ONE YEAR REPORTING FROM KHARKIV

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18 MARCH 2022 – 21 MARCH 2023
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This column started soon after Russian armed forces invaded Ukraine, Prof Korzh reports weekly from Kharkiv on the medical and humanitarian situation in his city.

Read his impressive testimonials!

Continued via the EFPC website
https://euprimarycare.org/2022/03/17/column-prof-oleksii-korzh/

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Foreword:

War is a public health emergency, as was pointedly stated in the Lancet\(^1\) March 2022, shortly after the Russian invasion of Ukraine. The column our friend and colleague Prof. Oleksii Korzh has managed to send to us since then from Kharkiv, bears witness of this fact, and shows us the immense cost of human lives and health, the loss of basic life security and of healthcare workers and facilities. We are very grateful to him and honoured that with this publication we can spread his sad, but sometimes also hopeful experiences, hopeful as there are always people supporting and helping others, regardless of the threats to their own lives.

As EFPC, striving to improve good health and equitable healthcare for all, we could do very little to soothe the burden of the Ukrainian people. We can and will, however, make public what is going on. We want to inform people all over the world what is the effect of brutal aggression, in Russian, in the hope also to reach Russian people and provide them with reliable information.

We do this, as we feel that it is our professional duty and responsibility to advocate for peace and safety as a prerequisite for health and effective healthcare. This attitude has helped to establish modern public health, and the attention to social determinants of health, following the example of the great Rudolph Virchow who already said in 1849 “For if medicine is really to accomplish its great task, it must intervene in political and social life. It must point out the hindrances that impede the normal social functioning of vital processes and affect their removal. The physicians are the natural attorneys of the poor, and social problems fall to a large extent within their jurisdiction.”

I wish that many of you, after reading these impressive columns, feel stimulated to do whatever is in your power to stop the war, console its victims and support our colleagues who are still working in Ukraine, Russia and neighbouring countries.

Maria van den Muijsenbergh, chair of the EFPC, April 2023

Note from the author:

I think my testimonies about the war are important for several reasons. They help to document and preserve the experiences of those who lived through the Russian invasion of Ukraine, providing future generations with valuable insights into the realities of war. Moreover, such testimonies raise awareness about the human cost of war and the need for peace and reconciliation as well as to promote understanding and empathy and inspire others to work towards a more peaceful and just world.

In time, testimonies can help to hold individuals and institutions accountable for war crimes and other atrocities committed during the war. By documenting these crimes and sharing them with the world, those responsible can be brought to justice.

Oleksii Korzh
Kharkiv and Kharkiv region were among the first areas to be attacked by Russia. From the beginning of the war the Russian army invaded towns and villages on the north-east of the region, and Kharkiv suffered heavy shelling. A building of the Kharkiv region administration was destroyed by a missile strike on 1 March.

The Russian army probably expected that it would be met with flowers, bread and salt. Instead it faced the fierce resistance of the Ukrainian army and ordinary people, who, to put it mildly, don’t want them here but resist on every centimetre of Ukrainian land. Russia would like Ukrainian citizens evacuated by the proposed corridors to the Russian borders. This definitely won’t happen, people will never go there. That’s why Russia simply destroys the city so that it doesn’t exist anymore. Russians are constantly shelling civilian areas, where there is no military infrastructure or equipment. A lot of children are killed.

During the war against Ukraine Russian invaders caused damage to 117 hospitals, out of which 7 cannot be restored. Besides, they shelled 43 ambulances and continue to do so.

Josep Borrell, High Representative of the EU for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, condemned the Russian shelling of civilian targets in Kharkiv, the second largest city in Ukraine. “The shelling against civilian infrastructure yesterday in Kharkiv violated the laws of war. The EU stands unwavering at the side of Ukraine in these dramatic moments.” the EU foreign policy chief wrote on Tuesday, 1 March 2022 on Twitter.
Since the beginning of the full-scale invasion, Russian troops have destroyed almost one thousand buildings in Kharkiv, most of them apartment buildings. 972 buildings, including 778 high-rise buildings, were damaged. The regional civil defence administration reported that damage in the region was done to:

- 30 kindergartens;
- 9 hospitals in different districts of Kharkiv;
- emergency medical centre;
- boarding school for children with visual impairments;
- Kharkiv regional centre for child and youth creativity;
- Karazin Kharkiv National University.

Everything is done to ensure the normal functioning of health care and the provision of medical services. Kharkiv region received 17 cars for emergency medical care from volunteers. Interruptions in the supply of medicines occur only in towns where military operations take place. At least three wholesale drug warehouses were damaged as a result of shelling by Putin’s troops – in the towns of Irpin and Mila, Kyiv region, as well as in Kharkiv. But at present there is no shortage of medicines in the country.

Medical care training courses have been opened at the Southern railway station in Kharkiv. Those who attend first aid courses are taught to help people with cardiac arrest, heart attacks, strokes, severe bleeding resulting from traffic accidents or injuries. Participants also get basic knowledge of how to deal with strangling, drowning, epilepsy, burns, frostbite, injuries and other life-threatening situations. At the end of the course, all its students receive certificates.
As a result of hostilities in Kharkiv, 1,410 infrastructure facilities were destroyed, most of which are multi-storey residential buildings.

Thus, since the beginning of the war, 1,177 residential multi-storey buildings have been destroyed. 53 kindergartens, 69 schools and 15 hospitals were also damaged by shelling. People have moved to schools, kindergartens, bomb shelters, basements and subway stations.

This morning, Russian invaders shelled a polyclinic in the Osnovyansky district of Kharkiv, where the humanitarian aid delivery centre is located. Four people were killed and three were injured. There is no military facility nearby.

On the morning of March 27, in the basement of a house on Saltovka, a 28-old Kharkiv woman gave birth to a girl weighing 2400 grams and 50 centimetres tall. The child was healthy with an Apgar score of 7-8. The 404th emergency medical care brigade delivered the baby.

Long queues are formed daily near pharmacies. At the same time, many medicines are not available now and Kharkiv citizens (especially the elderly) ask for help from volunteers, who, if possible, always respond and get the necessary pills. Hospitals continue to work, and doctors actively answer residents’ phone calls.

Utilities workers promptly eliminate the consequences of accidents caused by shelling – isolate faults on domestic heating networks, replace pipelines damaged by shelling, as well as repair, inspect and put into operation boiler houses. Sometimes there is no Internet, but it is usually restored within three days.

The horrors of the war have united the Ukrainian nation. In Kharkiv, hundreds of people of different occupations have become volunteers. Businessmen deliver humanitarian aid within the city and respond to any written requests from residents.
06-04-2022 Healthcare adapts with military logistics

The medical system of Ukraine has switched to military rules so that Ukrainians do not suffer from lack of medicines or price increases.

Today, the provision of health care comes from several sources. Basic health care services are provided by health facilities and hospitals to patients both after injuries and after polytrauma, as well as to those patients who received medical care during peacetime, in particular those with chronic diseases and cancer.

Military logistics has been set up. One flow with medicines and humanitarian supplies goes from west to east of the country, and in the opposite direction there is movement of patients with serious diseases who have cannot receive necessary treatment due to hostilities.

Significant assistance is provided by international partners supplying medicines in the form of humanitarian goods, which are immediately redistributed to health facilities with the most critical need.

There are separately formed shipments of medicines, which if humanitarian convoys can be opened, are transferred to those territories where the invaders do not allow transportation by conventional logistics routes.

Regarding prices in pharmacies – the resolution of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine defines a list of goods and certain medicines for which daily price monitoring is established. The State Service of Ukraine on medicines and drugs control provides monitoring.

Since 24 February 2022, 274 hospitals have been shelled in Ukraine, 13 have been completely destroyed and cannot be restored, 70 ambulances have already been destroyed by shelling and mines, 6 medical workers have been killed and 20 have been seriously wounded. Medical assistance teams are shelled and kidnapped, as was the case with the ambulance brigade of Kharkiv which went with humanitarian goods to occupied Vovchansk.
Primary care professionals have been on the frontlines of the Russian invasion, especially in eastern Ukraine, even while continuing to work in ambulances and clinics.

The whole process of family doctors’ work in Kharkiv and Kharkiv region has been reformed in the name of security: after the imposition of martial law, family doctors have been transferred to the mode of duty and remote counseling.

Therefore, for those who can, our family doctors consult online or by phone. Those who need a face to face appointment come by prior arrangement with their doctor. Everyone is separated in time slots so that there are as few people as possible in the building of the clinic at a time. Those who do not have visits in the offices should always be in touch with patients, advise people through Viber cameras, other messaging or communication channels.

Family doctors are learning to be both psychologists and sub-specialists, because there is a lack of both. With the beginning of the war, the number of patients decreased for all doctors, and the following pattern emerged: those patients who remained have a much easier attitude to treatment of somatic diseases.

To mention chronic diseases, there is a sharp increase in patients with hypertension who are sensitive and negative to stress, and in general with diseases of the cardiovascular system, including young people. Moreover, experienced patients complain that the drugs they have always taken do not remove the symptoms, their action is simply not enough.

Fear, anxiety, panic, in which people are currently around the clock, have the strongest impact on patients with kidney disease, gastrointestinal tract, coronary heart disease, diabetes. People with thyroid disease are very prone to stress. But, by and large, any somatic disease now easily turns into psychosomatic and becomes more complicated. We see this every day: unfortunately, the number of neuroses, depressions and hysterical syndromes has greatly increased.

In addition to medical work, postgraduate training of family physicians at the Department of General Practice-Family Medicine of Kharkiv Medical Academy of Postgraduate Education continues using distance educational technologies. Teachers of the Department give lectures remotely, as well as conduct interactive seminars.

Distance learning is the most optimal form in the system of continuing medical education during the war, as it helps to solve a number of problems arising for a certified specialist due to different approaches to work and study in particular, in case of partial or total incompatibility of working hours (the difference between workers shifts and duty schedules for trained doctors, etc.).

Distance learning demonstrates its flexibility through the skilful combination of various types of technologies: without the presence of a teacher in the case of mastering the theoretical part of the course, with the partial presence of a teacher during practical and seminars in parallel with traditional teaching methods.

Postgraduate education of primary care physicians during the war caused a change in the educational process, methodological training of teachers to implement innovation, adapting to new forms, methods and technologies of distance learning.
20-04-2022 – Work of Kharkiv doctors under conditions of war

Healthcare institutions in Kharkiv have not stopped working since the beginning of Russia’s full-scale invasion in Ukraine, all of them working under martial law. Hospitals do not perform scheduled operations, but if a patient needs urgent care, on which his health or life depends and his condition could become severe, the full range of health services is provided. Inpatient departments are about half full, there are not more patients than before the war. Hospitals provide emergency surgeries, childbirth services, chronic disease and outpatient treatment. Now hospitals are equipped with almost everything necessary. Consumables and medicines are available. Humanitarian aid is constantly provided.

