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COUNTER-TRAFFICKING NGO COALITION

Report on the results of public
monitoring on implementation of
the policy on countering human
trafficking in the regions of Ukraine
in 2023

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LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

IDP	Internally Displaced Person
MD	Main Department
SMSU	State Migration Service of Ukraine
SI	State Institution
HEI	Higher Education Institution
GSEI	General Secondary Education Institution
VETI	Vocational Education and Training Institution
PPEI	Pre-Primary Education Institution
CCU	Criminal Code of Ukraine
CMU	Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine
MT	Multidisciplinary Team
IOM	International Organization for Migration
MP	Migration Police
NMI	National Mechanism for Interaction
NSS	National Social Service
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
RSA/RMA	Regional State / Military Administration
LGB	Local Government Body
VoT	Victim of human trafficking and who has been established the appropriate status
REC/DEC	Regional / District Employment Center
DSA/DMA	District State/Military Administration
DLC	Difficult Life Circumstances
SSC	State Service for Children
TC	Territorial Community
HT	Human Trafficking
TOT	Temporarily Occupied Territory
DSPP	Department of Social Protection of the Population
CSS	Center for Social Services
CSPRC	Center of Social and Psychological Rehabilitation of Children

INTRODUCTION

Amid the rapid increase in the level of the population vulnerability caused first by the COVID-19 pandemic, followed by a full-scale military invasion of Ukraine and their negative consequences, a favorable environment has been created for exacerbating the problem of human trafficking.

In the conditions of weakened economy, reduction in the internal labor market, humanitarian crisis, the mass movement of Ukrainian citizens both inside and outside the country, the deterioration of their mental health due to the ongoing fighting, shelling, the loss of relatives, friends and acquaintances, the emergence of a large number of people who have left housing, livelihoods, work, health, the probability that the population vulnerable categories will resort to risky survival strategies increases significantly. Thus, according to a study by IOM Ukraine, conducted back in October 2022, every second Ukrainian is ready to accept at least one risky offer that may lead to getting into situations of exploitation, human trafficking or violence. At the same time, the number of scammers and recruiters who take advantage of the potential victims vulnerable position has increased. Unfortunately, the situation continues to worsen, and therefore requires the mobilization of all resources to organize an effective counteraction to the spread of this crime. However, in extremely difficult conditions, there is a high risk of losing attention to the issues of countering human trafficking and improper response of state and local governments to new challenges and threats.

In order to clarify problematic issues and develop recommendations for their solution, the Counter-Trafficking NGO Coalition (hereinafter referred to as the Coalition) annually conducts independent monitoring on the implementation of state policy in this area at the regional level. This year, within the Public Control Over the Implementation of the Anti-Trafficking Policy project in 2023 in Ukraine, the state of measures implementation to counter human trafficking was studied in 20 regions of Ukraine, namely: Vinnytsia, Volyn, Dnipropetrovsk, Donetsk, Zhytomyr, Zakarpattia, Zaporizhzhia, Ivano-Frankivsk, Kirovohrad, Lviv, Mykolaiv, Odesa, Poltava, Rivne, Ternopil, Kharkiv, Kherson, Cherkasy, Chernivtsi and Chernihiv.

Unfortunately, based on the monitoring results, we must state that most of the systemic problems articulated during the previous monitoring not only persist, but also due to the war and its associated negative consequences have somewhat increased, especially in those regions that suffer from active hostilities — some of the measures were canceled due to the impossibility of their implementation; budget funds provided for their implementation were practically not allocated, but were directed to solve other urgent needs; there is an outflow of human resources and a lack of specialists who are entrusted with the authority to identify and provide assistance to human trafficking victims; social services are overworked, in particular due to the massive forced displacement of the population from dangerous regions, in some places there is a decrease in attention from the management and officials to countering human trafficking issues.

However, despite the significant situation complication within the country caused by a full-scale military invasion, anti-trade activities with varying degrees of activity were carried out in all regions: information campaigns, actions and other preventive measures aimed at both the

general public and the population vulnerable categories to human trafficking were conducted; training of specialists involved in the NMI implementation and functioning was provided; strategic planning sessions to develop and improve regional programs; state actors and non-governmental organizations interacted with each other in the process of providing assistance to the VoT, etc.

This report systematizes and summarizes the data obtained during the monitoring, with an emphasis on the identified problems and provides practical recommendations for their solution, which are addressed to the National Coordinator in the field of countering human trafficking, the Ministry of Education and Science, the Department of Migration Police and its structural divisions, regional and district state (military) administrations and responsible performers of regional programs, which include relevant measures.

We sincerely hope that this information will contribute to a better understanding of the current situation by all interested parties and consolidate efforts to develop and implement effective strategies to counter human trafficking in Ukraine.

GENERAL INFORMATION ON METHODOLOGY AND RESEARCH PROCEDURES

Monitoring goals and objectives:

- Determining the existence of normative legal acts regulating activities to counter human trafficking at the regional and district levels, and conducting a comparative analysis for their compliance with current trends in human trafficking and current regional problems in this area, ensuring a set of tasks and measures aimed at solving them, as well as consistency with priority areas of state policy.
- Determination the resource support of measures compliance to counter human trafficking with the real needs for their implementation and analysis of the state of their actual financing.
- Examining the tasks and measures implementation state to counter human trafficking provided for by current regional regulations, and implementation of an assessment of the effectiveness of activities carried out in 2023.
- Clarification of problematic issues related to the implementation of the anti-trafficking policy in the regions, and development of recommendations for its improvement.

Methods of collecting and analyzing information were used:

- Study of available documents related to the research topic (programs, action plans, decisions, orders, decrees, reports, etc.).
- Monitoring of internet resources, in particular official web resources (websites and web pages in social media) of regional and district state (military) administrations, responsible structural divisions and other performers of regional programs.
- Data processing obtained at the request of the Coalition from responsible units of regional and district state (military) administrations, departments/directorates of education and science, and the Main Directorate of the National Police in the regions and other performers of regional programs/action plans.

REGULATORY REGULATION OF COUNTERING HUMAN TRAFFICKING IN THE REGIONS

In June 2023, by order of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine No. 496-R on 02.06.2023, the State Targeted Social Program for Countering Trafficking in Human Beings until 2025 was approved, among the performers of which are regional state (military) administrations. In addition, according to this order, all of them had to develop and submit regional programs to counter human trafficking for approval within three months. Why do we need such programs if there is a State program? The answer to this question is simple: regional anti-trafficking programs are a set of interrelated tasks and activities agreed among themselves in terms of deadlines, resource provision, and participants, which should be formed on the basis of the local needs assessment, taking into account the most pressing regional problems in this area, and aimed at solving them.

However, according to the monitoring results, it should be noted that at the moment only seven regions of Ukraine (Dnipropetrovsk, Zaporizhzhia, Kirovohrad, Mykolaiv, Rivne, Kharkiv, Cherkasy) have adopted targeted social programs to counter human trafficking up to 2025, and in Zhytomyr region — the Regional Targeted Program for Preventing, Countering Domestic Violence and Human Trafficking for 2023. Lviv, Zakarpattia and Poltava regional military administrations have approved action plans for the state targeted social program implementation on countering human trafficking up to 2025 (hereinafter referred to as the State program).

It should be noted that all targeted social programs to counter human trafficking were adopted only in the second half of 2023, of which: two — in August, two — in September, one — in October and two — in November. Until now, during the reporting period, in five regions (Dnipropetrovsk, Kirovohrad, Rivne, Kharkiv, Cherkasy), activities in this area were not regulated by any regional regulatory act. In Zaporizhzhia region, there was a Targeted Comprehensive Program for Improving Health and Recreation of Children, Family, Gender Policy and Countering Human Trafficking for 2022-2026, but it provided for only one event — the distribution of thematic programs and social advertising in the media on gender aspects of conflict prevention, countering human trafficking and preventing domestic violence, which, of course, cannot be considered sufficient, especially given the extremely difficult situation in the region, in the temporarily occupied territory of which many Ukrainian citizens are subjected to various forms of exploitation. Unfortunately, the Targeted Social Program for Countering Human Trafficking, approved by the Zaporizhzhia Regional Council in September 2023, also did not include tasks and activities focused on this problem. In the Mykolaiv region in 2023, the Social Comprehensive Program of Social Support for Families and Children, Ensuring Equal Rights and Opportunities for Women and Men in Mykolaiv region for 2021–2023 was active.

In the Lviv region, until the approval of the Action plan for the State program implementation on 10.10.2023, for almost two years there was no regulatory act that would provide for the implementation of activities in this direction. It should be noted that the draft of this plan was developed by a working group, which included representatives of various subjects of interaction,

during the strategic planning session initiated by the Women's perspectives Center, Public Organization. But, unfortunately, not all the developments were included in the final document submitted for approval, as a result of which it did not take into account regional specifics, as well as there are no quantitative indicators of implementation.

In other regions, anti-trafficking activities continue to be carried out through various integrated regional social programs.

Table 1. Information about regional regulations,
regulating activities to counter human trafficking, as of 15.01.2024

Region	Document name	Decision/ approval order	Amendments
Vinnitsia	Regional Program for Family Support, Domestic Violence Prevention, Ensuring Equal Rights and Opportunities for Women and Men, Human Trafficking Prevention up to 2026.	No. 299 on 24.12.2021	
Volyn	Regional Comprehensive Program for Family Support, Countering Human Trafficking and Ensuring Equal Rights and Opportunities for Women and Men up to 2023. Regional Comprehensive Program for Family and Gender Policy, Children's Rights Protection, Human Trafficking and Domestic Violence Prevention and Counteraction up to 2028.	No. 17/4 on 18.12.2017 No. 411 on 01.11.2023	08.02.2018 03.11.2022
Dnipropetrovsk	Regional Targeted Social Program for Countering Human Trafficking up to 2025 in the Dnipropetrovsk region	No. 8941/0/53-23 on 03.08.2023	
Donetsk	Regional Program for Family Development, Gender Policy and Countering Human Trafficking in Donetsk region for 2021-2025.	№697/5-21 on 06.07.2021	
Zhytomyr	Regional Targeted Program for Preventing and Countering Domestic Violence and Human Trafficking for 2023.	No. 335 on 16.11.2022	
Zakarpattia	Regional Program for Family, Gender Policy, Domestic Violence Prevention and Counteraction, Countering Human Trafficking for 2021-2025. Regional Action Plan for 2023-2025 for the State Targeted Social Program Implementation for Countering Human Trafficking up to 2025.	No. 737 on 15.12.2020 No. 832 on 20.09.2023	
Zaporizhzhia	Regional Targeted Social Program for Countering Human Trafficking up to 2025 in the Zaporizhzhia region Targeted Comprehensive Program for Children's Health and Recreation, Family, Gender Policy and Countering Human Trafficking for 2022-2026.	No. 535 on 29.09.2023 No. 40 on 26.12.2021	15.02.22
Ivano-Frankivsk	Regional Comprehensive Program for the Population Social Protection of Ivano-Frankivsk region for 2022-2026.	No. 276-10/2021 on 12.11.2021	
Kirovohrad	Regional Targeted Social Program for Countering Human Trafficking in the Kirovohrad region up to 2025	No. 390 on 06.10. 2023	
Lviv	Action Plan for the State Targeted Social Program Implementation for Countering Human Trafficking up to 2025	No. 939/0/5-23VA on 10.10.2023	
Mykolayiv	Social Comprehensive Program for Families and Children Support, Ensuring Equal Rights and Opportunities for Women and Men in the Mykolaiv region for 2021-2023. Program for Countering Human Trafficking up to 2025 in the Mykolaiv region	No. 24 on 23.12.2020 No. 496-R on 17.11.2023	
Odesa	Comprehensive Program for Domestic and Gender-Based Violence Preventing and Countering, Ensuring Gender Equality, and Countering Human Trafficking up to 2023.	No. 1171-VII on 20.12.2019	24.12.2020
Poltava	Social Protection Comprehensive Program of the Poltava Region Population for 2021-2025. Action Plan for the State Policy Implementation for Countering Human Trafficking up to 2025.	No. 38 on 29.12.2020 No. 609 on 04.09.2023	
Rivne	Regional Program for Countering Human Trafficking up to 2025 in the Rivne region	No. 339 on 28.08.2023	

Ternopil	Regional Comprehensive Program for Family Support, Domestic Violence Prevention and Countering Human Trafficking up to 2025.	No. 185 on 26.05.2021	18.08.2021 12.08.2023
Kharkiv	Regional Targeted Social Program for Countering Human Trafficking up to 2025.	No. 672-VIII on 05.10.2023	
Kherson	Social Protection Regional Program for the Elderly, Persons with Disabilities, Family Support, Gender Equality and Countering Human Trafficking for 2020-2024.	No. 1506 on 20.12.2019	28.02.2020 29.05.2020 14.08.2020 27.11.2023
Cherkasy	Regional Targeted Social Program for Countering Human Trafficking up to 2025.	No. 21-24/VIII on 17.11.2023	
Chernivtsi	Comprehensive Program for Domestic and Gender-Based Violence Preventing and Countering, Ensuring Gender Equality, and Countering Human Trafficking up for 2021-2023 in the Chernivtsi region. Turbota (Care), Social Support Comprehensive Program for Certain Categories of Citizens for 2022-2024.	No. 17-2/21 on 30.03.2021 No. 352-6/21 on 22.12.2021	12.05.2023
Chernihiv	Comprehensive Regional Program for Family Support, Gender Equality and Countering Human Trafficking up to 2025.	No. 23-2/VIII on 26.01.2021	

Almost all comprehensive programs that include measures to counter human trafficking were approved back in 2020–2021, and some of them even in 2017–2019. However, despite the drastic change in the country situation due to a full-scale military invasion, which in particular contributed to the aggravation of the human trafficking and exploitation problem, during 2022–2023, no adjustments were made to the vast majority of programs.

During this period, only four regional councils (Volyn, Ternopil, Kherson and Chernivtsi) decided to amend the regional comprehensive programs. However, as a result of these regulations analysis, it was established that the direction strengthening of countering human trafficking took place only in the Ternopil region. In particular, according to the Decision of the Regional Council No. 441/01.02-01 on 12.08.2023, the Regional Comprehensive Program for Family Support, Domestic Violence Prevention and Countering Human Trafficking was supplemented with seven priority tasks and 26 types of measures to counter human trafficking, four new subjects were involved in the measures implementation, and the value of some planned performance indicators was increased. In the Chernivtsi region, on May 12, 2023, by Order of the Chernivtsi RMA No. 363-R, A number of changes were made to the regional program regarding the list and financing of activities defined in the previous version. Unfortunately, some of them are not in favor of the program effective implementation, in particular in terms of countering human trafficking. Thus, the general list of measures has been reduced from 14 to 10 points, including due to the exclusion such types of measures as: training specialists who can contact persons affected by human trafficking on identification and interaction mechanism; distribution of information products aimed at preventing the population from getting into situations of human trafficking; conducting regional information and educational actions for the population to explain possible risks of getting into situations of human trafficking and opportunities for victims to receive comprehensive assistance in state institutions. In addition, in 2023, the number of planned awareness-raising activities for the population on preventing and countering domestic violence and gender-based violence, ensuring gender equality, countering human trafficking was reduced from 10 to 7, although the amount of their funding was increased from UAH 10 to 65 th. In the Volyn region, the Regional Comprehensive Program for Family Support, Countering Human Trafficking and Ensuring Equal Rights and Opportunities for Women and Men, which was approved in December 2017 and was designed for 2018-2021, was amended twice, which, first of all, was due to the need to extend its validity period, while the

content of the Countering Human Trafficking section wasn't amended and, as in the previous version, provided only measures to prevent human trafficking and its primary prevention. In November 2023, the Order of Volyn RMA No. 411 on 01.11.2023 approved the Regional Comprehensive Program for Family and Gender Policy, Children's Rights Protection, Human Trafficking and Domestic Violence Prevention and Counteraction for the period up to 2028, the implementation period of which begins in 2024. The new program analysis indicates that, unlike the previous one, it included points for training subjects implementing measures to counter human trafficking, as well as VoT detection and identification, but in general, the range of measures still remains limited.

Consequently, the components of countering human trafficking in most comprehensive social programs are outdated, do not take into account current challenges and threats that lead to a significant deterioration of the situation, and do not provide for appropriate response measures. In addition, more than a third of the programs plan a very limited number of measures to counter human trafficking, mainly of an informational nature. Thus, for example, in the Kherson region, the corresponding comprehensive program includes only two events, and in the Odessa, Poltava, and Chernivtsi regions — three events.

At the same time, it should be noted that in some comprehensive social programs, the component of countering human trafficking is quite full and meaningful. In particular, among the analyzed regional comprehensive programs, we can mention the Program for the Development of Family, Gender Policy and Countering Human Trafficking in the Donetsk region for 2021-2025, which focuses on regional specifics, clearly defined risk groups to which activities should be directed, and performance indicators of each individual task and activity types.

Taking into account the State program adoption in June 2023, which emphasizes the need to introduce a unified policy on countering human trafficking at the central and local levels, during the monitoring, it was analyzed to what extent the set of measures defined in regional programs corresponds to its priority tasks. The analysis data are presented in Table 2.

The analysis shows that almost all targeted social programs for countering human trafficking are designed taking into account the priority tasks and measures defined in the State program, with the exception of the regional targeted program in the Dnipropetrovsk region, which does not include tasks for improving the regulatory framework and countering criminal offenses.

Table 2. Compliance with regional regulations
State Targeted Social Program for Countering Human Trafficking up to 2025

Region	Total number of tasks and types of measures in the field of countering human trafficking		List of priority tasks in the field of countering human trafficking							Availability	
	of tasks	of events types	Improving the regulatory framework	Strengthening institutional capacity, policy coordination, strengthening cooperation	Strengthening international cooperation	Prevention human trafficking	Countering criminal offenses	Providing assistance to VoT	collection system, information accounting and monitoring of the subjects activities	of task completion quantitative indicators by year	result of product indicators, quality, program effectiveness

Region	Total number of tasks and types of measures in the field of countering human trafficking		List of priority tasks in the field of countering human trafficking							Availability	
			Improving the regulatory framework	Strengthening institutional cooperation	Strengthening international cooperation	Prevention of human trafficking	Countering criminal offenses	Providing assistance to victims	Engagement of subjects in activities	of task completion quantitative indicators	result of product indicators, quality, program
Vinnitsia	6	10	✓	✓		✓		✓	✓		✓
Volyn	1	3		✓*		✓*					
Dnipropetrovsk	5	24		✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓
Donetsk	7	20	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Zhytomyr	5	16		✓		✓		✓	✓		✓
Zakarpattia	3	24		✓		✓	✓	✓		✓	✓
Zaporizhzhia	7	28	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
Ivano-Frankivsk	4	10		✓		✓		✓			
Kirovohrad	7	26	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Lviv		9		✓		✓		✓	✓		
Mykolayiv	4	21		✓		✓	✓	✓			
Odesa	1	4				✓*					
Poltava	1	3		✓*		✓					
Rivne	7	25	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Ternopil	12	36	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Kharkiv	7	34	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Kherson		2		✓*		✓					
Cherkasy	7	28	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
Chernivtsi	1	3		✓		✓		✓**			✓
Chernihiv	6	25		✓		✓	✓	✓	✓		✓

* Only individual components are included

** This task is included in the Turbota, Social Support Comprehensive Program for Certain Categories of Citizens

As for the regional comprehensive social programs that provide for measures to counter human trafficking, only two of them can be considered fully coordinated with the State program (Ternopil Regional Comprehensive Program for Family Support, Domestic Violence Prevention and Countering Human Trafficking up to 2025 and the Regional Program for the Development of Family, Gender Policy and Countering Human Trafficking in the Donetsk region for 2021-2025). Thus, more than half of the comprehensive programs do not include such priority tasks (or at least measures to implement them) as improving the regulatory framework and strengthening international cooperation, up to eight programs-countering criminal offenses related to human trafficking, as well as improving the system of data collection, information exchange and/or monitoring in the field of countering human trafficking. In four regions (Volyn, Odesa, Poltava, Kherson), comprehensive social programs do not provide for assistance to persons affected by human trafficking.

