

SYSTEM OF CHILD SOCIAL PROTECTION AUTHORITIES

Ministry of Social Policy

State Service of Ukraine
for Children

National Social Service
of Ukraine

Coordination Center for the Development of Family
Care and Child Upbringing

Child Protection Services of Regional Military
Administrations

Child Protection Services of District Military
Administrations, Village, and City Councils

THE ROLE OF THE NSSSU IN THE FIELD OF ENSURING CHILDREN'S RIGHTS

01.

The National Social Service of Ukraine — the central authority that exercises control over the observance of children's rights and provides coordination for the implementation of the provisions of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child and other international documents ratified by Ukraine

02.

The Ministry of Social Policy of Ukraine is the central authority that ensures the formation of state policy in the field of social policy

03.

The State Service in Affairs of Children implements state policy in the field of child protection

From the beginning of the war, NSSSU has carried out control over compliance with the rights of displaced (evacuated) children

250

children have been displaced to the USA



208

children continue to be there

1

Children under guardianship — **125 children** — legal representative — guardian

Confirmation: decision of the guardianship authority or court

2

Children placed in foster families and family-type children's homes — **81 children** — legal representatives are foster parents

Confirmation: decision of the guardianship authority

As of today, there are three categories of foreigners who can carry out

1

The candidate for adopter is a relative of the child

2

The candidates for adopters have expressed a desire to adopt a child who is a biological brother/sister of a child previously adopted by them

3

One of the spouses has expressed a desire to adopt a child of the other spouse

В Україні...



Близько

70 000

загальна кількість дітей-сиріт та дітей, позбавлених батьківського піклування

Понад

13 000

дітей залишилися без батьківського піклування внаслідок воєнних дій

З них біля

2 000

дітей стали сиротами через смерть або загибель їх батьків.

