Working together
www.rcis.ro

Revista de Cercetare si Interventie Sociala

ISSN: 1583-3410 (print), ISSN: 1584-5397 (electronic)

WARTIME SOCIAL PROTECTION AND HUMAN SECURITY

Serhii PIDDUBNYI, Oleksandr KORNIIEVSKYI, Andrii VARVUS,
Oleg MAKARENKO,Sergii GOLUBYTSKYI

Revista de cercetare și intervenție socială, 2025, vol. 89, pp. 61-81

https://doi.org/10.33788/rcis.89.4

Published by:
Expert Projects Publishing House

expert projects
publishing

On behalf of:
„Alexandru Ioan Cuza" University,
Department of Sociology and Social Work
and
HoltIS Association

Wartime Social Protection and Human Security

Serhii PIDDUBNYI[1], Oleksandr KORNIIEVSKYI[2], Andrii VARVUS[3], Oleg MAKARENKO[4],Sergii GOLUBYTSKYI[5]

Abstract

In the current conditions of war, social policy and security are becoming key priorities for Ukraine, where the armed conflict is exacerbating social inequality, impoverishment, and infrastructure destruction. The relevance of the study is stipulated by the need to adapt social mechanisms to military realities, ensure the protection of vulnerable groups and assess the impact of the crisis on the welfare of the population through the Human Development Index (HDI). The purpose of the article is to analyze the conceptual foundations of quality social policy and the formation of social security in the context of war in Ukraine, and to develop recommendations for institutionalizing social stability in society. The study is based on a quantitative analysis of the HDI using linear regression, which takes into account the indices of longevity (LEI), education (EI) and income (II), with a dummy variable for the wartime period. The article uses the least squares (OLS) method, comparative analysis of social planning, and a structural-functional

[1] Department of Political Technologies, Kyiv National Economic University named after Vadym Hetman, Kyiv, UKRAINE, E-mail: piddubnyi.serhii@kneu.edu.ua; ORCID: https://orcid.org/0009-0008-5596-6386

[2] Center for Domestic Policy Research, Department of Social Processes, National Institute for Strategic Studies, Kyiv, UKRAINE, E-mail: kornievich58p@gmail.com; ORCID: https://orcid.org/0000-0002-1512-0326

[3] Department of Economic Theory, Management and Administration, Yuriy Fedkovych Chernivtsi National University, Chernivtsi, UKRAINE, E-mail: varvus.andrii@chnu.edu.ua; ORCID: https://orcid.org/0000-0003-4529-6223

[4] Institute for Demography and Life Quality Problems of the National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine, Kyiv, UKRAINE, E-mail: montekozlo@gmail.com; ORCID: https://orcid.org/ 0000-0002-5332-3095

[5] Department of Financial and Economic Security Management of the Interregional Academy of Personnel Management, Kyiv, UKRAINE, E-mail: sergii.golubytskyi@gmail.com; ORCID: https://orcid.org/0000-0002-5488-381X

approach to assessing the effectiveness of social security at the state level. A model with a correction variable reflecting the negative impact of the war is developed and a number of institutional measures aimed at strengthening social protection and adapting policy in the context of military operations are proposed. Future research could focus on analyzing the long-term effects of war on social security, evaluating the effectiveness of international assistance, and developing a post-war strategy for social recovery.

Keywords: public self-organization; socially vulnerable groups; social policy; state regulation; social protection; social security; global challenges; instability of economic development.

Introduction

In the context of wartime and global challenges, social policy and social security are critical to ensuring the stability of society, preserving human capital, and maintaining economic activity. Active phases of military conflicts pose a number of serious challenges to the national social protection system, which require a radical restructuring and modernization of existing mechanisms of state support for citizens. In conditions of active hostilities, the factors of creating a reliable legal framework for providing social guarantees to the population, maintaining the level of employment, protecting the most vulnerable segments of society and maintaining an acceptable standard of living acquire particular importance (Kongshøj, 2023).

Research into the issues of comprehensive social policy and security in martial law is of critical importance, since namely on the basis of such scientific work the strategic direction of state measures to minimize the negative impact of war on people's lives is formed. Military actions not only destroy the economic infrastructure and state institutions, but also create a real threat to the well-being of every citizen, which necessitates the development of comprehensive social protection programs that would combine world experience with modern methods of public administration (Mulska *et al*., 2022).

The realities of today really require fundamentally new approaches to regulating social processes, and the practices of implementing flexible, adaptive management mechanisms focused on specific projects and tasks are becoming the primary tasks. Particularly important are such components as: an individual approach to the formation of state programs, a prompt response to changing needs of the population, as well as effective interaction between state bodies, the private sector and international organizations (Diaz Torre & Warner, 2024; Nikonenko *et al*.,

2022). Therefore, it should be noted that research of this direction not only allows assessing the level of effectiveness of existing and established state social support programs, but also creates the basis for the development of innovative mechanisms for sustainable social protection. Namely these new approaches can ensure the stability of society and contribute to its further development even in conditions of ongoing wars and conflicts.

Literature Review

The topic of social policy and social security in conditions of military conflict is the subject of analysis of a number of modern scientific studies (Börsch-Supan & Coile, 2018; Koch, 2022), when the authors comprehensively and systematically determine the fundamental principles and components of the functioning of the social state, the social security system for the population, as well as legal mechanisms for protecting the rights and guarantees of citizens in conditions of crises and wars. We also note that according to the scientific works of (Norton *et al*., 2002) and (Țop & Hrestic, 2023), the state can be recognized as social only if it is able to guarantee citizens support at a level sufficient to maintain a decent standard of living. This condition is directly achieved through the implementation and long-term integration of a developed economic model focused on social values, and an effective mechanism for the redistribution of material wealth. According to (Pavlova, 2023), the welfare state is an institutional system aimed at minimizing social inequality and supporting vulnerable groups, and also serves as a compromise mechanism to smooth out social contradictions. (Adkhamjonovich, 2024) and (Lyndiuk, 2024) note that the fundamental principle of the welfare state is social justice, which implies an equal distribution of public goods and opportunities.

The concept of social security as one of the key areas of state policy is considered in legal documents and international conventions, and here Dubel (2024) and Hoian et al. (2024), emphasizes that social protection covers a set of measures aimed at maintaining stability in society and preventing social risks that can lead to the degradation of living standards.