There are not enough staff because some medical workers have left, and some can’t physically get to work. That’s why doctors help each other and learn to do work that they didn’t do in peacetime.

In addition, after the introduction of martial law, polyclinic doctors were transferred to work on-call shifts and provide remote counselling. All polyclinics have on-call medical offices, where family doctors and specialist doctors provide the necessary assistance. Healthcare institutions also vaccinate against coronavirus, vaccine preventable diseases and conduct necessary tests.

Besides, medical teams travel to bomb shelters or subway stations to examine people and provide them with the necessary medicines. They do not neglect lonely and elderly citizens and if possible examine them at home, providing necessary medicines. A system of communication, interaction and exchange of information between all medical institutions has been established. Doctors are ready to provide maximum medical care to all those in need and do everything that depends on them.
The Ukrainian health care system was not exemplary even in peacetime. The war had every chance to destroy the system, but instead pushed the government and local experts to find effective solutions, thanks to which medicine in the country not only survived, but also continued to develop.

To date, 347 health care institutions have been damaged in Ukraine, 36 of them have been destroyed and 78 ambulances have been destroyed.

Surviving hospitals often have no electricity or water supply, and if they are located in towns captured by the invaders, there are also no supplies of essential medicines. Doctors have to work on-site, leaving sterile operating rooms for basements and bomb shelters. In some towns, medical staff do not leave the hospital, which has become their second home around the clock.

There is an outflow of medical personnel from areas of active hostilities. Most of the doctors in Ukraine, as well as around the world, are women, many of them with children. While fleeing from shelling, they are forced to evacuate to the western regions of the country or abroad. Among medical staff who remained, many are mobilised to help soldiers on the front line.

As a result, there are a number of towns and villages that are regularly bombed, without properly functioning hospitals and the necessary number of doctors. At the same time, most of the population living there today are elderly people who are in need of medical control of chronic diseases.

When the military administration encourages residents to evacuate, it is important to realise that this is done not only because of the direct threat to life from shelling. Such decisions are made also on the basis of an assessment of the health situation in the region.

Access of citizens to medical care in the occupied territories is a big problem today. After capturing a town, the invaders are unable to meet the basic needs of the population either in terms of food or health care. In those regions of Ukraine where there are no active hostilities, a number of steps have been taken for normal functioning of medical institutions.

In particular:

- When martial law is in effect, access to primary care is not restricted by registration with family doctors. Citizens can contact any primary health care doctor or an outpatient clinic. Appointments to specialists are not tied to a medical institution either.
- Patients with cancer are sent for treatment to other cities and regions and the process is free of bureaucracy. They don’t need to collect certificates and register at a new location.
- The procurement system for hospitals has been simplified. Thanks to the well-coordinated work of the Ministry of Health and volunteers, medical institutions are equipped with both medicines and food in full, sometimes beyond measure.
- There are no problems with financing either. During the hostilities, the procedure was simplified by dividing the planned annual sum into 12 months, thus saving hospitals from unnecessary bureaucratic delays.
- Ukrainian military doctors have extensive experience in conducting complex operations and treating seriously wounded soldiers since 2014-2015. Knowing about such successful treatment, foreign doctors have come to Ukraine over the past 8 years to exchange experience.
04-05-2022 Health care system changes nationwide

During the war, the Ukrainian health care system has not only survived, but continues to develop. To date, our hospitals continue to carry out the most complex emergency operations and planned transplantations, and the blood service is actively working.

The war has revealed weaknesses in all spheres of public administration, and medicine is no exception. One of the most painful lessons was the lack of fully-fledged bomb shelters at medical institutions. Basements, which with some overstatement were called shelters, often turned into mass graves during massive shelling. The lack of an autonomous ventilation or water supply system and strong ceilings makes them unsuitable even as a shelter for healthy people, let alone the long stay of seriously ill patients in need of therapy.

Now many hospitals located in cities without hostilities have already been equipped with basements. In case of emergency, doctors will even be able to perform operations there, but this is not the level needed for the full range of work. It will be necessary to work on it after the end of the war.

Also in the future, it is necessary to create and constantly monitor the reserve supplies of medicines and other essentials, which at a critical moment were lacking in Ukrainian hospitals. And given the threat of chemical weapons, the issue of providing means of protection not only for military but also for civilians has become acute.

The same applies to vaccination. The long stay of a large number of people in confined spaces (basements, subways, shelters), as well as injuries with subsequent infection, leads to the development of dangerous diseases affecting unvaccinated people. We need to return to a clear regulated vaccination calendar not only among children, but also for adults. This will protect citizens from possible consequences of natural or man-made disasters, as well as reduce risks during hostilities.

The system of remote access to medical care needs to be improved, as well as planning for emergencies. In such cases, the major hospitals throughout Ukraine should have a sufficient supply of medicines, the required number of beds and doctors ready to work in the event of force majeure.

In addition, medical facilities in towns most affected by the war should be a key part of the post-war recovery of the health system.

The main challenge to the system after the end of the war will be the issue of medical personnel. The organisation of work at the local level will require new management decisions, not restricted to the search for specialists. The latest technologies will have to be introduced to compensate for the shortage of personnel.
10-05-22 Cafes and cosmetic surgery return

Kharkiv business is learning to work during the war. Despite shelling, coffee shops reopened, medical centres accept patients, hairdressers serve customers, and couriers deliver pizza under artillery shelling. In the first weeks of the war in Kharkiv you could only buy food. Now each district is like a separate city: some do not even have grocery stores which work, others have cafes, beauty salons and private clinics.

The market for cosmetic services is also coming to life. There are several salons and private cosmetic surgeons in the city, where you can get almost any procedure – from depilation to Botox injections. Kharkiv citizens have access not only to cosmetic surgery, but also to large-scale medical procedures. There are several private clinics in the city with a wide range of services, from laboratory tests to removal of benign tumours.

Many potential clients of cafes, beauty salons and clinics cannot visit them yet. The reason is not only that people are unemployed and have no money to pay for services: even those who have savings often cannot get out of their neighbourhood. Taxis are expensive, they are used only in case of emergency. Therefore, until public transport resumes its work in the city, most enterprises, large and small, will stand idle.

The city authorities call on business people who evacuated from Kharkiv during the war not to wait long and return to the city. The city is already negotiating with international investors that will help restore Kharkiv’s economy. The mayor of Kharkiv recommended that businesses make arrangements for future life in Kharkiv after the war: make plans, create business projects.
Ukrainian troops prevented the encirclement of Kharkiv and displaced the Russian military from its neighbourhood. In recent days Russian troops near Kharkiv, with rare exceptions, have not tried to maintain their positions in the face of counterattacks by Ukrainian forces. Russian forces have focused on conducting an orderly withdrawal of their units, instead of trying to hold positions near the city.

For several days now, Russian troops have not been shelling Kharkiv at all. At the same time, air strikes in Kharkiv region continue. Retreating, the Russian military mine the territory of Kharkiv region. There are active hostilities there. The enemy is retreating and the retreat is accompanied by mining absolutely everything: residential buildings, forest belts and roadsides, using various technologies including remote mining.

In Kharkiv, the only genetic plant bank in Ukraine was destroyed because of Russian shelling. It was one of the largest in the world and it survived World War II. However, the Russians burned it completely. More than 160,000 varieties and hybrids of plants from around the world were stored there. There have been only a few such banks in the world. The seeds were stored in special storage facilities. They were being prepared for sowing and since March the employees had to sow a collection of plants.

More than ten UN agencies are working on a master plan for the reconstruction of Ukrainian Kharkiv, which has been shelled by Russian troops for more than two months. Experts assume that Russia will be defeated.

The master plan is being developed by the English architect Lord Norman Foster. He believes that this is an opportunity to combine the legacy of the past with new technologies necessary to create the city of the future.

“\nThis is an opportunity to make the city even more majestic in the future than it was in the past. This is an opportunity to make it more dynamic and more advanced in terms of trends, technology, industry – everything that makes the city beautiful,” Lord Foster said.
25-05-22 Metro restarts

Ukraine’s armed forces cause damage to the enemy. Gradually they occupy strategic heights and counterattack. In two weeks our defenders liberated 23 settlements in Kharkiv region. However, the shelling of residential areas of Kharkiv continues.

As for the issues of restoring economic activity, it is clear that as long as there is no security and confidence in the future, no one will plan any kind of systematic activity. At present it is difficult to predict the path of economic recovery after the war.

The metro started working in Kharkiv for the first time since the beginning of the war. Some train carriages were damaged during the bombardments, so the city authorities are not able to operate all the trains. Thousands of people were hiding in the metro from Russian airstrikes. Over the past three days, about 200 people who lost their homes have been resettled.

Doctors of Kharkiv hospitals and outpatient clinics partially resume the reception of patients as well as the provision of certain diagnostic procedures. The fastest-recovering businesses are those providing services: small cafes, hairdressers, beauty salons. We already witness a revival in the service sector, because this sector is the fastest to recover. There are no complex operational processes, there is no need for broad cooperative ties.

To talk of priority areas, first of all, this is the production of essential goods and food, as well as services that the population needs during and after the war. Then there is the defence sector – everything related to equipment and military weapons.

But the most important thing for a successful recovery of entrepreneurial activity is a sense of security. As soon as it becomes really safe, the business development of the city, region and local communities will begin.
The Russians continue to shell Kharkiv infrastructure with multiple rocket launchers. The enemy struck the Kyiv district of the city, as a result of which the apartment building and a car of rescuers from the state emergency service were damaged.

Invaders are shelling from the north and north-eastern direction of Kharkiv region, while the armed forces of Ukraine hold their positions and constantly fight for every centimetre of our territory. They are really successful in pushing the enemy away from the city. It became a little quieter in Kharkiv, but it’s too early to be on the streets, as shells can fly anywhere in the city. Shelling is carried out from artillery, from multiple rocket launchers “Smerch” and “Hurricane”. Given the range of these rocket systems, the Russian Federation can even fire from its own territory.

Thus during the shelling on May 26 the number of victims reached 9 dead, another 19 injured. Among the dead was a 5-month-old child. His body was not immediately found, it was on the house. An explosive wave tore the baby out of his father’s hands and threw him aside. The man died, the child’s mother is in a critical condition in the hospital. One of the dead was hiding from the shelling in the corridor of her apartment. The “two walls” rule in this case did not work — a fragment of a shell went through the walls. Among the 19 wounded there is a 9-year-old girl. She was operated on, but recovery from injury will take a long time.

Three employees of the Kharkiv Regional Centre for Emergency Medical Care and Disaster Medicine were awarded honorary titles. The corresponding decree was signed by the President of Ukraine Volodymyr Zelenskyy.