Ще близько

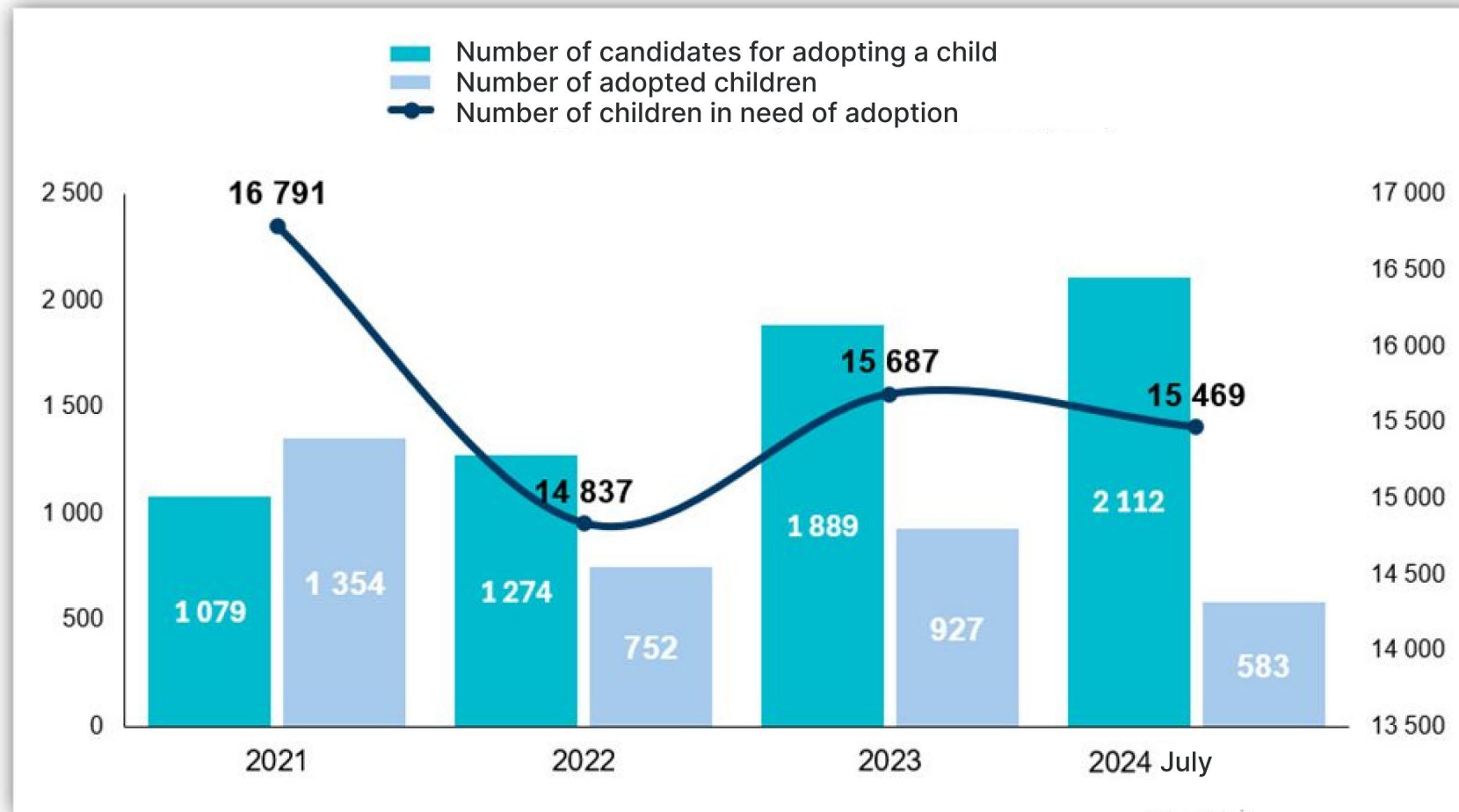
2 000

дітей-сиріт і дітей, позбавлених батьківського піклування, яких евакуювали у складі організованих груп, залишається за кордоном

Близько **700**
дітей було усиновлено
з початку 2024 р.

Але проблемою залишається усиновлення дітей старше 10 років. З понад 2,5 тис. сімей-кандидатів в усиновлювачі, лише близько 300 родин готові усиновити більше однієї дитини.

Number of Adopted Children and Children in Need of Adoption Compared to the Number of Prospective Adoptive Parents



Among all children in need of a family, **10% (1,500 children) have disabilities.**

The number of adopted children with disabilities in Ukraine has decreased by 4.5 times.

Factors Motivating People to Adopt a Child

Inability to Have Biological Children or Age-Related Health Issues Affecting Natural Childbirth: 56%

