

Enhancing Social Protection Policy for Internally Displaced Persons in the Context of War

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Abstract: Improving the social protection policy for internally displaced persons (hereinafter referred to as IDPs) in times of war plays a key role in ensuring the functioning of the economy and promoting a positive social effect. The issue of the quality of state policy implementation and the search for rational mechanisms to implement such social protection policy is a factor in overcoming the negative consequences of the war. The study aims to analyze the current state of social protection of IDPs and to find ways to improve it. The use of EU and developed countries' practices provides an opportunity to analyze the basic principles of social policy, provision of social benefits, financing, insurance payments, etc. The article characterizes the current situation of IDPs in Ukraine and the prospects for its further development. The author presents an effective mechanism for overcoming the migration crisis and the possibility of using public administration policy to stabilize the socioeconomic space. The results of the study indicate a gradual transformation of the state social protection policy and the need to strengthen the participation of international organizations in this area. This can help improve the quality of social protection and the possibility of developing this policy. The article analyzes the key principles of building a state policy of social protection of IDPs and suggests ways to improve it. The results obtained can be used to overcome the negative socio-economic effect in the country and stabilize the overall situation.

Keywords: Internally Displaced Persons; Social Policy; Social Protection; the Migration Crisis, Social Effect; Consequences of War.

1. INTRODUCTION

Improving the social protection policy for IDPs in the context of war is important, as it will be of strategic importance for improving public administration and will constitute the key basis for implementing the state's strategic policy in the context of war. The issue of building a social protection system is of key importance for Ukraine. As a result of the hostilities, a significant part of the population lost their jobs, and housing and found themselves in a difficult situation. To

overcome such negative consequences, it is necessary to implement an effective public policy aimed at overcoming migration waves and eliminating the negative social effect. Building infrastructure and a legal mechanism for providing social benefits will serve as a key means and tool for implementing a public policy aimed at stabilizing the internal environment. In addition, in the current environment, attention should be paid to the development of diplomatic cooperation and the involvement of international donor organizations for active participation, as the issue of migration waves is a strategically important aspect at the international level. The possibility of using funding from international organizations serves as a factor in overcoming and restraining the development of a negative social effect, but to fully overcome it, it is necessary to build our state policy. The main principle of such a mechanism should be strengthening the corporate

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sector, which can influence internal processes in the state through partial delegation of social protection. This practice is popular in developed countries. In particular, the introduction of utility subsidies and lending to low-income groups can restrain the development of negative processes within the state. In addition, the search for tools to overcome the problems of migration processes should include improving the quality of security in regional centers and promoting domestic policies to improve the migration process. Providing military assistance to Ukraine is a key means to overcome the negative social effect. Ensuring democratic freedoms and territorial integrity of the country should be an example of European values.

The purpose of the article is to analyze the means and principles of improving the social protection policy for IDPs in the context of war. An important area of research is the search for tools for building an effective social protection policy and implementing foreign experience in Ukrainian realities. The key task in this article is to create an effective infrastructure and legal mechanism for providing social benefits, employment, and the functioning of the socio-economic sector for prisoners of war and their families. In addition, an analysis of the corporate sector's participation can be a factor in improving the quality of social protection policy implementation. The issue of war in Ukraine is seen as a collective problem of the EU countries that must be resolved to ensure the strategic security of the global space. Overcoming the problem of IDPs is the basis for the implementation of democratic values and support for rational policies of developed countries.

2. LITERATURE REVIEW

The issue of social protection of IDPs has been studied by scholars in the context of overcoming the refugee problem in the EU, but the war in Ukraine has increased the relevance of this issue. Attanasio (2021) notes that the state's social policy should be based on the introduction of social benefits and funding for social institutions dealing with IDPs. Bogliacino (2017) notes that IDPs should be provided with housing, as well as have access to further employment and quality support from effective management policies of local governments and the work of regional centers. According to Okólski (2018), the problem of IDPs lies in the legal issue, as most countries have insufficiently developed legal mechanisms that can promptly provide assistance, subsidies, etc. These circumstances complicate the stay of migrants and make it difficult to establish legal grounds for obtaining additional funding. The war in Ukraine, as Özgür (2022) argues, has caused transformational processes not only within the country, which has negatively affected the socio-political space but also the overall economic and migration crisis in Europe. To overcome it, it is necessary to involve international organizations and specialized agencies to overcome the negative social consequences and provide financial assistance to Ukraine. An important factor in overcoming the problems of IDPs was studied by Lloyd (2022), who notes that the participation of the corporate sector in social policy should be strengthened with effective public sector management policies. It is proposed to introduce preferential lending to small and medium-sized businesses, as well as to promote the involvement of IDPs in labor activities. Ruben (2020)

