

report

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ROMA WOMEN FUND
CHIRICLI



Ukraine's forgotten victims: Roma with disabilities in wartime

Lina Kondur



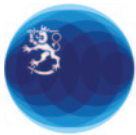


Roma woman with disabilities receiving humanitarian aid.

Credit: Chiricli.

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Chiricli

International Charitable Organization Roma Women's Fund Chiricli works in the field of protection of the rights of Roma people, in particular those who suffered as a result of the Russian invasion and became refugees and internally displaced persons. The Foundation also protects the educational rights of the Roma community and works on the involvement and visibility of Roma in all spheres of life and activism.

Minority Rights Group

Minority Rights Group (MRG) is the leading international human rights organization working to secure the rights of ethnic, religious and linguistic minorities, and indigenous peoples, and to promote understanding between communities. We are guided by the needs expressed by our worldwide network of over 300 partner organizations in more than 60 countries. Together, we challenge power structures that exclude and silence those who are different. We understand how age, class, gender, sexuality and disability can have multiplying impacts on discrimination for minorities.

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Ukraine's forgotten victims: Roma with disabilities in wartime

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1 Overview

This report is the result of a programme conducted by International Charitable Organization Roma Women's Fund Chiricli (hereafter, Chiricli). The programme included research into the many challenges facing Roma with disabilities in Ukraine. Chiricli implemented the first phase of this project from 22 April 2022 to 20 May 2022, by which time Ukraine was already at war with the Russian Federation.

Publication of this report has unfortunately been delayed due to the present circumstances. Chiricli and Minority Rights Group (MRG) nevertheless believe that the data it contains reflects the many issues currently facing Roma with disabilities in wartime. In truth, the situation has undoubtedly worsened since the research was carried out.

While implementing project activities focussing on the documentation of human rights violations and discrimination against Roma with disabilities in Ukraine, Roma mediators interviewed Roma people with disabilities in communities in the following regions: Lugansk (in the town of Kreminna), Kirovogradskiy (in the city of Kropivniskiy), Odessa (in the city of Odessa), Zakarpattya (in the city of Uzhgorod) and Zaporizhskiy (in the city of Zaporizhyya).

In 2022, the mediators interviewed 72 Roma with disabilities from the regions listed. The replies indicated that there was explicit discrimination towards Roma with disabilities, with responses underlining a lack of access to state social services. For example, 44.4% of those interviewed (32 persons) did not have a pension card to access welfare benefits. To the question, 'Are you registered with a disability identity card in Ukraine?', 44.6 % (40 persons) answered 'No'. These cards are necessary for accessing social services in Ukraine. This lack of registration reflects the multiple discrimination faced by Roma with disabilities, based on their origin and disability. Moreover, the interviewees attested to this discrimination explicitly when they were interviewed in their communities, in settings where they were able to talk about the issues they face.

To the question, 'What other important difficulties do you have today?', the interviewees answered: 'financial reasons'; 'unemployment and financial difficulties'; 'treatment and registration of disability'; 'safety for myself and my family'; 'medicines and food'; and 'problems with renting a house'.

In relation to discrimination against Roma people, mediators identified that 52.4% of the Roma people interviewed face discrimination based on their ethnicity. As the interviewees explained, they face discrimination at every level of their lives. Some of them said that it was very hard to achieve their aims in life, because non-Roma did not understand the challenges Roma face.

At the time of the interviews, Chiricli was working with local regional administrations to protect the rights of Roma with disabilities. The Chiricli team passed on information regarding the needs of Roma with disabilities to these administrations. These needs included: medical assistance; help with employment, accessing healthcare and medicine; help with registration for disability benefit; help in obtaining adult nappies, treatment, rehabilitation, food and medicines; and financial assistance. The local authorities have stated that they can only help Roma with disabilities with what is left over from the general pool of humanitarian aid for Ukraine.

During the winter of 2023, Chiricli received calls from the Odessa region saying that Roma with disabilities were experiencing discrimination in the distribution of humanitarian aid. Odessa is the largest region in Ukraine in terms of size, and most Ukrainian Roma live there, so it can be inferred that such discrimination is representative. The general economic situation of Roma was very marginalized, and social services for Roma with disabilities were non-existent. This situation led Chiricli to continue their human rights activities in the Odessa region, monitoring



Living conditions of Roma with disabilities.

discrimination against Roma with disabilities and protecting their rights and freedoms at the state and international levels.

In April 2023, four mediators from Chiricli interviewed 102 Roma with disabilities in cities and villages such as: Poplavka, Petroverivka, Korsunci, Beresivka and Bolshevik in the Odessa region. On 28 April, there were rocket attacks in Uman district, which is 257 km from the city of Odessa, while mediators were interviewing Roma with disabilities in the region. They could hear the sound of the rocket attacks, but the mediators continued their work. The usual Ukrainian safety measures were implemented by the Ministry of Defence of Ukraine: Ukrainians were told to take cover in bomb-proof shelters, subway stations or rooms underground. Despite this, the mediators continued their work with Roma.

2 Basic data and gender balance of Roma with disabilities

The Roma minority is severely marginalized in Ukraine, as it is across Europe. Opinions differ over the accuracy of the state's data for the number of Roma in Ukraine.¹ The total number, according to the 2001 census, is 47,587 people. Several Roma non-governmental organizations (NGOs) believe the number of Roma in Ukraine is far higher. Following work with communities on the ground, Roma NGOs provide more reliable statistics for the Roma population, suggesting that there were between 200,000 and 400,000 Roma people across the country, at least prior to the Russian invasion in 2022. The Roma population is concentrated in the regions of Zakarpattia (Western Ukraine), Odessa (Southern Ukraine) and Cherkassy (Central Ukraine). Since the start of the war in Ukraine, many Roma have emigrated, and many have been displaced within the country. There are no precise statistics for how many Roma are living in Ukraine currently. Chiricli does not know how many Roma have died during the war; such information has not yet been gathered.

On 1 January 2021, there were 2.7 million people with disabilities in Ukraine, including: 222,300 people with disabilities of the 'first group', which in Ukraine means having disabilities that make working unlikely; 900,800 of the 'second group', who can care for themselves, but do not have opportunities to work in regular employment; and 1.4 million of the 'third group', those who can work but need to be given tailored responsibilities. According to the state statistics service, there were 163,900 children among those with disabilities.²



Roma life in Ukraine.

As mentioned, Chiricli mediators interviewed 102 Roma with disabilities who live in Odessa region. The ages of the interviewees ranged from 19 to 68 years old; 58.4% were women and 41.6% were men. Mediators identified that 41.6% of those interviewed were single because of their disability; 16.8% are widows and widowers; 34.7% are married; and 6.8% are divorced. Among the Roma with disabilities who were interviewed, 66.3% are retired. Of the interviewees, 21% have incomplete secondary education; 10% have no education; 50% have secondary education and the rest have only three to five years of education. To the question, 'Can you work in your usual job during the war?', 96% of the interviewees answered 'No'. In accordance with Article 18-1 of the Law of Ukraine, 'On the Basis of Social Protection of People with Disabilities in Ukraine',³ the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine approved resolution N°.1836 of 27 December 2006. This resolution approved an order to grant subsidies to employers through the Fund for Social Protection of Persons with Disabilities, so as to create special places of work for disabled persons registered with the state employment service. Nevertheless, only 4 per cent of Roma with disabilities have been able to work in their regular employment during the war.