Availability of Financial Resources to Support an Adopted Child: 41%

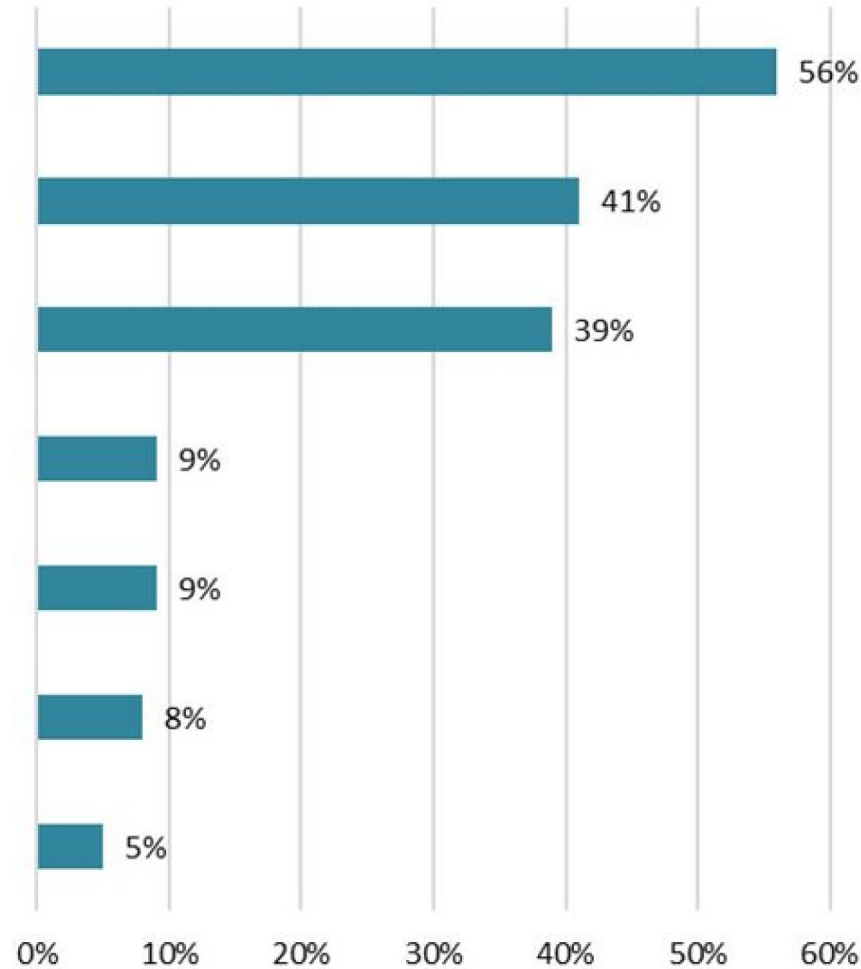
Desire to Provide a Home for a Child in Need: 39%

Cultural or Religious Beliefs Encouraging Adoption: 9%

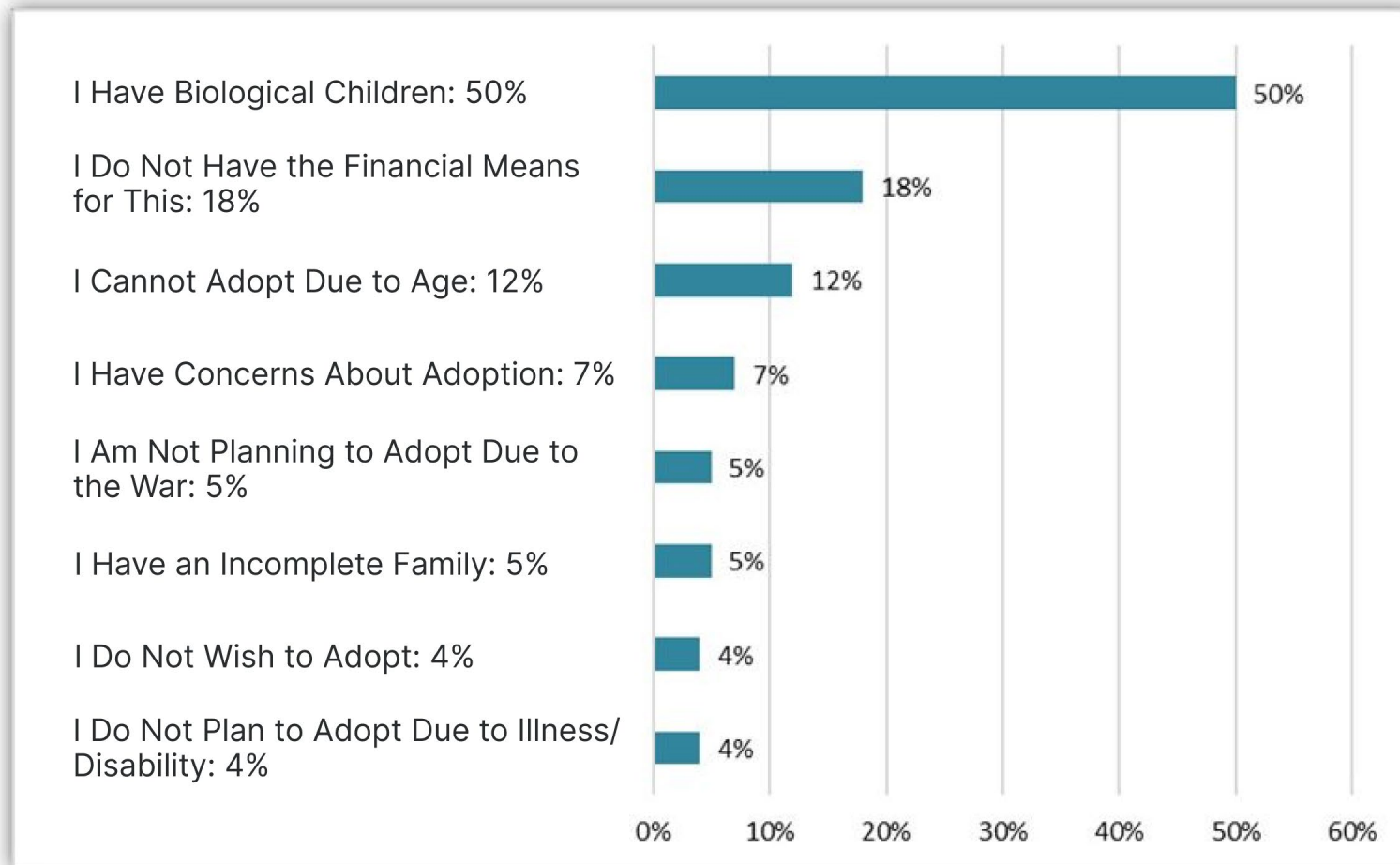
Understanding and Comfort with the Legal Process of Adoption: 9%