The only task that absolutely all regional regulatory documents contain is human trafficking countering and its primary prevention with varying degrees of measures fullness. In any case, without detracting from the extreme importance of this countering human trafficking area in modern conditions, however, it should be noted the excessive focus of most programs on this component of activities, because their analysis shows that at least more than a third of the

planned measures to counter human trafficking are purely informational and educational in nature, and in some programs it is generally limited only to this component.

So, for example, in the Odesa region, the Countering Human Trafficking program section provides only four types of information activities, namely: online support of an electronic roadmap for assistance to domestic violence, gender-based violence or human trafficking victims; conducting information and explanatory activities among the population, especially young people and socially vulnerable groups of the population to prevent getting into situations of human trafficking; conducting information campaigns for the Odessa region population; holding round tables, briefings, seminars, trainings, workshops, lectures, actions, etc. in the field of Human Trafficking Prevention.

In the Poltava region, the program includes only information and educational activities on countering human trafficking; production and distribution of information products on the risks of getting into situations of human trafficking and conducting training seminars for executive authorities officials on establishing the VoT status.

In the Kherson region, the Promoting Gender Equality and Countering Human Trafficking program direction contains only two types of activities: conducting information campaigns and actions to prevent and counteract domestic violence, gender-based violence, human trafficking, including on the occasion of the World Day Against Trafficking in Persons and the EU Anti-Trafficking Day; conducting training for local authorities representatives who can contact persons affected by human trafficking, domestic violence and gender-based violence.

We should also state other shortcomings that are characteristic of many programs have already been paid attention to during previous monitoring, namely:

- *A purely formal approach to defining the problem of human trafficking and ways to solve it.* The relevant sections usually provide the situation general description without taking into account the regional specifics, the degree of problem severity for this particular region (the migration, unemployment level, etc.), determining the number of risk groups (IDPs, unemployed, persons who are in DLC, etc.), which should be targeted by preventive activities, the presence of certain obstacles or shortcomings in the field of countering human trafficking (in particular, the low level of affected persons detection, difficulties with their access to certain types of assistance, etc. Therefore, it is often extremely difficult to trace any connection between these problems, ways to solve them and the tasks set.
- *Inconsistency of certain priority tasks and measures for their implementation.* For example, the task of countering human trafficking and its primary prevention includes measures to identify human trafficking victims, as well as ensuring the coordination councils activities, conducting training seminars for executive authorities and LGB officials on the issues of establishing the status and assistance to VoT, etc., and, conversely, the task of strengthening institutional capacity, coordinating policies and strengthening cooperation of subjects includes measures aimed at raising public awareness.
- *Lack or lack of measurable performance indicators for individual activities and/or performance indicators for the product, quality and effectiveness of programs,* which makes it difficult to evaluate their implementation. Thus, a number of program documents do not specify the number of events that should be held, the number of people who should be

covered by them, the number of specialists who will be involved in training, the number of information products that should be produced and distributed, etc., or only some indicators are indicated as a whole for the entire period of the program. In particular, such shortcomings were found in program documents in Volyn, Zhytomyr, Zaporizhzhia, Lviv, Mykolaiv, Odesa, Poltava, Kherson, Cherkasy regions. In the Chernihiv region, the program provides for 6 priority tasks on countering human trafficking and 25 measure types for their implementation, but in a separate appendix on indicators of its implementation effectiveness, for the vast majority of measures to counter human trafficking, such indicators are not available. It is only planned that in 2023 13 exercises should be held for state authorities specialists, state institutions and LGB who can contact human trafficking victims; 11 th. copies of printed materials were edited and distributed aimed at countering human trafficking; 10 victims were established the VoT status; 5 monitoring events were held jointly with public organizations. In Vinnytsia, Ivano-Frankivsk and Chernivtsi regions, although the programs have certain performance indicators, they are combined for several directions, and therefore it is difficult to understand exactly how many measures to counter human trafficking should be carried out.

- *Unjustified or arbitrary determination of certain performance indicators and/or their inconsistency with certain quantitative indicators of the program activities implementation.* First of all, this concerns the information and educational component of activities to counter human trafficking. Thus, one of the expected results from its implementation is to achieve a certain level of the population awareness, which in various programs ranges from 30 to 100%. However, taking into account the quantitative indicators determined by individual measures and comparing them with the regional population, it becomes unclear how it is planned to achieve even the minimum level of awareness. Thus, for example, in the Ternopil region, the Level of the regional population coverage with measures (projects) on countering human trafficking quality indicator is 80,700 people for the entire period of the program, which is less than 8% of the total regional population, while the list of the program tasks indicates that information events annually plan to cover 30% of the regional population.
- *Uncertainty of risk groups and their low level of coverage or lack of such activities in the program at all.* Despite the fact that the growing risks of human trafficking for the population vulnerable categories are among the main problems that programs are aimed at solving, this disadvantage is typical for almost all of them. Usually, the responsibility for carrying out such activities is assigned to employment centers and social service centers, but exactly how many events should be held for a particular category is not specified. The planned coverage rates for at-risk groups are small and range from 60 to 150 people per year. Half of the programs do not provide for such events at all.
- *Lack of a mechanism for monitoring the program tasks and measures implementation on countering human trafficking.* While most programs contain monitoring components, they mostly include monitoring VoT rehabilitation plans and individual social protection plans implementation for children affected by human trafficking. Only four programs (Rivne, Kharkiv, Cherkasy, Chernihiv regions) included Conducting an implementation analysis of state policy on countering human trafficking at the regional and local levels to clarify

problematic issues, provide methodological assistance and take comprehensive measures to solve them clause.

During the monitoring, the program documents availability, which include measures to counter human trafficking, at the district level was also investigated. Based on its results, we must state that after the administrative-territorial reform and districts consolidation, the situation has changed dramatically — if earlier in the vast majority of the studied districts there were either district targeted programs to counter human trafficking, or the corresponding measures were included in comprehensive social programs, or at least plans of measures to counter human trafficking were approved, now there are almost no regulations regulating activities on countering human trafficking.

Thus, action plans for the State program implementation were approved in one of the six districts of the Vinnytsia region and in all four districts of the Kirovohrad region. In the Lviv region, according to the Order of the RMA Head, such plans should have been developed and approved by November 15, 2023 by all district administrations, however, at the time of monitoring, this was implemented only in two of the seven districts.

In four regions, in some districts, measures to counter human trafficking are included in district targeted/integrated social programs. In particular, in the studied period, two such programs were active in the Zhytomyr region — Targeted Program for Preventing, Countering Domestic Violence and Human Trafficking of the Zhytomyr region for 2023 and Social Program for Implementing Family, Gender-Based Policy, Preventing Domestic Violence, Gender-Based Violence and Countering Human Trafficking for 2022-2026 in the Novohrad-Volynskiy district, and from 2024 the comprehensive programs implementation for family support, ensuring equal rights and opportunities for women and men, improving the health and recreation of children, preventing and countering domestic violence and human trafficking in Zhytomyr and Berdychiv districts will begin. In the Zakarpattia region, two of the six districts approved programs of family, gender policy, prevention and counteraction to domestic violence, countering human trafficking up to 2025, and in the Mukachevo district, such a program was approved by the Order of the DSA Head, but was not considered by the District Council due to limited budget opportunities. In the Ivano-Frankivsk region, measures to counter human trafficking are included in the District Comprehensive Program for Social Protection of the Ivano-Frankivsk Region Population for 2022-2025, as well as in the program for Preventing and Countering Violence for 2022-2026 in the Kalush district. In the Rivne region, three districts have targeted district programs to counter human trafficking for the period up to 2025, and the fourth is developing an action plan for the State program implementation to counter human trafficking up to 2025.

In other regions (Volyn, Dnipropetrovsk, Donetsk, Mykolaiv, Poltava, Ternopil, Kharkiv, Kherson, Cherkasy, Chernivtsi, Chernihiv), during the monitoring of district programs/action plans regulating activities on countering human trafficking, no district was found.

At the same time, a number of district state (military) administrations reported the existence of relevant programs/action plans in individual territorial communities. However, so far the share of communities that have included anti-trafficking measures in the program documents is insignificant. The situation continues to be negatively affected by the fact that until now the local self-governments powers in this area are not clearly defined at the legislative level,

although the DSA/DMA very quickly tried to delegate them. Some district administrations, in response to the request of the Coalition, even noted that «The issue of implementing measures to counter human trafficking, as well as their resource provision in 2023 is assigned to the territorial communities of the district».

The regulatory regulation analysis of countering human trafficking revealed a rather heterogeneous picture and indicates the lack of a systematic approach to the formation of regional policy in this area. In the vast majority of regions, the Order of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine On the development and approval of targeted programs to counter human trafficking has not been implemented. Activities to counter human trafficking in these regions continue to be carried out in the previously established legal framework.

A significant part of the comprehensive programs containing measures to counter human trafficking were adopted long before the start of a full-scale invasion, and therefore they do not take into account current realities and trends in human trafficking.

Regional programs are quite different in terms of their fullness, effectiveness, quality and have certain shortcomings, including, in particular, uncertainty of performance indicators, which makes it difficult to assess their implementation.

We regret to note that some of the programs do not demonstrate a comprehensive approach to solving the problem of human trafficking and do not take into account the priority tasks of state policy in this area. Most of them focus on preventive activities, usually aimed at the general public and students, while measures to prevent trafficking among people at risk are either not planned at all or planned in a small amount.

The situation with the regulatory regulation of countering human trafficking at the district and local levels cannot be considered satisfactory at all.

RESOURCE SUPPORT OF COUNTERING HUMAN TRAFFICKING IN THE REGIONS

ESTIMATED RESOURCE SUPPORT FOR PROGRAM ACTIVITIES

There is no doubt that a necessary condition for the successful implementation of any targeted social program is to provide it with sufficient financial resources. However, according to the analysis results, even the projected amounts of funding for measures to counter human trafficking, calculated in the vast majority of programs, do not meet the real needs for their implementation.

Table 3. Estimated resource support for regional programs in 2023

Region	Estimated resource support											
	PROGRAMS				HUMAN TRAFFICKING COUNTERING							
	in general (spec. volume), th. UAH	including by sources, th. UAH			in general		including by sources					
		regional budget	district/ local budgets	other sources	th. UAH	%	regional budget		district/ local budgets		other sources	
							th. UAH	%	th. UAH	%	th. UAH	%
Vinnysia	2906.1	2906.1	0	0	455.2	15.7	455.2	15.7	0		0	
Volyn	4185.0	4185.0	0	0	45.0	1.1	45.0	1.1	0		0	
Dnipropetrovsk ¹	n/a	0	n/a	n/a	n/a		0		n/a		n/a	
Donetsk	18122.32	9582.87	8203.45	336.0	270.9	1.5	54.0	0.6	158.9	1.9	58.0	17.3
Zhytomyr	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a		n/a		n/a		n/a	
Zakarpattia	20703.0	15213.0	5490.0	0	257.0	1.2	257.0	1.7	0		0	
Zaporizhzhia ²	39844.185	39844.185	0	0	28.664 ³	0.07	28.664 ³	0.1	0		0	
Ivano-Frankivsk	41838.0	41838.0	n/a	n/a	1350.0 ³	3.2	1350.0 ³	3.2	n/a		n/a	
Kirovograd ¹	n/a	19.0	n/a	n/a	19.0		19.0		n/a		n/a	
Lviv	0	0	0	0	0		0		0		0	
Mykolayiv	10211.4	10204.9	n/a	6.5	126.4	1.2	119.9	1.2	n/a		6.5	100
Odesa	675.0	675.0	0	0	550.0	81.5	550.0	81.5	0		0	
Poltava	54734.4	54734.0	n/a	0	226.0 ⁴	0.4	226.0 ⁴	0.4	n/a		0	
Rivne ¹	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a		n/a		n/a		n/a	
Ternopil	1589.9	1331.4	168.5	90	108.1	7	108.1	8	0		0	
Kharkiv ¹	849.275	47.275	n/a	802.0	849.275		47.275		n/a		802.0	100
Kherson	190616.0	108429.0	81550.0	317.0	30.0 ³	0.02	30.0 ³	0.03	0		0	
Cherkasy ¹	n/a	0	n/a	0	n/a		0		n/a		0	
Chernivtsi	155.0	155.0	0	0	75.0 ³	48	75.0 ³	48	0		0	
Chernihiv	1675.0	1675.0	n/a	0	80.0	4.8	80.0	4.8	n/a		0	

n/a — the amount of estimated resource support is not defined, the phrase: within the total amount of funding/estimated assignments, if there are financial resources/budget capacity is used, etc.

¹ Targeted social program for countering human trafficking

² Projected funding within the Comprehensive Program for Children's Health and Recreation, Family, Gender Policy and Countering Human Trafficking; the amount of funding for the targeted program for countering human trafficking has not been determined

³ Cumulative financing of measures to counter human trafficking, domestic violence, gender equality and other issues of social protection of the population

⁴ Cumulative financing of measures to counter human trafficking and promote gender equality.

As a rule, the amount of estimated resource support for countering human trafficking in the

framework of integrated programs is insignificant in comparison with other priority tasks for which they are aimed — family support, promoting gender equality, preventing domestic and gender-based violence and various issues related to social protection of the population. As follows from these programs analysis, for the most part, the volume of projected funding for measures to counter human trafficking ranges from 0.02 to 7% of their total volume. So, in particular, in the Volyn region, the projected amount of financial resources for the program tasks implementation is distributed as follows: 95% — Implementation of Family Policy, about 3% — Protection of children's rights and 1% each Ensuring equal rights and opportunities for women and men and countering human trafficking. In the Ternopil region the lion's share of the funds is planned to be used to cover the costs associated with the events on Ensuring appropriate conditions for preventing and countering domestic violence and/or gender-based violence (56%) and Increasing the prestige of the family and prioritizing family values (36%), which generally accounts for 92% of the total amount of funding for the program. In the Mykolaiv region, 95% of the funds are planned to be spent on the implementation of measures on Support for families, children and demographic development, the rest is distributed in three areas: Ensuring equal rights and opportunities for women and Men (1%); Preventing and countering domestic violence (2.8%); countering human trafficking (1.2%). Out of twenty-one types of anti-trafficking measures, the program provides funding for only four.

Often, a significant part of the program measures to counter human trafficking is logically defined as not requiring funding. In particular, this concerns the introduction of the mechanism of social ordering of services provided by non-state entities and the provision of assistance to VoT (including monetary assistance to meet priority needs) provided for by many programs.

The planned financing of the approved program activities from the budget is insufficient to cover all the costs associated with their implementation in the vast majority of regions. Thus, for example, in the Volyn region, within the comprehensive program, it was planned to conduct 20 awareness campaigns, 15 flash mobs, 15 performances and distribute 15 thousand copies of printed products, which was supposed to spend UAH 152 thousand, including UAH 45 thousand in 2023.

The picture is excellent only in two regions- in Odesa, where the financing of measures to counter human trafficking is provided in the amount of UAH 550 thousand, which is 81.5% of the total resource support of the program, and in Vinnytsia, where the financing of this direction is provided in the amount of UAH 455.2 thousand (15.7% of the total volume of the program).

In four regions (Ivano-Frankivsk, Poltava, Kherson and Chernivtsi), regional integrated programs have defined the total amount of resource support for activities in several areas, which means that it is impossible to calculate precisely how much money is planned for the measures implementation to counter human trafficking.

In four regions (Vinnytsia, Volyn, Odesa, Chernivtsi), the costs of performing tasks on countering human trafficking should be covered exclusively at the expense of the regional budget, in other regions it is planned to attract funds from various sources — district and local budgets, budgets of territorial communities and other sources not prohibited by law— but usually their specific volume is not defined. At the same time, the required amount of funds is often indicated for some events, and for others — that they will be funded within the budget.

As for targeted social programs to counter human trafficking, approved in the Dnipropetrovsk, Zaporizhzhia, Rivne, and Cherkasy regions, the total estimated resource support is also indicated in vague formulations such as «within the total volume of funding/estimated assignments, subject to the availability of financial resources/budget capacity» etc., that is, they do not have any reliable financial basis. At the same time, in the Dnipropetrovsk and Cherkasy regions, funding for targeted programs from the regional budget is not provided at all, and it is planned to attract funds from local budgets and other sources for their implementation. Actually, the developers and responsible performers of two more approved targeted programs rely on the same sources. Thus, in 2023, the amount of funding for the regional targeted social program for countering human trafficking in the Kirovohrad region from the regional budget is UAH 19 thousand, and in the Kharkiv region — UAH 47,275 thousand, with a certain total amount of funding for the program in the amount of UAH 849,275 thousand, that is, almost 95% of funds must be raised from other sources.

Thus, the program documents analysis results that provide for measures to counter human trafficking indicate that in the vast majority of regions, the volume of estimated funding for measures to counter human trafficking at the expense of budget funds is not comparable with the real needs for their implementation. It is obvious that budget planning is carried out not on the basis of reasonable calculations, but taking into account financial capabilities or priorities. Understanding the importance of solving all the problems defined in the integrated programs, we should still emphasize that since the risks of the human trafficking problem aggravation have significantly increased in the context of war, the structure of the estimated resource support of these programs should be revised in the direction of increasing funding for measures to counter human trafficking. In addition, even at the stage of developing and approving programs, excessive hopes are placed on the receipt of funds from other sources, a significant part of the activities must be carried out by public and international organizations with the support of foreign donors, which makes the prospects for implementing programs overly dependent on external factors.

ACTUAL FINANCING OF ANTI-TRAFFICKING MEASURES

Based on the monitoring results, we must acknowledge that the state of actual resource support for countering human trafficking in the regions is critical.

Table 4. Actual financing of anti-trafficking measures
at the expense of budget funds in 2023

Region	Regional budget th. UAH		Local budgets, th. UAH		Funded activities
	Allocated	Used	Allocated	Used	
Vinnitsia	0	0	0	0	
Volyn	15.0	15.0	0	0	Conducting information campaigns
Dnipropetrovsk	0	0	0	0	
Donetsk	0	0	45.0	15.0	Information not provided
Zhytomyr	3.0	0	0	0	
Zakarpattia	28.45	28.45	0	0	Conducting information campaigns
Zaporizhzhia	0	0	0	0	
Ivano-Frankivsk	0	0	7.0	7.0	Information not provided
Kirovohrad	19.0	19.0	0	0	Booklets edition (3 th. copies)
Lviv	0	0	0	0	
Mykolayiv	0	0	0	0	
Odesa	0	0	0	0	
Poltava	0	0	0	0	
Rivne	0	0	0	0	
Ternopil	0	0	0	0	
Kharkiv	0	0	3.3	3.3	Information products edition (4763 copies) and holding a round table
Kherson	0	0	0	0	
Cherkasy	28.143	20.0	0	0	Production and placement of 5 boards
Chernivtsi	20.0	20.0	0	0	Conducting awareness-raising activities (detailed information is not provided)
Chernihiv	0	0	0	0	

In 2023, in 11 regions of Ukraine, budget funds for the implementation of planned activities were not allocated at all. The reasons for the lack of funding are explained by the limited capacity of budgets, the need to redistribute funds for national security needs and solve urgent problems that have arisen in connection with a full-scale military invasion.