The mediators identified that Roma with disabilities in the Odessa region live far from the city (from 16 km to 112 km away). Minibuses, the only form of local transport, are supposed to run from Odessa to the Roma neighbourhoods of Poplavka, Petroverivka, Korsunci and Beresivka only once a week. The roads have been damaged by frequent rocket attacks, yet it is the negative social stereotypes around Roma people that make minibus drivers often refuse to drive to those communities. Ukrainian attitudes towards Roma are very negative: Roma are thought of as unsociable, evil and able to curse others and bring harm to them. The mediators report that these persistent stereotypes mean little has changed since the war in the attitude of non-Roma to Roma in the cities and villages of Odessa region.

Roma generally live in separate Roma communities, without access to electricity, central heating and running water. In cold weather, Roma can heat their houses using stoves, if they have wood or coal. They can also cook on their stoves or on three big stones with a small fire, which they can do in their yard.

It is a problem that state social services are absent from these communities. The mediators report that ‘Roma with disabilities are forgotten by social services.’ Even though the war is ongoing and affects everyone in Ukraine, village councils discriminate against Roma with disabilities regarding distribution of humanitarian aid. Only Roma



Roma woman receiving humanitarian aid for her family, including relatives with disabilities.

organizations help Roma with disabilities with deliveries of food products, hygienic items and vitamins.

Regarding the state of drinking water in the Roma communities where Roma with disabilities live, Chiricli found that the water is often contaminated due to frequent rocket fire and military operations. The groundwater is polluted by the corpses of soldiers and civilians, because they are not buried deeply enough. The coastal waters and rivers in Odessa region are also badly affected. Ukrainian state services use chlorine to purify drinking water, but this is not enough to ensure that it is safe to drink. The ecology of the Odessa region is now in a terrible state. In some communities, rubbish is collected by social services only once a week, which is a violation of European standards for rubbish collection. Every day, the state administration turns off the electricity and water for half a day, from noon to evening. This had been happening for more than 20 years, even before the war. The state explained to people that this was in order to save electricity, but the service providers took money for the entire period from citizens.

3 Health risks and other issues facing Roma with disabilities

Chiricli mediators found that 90.1% of the Roma with disabilities who were interviewed are in need of medical help. But because of the war, state hospitals are already full of wounded soldiers and civilians needing urgent treatment. Thus, some Roma with disabilities said there are 'no free beds in the wards' of state hospitals for them.

To the question, 'Do you need psychological support?', 37.6% of those interviewed said 'Yes'. To the question, 'Do you have difficulty seeing even if you are wearing glasses?', 13.9% said 'Yes'; 82.2% said 'No'; 1.95% said 'A lot of difficulties'; and 1.95% said they 'cannot do this at all'. Of the interviewees, 48.5% have problems with walking or climbing steps; 14.5% cannot walk or climb steps at all; 13.9% have a lot of difficulties with walking or climbing steps.

Regarding the question, 'Do you have difficulty remembering or concentrating?', 30.7% answered 'Yes'; 66.3% answered 'No'; 3% answered 'A lot of difficulties.' Also, 28.7% of the Roma with disabilities who were interviewed have difficulty with self-care (such as washing or dressing themselves); 2.5% have a lot of difficulties with washing or dressing; and 2% 'cannot do this at all'. To the question, 'Using your usual language do you have difficulty communicating? (for example, understanding or being understood by others)', 5.9% those interviewed answered: 'Yes'.

Some Roma with disabilities have illnesses as well as their disability. All three groups of disability (as defined in Ukraine – see earlier) were identified among the Roma who were interviewed. Among them were people with illnesses and ongoing conditions including: hypertension, intestinal dysplasia, cataracts, poor eyesight, concussion, being unable to walk or having difficulty walking, bronchial asthma, heart disease, problems resulting from a stroke, bad teeth, skin problems, emotional stress, transient ischaemic attacks (also known as micro-strokes), multiple sclerosis, hearing problems, Type-1 and Type-2 diabetes, acromegaly, high blood pressure, hepatitis C, kidney disease, neoplasm, atrophy of lower limbs, dispersion, both mild and severe forms of cancer, metastases in the head, radiculitis, arthritis and insulin resistance.

Of the Roma with disabilities interviewed, 70.3% are registered and have a disability identity card; despite this, 55% of the interviewees have never received the state benefit for persons with disabilities. According to the

Roma with disabilities who have a disability identity card, there have been long periods when payments were not made. For example, one Roma man said: 'The Pension Fund's representatives stated: "We have an all-Ukrainian recalculation of pensions and Roma, like all others, will not receive a pension for three months. We need to do a recalculation. Wait."'

Another Roma man with a disability, aged 56, complained to Chiricli's mediator in Odessa region that his benefit had been reduced, which has changed his life. No reason was given for this. The Roma with disabilities who had never received the benefit said that they were registering their disabilities, but the cost of a CT scan, necessary to complete the medical examination for any disability in Ukraine, is so high that they could not manage. Odessa state hospitals require payment for medical examinations from all citizens, including Roma with disabilities, even though the Constitution of Ukraine, Article 49 states:

Everyone has the right to health care, medical care and health insurance. Health care is provided by state financing of relevant socioeconomic, medical and sanitary and health and preventive programmes. The state creates conditions for effective and accessible medical care for all citizens. Medical assistance is provided free of charge in state and communal health care institutions; the existing network of such institutions cannot be reduced. The state promotes the development of medical institutions of all forms of ownership.⁴

When they do receive it, Roma complained that the disability benefit is not enough to survive on. For example, a Roma mother looks after her son with a disability, who cannot walk since a wall fell on him at a construction site. Food prices have become very high, and her benefit is not enough to cover their expenses. She says the state social service does not visit, help with adaptive equipment, or provide help through social workers or volunteers. If the service was provided, then she could take her son outside. At the moment he has to stay in the house most of the time.

Before the war, Roma with disabilities who were registered with a disability identity card received adult nappies and other hygienic supplies. Since the war began,

Roma with disabilities have not been receiving any hygienic products, even adult nappies, nor any humanitarian aid. Of the interviewees who answered the question, 'What other important difficulties do you have today?', 25% answered that they need money for food, medicines and medical treatment; 3% said they had problems paying for utilities; 4% had problems registering for a pension; and 2% said they needed orthopaedic shoes.

Apart from these problems, numerous Roma with disabilities described the discrimination they encounter

during meetings with the Department of Social Protection in the Odessa region. Twelve Roma interviewees said that they had experienced discrimination and felt that nobody wanted to hear about their problems or talk to them. They thought some of the reasons they were discriminated against were because they were 'not nice-looking', or because they had disabilities, depression, were blind or in a generally bad state. One person said: 'people are often afraid of me because of my sickness.'

