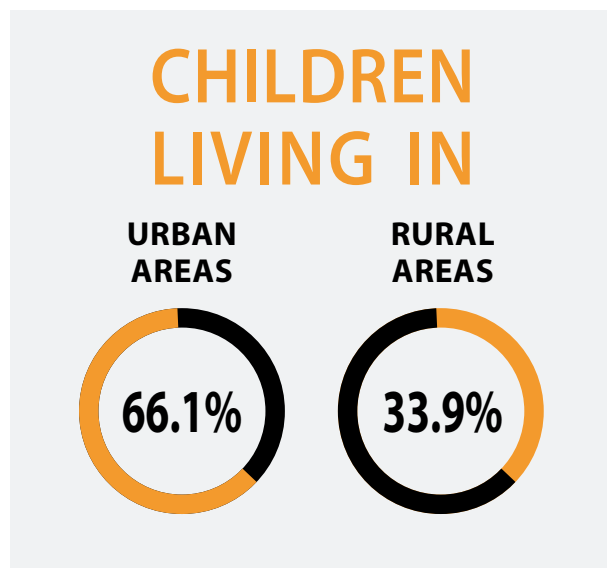
A safe urban environment that provides access to necessary services is of great importance for child health and happiness. Every child and young person has the right to housing and living conditions essential for their development. Safe, affordable and reliable transport helps ensure access to education, health care and employment. Public spaces where children and youth can study, gather for socialization and recreation and so on are also extremely important for children’s full-fledged life and development.

Ukraine is the 89th most urbanized country in the world with an urban population share of 69.0–69.5 per cent. Two-thirds of Ukrainian children (66.1 per cent) live in cities, and a third (33.9 per cent) live in rural areas. Living in cities offers children a number of advantages including access to urban schools, health care facilities and cultural institutions, children’s playgrounds and so on. At the same time, as cities grow in size, costs of living there also increase. These are both monetary (cost of own or rented housing, prices and so on) and non-monetary (pollution, traffic jams, and crime). Manifestations of inequality in providing health care and education services to children are most striking in cities. As infrastructure and services fail to keep up with urban population growth children’s basic needs are not fully met. It is easier for children to buy alcohol and drugs in cities than in rural areas. Dysfunctional families, sexual and domestic violence against children also exacerbate their vulnerability. The high-risk group also includes out-of-school children, children living on the street and those brought up in residential care facilities.

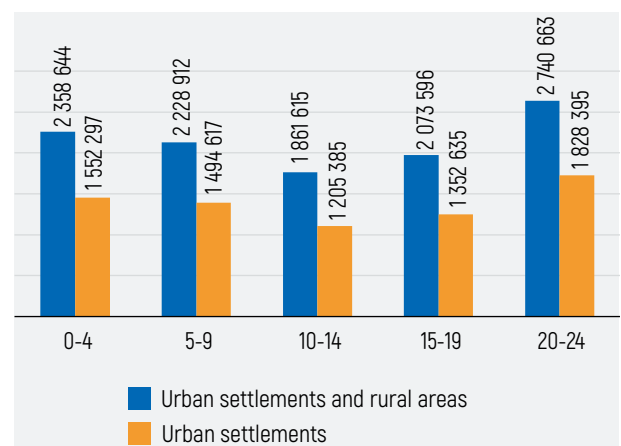
Safe and sustainable development of cities and communities means first and foremost ensuring access to safe and affordable housing for families with children and for youth, upgrading settlements, creating green public spaces, improving urban planning, and participatory management involving families with children and youth.

In the light of implementation of decentralization reform in Ukraine, it is urgent for a specific urban policy to be elaborated that directly concerns children and youth and create conditions to improve their living standards and minimize risks to these standards, ensuring the interests and observing the rights of children.

The extensive commuting which is traditional for Ukraine (youth from small settlements daily commute to the more developed cities to work or study) has gradually been replaced with permanent migration. Youth and children are excluded from capabilities to solve issues of arranging residence space in a participatory manner and they are often deprived of voicing its opinion about the solutions on how to design residential districts. The reasons are different, including incomplete decentralization reform, lack of sustainable practice to engage civil society in decision making, lack of financial resources in the communities etc. Achieving progress at the local level requires, in the first place, efforts to improve living conditions of the socially vulnerable – the poor, large families, children with disabilities, orphans and children deprived of parental care etc.