In four regions, separate preventive measures were financed from the regional budget in a small amount: in Volyn — the Look Closely information campaign (UAH 15,000), in Zakarpattia — information and educational actions and events on the occasion of important dates in the field of

countering human trafficking on July 30, October 18, and December 6 (UAH 28,450), in Kirovohrad — 3,000 copies of booklets and posters edition (UAH 19,000), in Cherkasy — the production and placement of five boards with motivational calls to counter human trafficking and contact information for appeals. In Chernivtsi region in 2023, for the first time after the complete lack of funding for a comprehensive program, funds in the amount of UAH 155,000 were allocated from the regional budget, of which UAH 65,000 was allocated for information and educational activities on preventing and countering domestic violence and gender-based violence, ensuring gender equality, and countering human trafficking, which were used in full. According to the Department of Social Protection of the Population of Chernivtsi region, which is the manager of these funds, UAH 20,000 was allocated directly for measures to counter human trafficking, but no information was provided on what exactly they were spent. The Department of Social Protection of the Population of Zhytomyr region reported that in 2023, UAH 3,000 was allocated from the budget for the measures implementation to counter human trafficking, which «was not used during the year due to the full-scale invasion of the Russian Federation and the introduction of martial law».

In three regions, measures to counter human trafficking were financed from local budgets. Thus, the Department of Family, Youth and Mass Events of National and Patriotic Education of the Donetsk RSA reported that in 2023 they allocated UAH 45,000, but only UAH 15,000 was used. The reasons for the incomplete use of the allocated funds are explained by the difficult security and social situation in the region. The Ivano-Frankivsk City Council has planned and allocated UAH 7,000 for measures to counter human trafficking. In the Kharkiv region, the total amount of funding for measures to counter human trafficking from local budgets amounted to UAH 3300, of which UAH 3000 — expenses of the Biliaivka TC for the 4763 copies of information products edition and UAH 300 — expenses of the Zachepylivka Settlement Council for holding a round table to ensure effective interaction of subjects taking measures on countering human trafficking.

As for the measures financing to counter human trafficking from district budgets, it was not carried out in any region.

Taking into account the above, it should be noted that activities to counter human trafficking are not a priority in the formation of regional, district and local budgets and determining the amount of funding for regional social programs. This led to the fact that in 2023, if in some places funds were allocated for this direction of state policy, then in a small amount, insufficient to cover all the costs associated with the planned measures implementation.

Taking into account the the reasons validity for inadequate resource support for countering human trafficking, due to the lack of budget funds and the need to direct them to solve other urgent needs in connection with the military aggression against Ukraine, we should still emphasize the inadmissibility of such practices in the context of human trafficking problem aggravation and a significant increase in the level of vulnerability of the population.

The lack of funding for targeted programs/ components of integrated programs to counter human trafficking has led to the failure to meet a number of their planned targets. It is also worth noting that a significant part of this activity continues to be carried out by non-governmental organizations — members of the Coalition within projects with the financial

support of foreign donors, and therefore, in case of their absence, the implementation of many program tasks on Countering human trafficking is threatened.

ASSESSMENT OF THE MEASURES IMPLEMENTATION TO COUNTER HUMAN TRAFFICKING IN THE REGIONS

POLICY COORDINATION, STRENGTHENING INSTITUTIONAL CAPACITY AND STRENGTHENING COOPERATION OF ACTORS IMPLEMENTING MEASURES ON COUNTERING HUMAN TRAFFICKING

The state policy course is aimed at creating an integrated system for countering human trafficking by strengthening coordination of activities in this area, strengthening the human resources potential of interaction subjects and increasing the level of their cooperation. However, despite the fact that all regional programs emphasize the priority of these tasks, they do not always contain appropriate measures for their implementation and/or measurable expected results, on the basis of which it is possible to assess the effectiveness of the activities carried out.

Ensuring the activities of coordination councils

In accordance with the orders of regional state (military) administrations, regional coordination (interdepartmental) councils on family issues, gender equality, demographic development, prevention of domestic violence and countering human trafficking have been established and operate in all regions, but the state of their activities and impact on the situation in the region are different.

Table 5. Activities of regional coordination councils in 2023

Region	Total quantity of held meetings	Data on meetings at which issues were considered human trafficking countering		
		quantity of meetings	dates of meetings	number of issues considered
Vinnytsia	3	3	03.05.2023, 12.07.2023, 11.10.2023	9
Volyn	4	4	06.03.2023; 25.07.2023; 05.10.2023; 21.11.2023	4
Dnipropetrovsk	3	1	29.11.2023	1
Donetsk	2	2	22.06.2023, 20.12.2023	5
Zhytomyr	4	2	15.06.2023, 22.11.2023	2
Zakarpattia	4	4	29.03.2023, 27.06.2023, 21.08.2023, 16.11.2023	4
Zaporizhzhia	20	2	27.10.2023, 07.12.2023	3
Ivano-Frankivsk	**	2	22.05.2023, 22.11.2023	3
Kirovohrad	4	4	15.03.2023, 21.06.2023, 27.09.2023, 26.12.2023	7
Lviv	1	1	15.07.2023	2
Mykolayiv	3	3	02.02.2023, 07.11.2023, 06.12.2023	3
Odesa	4	4	09.02.2023, 06.07.2023, 20.10.2023, 26.12.2023	4
Poltava	1	1	07.12.2023	1
Rivne	2	2	03.08.2023, 22.11.2023	2
Ternopil	4	3	28.03.2023, 05.06.2023, 08.12.2023	3
Kharkiv	3	3	13.06.2023, 29.09.2023, 29.12.2023	3
Kherson	1	1	07.11.2023	3
Cherkasy	2	2	21.04.2023, 19.12.2023	6
Chernivtsi	2	2	11.04.2023, 05.08.2023	3

Chernihiv	3	1	26.10.2023	1
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As a result of monitoring, it was found out that in 2023, only a third of the regions met coordination councils on a quarterly basis. However, it should be noted that the regulations on coordination councils do not always provide for the frequency of their convocations, and therefore they can collect as needed. The lack of such a norm has led to the fact that in some places council meetings are held somewhat less often. Thus, in the Chernivtsi region, the Coordination Council met only twice during the year: on 11.04.2023 — to prepare of amendments to the Regional Program for Preventing and Countering Domestic Violence and Gender-Based Violence, Ensuring Gender Equality, Countering Human Trafficking for 2023 and on 05.08.2023 — to develop draft of the corresponding program for 2024-2025. According to the explanations of the Department of Social Protection of the Population of Chernivtsi region, which is entrusted with the authority to coordinate activities in this area, «other decisions on pressing issues were made and implemented in a working order». In Cherkasy region, only one meeting of the Coordination Council and one working meeting were held in 2023. The responsible structural division of the Cherkasy RSA explains this by «the lack of physical ability to organize all processes in the areas that are subordinate to the Department for Family, Youth and Sports Affairs, as well as the lack of relevant topics for submission to the meeting». In the Poltava region, there was only one council meeting held out of 4 planned. In response to the request of the Coalition, the responsible unit of the Poltava RMA noted that «the interdepartmental coordination council was not held in connection with martial law». Given the data obtained, the Regional Coordination Council in the Lviv region is practically inactive at all — the only meeting held in July 2023 was held for the first time since December 2021.

Another reason for the rare convocation of coordination councils is the difficult situation in the regions where hostilities are taking place and a significant part of which is temporarily occupied. So, in Donetsk and Zaporizhzhia regions, coordination councils met twice, and in Kherson — once a year. At the same time, all the meetings that took place considered issues of countering human trafficking, which are considered relevant for these regions.

As a result of the monitoring, it was established that in the vast majority of regions, issues of countering human trafficking were also raised regularly at meetings of coordination councils. Among the main topics that were submitted for discussion are the following: preparation for the celebration of outstanding dates in the field of countering human trafficking, the state of affairs on the measures implementation to prevent and counter human trafficking in the field, action plan development for 2023-2025 for the state target social program implementation for countering human trafficking for the period up to 2025, strengthening interdepartmental cooperation in the field of countering human trafficking.

However, the situation is not the same everywhere — in some regions, coordination councils pay the most attention to other areas of activities. In particular, in the Zhytomyr region, issues related to gender-based and domestic violence were mainly considered, and issues of human trafficking were discussed only at two of the four meetings held (15.06.2023 and 22.11.2023) and they concerned holding events within the information campaigns. In the Dnipropetrovsk region, issues of countering human trafficking were included in the agenda of the Coordination Council meetings only once, although, according to the Promin Dnipro, Public Organization, such issues were considered at other meetings in a working order. In Chernihiv region, issues of

countering human trafficking were discussed only at one meeting of the Interdepartmental Council (26.10.2023), as well as at the meeting of the Working Group established under it, the results of the Assessment of risks and vulnerability of target groups to human trafficking and exploitation during war study, conducted by IOM Ukraine in 2023, were presented.

In general, based on the data received results from the responsible units of the RSA/RMA, during 2023, issues of countering human trafficking were discussed at 47 of the 52 meetings of regional coordination (interdepartmental) councils.

The relevant advisory bodies are also formed under district state (military) administrations, but, unfortunately, their activities remain opaque, mainly in response to requests sent to the DSA/DMA within the monitoring, no information was received about the number of meetings held and issues on countering human trafficking considered at them.

In order to implement the state policy on gender equality, prevention of domestic violence, gender-based violence and countering human trafficking at the local level, it is also planned to create appropriate councils in the TC.

Table 6. Activities of local coordination councils in 2023

Region	Data on the formation of local CC			Data on the activities of local CC	
	Number of TC		%	Number of meetings	
	general information	in which the CC is formed		planned	conducted
Vinnitsia	63	**		*	**
Volyn	54	26	48	*	19
Dnipropetrovsk	86	68	79	352	270
Donetsk	46	37	80	175	20
Zhytomyr	66	40	61	*	**
Zakarpattia	64	64	100	*	152
Zaporizhzhia	67	1		*	2
Ivano-Frankivsk	62	41	66	*	72
Kirovohrad	49	49	100	212	208
Lviv	73	**		*	**
Mykolayiv	52	31	60	*	30
Odesa	91	88	97	*	**
Poltava	60	60	100	*	74
Rivne	64	52	81	8	168
Ternopil	55	47	85	12	54
Kharkiv	56	52	93	80	134
Kherson	49	0		*	0
Cherkasy	66	**		*	**
Chernivtsi	52	52	100	112	112
Chernihiv	57	45	79	180	**

* The indicator is not defined in the program

** Data not provided

It should be noted that measures to organize the activities of local coordination councils are provided for in only half of the regional program documents: five targeted social programs for countering human trafficking (Dnipropetrovsk, Zaporizhzhia, Kirovohrad, Rivne, Kharkiv regions) and five complex social programs (Donetsk, Zakarpattia, Ivano-Frankivsk, Ternopil, Chernihiv regions), as well as the Action Plan for the State Targeted Social Program Implementation for Countering Human Trafficking up to 2025 in Lviv region. However, only

six programs define performance indicators for the number of meetings of local councils. At the same time, it should be noted that these indicators vary greatly — from 8 planned meetings in Rivne region to 352 in Dnipropetrovsk region in 2023. Such measures are not included in other regional programs, although they are still mandatory for implementation by regional state (military) administrations in accordance with paragraph 2.13 of the State program, which provides for holding 504 council meetings for the entire period of its validity, including 168 in 2023.

Unfortunately, the monitoring results show that almost half of the responsible structural units of regional and district state (military) administrations did not properly control such activities, and therefore either could not provide any information at all about the number of local coordination councils formed and meetings held by them, or provided incomplete or inaccurate information.

Given the data obtained, the worst situation is in two regions, a significant part of which is under temporary occupation. Thus, in the Kherson region, 2/3 of the 49 formed territorial communities remain under occupation, while the de-occupied TC and Kherson are under constant shelling and suffer from a humanitarian crisis. There are almost no experienced specialists in the field of countering human trafficking in communities, and those who do work either remotely or are busy with work related to solving humanitarian problems in the community. Of course, in such a situation, the activities of previously created local coordination councils are suspended. At the same time, it should be noted that thanks to the training conducted by the Kherson Regional Center Successful Woman, Public Organization, communities are gradually developing an understanding of creating multidisciplinary working groups importance, even in times of crisis. A positive example of this is Darivka TC, where such a working group, a crisis room and a hub for offline work with children have been created. In the Zaporizhzhia region, the Coordination Council operates only in the Zaporizhzhia district, which is the only one partially controlled by the Government of Ukraine, and all 16 TCs of the district are included in the territories where military operations are being conducted. During 2023, two meetings were held (21.03.2023 and 07.12.2023), during which issues relevant to the district were considered to prevent the risk of people being drawn into situations of human trafficking. In addition, in November-December 2023, four TCs (Dolynska, Bilenke, Kushuhum, and Shyrokye) held joint coordination meetings of interaction subjects on countering domestic violence and human trafficking with the participation of district structures representatives.

As for other regions, the smallest number of local coordination (interdepartmental) councils was formed in the Volyn region, the share of which is 48% of the territorial communities total number in the region. But, according to information received from the Kirovohrad, Poltava and Chernivtsi RSA/RMA, such councils are formed and operate in all territorial communities of the region.

The analysis of the activities results of these advisory bodies shows a rather heterogeneous picture — from two meetings held in the Zaporizhzhia region to 270 meetings in the Dnipropetrovsk region.

However, taking into account the data obtained, in 2023, a total of 1,315 meetings of local coordination (interdepartmental) councils were held in the regions covered by monitoring, which significantly exceeds the indicators defined in the State program.

At the same time, it should be noted that it was not possible to establish whether the meetings of local coordination councils were actually held in such a large number and whether the issues of countering human trafficking were considered directly during the monitoring due to the lack of complete information on the agendas and/or minutes of the meetings.

Thus, in all regions covered by the study, regional, district and local coordination (interdepartmental) councils on family issues, gender equality, demographic development, prevention of domestic violence and countering human trafficking have been established and operate.

For various objective and subjective reasons, council meetings were held less than once a quarter in a number of regions. Unfortunately, issues related to countering human trafficking were not regularly considered everywhere.

We should also note the lack of transparency in the district and local coordination councils work and the lack of proper information exchange on their activities.

Improving the professional level of specialists who implement measures in the field of countering human trafficking

An important component of countering human trafficking is to improve the professional level of specialists who implement measures in the field of countering human trafficking. The need to provide such training is emphasized in all regional program documents, although for some reason such measures are not included in the two comprehensive programs in the Volyn and Odesa regions. In addition, the analysis shows that in the vast majority of programs, indicators for the number of training events conducted and trained specialists are not defined, which does not contribute to ensuring the consistency of this work. Nevertheless, based on the monitoring results, we can say that in all regions, certain efforts are being made to strengthen the institutional capacity of entities implementing measures in the field of countering human trafficking.

Table 7. Measures to improve the professional level of specialists, implementing measures in the field of countering human trafficking

Region	Number of trained specialists				Target audience						
	Planned	Actual			Civil servants	Officials and IAG LGB members	Responsible for conducting the status establishment procedure	FSR, specialists of the CSS, CPSS representatives of law enforcement agencies and units of the State Customs Service of Ukraine	Railway and Road Transport Workers	Other categories	
		Total	including								
			offline	online							
Vinnitsia	*	505	394	111	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
Volyn	**	685	140	545	✓	✓		✓	✓		
Dnipropetrovsk	1000	367	190	177	✓	✓	✓				✓

Region	Number of trained specialists				Target audience						
Donetsk	80	428	80	348	✓	✓		✓			
Zhytomyr	***	338	108	230	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓
Zakarpattia	35	330	225	105	✓	✓	✓				
Zaporizhzhia	400	474	16	458	✓	✓					✓
Ivano-Frankivsk	***	362	362	0	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
Kirovohrad	150	252	166	86	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
Lviv	***	368	200	168	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓
Mykolayiv	***	93	14	79	✓	✓	✓	✓			
Odesa	**	214	214	0	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓
Poltava	***	111	111	0	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
Rivne	***	295	124	171	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓
Ternopil	70	364	117	100	✓	✓	✓	✓			
Kharkiv	360	282	232	50	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Kherson	***	45	43	2	✓	✓		✓			
Cherkasy	***	84	84	0	✓	✓	✓				
Chernivtsi	50	274	30	244	✓	✓	✓	✓			
Chernihiv	***	211	99	112	✓	✓			✓		✓

*Only the total number of all activities/trained specialists in all areas of the program is determined

**The program's tasks/activities are not included in the list

*** The indicator is not defined in the program

According to the reports provided by the SRA/SMA responsible units, and taking into account the training activities conducted by the NGO Coalition members, in total, about six thousand representatives of state and local authorities improved their qualifications in 20 regions covered by the monitoring during 2023, which is much higher than the annual figures defined in the State program. It should be noted that this figure is approximate, since responsible units often do not have accurate information about all trainings conducted in the region.

In the regional dimension, the situation with training on countering human trafficking is quite heterogeneous: the largest number of trained specialists is in the Volyn and Vinnytsia regions (685 and 505 people, respectively), the smallest — in the Kherson, Cherkasy and Mykolaiv regions (45, 84 and 93 people, respectively), which, in particular, is due to problems with ensuring safety for educational events participants of.

At the same time, we should note that in a number of regions, taking into account the complex modern realities, training for specialists who carry out anti-trafficking measures has been mostly or completely transferred to an online format. First of all, this applies to regions that are on the contact line or in the territory where active hostilities are taking place, or often suffer from shelling.

So, for example, in the Zaporizhzhia and Donetsk regions, where there is a constant danger of enemy shelling, and air raids last up to 10 hours a day, which makes it impossible to organize high-quality face-to-face training, the representatives of interaction subjects in the field of countering human trafficking mainly improved their qualifications online (458 and 348 people, respectively).

In a number of other regions, there is also an increase in the share of specialists who took part in online events held by state structures and public organizations. For example, in the Volyn region, such training is generally gaining momentum — in 2023, 545 out of 685 trained civil servants and officials of local self-governments improved their qualifications precisely within

online seminars organized by the Volyn Regional Center for Professional Development. In the Zhytomyr region, Women's Information Consultative Center, NGO held online trainings on providing assistance to sexual exploitation victims within the project with the support of the Embassy of Finland, in which 230 social work specialists and workers of first-level health care institutions took part; in the Lviv region, Women's Perspectives Center, NGO held online information sessions for 68 social workers of territorial communities. In the Zakarpattia region, seven two-day online courses on Countering human trafficking were conducted by the Department of Social Protection of the RMA, in which 105 specialists from the districts and TCs took part. In the Ternopil region, the Regional Center for Social Services organized a series of online lectures on the topics: Legal principles of countering human trafficking and Human trafficking is a problem of state significance under martial law for 100 representatives of territorial communities.

Also, many civil servants have improved their skills by taking the Countering human trafficking online course, developed jointly by the International Organization for Migration Mission in Ukraine and the Ministry of Social Policy. Thus, according to data provided by the responsible units of the RSA/RMA, in 2023, about 900 people took this course, which is 15% of the trained specialists total number.