4 Needs of Roma with disabilities

A number of needs were identified during the interviews with Roma with disabilities. It is important to note that Roma with disabilities need to be registered for state monitoring of their condition and circumstances. According to those Roma with disabilities who were interviewed, they never saw this service at home – nor were they visited by staff from the psychological or social volunteer services. 66.3% needed help to register their disability. Some interviewees stated that they have never received welfare benefits. This was because doctors told them to pay for a CT scan and other medical examinations, but Roma with disabilities generally do not have enough money to do so.

Besides, Roma with disabilities are in need of food, access to clean water, adult nappies, medicines, hygienic

products, sufficient funds to live on and baby food. Also, housing is not appropriately equipped for Roma with disabilities. Those who cannot move independently and walk need special equipment in the bathroom and toilet. It is important for them to have appropriate equipment in the bedroom too, so they can get up or sit down on their beds. Of those surveyed, 90.1% need medical help. A problem with this is that family doctors do not visit the homes of Roma with disabilities, because not all of them have signed a contract for medical care and have been through a medical examination by doctors, which must also be paid for. Almost half – 48.5% – needed help to buy a wheelchair and other mobility accessories; 28.7% needed the help of social volunteers or social workers because they were unable to wash themselves or get dressed.

5 State social assistance

In relation to receiving social security payments, Chiricli's mediators found that 42% of those interviewed do not have any pension card at all and thus cannot receive benefits. When asked, 'Do you have access to receive money through your pension card today?', 42% of the Roma with disabilities who were interviewed answered 'No'. On the question, 'Can you use your pension card in general?', 79% of those who have a card answered: 'Yes.' Three per cent said that they cannot walk or go to use an ATM. Regarding the question, 'Since the war started, have you been able to receive any forms of state social assistance?', 36% of the interviewees answered 'No'. To the question, 'Please provide details of what forms of state social assistance you have received during the war and any difficulties in accessing it', 41% answered, 'We have not received assistance'; 30% answered: 'As we are Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) and are registered with a disability ID card, we receive state social assistance for accommodation'; and 12% answered, 'We receive a disability pension.' A further 12% of Roma with disabilities answered: 'We received food products just a couple of times since the war began', and 2% answered, 'We receive state social assistance for a large family.'

Two per cent of the Roma with disabilities who were interviewed answered, 'We only receive a survivor's

pension.' One Roma with disabilities said: 'I received free medical treatment for tuberculosis.' Another stated that he does not receive adult nappies. One Roma with disabilities said, 'A postman used to bring my pension to my home. Since the war started, the situation for delivering the pension has become more complicated.' To the question, 'What other important difficulties do you have today?', 13% answered: 'We have problems with housing.' Eighteen per cent of the interviewees answered that they do not have enough money for food; 50% said that they need money for medicines, hygienic products and money to live on; 45% said they needed medical treatment; and 2% are in need of regular physical help from volunteers or social workers who should come to their house at least three times each month. One Roma man with disabilities said he needs a bed with disability equipment.

In addition, the interviewees talked about the difficulties of travelling to Odessa, the nearest city, because of poor transport and damage to the roads since the war started. There is no access to infrastructure or necessary supplies, such as wheelchair-accessible transport, pharmacies, shops, cafés or, for those who need it, lactose-free food. The current war has brought additional health problems, such as frequent headaches, insomnia and mental illness. Some Roma can neither eat nor sleep because of fear of rocket attacks.

6 Discrimination against Roma girls in education

At the time of writing, children in Ukraine are attending school both in person and online, due to the war. Of the Roma with disabilities interviewed in Odessa region, 80.2% have children. To the question, 'If you have daughters, do they have access to the internet for online studying?', 56.4% answered: 'They don't have access to the internet for studying online.' According to local rules in Odessa region, 50% of children must study online. However, only 43.6% Roma with disabilities have internet access. In principle, this would mean that only 43.6% Roma daughters of those with disabilities can study online, and those local regulations are not being met.

The regional department of education in Odessa pays no attention to this problem. Therefore there is a risk that

the majority of daughters of Roma with disabilities remain with limited to education during the war. Chiricli plans to address this serious issue in collaboration with the regional state administration and the department of education in Odessa. Chiricli will ask for the support of teaching volunteers who can visit Roma communities and give free classes to Roma girls. In this way, Roma girls will be able to catch up with the state educational programme. Also, Chiricli plans to create weekend schools where teaching volunteers will help Roma children with their studies in secondary schools to make the best of their education.

7 Collaboration with local authorities in solving the issues facing Roma with disabilities

Since 2019, Chiricli has been working with state institutions regarding the protection of the rights of Roma with disabilities on both the national and international level. Chiricli has provided humanitarian assistance to Roma with disabilities and carried out research on the problems they face in the region of Odessa. The issues confronting Roma with disabilities have never been taken up by other Ukrainian organizations at the appropriate level.

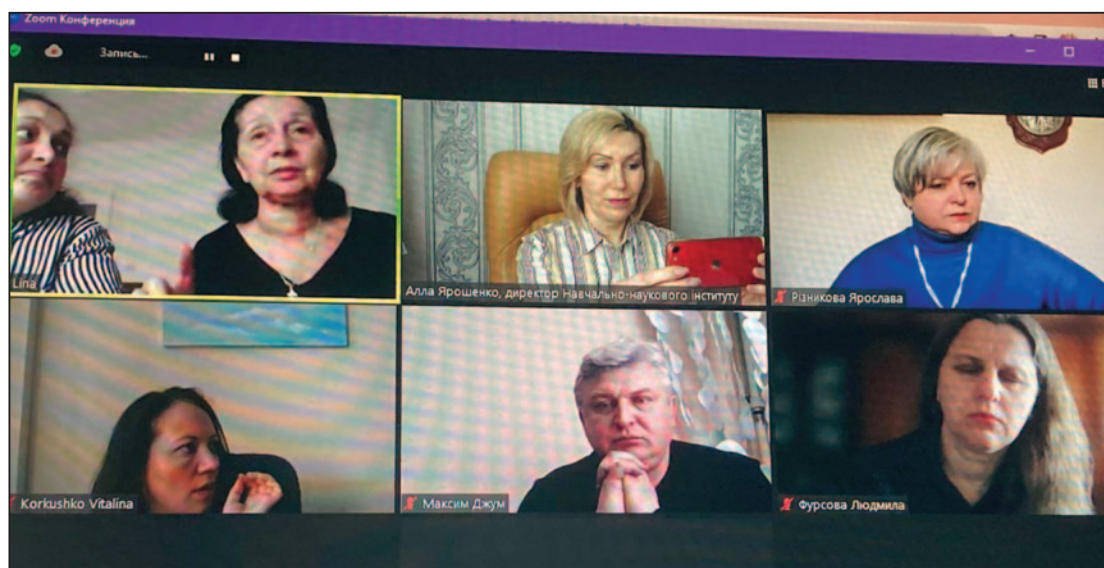
On 18 April 2023, Chiricli held a national conference online. The following participants were present: a representative of the High Commissioner for the Rights of Persons with Disabilities; the state expert of the expert group on rehabilitation of the Ministry of Social Policy of Ukraine; the state expert of the expert group on issues of persons with disabilities of the Ministry of Social Policy; the deputy director of the Department of Culture, Nationalities, Religions and Protection of Cultural Heritage Objects of the Odessa regional administration; and mediators and other representatives of Chiricli.