Particular attention in scientific research is paid to the effectiveness of social policy in the context of global crises, military conflicts and instability. According to the recommendations of such an institution as Social security developments and trends - Europe 2024 (2024), states should adapt the social security system to the needs of different categories of the population by expanding the possibilities of social insurance, voluntary social protection systems and government initiatives aimed at supporting employees of small and medium-sized businesses.

De Becker (2023) and Murphy & McGann (2022) note that social protection systems should be based on a combination of compulsory and voluntary forms of

social insurance, and their implementation can be carried out through both state, public and commercial institutions.

Scientific research of the new period emphasizes that the social protection of the population itself has become a fundamental component of the modern rule of law. In particular, (Banerjee *et al.,* 2024) and (Piachaud, 2020) identify five key institutional mechanisms that ensure effective social protection: 1) state social assistance, 2) social security system, 3) mandatory social insurance, 4) voluntary additional insurance and 5) private social insurance. And the institutions they identified together create a new multi-level system aimed at minimizing the emergence of social risks and simultaneously supporting different segments of the country's population in various life situations.

At the same time, (Mumtaz *et al*., 2024) focus their scientific findings on the need for broad legal regulation of social protection within the state, covering not only classical forms of social support, but also the entire complex of guarantees, which includes: medical care, protection of labor rights, family support, charity, and other social assistance mechanisms.

A certain proportion of scientific works is devoted to the analysis of the role of social insurance as one of the most effective instruments of supporting the population in times of crises and challenges. In particular, (Caleiras & Carmo, 2024) and (Ellul, 2023) examine the social security system through the prism of the interaction of state regulation and private initiatives. They emphasize that the successful implementation of social protection programs (models) requires an integrated approach that combines state and social insurance, and the system of social payments, as well as charity and other forms of material assistance. In addition, these scientists note that the main goal of social protection is not only to solve current problems, but also to proactively prevent their occurrence by creating systems of forecasting, modeling, and operational response to real threats. In the work of (Agboklou *et al.,* 2024) and (Ivanov *et al.,* 2025), it was firmly emphasized that namely social protection mechanisms adapted to military realities allow the state to support the economic activity of the population and ensure a decent standard of living even in difficult conditions. Given these data, it is advisable to strengthen the current model of state regulation in the field of social payments, organize access to basic services for internally displaced persons, focus efforts on supporting the most vulnerable segments of the population, and intensify international cooperation to provide humanitarian assistance.

Methodology

In conducting this study, a comprehensive interdisciplinary approach was applied, integrating economic, social, and legal analyses. The basis of the study was the concept of the relationship between economic and legal aspects of social protection, which becomes particularly relevant in conditions of martial law. The

key tool of the study was structural-functional analysis, in the framework of which social security was considered as a holistic system of interdependent elements that directly affect the level of quality of life of the population and the degree of its social security. The comparative method was also introduced into the study, which became the basis for analyzing the leading international experience of organizing social protection in conditions of military conflicts and determining the possibility of its implementation in the case of Ukraine.

To conduct econometric modeling, a methodology was used that includes calculating the "human development index" (HDI) indicator for Ukraine for the study period from 2016 to 2023, with an emphasis on the impact of the war on social policy and security. In order to assess the dependence of the HDI on the main components, such as the longevity index (LEI), the education index (EI) and the income index (II), a linear regression estimation model was used and, in parallel, to take into account the specifics of wartime, a dummy variable was introduced into the model, reflecting the fluctuations of the indicators in the period 2022–2023. To estimate the parameters of the model used, the ordinary least squares (OLS) method was used in order to precisely determine the accuracy of estimating the coefficients of the econometric model and draw conclusions about the impact of the war on the socio-economic indicators of Ukraine.

Results

The concept of the welfare state, which in Western European historiography is called the welfare state, was first formulated in the works of the German historian and economist Lorenz von Stein in the mid-nineteenth century. The introduction of this term was an important step in rethinking the role of the state and its functions in society, marking a departure from the traditional model of public administration based on the concepts of the "police state," "social contract state," or "state as the highest form of government" (De Becker, 2023). Instead, the welfare state was designed to provide expanded social functions aimed at supporting the well-being of citizens, guaranteeing social justice, reducing inequality, and creating social protection mechanisms for the most vulnerable segments of the population.

In turn, social security involves the creation of effective mechanisms to guarantee the stability of the population's livelihoods, maintain social balance, develop human capabilities, preserve humanistic values, and stimulate socially useful activities. In times of war, social security becomes especially relevant, as it determines the state's ability to prevent mass impoverishment of the population, provide social support to the most vulnerable groups, and guarantee access to critical services, including medical care, education, and humanitarian support (Fig. 1) (Simonchuk, 2024).

Social policy in times of war and economic instability should cover a wide range of issues, including support for internally displaced persons, employment,

adaptation of the educational system to crisis conditions, development of the volunteer movement, and attraction of international assistance to overcome social challenges. The object of social security is the entire social sphere, which includes the system of social relations, the social structure (classes, groups, strata, social institutions), social needs of the population (preservation of life, health maintenance, ensuring a sufficient level of well-being, comprehensive personal development), as well as social infrastructure covering education, medicine, trade, public services and other areas of life.

The social well-being of citizens of a country largely depends on two key factors: the effectiveness of social policy development and the level of responsibility assumed by both central and local authorities in the process of its implementation. In wartime, the importance of coherence between state and regional policies increases significantly, as any political or economic destabilization of certain territories can lead to social collapse, a significant deterioration in living standards, and a threat to national security (Kichurchak, 2024). The rupture of a single social space caused by insufficient attention to the needs of citizens or the weakening of state social guarantees can deepen the crisis, which becomes especially dangerous in times of military conflict.

Social policy in times of war and economic instability should cover a wide range of issues, including support for internally displaced persons, employment, adaptation of the educational system to crisis conditions, development of the volunteer movement, and attraction of international assistance to overcome social challenges. The object of social security is the entire social sphere, which includes the system of social relations, the social structure (classes, groups, strata, social institutions), social needs of the population (preservation of life, health maintenance, ensuring a sufficient level of well-being, comprehensive personal development), as well as social infrastructure covering education, medicine, trade, public services and other areas of life.