At the same time, recognizing certain advantages and usefulness of online training, especially in the current difficult conditions, we should emphasize the importance of conducting full-time multidisciplinary trainings, since this format allows us to better work out the algorithm of identification, assistance to victims, practical interaction skills and contributes to strengthening cooperation in the field of countering human trafficking. However, such training is still in the area of responsibility of public organizations and is carried out within international assistance projects. In total, during 2023, about 2,500 people took part in multidisciplinary trainings conducted by the NGO Coalition members, who are involved in implementation and operation of NMI, which is more than 40% of the trained specialists total number, including officials and members of the International Advisory Group of territorial communities, employees of regional and district directorates/departments of social protection of the population, centers of social services, educational institutions, medical institutions, law enforcement officers, territorial units of the SMSU, children's services, psychologists, persons responsible for carrying out the status establishment procedure.

Based on the monitoring results, we should note the intensification of the state bodies efforts in the direction of the entities institutional capacity strengthening that exercise powers in the field of countering human trafficking. A significant role in this is played by regional retraining and advanced training centers that implement short-term programs on countering human trafficking. Thus, according to the received data, more than 1,200 people, which is approximately 20% of the trained specialists total number, received relevant training on the basis of these centers. In Volyn and Zaporizhzhia regions in 2023, it was fully provided by regional retraining and advanced training centers. In addition, in a number of regions, intra-departmental training events on countering human trafficking were held. In particular, five seminars were held in the Zakarpattia region, at which the issue of countering human trafficking was considered, including one for employees of regional and district employment centers, one for employees of territorial units of social protection of the population, and three bush trainings for specialists of

services for children. In the Poltava and Ternopil regions, regional CSSs conducted training for the FSR, specialists of CSS, CPSS and directorates/departments of social protection of the population.

However, it should be noted that during the monitoring, almost no information was received on the State program paragraph 2.7 implementation, which provides for conducting trainings for employees of aviation, railway, sea, river and road transport of intercity and international traffic in order to identify persons who may be involved in the process of human trafficking, and prevent such cases. Relevant activities were also included in six regional programs in Dnipropetrovsk, Zaporizhzhia, Rivne, Ternopil, Kharkiv and Cherkasy regions. The notification about such training conducting, in which 12 people took part, was received only from the Kharkiv Regional Military Administration.

It should also be noted that, as before, most of the training of entities representatives implementing measures in the field of countering human trafficking was carried out due to the relevant projects implementation in the regions funded by foreign donors. In some regions, such training was conducted exclusively by public organizations (Vinnytsia, Zhytomyr, Ivano-Frankivsk, Odesa, Cherkasy). At the same time, a number of the NGO Coalition members note that they actively cooperate with the programs responsible performers that contribute to the organization of training in every possible way, in particular, invite training participants, provide technical and informational support.

However, despite significant efforts and resources invested in the training of specialists, one of the components of which is the formation and improvement of their skills in identifying victims and providing them with assistance, unfortunately, this has not yet led to a significant improvement in the functioning of the National Mechanism of Interaction in the field of Countering Human Trafficking. The increased burden on social services, high staff turnover, and sometimes a decrease in the level of motivation to study, identify victims and provide them with appropriate assistance, which is largely caused by the war, partially negate the progress made in strengthening the institutional capacity of NMI subjects. In particular, as an example, we can cite the results of a survey on training needs conducted in 2023 by the Department of Social Protection of the Population of the Chernivtsi RSA among employees of state authorities and local self-government bodies, during which none of the respondents expressed an interest in improving their qualifications in countering human trafficking. According to the NGO Coalition members from other regions, there are not isolated cases of refusal to participate in trainings on Countering human trafficking for various reasons, often in response to invitations they have to hear that «there is no one to send» or «this is not the time».

Summing up the above, it can be stated that, despite the difficult situation in the country, training on Countering human trafficking took place in all regions, although with varying degrees of activity.

Training activities were conducted by both government agencies and non-governmental organizations.

Various training formats were used — online and offline trainings, seminars, information sessions, short-term courses, and so on.

However, despite the achievement of fairly high quantitative indicators in many regions, the quality and effectiveness of training is significantly affected by negative factors, mainly caused by a full-scale military invasion of Ukraine.

Strengthening cooperation in the field of countering human trafficking

Of course, the key to the success of any program is a clear definition of its participants circle and the distribution of responsibility for holding certain events among them. Therefore, during the monitoring, the measures performers composition to counter human trafficking, defined in regional program documents, was also studied, and the picture turned out to be quite heterogeneous — from one performer in the Volyn region to 19 subjects involved in the Ternopil region.

Table 8. Composition of the measures performers to counter human trafficking, defined in regional programs

Performers	Vinnytsia	Volyn	Dnipropetrovsk	Donetsk	Zhytomyr	Zakarpattia	Zaporizhzhia	Ivano-Frankivsk	Kirovohrad	Lviv	Mykolayiv	Odesa	Poltava	Rivne	Ternopil	Kharkiv	Kherson	Cherkasy	Chernivtsi	Chernihiv
Directorates/departments of social protection of the population of the SRA/SMA	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓		✓		✓	✓		✓	✓	✓
Directorates/departments of social and youth / family / veterans policy (social development/family, youth and sports/mass events and patriotic education) of the SRA/SMA	✓			✓	✓		✓	✓				✓		✓	✓		✓	✓		✓
MD of the National Social Service														✓						
Departments of Humanitarian / Domestic Policy	✓						✓													
Departments of Education and Science of the RSA/MSA	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓
Health Departments of the SRA/SMA	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓
Services for children of the RSA/RMA	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	
Regional Social Service Centers	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Regional Employment Centers	✓		✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓		✓
MDNP in the regions	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓
Directorate of SSU in the regions					✓	✓														
Directorate of SMSU in the regions	✓				✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓		✓		✓
Department of Transport and Communications							✓								✓					
Department of Social Communications and Information Activities	✓				✓	✓		✓	✓		✓		✓	✓	✓	✓				
Regional centers for providing free secondary legal aid (by agreement)			✓		✓	✓	✓		✓	✓			✓		✓	✓		✓		✓
Regional centers for retraining and advanced training	✓				✓		✓		✓				✓	✓	✓			✓		✓
State Labor Department						✓			✓	✓	✓	✓			✓					✓
Regional Youth Centers															✓					
Border detachments (by agreement)				✓						✓										✓
Social and psychological assistance centers			✓						✓						✓				✓	
DSA/DMA			✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓		✓		✓
City, town, and village councils			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓
Public associations (by agreement)			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓
Higher education institutions (by agreement)																				✓

✓ — responsible program performer

In 12 regions, the responsible performers of regional programs are the Department of social protection of the population of the RSA/RMA, in eight — directorates/departments of social policy, social and youth policy, social and family policy, etc.

Based on the activities analysis results to counter human trafficking in the regions, which can generally be considered satisfactory, it should be noted that certain problems identified during previous studies still persist.

As before, there is a lack of a systematic approach to the tasks implementation in this area, as well as effective mechanisms for monitoring, control and coordinating activities. Although each entity participating in the regional program, within the limits of its powers and work plans, to some extent counter human trafficking, the responsible program performers do not properly

coordinate and monitor their activities. According to the results of this study, a significant part of the measures to counter human trafficking carried out by various program participants is not even taken into account when preparing reports, as well as the implementation of instructions and recommendations developed at meetings of coordination councils is not monitored.

However, if the level of interaction and information exchange between regional structures that are the program performers is insufficient, then there are obvious problems with vertical communication. Although in almost all regional programs, district state (military) administrations and territorial communities are defined as its performers, but usually only by agreement. In practice, most RSAs/RMAs have shifted responsibility for countering human trafficking to territorial communities, but they do not have any leverage over them. In turn, the attitude of community leaders to the human trafficking problem remains ambiguous. The situation continues to be negatively affected by the uncertainty of the LGB powers in this area. As a result, in some territorial communities, quite active activities are carried out to counter human trafficking, while in others, almost nothing happens.

It should also be noted that the activity and interaction high level of all subjects participating in programs is usually observed during joint actions, in particular on the occasion of celebrating outstanding dates in the field of countering human trafficking, and in other periods it is quite moderate.

As before, a significant part of the activities in the regions continue to be carried out by non-governmental organizations within grant projects with the support of IOM Ukraine and at the expense of foreign donors. Although 2/3 of regional programs provide for the introduction of a social order mechanism or projects in the field of countering human trafficking on a competitive basis, due to the lack of their funding, the government's support for the activities of non-governmental organizations is exclusively non-material.

Despite the increasing role of state bodies in countering human trafficking, non-governmental organizations continue to make a significant contribution not only to the practical implementation of state policy in this area, but also to its formation. So, in order to activate the work and consolidate efforts to develop and implement effective mechanisms for countering human trafficking, during 2023, the NGO Coalition members initiated and held 552 working meetings with the representatives of interaction subjects at the regional, district and local levels, which were attended by about 7.5 thousand people, as well as 19 strategic planning sessions with the participation of 293 people, during which action plans to counter human trafficking for 2023-2024 were worked out, necessary changes to regional programs taking into account modern realities or new programs were formed.

In particular, as a result of these events, the Strategy of Interdepartmental Cooperation on Countering Human Trafficking for 2023-2025 in the Vinnytsia region, the Program for Countering Human Trafficking up to 2025 in the Mykolaiv region, the Regional Social Program for Countering Human Trafficking up to 2025 in the Kharkiv region, Amendments to the Regional Comprehensive Program for Family Support, Prevention of Domestic Violence and Countering Human Trafficking up to 2025 in the Ternopil region, the Regional Action Plan for 2023-2025 for the State Targeted Program Implementation for Countering Human Trafficking up to 2025 in the Zakarpattia region, the Regional Action Plan for Countering Human Trafficking up to in the Lviv region, the Action Plan for Countering Human Trafficking in the

Comprehensive Program of Social Protection of the Ivano-Frankivsk region population for 2022-2026 and other regional regulatory documents were developed and approved.

Summarizing the above, we should note that the regional programs implementation mainly involves a wide range of both state and non-governmental actors, each of which makes a certain contribution to countering human trafficking, but, unfortunately, this contribution is often not even mentioned.

Most of the activities continue to be initiated and implemented by non-governmental organizations with the support of foreign donors.

The issue of organizing a social order in the field of countering human trafficking remains unresolved

The level of coordination, interaction and exchange of information at the regional level is insufficient and therefore requires strengthening.

PREVENTION OF HUMAN TRAFFICKING AND ITS PRIMARY PREVENTION

Prevention of human trafficking and its primary prevention is the most comprehensive component of anti-trafficking activities. This component is provided for in absolutely all regional program documents and, as a rule, includes a whole range of preventive measures.

The authority to implement them is assigned to a wide range of subjects: various departments/directorates of RSA/RMA (of social protection of the population and/or social and youth policy, education and science, health care), children's services, social service centers, employment centers, MDNP in the regions, district state (military) administrations, as well as by agreement the executive committees of territorial communities local councils and public associations.

The monitoring results show that during the studied period, in all regions, both state bodies and non-governmental organizations carried out powerful information and educational activities in various formats and for various target audiences, including those who have already suffered from human trafficking.

Information campaigns and promotions

This preventive activities component is provided for in all regional programs, and despite the difficult security situation in the country, especially in the eastern and southern regions, during 2023, information and educational campaigns were traditionally held everywhere timed to outstanding dates in the field of countering human trafficking — World Day Against Human Trafficking (July 30), European Anti-Trafficking Day (October 18) and International Day for the Abolition of Slavery (December 2). In addition, information events aimed at preventing

human trafficking were held during the All-Ukrainian campaign 16 Days Against Violence.

All information campaigns and actions were held in close partnership of non-governmental organizations with regional and district state administrations, local self-government bodies and their structural subdivisions, employment centers, social service centers, children's services, National Police departments, etc.

In order to reach as much of the local population as possible, various methods of information and educational work of both proactive and indirect nature were used: printed information materials on countering human trafficking (booklets, memos, leaflets, posters) were distributed; street actions were held and visual thematic products (information stands, banners, art installations, expositions, etc.) were placed in crowded places (bus stations, railway stations, places of mass recreation, shopping centers, central squares, etc.), individual and group consultations were provided, thematic film screenings were organized, as well as video clips, information and educational hours in educational institutions and youth centers, video lectures, discussions, exhibitions, speeches on radio and television, etc. were organized.

Special public attention was drawn to the Look Closely new exhibition, which was developed by IOM Ukraine together with the Ministry of Social Policy on the occasion of the EU Anti-Trafficking Day. This exhibition was located in all 20 regions covered by the study and was mostly located for a long time, sometimes for two weeks, which contributed to the receipt of important information and practical advice on safety rules to a large number of people.

In addition, during information campaigns, press conferences and briefings were organized in all regional centers, to which leading regional media were invited, and in Vinnytsia on the occasion of the EU Anti-Trafficking Day, the Vinnytsia Region — without Human Trafficking forum was held. Holding such events not only provided an opportunity to discuss pressing issues of countering human trafficking in the context of a full-scale military invasion, but also to update this problem in the mass media.

We should pay attention that, although coverage of this topic in the mass media is provided for by many regional programs, systematic work on informing the population about the significant increase in the risks of falling into situations of human trafficking and exploitation in modern conditions, ways to protect against this, local organizations and institutions, to which can be applied after learning about the fact of such a crime or for help, unfortunately, is not carried out. A certain media activity is usually observed on the occasion of significant dates in the field of countering human trafficking, in other periods the interest in this topic is quite moderate, and therefore this line of work needs to be strengthened.

In general, during 2023, as part of information and educational campaigns, more than 200 various events were held in regional centers alone, in which at least 150,000 people directly participated. Of course, such indicators are a decrease compared to previous years, which is primarily due to the difficulty of conducting mass events in wartime conditions. Thus, in most regions, especially in the eastern and southern parts of Ukraine, street actions were not as widespread as before, were less prolonged, and the total number of events was limited for security reasons. A number of the NGO Coalition members noted that many initiatives implementation is currently problematic, and it is often necessary to cancel, interrupt and postpone some events due to alarms, shelling, and the lack of reliable shelter nearby, etc.

From the analysis of reports provided by the responsible structural units of the RSA/RMA, it follows that almost all activities within the information campaigns were carried out in regional centers. However, as noted above, their statistics usually do not take into account numerous activities that occurred in a number of other localities in the region.

In particular, this can be illustrated by the example of the Donetsk region. Thus, the Department of Family, Youth and Mass Events of the National and Patriotic Education of the RSA provided the following data on conducting information and explanatory events for the general population in 2023: holding regional event with viewing and discussing They took advantage of you video stories and Find your safe route interactive information and educational quest on 30.07.2023, which was attended by 35 people; holding during October-December at the Railway Stations of Donetsk region Look Closely information campaign, which covered 2000 people and conducting briefing on countering human trafficking with coverage of 5,000 people on 10.08.2023. At the same time, the website of the Donetsk Regional Administration reports on a number of events on the occasion of the EU Anti-Trafficking Day celebration — round tables, thematic exhibitions in libraries, information hours that took place in 17 territorial communities.

In addition, the vast majority of responsible departments of the RSA/RMA provided incomplete or very general information even about the activities that were carried out within the information campaigns in regional centers, without specifying concrete events and the number of their participants, or with rather arbitrary and incomprehensible indicators of population coverage. Also, the analysis of the information provided by them showed that often the complex of information and educational activities for the population mistakenly includes meetings of coordination councils, working meetings, round tables with the participation of state structures representatives, seminars and trainings on professional development of specialists who can contact the VoT, etc.

A similar, and sometimes even worse, situation with the collection and synthesis of information on ongoing events has developed at the district level. Some district state (military) administrations have no idea at all about preventive activities to counter human trafficking carried out on the territory of the district, referring to the fact that the responsibility for its implementation is assigned to territorial communities, but they do not have relevant information from them.

Based on the collected information, including from open sources, it can be concluded that certain informational and educational activities are carried out at the local level. In particular, it was found that in the Zhytomyr region such measures were held in towns of Berdychiv, Korosten, Zviahel, Malyn and 21 territorial communities, in the Ivano-Frankivsk region - in towns of Dolyna, Rohatyn, Kalush and the settlement of Rozhnyativ, in the Lviv region - in towns of Chervonohrad and Sambir, in the Odesa region - in towns of Podilsk, Chornomorsk, Rozdilna, Biliaivka, Bilhorod-Dnistrovskiy, Teplodar, Berezivka, etc.

At the same time, based on the monitoring results, we should note the following:

- information campaigns for all three outstanding dates on countering human trafficking were held only at the regional level, and other cities and territorial communities usually joined them on the occasion of the celebration of the EU Anti-Trafficking Day;

- mass preventive measures were carried out mainly in large settlements, while rural areas remain almost not covered;
- no information was found regarding the implementation of any informational and educational activities in a significant part of territorial communities;
- mostly in territorial communities, events were held in educational institutions, thematic exhibitions were held in libraries, and/or in general only informational materials were posted on the official web pages of the compulsory health insurance system.

Given the incompleteness of the data obtained, confusion and inconsistency of reporting, it is quite difficult to draw certain conclusions regarding the achievement of the defined performance indicators of the programs, in particular the level of the region population coverage by measures in the field of countering human trafficking, increasing the level of the population awareness regarding the risks of falling into the situation of human trafficking. Unfortunately, the effectiveness of information campaigns conducted by responsible program performers is not evaluated.

For its part, the Coalition judges the success of information campaigns by such indicators as an increase in the number of victims who have applied for help to the organizations that are its members and an increase in the number of calls to the toll-free National Counter-Trafficking and Migrant Advice Hotline 527, which operates on the basis of the TWLC Revival of Nation, NGO with the support of IOM Ukraine.

More than half of the NGO Coalition members reported such cases, but the largest number of requests as a result of information campaigns was observed in two regions. Thus, 83 persons who considered themselves victims of human trafficking contacted the Volyn Perspectives, NGO. However, after the identification procedure, 11 cases of human trafficking were confirmed, 72 people suffered violations of their labor rights. 37 people applied to the Charity Foundation Caritas Ivano-Frankivsk of the UGCC, Charity Organization, 13 of them were identified as victims of human trafficking.

After conducting information campaigns, a noticeable increase in the number of calls to the 527 hotline was observed. Especially many appeals were received after the EU Anti-Trafficking Day.

Data on appeals to the National Toll-Free Counter-Trafficking
and Migrant Advice Hotline in 2023

	25000											
	20000											
	15000											
	10000											
	5000											
	0											
	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	Jun.	Jul.	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
Amount of appeals	3347	3773	4531	4196	4834	4377	4347	4617	4969	5123	5247	4853
Amount of consultations	14120	15539	19720	18891	23866	18511	18162	19333	20605	20571	22073	22016
Amount of appeals						Amount of consultations						

The diagram shows that one of the growth periods also falls in May, which is connected to the start of the all-Ukrainian awareness raising campaign for the prevention of human trafficking during the war, during which informational materials in the form of videos, posters and infographics were distributed in the national media, social media, as well as through external advertising.

Some NGO Coalition members stressed that such national campaigns have the greatest effect than local actions at the regional level. In particular, according to the observations of representatives of the Aegida—Zaporizhzhia, NGO, during their street actions, residents of the Regional Center were more interested in topical issues of receiving humanitarian aid, social payments, and the security situation in the region, while issues related to the problem of human trafficking caused a passive, and sometimes even negative reaction. According to some NGO Coalition members, the mass distribution of booklets during actions is ineffective, because people often take them reluctantly, then throw them away, it is more appropriate to distribute such materials mainly in places where there is a mass presence of persons who are at risk of human trafficking, or in places which they visit most often.