believes that current EU policies are not effective enough due to excessive bureaucracy, which should be eliminated by adopting bills to ease legal burdens for refugees in times of war. Domestic IDP policy was studied by Topolewska (2022), who identified that the key aspects are the provision of temporary housing and the possibility of providing social benefits or short-term payments to ensure livelihoods in the short term. International experience in the field of national security should be taken into account (Akimov, O., Troschinsky, V., Karpa, M., Ventsel, V., & Akimova, L., 2020), and the psychological aspect of people should also be taken into account, namely, predictors of depression and anxiety as calculated by a quantitative cross-sectional study (Tsaras, K., Papathanasiou, I. V., Vus, V., Panagiotopoulou, A., Katsou, M. A., Kelesi, M., & Fradelos, E. C., 2018) and by comparative analysis (Popovych, I., Pavliuk, M., Hrys, A., Sydorenko, O., Fedorenko, A., & Khanetska, T., 2021), and self-regulation of mental states (Popovych, I., Semenov, O., Hrys, A., Aleksieieva, M., Pavliuk, M., & Semenova, N., 2022). By means of the simulation conditions of definition affecting population migration in the Eastern European region (Levytska, O., Mulska, O., Ivaniuk, U., Kunytska-Iliash, M., Vasylytsiv, T., & Lupak, R., 2020), also information technologies will allow improving the mechanism of combating crime (Hubanova, T., Shchokin, R., Hubanov, O., Antonov, V., Slobodianiuk, P., & Podolyaka, S., 2021). Adjusting human resource skills can predict dynamic opportunities in the work environment (Zayed, N. M., Edeh, F. O., Darwish, S., Islam, K. M. A., Kryshstal, H., Nitsenko, V., & Stanislavskiy, O., 2022). According to Sirkeci (2022), public policy in times of war should use tax reduction tools for the corporate sector and promote its active development. This will have a direct impact on the social environment and the improvement of the economic situation in the country as a whole. Migration waves, according to Kohlenberg (2022), can be overcome by improving the quality of domestic social infrastructure, including rehabilitation centers, newly established employment centers, and social institutions providing psychological and medical care. The use of such practices makes it possible to overcome the negative social consequences of hostilities. Thus, the main focus of current scientific research is based on improving expenditures on social benefits, engaging the corporate sector, and improving the quality of diplomatic cooperation at the legal level.

3. MATERIALS AND METHODS

In writing this article, materials from periodicals were used to analyze the current state of migration processes within Ukraine. The main principles and features of the distribution of IDPs were identified. Furthermore, the use of scientific research methods helped to characterize the current state and policy of the state on social protection and the possibility of overcoming the negative social consequences of the war. The introduction of housing and utility subsidies and the use of social benefits is a key policy of Ukraine in overcoming the problems of IDPs. Based on the search method, the features of Ukraine's current policy to overcome negative social consequences were analyzed. The synthesis method was applied to analyze current state programs and characterize the experience of EU countries in supporting refugees. The analysis of state programs allowed for the development of the main

theoretical and practical principles for their improvement, based on the experience of developed countries. The methodology of the study is to analyze the theoretical aspects of overcoming migration waves, outline the current situation of internally displaced persons in Ukraine and provide practical recommendations for improving the state social protection policy. The implementation of such principles will be useful for building an effective mechanism to combat the consequences of the war caused by Russian aggression. The induction method was used to identify the key principles and prospects for the implementation of the state social policy for IDPs. Its implementation can improve the overall macroeconomic situation and stabilize the internal environment of the country. The proposed research methodology makes it possible to obtain key research results by analyzing the current social protection policy for IDPs.

4. RESULTS

The war in Ukraine has caused many negative processes that have affected the country's domestic economic and socio-political situation. In particular, the catalyst for these processes was a wave of migration. Only during the beginning of the war in Ukraine did the majority of the population become IDPs to save their lives from Russian aggression. The issue of migration waves in European countries was important even before the beginning of 2022. Geopolitical challenges and unfavorable living conditions in developing countries posed threats to further existence, so migration processes were quite popular in the EU. However, due to the war in Ukraine, more than 8 million people have moved abroad, and a significant number have become IDPs. Such a large-scale problem of changing and restructuring the regional economies has caused negative fluctuations in the corporate market. There is also the need to improve the quality of effective public policy aimed at supporting the development of specialized infrastructure and improving the quality of rehabilitation centers for IDPs.