The social well-being of citizens of a country largely depends on two key factors: the effectiveness of social policy development and the level of responsibility assumed by both central and local authorities in the process of its implementation. In wartime, the importance of coherence between state and regional policies increases significantly, as any political or economic destabilization of certain territories can lead to social collapse, a significant deterioration in living standards, and a threat to national security (Bielousov *et al*., 2023; Kichurchak, 2024). The rupture of a single social space caused by insufficient attention to the needs of citizens or the weakening of state social guarantees can deepen the crisis, which becomes especially dangerous in times of military conflict.

The traditional model of the welfare state, which was the basis of the national economic policy, was aimed at creating a sustainable and socially oriented market economy that guarantees the protection of citizens' rights and welfare. Although a socially oriented economy looks more attractive to the population in theory than more liberal models, the practical implementation of its principles in Ukraine

faces numerous difficulties. A significant gap between the officially proclaimed status of the state as a social state and the actual level of social security indicates the need to revise existing approaches to the implementation of state social policy (Lysenko *et al.,* 2024a, 2024b).

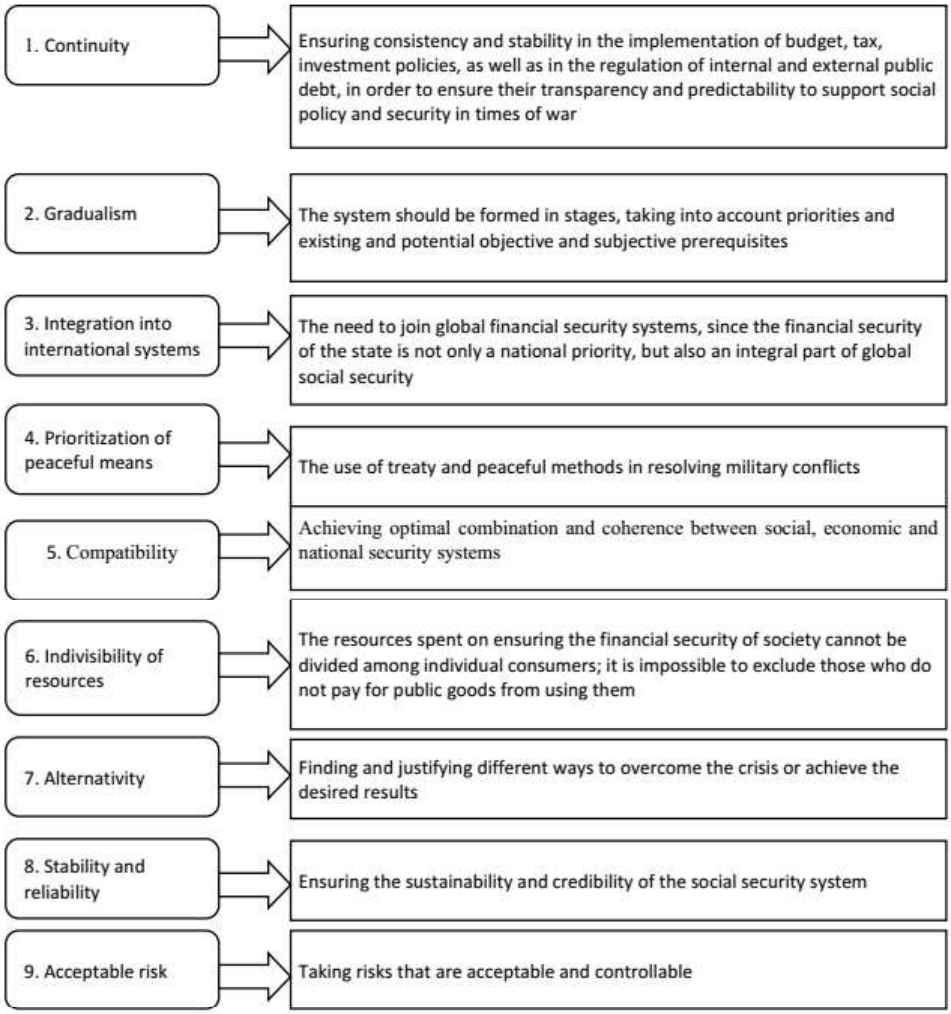


Figure 1: Defining characteristics of the formation of social security of the state in times of war

Source: Compiled by the authors

Domestic Ukrainian scholars emphasize that the modern Ukrainian economy is in a state of increased risks caused by large-scale external factors. The key threats include global economic challenges, which are exacerbated by the lack of non-renewable energy resources and their uneven distribution among countries. In addition, an important factor is the deterioration of the environmental situation caused by systemic imbalances between economic development and environmental protection. During wartime, these threats are further complicated, as the destruction of infrastructure, reduced production capacity, and reduced government revenues significantly limit the state's ability to ensure the social security of citizens ((Hasiuk *et al*., 2023; Turner *et al.,* 2020). Table 1 respectively presents the main directions of reforming social policy and ensuring social security in wartime.

Table 1. Key areas of reforming social policy and ensuring social security in times of war

Goals of the reform in times of war	Areas of implementation	Factors of influence: stimulating and restraining
Strengthening the social security of citizens under martial law	Development and implementation of emergency social support programs for the population affected by the war	Mobilization of domestic resources to support social programs
Preventing the deepening of poverty due to the consequences of war	Providing targeted assistance to internally displaced persons (IDPs) and other vulnerable groups	International humanitarian aid and funding from partners
Support for human potential and adaptation of the workforce to wartime conditions	Creating conditions for employment and retraining of citizens who lost their jobs due to the war	Active participation of public organizations in the implementation of social initiatives
Implementation of a human-centered social policy to protect the population in times of crisis	Developing a system of social guarantees adapted to military realities through improved legislation	Legalization of informal employment to ensure social contributions
Ensuring conditions for preserving labor and intellectual potential during the war	Modernization of the social insurance system to take into account wartime risks	Increasing transparency of social assistance distribution and fighting corruption

Social support and adaptation of the most vulnerable groups of the population to the conditions of the war economy	Expanding access to basic social services (healthcare, education, housing) in conflict zones and de-occupied territories;	Involvement of business in the restoration of social infrastructure
Providing targeted assistance to overcome the social consequences of war	Reforming the criteria for social benefits to take into account military circumstances and the needs of the population	The extent of the destruction of infrastructure and the economy due to the war

Source: Compiled by the authors

The impact of internal economic factors leads to social inequality growth, increased property differentiation and disproportionate distribution of material resources between different social groups. This, in turn, contributes to the rapid growth of poverty and an increase in the number of socially vulnerable categories of the population (Metelenko *et al.,* 2019). In conditions of military conflict, these trends are significantly amplified due to the increase in the number of internally displaced persons, the destruction of employment infrastructure, the loss of stable sources of income for a significant part of the country's citizens, and the subsequent fact of social tension aggravation.