Joint actions to improve the situation of Roma with disabilities were suggested and discussed. Some participants proposed composing a letter to the Minister of Social Policy in Ukraine, to suggest that Roma Strategy 2023 funds should be used to give Roma with disabilities

access to mobility equipment. In terms of advocacy, meetings were arranged in Odessa region with state representatives of the Pension Fund and the Department of Social Protection to discuss the issues facing Roma with disabilities, especially problems related to the reduction of the disability pension.

Chiricli's mediators continue their advocacy activities, communicating with Roma with disabilities in their communities, and receiving Roma with disabilities in their office in Odessa. Chiricli's mediators work to save the lives of Roma with disabilities when there are emergencies: they call ambulances to come to Roma communities and drive Roma with disabilities to hospital, as well as women who are having their babies, people in need of surgery and others.

Following much concerted communication with the local authority, social workers promised to provide humanitarian aid to Roma with disabilities and to avoid discriminating against Roma with disabilities in the provision of social services. On 20 June 2023, Chiricli conducted an international conference call to discuss essential steps to address issues facing Roma with disabilities in Ukraine. The situation of Roma with disabilities in Odessa region was discussed in light of the monitoring that had been conducted in Roma settlements.



International conference call on the situation facing Roma with disabilities in Ukraine.

Proposals offered by state representatives were also discussed on how to improve the situation of Roma girls in education, as well as possible benefits of visual aids for Roma with visual impairments.

Participants included:

- The Head of the Department of Correctional Education, Social Work and Interaction with Inclusive Resource Centres of The Department of Education And Science of the Odessa
- Regional State Administration – Uglich Oksana
- Representative of the Government Commissioner for the Rights of Persons with Disabilities – Fursova Lyudmila
- Deputy Director of the Department of Culture, Nationalities, Religions and Protection of Cultural Heritage Objects of the Odessa Regional State Administration – Risnikova Yaroslava
- Programme Manager for Eastern/Southeastern Europe and Ukraine, Solidaritätsdienst International (Solidarity Service International) – Marie Robinski

- Disability Project Officer and Coordinator at Minority Rights Group – Lauren Avery and Sira Thiam
- Mediator and Chiricli representative in the Odessa region – Maxim Dgum
- High Commissioner for the Rights of Persons with Disabilities in Ukraine – Tatyana Barantsova
- Head of the Department of the Commissioner for Equal Rights and Freedoms of National Minorities in Political and Religious Views – Ganna Barabash
- Representative of Chiricli – Lina Kondur
- President of Chiricli – Yuliia Kondur

State institutions will only join Chiricli in protecting the rights of Roma with disabilities when discrimination against Roma with disabilities in Odessa region is proven and documented – as it has been in this and other reports by Chiricli.

8 Recommendations

As a result of this research, Chiricli makes the following recommendations:

For the Odessa Regional State Administration:

- To assign a representative from the Office of Social Protection to join Roma or non-Roma mediators in visiting the homes of Roma with disabilities. This is important for within-state monitoring of the situation of Roma with disabilities according to Decree N°. 335, 'About the Statement of Changes to the State Standard of Care at Home', adopted by Ukraine on 16 June 2021, and paragraph 1.4 of Part I of the Decree N°. 355.
- To ensure access to the internet in the homes of all Roma with disabilities so Roma girls have free access to online educational classes, and to use the budget of Roma Strategy 2030 to address this gap.

For the expert group on issues of persons with disabilities of the Ministry of Social Policy:

- To recommend to the Minister of Social Policy to use the budget of Roma Strategy 2030 to address the problems of Roma with disabilities in housing, medical services, the reconstruction of ruined houses and their official registration. Also, to support the health of Roma with disabilities by providing them with appropriate help to access mobility equipment, orthopaedic shoes, hearing apparatuses, disability equipment for bedrooms, bathrooms and rest rooms using the budget of Roma Strategy 2030.

For the Office of the High Commissioner for the Rights of Persons with Disabilities:

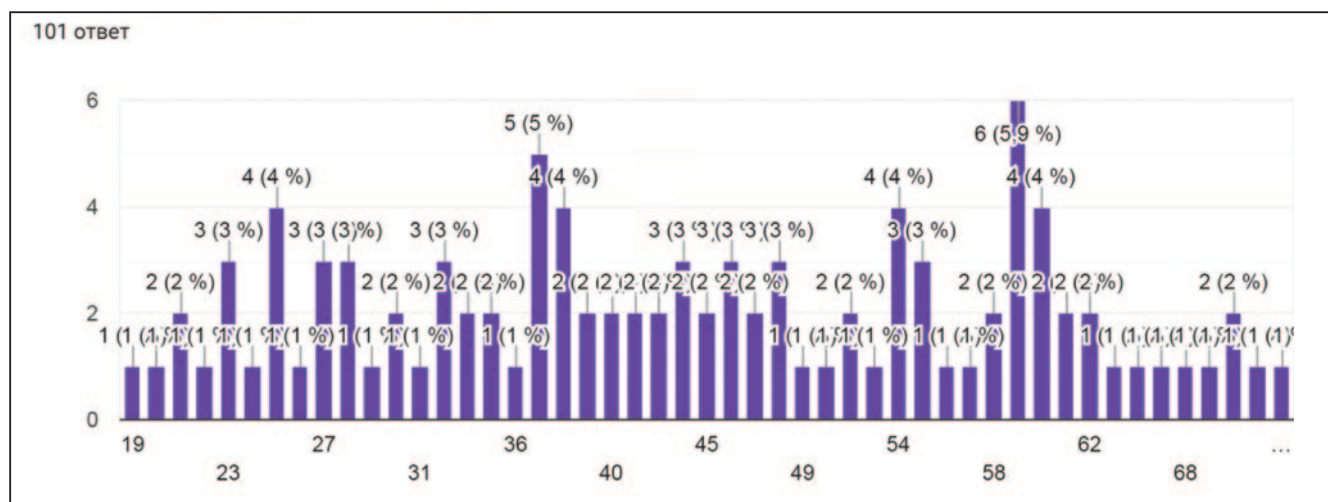
- To assist in protecting the rights of Roma with disabilities in the case of reduction of disability pensions and non-payment of pensions.
- To protect the rights of Roma with disabilities in cases of discrimination with regard to their medical rights in state hospitals and at appointments with their doctor, and to prevent the extortion of money for treatment, appointments with doctors and diagnostics.

