



ОСВІТНЬО-АНАЛІТИЧНИЙ
ЦЕНТР РОЗВИТКУ
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NGOs and Activists During the War: State and Prospects

The results of the survey of public activists
from **04.04.2022** to **07.04.2022**

NGO "Educationally-analytical Center of Community Development" NI



The survey was conducted to study the state of public organizations and their members during a full-scale war. Peculiarities of activity, short-term and long-term activity plans, needs and proposals for adaptation to new realities were studied.

The results of the survey will be useful to public organizations, as the information presented here will help them to start changing their own development strategy and make plans for periods of time: from today - to victory, and - from victory and beyond.

Donor organizations will better understand what is happening in the public sector of Ukraine, what are the needs today, and what may arise later.

This will help to prepare current proposals and competitions that will help the public sector to develop effectively after the victory, and not disappear from the map of Ukraine.



Results of the research

Number of polled public activists – **60**

Survey method – **online survey**

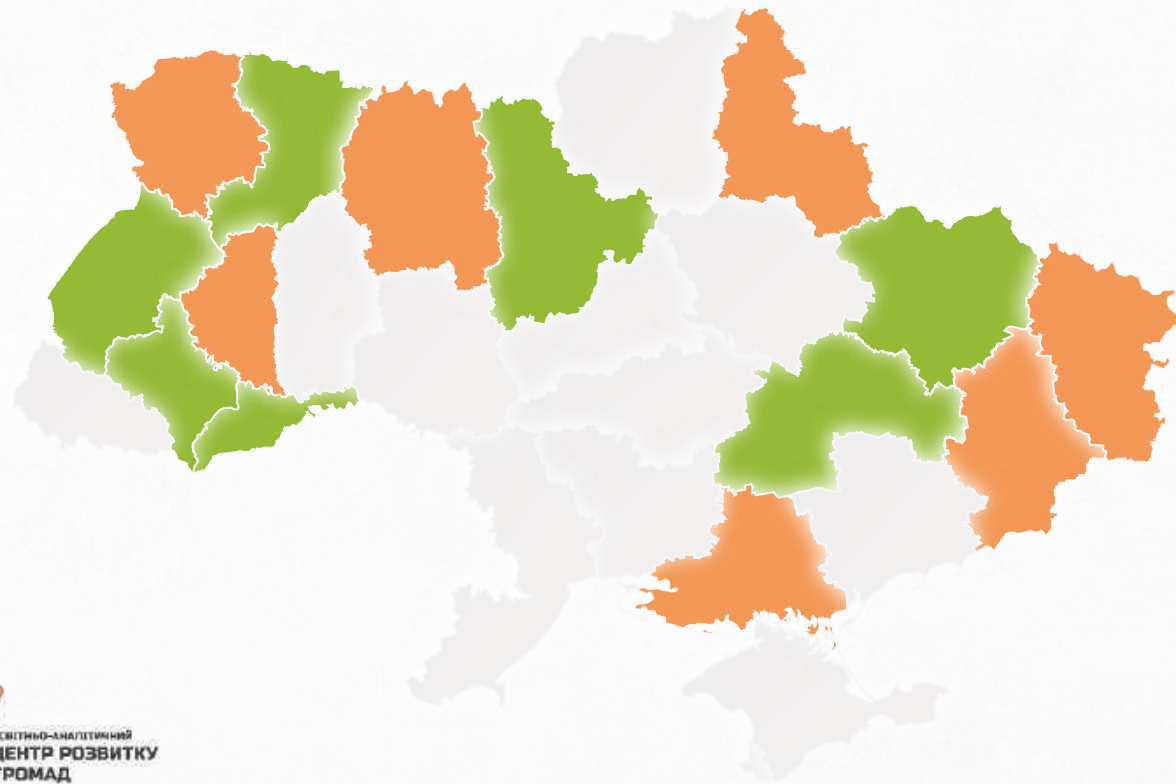
Geography of respondents who lived before the full-scale war in the following regions:



■ Donetsk region	12
■ Luhansk region	10
■ Kyiv region	8
■ Kharkiv region	5
■ Kherson region	5
■ Lviv region	4
■ Volyn region	3