Assessment of the Level of Social Security in Ukraine Based on the Human Development Index.

The Human Development Index is a comprehensive and generalized indicator that reflects the level of development of the population in a particular country; it is calculated annually by the United Nations Development Program at the international level, as well as by the analytical center under the Government of Ukraine, taking into account the specifics of the socio-economic situation in war, with special attention paid to social policy and security. This index is based on an assessment of the health status of citizens, including access to health care in wartime, the level of education adapted to crisis circumstances, and the real income of the population affected by war-related factors, and is analyzed through three key areas that combine relevant sub-indices to comprehensively reflect the situation (Chatham House, 2023; Shchokin *et al*., 2023). Thus, the final stage is calculated using the following formula:

$$HDI=\sqrt[3]{LEI \times EI \times II}. \quad (1)$$

where:

HDI - human development index;

LEI - longevity index;

EI - education index;
II - income index.

The Human Development Index (HDI) is a comprehensive tool that allows to assess the level of socio-economic progress of countries, taking into account three main aspects life expectancy, reflected through the longevity index (LEI), taking into account the impact of war conditions on the health of the population, access to and quality of education, represented by the education index (EI), which adapts to the needs of security and education in times of crisis, and economic well-being, measured by the income index (II), which reflects the sustainability of citizens' incomes during war, while this indicator not only helps to identify differences between states in ensuring the well-being of their inhabitants, but also serves as a reflection of success in the implementation of social policies (Alazzam *et al*., 2024).

The study conducted a detailed analysis of changes in the human development index for Ukraine during 2016-2023 based on conditional data, which made it possible to trace key trends and identify the main factors that affect the transformation of this integral indicator, in particular in view of military challenges, as evidenced by the data presented in Table 2.

Table 2: Human Dev elopment Index (HDI) for Ukraine for the period 2016-2023 (Human Development Report 2023/2024, 2024)

Year	Longevity Index (LEI)	Education Index (EI)	Income index (II)	Human Development Index (HDI)
2016	0.75	0.85	0.7	0.767
2017	0.76	0.86	0.71	0.777
2018	0.77	0.87	0.72	0.787
2019	0.78	0.88	0.73	0.797
2020	0.79	0.89	0.75	0.81
2021	0.81	0.91	0.77	0.83
2022	0.8	0.9	0.76	0.82
2023	0.78	0.88	0.74	0.8

Source: Human Development Report 2023/2024 (2024)

To estimate the changes in Ukraine's Human Development Index (HDI) for the period 2016-2023, a simple linear regression model can be used to assess the dependence of the HDI on its components. Assume that the HDI is a linear combination of LEI, EI, and II with the addition of an error term (ε) that reflects

unaccounted-for factors (e.g., the impact of war) (Makedon *et al.,* 2024). Mathematically, the model can be represented as follows:

$$HDI_t = \beta_0 + \beta_1 \times LEI_t + \beta_2 \times EI_t \beta_3 \times II_t + \varepsilon_t \quad (2)$$

where:

HDIt is the human development index in year t;
LEIt is the longevity index in year t;
EIt is the education index in year t;
IIt is the income index in year t;
β0 is a constant (axis crossing);
β1, β2, β3 - coefficients showing the contribution of each component;
εt - random error.

Let's assume that the model approximates the data well and the coefficients can be estimated as approximate weights (Shelukhin et al., 2021). By performing a regression (using data analysis tools), we will obtain approximate coefficients:

$\beta 0 \approx 0$ (since HDI is an aggregate indicator);
$\beta_1 \approx 0{,}33$ (LEI contribution);
$\beta_2 \approx 0{,}33$ (EI contribution);
$\beta_3 \approx 0{,}33$ (II contribution).

Let's put the data into the model to check it:

For 2016: $HDI=0+0.33 \cdot 0.75+0.33 \cdot 0.85+0.33 \cdot 0.7 \approx 0.767$ (quite close to the actual 0.767),

For 2021: $HDI=0+0.33 \cdot 0.81+0.33 \cdot 0.91+0.33 \cdot 0.77 \approx 0.83$ (similar to the actual 0.83),

For 2022: $HDI=0+0.33 \cdot 0.8+0.33 \cdot 0.9+0.33 \cdot 0.76 \approx 0.82$ (coincides with 0.82).

The model demonstrates a high correlation, but in 2022-2023 there is a deviation due to the military factor, which is not accounted for in the standard specification, indicating the need to introduce a dummy variable for the military period (e.g., 1 for 2022-2023, 0 otherwise). The updated model will look like this:

$$HDI_t = \beta_0 + \beta_1 \times LEI_t + \beta_2 \times EI_t \beta_3 \times II_t \beta_4 \times WAR_t + \varepsilon_t \quad (3)$$

where:

WARt=1 for 2022-2023;

β4 is the coefficient of the war's impact (can be negative, for example, -0.02).

The model confirms that LEI, EI, and II have an equal impact on HDI (about 33% each), which is consistent with the UNDP methodology. In 2016-2021, there is a steady increase in the HDI, reflecting the effectiveness of social policy before the war. In 2022-2023, the decline in the HDI (from 0.83 to 0.8) correlates with the military factor, which requires the introduction of a corrective variable. The estimate of $\beta 4 \approx -0.01$ to -0.02 indicates a high negative impact of the war. To improve the model, it is recommended to include additional variables, such as the amount of humanitarian aid or the level of infrastructure destruction.

The overall conclusion shows a gradual increase in the human development index in Ukraine during 2016-2021, reflecting positive changes in key areas. However, in 2022, with the beginning of the active phase of the war, there was a temporary decline in all indices, reflecting the negative impact of martial law on health, education, and income. In 2023, although the indices stabilized somewhat, they still did not reach the pre-crisis levels of 2021, which emphasizes the difficulty of ensuring social security and sustainable development in times of war (Chatham House, 2024).