On March 20, Kharkiv regional military and civil administration sent a humanitarian convoy with food and medicines to Volchansk, captured by the Russians. The convoy was travelling along a pre-agreed route. The Russians promised to provide a green corridor, but did not keep their word. The invaders stopped the cars at the entrance to Volchansk. Drivers and a doctor were held hostage at the recreation centre for almost a day. In the morning, all six were sent on foot in the direction of Kharkiv. The men walked six kilometres. At the Ukrainian checkpoint, they were met by soldiers, who handed them over to doctors for assistance. On the evening of March 21, they all returned to Kharkiv.
**Medical facilities targeted**

Empty streets, destroyed buildings, asphalt cut by shells – this is what the centre of Kharkiv looks like today. There are still sounds of explosions in Kharkiv, there are almost no passers-by on the streets of the historic centre, and only a dozen citizens in the park.

In the legendary 108-metre Gosprom, an explosive wave partially knocked out the windows. There are countless windows here, with a total area of 50 thousand square metres. It was the first skyscraper in Europe built of monolithic reinforced concrete in record time – from 1925 to 1928.

Since February 24, the enemy has destroyed more than 2,000 residential buildings in Kharkiv, 500 of which cannot be restored. As of June 6, 810 residents died as a result of the war in Kharkiv region. 39 children have died since the beginning of the war.

Since the beginning of the full-scale war in Ukraine, the invaders have destroyed 105 health care institutions. The medical infrastructure of Donetsk region was affected the most – 74 medical institutions were destroyed.

Two types of attacks on medical facilities are recorded: aimed and indiscriminate, the latter when a medical institution is not a target, but the territory on which it is located is shelled by different types of weapons. According to the Geneva Convention of 1949, both the first and second types are war crimes.

The belligerents must avoid destroying civil infrastructure. And hospitals in the Geneva convention are listed separately as a special type of civil infrastructure. Firstly, a hospital is an object of increased humanitarian importance. Secondly, it is not permitted to stop the work of a hospital during war, even if hostilities are taking place. Most often, the Russian military use the tactics of massive, carpet shelling of territories, where civilians live and where the majority of hospitals are located.
14-06-2022 Cluster bombs at home

According to the information available on June 14, the hostilities near Kharkiv will intensify, while the Russian army achieves small successes. Its goal is to return artillery to positions that allow direct fire at the city’s targets. After the Armed Forces of Ukraine pushed back the Russian military almost to the border, shelling is possible only with the help of aircraft and missiles.

The human rights organisation Amnesty International reported on the use of cluster munitions by Russians while shelling Kharkiv, which happened more than once. One occurred in mid-April near the Kharkiv Tractor Plant, when a playground came under fire.

Russian forces have repeatedly carried out devastating and indiscriminate strikes using cluster bombs, prohibited by the international community, on populated residential areas, killing and wounding dozens of civilians. As a result of shelling, men, women and children were killed and injured in their homes and streets, playgrounds and cemeteries, standing in line for humanitarian aid or buying food.

At least nine civilians were killed and more than 35 wounded, including several children, when Russian forces used cluster munitions at Mira Street and around it in the Industrial district southeast of the city centre. This happened in the afternoon of April 15, and as a result an area of more than 700 square metres was covered. Doctors of the city hospital No. 25 reported that 31 wounded were taken to hospital, two of whom died of wounds, seven more people died on the spot. It is reported that several wounded civilians were taken to other hospitals.

Since the beginning of the war, 43 higher education institutions in Ukraine have been damaged from shelling by Russian occupiers, five of which have been completely destroyed. The occupiers destroy auditoriums, equipment, gyms, dormitories, assembly halls. Despite the war, universities were able to resume the educational programme.

For example, the staff of V.N.Karazin Kharkiv National University, despite the terrible shelling that destroyed the buildings of the institution, managed to resume education and student activities. The University continues to maintain high positions among Ukrainian higher education institutions in international rankings.
At the moment, the main efforts of Russian troops are focused on preserving the occupied borders in Kharkiv region. The occupiers are trying to prevent our units from gaining the rear of the Russian group of troops operating in the direction of Slavyansk. In addition, the invaders continue daily shelling of civil infrastructure in Kharkiv region.

The occupiers are again shelling residential areas of Kharkiv and unleashing terror against civilians. The enemy shelled the Industrial district of Kharkiv in the afternoon of June 21, and according to preliminary data, seven people were injured. In the past two weeks, shelling in the regional centre has sharply increased. On June 20, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said during his speech at the Global Policy Forum of the Institute of International Political Studies that the Russian army was trying to gather forces to attack Kharkiv again.

COVID-19 vaccination centres continue to work in city polyclinics. According to the mayor’s office, medical institutions have sufficient supplies of “CoronaVac” vaccine and limited supplies of “Pfizer” vaccine. The Department of Health urged Kharkiv citizens not to forget about vaccination, because in wartime the risk of developing and spreading infectious diseases increases. The most vulnerable are children and adults who have not been vaccinated at all or have not been revaccinated in time. According to the laboratory centre, over the past 24 hours, 7 cases of coronavirus have been registered in the region, 2 of them in Kharkiv, 3 in Kharkiv district, 2 in Izyum district. A total of 307,478 cases of COVID-19 have been confirmed in the region since the beginning of the pandemic, 7,062 of which have become fatal.
29-06-2022 A half empty city – beloved of its citizens

The Armed Forces of Ukraine are controlling the situation, there is no threat of ground combat operations in Kharkiv yet. The enemy forces are not enough to break through the defence. The defenders are under constant fire, the occupiers made attempts to break through, in particular, recently there has been such an attempt in the northern direction. However, the enemy did not succeed.

The war has changed Kharkiv a lot, many residents have left the city, but at the same time many people, despite the constant shelling, are returning.

The city is completely different now. It’s half empty, even though many residents have returned. And there are a lot of destroyed houses, which immediately catches the eye. Of course, it doesn’t resemble the former Kharkiv. But it turned out that Kharkiv citizens love their city very much. This is some kind of very ardent and very piercing love, and people come back not even because they count on pre-war comfort, but because they want to be here. In their homes, on their streets. It turned out that Kharkiv citizens are actually very attached to their city.

When the intensity of shelling in Kharkiv decreased in May, people began to return home en masse, but now the situation is again turbulent. People who spent the first two months somewhere in safer places and returned here hoped to see that it is safe in Kharkiv now. But it’s not safe here. And it’s clear that people again face a choice: to leave again or stay here? This choice is actually very difficult.

Despite constant shelling and danger, Kharkiv citizens try not to use the word “war” or talk about it in private conversations. That is, it is present, everyone feels it, because the siren sounds almost every hour, and in the evening – every half hour, but this word is not used here by default. It is here, but people try not to use the words “war,” “shelling” without necessity. They try to talk about something private and routine.
05-07-2022 War continues, and so does medical care

Missile strikes in Kharkiv do not stop. Yesterday the occupiers fired more than fifty ballistic missiles from Belgorod. This morning around 4 am Kharkiv was hit again twice. As a result of these missile strikes, a school in Shevchenkovsky district of the city was partially destroyed.

In the north of the regional centre, Russians from time to time try to attack with infantry. The locals have heard an echo of the artillery cannonade almost around the clock for the past few days.

In Novobavarsky district, a Russian missile flew and exploded between a private house and a school. The local resident was injured. A minute before that, a whole series of explosions occurred in the Kyiv district of Kharkiv. At a distance of no more than a dozen metres from each other within a few minutes, around 5 am, four missiles exploded here at once.

The blast wave threw a heavy metal safe like a piece of paper into the sky, and then dropped it on the edge of one of the chimneys. Transport and surrounding buildings were damaged by missile fragments. Small fragments dispersed over a few hundred metres from the hit site. Grad rocket launchers were used again in the afternoon to the north of Kharkiv. As a result, there are a lot of chimneys in people’s gardens.

Throughout the past week, in different areas around Kharkiv, especially along the highway to Belgorod, the Russian occupiers tried to approach the regional centre again. From morning to evening, the invaders use artillery, tanks and mortars. From time to time, infantry tries to launch an assault. And every time they come across a wall of fire from Ukrainian infantry and artillerymen.

As of today, 164 primary and secondary (specialised) medical care institutions operate in the territory controlled by Ukraine in Kharkiv region, namely: 47 regional medical institutions, 68 city hospitals, 20 central district hospitals, 29 primary health care centres, outpatient clinics and paramedic and obstetric stations.

Despite regular air alarms and a permanent risk of missiles, all medical institutions in the region work as usual, as they worked before the imposition of martial law.

Before the war, about 9000 doctors and about 16000 junior specialists worked in health care institutions of Kharkiv region. At present, about 15000 healthcare workers work in the region.

All medical facilities are now provided with all necessary medicines. It became possible as a result of renewal of medical supplies and humanitarian aid from our European partners.

There were problems with the pharmacy chains in the first days of the war, when ordinary pharmacists also saved their families and did not know how to go to work when cities were bombed. However, they coped with this challenge with dignity and now pharmacies are working.
Since the first day of the war, Kharkiv has been shelled by the occupiers. The city is under attack at any time of the day. The last shelling was on the night of July 12.

In Kharkiv, Russian troops destroyed a school, warehouse and a residential high-rise building. And at 10 a.m. on July 11, the city was shelled from multiple launch rocket systems. Six civilians were killed, another three dozen people were injured, including two children. According to the latest information, thirty-one civilians were wounded during the morning shelling. And the information about the condition of two children is already known. It’s a 4-year-old boy and a 16-year-old girl. Both have shrapnel wounds. Another 29 wounded are also in hospital with explosive injuries and shrapnel wounds.

According to the police, the Russians shelled Kharkiv with “Smerch” rocket launcher. At least 10 rockets were fired at random in the Kyiv district. And this once again confirms that the Russians are just trying to destroy the city. After all, there are no military facilities at the site of the shelling. The shopping centre, garages and a tyre fitting station were destroyed. Eight people were injured in the latter, a car was passing by – it was also hit by a shell, a driver and a passenger died on the spot.

The private sector is also targeted. Several shells hit near residential buildings – several houses were burned down. The people tried their best to escape, but not everyone survived.

Now the shelling is carried out several times a day. At the moment, there is no neighbourhood in the city that is safe.

In the afternoon of July 12, Russian troops once again attacked Kharkiv, the attacks occurred in the Industrial district of the city – as a result, four victims.

But despite such an alarming situation, life in Kharkiv goes on. Supermarkets are open, as well as pharmacies and markets and public transport runs.
Since the beginning of the war, Russian occupiers have destroyed 110 schools in Kharkiv, 50 medical institutions and 60 kindergartens. There are 150,000 Kharkiv citizens left without apartments today. Residents whose housing was destroyed were resettled in dormitories and schools, but the occupiers are shelling them. Kharkiv district Saltovka has become one of the centres constantly hit by Russian troops. Among the ruins, the inhabitants continue to survive there. With the beginning of a full-scale war, life on Saltovka turned into a lottery: one house is hit, another not. One apartment turned into ashes, the next one turned out to be intact. There are fewer and fewer surviving buildings every month. Now Saltovka has become a ghost town.