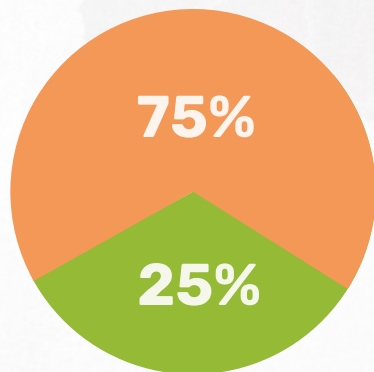
■ Zhytomyr region	3
■ Ivano-Frankivsk region	2
■ Rivne region	2
■ Sumy region	2
■ Chernivtsi region	2
■ Zaporizhzhya region	1
■ Ternopil region	1

Public activists from **14 regions** of Ukraine took part in the poll.



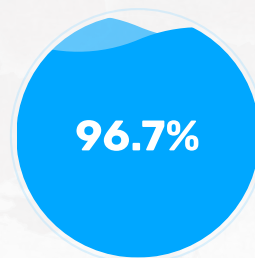
Public activists

45 respondents - changed their place of residence (42 of them moved to another region, 3 - to another country),



(15 respondents) - remained in their communities.

After the victory, do you plan to continue working in the public sector of your community?



96,7% of respondents plan to continue working in the public sector of their own community, **3,3%** - are still hesitating.

Challenges facing CIVIL ACTIVISTS today



Financial difficulties

lack of a stable source of income, difficult to find or arrange or find a job.



Housing problems

those activists who have changed their place of residence have a problem with housing or paying for it.



Challenges of a psychological nature

psychological stability, social adaptation, burnout, the balance between volunteering and recreation, how to be productive in new conditions.



Lack of conditions for the work of the public organization

including - inability to provide services to the target audience, freezing of project activities, lack of quality Internet. But at the same time they noted new opportunities for the organization, new methods of communication and directions for activities.



Public activists also noted the following challenges:

- there is no certainty in the future due to the impossibility of planning even in the medium term;
- own safety, safety of family members and members of their organization;
- assistance with departure of colleagues from the temporarily occupied territories;
- support for those who remained in the zone of active hostilities;
- staying in the relatively safe area of western Ukraine, or returning home;
- physical loss of housing, office, property due to active hostilities.

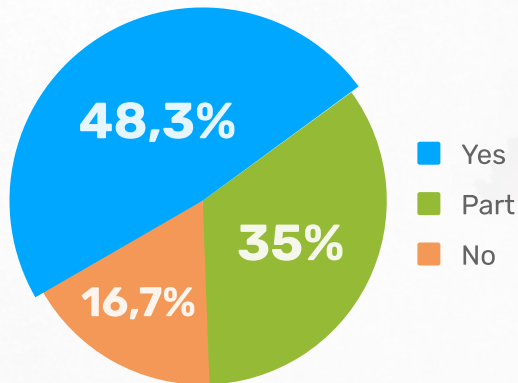


NGOS



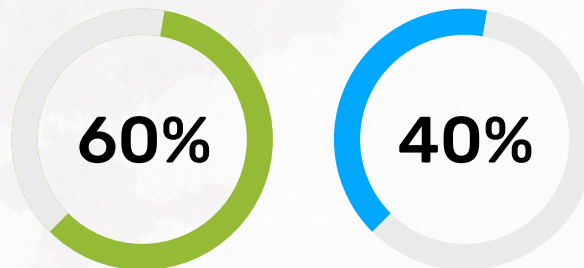
Does your organization continue to implement projects?

Despite full-scale military action, **almost half of all respondents** continue to implement projects, and **more than 1/3** - implement initiatives in part, and **only 16.7%** have completely stopped project activities.



Have you prepared new projects and submitted them to a potential donor during the last month?

Most of the surveyed NGOs, in addition to continuing their project activities, plan future initiatives, design them into projects and submit them to potential donors for funding:



of respondents have prepared and submitted projects to potential donors in the last month

did not submit new projects to donor organizations.