Overcoming these negative processes requires a profound reform of the legal model of social protection, which must meet current challenges and provide effective mechanisms to support citizens. Important components of such a reform include improving the state system of social payments, introducing new social insurance instruments, strengthening targeted support for the most vulnerable categories of the population, creating an effective system of rehabilitation for veterans and IDPs, and developing partnerships between the state, NGOs and international institutions in the field of social policy.

The main factors that influence the maintenance of social balance in society, even in times of war, include (Delalibera, Ferreira & Parente, 2025):

- the level of public administration and the relationship between central and local authorities in the field of social policy;
- the degree of freedom of economic activity and legislative regulation of socio-economic processes;
- the level of development of the domestic market and its ability to meet the basic needs of the population in crisis conditions;
- the state of international economic cooperation, which determines the possibility of receiving humanitarian and financial support;
- the level of development of infrastructure and technological resources necessary to ensure social stability;
- effectiveness of interregional cooperation and preservation of ethno-cultural ties within the unified state;
- the ability of regions to influence the formation of state social policy through representation in legislative and executive bodies;
- availability of evidence-based strategies for forecasting, planning and modeling social processes;
- development of regional social policy that takes into account the specifics of different territories;

– the ability of social institutions and public administration to adapt to the changing conditions of war and respond promptly to threats.

Institutionalization of the processes of social and legal protection and security of the population under martial law.

In the institutional and legal aspect, social policy and social security in wartime involve comprehensive legal and legislative support for the fundamental rights and social guarantees of citizens adapted to extreme socio-economic realities. The social protection system is based on legal acts that define state obligations to support the population, but the effectiveness of their implementation largely depends on the country's economic potential and the ability of state institutions to respond quickly to new challenges (Béland & Cox, 2024; Korolchuk *et al*., 2023). The war greatly complicates the functioning of the social sphere, creating the need for regular amendments to the current legislation to expand social protection measures, support vulnerable categories of citizens and ensure the stability of the social benefits system (Fig. 2).

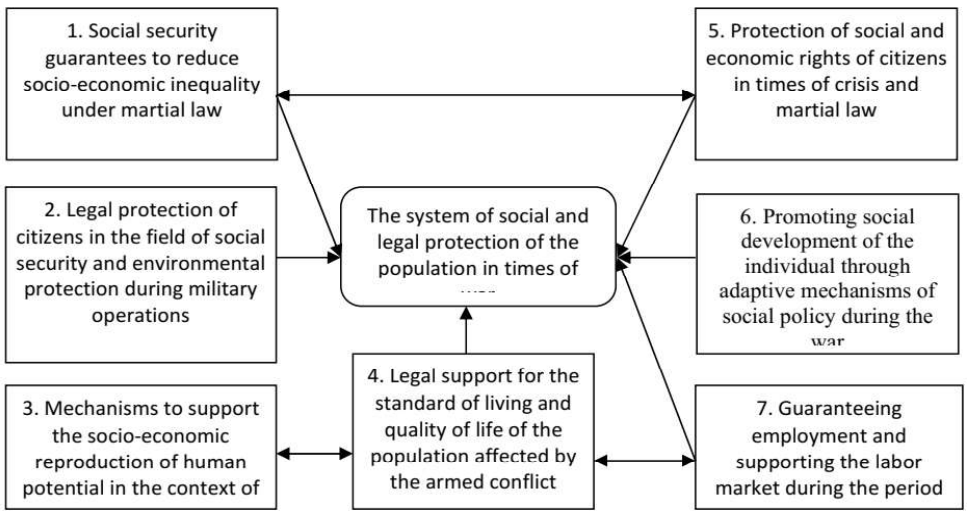


Figure 2: Structural components of social and legal protection and security of the population under martial law

Source: Compiled by the authors

Social security in wartime is the result of the activities of relevant state and public institutions aimed at maintaining the living standards of the population, preserving their social rights and minimizing the negative consequences of armed conflict. Research by scientists, analysis of international standards and domestic legal documents allow us to identify the main parameters by which the level of social security in wartime can be assessed (Kwon & Archer, 2022; Lysenko *et al*., 2024c). This imbalance is especially exacerbated in wartime, when the economic

capabilities of the state are significantly limited, and the needs of the population, on the contrary, are growing (Table 3).

Table 3: Components of ensuring social policy and security in times of war

Components of ensuring social policy and security in times of war	RESOURCES	INSTITUTIONAL	
	The amount and effectiveness of resources allocated by society to ensure social security in times of war	Program-targeted (declarative) indicators	Norms, rules and standards that define the activities of institutions responsible for social security in time of war
The role of components as factors of the achieved level of social security of the population	Determine the economic capabilities of society to maintain social security in times of war, reflecting the available level of protection of the population at the current stage	They embody the priorities of society regarding the functioning of social policy in times of war, determine the choice between competing needs and direct resources to protect vulnerable groups	Align desired social policy goals with actual resources, limiting access to social support when resources are scarce or expanding it when resources are abundant
Factors affecting the level of social security of the population	- the state of the national economy in wartime; - mechanisms of mobilization and redistribution of resources from the commercial sector to social needs during the war	- political stability and the ability of the state to coordinate social policy in times of crisis; - the structure of the population's needs changed by the war (housing, security, medical care); - traditions of solidarity and mutual assistance in society	- Adaptation of employees of social institutions to limited resources and wartime conditions; - the impact of state policy on the efficiency of social assistance distribution during the war

Source: Compiled by the authors

The definition of the level of social security can be divided into several levels. The first level reflects the strategic goals of the state social policy and the society's perception of the desired level of social protection. However, the war changes the priorities of social policy, forcing the state to focus primarily on

addressing immediate needs - providing vital services, targeted financial support and rehabilitation of the population affected by the war (Palmer *et al.,* 2019).

The second level of social security is formed on the basis of available economic resources and the state's ability to finance the social sector. It is determined by the overall level of economic development, the efficiency of the use of available resources, and the ability of state institutions to redistribute funds in favor of the most vulnerable. In times of war, this level undergoes significant changes, as the priority of public spending shifts towards defense needs, which can limit the ability to implement social programs (War refugees from Ukraine. UNHCR, 2023). At the same time, the quality of social sector management, transparency of aid distribution, and flexibility in adapting social mechanisms to new realities play a key role in maintaining social stability and protecting the population from excessive social shocks (Fig. 3).