Access to Support Services for Foster Families: 8%

Influence from Society, Community, or Social Circles: 5%



Reasons for the Lack of Intention to Adopt Among Those Who Considered It but Decided Against It, and Those Who Never Planned to Adopt:



Strategy for Ensuring the Right of Every Child in Ukraine to Grow Up in a Family Environment for 2024 – 2028

The aim of the Strategy is to implement the right of every child to be raised in a safe and developmentally supportive family environment by creating a system of support for children and families with children, reintegrating children into their families, and developing family-based forms of care.

Implementation Period of the Strategy: 2024 - 2028

Strategic Objectives:

Objective 1: Strengthening the capacity of families with children to provide care and upbringing, ensuring a safe and supportive environment for development.

Objective 2: Providing children with alternative forms of family care.

Objective 3: Ensuring that temporarily displaced (evacuated), forcibly displaced, and deported children, as well as children from temporarily occupied territories or areas where hostilities are ongoing or may occur, grow up in a family environment and are integrated into the life of the local community upon their return or evacuation to safe regions of Ukraine.

Objective 4: Safeguarding the rights and interests of children during the transformation of institutions, preserving the resources of transformed facilities, and directing them to support children and families within local communities.

Objective 5: Enabling children and individuals with experiences in alternative care and upbringing to build social relationships that facilitate their successful transition out of the alternative care system and integration into the life of their communities.

Key Stakeholders Implementing the Strategy:



- Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine
- Coordination Center for the Development of Family Care and Child Upbringing
- Ministry of Social Policy
- Ministry of Education and Science
- Ministry of Health
- Ministry of Justice
- Ministry of Foreign Affairs
- Ministry of Finance
- State Service for Children
- National Social Service
- Regional, district, Kyiv, and Sevastopol city state (military) administrations
- Village, settlement, city, and district councils and their executive bodies
- International partners
- Media
- Civil society organizations, individuals with experiences in institutional care and family-based forms of upbringing.