The problem of implementing the state social policy is the high burden on rehabilitation centers and social policy bodies, as well as the pressure on employment centers, as a significant number of IDPs needed housing, work, and certain support for the first period of life in the new region. In addition, compensation for damages caused by the war or loss of housing due to hostilities is a problem, which places a significant burden on local governments and social policy centers. Moreover, the economic contraction has exceeded 50%, causing significant fluctuations in the labor market and complicating the search for work for IDPs. This factor stimulates the active participation of the state in the implementation of social policy to further ensure the livelihoods of IDPs.

The experience of EU countries is an important practice of social protection of IDPs, as they faced significant migration waves before the war in Ukraine. However, the case of Ukraine shows that the overall situation with migration processes is worsening and needs to be addressed urgently. This will have a strategic impact on the overall macroeconomic stability of the state policy and will be of priority for ensuring effective economic development in the future. One of the practical principles of developed countries is the use of social benefits and the creation of special temporary housing.

In addition, Germany has established specialized institutions that provide free German language training for further employment. It should also be borne in mind that in some European countries, there is a significant shortage of labor, as evidenced by the experience of Hungary and Romania. Therefore, further migration to these countries may be possible to solve the employment problem.

Considering the experience of Ukraine, it should be borne in mind that only an active social protection policy of the state can solve the problem of IDPs. Measures aimed at achieving economic stability should include, first and foremost, the use of tools to improve employment opportunities, provide housing, obtain additional social benefits, and provide special rehabilitation and psychological assistance. Ukraine's situation is unique because, in addition to the economic factors of displacement, there is the threat of military action and the inability to return to their homes. Therefore, most people are in a difficult situation. In such circumstances, the key principles are the establishment of rehabilitation centers and the use of international donor organizations to help the most affected, such as large families, low-income citizens, etc. The use of such policies can temporarily improve the quality of social protection in times of war. However, the main goal of preventing the destructive development of the social situation in Ukraine is to receive assistance from European countries, as external support can help overcome negative social phenomena in the long term. A significant portion of budget expenditures, about 90%, is directed to the military-industrial and defense complex, which is due to the circumstances. Therefore, overcoming the problems of social protection and improving the quality of its implementation should be carried out based on volunteers, partly through corporate social responsibility and international partnership in solving this problem.

The use of diplomatic relations can have a positive impact on the state of social protection in Ukraine. The implementation of such a policy will encourage the use of benefits and special payments, which is done in most European countries to help refugees. However, they are considered migrants, not IDPs, so in Ukraine, it is proposed to use temporary housing and shelter with further migration to Poland, Germany, or any other country that can take responsibility for social policy. Unfortunately, Ukraine is currently unable to cope with the burden of migration processes, and the use of public funds is insufficient to cover all needs and provide quality medical care and psychological support for IDPs. A significant part of IDPs, if they are women, migrate abroad.

Ukraine is creating conditions for further employment opportunities and using quality tools to support those affected by the war. For example, the country has implemented a project to rebuild infrastructure and create special jobs paying the minimum wage. An important factor in reducing the financial burden is the abolition of the need to pay for utilities during martial law, which helps to partially improve the financial situation of veterans and combatants. Furthermore, some programs provide assistance and social benefits. Despite the negative consequences of military aggression, the problems of veterans and combatants are partially resolved and have positive trends toward full settlement. However, due to the change in the geographical center of jobs and eco-

Table 1. The Number of Internally Displaced Persons in Ukraine at the end of 2022.

Region	Persons	Children (persons under 18 years of age)
Vinnitsia oblast	182 738	54 219
Volyn oblast	60 160	18 028
Luhansk oblast	277 700	18 875
Dnipropetrovs'k oblast	442 323	99 032
Lviv oblast	257 066	76 163
Donetsk oblast	521 362	48 645
Poltava oblast	222,452	51 154
Zhytomyr oblast	111 220	32 677
Zakarpattia oblast	156 478	53 477
Zaporizhzhia oblast	201 337	41 616
Ivano-Frankivsk oblast	145 678	46 320
Kyiv oblast	341 406	85 917
Kirovohrad oblast	97 110	26 496
Mykolaiv oblast	111 896	29 693
Odesa oblast	211 234	56 094
Rivne oblast	62 081	18 098
Sumy oblast	79 001	20 736
Ternopil oblast	86 587	26 294
Kharkiv oblast	444 322	77 762
Kherson oblast	32 084	7 232
Khmelnyskyi oblast	150 946	45 074
Cherkasy oblast	162 033	45 845
Chernihiv oblast	78 690	20 973
Chernivtsi oblast	92 877	30 221
Kyiv	364 232	85 917
Sevastopol	42	12
The Autonomous Republic of Crimea	24	7
In total	4 893 079	1 093 821