To the expert group on rehabilitation of the Ministry of Social Policy of Ukraine:

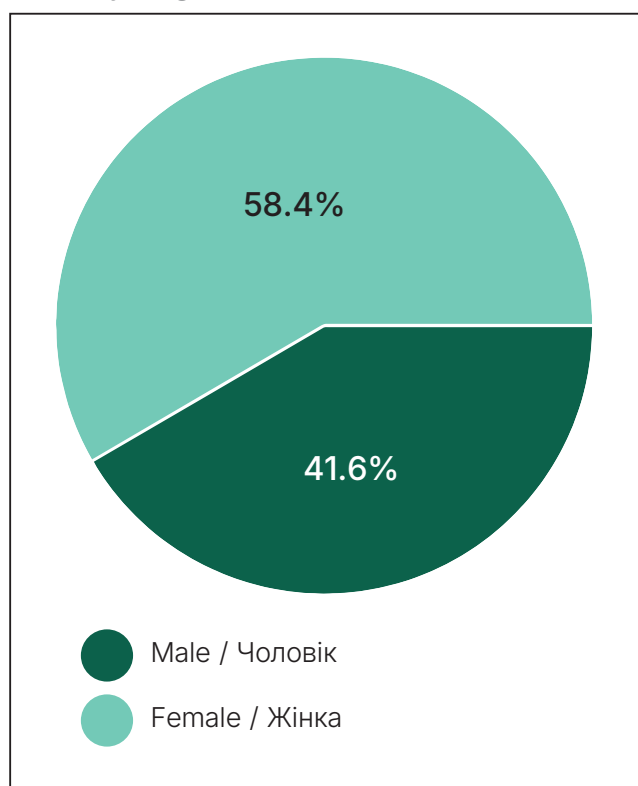
- To protect the rights of Roma with disabilities in rehabilitation centres, to pay attention to their health and spiritual state using the budget of Roma Strategy 2030.

Appendix

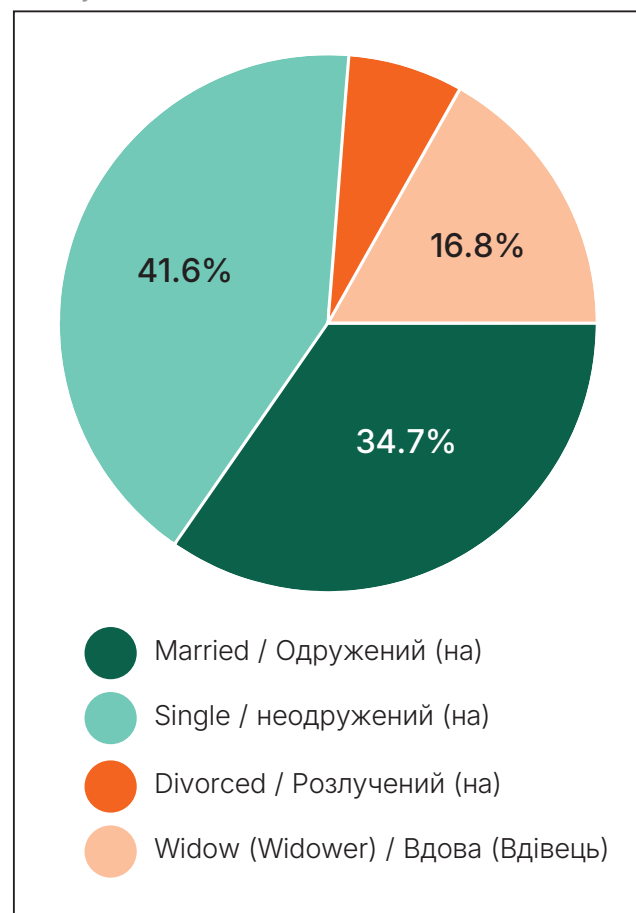
How old are you? / скільки тобі років?



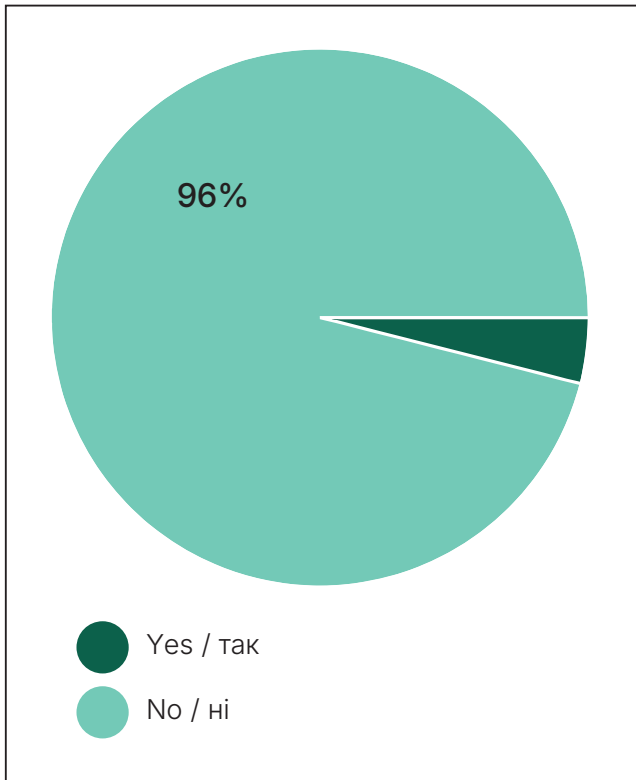
What is your gender? / яка твоя стать?



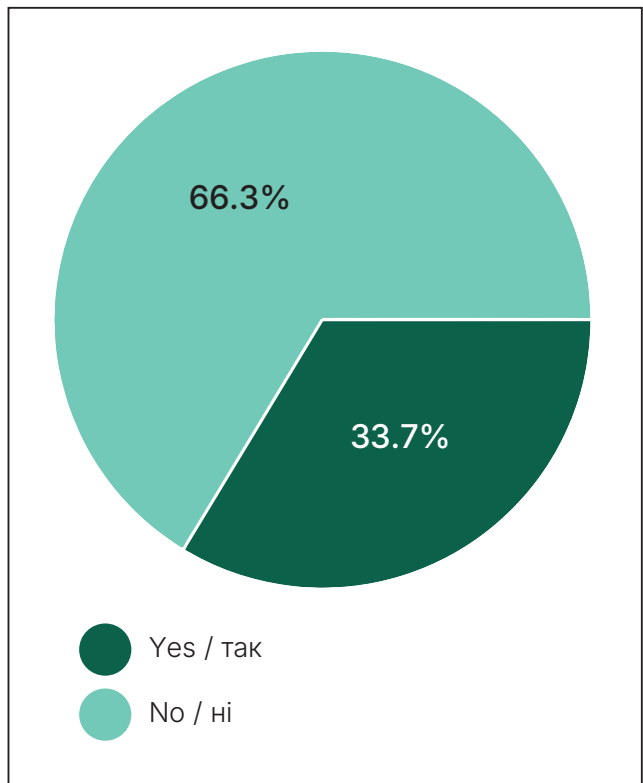
What is your marital status? / який у вас сімейний стан?