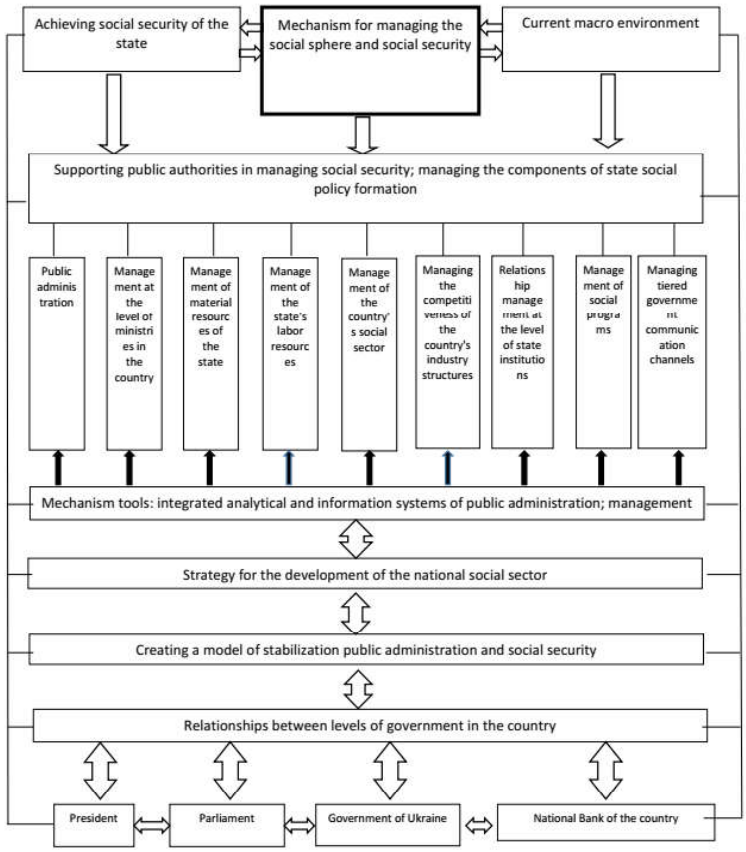


Figure 3: The mechanism of ensuring and managing the social security of the state in times of war

Source: Compiled by the authors

The effectiveness of social policy in crisis conditions directly depends on the quality of state and public institutions responsible for its implementation. In 2022, the majority of Ukraine's state budget (over 50%) was allocated to defense and security. This significantly limited the ability to finance social programs. However, the government managed to maintain existing social welfare programs, although their coverage decreased due to mass migration and limited financial resources. To improve citizens' access to social assistance, digital tools were introduced to simplify the process of applying for and receiving support. Special attention was paid to supporting internally displaced persons (IDPs). Key measures included the introduction of simplified registration, funding for living allowances, and provision of temporary housing. In particular, in 2022, more than 2.3 million IDPs received housing allowances, for which the state budget allocated UAH 52.8 billion. In 2023, this support continued to be provided, and more than 2.5 million IDPs received assistance, for which UAH 73.3 billion was allocated. The full-scale war resulted in massive population displacement: about 5.4 million people were internally displaced. The Government of Ukraine has developed and implemented a number of measures to support these people, including: a) financial assistance in the form of monthly payments of UAH 2,000 for adults and UAH 3,000 for children and people with disabilities; b) simplified registration through the introduction of an electronic registration system through the Diia app, which allowed for quick and efficient processing of IDP applications; c) the creation of collective centers, as well as compensation for private individuals who provide housing for IDPs (Betliy & Movchan, 2023). Thus, the better developed social protection mechanisms are and the more efficiently they work, the more opportunities the state has to maintain social stability even in the context of armed conflict.

Discussion

The results of the study of social policy and social security in the context of war in the country are confirmed by the findings of other scholars, in particular, (Kongshøj, 2023, and Diaz Torre & Warner, 2024). They emphasize the importance of adapting social mechanisms to crisis situations, ensuring the resilience of social systems, and developing flexible models of social protection. The study also confirms that in the context of armed conflict, state social policy should be more dynamic, integrated and responsive. the findings are fully consistent with the results of (Caleiras & Carmo, 2024), who point out that the effectiveness of social security depends on the ability of state institutions to respond quickly to changes in socioeconomic conditions.

Comparison of our results with the studies of other authors has revealed some differences in approaches to the implementation of social protection in times of crisis. For example, (Koch, 2022) and (Norton *et al.,* 2002) emphasize the

expansion of the social insurance system and the development of voluntary forms of social support. At the same time, our study shows that government regulation remains the main instrument for ensuring social security in wartime. These factors emphasize the further need not only to use international experience, but also to adapt social policy to specific national conditions, which is in line with the findings of (Ivanov *et al.,* 2025).

The novelty of our study lies in the application of a comprehensive approach to assessing the effectiveness of social policy under martial law, in particular through the use of the HDI as an integral indicator of social security. The use of a linear regression model to analyze the dynamics of the HDI has formed analytical capabilities for assessing the impact of the main components of social security and identifying the level components of the negative impact of the military factor on the socio-economic development of the state. These scientific results are consistent with the findings of the Human Development Report (2023/2024), which also notes a decline in social development indicators in countries in armed conflict.

The practical value of the study lies in the development of specific recommendations for reforming social policy in wartime. A special mechanism for ensuring the stability of social security was proposed, which involves the introduction of targeted assistance for internally displaced persons, the modernization of the social insurance system and significant improvements to the legislative framework. The outlined conclusions are confirmed in studies by (De Becker, 2023; Mumtaz, Enworo & Mokomane, 2024), and also coincide with the recommendations of the international scientific report (ISSA,2024), which highlights the critical role of activities aimed at strengthening social guarantees for the most vulnerable categories of the population, which is a key factor in maintaining the stability of society in times of crisis.

Future scientific research should focus on a more in-depth analysis of individual components of social policy, in particular, on studying the impact of government programs and public initiatives on the state of social security of the population in extreme, including military, conditions.

Conclusion

The study made it possible to highlight the conceptual foundations of the social state and the features of its functioning in conditions of military conflicts, which made it possible to identify the most effective models of ensuring social protection and support for the population. Based on the analysis of empirical data, the impact of the war on the level of human development was assessed, and key trends in changes in such areas as education, healthcare, and income of citizens were identified; the application of a linear regression model confirmed that the military conflict in Ukraine has proven to have led to significant decline in all

main indicators of social development, which actualizes the need to state social policy reform.