Challenges facing NGOs TODAY



NGO Members

The most important problem facing a large number of surveyed members of public organizations is the socio-economic challenges for them and project teams. A public organization is primarily people, and the activities of a public organization largely depend on their financial, psychological and security situation. Another challenge today is to change the priorities of NGO members - there is no time for public activities.

The next most important challenge was the "scattering" of team members throughout Ukraine and abroad, which requires its reformatting and communication. Added to this is the mobilization of the male part of the project team, which can stop work or significantly complicate it. And in case of further escalation - the departure of even more of the team abroad.



Geography and Space for NGO Activities

Challenges related to the geography of NGO activities - the inability to work in Luhansk and Donetsk regions, life-threatening due to pro-Ukrainian activities of the organization. It is difficult to organize safe and useful work in the occupation to be able to help people and show support from Ukraine and the world.

Loss of the organization's office and all office equipment. As a result - the lack of logistics for the organization.



Changing NGO Priorities

Changing the direction of the organization, in accordance with the needs of today. Inability to provide services to the target audience. "Freezing" the implementation of projects.



Fundraising

The problem with project funding from donor organizations.

Focus of funds, mainly on social projects, that's why other areas suffer. Also, most foundations and programs do not want to work in conditions of occupation and danger, and the vast majority of services and programs are focused on IDPs who have managed to leave.

Lack of opportunities to implement large projects and find funding for them.



In your opinion, if the war continues for another 2-3 months, what will be the challenges facing your NGO AFTER THE VICTORY?



Organizations that have worked in communities where active hostilities have taken place or have been waged include the following as challenges:

Where to work? Who to work with? Who to work for?

These questions arise from the fact that at the time of the survey, the offices of organizations and their property were physically destroyed, team members traveled to various cities in Ukraine and around the world, and it is unclear whether they will return. There is also a question in the target audience for whom the organizations worked - most of them left the communities.

Therefore, after the victory, upon returning to the community, the activities of the organization will have to start from the beginning. A small number of respondents said they were ready to implement traditional NGO projects in other cities in the country and were open to proposals.



Changing Priorities and Target Audience

Most organizations, regardless of the geography of activities, note a change in the direction of the organization to rebuild and restore postwar Ukraine, strengthening the public sector. Organizations will be forced to reorient the current military and pre-war strategy of the organization to post-war.

Many organizations, among the future target audiences, mention migrants and those who are mobilized. The part also mentions assistance to Donbass residents.

Activists predict that there will be many requests from the region's communities for information and training support in the field of infrastructure rehabilitation and integration of IDPs, which they will not be able to physically cope with, which will reduce the image of the organization.

Among the challenges for organizations is also changing the priorities of the members of the organization. Yes, part of the team can move from the public sector to business, as a result of which institutional memory will be lost.



Challenges of a Psychological Nature

After the start of the full-scale war, civic activists took on the organization of volunteer movements, humanitarian headquarters and other activities aimed at the victory of Ukraine. Already today there are signs of burnout.

After the end of the war and our victory, this psychological fatigue and exhaustion may prevent active involvement in the next stage of activity - the reconstruction of the organization and the resuscitation of its activities.

Therefore, the team will need support from burnout, rehabilitation and recovery, so that the assistance and services they will provide are of high quality and the employees are professional and stable.

Restart of Work

Regardless the place of residence and activity, many activists point restarting work as a challenge because:

- existing projects have been suspended;
- new competitions are practically not announced;
- existing funding is running out and there is no guarantee that it will be in the near future;
- current development strategy of the organization is not relevant;
- members of the teams have split up and it is unknown what will happen to them;
- all processes have stopped - from communication to fundraising;
- offices are either physically destroyed or there are no money to pay rent.





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What initiative / proposal aimed at supporting and developing the capacity of public organizations would be most useful for your organization **TODAY, when the war is going on?**

In this section, it is important for us what kind of help public activists need today, in the period of time: from today to victory

Grant Support



NGOs today need an up-to-date list of donors and the availability of permanent open competitions to ensure the organization's work with a simplified application system and their prompt consideration.