Source: compiled based on the Ministry of Social Policy of Ukraine.

conomic development, a significant imbalance is being created in the Ukrainian corporate market. Most western regions are using their economic potential to diversify their corporate activities, which is entering foreign commodity markets. However, this development slows down the development of Ukraine's own economic space and contains negative trends for further stabilization of macroeconomic stability. The use of assistance from the World Bank and the United States can help address the needs of the defense sector and contribute to improving the financial situation and social protection within the country. However, the need to address the IDP problem

remains urgent and important, and it can only be resolved if an effective state social policy is implemented and the state is actively involved in this process. In general, the data on the number of IDPs are shown in Table 1, which describes their distribution by region and the number of children and adults.

Table 1 shows that most people were forced to move from the areas of intense fighting, with a total of about 5 million people, including more than 1 million children. This problem should be taken into account by the international community, which should provide funding and other benefits for IDPs.

The government of Ukraine is also facing this problem, and it is using its internal policy to ensure the stabilization of this issue. An effective measure is the creation of mobile centers for IDPs, which provides first aid, restoration of lost documents, and basic psychological assistance. The implementation of such a policy can partially curb the negative social effect, but the most effective would be to build such centers in the Western and Central regions of Ukraine. The essence of such actions lies in the fact that most IDPs are located in these regions and need high-quality financial, legal, and psychological assistance to ensure their further functioning in the state. It is also necessary to consider the issue of child abduction, which poses a threat to the development of human capital and the country's demographic policy.

Overcoming the consequences of the war is a separate front of struggle and requires attention from the Ukrainian community. Strengthening the role of the corporate sector plays an important role in ensuring an effective social protection policy for IDPs. Corporate social responsibility can help create new jobs and attract additional capital from businesses to help IDPs. Taking into account these features and the role of the corporate sector in social protection policy, the government has created initiatives aimed at assisting and developing the corporate sector.

A key area is the creation of a grant policy and the possibility of using state funding to start a small or medium-sized business. The financial conditions are most favorable for entrepreneurs and stimulate the creation of new jobs and overcome the negative social effect. Taxation and tax payments were also abolished, which eased the burden on the corporate sector, ensuring its functioning and ability to operate under military threat. This government policy is of strategic importance and emphasizes corporate social responsibility, as government agencies cannot cope with the large number of IDPs, which is almost 5 million. The use of the corporate sector in ensuring the effectiveness of government social policy will be key and can help stabilize the overall situation.

The practice of the developed EU countries shows that the use of the mechanism of providing benefits for IDPs should be based on a temporary period to allow them to adapt to the new environment and find further employment. As a rule, such assistance is provided for two or four quarters, which is set by the internal policy of the state and can provide effective assistance in overcoming the negative consequences of the war.

An important public sector decision was the introduction of housing subsidies, as this policy allows for the preservation of accumulated capital and partial financial support for IDPs in new areas. Furthermore, the implementation of such a policy provides an opportunity to improve the government's future policy on subsidies and payments. However, it may not be sufficient in its entirety, as the economic situation in the country needs to improve significantly to improve the living standards of the population.

Inflation and the preservation of the country's financial system remain the challenges for the functioning of the socio-economic space. Due to the Russian attack on financial institutions in Ukraine, there were some operational disruptions,

which have already been resolved by 2023 through the use of innovative technologies. However, to ensure an effective social policy, the stabilization and security of the financial system should be in the primary interests of the state, as it directly affects the course of further events in Ukraine. Key principles for improving the social protection policy for IDPs can be classified into four categories, as shown in Fig. (1).



Fig. (1). Ways to improve social protection policy for IDPs.

Source: compiled by the author.

Based on the proposed areas for improving the social protection of IDPs, policies should be implemented to increase opportunities and speed up the provision of social benefits and reduce bureaucratic burdens. The problem is the loss of documents from the place of residence and the possibility of identifying such persons. The use of electronic registries and special analytical centers can help improve the legitimacy of social benefits and the work of state social protection agencies. Housing policy should be implemented through the construction of new and renovation of existing facilities, to provide temporary housing for rent or free of charge. Psychological assistance and counseling on social benefits, searching for relatives, etc. is an important factors in the context of war. Therefore, the creation of rehabilitation centers and the possibility of supporting IDPs remotely should be key principles of the state's social policy. The last factor in ensuring such a policy should be the promotion of employment through the development of the corporate sector and providing IDPs with the opportunity to get a job.