Another problematic aspect that should be paid attention to is the lack of financial support for information campaigns from regional and local budgets. Although the scope of their resource support is defined in all regional programs, in fact funds for conducting information campaigns were allocated only in the Volyn, Zakarpattia, Cherkasy and Chernivtsi regions. As a result, their technical support (visual aids, printing and souvenir products, etc.) was carried out by non-governmental and international organizations at the expense of foreign donors.

Awareness-raising activities for at-risk groups

Undoubtedly, the effectiveness of preventive activities largely depends on ensuring its targeting and focusing specifically on those population categories that have an increased risk of falling into situations of human trafficking and exploitation.

However, it should be noted that the corresponding component of preventive activities is included only in five regional programs in Donetsk, Zakarpattia, Ternopil, Kharkiv and Chernihiv regions.

Thus, in the Donetsk region, 70 targeted information events are planned for labor migrants, IDPs, the unemployed and families who find themselves in difficult life circumstances every year, while the coverage level of these events is not determined.

In the Zakarpattia region, it is planned to carry out explanatory activities with the unemployed, however, the quantitative performance indicators of this activities have not been determined either. In addition, the program provides for three information campaigns among vulnerable groups of the population: migrants, workers, unemployed, IDPs, demobilized participants in the Anti-Terrorist Operation, children and young people to explain the possible risks of getting into a situation of human trafficking and the danger of illegal migration.

In the Ternopil region, it is planned to conduct at least four information and educational events for the risk group per year, while the specific population categories to which they should be directed are not defined. A total of 365 people are expected to be covered by these activities, including 70 in 2023. Given that at the time of the program adoption in the Ternopil region, 34,956 people who found themselves in difficult life circumstances and 52,800 unemployed were recorded, even without taking into account other population categories vulnerable to human trafficking, such planned figures are extremely low.

In the Kharkiv region, 105 thematic information seminars: Risks of illegal labor migration and three practical seminars for IDPs, pupils and students of educational institutions are planned to be held in 2023 without specifying the number of participants in these events.

In the Chernihiv region, it is planned to conduct information and explanatory activities on countering human trafficking among the population groups that have an increased risk of getting into a situation of human trafficking, but which groups are not defined. Since among this type of measures performers are indicated SSC, CSS, as well as, the Regional Employment Center by agreement, MDNP in Chernihiv region, Directorate of SMS in Chernihiv region, the Chernihiv Border Squad, and public organizations, it can be assumed that activities are carried out among children who are registered in SSC, families who find themselves in difficult life circumstances, IDPs, labor migrants, refugees and asylum seekers, etc. At the same time, the appendix Indicators of the program's performance indicates only that 260 seminars for the unemployed should be held in 2023, in which 2,600 people will take part.

In addition, all six targeted social programs to counter human trafficking, approved in August-November 2023 in Dnipropetrovsk, Zaporizhzhia, Kirovohrad, Rivne, Kharkiv, and Cherkasy regions, contain the item: Implementation of measures to prevent people from falling into situations related to human trafficking. However, the rather vague wording does not allow us to confidently classify these measures as those that are directly aimed at working among people who are at risk. Given the identified performance indicators, it seems that both the developers and responsible performers of programs do not understand their format and content. In particular, in 2023, in the Dnipropetrovsk region it is planned to hold 147 events covering 7,700 people, in Kirovohrad — 1,200 people (the number of events is not defined), in Rivne — 30 people (the number of events is not defined), in Kharkiv — 20,000 (the number of events is not

defined), in Cherkasy — no indicators are defined at all. There is also an interesting approach to determining the performers of such measures: in the Zaporizhzhia region, it is the Department of Social Protection of the Population of the RSA and the Regional Employment Center; in two programs (Dnipropetrovsk and Rivne regions) — regional employment centers, district state administrations, as well as, executive bodies of village, settlement, city councils and public organizations by agreement; in the Kirovohrad region, the Department of Inspection Activities of the South-Eastern Interregional Department of the State Labor Service was added to this list; in two programs (Kharkiv and Cherkasy regions) a wide range of subjects in the field of countering human trafficking is defined.

Thus, even at the stage of forming programs, their developers make a number of mistakes, such as: uncertainty of risk groups, formats of work with target audiences, the number of events that should be held, the number of persons covered by them and/or the unreasonableness of these indicators, as well as the lack of a clear distribution of responsibility for the implementation of certain activities. As a result, this leads to a lack of understanding of the point of application of efforts even on the part of the most responsible program performers, and as a result — to problems with collecting and summarizing information about the work carried out among representatives of the risk group, which, unfortunately, is confirmed by the results of this monitoring.

Thus, seven responsible units of the RSA/RMA (Vinnytsia, Volyn, Donetsk, Ivano-Frankivsk, Lviv, Odesa, Chernivtsi regions) did not provide any data on the Coalition's requests for awareness-raising activities for at-risk groups.

Responsible units were provided with information on the results of information and explanatory activities aimed at preventing and countering human trafficking among the unemployed, which was carried out during 2023 by regional employment centers and their branches. At the professional information seminars Risks of illegal labor migration, as well as during the general training of unemployed persons who are registered with them, special attention was paid to the problem aggravation of human trafficking in modern conditions, warnings against illegal labor migration and employment, familiarization with ways to avoid getting into situations of human trafficking and exploitation, legal frameworks and opportunities for legal employment abroad, protection of labor rights of migrants, their rights to social security and other useful information. In particular, 634 events were held in Zaporizhzhia region with the participation of 5,066 people, in Dnipropetrovsk — 248 professional information seminars on Risks of Illegal Labor Migration, including 38 online information sessions jointly with the Promin Dnipro, NGO, in which 2400 people took part, in Chernihiv — 260 events with the participation of 1617 people, in Kherson — 32 online information seminars for unemployed people who are in the de-occupied territory of the region, in Cherkasy region — 170 events with the participation of 1552 people, including 136 professional information seminars on Risks of Illegal Labor Migration with the participation of 1,230 people, three trainings, one webinar and 30 group consultations with the involvement of social partners were provided for 297 people. Also, 84 measures aimed at prevention of human trafficking were carried out by centers for social services and social service centers of the Cherkasy region.

The Department of Social Policy of the Rivne RSA reported that specialists of the Department of Inspection Activities in the Rivne region of the Western Interregional Directorate of the State

Labor Service constantly carry out information and explanatory activities on the prevention of human trafficking, which is primarily aimed at internally displaced persons. Appropriate measures are carried out in places where these persons gather — at railway and bus stations, in humanitarian hubs, dormitories and other shelters. In total, in 2023, the inspectors conducted 213 awareness-raising activities. Preventive activities on the prevention of human trafficking among family members who found themselves in difficult life circumstances, including as a result of forced internal displacement, was carried out by the specialized formation Mobile Consultation Point of Social Work of the Rivne Regional CSS. Within its activities during 2023, 36 field visits were made to 38 territorial communities of the region, 176 information and educational events (video lectures, conversations, lectures, training sessions, game libraries) were held, which covered 3,833 people, as well as five thematic group events on countering human trafficking with the participation of 108 people. During the visit of 90 families, information and explanatory activities were carried out on possible risks of getting into a situation of human trafficking and opportunities for victims to receive comprehensive assistance in state institutions, and social services were provided within their competence.

Other responsible divisions of the RSA/RMA provided selective information on the implementation of individual events, often including street actions in the framework of awareness-raising campaigns on the occasion of outstanding dates in the field of countering human trafficking and other activities aimed at the general public. Thus, DSPP of the Zhytomyr RMA reported only one seminar Say «NO!» any manifestations of violence and one round table, which took place on the basis of the Berdychiv Town Employment Center with the participation of 42 people; an information hour and individual work on raising awareness of the human trafficking and security measures phenomenon on the basis of the Berdychiv District Sector No. 1 of the branch of Probation Center, SI, as well as an information hour for seven IDPs; DSPP of the Kirovohrad RMA — conducting seminars and lectures, which covered 270 IDPs and 255 unemployed; DSPP of the Mykolaiv region — conducting group discussions on countering human trafficking, in which 2,100 people took part, including IDPs, single women and persons who have experienced violence; DSPP of the Poltava RMA reported events held as part of regional information campaigns.

Based on the data provided, it can be concluded that mainly information and educational activities in this direction is focused on unemployed persons, IDPs are covered to a much lesser extent, and other categories of the population that are at risk of human trafficking are almost not covered by it.

However, data obtained from other entities that implement measures in the field of countering human trafficking indicate that the programs responsible performers do not take into account a significant layer of work. Thus, in particular, in response to the Coalition's request, DSPP of the Zakarpattia RMA reported only the creation of information corners for IDPs, unemployed, and rural population of the region, while the REC and its district branches held 126 seminars in which 5,872 unemployed people took part, the SSC — 10 preventive measures (thematic meetings, discussions, educational hours, etc.), which covered 350 children who were victims of violence, children from disadvantaged families, orphans and children deprived of parental care, including street children and children from orphanage and CSPRC; MD SMS in Zakarpattia region — on informing about the risks of refugees, IDPs, and labor migrants falling into the

situation of trafficking during the provision of administrative services (574 persons); Center of Probation, SI - eight events, in which 126 people from among the vulnerable categories who are registered in probation took part.

For their part, the NGO Coalition members also carried out active information activities aimed at informing persons from the risk group of human trafficking in places of mass stay of internally displaced persons (in humanitarian hubs, dormitories, shelters and other places of refuge), as well as held information sessions and mini-trainings for the unemployed based on employment centers and in online format. A total of 1,519 informational events were held in 2023, reaching 32,095 people vulnerable to human trafficking.

At the same time, taking into account the current situation in the country, we must emphasize the need to strengthen targeted information and outreach activities among the risk group of human trafficking, taking into account all the population categories that are part of it, and to intensify the efforts of all subjects who can contact such persons.

Awareness-raising activities for children, adolescents and young students

An important component of preventive activities is informing children, adolescents and students about the possible risks of getting into situations of human trafficking, forming their caring attitude to this problem and skills of risk prevention and constructive behavior in a dangerous situation, because this target audience, due to its specifics (age, experience, tendency to ill-considered decisions), is objectively considered as one of the most vulnerable. The education system is a powerful resource for implementing these tasks.

Although, not surprisingly, almost half of the regional programs do not have such a component of human trafficking prevention, the results of the monitoring indicate that within the educational activities of educational institutions, large-scale activities are carried out to raise the awareness of the recipients of educational services on these issues.

Despite the fact that during the war, when risks of falling into the situation of human trafficking have increased significantly, and therefore the conduct of such activities has acquired special importance, the Ministry of Education and Science of Ukraine called for its strengthening by all employees of the education system and provided practical recommendations for its implementation. In particular, letters On the prevention of human trafficking in the context of military aggression (No. 1/3663-22 on 03/25/2022) and On recommendations on eliminating the risks of human trafficking in connection with the war in Ukraine and the humanitarian crisis (No. 1/6355-22 on 14.06.2022), as well as an online meeting of the deputy directors for educational work On measures to raise awareness of educational service recipients and their parents on the prevention of human trafficking.

To investigate the state of preventive activities in educational institutions, the Coalition sent requests to all regional departments (directorates) of education and science with a request to provide information on the number of anti-trafficking measures taken, as well as the number of educational institutions and pupils (students) covered by them.

Unfortunately, answers to the questions were received from only half of the respondents (see

Table 9). Based on the analysis obtained data, a rather strange picture emerges: in some regions (Donetsk, Zaporizhzhia, Mykolaiv, Kharkiv) the coverage level of anti-trafficking measures of educational institutions and school youth is 100%, and in some regions more «prosperous» from the point of view of the security situation (Volyn and Zakarpattia) indicators are too low. At the same time, it is worth noting that there are problems with determining the number of applicants for education, because a certain part of them went abroad through a full-scale military invasion, and some study remotely, for the same reason it is difficult to conduct group preventive measures.

Table 9. Awareness-raising activities on countering human trafficking for children, teenagers and young students in 2023

Region	Total number of institutions			Number of institutions where events were held			Total number of pupils / students in institutions			Number of pupils / students covered by the events in institutions			coverage % of institutions			coverage % of pupils / students		
	SEI	VET	PPE HE	SEI	VET	PPE HE	SEI	VET	PPE HE	SEI	VET	PPE HE	SEI	VET	PPE HE	SEI	VET	PPE HE
Vinnitsia	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*						
Volyn	522	27	12	67	12	10	124250	79000	38000	80000	48000	17000	13	44	83	65	61	45
Dnipropetrovsk	933	76	*	890	52	*	340000	22000	*	307000	15000	*	95	68		90	68	
Donetsk	275	23	45	275	23	45	89200	4808	25515	89200	4808	25515	100	100	100	100	100	100
Zhytomyr	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*						
Zakarpattia	574	16	*	438	16	*	164045	5614	*	24600	641	*	76	100		15	11	
Zaporizhzhia	385	28	40	385	28	30	134775	11840	64119	134775	11840	37229	100	100	75	100	100	58
Ivano-Frankivsk	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*						
Kirovohrad	434	18	35	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*						
Lviv	1069	47	*	889	39	*	282576	20000	*	217916	2340	*	83	83		77	12	
Mykolayiv	430	23	*	403	23	*	106752	9111	*	62548	8656	*	94	100		59	95	
Odesa	848	20	15	131	7	6	264000	13900	6000	122000	5100	3100	46	35	40	16	37	52
Poltava	535	28	6	533	28	6	135352	8859	25993	127012	7351	14075	99	100	100	94	83	54
Rivne	541	19	21	500	19	21	166420	9595	11713	125357	8394	9870	92	100	100	75	87	84
Ternopil	585	21	*	580	21	*	106500	14300	*	99000	13000	*	99	100		93	91	
Kharkiv	698	24	73	698	24	73	223525	11997	143400	134115	7798	100380	100	100	100	60	65	70
Kherson	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*						
Cherkasy	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*						
Chernivtsi	341	15	28	341	15	28	108636	5963	31923	72786	4174	22345	100	100	100	67	70	70
Chernihiv	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*						

* Data not provided

The rest of the departments (directorates) of education and science replied that they are not the administrators of the requested data and referred to Article 1 of the Law of Ukraine On Access to Public Information, according to which «public information shall mean information that is reflected and documented by any means and information medium and which was received or created in the process of performance by subjects of public authority of their duties envisaged in the legislation in force or which is in possession of the subjects of public authority, other administrators of public information determined by this Law».

Continuing the argument, the Department of Education and Science of the Cherkasy RSA also

noted that «the list of forms of State statistical observations and financial reporting on education is stable and approved by the Order of the State Statistics Committee for the relevant periods and orders of the Ministry of Education and Science of Ukraine. As of the date of request receipt, the approved statistical reporting forms do not provide for the collection and synthesis of information on measures to counter human trafficking. Thus, it is seen that the specified request is not a request for information within the meaning of the Law. At the same time, clause 1.1 of the Order of the Ministry of Education and Science of Ukraine No. 648 on 05/27/2014 enshrines the norm to stop the practice of creating and demanding additional reporting not provided for by the legislation of Ukraine. In view of the above, the Office cannot require educational institutions to provide the information you requested for the purpose of collecting and summarizing it for the preparation of an answer." In conclusion, it was recommended to address relevant questions to the Main Performer of the Anti-Trafficking Program, which is the Department of Family, Youth and Sports of the Cherkasy RSA. However, the main performer of the program also did not provide the requested information.

Some departments (directorates) of education and science provided information available to them on conducting numerous activities in educational institutions of the region, such as: educational, class hours - How not to become a victim of human trafficking, Human being is not a commodity, Legal employment is the way to safety, Prevention of human trafficking and exploitation of children, You be careful! Stranger, Prevent human trafficking— inform your family and friends; round tables, conferences - Defining the problems of human trafficking, Human trafficking in Ukraine, Trafficking in women, Violation of children's rights: exploitation and trafficking; trainings - How to prevent slavery, Human trafficking — it can happen to anyone, Practical tips to avoid getting into the situation of child trafficking, Route of my knowledge about human trafficking; viewing presentations and videos - Manifestations of slavery in the modern world, Two little girls, What is human trafficking, Destination station is life, Signs of human trafficking, Opening borders: positive and negative aspects, educational series - Personal safety of teenagers on the Diia. Education platform. video lectures - Human trafficking, domestic violence is a crime against human being, drawing contests on the topic: Human being is not a commodity, No human trafficking, We are against human trafficking, My life is my freedom and others.

However, despite the variety of these formats of work, it seems that the use of game content that is more interesting for the children's audience (interactive games, online quests, etc.) is insufficient.

It is also reported that information corners have been created and regularly updated in educational institutions, exhibitions and reviews of materials on countering human trafficking are organized.

The web pages of educational institutions contain materials on countering human trafficking, contacts of helplines and hotlines, memos, social videos, and so on.

Lectures on the topics: Specific signs that will help recognize that a child is a victim of human trafficking, Trafficking in wartime: 5 safety markers, lecture How to discuss the dangers of being sold into slavery with your child etc. were held for the parents of students.

Advanced training of practical psychologists, teachers and social pedagogues is provided as part

of course training on the topic Countering human trafficking.

Employees of children's services, juvenile police officers, community officers, volunteers, representatives of public and charitable organizations, etc. also participate in events in educational institutions.

At the same time, recognizing the scope of the preventive work carried out in the education system, the Coalition believes that this activity needs to be systematized and streamlined, as it is currently quite difficult to assess its effectiveness based on the available information.

Production and distribution of thematic products

An important component of information and educational activities in the field of countering human trafficking is the distribution of thematic materials among the population, which provide explanations on the essence of human trafficking, forms, types and signs of exploitation, advice on ways to protect yourself from getting into such situations, information on the possibility of receiving assistance from those who have already harmed by this crime, and contact details of institutions and organizations that can be contacted for help and advice.

In the conditions of local budgets limited opportunities, the production of informational products on counter-trafficking issues was planned only in nine regional programs (Vinnytsia, Volyn, Donetsk, Ivano-Frankivsk, Kirovohrad, Poltava, Ternopil, Kharkiv, Chernihiv regions). Basically, with the exception of two programs, these costs were expected to be covered by the regional budget. In the Donetsk region, it was planned to attract funds only from the territorial communities budgets (UAH 76,930 in 2023) and other sources not prohibited by law (UAH 20,000 in 2023), in the Ivano-Frankivsk region — funds from the regional and district budgets, as well as territorial communities budgets, the total amount of which in 2023 was supposed to be UAH 200,000 and directed to the information production products on family issues, countering human trafficking, domestic violence, gender equality and other issues of social protection of the population.

However, according to the data received from the responsible structural units of RSA/MSA (see Table 10), information products were produced only in four regions (Zakarpattia, Kirovohrad, Poltava, and Cherkasy). In particular, in Zakarpattia region, as part of information campaigns, 3,425 units of production of six items were produced for the amount of UAH 15,198, in Kirovohrad region - 3,000 copies of posters and booklets for the amount of UAH 19,000, in Poltava region - 50 booklets #ПротиДій Торгівлі Людьми (#Counter Human Trafficking) for the amount of UAH 690, in the Cherkasy region - five boards worth UAH 20,000, which were placed in Cherkasy, Smila and Korsun-Shevchenkivskyi.

Other responsible structural units of RSA/RMA referred to the insufficiency or lack of funds in the budgets and/or the introduction of martial law in Ukraine and the Resolution of CMU On approval of the Procedure for the exercise of powers by the State Treasury Service in a special regime under martial law No. 590 on 09.06.2021.