Locals have already learned to recognise by sound and fragments which shells and missiles are being fired. The Russian Federation widely uses prohibited cluster munitions and unguided missiles. And yet people live here, in houses without gas and water, in some places only one or two tenants in a house of 60 or more apartments. Last week, in some houses electricity was turned on again, several people returned there from subway stations or other shelters. But it is still a negligible part of the pre-war population of Saltovka, which used to be from 500 to 800 thousand inhabitants.

The Russians tried to capture Kharkiv in the first days of the invasion, and Saltovka assumed the main burden of the assault. Eventually, the invaders were pushed back, and now the front line runs about 20 km from the city centre. But Saltovka remains within the reach of Russian artillery, and this reality cannot be ignored due to daily shelling.

Due to the severe stress caused by the war, there is an increase in premature births in Ukraine. That is why the need to replenish the fleet of special neonatal vehicles has increased. In Kharkiv region, since the beginning of the war, 28 boys and girls aged from several hours from birth to one month have been transported in incubators to provide qualified assistance in specialised medical institutions. Neonatal vehicles equipped with children’s incubators are used for this purpose. Such neonatal vehicles save lives - we need more of them.
Kharkiv is under constant shelling and is hit by Russian missiles almost every day. But despite the difficult situation, all municipal service centres, public transport, supermarkets and pharmacies continue to work. In addition, the city is now preparing for the heating season.

In the last month shelling has increased. If at the end of June the Russians hit Kharkiv mainly at night, now they resumed chaotic strikes on public transport stops, targeted at random passers-by, including children. Educational institutions have been among other targets of the Russians. The sports complex of Kharkiv Polytechnic Institute, pedagogical university and schools in all districts of the city suffered from such strikes.

It seems that the shelling with a large number of victims is the main goal of Russian attacks on Kharkiv. Over the past week, the Russians have been shelling the city in the middle of the day, aiming at places where there would be as many victims as possible. They use cluster munitions, by which fragments are dispersed in different directions.

There was a period when Kharkiv was not shelled for five days. And immediately a lot of small and medium-sized businesses and industrial enterprises began to open. But, unfortunately, the shelling resumed, because the Russian aggressor was not happy that Kharkiv began to restart its activities. And as a result people now cannot work, receive wages, buy food, medicines or essential goods.

Safe stops for public transport will be installed in Kharkiv within 2-3 weeks. The first 25 places where they will be installed have already been identified – on the busiest routes of trolleybuses, buses and trams. These will be reinforced concrete structures located next to the stopping pavilions. In the event of a threat of artillery shelling, it will be possible to hide there and wait out the air raid alarm. Such shelters exist in Israel, for example and they prove to be effective in protecting against shells and scattering of fragments.
03-08-2022 Only dream of a normal sleep

Despite the fact that Kharkiv is subjected to missile strikes and artillery shelling by the Russian army on a daily basis, local residents do not lose heart. Helpless old people are, of course, in the most difficult situation, but during the war they found their kindred spirits. Not by blood, by heart call. As locals bitterly and proudly say, now Kharkiv has become the “capital of care and mutual assistance”.

Russia strikes Kharkiv every day – and you can only dream of a normal sleep, as well as of a forgotten sense of security. However, the locals believe in the best, that our army will cope with this horde. In the meantime, they help both our soldiers and their neighbours.

The Russian occupiers, despite numerous failures, hope that they will be able to capture Kharkiv. The enemy continues to shell residential neighbourhoods and tries to move towards the city. Because of the failures they decided to wipe the city off the face of the earth.

Despite this, many locals remain in the city and the region. They live even in almost completely destroyed houses, cook their own food on fires, and go to springs for water.

The city continues to improve people’s lives to make them comfortable even in such a difficult situation. In particular, Kharkiv is actively preparing for the heating season, main pipelines are being laid, utility service providers are working normally. Metro and public transport also function, shops try not to stop working. Because of the war, public transport runs free of charge so that every resident of the city can use it.
Since the beginning of a full-scale war more than 1000 civilians have been killed and twice as many injured in Kharkiv and Kharkiv region as a result of the actions of the Russian occupiers. Among those killed are 50 children. The smallest victim of the aggressor’s actions is a 5-month-old baby. The aggressor state terrorises and kills civilians.

Kharkiv receives humanitarian aid from international partners. Sister cities and international partners continue to provide assistance to Kharkiv residents. The cities of Kiel (Germany) and Strasbourg (France) have sent medicines, hygiene products, sheets, sleeping bags, crutches and wheelchairs to Kharkiv.

Another cargo was received from the city of Poznan (Poland), which included 33 pallets with hygiene products, medicines, light sources, batteries, power banks and food collected by the Poznan Youth Council. Also 33 pallets with food and hygiene products were sent to Kharkiv citizens from Genoa (Italy). In addition, more than 20 thousand packages of medicines for various purposes were handed over to Kharkiv citizens by the Association of Medical and Charitable Assistance “France-Ukraine”.

The enemy deliberately shells Kharkiv heating and power plants to cause problems with the beginning of the heating season. There is significant damage, but everything is done to repair it. Kharkiv will be supplied with heat from different sources. In addition, coal and gas will be provided.

Ukrainians can download a new mobile mine safety application “MineFree”. According to the State Emergency Service of Ukraine, everyone who installs it will have the opportunity to see the map, on which potentially dangerous territories are marked; receive notification in case of approaching a dangerous object; familiarise oneself with the handbook, which contains a photo and description of explosive objects; report on the detection of explosive or suspicious objects.
More than 10 missiles were launched: at night the occupiers shelled Kharkiv and the region from the territory of Belgorod. As a result of the enemy’s missile attack, private houses, outbuildings, industrial and infrastructure facilities were damaged. Three civilians were hospitalised with injuries. The premises of the educational institution were damaged in Zolochev.

Active combat operations continue along the contact line, the enemy uses artillery, multiple launch rocket systems, tanks, aviation.

In Kharkiv region, 10% of parents and 9% of teachers believe that education should be on site. That is the lowest figure in Ukraine. One of the fundamental conditions for the return of educational institutions to on site education, according to both teachers and parents, is a reliable shelter in the school premises and compliance with security measures. According to the results of the survey, distance learning in Kharkiv region is supported by 67% of parents, 27% found it difficult to answer, while 72% of teachers also support online studies and 19% found it difficult to answer.

Residents of Kharkiv and the region with complex mine blast and burn injuries, oncological pathology, as well as people with diseases that require a complex specialised treatment can go to the EU countries or the Lviv region for medical treatment. To get this opportunity, they should consult a family doctor or apply for medical evacuation. An application form must be filled in, specifying the place of residence, passport details, diagnosis, and a scan of the summary of the medical record should be added.

During the full-scale invasion by Russia 160 patients from Kharkiv region went for rehabilitation and treatment to the EU countries and Lviv region. 101 people are being treated in Lviv region, another 59 patients, including 11 children, are undergoing rehabilitation in clinics in Germany, Poland, Italy, France and Spain. Referral of patients is made by specialists of regional and city medical institutions, as well as representatives of Medecins Sans Frontieres.
Kharkiv celebrates City Day on August 23. Since the first days of the war, the Hero City of Ukraine has been under fire, but firmly holds the line of defence and continues to live.

Kharkiv turned 368 this year. The main city holiday coincides with the Day of the National Flag and the Day of Liberation from the Nazi invaders. Now Kharkiv is again forced to fight with occupiers, but this time with Russian ones. Because of the war today Kharkiv citizens will not be able to celebrate City Day as before.

Since the first day of the Russian invasion, Kharkiv has been attacked with missiles, its infrastructure and cultural monuments have been destroyed. Russian troops planned to quickly capture the city, but all their attempts failed.

On March 6, 2022, President Volodymyr Zelenskyy awarded Kharkiv the title “Hero City of Ukraine” for the heroic deeds and mass heroism of citizens in response to the Russian aggression.

At the beginning of the war, Kharkiv was bombarded by air bombs, shelled with Iskander, Calibre missiles, by multiple rocket launchers and artillery. During all six months of the war the aggressor’s troops continue daily attacks.

There is a lot of destruction in all districts of Kharkiv. Severnaya Saltovka, where about 300,000 people lived before the war, suffered the most. Now more than 70% of highrise buildings there are uninhabitable.

Trams on many routes have stopped working in the city. Depots and tram parks are constantly shelled.

Kharkiv public transport is now functioning, travel in it remains free. The subway has resumed its work, but continues to serve as a shelter in case of an air alarm.

Kharkiv is called the student capital of Ukraine – more than 30 universities are located here. The missiles damaged the buildings of many educational institutions. Karazin Kharkiv National University, the second oldest university in Ukraine after Lviv National University, suffered severely from the shelling.

Kharkiv is preparing for the school year, but schools will only work remotely. The same on-line format of education was chosen by universities.
Looking forward to rebuilding

Using Kharkiv as an example, the Russian military demonstrate that they can also hit other cities, including the capital of Ukraine. Russia undertook the task to strike the main decision-making centres. But instead of Kyiv, they decided to apply this approach to Kharkiv. Kharkiv is a political centre, the most powerful technological and military centre and, of course, one of the symbols of Ukraine as the second largest city, the second capital of Ukraine. There are two options. On the one hand, to suppress all resistance centres in such an important city as Kharkiv, to sow panic. In addition, to destroy industry and especially important defence factories of Ukraine.

Analysts predict Ukraine’s post-war startup boom. New solutions in the fields of defence and cybersecurity, construction and infrastructure, health and medicine, education, as well as the agricultural sector and green technologies are expected to be the most popular. These are startups that produce drones, software, cybersecurity products. Thanks to military technology, we can strengthen our defenders on the battlefield, hold the technological front, defend and counterattack. The priority is everything that will help minimise human casualties among our military personnel and win the war. Ukraine definitely has a chance to take a leading position in the field of military-tech with insane motivation and incredible human resources.

New construction technologies will be in demand in Ukraine – in connection with the enormous destruction of housing and civil infrastructure as a result of Russian aggression. There is a chance to rebuild what Ukraine was left as its outdated Soviet heritage. And Ukrainian startups can definitely become an important part of this process.

Educational technologies have been important since the COVID-19 pandemic, and the evacuation of many Ukrainians has made such platforms even more popular. Technologies in the field of health and medicine also began to develop rapidly in the pre-war period – and now applications aimed at providing first aid have been in demand.
06-09-2022 Now they turn to destroy the heating system

Due to the shelling in Kharkiv, more than 4,000 residential buildings, 110 schools, more than 100 kindergartens, more than 50 health care institutions and hundreds of other administrative and non-residential buildings were destroyed to varying degrees.

