

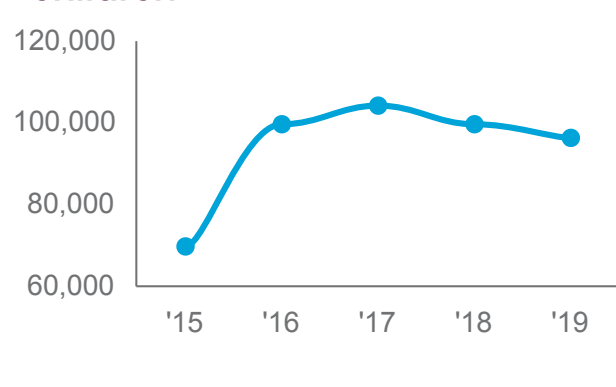
# Country Fact sheet 2021

## Ukraine



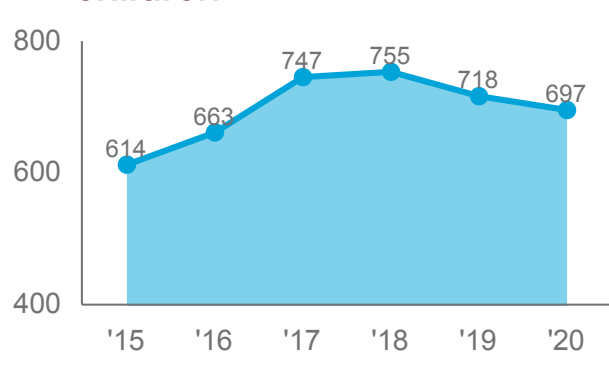
In February 2021, the Ministry of Social Policy proposed to amend the the National Strategy of Reforming the System of Institutional Care and Upbringing of Children (deinstitutionalisation strategy) for 2017-2026. If adopted, over 50 000 children will be excluded from the reform.

### Total children in institutions for children



data from <http://dashboard.diplatform.org.ua/#Indicators>:

### Number of institutions for children



data from <http://dashboard.diplatform.org.ua/#Indicators>:



Recent proposed changes to the existing deinstitutionalisation strategy could reverse progress, postpone the ban on the placement of children 0-3 in baby homes to 2026, and remove children with disabilities from the reforms entirely.



About 1.3% of all children in Ukraine are living in about 700 institutions nationwide

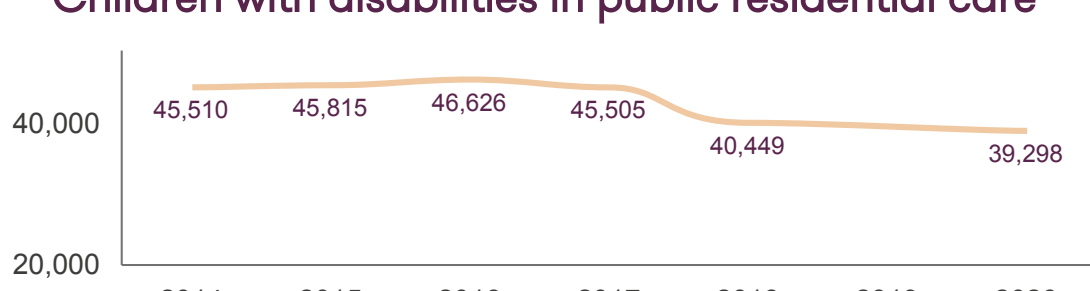


In 2015, 91,410 (92%) of all 99,915 children in institutions had some form of medical diagnosis. Children with mental disabilities make up the largest proportion 22% of the diagnosis

There are only 3,677 foster families in Ukraine. Currently there are no programs for the preparation of candidates for foster parents of children with disabilities. Out of 13,689 children who grow up in foster care and family type group homes, only 520 are children with disabilities.



### Children with disabilities in public residential care



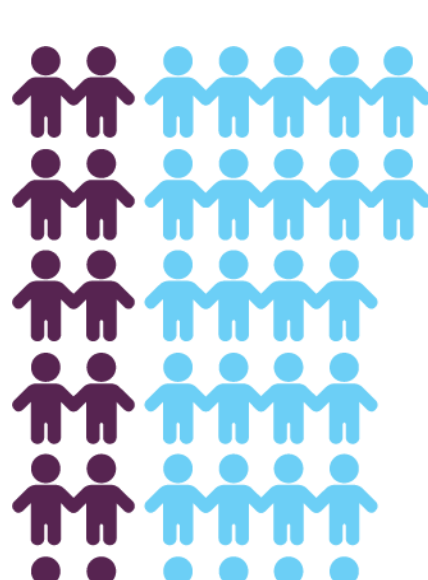
Children with disabilities In 2015, 91,410 (92%) of a total 99,915. Children with mental disabilities make up the largest proportion 20,196 (22%); 13,148 (14%) have speech disorders and 9,753 (11%) suffer from delayed development. Children with Down's syndrome and deaf blindness make up 0.9% and 0.1% respectively.