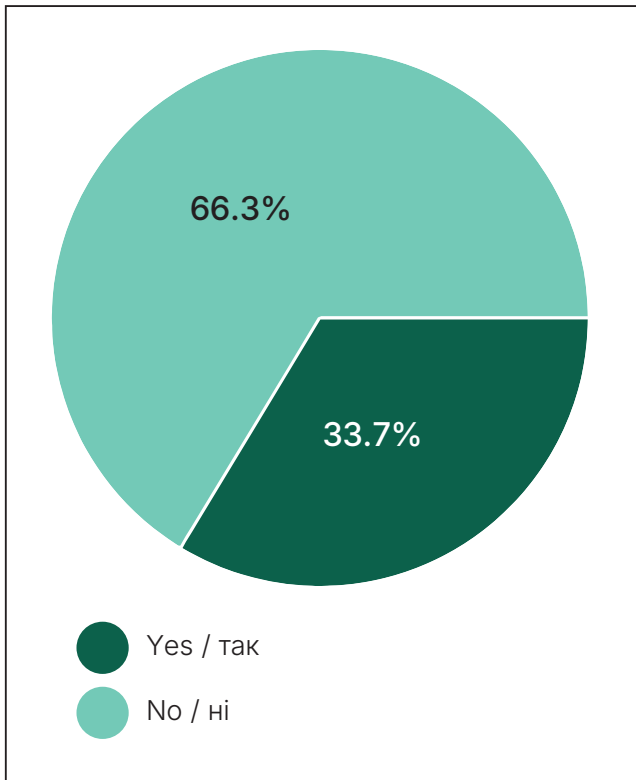
Do you work by profession in time of war? / Ви працюєте за фахом у воєнний час?



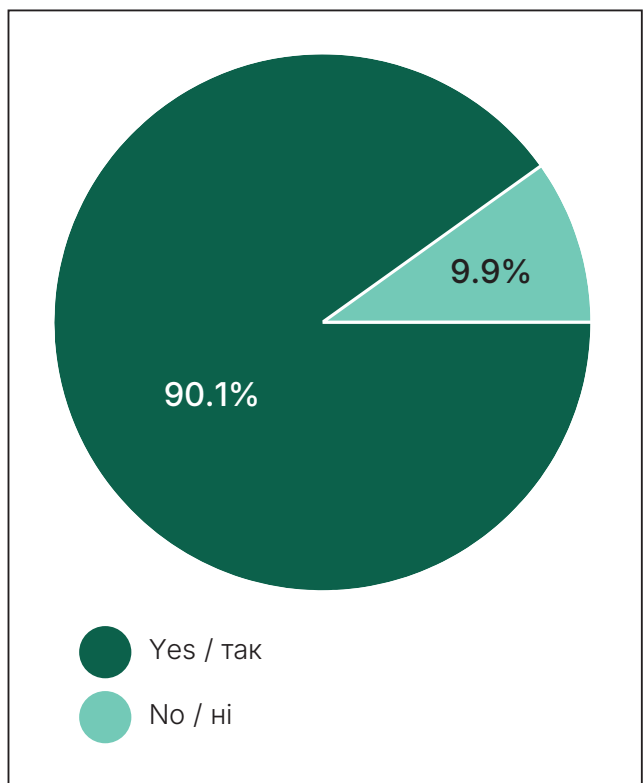
Are you retired now? / Ви зараз на пенсії?



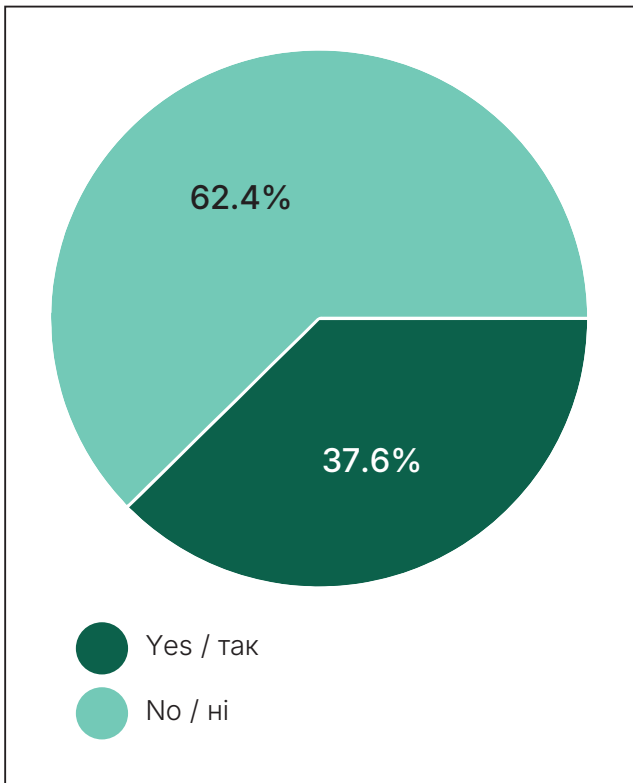
Do you receive a pension? / Ви отримуєте пенсію?



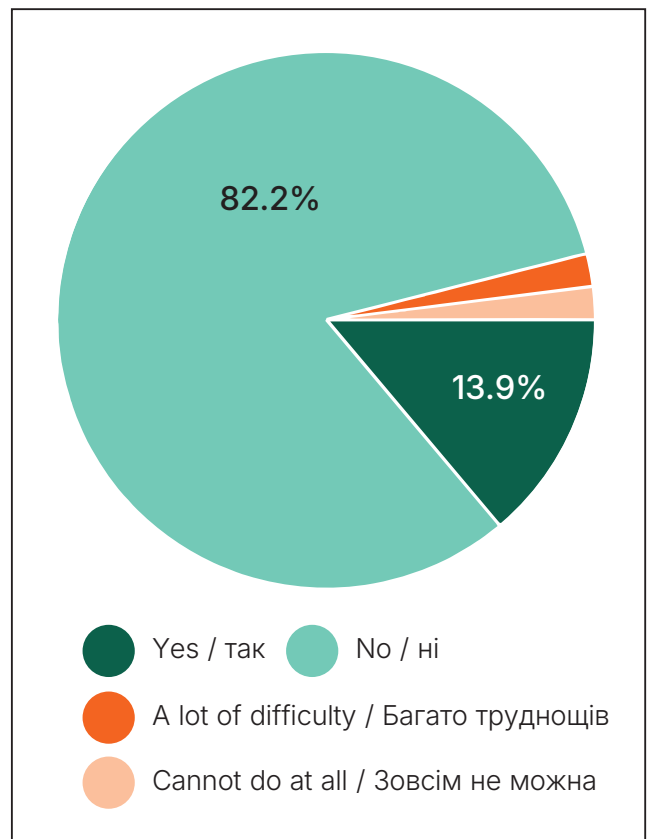
Do you need medical help? / Вам потрібна медична допомога?