Table 10. Data on the production and distribution of information products in 2023

Region	PRODUCTION				DISTRIBUTION		
	Planned indicators		Actual indicators		Sources of funding	Planned Number, units	Actual number, units
	Number, units	Expenses, UAH	Number, units	Expenses, UAH			
Vinnitsia	65000*	86700	0	0	Regional budget	65000*	*****
Volyn	15000**	45000	0	0	Regional budget	15000**	*****
Dnipropetrovsk	***	***	***	***		***	*****
Donetsk	3000	96930	0	0	TC budgets, other sources	3000	*****
Zhytomyr	***	***	***	***		***	660
Zakarpattia	***	***	3425	15198	Regional budget	***	3425
Zaporizhzhia	***	***	***	***		***	*****
Ivano-Frankivsk	****	200000*	0	0	Regional, District and TC budgets	****	*****
Kirovohrad	****	19000	****	19000	Regional budget	****	3000
Lviv	***	***	***	***		***	*****
Mykolayiv	***	***	***	***		***	8700
Odesa	***	***	***	***		***	*****
Poltava	****	156000*	50	690	Regional budget	****	50
Rivne	***	***	***	***		***	*****
Ternopil	350*	94000*	0	0	Regional budget	****	*****
Kharkiv	10000	35000	0	0	Regional budget	10000	3863
Kherson	***	***	***	***		***	*****
Cherkasy	***	***	***	***		****	895
Chernivtsi	***	***	5	20000	Regional budget	****	2100
Chernihiv	11000	13000	0	0	Regional budget	11000	

* Aggregate indicator of the information product produced in several areas of the program

** Aggregate indicator for the entire period of the program

*** The program does not provide for

**** The indicator is not defined

***** Data not provided

Despite the large number of various printed information products on countering human trafficking, which were developed by the Ministry of Social Policy of Ukraine, National Social Service Service of Ukraine, IOM Ukraine, La Strada Ukraine, Public Human Rights Organization and other state and international institutions, as well as within the Support of Government Reforms in Ukraine (SURGe) project and distributed in the regions as part of information campaigns aimed at countering human trafficking, the responsible units either did not provide any information about the number of distributed products or provided data on insignificant volumes of their distribution. So, the Department of Social Protection of the Poltava RSA reported only 50 copies of booklets #ПротиДій Торгівлі Людьми (#Counter Human Trafficking), published at the expense of the regional budget. Only the Department of Social Protection of the Mykolaiv RSA indicated a more significant amount of information products distributed in the region (8,600 booklets and 100 posters), noting that these materials were provided by the Ministry of Social Policy of Ukraine and the Mykolaiv Fund Liubystok, NGO. However, even this figure is inaccurate, because only this NGO transferred and

independently distributed 11,142 units of printed products published by IOM Ukraine in the region.

In total, the NGO Coalition members from 20 regions transferred to executive authorities and local self-government bodies, as well as distributed independently, including within their events (actions, information campaigns, information sessions, trainings, etc.) more than 148 thousand units of various thematic materials. In particular, posters were placed in various settlements in the premises of city and village councils, youth centers, social services, centers of administrative service, humanitarian headquarters, offices of other non-governmental organizations, etc. In the Donetsk region, printed materials were also distributed during an organized evacuation of the population.

Given the data obtained from district state (military) administrations, the number of thematic products distributed at the district level is insignificant and rarely exceeds 150-200 copies, which also does not correspond to reality for the above reasons.

It should also be noted that the vast majority of responsible units of regional and district state (military) administrations did not indicate any names, or sources of distributed products origin, as well as places where these products were distributed.

Thus, summing up the above, we must conclude the following: despite the fact that during 2023 information and educational products on countering human trafficking were almost never produced anywhere, a significant number of thematic materials of various types were distributed in all regions, however, the proper collection and generalization of these data by the responsible units of regional and district state (military) administrations is not carried out.

Coverage of the human trafficking problem on the official web resources of state structures

One of the ways to inform the population about countering human trafficking is to post relevant information on official websites and pages in social media of executive authorities and local governments. Analysis of regional program documents showed that this item is included in seven of them (Vinnytsia, Dnipropetrovsk, Kirovohrad, Rivne, Ternopil, Kharkiv, Cherkasy regions). Indicators for the number of materials to be published during the year are defined in five. In two regions (Zhytomyr, Mykolaiv), information and educational activities are provided through the mass media, while in Zhytomyr region - only the posting of messages regarding the facts of pre-trial investigations in criminal proceedings related to human trafficking. In Chernihiv region, the regional program includes an item on posting information on ensuring the safety of getting into a situation of human trafficking, only on the websites of educational authorities and educational institutions.

Other regional programs do not provide for such measures, although they are still mandatory for the implementation of regional state (military) administrations in accordance with paragraph 4.3 of the State program, according to which 200 informational articles must be posted on the Internet every year.

The results of the official web resources content analysis (websites and Facebook pages) of regional state (military) administrations are presented in Table 11.

Table 11. Data on posting of publications
on official web resources of regional state structures in 2023

Region	Planned indicators		Total number of materials, posted on official web resources		
	Quantity of publications	Coverage %	RSA/RMA	Responsible units	NP MD
Vinnitsia	*	*	69	40	11
Volyn	**	**	17	7	5
Dnipropetrovsk	120	25	17	15	4
Donetsk	**	**	22	5	1
Zhytomyr	**	**	16	5	10
Zakarpattia	**	**	8	27	6
Zaporizhzhia	**	**	7	24	3
Ivano-Frankivsk	**	**	26	18	13
Kirovohrad	120	25	9	11	6
Lviv	**	**	22	8	2
Mykolayiv	**	**	34	32	6
Odesa	**	**	10	13	9
Poltava	**	**	11	32	19
Rivne	2	25	24	13	4
Ternopil	50	50	17	37	10
Kharkiv	50	*	37	10	7
Kherson	**	**	3	2	8
Cherkasy	*	*	9	11	11
Chernivtsi	**	**	26	30	4
Chernihiv	**	**	10	36	4

* The indicator is not defined

** The program does not provide for

Web resources content analysis of regional state (military) administrations and responsible structural units shows that during the studied period, issues of counteraction were covered on them much more often than in previous years, but many are still not active enough. Taking into account the number of materials posted in 2023, the Kherson RSA showed the least activity in informing the population about the growing risks of getting into situations of human trafficking and exploitation and ways to protect themselves from this.

Only in 11 regions, on the official websites of regional state (military) administrations or responsible structural units, permanent sections, divisions or headings on Countering human trafficking have been created, which differ in the degree of their content. It is also worth noting that it is quite difficult for website visitors to find them, because they are usually placed according to a complex scheme.

Thus, on the Vinnytsia RSA website there is Countering human trafficking heading, which can be found by following the links Structural units of RMA/Department of Social and Youth Policy/For your information, but it contains only one note Human Trafficking for the Purpose of Sexual Exploitation developed by the Ombudsman of Ukraine. At the same time, you can find many other useful materials on the website (memos, booklets, tips, hotline contact,

organizations and institutions that provide assistance to VoT, social videos, etc.), which are contained directly in individual publications on Countering human trafficking, among other news reports. So, in 2023 alone, more than 40 thematic publications of both purely event and informational nature were posted on the RMA website.

In the Dnipropetrovsk region, on the website, in the Citizens/social support of citizens/social protection section, the Important in the field of Countering human trafficking heading has been created, which contains only two materials: coordinates of the local state administrations officials responsible for the procedure of VoT status establishing and the memo Human trafficking for the purpose of sexual exploitation, developed by the Ombudsman of Ukraine. The website also has a section Government Hotlines, the list of which includes the contact details of the Government hotline on countering human trafficking, preventing and countering domestic violence, gender-based violence and violence against children 15-47 and the National Social Service of Ukraine, however, it is almost impossible to find any other information on countering human trafficking.

In the Zaporizhzhia region, on the website of DSPP RMA, you can find a huge amount of information on relevant issues, both directly in the subsection Countering human trafficking of the section Family, gender policy, domestic violence prevention and countering human trafficking and simply on the website, using its search engine system on human trafficking request. In particular, the memo Human Trafficking: how to protect yourself? Where should I apply? How do I get help?, the regulatory framework in the field of countering human trafficking, the procedures for the VoT status establishing and interaction of subjects, the types of assistance provided to VoT, the Regional Social Targeted Program for Countering Human Trafficking up to 2025 and the report on its implementation for 2023, information about the responsible structural units of local state administrations responsible for conducting the procedure for the VoT status establishing, active links to 15 thematic social videos posted on YouTube, and electronic training courses on Countering human trafficking, etc.

In the Kirovohrad region, on the DSPP RSA official website, in the Actual section, there is Countering human trafficking heading. During 2023, it contains 10 publications, eight of them are event-related and 2 — informational, indicating the contacts of local institutions that provide assistance to victims of human trafficking and hotline numbers.

In the Mykolaiv region on the DSPP RMA website in the Work with families section there is Countering Human Trafficking subsection, which in turn consists of the following components: System for countering human trafficking and providing assistance to victims, Regulatory framework and Photo/video materials on countering human trafficking. This subsection contains the memos Human trafficking for the purpose of sexual exploitation, Looking for a job? Test your strength!, Instructions for human trafficking victims, 11 thematic social videos, regulations in the field of countering human trafficking.

On the Poltava DSPP RSA website there is a separate Countering human trafficking section, which contains memos Human trafficking: what to do if you become a witness, and where to turn for help?, How do taxi drivers recognize human trafficking victims, How to recognize signs of sexual and labor exploitation, How to recognize the danger to children on the Internet and what should parents do, Where to contact if you or your friends have suffered from human trafficking?, 5 security markers, Hotline numbers for people affected by human trafficking, How

to avoid getting into a situation of human trafficking during evacuation and border crossing? etc., as well as methodological materials (Analysis of judicial practice on the application of Ukrainian legislation on countering human trafficking, Manual for precinct police inspectors, Results of the GFK Ukraine study commissioned by IOM Ukraine. Awareness of the human trafficking risks among vulnerable children and youth in Ukraine), information about the persons responsible for the procedure of the VoT status establishing, the legal framework in the field of countering human trafficking and useful links.

In Ternopil region, on the DSPP RSA website in the Activities section, permanent Countering Human Trafficking heading was formed, which consists of seven components: Legislation (posted 10 main normative legal acts in the field of countering human trafficking with active reference to primary sources); Statistical information (posted presentation of the National study on migration, human trafficking and other forms of exploitation of migrants, conducted by IOM Ukraine), Video materials (posted 6 social videos of the relevant topic); News (3 event publications for 2023); Algorithm of the affected person actions and Algorithm of the interaction subjects actions (infographic of the Ministry of Social Policy, active links to the updated online course on Countering human trafficking); Stay Safe Chatbot (information and active link to the chatbot), as well as posted a large array of various memos and explanations on countering human trafficking and specified contact details of hotlines 15-47, 527, The National Police, the Contact Center of the Free Legal Aid System, as well as organizations and services in the Ternopil region for the appeal of persons affected by human trafficking, etc.

In the Kharkiv region, on the Kharkiv RMA website, in the Administration Structure/Structural units/ Department of Social Protection of the Population section, the Countering Human Trafficking heading is highlighted, which contains seven video materials (Let's stop human trafficking together, Let's stop children's begging, Human trafficking. Labor exploitation. Recognize, Human trafficking. Sexual exploitation. Recognize, Exploitation of children nearby, Human being is not a commodity), five memos (For those who want to live and work abroad, If you are a victim of human trafficking, How to determine that you are a victim of human trafficking, How to identify a person affected by human trafficking, Memo for persons affected by human trafficking/officials responsible for establishing the status of such a person), Hotline numbers guideline on Countering human trafficking, list of the main legal acts on Countering human trafficking with active links to the source, information on the structural divisions of regional and district state administrations and officials responsible for the procedure for establishing the status of a person who has suffered from human trafficking, Recommendations for eliminating the risks of human trafficking due to the war in Ukraine and the humanitarian crisis as well as other useful materials. In addition, the News section published 10 eventful and informative articles of an event and informational nature during 2023.

In the Kherson region, the regional state administration website has a permanent Countering human trafficking heading, but it contains only a few memos — Memo for persons affected by human trafficking/officials responsible for establishing the status of such a person NSS, Where to contact if you or your friends have suffered from human trafficking?, Offer income? Illusions are different. Look Closely.

In the Cherkasy region, the RSA website has the Sports, youth, health Improvement, Countering human trafficking and domestic violence heading in the Activities/social and

humanitarian sphere section, but it is not meaningful and includes only information about assistance services for victims of domestic violence; policy implementation in the field of preventing and countering domestic violence and gender-based violence in the Cherkasy region for 2022; officials responsible for prompt response and processing of appeals and reports about/or from persons affected by human trafficking, domestic violence, gender-based violence, violence against children, or the threat of committing such violence.

In Chernivtsi region, on the RMA website in the Administration structure/structural units/department of social protection of the population section, the Countering human trafficking category is highlighted, information in which is grouped into three subheadings — Regulatory legal acts in the field of countering human trafficking, Anti-trafficking hotlines and Useful links (links to the websites of the Anti-Trafficking Program (IOM) and the Ministry of Social Policy of Ukraine, up-to-date information on the procedure for entering foreign countries posted on the website of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine, etc.), as well as information about officials responsible for conducting the procedure for the VoT status establishing in Chernivtsi region.

In Chernihiv region, on the Department of Family, Youth and Sports RMA website of there is a separate Countering human trafficking section, which contains information about organizations in Chernihiv region that can be contacted for advice and assistance, as well as relevant structural units of district state administrations; procedure for the VoT status establishing and a memo for internally displaced persons Forced labor: how to recognize and avoid is provided. The same materials are posted on the Chernihiv RSA website under the heading Countering human trafficking in the Industry information / humanitarian sphere section.

In other regions, you can only find information materials on countering human trafficking by using the search engine on the site, which often publishes materials that do not relate to this topic. In addition, the content analysis of the regional state administration and responsible structural units websites shows that most of the published materials only cover various events in the field of countering human trafficking, such as meetings of coordination councils, information campaigns, actions, awareness-raising and training events, etc. The share of publications that actually contain useful information (contact details of hotlines, organizations and institutions that you can contact for assistance, advice on ways to protect yourself from getting into situations of human trafficking and exploitation, etc.) is insignificant and amounts to about 30%. Although on most official web resources of regional state (military) administrations and responsible structural units, you can find various memos, social videos, recommendations, but they are posted as part of the publications of the news block.

Approximately the same situation is observed with informing the population through social media. Official pages usually contain posts covering certain activities that have taken place in the region, often reposts of publications of local non-governmental organizations about their events. The share of publications that contain useful information and/or memos, recommendations, and social videos is also insufficient.

The internet activity of other government agencies that implement measures to counter human trafficking (departments of education and science, children's services, social service centers, employment centers, etc.) is significantly lower. These are usually posts and reposts on their

official Facebook pages dedicated to the World Day Against Trafficking in Persons, the EU Anti-Trafficking Day and the International Day for the Abolition of Slavery. However, not all government agencies use even this opportunity. In particular, during the year, most departments of education and science did not publish any materials on countering human trafficking either on their official websites or Facebook pages. Taking into account the growing vulnerability of children to situations of human trafficking in war conditions and the forced transition of many educational institutions to a remote format of work in connection with the security situation, prevention through web resources is of particular importance, and therefore this activity needs to be strengthened.

A large role in information and explanatory work on countering human trafficking belongs to the National Police bodies, which can act as a source of reliable and approved information about the methods and channels of recruitment and ways to get into dangerous situations, form citizens' skills of safe behavior and negative attitude to human trafficking, and contribute to receiving requests from them with information about such crimes. However, unfortunately, the web resources content analysis of the territorial units (official pages on the National Police of Ukraine web portal and on Facebook) indicates a decrease in their internet activity in this aspect. So, in 2023, MDNP in the Donetsk region posted only one publication, and in Dnepropetrovsk, Rivne, Chernivtsi, Chernihiv — two publications each on the web portal and Facebook page. Only MDNP in the Poltava region published 19 information materials during the year, while in other regions their number is insignificant. Most of the published materials on this topic concerned the conduct of various awareness-raising activities by police officers among the population and, to a much lesser extent, the results of work on exposing and investigating crimes related to human trafficking and bringing to justice those involved in their commission.

The analysis of the posting information materials frequency on the web resources of the interaction subjects indicates the lack of a systematic approach to informing the population about the risks of getting into situations of human trafficking, the rules of safe behavior and the possibility of receiving assistance by those who have already suffered from this crime. The largest number of publications occurs during the period of celebrating outstanding dates in the field of countering human trafficking, when many different events are held within the framework of information campaigns.

Among the information and educational activities shortcomings on the internet, it should also be noted that there are few publications that contain contact details of local organizations and institutions that can be contacted for help in case of human trafficking. Citizens are usually asked to contact the police at 102, the EU Emergency Services at 112 and the hotlines 1547 and 527.

Given that the number of website visitors and certain publications views is usually not recorded, it is not possible to draw confident conclusions about achieving the population coverage indicators defined in regional programs at the level of 25-50%. The number of subscribers to the official Facebook pages of regional state (military) administrations varies and ranges from 14 thousand in the Zhytomyr RSA to 82 thousand in the Lviv RSA, although most of these resources can be considered quite popular. The number of subscribers to Facebook pages of other structures-subjects of interaction (directorates/departments of social protection of the population, education and science, social and youth/family policy, social service centers,

employment centers, children's services, etc.) is much smaller and usually totals several thousand, but together it can give a good result in raising population awareness on countering human trafficking.

COUNTERING CRIMINAL OFFENSES RELATED TO HUMAN TRAFFICKING

New challenges that have arisen as a result of the full-scale military invasion of Ukraine require strengthening activities in the direction of countering criminal offenses related to human trafficking and exploitation, because the war significantly increases the risks of getting into dangerous situations both for those who went abroad and for those who remained in the country, especially in the temporarily occupied territories.

Taking into account modern realities, the State Targeted Social Program for Countering Human Trafficking up to 2025 provides for a whole range of measures aimed at preventing and suppressing criminal activity in this area. In particular, within the program, it is planned to strengthen the detection and investigation of crimes related to human trafficking, increasing by the end of the program the share of criminal proceedings in which persons are notified of suspicion to 90%, including in 2023 – up to 80%; develop and approve standard procedures for responding to and investigating cases of human trafficking; take measures to strengthen border controls to prevent human trafficking; establish interaction between the National Police and international and public organizations in the field of countering human trafficking; monitor evacuated children who are moved abroad as part of institutional institutions; improve identification systems for human trafficking victims, the protection system of the crime victims and witnesses; exercise control in order to prevent the use of child labor, in particular the involvement of children in the conduct of military (combat) operations, ensure conducting exercises for police officers, patrol officers, and district inspectors on new forms and methods of prevention, detection, suppression and investigation of criminal offenses; keep records of labor exploitation cases and use of forced labor identified by labor inspectors during measures implementation of state supervision (control) over compliance with labor legislation and so on.

Concerning regional programs, as a result of their review, it was established that this area of activity, which is extremely important in modern conditions, is included only in five targeted social programs in Zaporizhzhia, Kirovohrad, Rivne, Kharkiv and Cherkasy regions, but it includes only two types of measures: implementation of control in order to prevent the use of child labor, in particular, the involvement of children in armed conflicts and monthly informing by entities that carry out measures in the field of countering human trafficking, of the NPU bodies on the possible threats identification of falling into a situation of human trafficking, cases of the relevant offenses commission and about persons involved in them.