30% of the housing stock has been destroyed to some extent. 150,000 Kharkiv citizens are left without apartments today, without housing. Some people have left, some have fled Ukraine, and some are in other areas where the situation is safer today. But many Kharkiv residents remain in the city, in areas that are less susceptible to shelling.

All people who are in the city use trolleybuses, trams, municipal buses and subways free of charge. There are pharmacies, supermarkets, markets in Kharkiv, part of business operates – some cafes, small coffee shops, restaurants.

The enemy is purposefully destroying the heat supply system. There’s a heating season ahead and cold weather. Recent shelling shows that the aggressors are purposefully bombing the infrastructure of “Kharkiv Heating Networks” – Heat and Power Plant, boiler houses, heating mains. And a lot depends on how the city prepares for the heating season, how it will act during the shelling in the autumn-winter period.

Representatives of foreign funds plan to provide Kharkiv with thermal appliances and fuel for them, assist in replacing windows and doors, as well as help with the maintenance of collective centres for internally displaced persons.

In Ukraine, 500 episodes of Russia’s war crimes against Ukrainian cultural heritage were recorded. Since the beginning of the full-scale Russian invasion of Ukraine 30 museums have been destroyed to varying degrees in Kharkiv.
Suddenly our forces have pushed back the Russians

The Armed Forces of Ukraine have inflicted a major operational defeat on Russia, recapturing almost the entire Kharkiv region in a rapid counteroffensive. Ukrainian troops liberated from the occupiers more than 300 settlements in Kharkiv region. The operation to liberate Kharkiv region lasted several days. From September 6 to the present day, 3,800 square kilometres have been liberated, more than 300 settlements and about 150,000 of our people have become free from the occupation, where they were actually hostages. However, the Russians obviously cannot accept such humiliation and continue to terrorise civilians, launching attacks against, among other objects, critical infrastructure facilities, to leave peaceful Ukrainians without light and heat. The enemy hit the local thermal power plant – the fire was visible from all parts of the city. All night, the firefighters struggled to overcome the consequences of the strike together with power engineers and utility workers. Many transformer substations were attacked by the aggressor with missile strikes, there were dead and wounded people.

By the morning, electricity was restored in almost all districts of the city. Electric transport and subway started working. In districts where there were power outages buses were launched. However, water supplies could not be resumed.

In the afternoon, the enemy launched a second attack on Kharkiv. This time, the Hurricane rocket systems fired on the city. The electricity disappeared again, the restoration of water supply was also delayed. The occupiers hit residential neighbourhoods. One person was killed and six others were injured.

What the Russian aggressor is doing today is leading a war against the population of Kharkiv, a war of annihilation, because bombing transformer substations was not accidental, it was done to leave Kharkiv without utilities.
The regional prosecutor’s office reported that 55 children died at the hands of Russians in Kharkiv region since the beginning of Russia’s full-scale invasion of Ukraine. Another 171 children had injuries of varying severity. According to the law enforcement officers, 253 educational institutions, including 132 schools, were damaged as a result of constant shelling and missile strikes on the civil infrastructure of Kharkiv. 21 educational institutions have been completely destroyed. Lack of morality, genocide, terror, murder of children are synonyms that reflect the essence of the Russian army. Fighting with the youngest citizens of Ukraine is how the servicemen of the aggressor country position themselves.

On September 15 in Izium, the city in Kharkiv region, a mass grave was found. The bodies were found in the forest near the city cemetery. The exhumation began on September 16. Most of the 146 bodies withdrawn as of September 19 are civilians, including two children. Some of the dead have signs of violent death, there are bodies with their arms tied and signs of torture. The dead also have mine explosive injuries, fragment and stab wounds.

In Kharkiv region, as a result of the armed aggression of Russia, according to preliminary data, 166 health care facilities were damaged and seven more were completely destroyed. For more than 7 months, our doctors in the occupation did the impossible – under the shelling and constant threats they continued to save the lives and health of Ukrainians. All this time, the Russians deliberately destroyed and struck our medical system as much as possible. They destroyed the walls, disfigured our hospitals, but, fortunately, we managed to preserve the most valuable – our people.

For each health care facility an assessment of the damage caused by the enemy is carried out. Shells and missiles of the Russian army significantly destroyed the medical infrastructure in Kharkiv region, in addition the invaders removed expensive equipment, medicines and consumables from hospitals.
27-09-2022 Formerly occupied territories the priority for healthcare

In Kharkiv region, Russian soldiers lived in one of the rural schools during the occupation. Prosecutors have shown and recorded what the educational institution looks like after the temporary occupation. The occupiers turned the school where little Ukrainians studied into a dump and weapons storage. Mud, ammunition, remnants of Russian rations and bottles of alcohol were all over the place.

Representatives of the Red Cross reported their readiness to provide financial assistance to four thousand households, which became victims of the shelling. The money will be used to repair, install windows and pay for other works. The Red Cross also works closely with Kharkiv Heating Networks. Assistance to Kharkiv will continue.

There are problems with access to medical services in the de-occupied territories of Kharkiv region, because health care facilities have been damaged or completely destroyed in all communities. In Balakliya, where previously 46,000 residents lived, and now about 15,000 remained, there are five doctors left in the hospital. The hospital was mined and damaged, the equipment was destroyed and looted, so they have to work in specially adapted rooms. Three doctors work at the primary level, while there were 25 of them before the occupation. The community in Shevchenkove settlement needs outpatient doctors, but they have enough specialized doctors. There is a difficult situation with access to medical care in Izium. In fact, the hospital has been severely damaged and cannot function properly.

In general, there are problems with access to full medical treatment in each of the liberated communities. Emergency medical teams and disaster medical assistance teams help in some places. First of all, medical care is provided to low-mobility groups of the population and people with chronic diseases. Additional disaster medical assistance teams are involved. Also, the necessary medicines are already being delivered to the region.
The reconstruction of Kharkiv after the Russian aggression under martial law will be discussed at the 83rd session of UNECE Committee on Urban Development, Housing and Land Management. There will be a separate panel dedicated to Kharkiv at the Committee session. The Master Plan for the Development of the City of Kharkiv will be presented at the Committee, this plan is being developed by British architects headed by Norman Foster, who will also take part in the meeting. The master plan will, first of all, clearly outline a new approach to the economy of Kharkiv. Industrial parks and IT clusters will be created to make Kharkiv a self-sufficient, strong and economically independent city, as it was before the war. The master plan will include residential development, new commercial and administrative buildings.

Branches of the municipal enterprise “Kharkiv Heating Networks” are ready to start a new heating season in hospitals and maternity hospitals. So, if necessary, the heating will be turned on ahead of schedule. Now all necessary measures are being taken to prevent leaks and save heat energy, quickly identify weaknesses in the system and eliminate possible defects.

One of the main conditions for the return of residents to the deoccupied settlements is demining and general cleaning of territories. First, the liberated territory is inspected by mine clearance specialists, then road service specialists begin to work. After that, volunteers, doctors and utility workers can go there and deliver humanitarian aid to people who have been under occupation for months. In Kharkiv region, road clearing has been going on since mid-September. During this time, representatives of various services cleared 312 km of roads of national importance and municipal streets of Izyum and Balakliya.
Some of the abducted children return

As a result of a massive enemy missile strike on Kharkiv on the morning of October 10, the city’s electricity and water supply was disrupted. After the shelling of critical infrastructure that ensures the proper functioning of all the city systems, Kharkiv was completely cut off from electricity and water supply. The subway worked as a shelter. Now the water supply is uninterrupted, but in the case of power outages there might be restrictions and interruption of water supply.

37 more children deported by the Russians returned home. At the end of August, the children were forcibly taken out of Kharkiv region to Russia, despite the fact that all of them have parents. The children have returned to their parents. Families are already reunited and are in a safe place in Transcarpathia. International humanitarian organisations helped by providing essential goods.

New evidence of the Russian genocide against Ukrainians is found on the liberated territory of Kharkiv region. The Russian army was in Kharkiv region for more than 5 months. And during that time, the occupiers didn’t even try to do anything for people. What they did was destroy, loot, take away, they left behind devastated villages, and some of them do not have a single surviving house. The occupiers turned schools into rubbish dumps. The churches are broken, literally turned into toilets. The world must see this destruction, feel the pain that Russia has brought to Ukrainians. Law enforcement officers are already documenting evidence of murder, torture and kidnapping by the occupiers.

In the liberated city of Izyum, Kharkiv region, exhumation from the mass grave of residents killed by the occupiers is completed – a total of 447 bodies were exhumed, including 215 women and 5 children. Most of the victims have signs of violent death and 30 have signs of torture. There are bodies with ropes around their necks, with tied hands, broken limbs and gunshot wounds. Several men have genitals amputated.
On the morning of October 18, Russian invaders shelled Kharkiv. There were two series of explosions in the city in five minutes. In Kharkiv, Russian troops destroyed warehouses with humanitarian aid with a missile strike from Belgorod this morning.

Despite all the attempts of the Russian military to destroy the Kharkiv region, the main vital infrastructure in the territories liberated from the invaders is being restored at a fairly high pace. To date, more than 60% of the de-occupied territories have restored power supply. Work continues to prepare the region for the heating period. Where possible, specialists are restoring housing stock and preparing infrastructure for low temperatures.

The United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF) delivered generators to healthcare facilities. It is reported that the power of the generators is sufficient to provide electricity, and therefore ensure uninterrupted water and heat supply. Enemy troops are cynically firing at critical infrastructure, so generators are essential to ensure a comfortable life for the residents of Kharkiv and the region.

Ukrainian military and police find Russian occupiers in the forests of the Kharkiv region almost every day. Due to hunger, they go to settlements, where they are detained. And in accordance with the provisions of the Geneva Conventions, they replenish the exchange fund of prisoners of war.

An analysis of the contents of the backpack of a Russian paramedic was carried out, from which it became clear that no one was going to save the Russians on the battlefield. It is designed for 50 people, but there are only 2 Esmarch tourniquets in it. For one person, you need twice as many as in the backpack of a paramedic for 50 people. Therefore, analyzing the contents of the paramedic’s backpack, we can conclude that the Russians will die if they are wounded. They will have nothing to provide medical care and stop heavy bleeding.
Near Kharkiv, rescue workers organised a landfill, where parts of the shells fired by the invaders at the city are collected. In total, there are about five thousand units of deadly weapons fired by Russia at the civilian population of the city in that shell landfill. The Russians literally showered the city with shells, including prohibited weapons, which killed and injured a significant number of civilians while exploding.

Doctors and rescue workers of the Kharkiv region were given 1000 protective suits. These suits protect against chemical, radiation and biological threats. 700 sets were handed over to doctors, and 300 sets were given to rescue workers. Benefactors from Germany and the United States of America, as well as donors from the UK, promise to continue to support the Kharkiv region. They plan to hand over sets of military uniforms.

Kharkiv volunteers weave camouflage nets made of Russian military uniforms. The material is brought to them by Ukrainian defenders. Volunteers chop them with an axe to make it easier to cut strips further and call it “therapy”.