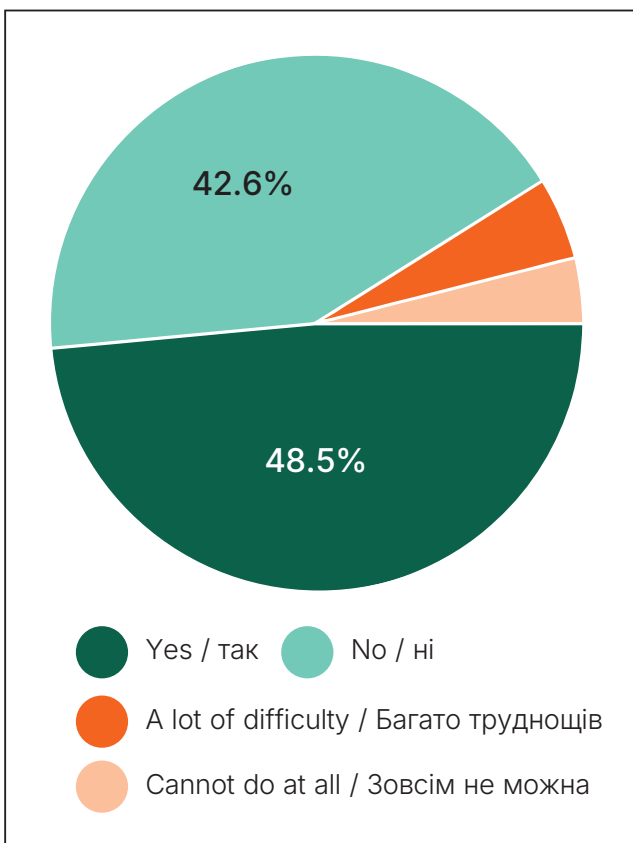
Do you need psychological support? /
Вам потрібна психологічна підтримка?



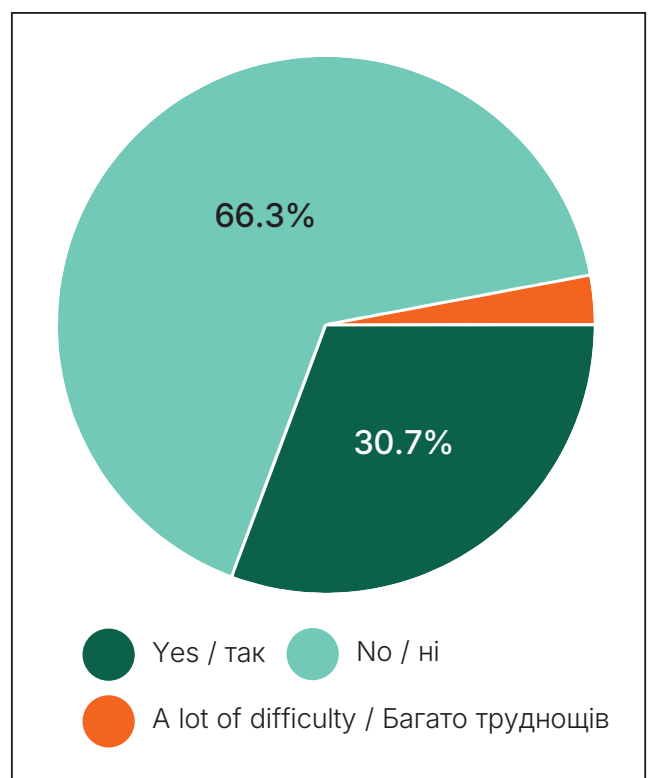
Do you have difficulty seeing even with glasses? /
Ви погано бачите навіть в окулярах?



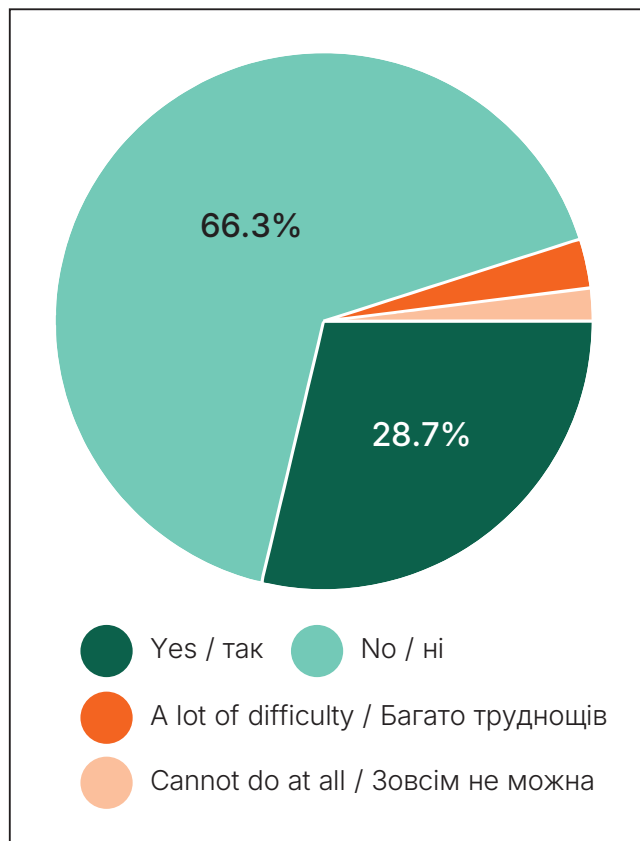
Do you have a problem walking or climbing steps? /
У вас є проблеми з ходьбою або підйомом по сходах?



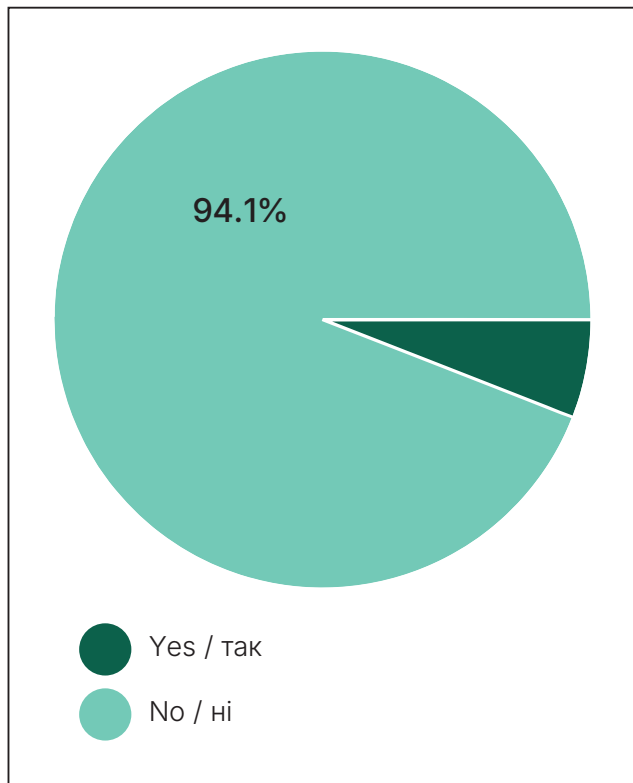
Do you have difficulty remembering or concentrating? /
Вам важко запам'ятати або зосередитися?