### Baby homes

There are 12 baby homes and 26 specialised baby homes both under the Ministry of health, housing 2790 infants in baby homes. 58% of children placed in baby homes at maternal request stay there much longer than the six months prescribed by law.

Research by Hope and Homes found in 5 baby homes:

1. Specific features of physical and mental development observed in many children in the baby homes can be related to a disadvantaging environment of the institutional care facility and separation from parents.
2. Despite a large number of nursing staff who claimed during the survey that they provided health care, children do not receive adequate services or care, including adequate nutrition, health, and development screening, medical supervision, and timely corrective measures.
3. Existing policies on the nutrition of children in baby homes do not meet the needs of children, specifically, if there are diseases that increase those needs.
4. Baby homes depend on outdated standards and/or lack of regulatory and legal mechanisms for organizing medical and mental support for children.
5. Over 80% of the total funding for institutions goes to staff remuneration and only around 10% to child nutrition, clothing, and treatment.



### Latest developments

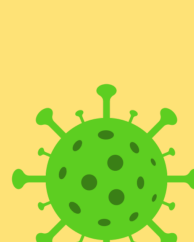
#### Positive

- The new Law of Ukraine “On Social Services” as of 17.01.2019 № 2671 was adopted (into force since 01.01.2020). The Law defines the need to develop the services in communities, the list of basic social services to be provided. As well the Law is aimed to introduce a market of social services and engage CSOs in their providing.
- The Ministry of Social Policy has announced on the importance of development the family childcare forms s. The Ministry has emphasised that the priority of the Government's Action Plan is to ensure the upbringing of each child in families or in conditions as close as possible to family ones.
- The Ministry of Health Care has declared intentions on closure of the baby homes, operating in actual format. The baby homes should be closed as institutional care facilities and, if needed, be transformed into centres of medical rehabilitation and palliative care.

#### Negative

- There have been instances of **opposition and malpractice** by the authorities which manage institutions. This includes misdiagnoses of children to ensure placement in an institution, stop a planned closure and keep public funding flowing in. In other cases, institutions directors have re-categorised their facilities by changing the name but not the reality of the setting.
- The **financial resources for the reform are locked in the system**. The system of institutional care is expensive yet most of the direct costs to meet the basic needs of a child account for only 15.1% of the funds allocated by the state to institutions.
- The **money does not follow the child**, meaning that the statutory funding received by institutions is not transferred once the children are reintegrated into the community, leaving cash-strapped local authorities struggling to pay for the new services to support vulnerable families to stay together.
- A permanent inter-ministerial coordination body, with adequate executive power, is lacking.
- The development of family- and community-based care has been very limited. In other words, **services to support families and children are not available**. There are also limited family-based care alternatives.

### Effect of the pandemic on children in Ukraine



In the early days of the pandemic in 2020 around 42,000 children were returned home urgently from 435 residential institutions (boarding schools of general education). This was done without any form of planning, family assessment, provision of localised services, case management or case by case review.

The pandemic has significantly exacerbated the situation of families that were already in need and require support services.

#### We call on the government:

Recall the draft order amending the deinstitutionalisation strategy

- Establish a single national body for the implementation of the reform and care reform, and ensure this body has adequate executive power, financial and human resources, and clear links to the various Ministries responsible for the implementation of the National Strategy.
- Enforce the moratorium that will put an end to the placement of babies and very young children (0-3 years) in any type of institution. This should include a fixed date to stop the placement of children into institutions tied to a list of actions, measures and indicators for implementation.

#### We call on the European Union to:

- Prioritise child protection system reform and implementation of the National Strategy for the Reform of the System of Institutional Care in the Neighbourhood, Development and International Cooperation Instrument during the 2021-2027 programming period.
- Raise these issues in the 2021 review of the achievements of the EU-Ukraine Association Agreement's objectives under Article 14 on 'The rule of law and respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms', with a view to including an amendment on the transformation of Ukraine's care system in the Association Agreement.

### Hope and Homes for Children Ukraine

4 Bahhovutivska St., office 57, Kyiv 04107, Ukraine

[www.hopeandhomes.org.ua](http://www.hopeandhomes.org.ua)

office@hopeandhomes.org.ua

<https://www.facebook.com/hhcukraine/>

(+380) 44 483 7783

### Data disclaimer

The data sets on children in care, presented in this publication is provided by Hope and Homes for Children. The data is primarily sourced from official state sources. The situation with children in alternative care is dynamic, and changes may not necessarily be captured in present data set. All reasonable efforts have been made to ensure the accuracy of the data presented herein compiled. However, Hope and Homes for Children provides this data as the guidance only and cannot guarantee its accuracy, timeliness or completeness. Nor can we be held responsible for its use.

Hope and Homes for Children - Head Office: East Cliffe, Salisbury, SP3 4LZ, UK  
Tel: +40 262 227 419 office@hopeandhomes.org www.hopeandhomes.org  
Hope and Homes for Children - EU liaison office: Mundel, Rue de l'Industrie 10, Brussels, 1000, Belgium  
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