After eight months of the war, Kharkiv is turning into a city without business. Business activity in Kharkiv fell by more than 60% during the war (data from the European Business Association). Large enterprises have either lost their workshops due to shelling or moved to other areas or abroad, small and medium-sized enterprises cannot obtain credit and have lost employees.

Every third business person left Kharkiv, and half either stopped their activities or experience big problems with sales — that is, they work with losses. The top problem is security, the solution depends on whether we win the war. The second problem is a drop in purchasing power of the population, disruption of logistics, lack of opportunity to attract personnel which left the city. Businesses demand that the government simplifies all bureaucratic procedures for starting and running a business, abolishes or minimises all city taxes.
01-11-2022 Power and water are hit

On October 31, in the morning, the Russians launched missile strikes at Kharkiv. According to preliminary data, these were S-300 missiles that were launched from Belgorod. Critical infrastructure facilities are damaged. The lack of power supply has caused problems with water and heat supply, but power engineers and utility workers are doing everything possible to resume water supply to Kharkiv houses as soon as possible.

Kharkiv has changed a lot, many citizens have returned, businesses and cafes have begun to open. But everything depends on the district of the city. If we are talking about the centre, it’s one thing, and if we mean Saltovka, especially Severnaya, which was heavily shelled at the beginning of the Russian invasion and in the following months, there is an extremely difficult situation with very few people living there. But in general life returns to Kharkiv, although it is clear that the city is wounded and missile attacks have not stopped. Yes, fortunately, they do not happen every day anymore, but a day, two or three passes, and missile strikes hit the city again.

Houses damaged as a result of Russian occupation troops strikes are being restored and reconstructed in different districts of Kharkiv. Communication systems are sometimes not only repaired, but also modernised. Windows in Kharkiv are now mostly covered with plates and not with polyethylene film because of the cold weather.
08-11-2022 How they had planned to re-educate children

The Russian occupiers, fleeing from Izium, forgot the folder with secret documents. They contain information about how the “implementation” of Russian education in Kharkiv region was supposed to take place. According to the occupiers’ plans, Ukrainian schoolchildren on completion of the grade 11 were to receive Russian school leaving certificates issued by the Belgorod region. In addition, Russian teachers, in particular “teachers of history and literature” were to be brought to the region to introduce “patriotic education”. At the same time, Ukrainian schoolchildren had to focus only on universities in the Belgorod region.

Before the full-scale invasion an agricultural farm in Kharkiv region produced 40 tons of milk every day. It was one of the most advanced technological farms in Kharkiv region and in Ukraine in general, with the newest machinery, up-to-date technologies, especially in the provision of fodder and animal fertilisation.

After the so-called “management” of the occupiers, most of the cows died at the enterprise. Livestock stalls were broken by shelling, equipment was stolen and mutilated. But in spite of all the destruction and losses, the farm resumed its work in October. Carcasses of dead animals were scattered throughout the farm. In total, farmers have lost 2,000 cows – this is more than half of the livestock. Cows died from injuries caused by shell fragments, mine explosions or by being trapped under rubble. The production of the farm began to be restored in October. Now there are about a thousand cows here. Several calves were born. There is still no light here, and most animal stalls are destroyed. But the remaining stalls are being prepared for wintering.

From now on, the municipal enterprise and animal rights activists will jointly sterilise animals, put a clip and tattoo, vaccinate against rabies, enter data into a single municipal register and return to the place where caught under the care of volunteers or caring people with whom a contract of responsible maintenance of a homeless animal will be concluded. Previously, animals were caught, placed in a shelter and a new owner for them was looked for, but, of course, there was not enough space for all of them. Last year, the legislation changed, according to which animals can stay on the street, but they must be registered, have no ability to reproduce (be sterilised) and they should have a guardian responsible for their wellbeing and behaviour. The use of euthanasia of homeless animals is prohibited by law, so measures should be taken for the peaceful coexistence of people and animals in the city.
On November 15 Russian terrorists massively shelled Ukrainian cities. The occupiers hit Ukrainian infrastructure facilities, and, as a result, emergency power outages are introduced throughout Ukraine. Around 16:00 on November 15, Kharkiv residents heard approximately four powerful explosions. Residents of the city complained about power surges, and afterwards the light disappeared. Subsequently, it became known that the traffic in the Kharkiv metro was temporarily suspended. Ground electric transport didn’t run either. There were missile strikes at a critical infrastructure facility. Power engineers and public utilities workers are doing everything to normalise the life of Kharkiv as soon as possible.

A central hospital is being rebuilt in Balakliya. The medical facility was severely damaged due to the enemy’s shelling. During the occupation of Balakliya, the Russians set up barracks in the hospital. Then they removed and destroyed almost all medical equipment. While retreating, the invaders fired at the buildings of the medical facility. Vinnytsia became a twin town for the de-occupied Balakliya. Warm clothes, toys, bicycles, books, food, etc. arrived in Balakliya. Goods were collected by volunteers together with caring residents of Vinnytsia for the residents of the de-occupied community.

In the village of Lyptsi, the invaders destroyed the hospital, so a place was set up in the pharmacy for the initial examination of the residents. This is a temporary but necessary solution. The place has telemedicine equipment, and residents can undergo an initial medical examination, contact a family doctor or a specialist from a regional medical facility. The pharmacy is equipped with a Starlink system and a generator. Also in this pharmacy people can get medicine for free under the program of medical guarantees.

In Izyum, an emergency medical assistance unit has been opened. The government and people of Poland helped with opening of such a first-aid unit. A modular house has been installed to accommodate Izyum emergency health care workers. It is equipped with everything necessary for a comfortable stay of paramedics: heating, electricity, shower and toilet rooms, a lounge, etc.
22-11-2022 The network of torture is revealed

The Russians do not stop their attempts to regain their lost positions. Russian occupiers are trying to counterattack in the Kupyansk direction in the Kharkiv region. The enemy also continues to shell settlements, located along the border of the Kharkiv region with the Russian Federation.

Hundreds of civilians in the Kharkiv region became victims of torture in prisons organised by the Russians in the occupied territories. Now we know of 25 large torture chambers, the largest ones in Volchansk, Balakliya and Izyum. Police stations, large enterprises, railway stations and even schools were turned into prisons during the occupation of part of the Kharkiv region. Anyone could be sent there: participants of the anti-terrorist operation and people who communicated in Ukrainian on the street, business people, officials and just passers-by who came close to checkpoints.

There were 12-20 people in one cell, tightly packed. But there were exceptions as well. The Russians did not make any concessions for women. On the walls, prisoners scratched the number of days they spent in dungeons and wrote prayers. The police say it resembled a real concentration camp. The methods of torture were not different throughout the occupied territory. Often prisoners were electrocuted, their arms were broken with clubs and pipes, sometimes their nails were torn out.

The Kharkiv master plan has been updated since the beginning of the war. Representatives of the City Council promise to present it. This was discussed at a meeting of working groups under the auspices of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe. Kharkiv citizens will see an updated plan by the end of the year. Conceptually, a new type of a transport system and infrastructure of the city will be presented in the near future.

In the next academic year, Kharkiv schools will receive new names. More than a dozen schools still bear the names of the heroes of the USSR. Perhaps there will be schools with the names of Ukrainian Heroes.
29-11-2022 “Invincibility stations” set up to help citizens

Since the beginning of September, mine clearers have destroyed more than 44,000 mines in the Kharkiv region. During the day, 64 explosive objects were neutralized. Humanitarian demining in the region continues.

In Kharkiv today there is a shortage of electricity. Emergency power outages occur. In the morning, the majority of citizens of Kharkiv and the region have no electricity. Residents remain without electricity for 10-12 hours. In Kharkiv, they save electricity in public spaces in order to supply more electricity to residential buildings. Now there is a power outage schedule that is in effect in all districts of Kharkiv. All utilities in Kharkiv are provided in full. There is heating and water.

In Kharkiv and the region, in towns and villages, “invincibility stations” are being opened in educational, administrative institutions, health facilities and fire departments. It is in these specially equipped rooms that local residents can warm up, charge their devices and receive food and first aid during the blackout. In total, about 300 such stations are deployed in the Kharkiv region.

The process of restoring the housing stock of Kharkiv, which was badly damaged due to the shelling by the Russian troops, continues. Utilities workers and contractors repair roofs, facades and plumbing systems. They continue to install plastic windows and balcony doors in apartments and entrances of residential buildings damaged as a result of shelling.

Kupyansk was left without a hospital serving 120,000 people. On the morning of November 25, the Russians fired at a medical facility and a playground. They hit with S-300 missiles. Fortunately, there were no casualties. Last year, the medical facility underwent a major renovation. The hospital had neurological, surgical, cardiological, trauma, gynecological, diagnostic and emergency medicine departments.
In Kharkiv, for security reasons, a Christmas tree will be installed at the metro station. The day before, the Christmas tree was delivered to the metro and now it will be decorated.

Heads of healthcare facilities constantly monitor the amount of the fuel supply for autonomous power supply sources. Hospitals and maternity hospitals in the city of Kharkiv are provided with autonomous power supply sources in case of emergency power supply cuts. Diesel and gasoline generators are provided to healthcare facilities where operations are carried out with the help of equipment that requires constant power supply. For uninterrupted work of autonomous power supply sources they have a fuel reserve of up to 5 days.

The members of the Union of Manufacturers of Joinery of France plan to transfer more than 150 generators to the city. The French partners plans to provide Kharkiv with generators with a capacity of 5 to 20 kW. Other French enterprises and organizations were called to join the action in support of the city of Kharkiv, which is facing all the devastating consequences of the Russian aggression. It is planned that the generators will arrive in Kharkiv in the first week of January 2023.

The British newspaper The Daily Telegraph published a striking photo from Kharkiv. In the photo, the police officers are inspecting a huge pile of fragments of the rockets that the Kremlin used to hit the Ukraine’s second largest city. The collected remains of rockets and artillery shells fired at Kharkiv by the Russian army for more than nine months of the war are shocking.

On December 6, on the Day of the Armed Forces of Ukraine, President of Ukraine Volodymyr Zelensky arrived in Kharkiv. He visited a military hospital, thanked the medical workers who save the lives of the Ukrainian military, and the military themselves who defend Ukraine.
Innovation in drones

The Security Service of Ukraine in cooperation with the National Police and the Office of the Prosecutor General continues to expose the war criminals of the aggressor country. As a result of investigation, six representatives of the high command of the Western military district have been identified who took part in the planning, preparation and conduct of hostilities against the Defence Forces on the eastern front. At the beginning of a full-scale invasion, they gave orders to the Russian troops to break through the state border of Ukraine and storm the towns and villages of the Kharkiv region. The Security Service is taking further comprehensive measures to bring the invaders to justice for crimes against Ukraine.