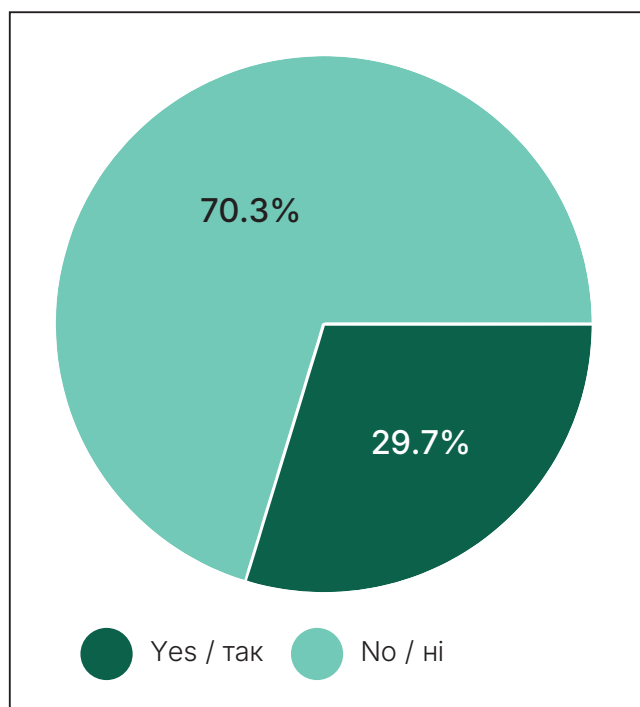
Do you have difficulty (with self-care such as) washing all over or dressing? / Чи є у вас труднощі (з доглядом за собою, наприклад) з миттям тіла чи одяганням?



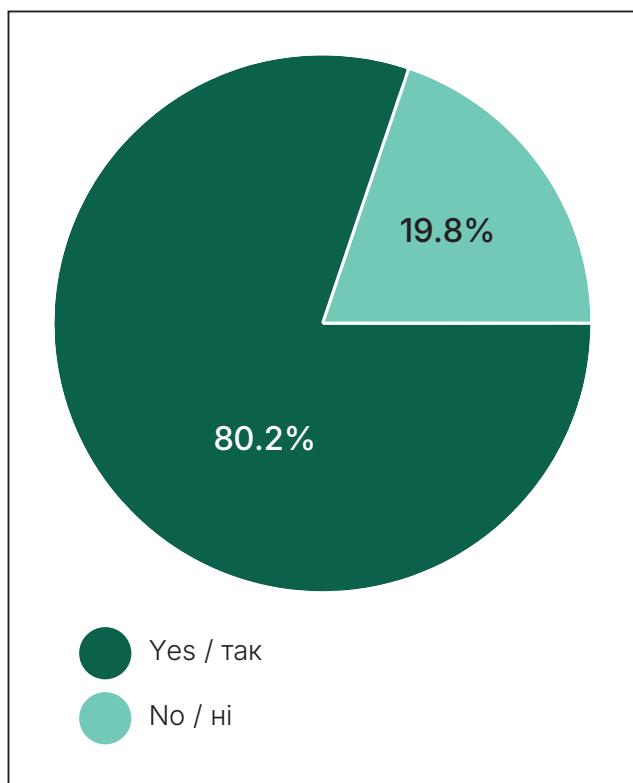
Using your usual language, do you have difficulty understanding or being understood? / Використовуючи вашу звичну мову, вам важко зрозуміти або вас розуміють?



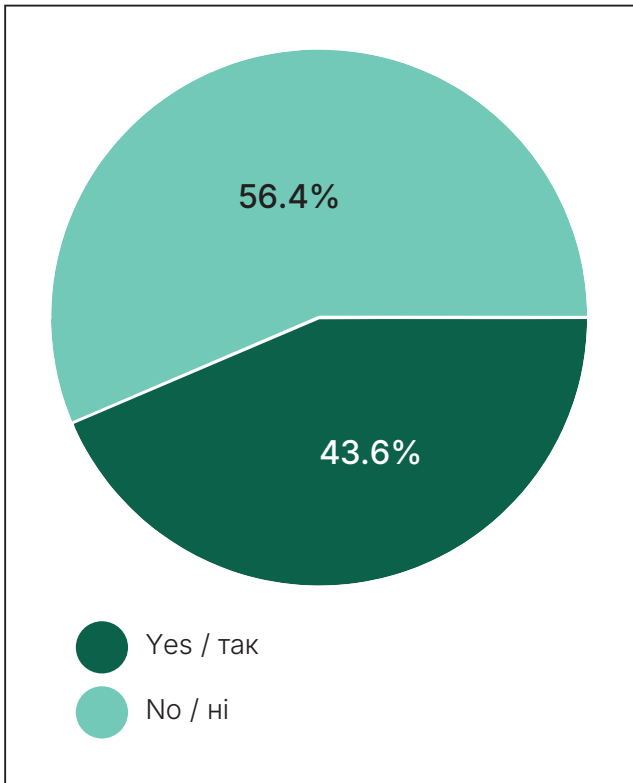
Are you registered with a disability identity card? / Ви зареєстровані з посвідченням інваліда?



Are there any children in your family? / Чи є у вашій родині діти?



If you have daughters, do they have access to the internet – for online studying? / Якщо у вас є дочки, чи мають вони доступ до Інтернету – для онлайн-навчання?



Notes

- 1 State Statistics Committee of Ukraine, Census 2001 (to date the only census of the population of independent Ukraine).
- 2 European Disability Forum, Rights of persons with disabilities during the war in Ukraine: Summary of monitoring report, February 2023.
- 3 Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, 'Answers to questions related to the Human Rights Council resolution 31/6 concerning the rights of persons with disabilities: Ukraine', available at <<https://www.ohchr.org/sites/default/files/Documents/Issues/Disability/StudyEqualityAndNonDiscrimination/NHRIs/Ukraine.doc>>
- 4 Constitution of Ukraine, Article 49.
- 5 See electronic resources: <https://zakon.rada.gov.ua/laws/show/z1100-21#top>

working to secure the rights of minorities and indigenous peoples

Minority Rights Group



Ukraine's forgotten victims: Roma with disabilities in wartime

Roma with disabilities are one of the most marginalized groups in Ukrainian society. As the Russo-Ukrainian War wages on, this marginalization has only become further entrenched. Despite this, there remains a major dearth of data on and attention given to their situation. This report offers first-hand information on the pervasive neglect suffered by Roma with disabilities in Ukraine gathered by local NGO, International Charitable Organization Roma Women's Fund Chiricli, their recommendations for addressing this neglect, as well as insights into their work with local, national and international institutions regarding the protection of the rights of Roma with disabilities.

Ukraine's forgotten victims offers essential insights into the living conditions, health needs and socioeconomic status of Roma with disabilities in Ukraine. It exposes how, due to persistent societal discrimination and stereotyping, Roma with disabilities have been largely forgotten in humanitarian relief efforts and social services. The combination of this discrimination and their poor economic status (itself a consequence of discrimination), has presented a major barrier for Roma with disabilities to access the benefits and relief to which they should be entitled.

This report sounds an urgent call: more must be done to ensure that Roma with disabilities in Ukraine are reached by wartime relief and regular social welfare systems alike. In all likelihood, this situation has undoubtedly already worsened since the research was carried out.



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