In the course of studying regional programs, it was also established that some of them, within the framework of other priority tasks (strengthening international cooperation, increasing the level of interaction between subjects of countering human trafficking, etc.), provide for the adoption of separate measures that can be attributed to this area of activity. Therefore, for the purposes of the analysis, we singled out several measures that, in our opinion, contribute to the

prevention and cessation of criminal activities related to human trafficking, and analyzed regional programs for their availability, as well as the status of their implementation.

Table 12. Measures to counter criminal offenses available in regional programs

Measures	Vinnitsia	Volyn	Dnipropetrovsk	Donetsk	Zhytomyr	Zakarpattia	Zaporizhzhia	Ivano-Frankivsk	Kirovohrad	Lyviv	Mykolayiv	Odesa	Poltava	Rivne	Ternopil	Kharkiv	Kherson	Cherkasy	Chernivtsi	Chernihiv
Taking measures to identify and solve crimes related to human trafficking				✓		✓	✓				✓			✓	✓					✓
Control over the compliance of the SEA with legislation in the field of model, tourist and entertainment business and mediation in employment abroad											✓									
Monitoring of evacuated children who have been moved abroad as part of institutional institutions			✓				✓		✓					✓	✓	✓		✓		
Monitoring to prevent the use of child labor, in particular the involvement of children in armed conflict							✓		✓					✓	✓	✓		✓		
Implementation of state control by labor inspectors in order to identify labor exploitation cases and the use of forced labor					✓						✓									
Implementation of measures aimed at informing employers about the exploitation inadmissibility and other human rights violations			✓				✓		✓						✓	✓		✓		

As can be seen from the table, the relevant activities are included only in a few programs. In addition, for the most part, they look only declared and are not supported by a specific action plan. This leads to the fact that, if such activities are carried out in the regions, the responsible programs performers do not coordinate, monitor and properly collect information about its results. Therefore, it is not surprising that during the monitoring, only fragmentary information was obtained from several regions that cannot be organized and generalized.

Unfortunately, the detection and investigation of crimes related to human trafficking also remains one of the problematic areas of activity in this area. Despite the numerous factors significant strengthening that lead to human trafficking increase and the crime intensification in wartime conditions, general indicators of the law enforcement agencies work demonstrate the opposite - in general, compared to 2019, the number of documented criminal offenses under Article 149 of the Criminal Code decreased by more than half, fewer victims were identified

from this crime, and fewer persons involved in its commission have been identified and brought to justice.

During the monitoring, countering human trafficking situation in certain regions of Ukraine was studied based on the data analysis on the main performance indicators of regional directorates/Departments of the Migration police of MDNPU over the past five years.

Table 13. Information about recorded criminal offenses and criminal proceedings referred to the court under Article 149 of the Criminal Code in 2019-2023

Region	Number of registered criminal offenses					Number of proceedings submitted to the court				
	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Vinnysia	2	3	17	1	3	0	3	16	0	1
Volyn	8	3	3	1	2	2	2	1	0	1
Dnipropetrovsk	27	22	33	18	9	14	13	32	22	20
Donetsk	5	6	6	1	0	2	2	3	0	1
Zhytomyr	7	8	1	1	23	6	8	0	0	20
Zakarpattia	3	4	2	1	4	1	1	0	0	1
Zaporizhzhia	5	3	2	1	2	1	1	0	1	0
Ivano-Frankivsk	3	1	1	1	3	1	2	1	1	3
Kirovohrad	5	7	1	1	1	3	5	0	0	0
Lviv	6	2	11	13	16	2	2	4	9	5
Mykolayiv	4	8	3	4	8	6	0	0	5	8
Odesa	30	19	40	19	17	22	10	3	9	33
Poltava	2	1	4	2	5	1	2	0	6	3
Rivne	4	2	1	0	0	3	2	1	0	0
Ternopil	5	5	5	3	5	4	5	2	2	1
Kharkiv	25	37	28	1	14	26	26	25	4	20
Kherson	7	7	5	0	0	1	4	0	0	0
Cherkasy	1	1	1	0	2	0	0	0	0	1
Chernivtsi	3	1	1	1	3	0	0	1	0	1
Chernihiv	5	4	2	8	2	4	12	0	3	7

As can be seen from the above data, the performance indicators of law enforcement agencies in most regions are low, although in some places they show an upward trend. At the same time, in the Dnipropetrovsk and Kharkiv regions, where the largest number of offenses related to human trafficking was previously recorded, they have significantly decreased over the past two years. The lowest rates of crimes detection are observed in the Cherkasy region, where over the past five years only five criminal offenses under Article 149 of the Criminal Code were recorded, and in the Rivne region, where seven criminal offenses were recorded during this period, and during 2022-2023 none was recorded at all.

It is likely that in times of war, many cases go unnoticed or not recorded, especially in territories that are temporarily occupied or that are located in or near a war zone. Thus, in the Donetsk region in 2023, not a single criminal offense was documented under Article 149 of the Criminal Code, and in 2022 only one was recorded, which is hardly a reflection of the real situation.

In addition, in the course of monitoring, there was an information received from the Kharkiv region regarding the existence of qualification facts for a large part of offenses with signs of human trafficking, which occurred in the temporarily occupied territory or in the territory of the aggressor country, under Article 438 of the Criminal Code (violation of the laws and customs of war).

Table 14. Information on identified victims and persons involved in the commission of crimes qualified under Article 149 of the Criminal Code in 2019-2023

Region	Number of persons recognized as victims					Number of identified persons involved in the commission of crimes				
	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Vinnitsia	2	2	19	1	1	0	3	1	0	1
Volyn	5	3	3	0	1	3	3	2	1	2
Dnipropetrovsk	25	18	24	15	8	10	17	18	9	15
Donetsk	4	4	28	2	0	4	2	10	0	3
Zhytomyr	7	8	1	1	25	5	4	0	0	9
Zakarpattia	2	1	0	0	1	1	1	0	0	1
Zaporizhzhia	6	2	0	1	2	1	1	0	1	0
Ivano-Frankivsk	3	1	2	2	1	5	1	1	1	2
Kirovohrad	3	7	0	0	1	3	5	0	0	0
Lviv	0	1	6	7	5	7	0	1	2	3
Mykolayiv	2	8	2	4	8	2	0	0	3	3
Odesa	3	12	30	12	8	11	3	12	4	9
Poltava	2	1	4	2	5	2	3	0	3	1
Rivne	2	2	1	0	0	5	2	1	0	0
Ternopil	3	5	5	3	1	3	5	4	4	1
Kharkiv	22	35	27	1	16	9	9	7	0	3
Kherson	9	11	2	0	0	3	3	0	0	0
Cherkasy	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1
Chernivtsi	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	1	0	1
Chernihiv	2	6	0	9	2	2	3	0	4	2

Taking into account the data provided, the problems of pre-trial investigation duration and quality remain relevant when criminal proceedings are opened, but the persons involved in the commission of a crime are not identified and/or they are not served with a notice of suspicion, and only a part of the proceedings opened in the current year reaches the judicial proceedings stage. So, for example, in the Kirovohrad region in 2021-2023, three criminal offenses were registered under Article 149 of the Criminal Code, but not a single person was served with a notice of suspicion and not a single case was transferred to the court; in the Zaporizhzhia region during this period, five criminal offenses were registered, but only one person involved in the commission of the crime was identified and one criminal proceeding was sent to the court.

Improvement in pre-trial investigation indicators is observed only in the Dnipropetrovsk, Odesa and Kharkiv regions, where in 2023 a significant number of completed proceedings were transferred to the court, including those that were opened in previous years.

The monitoring results give grounds to assert that activities aimed at preventing and countering criminal offenses related to human trafficking are not sufficiently effective. Given the significant increase in numerous factors leading to the spread of human trafficking, it is highly likely to assume that many such crimes are committed, but only a small part is detected, and therefore there is an urgent need to step up efforts to expose them, document them, bring to criminal responsibility those involved in their commission, as well as identify victims, in particular in places of their possible compact stay. It is also necessary to emphasize the expediency of appropriate preventive measures wider adoption, such as: monitoring the compliance of business entities with legislation in the field of modeling, tourism, entertainment business, mediation in employment abroad; monitoring evacuated children who are displaced as

part of institutional institutions; carrying out measures aimed at raising employers' awareness of the exploitation and human rights violation inadmissibility, etc.

IDENTIFICATION AND ASSISTANCE TO HUMAN TRAFFICKING VICTIMS

Despite the fact that all regional programs emphasize the need to strengthen work in the direction of identifying persons affected by human trafficking and providing such persons with high-quality comprehensive assistance, the corresponding priority task is included only in 16 regional programs/action plans, and four programs in Volyn, Odesa, Poltava and Kherson regions do not contain such a task.

Performance indicators for the number of human trafficking identified victims are usually not defined in them, with the exception of regional programs in Donetsk, Chernihiv and Ternopil regions, which are expected to identify 100, 56 and 39 such persons, respectively, including 20, 15 and 8 persons in 2023. However, these indicators turned out to be too ambitious, and therefore were not achieved. Thus, during reporting period in the Donetsk region, the NMI state entities did not identify any victims; in the Chernihiv region, the Migration Service Department of MDNP identified seven victims, but only two of them applied for the status establishment; in Ternopil, only one victim applied to the RMA responsible structural division, who was redirected by the Ukrainian Parliament Commissioner for Human Rights.

The level of victims identification by NMI state entities in a number of other regions is not much better. In some places, it dropped to zero altogether. Thus, in Chernivtsi region since 2020, the structural units of regional and district state (military) administrations have not identified a single person who suffered from human trafficking. Explaining this situation, the regional program responsible performer refers to a number of reasons: the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, a full-scale military invasion of Ukraine, staff turnover, overloading of specialists in various areas of work, and so on. A similar situation developed in the Kirovohrad region. According to the Department of Social Protection of the Population of RMA, in 2023, the Migration Police Department of MDNP in the Kirovohrad region identified only one victim who participated in open criminal proceedings under Article 149 of the Criminal Code, but refused to submit an application for the VoT status establishing.

Undoubtedly, the identification of human trafficking victims in 2023 was affected in some way by the war, especially in those regions that suffer the most from it. So, according to the response of the Department of Family, Youth and Mass Events of the National and Patriotic Education of the Donetsk RSA, not a single victim was found in the region during 2023. First of all, this situation is caused by the fact that active military operations are underway in the region, transport logistic is complicated, many specialists have left, and those who remain are overworked, most of the persons responsible for conducting the procedure for the VoT status establishing are newly appointed and do not have practical experience working with human trafficking victims. The situation in the Zaporizhzhia region, most of which is under occupation, is also quite difficult. According to the Department of Social Protection of the Population of RSA, in 2023, only one person was identified who suffered from human trafficking.

Taking into account the data obtained during the monitoring, we should note some progress in Zhytomyr, Mykolaiv and Kherson regions, where 15, 13 and 17 victims were identified, respectively. However, it should be noted that all of them either independently applied to the responsible departments of RSA/RMA, or were redirected there by law enforcement agencies and non-governmental organizations.

Analysis of victims identification sources in other regions shows a similar picture, only in some cases the victims were identified by other NMI state entities and LGB employees. Thus, in the Zakarpattia region, one person who in 2023 was established the VoT status was identified as human trafficking victim by a social worker of the Berehove TC at the place of her rehabilitation after the exchange of prisoners of war and redirected to DSPP of the Berehove DMA. In the Cherkasy region, two minor children, who were used in the porn business by their own mother, were identified by the Children's Service. In the Mykolaiv region, one injured person was identified and redirected to the SSU.

Table 15. Sources of persons identification who applied to the responsible units of regional and district state (military) administrations with applications for establishing the VoT status

Region	Detection and referral sources											
	Self-referral of VoT to responsible units	Social protection agencies	FSR, CSS, CPSS in TC	Employment centers	Children's services	Juvenile police	Migration Police	SSU	Educational institutions	Healthcare institutions	Non-governmental organizations	Others
Vinnitsia	✓	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Volyn	✓	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	✓	—
Dnipropetrovsk	—	—	—	—	—	—	✓	—	—	—	—	—
Donetsk	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Zhytomyr	—	—	—	—	—	—	✓	—	—	—	—	—
Zakarpattia	—	—	✓	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Zaporizhzhia	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	✓	—
Kirovohrad	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Lviv	✓	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	✓	—
Mykolayiv	✓	—	—	—	—	—	✓	✓	—	—	—	—
Odesa	—	—	—	—	—	—	✓	—	—	—	—	—
Poltava	✓	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	✓	—
Rivne	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	✓	—
Ternopil	—	—	—	—	—	—	✓	—	—	—	—	✓
Kharkiv	—	—	—	—	—	—	✓	—	—	—	✓	—
Kherson	✓	—	—	—	✓	—	—	—	✓	—	✓	—
Cherkasy	—	—	—	—	✓	—	✓	—	—	—	✓	—
Chernivtsi	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Chernihiv	—	—	—	—	—	—	✓	—	—	—	—	—

So, we must state that the current NMI organization mainly continues to rely on victims self-referral or on their redirection from law enforcement agencies and non-governmental

organizations, and proactive measures to identify them are practically not taken, and, moreover, are not even planned.

Thus, as a result of the regional program documents analysis, it was found that such measures are provided for only in a few of them. Thus, the Regional Program for the Development of Family, Gender Policy and Countering Human Trafficking in the Donetsk Region contains an item on ensuring the identification of human trafficking victims among IDPs, the Roma population, asylum seekers and stateless persons, within the framework of which 125 events should be held during the entire period of its validity, 25 of them in 2023. In the Regional Targeted Program for Domestic Violence and Human Trafficking Prevention and Countering in the Zhytomyr Region, the task Protection and assistance to human trafficking victims contains an item on strengthening the labor inspectors and other relevant specialists role in identifying persons who have suffered from human trafficking for the purpose of labor exploitation, however, neither the types nor the number of activities to be carried out, nor the expected results of such activities are measured. For the same reasons, the item on strengthening cooperation between law enforcement agencies, executive authorities, compulsory health insurance, social services and other subjects of countering human trafficking in identifying human trafficking victims can also be considered only declarative. In Regional Program of Family, Gender Policy, Domestic Violence and Human Trafficking Prevention and Countering in the Zakarpattia region, it is planned to hold 5 events annually to identify human trafficking victims among migrants, workers, the unemployed and other vulnerable groups.

However, during the monitoring, any information about the actual implementation of relevant events in 2023 was not provided by these programs responsible performers.

Another problem remains, which is a significant excess of the total number of persons identified as human trafficking victims, compared with the number of those who submitted applications for the VoT status establishment in accordance with the procedure provided for by the legislation of Ukraine. Thus, according to the National Social Service of Ukraine data, in 2023, local state administrations received 132 such applications, based on the results of which 118 persons were established the VoT status, while only 374 human trafficking victims benefited from the IOM Reintegration Assistance Program, not including those that received assistance exclusively from public organizations and were not included in this database. In addition, the data comparison provided by the migration police of NPU territorial units and data received from the RSA/RMA responsible units shows that not even all persons who were identified as victims in criminal proceedings under Article 149 of the Criminal Code submit applications for status. So, for example, according to DMP MDNP data in the Dnipropetrovsk region, in 2023, eight persons were identified as victims, but only three applied for the VoT status establishment. According to DMP MDNP data in the Zhytomyr region, 25 persons were identified as victims, while the VoT status is established only for 15 persons. According to DMP MDNP data in the Kharkiv region, 16 persons were identified as victims, however, six persons were redirected to the Department of Social Protection, of which only one person was redirected by the Migration Police and five persons were redirected to the Clean Paper, NGO.

As the practice of the Coalition NGOs members shows—, first of all, this situation is due to the low level of victims trust in state authorities, the NMI imperfection and the state structures inability to provide comprehensive assistance.

From the analysis of the reporting provided by the responsible structural units of state (military) administrations, it follows that basically persons who were established as VoT were paid only one-time financial assistance in 2023, from which it can be concluded that either other types of assistance were not provided to these persons, or RSA/RMA do not comply with paragraphs 6.5, 6.6. of the State programs, according to which they are required to monitor the implementation of VoT rehabilitation plans and individual social protection plans for the child (if the victim of human trafficking is a child). However, it is fair to note the cases when victims after establishing the status received only a one-time material payment and refused other assistance, or expressed a desire to receive assistance in other regions in connection with moving, etc.

Table 16. Assistance provision to VoT by NMI state entities in 2023

Region	Number of people, who were established VoT status	Number of people who received assistance from state entities									
		Total	including certain types of assistance								
			One-time financial assistance	Social support	Medical assistance	Psychological assistance	Legal assistance	Temporary shelter	Employment, retraining	Humanitarian aid	Other assistance
Vinnitsia	3	2 ¹	2				2			2	2
Volyn	3	3	3	1	1		2	1			
Dnipropetrovsk	1	1	1								
Donetsk	0	0									
Zhytomyr	15	13	13 ³								
Zakarpattia	1	1 ⁴	1								
Zaporizhzhia	1	1	1	1						1	
Ivano-Frankivsk	3	3	3	1	1	1					2
Kirovohrad	0	0									
Lviv	3	3	3								
Mykolayiv	12	12	8 ⁵								
Odesa	7	7	7		7		7	2 ⁶			
Poltava	8	8	8	8							
Rivne	4	4 ⁷	4			1	1		1		1
Ternopil	1	1	1	1	1					1	
Kharkiv	5	5	5	5							
Kherson	17	17	17								
Cherkasy	2	2	2				1				
Chernivtsi	0	0									
Chernihiv	2	2	2								

¹ The connection with 1 VoT was lost after the status establishing

² 1 VoT received only one-time financial assistance, refused other assistance

³ 2 persons who received one-time financial assistance in 2024

⁴ Rehabilitation plan was drawn up, but the VoT did not use it due to its return to the military unit

⁵ 1 VoT did not receive the status certificate because he was abroad; 1 assistance was paid to VoT in 2024; 2 VoT expressed a desire to receive payment in other regions in connection with the move.

⁶ 2 VoT placed in the NGO Coalition member Rehabilitation Center- Public movement Faith, Hope, Love.

⁷ All were established the status at the end of 2023, 3 VoT were paid only one-time financial assistance.

Unfortunately, the conducted monitoring results indicate that the range of state aid to VoT is quite narrow and often does not meet the real needs of human trafficking victims. It remains problematic to provide many types of assistance — psychological, psychotherapeutic, specialized assistance in overcoming harmful addictions, comprehensive medical examination and treatment, assistance in employment and retraining. Despite the fact that in all regions there are public utilities that provide temporary accommodation for people who find themselves in difficult life circumstances, there are often problems with the VoT accommodation. So, in particular, in the Kharkiv region there are difficulties with providing temporary shelter to male persons.

One of the options for solving problems with the necessary VoT services provision is the introduction of a social order mechanism. However, although the vast majority of regional programs provide for this task, its practical implementation is impossible due to the lack of budget funding.

Another problem is related to the victims documents restoration, because such a service is carried out on a paid basis, consists of a fee for the service itself and a fee for the document form, and in general is an amount that is not available to every victim.

Unfortunately, funds to assist victims are not included in the regional and local budgets. In almost all regional programs, this area is defined as not requiring funding. The allocation of funds for the provision of VoT assistance is provided only in two programs — the Regional Comprehensive Program for Family Support, Domestic Violence Prevention and Countering Human Trafficking up to 2025 in the Ternopil region and the Turbota, Social Support Comprehensive Program for Certain Categories of Citizens for 2022-2024 in the Chernivtsi region.