The results of the study confirmed the need for rapid transformation of social protection mechanisms in martial law. Key proposals include the introduction of adaptive social support programs, expanding access to basic social services in conflict zones, increasing international assistance, and stimulating economic activity. Based on the results, recommendations were developed to improve state social policy, including the introduction of people-centered approaches in the social security system, increasing transparency in the distribution of social assistance, and creating effective social insurance mechanisms in wartime.

In the process of study, the level of social security in Ukraine based on the international HDI index, as well as the dynamics of HDI for the period 2016–2023, which allowed identifying the negative impact of the military conflict on all components of the state social system of Ukraine. The inevitability of adapting the social protection system of Ukraine to the conditions of war by strengthening the support of the population is substantiated. The use of additional indicators that take into account the consequences of the war to assess social stability and protection is proposed.

References

Adkhamjonovich, S. T. (2024). The Effect of Human Capital on the Socio-Economic Development of Society. *Jurnal Pemberdayaan Ekonomi Dan Masyarakat*, *1*(3), 8; https://doi.org/10.47134/jpem.v1i3.420

Agboklou, K. E., Özkan, B., & Gujrati, R. (2024). Challenges to Achieving Zero Hunger by 2030: The Impact of Armed Conflict on Global Food Security with a Focus on the Russo-Ukrainian War. *Journal of Lifestyle and SDGs Review*, *4*(1), e01595; https://doi.org/10.37497/2965-730X.SDGsReview.v4.n00.pe01595

Alazzam, F.A.F., Shakhatreh, H.J.M., Gharaibeh, Z.I.Y., Didiuk, I., & Sylkin, O. (2023). Developing an information model for e-commerce platforms: A study on modern socio-economic systems in the context of global digitalization and legal compliance. *Ingénierie des Systèmes d'Information*, *28*(4), 969–974; https://doi.org/10.18280/isi.280417

Banerjee, A., Hanna, R., Olken, B. A., & Sverdlin Lisker, D. (2024). Social protection in the developing world. *Journal of Economic Literature*, *62*(4), 1349–1421; https://doi.org/10.1257/jel.20241646

Béland, D., & Cox, R. H. (2024). How framing strategies foster robust policy ideas. *Policy and Society*, *43*(2), 240–253; https://doi.org/10.1093/polsoc/puae014

Betliy, O., & Movchan, V. (2023). *Social policy in Ukraine in the wartime: 2022-2023 years*. Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung Ukraine.

Bielousov, V., Mykolaiets, A., Platonova, H., Buhlak, O., & Chernysh, A. (2023). The Gig Economy and its Impact on Social Security and Social Protection of Employees [La Gig Economy y su Impacto en la Seguridad Social y Protección Social de los

Trabajadores]. *Revista de Derecho de la Seguridad Social, Laborum*, *2023*(36), 279-289.

Börsch-Supan, A. H., & Coile, C. (2018). *Social security programs and retirement around the world: Reforms and retirement incentives-Introduction and summary* (NBER Working Paper No. 25280). National Bureau of Economic Research; https://doi.org/10.3386/w25280

Caleiras, J., & Carmo, R. M. (2024). The politics of social policies in Portugal: Different responses in times of crises. *Social Policy & Administration*, *58*(7); https://doi.org/10.1111/spol.13008

Chatham House (2024). *Ukraine's wartime recovery and the role of civil society*. Chatham House survey of Ukrainian CSOs – 2024 update. https://www.chathamhouse.org/sites/default/files/2024-06/2024-06-05-ukraine-wartime-recovery-role-civil-society-lutsevych.pdf.pdf

Chatham House. (2023). *Chatham House Survey of Ukrainian CSOs, June 2023*. https://www.chathamhouse.org/sites/default/files/2023-06/2023-06-15-chatham-house-survey-ukraine-csos-ukraine-forum.pdf

De Becker, E. (2023). Social security in the combat of in-work poverty. In L. Ratti & P. Schoukens (Eds.), *Working yet poor: Challenges to EU social citizenship* (pp. 139–186). Hart Publishing.

Delalibera, B. R., Ferreira, P. C., & Parente, R. M. (2025). *Social security reforms, retirement and sectoral decisions* (International Monetary Fund Working Paper No. 032); https://doi.org/10.5089/9798229000222.001

Diaz Torres, P., & Warner, M. E. (2024). A policy window for equity? The American Rescue Plan and local government response. *Journal of Urban Affairs*, 1-19; https://doi.org/10.1080/07352166.2024.2365788

Dubel, M. (2024). Trends in Ukraine's social policy in the conditions of a full-scale war. *Chronicle of Volhynia*, *(30)*, 231-237; https://doi.org/10.32782/2305-9389/2024.30.38

Ellul, L. (2023). Results and output-based budgeting. In A. Farazmand (Ed.), *Global encyclopedia of public administration, public policy, and governance* (pp. 11512–11519). Springer; https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-030-66252-3_2262

Hasiuk, M., Tverdokhlib, N., Shyrobokov, Y., Mahanova, T., & Shcherbakova, O. (2023). Prevention and treatment of post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD). *Revista de Cercetare si Interventie Sociala, 81*, 85-98; https://doi.org/10.33788/rcis.81.5

Hoian, I., Yakovleva, S., Hulias, I., & Fomina, I. (2024). Self-organization of student youth under conditions of social uncertainty. *Insight: The Psychological Dimensions of Society*, *11*, 260–281; https://doi.org/10.32999/2663-970X/2024-11-14

Human Development Report 2023/2024. (2024). https://hdr.undp.org/system/files/documents/global-report-document/hdr2023-24reporten.pdf

ISSA (2024). *Social security developments and trends – Europe 2024*. https://www.issa.int/sites/default/files/documents/2024-04/2-D%26T%20Report-Europe-2024-FINAL.pdf

Ivanov, A., Pienov, V., Shyrobokov, Y., Makarevych, O., & Bondar, N. (2025). Ensuring Social Security and State Stability in Wartime Conditions: Mechanisms and

Strategies. *Journal of Lifestyle and SDGs Review*, *5*(1), e03923; https://doi.org/10.47172/2965-730X.SDGsReview.v5.n01.pe03923

Kichurchak, M. (2024). Human capital in the sustainable development of EU countries: A longitudinal data analysis. *Economic Forum*, *14*(1), 18–27; https://doi.org/10.62763/cb/1.2024.18