Thus, it can be concluded that the issue of social protection of IDPs is quite acute in the current circumstances. Ukraine should apply mechanisms aimed at improving this policy, as well as contribute to the restoration of its socio-economic sector with the help of the international community. The use of the proposed measures will help to qualitatively improve the current social policy of the state and improve the situation of IDPs in the war.

5. DISCUSSION

The study shows the need to develop a state social policy aimed at protecting IDPs. The negative impact of the war is felt in the entire socio-economic space, which necessitates improving the quality of implementation and introducing special government measures to stabilize the overall situation. Key further analytical research should include an analy-

sis of the possibilities of using the state's financial resources to optimize domestic social policy, as well as lending to key social institutions involved in the implementation of such policy. The use of such a mechanism would improve the overall situation in the labor market and provide legal, psychological, and other assistance to IDPs. An analysis of funding opportunities should also be conducted based on the use of international financial assistance and the promotion of the participation of international organizations. The study should be based on Ukraine's experience, as its wartime experience can be an effective practice for further military conflicts in other countries.

An important aspect of ensuring social protection for IDPs is the priority measures to ensure and support their livelihoods. To conduct research, it is necessary to create a special infrastructure and regulatory mechanism for the provision of housing and social benefits, as well as quality social assistance. The use of digital technologies to communicate with IDPs can be an important area of policy implementation, especially given that a significant number of people have lost their documents and homes due to the hostilities. In such circumstances, it is necessary to have a high-quality mechanism for restoring citizenship, providing legal and legal assistance, and helping to improve the financial situation of IDPs. Analyzing the financial situation of Ukraine and the possibility of using the policy of unconditional basic income for a certain segment of the population may be of relevance during the hostilities. The feasibility of these measures should be analyzed from the perspective of the implementation and financing of social policy by the state and the possibility of implementing them in the short term.

Moreover, the most important measure to overcome the negative social effect of large migration waves is to involve international organizations and create special international bodies to help overcome this effect. The use of such practices will help to provide employment and support for further migration, which may partially reduce the burden on the state at war. The creation of international doctrines and special documents that legally provide appropriate assistance is important for any country. In addition, the issue of social benefits and the possibility of using them for several quarters can help improve social protection. Involvement of the corporate sector and the search for additional opportunities to develop corporate social responsibility is the prerogative of public policy aimed at stabilizing the domestic social environment.

6. CONCLUSION

Thus, it can be concluded that the modern improvement of social protection of IDPs in the context of war should be based on the provision of social benefits, legal and psychological assistance, as well as the creation of specialized infrastructure. The use of temporary housing is a priority, as the problem of housing becomes a priority in the event of significant migration waves. Furthermore, it is worth noting that the policy on housing subsidies is also important, as it affects the financial situation of IDPs. Ukraine's experience shows that the state's social policy is possible only with strong international support, which requires effective diplomatic cooperation and the involvement of international or-

ganizations to overcome the migration crisis in the country. In a country at war, there is a need to create the means to improve the functioning of the corporate sector. Strengthening corporate social responsibility can improve the economic situation within the country and provide benefits to IDPs through employment and assistance. Therefore, it is important to conduct awareness-raising policies and engage businesses in government activities and social policy. Payments to employees, preferential terms and conditions, and no layoffs will serve as factors in overcoming mass unemployment, financial problems, etc. The use of digital technologies should be an effective means of supporting IDPs. They can be used to create online platforms that provide counseling services and can resolve legal issues related to the loss of documents, temporary housing, social benefits, or any other benefits initiated by the state. This practice is widespread in EU countries and characterizes an effective social policy that helps to overcome the problems of IDPs. However, in a time of war, it is necessary to take into account not only the peculiarities and capabilities of the state apparatus but also the participation of the international community. Only if there is a high-quality infrastructure and appropriate subsidies and financial assistance is it possible to overcome the negative consequences of hostilities. Thus, the current social policy for the protection of IDPs in war is effective but needs to be improved in the context of providing social benefits and using special digital infrastructure to provide consultations, etc.

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Received: May 25, 2023

Revised: May 30, 2023

Accepted: Aug 03, 2023

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