The Armed Forces of Ukraine are testing a reconnaissance drone developed by Kharkiv engineers. Its main feature is invisibility to enemy radars. Once this small airplane lived a peaceful life. Eight years ago, the developers of the ELF-systems company from Kharkiv made a drone for agricultural purposes. It was used in geodesy and mapping, but on February 24, the UAV changed its purpose and received a new name – “Elf”.

In the “invincibility stations” deployed in Kharkiv, citizens can not only warm up, drink tea, recharge their devices, but also receive qualified psychological support and psychological consultations from specialists. The work of psychologists with citizens in heating points is one of the directions of the implementation of the national programme for mental health and psychosocial support of the population. The measures are aimed at providing psychological assistance to every person affected by the war.

The utility company “Kharkiv Heating Networks” received a powerful generator from the German city of Nuremberg to power the boiler house. First, the twin city, together with the Kharkiv-Nuremberg Association, donated more than 400,000 Euros for the reconstruction of the boiler house of the cancer centre, destroyed by a direct hit by a Russian shell, and in October a diesel generator was donated, which is already on round-the-clock duty at the boiler house in the Slobodsky district. Now, thanks to the generator from the German friends, the boiler house can work even during long rolling or emergency shutdowns.
20-12-2022 50,000 children have been deported

After missile strikes on December 16, when 10 missiles hit the Kharkiv region, Kharkiv and the entire region were completely without power. The ninth massive shelling of the Ukrainian energy infrastructure on Friday actually left half of the country without electricity, heating and water. Repair crews are working around the clock, but weather conditions complicate the restoration process.

At the same time, the service on the subway lines has been fully restored in the city, and the city’s Christmas tree has been installed at the central metro station “Universitet”. The station was decorated, and even a “Santa Claus house” was installed there. Presumably, Santa Claus will receive letters of wishes from the citizens of Kharkiv.

During 300 days of the war in the Kharkiv region, 1,663 people died at the hands of the invaders, including 74 children. However, 300 days of our resistance have proved that there are no pro-Russian sentiments in Kharkiv. Kharkiv showed its character and inspired our other cities to fight.

Russia has already deported more than 50,000 children from the temporarily occupied territories of Ukraine. Human rights activists provide such a figure. Minors are immediately issued documents so that they can be taken to their new families. They change their names to make it more difficult to find them later. Toddlers and teenagers go through “medical filtering” because Russians only want healthy Ukrainian children. In order to finally re-educate minors and eradicate everything Ukrainian from them, potential parents undergo courses of ideological education before adoption. The process of returning minors to Ukraine is very complicated. To date, Ukraine has managed to return no more than a hundred children.
03-01-2023 What we lost last year – but we survived

In 2022, the life of every inhabitant of Kharkiv and the region was to some extent destroyed. The war has erased past lives, we have lost homes, jobs, families and friends. But Kharkiv survived and wasn’t occupied, almost the entire territory of the region was liberated from the Russians, the enemy’s shelling could not plunge the region into darkness and cold, and in some places restoration begins.

Despite the insufficient level of preparation for the war, in the first days of the Russian offensive Kharkiv residents united their efforts: public utilities worked, most high-rise buildings had heating, electricity and water, rubbish was taken out of the city, hospitals and even maternity hospitals worked. People organized themselves: dozens of volunteer groups appeared in the city, bringing food from humanitarian aid distribution points to people in remote areas of the city or taking Kharkiv residents by car to cities further away from the frontline, residents of houses created spontaneous self-defence groups to fight marauders.

The September operation of the Armed Forces of Ukraine to liberate the Kharkiv region will be studied as exemplary in all military academies of the world, military historians and analysts say. It really was unique: within five days, from September 6 to September 11, 421 settlements and more than 8 thousand square kilometers were liberated from the invaders.

During the year, the Kharkiv region was losing people, housing stock, architectural monuments and enterprises. Since February 24, more than 1,600 civilians have died in the region, including 74 children, more than 2,500 people have been injured, and those who were forced to leave their homes have not yet been counted.

Kharkiv faced huge destruction of housing stock and infrastructure. According to the Kharkiv Regional Military Administration, 14,630 objects were damaged as a result of the shelling, most of them – residential buildings, educational institutions, life support facilities. 154 architectural monuments in the Kharkiv region suffered from the Russian shelling.

An Avenue of Heroes will be created in Kharkiv, where the defenders of the city who died in the war with the Russian Federation will be immortalized. It will be in the centre of Kharkiv, in its very heart. Design work has already begun and “nothing will stop” the laying of the Avenue of Heroes in the spring of this year.
11-01-2023 German Foreign Minister visits

On 10 January 2023, German Foreign Minister Annalena Baerbock visited Kharkiv. The visit was unannounced for security reasons. “This city is a symbol of the absolute madness of the Russian aggressive war in Ukraine. It is important for me that we do not lose sight of Ukraine’s place in our European family, even in this winter of the war,” – she said. Germany will help rebuild Kharkiv’s medical facilities, continue to provide military assistance to the region, and fund backup equipment for critical infrastructure.

Russian missiles struck Kharkiv only hours after the visit of the German foreign minister. Explosions were heard in the city. Local residents were asked not to leave the shelters.

Russian war criminals in the morning of Monday, 9 January, launched a missile attack on the village of Shevchenkove in the Kharkiv region. The S-300 missile hit the territory of the local market, where many stalls were destroyed, two women died, and a child was wounded. At the same time, many people were trapped under the rubble.

“Practically the only centre of civilization left for people.” - this is how its employees speak about the central district hospital in the de-occupied Volchansk in the Kharkiv region. After the liberation of the city, the Russian military attacked the territory of the medical facility three times. Because of the constant rocket attacks, in some wards windows were blown out. They were boarded with plywood, and the patients were transferred to safer rooms. Doctors say that as a result of the shelling people get injured limbs. Most often, the hospital treats patients with mine-explosive injuries.

In Ukraine, even during the war, local volunteer initiatives continue to develop, trying to preserve the authentic local architecture and inspire citizens to appreciate the heritage that surrounds them. To mention the regional features of the architectural school of Kharkiv, it is unique as there are a lot of buildings in the Art Nouveau style, in particular buildings in the Nordic modern style or, as it is also called, the National Romantic style. There are very few examples of such architecture throughout Ukraine. Volunteers have a lot of plans and desires. For the past two weeks, negotiations have been underway to protect those historic buildings that have been damaged by the shelling.
Volunteers are involved in informing the population of the de-occupied territories about the danger of mines. Since the beginning of Russia’s armed aggression 130 civilians have been killed by explosions of mines and other ammunition in the Kharkiv region. Kharkiv region is the area by far the most contaminated with explosive objects in Ukraine. Anti-personnel and anti-vehicle mines are often found in the de-occupied territories. There are also butterfly mines – such mines can be deployed remotely and they form entire minefields. Having received sufficient qualifications, volunteer groups will be able professionally to inform the population about the threats posed by explosive objects.

After another massive Russian missile attack on January 14, targeting vital Ukrainian infrastructure, the heating system had to be relaunched in Kharkiv for the sixth time because of the damage.

On the afternoon of January 17, the Russian invaders attacked the city of Kupyansk. The S-300 missile hit the Kupyansky Motor Transport Professional College. There were no casualties. However, the premises of the educational institution were almost completely destroyed. The college in Kupyansk had already been damaged by the shelling, almost all its windows had been blown out. but now one of the buildings is completely destroyed.

The educational process in the de-occupied territories has been resumed. But it is difficult to call it a fully-fledged education. In many villages there is no stable Internet, so children receive tasks by phone, in some villages there are not enough teachers, in others teachers cannot get their salaries.
24-01-2023 UN High Commissioner sees the destruction

In the Kharkiv region, steps are taken to strengthen our defence capabilities. The enemy does not cease fire, using multiple launch rocket systems, mortars, cannons, tanks. The enemy still aims at the Kharkiv region and the city of Kharkiv. We are at war, and we must be prepared for any development of events.

On 24 January UN High Commissioner for Refugees Filippo Grandi inspected the destruction in the northern district of Saltivka in Kharkiv, got acquainted with the progress of repair work and talked with residents of damaged houses. He was shocked by the large-scale destruction that the Russian aggressor inflicted – of kindergartens, schools, infrastructure and residential multi-storey buildings. All cities have been heavily damaged, so the UN and other international organizations provide emergency aid to people affected by the war. Funds are allocated to those in need, humanitarian kits are handed over, and psychological support is provided.

In Kharkiv, children began to be vaccinated against coronavirus. Children aged 5 years and older can be vaccinated. After the centralized supply of the Comirnaty vaccine, children will be vaccinated in Kharkiv clinics with the consent of their parents (or legal representatives) and after examination by a pediatrician or a family doctor.
On the evening of January 29, Russia shelled Kharkiv. The rocket hit an apartment building in the Kyivsky district in the city centre, killing one person and injuring three. The fourth floor of the part of the building was completely destroyed.

The actions of the Russian military may amount to war crimes and crimes against humanity, including torture, extrajudicial executions and enforced disappearances. Russian forces have carried out numerous indiscriminate strikes on densely populated areas and on energy infrastructure, leaving millions of people without electricity, water and heat.

Eight residents of the Kharkiv region have died from Covid-19 since the beginning of the year. In total, 118 cases of this disease were registered in January. One of the reasons is insufficient testing of patients with symptoms of acute respiratory viral infection for Covid-19, which leads to under-detection of cases. Fewer than 35 people are tested weekly in health care facilities of the region, while it is necessary to test 300 out of every 100,000 people.

People with mild cases of Covid-19 usually do not seek medical help. However, during the war and prolonged stress, the ability of the immune system to resist disease decreases, and as a result the number of deaths from Covid-19 among people under the age of 50 increases. PCR tests and rapid tests in communal health care facilities and in the regional centre for disease control and prevention are free of charge.

Kharkiv ambulance medics do not leave their posts when air raid alerts sound, when Kharkiv is shelled and when the city has time to recover. They start their shift in the morning and return home the next day. They sleep in between call outs. They stay in Kharkiv because they love their city, because, they say, they once made a choice – to help people.
On February 5, at about 8:20 am, the Russian military launched a missile attack on the Kyivsky district of Kharkiv, as a result of which the building of the O. M. Beketov National University of Urban Economy was badly damaged. One of the missiles hit a five-story building of a higher educational institution and caused serious damage. Another enemy missile strike was near a residential building.

Employees of the State Bureau of Investigation in the de-occupied territory of the Kharkiv region discovered hidden documents of the occupiers, which identified Russian gunners who hit Kharkiv with long-range artillery. In one of the houses where the headquarters of the Russian military was located, they found a cache with secret documentation of the 138th motor rifle brigade from the Russian Federation. It was this brigade that fired at the residential area of Northern Saltivka from June to August 2022 from Grad multiple rocket launchers, 152-millimeter Akatsiya self-propelled guns and other long-range artillery. Thanks to the documents found, it was possible to identify the servicemen, the numbers of the weapons that were assigned to them, their reports and much other information useful for the investigation.