Koch, M. (2022). Social policy without growth: Moving towards sustainable welfare states. *Social Policy and Society*, *21*(3), 447–459; https://doi.org/10.1017/S1474746421000361

Kongshøj, K. (2023). Social policy in a future of degrowth? Challenges for decommodification, commoning and public support. *Humanities and Social Sciences Communications*, *10*(1), 850; https://doi.org/10.1057/s41599-023-02255-z

Korolchuk, O., Zyma, I., Khrapatyi, S., Vikhliaiev, M., & Zavalko, K. (2023). Current issues of state regulation of psycho-social support in the conditions of war in Ukraine. *Neuropsychiatria i Neuropsychologia*, *18*(1–2), 76–84; https://doi.org/10.5114/nan.2023.129075

Kwon, C., & Archer, M. (2022). Conceptualizing the marginalization experiences of people with disabilities in organizations using an ableism lens. *Human Resource Development Review*, *21*(3), 324–351; https://doi.org/10.1177/15344843221106561

Lyndiuk, S. (2024). Ensuring social security under martial law: Foreign experience. *Scientific Bulletin: Public Administration*, *(1(15)*, 324–344; https://doi.org/10.33269/2618-0065-2024-1(15)-324-344

Lysenko, S., Bobro, N., Korsunova, K., Vasylchyshyn, O., & Tatarchenko, Y. (2024a). The Role of Artificial Intelligence in Cybersecurity: Automation of Protection and Detection of Threats. *Economic Affairs, 69*(Special Issue), 43-51; https://doi.org/10.46852/0424-2513.1.2024.6.

Lysenko, S., Liubchenko, A., Kozakov, V., Demianchuk, Y., & Krutik, Y. (2024b). Global cybersecurity: Harmonising international standards and cooperation. *Multidisciplinary Reviews*, *7*, Article e2024spe021; https://doi.org/10.31893/multirev.2024spe021

Lysenko, S., Verba, O., Kyrychenko, V., Gandziuk, V., & Odobetska, I. (2024c). Managing cybersecurity risks in the era of digital transformation. *Journal of Information Systems Engineering and Management*, *10*(2s); https://doi.org/10.52783/jisem.v10i2s.330

Makedon, V., Myachin, V., Plakhotnik, O., Fisunenko, N., & Mykhailenko, O. (2024). Construction of a model for evaluating the efficiency of technology transfer process based on a fuzzy logic approach. *Eastern-European Journal of Enterprise Technologies*, *no 2(13(128))*, 47-57; https://doi.org/10.15587/1729-4061.2024.300796

Metelenko, N. G., Kovalenko, O. V., Makedon, V., Merzhynskyi, Y. K., & Rudych, A. I. (2019). Infrastructure security of formation and development of sectoral corporate clusters. *Journal of Security and Sustainability Issues*, *9*(1), 77–89; http://doi.org/10.9770/jssi.2019.9.1(7

Mulska, O., Vasyltsiv, T., Shushkova, Y., Kloba, L., & Parfenyuk, Y. (2022). Assessment of the population's social resilience environment (the case of the carpathian region of Ukraine). *Problems and Perspectives in Management, 20*(1), 407-421; https://doi.org/10.21511/ppm.20(1).2022.33

Mumtaz, Z., Enworo, O. C., & Mokomane, Z. (2024). A case for the inclusion of informal social protection in social policy theory and practice: Lessons from Nigeria and Pakistan. *Journal of Asian and African Studies*; https://doi.org/10.1177/00219096241249975

Murphy, M. P., & McGann, M. (2022). Introduction: Towards a sustainable welfare state. *Social Policy and Society*, *21*(3), 439–446; https://doi.org/10.1017/S1474746421000853

Nikonenko, U., Shtets, T., Kalinin, A., Dorosh, I., & Sokolik, L. (2022). Assessing the policy of attracting investments in the main sectors of the economy in the context of introducing aspects of industry 4.0. *International Journal of Sustainable Development and Planning, 17*(2), 497-505; https://doi.org/10.18280/ijsdp.170214

Norton, A., Conway, T., & Foster, M. (2002). Social protection: Defining the field of action and policy. *Development Policy Review*, *20*(5), 541–567; https://doi.org/10.1111/1467-7679.00189

Palmer, M., Nguyen, C. V., Mitra, S., Mont, D., & Groce, N. E. (2019). Long-lasting consequences of war on disability. *Journal of Peace Research*, *56*(6), 860–875; https://doi.org/10.1177/0022343319846545

Pavlova, O. (2023). Peculiarities of social policy under martial law in Ukraine. *Scientific and theoretical almanac Grani*, *26*(6), 122–126; https://doi.org/10.15421/1723139

Piachaud, D. (2020). Social security: Past, present and future. *LSE Public Policy Review*, *1*(2), 1–11; https://doi.org/10.31389/lseppr.7

Shchokin, R., Soloviov, O., & Tantsiura, I. (2023). Strengthening Cooperation between the Civilian and Military Sectors In the Context of State Security: Benefits and Challenges. *Revista de Cercetare si Interventie Sociala*, *83*, 155-170; https://doi.org/10.33788/rcis.83.11

Shelukhin, M., Kupriichuk, V., Kyrylko, N., Makedon, V., & Chupryna, N. (2021). Entrepreneurship Education with the Use of a Cloud-Oriented Educational Environment. *International Journal of Entrepreneurship*, *25*(Issue 6). https://www.abacademies.org/articles/entrepreneurship-education-with-the-use-of-a-cloudoriented-educational-environment-11980.html

Simonchuk, O. (2024). Social structure of Ukrainian society under the impact of full-scale war: Conceptual and empirical explorations. *Sociology: Theory, Methods, Marketing*, *1*, 26–62; https://doi.org/10.15407/sociology2024.01.026

Țop, D., & Hrestic, M. L. (2023). Social protection through adequate minimum wage in the states of the European Union. *Interdisciplinary Journal of Research and Development*, *10*(1 S1), 131; https://doi.org/10.56345/ijrdv10n1s119

Turner, J. A., Rajnes, D. M., Hughes, G., & Maher, M. (2020). War and pensions: The effects of war on social security and pensions around the world. *International Journal of Economics and Finance*, *12*(2), 45–55; https://doi.org/10.5539/ijef.v12n2p45

UNHCR. (2023). *War refugees from Ukraine*. https://data.unhcr.org/en/situations/ukraine