International Legal Instruments for the Protection of Children's Rights Ratified by Ukraine:

- International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights
- United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child, along with two Optional Protocols:
 - on the Rights of the Child regarding the child trafficking, child prostitution and child pornography
 - On the Involvement of Children in Armed Conflict

Several sector-specific laws that regulate the fundamental issues of child rights protection:

- Family Code of Ukraine (*dated January 10, 2002, No. 2947-III*)
- Law of Ukraine on the Protection of Childhood (*dated April 26, 2001, No. 2402-III*)
- Law of Ukraine on Ensuring Organizational and Legal Conditions for the Social Protection of Orphans and Children Deprived of Parental Care (*dated January 13, 2005, No. 2342-IV*)
- Law of Ukraine on State Assistance to Families with Children (*dated November 21, 1992, No. 2811-XII*)

During the 9th convocation, the following issues were legislatively addressed in the sphere of child rights protection:

1 Provision of social scholarships to orphans and children deprived of parental care.

2 Increase in the amount of state support for families raising children with severe illnesses.

3 Provision for families of newborns to receive one-time natural assistance or monetary compensation.

4 Provision of housing for orphans and children deprived of parental care.

5 For orphans and children deprived of parental care with disabilities, the option to continue living in foster families or family-type children's homes until the age of 23, upon their request.

6 Standardization of alimony amounts payable for children, irrespective of the payer.

7 Issues of legal representation for children being evacuated.

Legislative initiatives currently being developed or under consideration:

Draft law amending the Law of Ukraine on State Assistance to Families with Children regarding incentivizing an increase in birth rates.

Draft law amending certain legislative acts to address the temporary departure of children from Ukraine.

Draft law amending the Law of Ukraine on the Protection of Childhood regarding the rights of deported and forcibly displaced children.

Draft law amending Article 212 of the Family Code of Ukraine concerning the identification of persons who cannot be adoptive parents.

Draft law amending certain legislative acts of Ukraine to improve the mechanisms for preventing and combating domestic violence and gender-based violence.

Empowering local government bodies to establish foster families and family-type children's homes, along with regulating their powers regarding adoption.

Establishment of child protection centers.

Protection of Children's Rights During War:



Right to Life (safe living conditions in the context of armed conflict)



Right to be with Family and Community



Right to Health



Right to Personal Development



Right to Care and Protection



Right to Protection from All Forms of Physical and Psychological Violence



Protection from Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman, or Degrading Treatment or Punishment

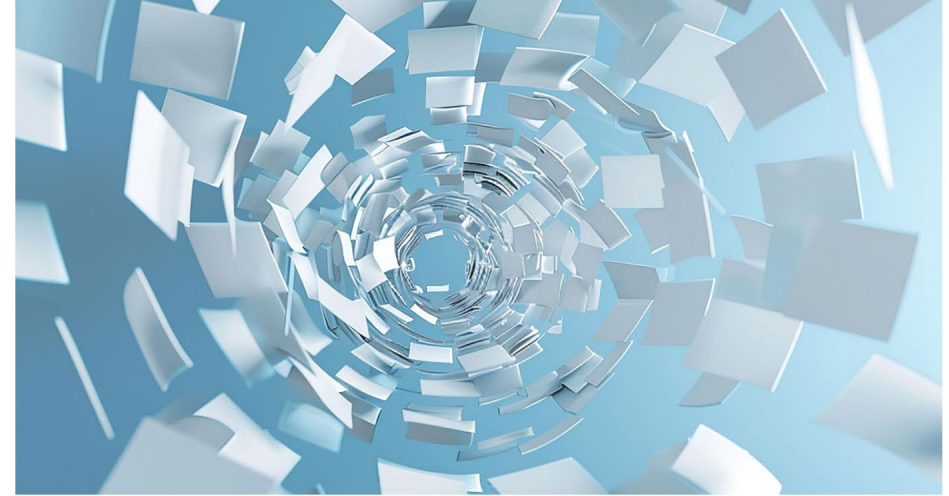
Ensuring effective judicial proceeding involving children

- Administration of justice in situations where courts are located in controlled territories, while parties are in uncontrolled or temporarily occupied areas, have fled abroad, or have been forcibly relocated to the Russian Federation, including internally displaced persons;
- Protection of the rights of Ukrainian children abroad.