In the updated General Plan of the city of Kharkiv, the entire infrastructure necessary for a comfortable life for the residents of Northern Saltivka will be within walking distance from home. As part of a pilot project developed by the team of the British architect Norman Foster, shops, educational institutions, sports facilities, places of recreation and work will be within walking distance. It is planned to build a new type of housing there – with underground parking, energy saving systems and local boiler houses.
14-02-2023 Again, infrastructure is hit, we recruit new soldiers

The Russian military have intensified the shelling of Kharkiv. The invaders deliberately destroy the city and the region, terrorising the local residents. Only in the week from February 5 to February 12, the city was a target of four powerful attacks, 14 people received various injuries and wounds. Industrial enterprises, a university, the central park, infrastructure and residential buildings of Kharkiv citizens were damaged.

On February 10, at 4 am, the invaders launched 10 missile attacks on Kharkiv, all of them hit critical infrastructure. Six hours later – a new strike, by preliminary information, with the Kalibr missile, aimed at the infrastructure of the city. As a result of another crime of the Russians, eight Kharkiv residents were injured, all of them are in the hospital, and two are in serious conditions.

Law enforcement officers record recent crimes of Russian terrorists and carry out appropriate investigative actions. Both on the battlefield and within the framework of the forthcoming tribunal, everybody will take responsibility for their actions. From the leaders of the regime to those who, with their tacit consent, let this terror happen.

The situation in the Kharkiv region is also tense. Residents of de-occupied cities near the Russian border are under daily fire from the Russian troops. These are Kupyansk, Vovchansk and the nearby settlements.

Despite the merciless destruction and human casualties, a broad campaign is underway in the Kharkiv region to recruit volunteers for new units of the Offensive Guard. First of all, highly motivated and patriotic citizens will be accepted to the assault brigades. In Kharkiv and the region, there are no problems with this – among those who want to serve in the guard are pensioners, women and children.

Even schoolchildren came and asked how to get into the Offensive Guard, but there is an age limit – from 18 to 60 years old. People aged 60 and over also applied. A certain number of women volunteered as well, but they are considered for narrowly focused specialties, such as cooks, paramedics and communication personnel.
More intense shelling, as we begin restoration

During a year of the full-scale armed aggression, Russian troops changed their tactics of shelling Kharkiv. At the beginning of the war, the most powerful shelling was recorded – with missiles and shells. Enemy shells destroyed the infrastructure of Kharkiv – residential and administrative buildings, educational institutions, kindergartens. This hostile tactic lasted approximately for 4-5 months. Then a period of relative calm followed, since the enemy was pushed back from the city. Later, the intensity of the shelling increased again and it continued until the aggressor was driven away beyond the Ukrainian border in most of the territory of our region. After that the shelling became less intensive.

Recently, the intensity of the shelling has increased again. Russian troops hit many targets, including critical infrastructure. From the first day of the war the strikes were chaotic. But now the Russians are purposefully hitting critical infrastructure, in particular, thermal power plants, because it’s the heating season now, they are hitting transformers in order to de-energise the city in this way. As for higher educational institutions, there is no one there, no students or other staff. But they strike on purpose to intimidate the population.

Kharkiv region is recovering from Russian missile attacks and continues to protect critical infrastructure. First of all, energy facilities that generate and transmit electricity should be protected from the occupiers. The construction of protective structures continues. The latest attacks have demonstrated the effectiveness of these efforts, and absence of emergency or planned power outages, among other factors, is due to such protective structures.

The “Army of restoration” will start working in Kharkiv. This is not a volunteer project, but employment for people who are ready to participate in community service. These works are also carried out by residents of communities affected by hostilities as a result of the Russian aggression. This happens under the “supervision” of the employment service. The employment service can involve the unemployed in removing rubble, eliminating the consequences of shelling, providing assistance to the victims, working in the “Points of Invincibility”, etc. Financing of socially useful works is carried out at the expense of the Compulsory State Social Insurance Fund of Ukraine in the case of unemployment.
One year on, we were ready

The Russian occupiers continue deliberate strikes on civilian infrastructure and civilians in the Kharkiv region. This morning Kupyansk was shelled once again. Residential buildings were destroyed, the kindergarten building was damaged. The city park was also hit.

Despite being relaxed, the citizens of Kharkiv understood the inevitability of the war with Russia and that they would be the first to meet the enemy. The war continued since 2014, and in Kharkiv, situated only 40 km from the border with a potential aggressor, there was still a peaceful life. A young student city, with about 40 thousand students and a lot of foreigners, a sign that people felt confident. But beside this relaxed state, there was still an understanding that if the war started, it would start with us.

Because we are really the closest, here Russia begins just round the corner. One way or another, the city was ready for resistance. But the Russians were not ready. Because when they came here, it was supposed to be some kind of easy walk. Firstly, the Russians believed that here they would be greeted with flowers. And secondly, they were sure that the city was not protected. The Russians were completely unprepared, they did not understand how to fight. They thought that they would simply drive into the city in a column, take flowers from the hands of the local grateful population, change the flag over the city council or regional council – and continue to Kyiv.

On the anniversary of Russia’s full-scale invasion of Ukraine, on February 24, the premiere of the four-episode military drama “I am Nadia” took place. The main characters of the film are the ambulance workers in Kharkiv, who in February-March 2022, despite the danger and shelling, remained in the city to save people. Although the series describes the work of doctors in Kharkiv, only the establishing shots were filmed in our city, in particular in Saltivka. The main shooting with the actors took place in Kyiv and the region. And although at all locations the film crew was helped by employees of the Ministry of Internal Affairs and rescuers, all the actors were aware of the risk.
Starting today, March 7, in Kharkiv, where street lights have not been turned on since the beginning of a full-scale war, central highways and the busiest roads will be illuminated in the evening. Over time, more parts of the city will be illuminated and the time when street lamps are on will be increased. After the start of the large-scale Russian invasion of Ukraine, street lighting in the city was not used for security reasons.

Russian missiles destroyed not only the houses of Ukrainians: with their invasion, the occupiers radically changed the usual life of the inhabitants of peaceful cities. Border towns and villages are especially affected by Russian terror.

Kharkiv, as they say, is unlucky to have such a neighbour, because Russia is only 40 kilometres away. During the offensive of enemy troops and the occupation of nearby towns, Northern Saltivka suffered the most: it is now almost destroyed, in every house a “wound” from shells or shrapnel is visible. The city became one of the first targets of Russia’s war against Ukraine, so the scale of destruction here is especially great.

Another consequence of the hostilities for Kharkiv is the abundance of mines and unexploded ordnance within the city, especially in its northeastern part and in the forest park. At the end of January, residents of Northern Saltivka discovered an unexploded cluster bomb in a flower bed right next to their apartment building. It was frozen in the ground, and explosives technicians had to eliminate it right on the spot, in the middle of a residential area. It was really horrible how the mining process took place. The Russian troops had special launchers. In the morning, for example, there was nothing, in the afternoon there was nothing as well, and at night they fired cluster munitions, usually from a great distance. And since dawn mines were everywhere.

Since active hostilities are underway in the Kharkiv region, evacuation continues from the front-line settlements of the region. The enemy continues to shell the territory of the region. The evacuees receive the necessary assistance and temporary housing.
Now approximately 1.1 million inhabitants live in Kharkiv, half the population of the city before the war. A lot of work should be done to restore the damage caused by the Russian aggressor. Now there are about 150,000 Kharkiv residents without a roof over their heads.

On the night of March 9, the Russian invaders carried out another massive missile attack on Ukraine. 11 missiles were fired at Kharkiv, as a result of which thermal power plants and transformer substations were damaged, and the city itself was left without heating and water supply. Now the city has almost completely recovered from the last missile attack.

There was a time when there was no electricity in the houses of Kharkiv residents for almost two days. Now there are practically no such cases. There is electricity, water, central heating. It is unprecedented for Ukraine when the heating system was restarted for the eighth time.

The Russian Federation is using terror tactics, indiscriminately shelling towns and villages, thereby flagrantly violating the norms of international humanitarian law. The level of missile threat throughout Ukraine remains high.

The damage to the economy of Kharkiv due to the war is estimated at 50 billion euros. In Kharkiv, more than 5,500 objects were damaged by shelling and turned into debris. These destructions have led to a colossal accumulation of construction debris: the remains of various materials, plastic and glass, which need urgent processing. In addition to clogging with construction debris, there is a problem of air pollution. Because of the shelling, there were many fires, so the air quality has deteriorated.

Snowmelt, spring floods and rain can lead to flooding in the Kharkiv region. Water flows contribute to the spread of bacteria and viruses pathogenic to humans, as well as chemicals from fields treated with pesticides. Therefore, the risk of outbreaks of infectious diseases, food poisoning, etc. increases.
Ukraine managed to return home 15 Ukrainian children. These are children from the cities of Kharkiv and Kherson regions, occupied at the beginning of the war. Until now, about three hundred deported children from the Kharkiv region have not been able to return home. In total, during the occupation, the Russians deported more than 500 children from our region, and only about two hundred have been returned.

Due to Russian aggression 1,818 people died in the Kharkiv region. Among the dead were 74 children. The youngest of them was five months old. At least 2,751 residents of the Kharkiv region were injured during the war. Among them – 216 children. In the Kharkiv region, more than 13 thousand crimes were registered connected with violations of the laws or customs of war.

The stronghold of the Russians was destroyed in the Kharkiv region. According to the State Border Service, this happened in the Kupyansk direction. Aerial reconnaissance aimed artillery at enemy positions, as a result of which the ammunition depot of the invaders was destroyed. A stronghold is a place prepared for all-round defence.

Covid-19 has returned to Kharkiv: specialists from the regional centre for disease control and prevention are talking about a new wave. Epidemiologists express concern that during March the number of patients with Covid-19 is constantly growing and we can talk about a new coronavirus wave. But given the fact that a significant part of the population has been vaccinated against Covid-19, experts expect a lower intensity of the wave compared to the spring of 2021 and January-February 2022. At the same time, experts note the presence of hidden undiagnosed morbidity as a result of the low level of testing.

Today, thanks to international partners and volunteer efforts, the eighth batch of medical equipment for the Kharkiv region has arrived from Germany. As part of today’s aid supply from Nuremberg, cardiological equipment, ultrasound diagnostics kit, and functional beds were received. Soon the equipment will be sent to health care facilities in the Kharkiv region. By the way, more than 15 hospitals in the region have already benefited from the support from Nuremberg. First of all, these are district and regional health care facilities with particularly acute need for such medical equipment.
Continued via the EFPC website [https://euprimarycare.org/2022/03/17/column-prof-oleksii-korzhy/](https://euprimarycare.org/2022/03/17/column-prof-oleksii-korzhy/)