In addition, there is a need to support specific areas and ideas:



Support for human rights projects.



Project to record and monitor human rights violations, as well as provide information services to people on various livelihood issues during the occupation.



Grants to fight fakes, debunk russian propaganda.



Assist in funding the development of a chatbot (a survey to identify the needs of volunteers who have sought help) and the development of an application that would help people assess their condition and provide basic psychological advice based on answers. It is possible to purchase a CRM system for our needs.

Support for Members of the Organization



Members of almost all public organizations found themselves in a difficult financial situation, as the main source of income was working in a public organization. Based on this, the following proposals are most common:



Financial support during the war.



Monthly assistance to public activists from settlements that have suffered significant damage.



Providing housing for the affected regions.



Promoting the employment of the organization's employees so that they can feel financially secure and help people.

In addition to financial and material assistance, community activists point to the need for free psychotherapy and mental health services.

Educational Activities



Educational activities on the following topics would significantly improve organizational capacity:



How to create a volunteer and charitable organization?



Training of people who lost their jobs as a result of the war in three educational blocks: "Law", "Employment", "Self-education".



Communications, coaching, time management.



Integration into New Communities



Civic activists who have moved to new communities seek to actively integrate into new environments and resume their daily activities, here they offer:



Integration activities, acquaintance with the peculiarities of the new community and adaptation - media, government, business, existing organizations.



Associations with other organizations, both local and relocated.



Development and implementation of a program to prepare housing in villages for IDP shelters.



Current Activities of the Organization



Most respondents consider returning to the activities of their own NGOs in new communities. While doing that, they need help in the following:



Promotion of the organization's activities in order to replenish new members (to replace those who left and mobilized).

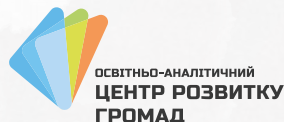


Creation of a social enterprise on the basis of NGOs.



Creation of hubs (resource centers) for NGOs on the basis of cities and towns of the west and center of Ukraine, which received the most IDPs with access to office equipment and stationery. Assistance in relocation of public organizations.





What initiative/proposal aimed at supporting and developing the capacity of public organizations would be most useful for your organization AFTER THE VICTORY and END OF THE WAR?

The answer to this question will help to understand the vision of the development of organizations after the victory, and proposals that, in theory, will be relevant to civil society activists in a few months.

Respondents who have temporarily relocated to new communities or lost the offices of their organizations say they need help rebuilding offices (including office equipment), funding activities, and rebuilding their own teams.



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In addition, the following support is important for public activists.

Creating Public Hubs and Networks

- Unification of public initiatives of the north, east and south of Ukraine into certain resource centers for NGOs
- Arrangement of Hubs of public activity in destroyed communities

Educational Activities

- Training on "Project management in the direction of volunteer initiatives."
- Training for team building.
- As the number of grant opportunities for the civil society of Ukraine will increase - training in project and financial management and fundraising.

Grant Support in the Following Areas:

- Assistance in the restoration of the civic environment of Donetsk and Luhansk regions.
- Work with IDPs who will remain living in the community. Work with those who are demobilized.
- Financial support for several months after the end of the war to return to normal operation.
- Assistance in rebuilding the material base (office, equipment, furniture) in the first months after the war.
- Grants for offline projects to support new connections (activists began to communicate with previously unfamiliar people), development of new vectors and forms of work (military support, humanitarian aid), with which they began working during the war.
- Restoration of "frozen" projects.
- Long-term projects aimed at organizational support and capacity building and sustainability of local governments, staffing and a system of development, adaptation and provision of services of appropriate quality in the long run with the appropriate specialization.
- In order for people to return, they will need to be offered something extraordinary, opportunities for work and leisure that they have never had or seen before.
- Assistance in the creation of social enterprises.
- Development of strategic documents in accordance with new realities.
- Funding of psychological support groups and individual psychotherapeutic work, mental health.



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The survey was conducted by the NGO "Educationally-analytical Center of Community Development" in partnership with the National Endowment for Democracy (NED)