Most NGO– Coalition members not only do not see any NMI functioning improvements in the region, but even note the situation deterioration. The local self-government powers uncertainty and a clear algorithm of cooperation between them and regional and district state (military) administrations, the lack of necessary institutions and personnel resources in many communities, as well as the discrepancy between the current legislation and modern realities remain significant obstacles to obtaining comprehensive assistance to the VoT. During the war, new problems were added to the usual ones: relocation of social facilities, specialists mass layoffs due to moving to another safer place or leaving the country, high workload of social institutions associated with providing assistance to IDPs and other categories affected by military operations, and so on.

Since state aid remains insufficient to meet all the needs of VoT, the NGO–Coalition members are actively involved in providing services they need. Thus, in the reporting period, 76 affected persons who were established status in 2023, the NGO Coalition members provided various types of assistance depending on individual needs (social support, psychological support, legal advice, providing representation during pre-trial investigation and judicial process, as well as in state bodies and institutions, providing temporary asylum, assistance in restoring documents, obtaining medical care, etc. All of them were also included in the IOM Reintegration Program, under which they purchased clothing, shoes, food, hygiene products, bed linen, medicines, household items, equipment for organizing self-employment and entrepreneurship, paid for

medical examinations and treatment, legal services, rental of housing, retraining courses, etc. in accordance with individual needs. The total amount of assistance provided is about UAH 2 million.

In general, taking into account those human trafficking victims who for one or another reason did not apply for status or who were refused to establish it, during 2023, the IOM Reintegration Program provided assistance to 374 persons who were subjected to various forms of exploitation: 83% — labor exploitation, 9% — sexual exploitation, 1% — servitude, 3% were forcibly involved in criminal activities, 2% — in armed conflict, 2% — in forced begging.

Table 17. Assistance provided to human trafficking victims as part of the IOM Reintegration Program in 2023

Types of assistance	Number of people, who benefited from the assistance
PROVIDING SPECIALIZED SERVICES, INCLUDING: H •	226
PSYCHOLOGICAL SERVICES	151
LEGAL SERVICES	124
ATTORNEY SERVICES	33
DOCUMENT RECOVERY SERVICES	8
TRANSPORT SERVICES	36
PROVIDING HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE, INCLUDING: H • ACQUISITION:	302
HYGIENE PRODUCTS	199
CLOTHING / SHOES	185
FOOD PRODUCTS	166
NON-FOOD PRODUCTS	131
PRODUCTS FOR CHILDREN'S EDUCATION	32
MEANS OF COMMUNICATION	27
ENSURING DECENT HOUSING AND COMMUNAL CONDITIONS, INCLUDING H •	141
IMPROVING HOUSING CONDITIONS	86
RENTAL HOUSING	40
HOME INSULATION	21
PAYMENT FOR UTILITIES	5
ASSISTANCE IN INCREASING ECONOMIC CAPACITY, INCLUDING H •	277
PURCHASE OF PROFESSIONAL EQUIPMENT AND TOOLS	269
PAYMENT FOR PROFESSIONAL COURSES	18
PROVIDING GRANTS FOR THE ORGANIZATION OF SELF-EMPLOYMENT	12
PROVIDING GRANTS FOR MICRO-BUSINESS ORGANIZATION	6
PROVIDING MEDICAL CARE, INCLUDING: H •	125
PURCHASE OF MEDICINES	80
PURCHASE OF MEDICAL EQUIPMENT	30
PROVIDING MEDICAL EXAMINATIONS IN HEALTHCARE INSTITUTIONS	13
PROVIDING TREATMENT IN HEALTHCARE INSTITUTIONS	7
EXAMINATION, DIAGNOSIS AND TREATMENT AT THE IOM MEDICAL REHABILITATION CENTER	22

In addition, during 2023, IOM and the NGO– Coalition members additionally identified and provided assistance to 663 forced labor victims without signs of human trafficking.

Summing up the above, we must state that the authorities continue to rely mainly on non-governmental and international organizations, which actively carry out these activities with the support of foreign donors, to identify and provide comprehensive assistance to human trafficking victims.

The level of victims identification by NMI state entities remains low, and the provision of many types of assistance on the ground is difficult due to the LGB limited capabilities in a number of territorial communities, which, by the way, are still not formally assigned the relevant powers.

It should be emphasized that the NMI in the field of countering human trafficking, developed back in 2012, continues to function almost unchanged, without taking into account modern realities that significantly affect its effectiveness — administrative and territorial reform and changes in the system of social protection of the population, in particular, the elimination of centers for social services for families, children and youth and the creation of social service centers, the transfer of social service facilities to territorial communities, the COVID-19 pandemic, a full-scale military invasion of Ukraine, the introduction of martial law, etc., which requires the development and implementation of new models of interaction. It is becoming increasingly clear that this mechanism needs to be reviewed and appropriate changes made to existing regulations in the field of countering human trafficking.

GENERAL CONCLUSIONS

The analysis results of the regional programs, which include measures to counter human trafficking, their resource support and the tasks and measures implementation provided for by them, allow us to draw the following conclusions:

- The regulatory regulation of countering human trafficking is rather heterogeneous and indicates the lack of a systematic approach to the formation of regional policy in this area. At the moment only seven regions of Ukraine (Dnipropetrovsk, Zaporizhzhia, Kirovohrad, Mykolaiv, Rivne, Kharkiv, Cherkasy) have adopted targeted social programs to counter human trafficking up to 2025, and in the Zhytomyr region — the Regional Targeted Program for Preventing, Countering Domestic Violence and Human Trafficking for 2023. Lviv, Zakarpattia and Poltava regional military administrations have approved action plans for the State program implementation.
- All targeted social programs to counter human trafficking/action plans were adopted only in the second half of 2023, so far during the reporting period in five regions (Dnipropetrovsk, Kirovohrad, Rivne, Kharkiv, Cherkasy), activities in this area were not regulated by any regional regulatory act, and in the Lviv region — for almost two years. In the rest of regions, anti-trafficking activities continue to be implemented within various comprehensive regional social programs, many of which were adopted long before the start of the full-scale invasion, and therefore do not take into account the current realities and trends of human trafficking.
- Regional programs are quite different in terms of their fullness, effectiveness, quality and have certain shortcomings, including, in particular, uncertainty of performance indicators, which makes it difficult to assess their implementation, and some of them do not demonstrate an integrated approach to solving the problem of human trafficking and do not take into account the priority tasks of state policy in this area. Most of programs focus on preventive activities, usually aimed at the general public and students, while measures to prevent trafficking among people at risk are either not planned at all or planned in a small amount.
- The normative regulation of anti-trafficking at the district and local level cannot be considered satisfactory at all - if previously in the vast majority of the studied districts either district targeted programs for countering human trafficking were active, or relevant measures were included in complex social programs, or at least action plans with anti-trafficking, then currently there are almost no regulations regulating activities in the field of anti-trafficking.
- In the vast majority of regions, the volume of estimated financing of measures to counter human trafficking at the expense of budget funds is not comparable with the real needs for their implementation. It is obvious that budget planning is carried out not on the basis of reasonable calculations, but taking into account financial capabilities and/or priorities. The practice of excessive expectations on raising funds from other sources and implementing a significant part of activities by public and international organizations with the support of foreign donors continues. This led to the fact that in 2023, if in some places funds were allocated for this direction, then in a small amount, insufficient to cover all the costs associated with the planned measures implementation. Taking into account the the reasons

validity for inadequate resource support for countering human trafficking, due to the lack of budget funds and the need to direct them to solve other urgent needs in connection with the military aggression against Ukraine, we should still emphasize the inadmissibility of such practices in the context of human trafficking problem aggravation and a significant increase in the level of vulnerability of the population.

- The interaction and exchange of information level between subjects who are program performers is insufficient, and the worst situation is observed with vertical communication. Although in almost all regional programs, district state (military) administrations and territorial communities are defined as its performers, but usually only by agreement. In practice, most RSAs/RMAs have shifted responsibility for countering human trafficking to territorial communities, but they do not have any leverage over them. In turn, the attitude of community leaders to the human trafficking problem remains ambiguous. The situation continues to be negatively affected by the uncertainty of the LGB powers in this area. As a result, in some territorial communities, quite active activities are carried out to counter human trafficking, while in others, almost nothing happens.
- Although in general, the state of countering human trafficking in the regions can be considered satisfactory, most of the problems in the implementation of existing regional programs identified during preliminary monitoring still persist. As before, there is a lack of a systematic approach to their tasks implementation, as well as effective mechanisms for monitoring, control and coordinating activities. Due to the practical lack of resources for programs and the difficult security situation in the country, it was not possible to carry out all the planned activities and achieve the expected performance indicators everywhere, especially in those regions that are partially occupied and suffer from active hostilities. Nevertheless, activities to counter human trafficking were carried out quite actively by both state and non-governmental actors, who are designated as performers of regional programs.
- In all regions covered by the study, regional, district and local coordination (interdepartmental) councils on family issues, gender equality, demographic development, prevention of domestic violence and countering human trafficking have been established and operate. For various objective and subjective reasons, council meetings were held less often than once a quarter in a number of regions, and regular consideration of issues related to countering human trafficking was not ensured everywhere. The district and local coordination councils activities remain opaque, and there is no proper exchange of information on their work.
- Despite the difficult security situation, all regions provided an increase in the level of specialists professional competence who carry out measures in the field of countering human trafficking and are able to contact victims (officials and IAG members of territorial communities, employees of regional and district directorates/departments of social protection of the population, centers of social services, educational institutions, medical institutions, law enforcement officers, territorial units of the state customs service, services for children, psychologists, persons responsible for conducting the status procedure).
- Training events were conducted by both government agencies and non-governmental organizations using various formats — online and offline trainings, seminars, information sessions, short-term courses, etc. It should be noted that, as before, most of the training of

entities representatives implementing measures in the field of countering human trafficking was carried out due to the relevant projects implementation in the regions funded by foreign donors. In some regions, such training was conducted exclusively by public organizations (Vinnytsia, Zhytomyr, Ivano-Frankivsk, Odesa, Cherkasy).

- In total, about six thousand representatives of state and local self-government bodies improved their skills in 20 regions covered by the monitoring during 2023, which is much higher than the annual figures defined in the state program. However, in the regional dimension, the situation is quite heterogeneous: the largest number of trained specialists is in Volyn and Vinnytsia regions, the smallest — in Kherson, Cherkasy and Mykolaiv regions, which, in particular, is due to problems with ensuring security for participants of training events.
- Prevention of human trafficking and its primary prevention is the most comprehensive component of anti-trafficking activities. During the studied period, in all regions, both state bodies and non-governmental organizations carried out powerful information and educational activities in various formats and for various target audiences, including those who have already suffered from human trafficking.
- At the same time, we must state certain shortcomings in preventive work, namely:
 - information campaigns and actions are held mainly in regional centers and large localities, while rural areas remain almost not covered;
 - coverage level of the population, especially those at risk of human trafficking, is insufficient;
 - cooperation with the media needs to be strengthened to ensure systematic informing of the population about the growing risks of getting into situations of human trafficking and exploitation in war conditions, ways to protect against this, local organizations and institutions that can be contacted after learning about the fact of such a crime, or for assistance, because now a certain media activity is usually observed on the occasion of outstanding dates in the field of countering human trafficking, in other periods interest in this topic is quite moderate;
 - the lack of financial support for information activities from local budgets leads to the fact that social advertising products are practically not produced, and most of the activities continue to be carried out by non-governmental and international organizations at the expense of foreign donors;
 - proper accounting of the activities carried out and distributed printed thematic materials, as well as the effectiveness assessment of information activities by responsible program performers is not provided.
- The new challenges that have emerged as a result of the full-scale military invasion of Ukraine require strengthening work in countering criminal offenses related to human trafficking and exploitation. Despite the numerous factors significant strengthening that lead to human trafficking increase and the crime intensification in wartime conditions, general indicators of the law enforcement agencies work decreased: compared to 2019, the number of documented criminal offenses under Article 149 of the Criminal Code decreased by more than half, fewer victims were identified from this crime, and fewer persons involved in its commission have been identified and brought to justice.

- It is also necessary to emphasize the expediency of appropriate preventive measures wider adoption, such as: monitoring the compliance of business entities with legislation in the field of modeling, tourism, entertainment business, mediation in employment abroad; monitoring evacuated children who are displaced as part of institutional institutions; carrying out measures aimed at raising employers ' awareness of the exploitation and human rights violation inadmissibility, etc.
- Unfortunately, it is necessary to state systemic shortcomings in the national mechanism of interaction functioning in the field of countering human trafficking. The level of victims identification by NMI state entities remains low, and the provision of many types of assistance on the ground is difficult due to the LGB limited capabilities in a number of territorial communities. Unfortunately, NMI in the field of countering human trafficking, developed back in 2012, continues to function almost unchanged, without taking into account modern realities that significantly affect its effectiveness, and therefore requires revision and appropriate changes to the current regulatory legal acts in the field of countering human trafficking

RECOMMENDATIONS

To the Ministry of Social Policy of Ukraine:

- Develop methodological recommendations for the formation of targeted anti-trafficking programs and/or relevant components of other programs to ensure the complexity, consistency and streamlining of this activity at the regional and local level, avoid uncertainty of its results, duplication of activities and other shortcomings that are often present in the development of such programs.
- Define and approve a unified system of indicators that will allow tracking their dynamics, making expert analysis and conclusions about the progress made in the implementation of state policy.
- Develop methodological recommendations on the procedure for monitoring activities in the field of countering human trafficking at the regional (district, local) level to improve its procedure and evaluate the effectiveness of implementing programs that include measures to counter human trafficking.
- Promote the development and approval of the Interdepartmental Order of the Ministry of Social Policy of Ukraine, the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Ukraine, the State Labor Service of Ukraine, the National Social Service of Ukraine on the interaction procedure for the measures implementation in the field of countering human trafficking to improve the effectiveness of entities cooperation that are entrusted with the relevant powers.
- Introduce the Institute of Public Adviser to the Chairman of the Regional State (Military) Administration on Countering Human Trafficking to strengthen coordination and formation of local policies in the field of countering human trafficking, ensuring the effective dissemination of the national mechanism of interaction of subjects implementing measures in the field of countering human trafficking in Ukraine.
- Encourage executive authorities to conduct large-scale information campaigns and actions at all levels and ensure the production and distribution of thematic information products in sufficient volume.
- Contribute to strengthening awareness-raising activities among the risk group of human trafficking, in particular by clearly defining the categories of persons belonging to it, developing methodological recommendations for conducting such work and implementing a data collection system on the relevant measures implementation.
- Contribute to ensuring the preventive work implementation on countering human trafficking in residential institutions, orphanages, including by involving public organizations in its implementation.
- Contribute to improving the detection level of persons affected by human trafficking, in particular by approving by a separate order of the Ministry of Social Policy of Ukraine Methodological recommendations on the application of criteria/indicators for identifying persons, including children, stateless persons, internally displaced persons, as well as

recommend that responsible performers of regional programs include measures for proactive identification of such persons and ensure their implementation in practice.

- Take organizational and legislative measures to eliminate the identified shortcomings in the work of NMI, in particular to promote an increase in the share of VoT who have used all types of gratuitous assistance and specialized services in state institutions and organizations by strengthening control over the implementation of their rehabilitation plans and amending the resolution of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine No. 783 of 22.08.2012 On Approval of the Procedure for Interaction of Agents for Countering Trafficking in Human Beings, which will provide for a clear division of functions and powers of individual subjects at the regional and local levels and securing the corresponding powers for local self-government bodies.

To the Ministry of Education and Science of Ukraine:

- Take measures to raise awareness of educational services recipients as well as their parents on the human trafficking prevention in war conditions, in particular by recommending that directorates (departments) of education and science and educational institutions strengthen information work through the web resources available to them and/or by creating a special web portal where it is available to develop skills in identifying and avoiding the risks of getting into situations of human trafficking, including through recruitment and exploitation on the Internet, in an interesting and informative way.
- Develop and integrate new technologies into the educational process children-friendly information products that take into account current realities and trends in human trafficking.
- Develop and implement statistical reporting forms that provide for the information collection and synthesis on the number of preventive measures carried out, educational institutions covered by them and children, adolescents and students, as well as questionnaires to determine their level of awareness on countering human trafficking and ensure the possibility of evaluating the effectiveness of information and educational work.

To the Migration Police Department of Ukraine and its territorial units:

- Ensure an appropriate response to human trafficking and increase the level of crimes identification and disclosure related to human trafficking, in particular by conducting inspections of objects where such crimes can potentially be committed, increasing their amount on the internet and constantly monitoring ads with job offers abroad, work in the field of entertainment, modeling, escort agencies, consummation, participation in photo shoots, providing sexual services, visa support, organ trafficking, support for adoption, surrogacy, etc.
- Strengthen public awareness of modern methods and recruitment channels and ways to get into situations of human trafficking, as well as the results of work on exposing and investigating crimes related to human trafficking, and bringing to justice those involved in their commission, in particular by actively covering these issues in the media and on their own web resources.

- Ensure that human trafficking victims are redirected to the responsible structural units of state (military) administrations and local non-governmental organizations working in this area to receive comprehensive assistance.

To state (military) administrations and responsible regional programs performers that include measures to counter human trafficking:

- Develop and approve targeted programs to counter human trafficking, or at least integrate individual components into existing integrated programs that will take into account all the priority tasks of state policy in this area.
- Involve public organizations specialists working in the field of countering human trafficking in the process of forming appropriate programs, and take into account the recommendations provided by them for their improvement.
- Identify and implement clear and specific quantitative and qualitative indicators, as well as measurable expected results, which will allow analyzing the effectiveness and quality of activities carried out in the field of countering human trafficking and evaluating the success of program tasks.
- Ensure that information on human trafficking is properly collected and exchanged among all regional program performers and that all activities carried out by them are taken into account.
- Strengthen coordination between regional, district and local entities that implement measures to counter human trafficking, in particular by holding joint meetings, video conferences, drawing up joint action plans at strategic planning sessions, as well as ensuring control over their implementation.
- Promote regular consideration of countering human trafficking topical issues at coordination councils meetings, develop specific recommendations for organizing events and improving work, and ensure control over their implementation, as well as publish protocol decisions of councils on the websites of state (military) administrations.
- Ensure regular and systematic professional development of all specialists who can contact human trafficking victims, heads and officials of responsible structural units of state and local government bodies by completing offline and/or online training, including the updated online course countering human trafficking, developed jointly by the Ministry of Social Policy and IOM Ukraine.
- Expand the population coverage with information campaigns, actions and other information and educational activities, in particular by organizing their implementation in more localities of the region, with a special focus on rural territorial communities.
- Organize on an ongoing basis information and explanatory activities among persons who are at risk of human trafficking, including families who find themselves in difficult life circumstances, internally displaced persons, migrants and representatives of national minorities.
- Ensure systematic population informing on countering human trafficking issues by posting relevant information in the mass media, as well as on official websites and pages in social

media of regional and district state (military) administrations, their structural divisions and other entities that are performers of regional programs

- Create / update separate countering human trafficking categories and provide them with useful structured information, as well as quick search for users on the websites of regional and district state (military) administrations and responsible units.
- Ensure the production and distribution of sufficient information and educational materials on countering human trafficking, especially among persons at risk.
- Step up work on proactive identification of human trafficking victims, in particular among IDPs in places of their compact stay (in humanitarian hubs, dormitories, shelters and other places of accommodation).
- Contribute to providing comprehensive assistance to persons affected by human trafficking, in particular by taking into account their needs in drawing up rehabilitation plans and monitoring their implementation, if it is impossible to meet them in state institutions—subjects of NMI — redirect them to non-governmental organizations that work in the field of countering human trafficking.