Age structure of children and youth aged 0-24 as of 1.01.2018, number of persons



Source: State Statistics Service of Ukraine.



Goal 16. Peace, justice and strong institutions



INDICATORS

- Number of children subjected to physical violence in the previous 12 months (intentional and attempted homicide, rape and attempted rape, serious bodily harm)
- Number of accidents (injuries) and deaths of children related to the conflict in the east of the country
- Number and share of children in the total number of the child population subjected to physical, psychological or sexual violence in the previous 12 months, persons / %
- Number and share of children aged 1-17 years who experienced physical violence or psychological aggression by caregivers in the past month, persons / %
- Number of approaches by children and/or their parents to a school psychologist, the Service for Children's Affairs in the oblast or police units regarding bullying
- Number of children victims of human trafficking
- Number of street children, thousands of persons
- Level of minors' awareness of the right to free legal assistance, %

Various forms of violence can be observed in Ukraine in different forms and situations in children's life, for example at school, at home, in the penitentiary system and in the alternative care system. Violence against children not only has a physical manifestation but also includes disrespect and exploitation as well as mental violence. According to the National Police, 4,727 children fell victim to crimes in 2018 (88 more than in 2017). According to the Ministry of Social Policy, the number of requests for assistance concerning family violence has almost not changed in recent years: 95,322 applications from adults and 821 applications from children in 2016; and 95,706 applications from adults, and 539 applications from children in 2017. In 2013–2018, 90 per cent of those who requested assistance from public authorities concerning family violence were women, 8.5–9 per cent were men, and 1.0–1.5 per cent were children.

Increasing concerns have been raised recently about increasing numbers of cases of bullying in schools and after-school institutions. The latest studies proved that bullying is widespread not only among adolescents but also among primary school pupils. Bullying is becoming a common phenomenon on the Internet: analysis of calls to the National Child Hotline during 2017–2018 shows that 13,400 were about the dangers encountered by children on the Internet, 2,800 concerned sexting (disseminating in-

timate photos/videos against a victim's wishes), 1,400 were about grooming (establishing trusting relations with a child to obtain personal information from them for further blackmailing), and 925 concerned cyberbullying (bullying on social media, text messengers, emails and so on).

The armed conflict in the east of the country continues to jeopardize physical and mental well-being of children, especially for those living within 20 kilometres of the 'contact line'. In most settlements within 5 kilometres of the 'contact line', children are exposed to danger from shelling. Mines and other explosive remnants of war also pose risks to children living along the 'contact line'. The danger caused by anti-personnel mines is highest in rural areas within 3 kilometres of the 'contact line'.

Another severe problem in the east of the country is danger for children in home settings. In recent years, Ukraine has greatly advanced in ratification of international treaties. However ensuring peace and respect, preventing any forms of violence against children, protecting children, and securing their access to justice remain extremely pressing and important for consolidation of Ukraine as a democratic European state governed by the rule of law. Problems concerning trafficking in children, sexual exploitation and sexual violence, smuggling and abduction of children are the most sensitive.

Number of children found to be victims of abuse

Year	Sexual violence	Physical violence	Psychological abuse	Economic abuse	Total
2010	29	995	452	106	1,882
2011	48	993	546	94	1,681
2012	50	1,008	601	71	1,730
2013	45	999	760	61	1,865
2014	46	897	603	31	1,577
2015	60	655	336	14	1,065

Source: Ministry of Social Policy of Ukraine.

Children on the contact line in the east of Ukraine

Children living:	Number of children
Within 5 km of the contact line	over 19 000
In settlements experiencing direct or nearby shelling at least once a month	over 12 000
In settlements directly shelled at least twice a week	over 4 700
In settlements shelled multiple times a week	over 200

Source: The Children of the Contact Line in East Ukraine: An Assessment of the Situation of Children and Their Families Living in Government-Controlled Areas along the Contact Line in the East Ukraine Conflict Zone.



SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS FOR THE CHILDREN OF UKRAINE

NATIONAL REPORT