Challenges During War

- Protection of the rights of Ukrainian children in accordance with the convention principle of ensuring the best interests of the child;
- Ensuring effective judicial proceedings involving children;
- Administration of justice in situations where courts are located in controlled territories, while parties are in uncontrolled or temporarily occupied areas, have fled abroad, or have been forcibly relocated to the Russian Federation, including internally displaced persons;
- Protection of the rights of Ukrainian children abroad.

Issues Facing the Child Rights Protection System in Ukraine:



1 **Lack of Systematic Decisions Regarding Child Protection: Insufficient coordination among various key players, duplication of efforts, and inconsistency in implementing programs and strategies.**

Key factors contributing to this lack of systematic decision-making at the legislative level include:

- Absence of a comprehensive approach in adopting legislation, amendments, and additions;
- Numerous legislative changes without proper analysis of consequences and capabilities to implement relevant provisions in practice.

Issues Facing the Child Rights Protection System in Ukraine:

2

Institutional Issues:

- Presence of multiple agencies and institutions responsible for child rights protection, leading to duplication of functions, competencies, and efforts;
- Lack of proper coordination among officials, state institutions of various jurisdictions, and non-governmental and international organizations;
- Insufficient involvement of civil sector organizations in the decision-making process and absence of effective feedback mechanisms between civil society and state institutions;
- Frequent staff turnover in relevant state institutions, resulting in policy inconsistency and attempts to restart processes without analyzing previous efforts;
- Limited funding and a shortage of specialists in government agencies working in the field of child protection.

Issues Facing the Child Rights Protection System in Ukraine:



3 Absence of a Unified National Strategy for Child Rights Protection that encompasses all aspects — from education and healthcare to justice and social support, leading to duplication of existing strategies;

4 Lack of an effective monitoring system for compliance with child protection legislation and holding authorized officials accountable for unlawful decisions or inaction;

5 Mismatch of international documents in the field of child protection with contemporary challenges arising during the full-scale invasion.

Ways to Overcome Challenges

1

Clarification of powers among central executive authorities to avoid duplication of functions;

2

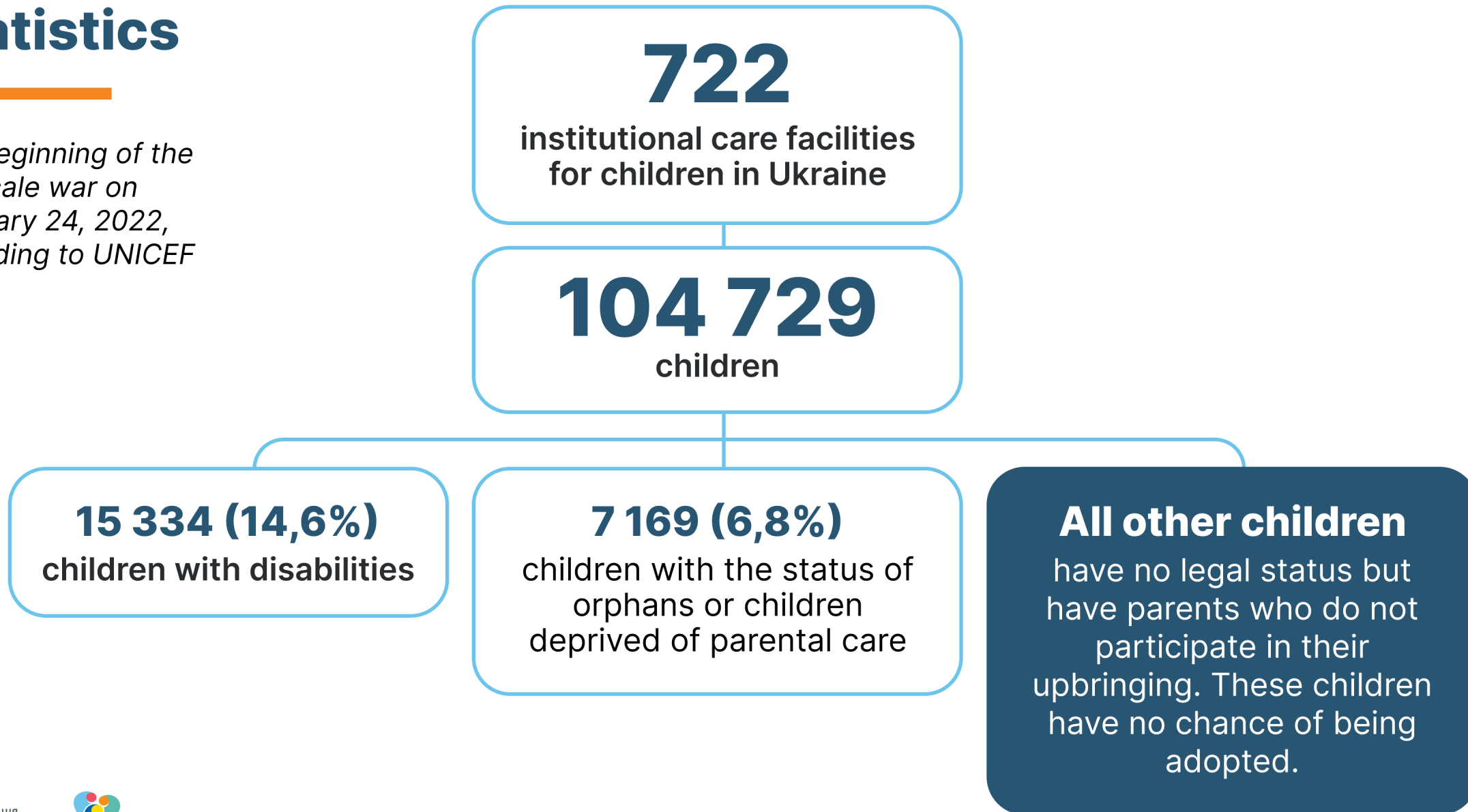
Retention and upskilling of existing professionals, as well as recruitment of new staff to prevent a workforce shortage;

3

The need for balanced and informed decisions to ensure the best interests of the child.

Statistics

The beginning of the full-scale war on February 24, 2022, according to UNICEF



During the war, the total number of orphans and children deprived of parental care in Ukraine is 70,000.

As a result of military actions, over 13,000 children have been left without parental care, of which 1,759 have become orphans.

Issues

A significant issue is that many children are deprived of parental care but lack the appropriate legal status.

Visits to children in institutions occur only once every six months.

Parents may place their child in an institutional facility due to difficult life circumstances.

As a result, children grow up in closed facilities housing around 70-80 children, forced to cope with their fears, anxieties, and questions on their own, left to deal with their problems in isolation.



**10,000
teenagers**

are released from institutions each year without independent living skills.

How can their integration into society occur without meeting their needs for personal and professional development?

Approximately **90% of graduates** are not prepared for independent living;

50% are prone to delinquency, and **23%** become homeless.

According to official statistics, **only 1% achieve higher education** and **have even a minimal chance of future success.**

Solution: Mentoring!

Mentoring provides examples and support from successful adults who can advise, share experiences, and inspire. It creates opportunities for professional and personal development.

Outcomes:

- Increased self-esteem and confidence
- Development of interpersonal skills
- Expansion of knowledge about entrepreneurship
- Improvement in academic performance
- Enhanced career opportunities
- Increased social integration
- Promotion of positive changes in the community





During the period from 2020 to 2024, the following activities were conducted:

- **45 training sessions** (687 participants), including 10 training sessions in 2024.
- **Business:** 20 training sessions (171 specialists under the CM program)
- **NGOs:** 461 specialists
- **Mentors:** 56
- **Supermentors:** 4 training sessions in 2024, which were conducted for children from Mykolaiv region, focusing on a recovery program and the training "Self-Help First Aid Kit."

