



2022 ANNUAL REPORT

Grantee: Charitable organization "Charity and Health Found" with the NGO "IRC Legal Space"

Project: "Community Legal Centers in Ukraine"

Mott Foundation Grant # MOTT/2022-10730 (2017-02190)

Period Covered: 01.01.2022 through 31.12.2022



<https://sheriffua.org/>



Activities (January 1, 2022 - December 31, 2022)

Since the beginning of a full-scale war, from February 24, 2022, the project team was in contact with each other from the first days. We joined forces in supporting information hygiene, providing current information, monitoring and gathering facts regarding the military situation in the occupied city and the Kherson region. The first task for everyone was to stay safe, so every day the team members had to deal with the finding of safe places for themselves and their loved ones. Everyone was shocked by the fact that on the very first day of the invasion, Russian troops were already in Kherson and went deep into Ukrainian territory. Later, those who remained in the occupied territories had to provide themselves with food, necessities and medicine. All these everyday things immediately became a shortage. Part of the team that managed to evacuate was engaged in searching for housing in new places, arranging, processing documents of IDPs or refugees. They also worked on providing assistance to those who remained in the occupation. In two months, the situation became clearer. We united in helping each other. We were able to transfer medicine to the occupied territory and to organize the transfer to people who needed it. Sometimes it was possible to share food, humanitarian aid received from colleagues. We also started recording war crimes. Team communication has moved to encrypted chats, with messages removed for security reasons. Every person in the occupation could get their smartphone checked by invaders at any time and anywhere - on the street, in a store, in transport. The Russian military began to search the homes of Kherson residents.

From April 2022, we began to develop changes to project activities, as previously planned activities became impossible. In September 2022, changes to the current project were approved.

After modifying the activity, the team worked to fulfill the project's goals, namely, the collection, analysis and sharing of information, working on the organization of a safe environment, mobilization of the population and developing new models of safety in extreme situations throughout Ukraine; creating practical and useful content, informing the readers how to act during war in different conditions and where to turn for help. The audience of the project during the reporting period was 2,016,254 readers and viewers.

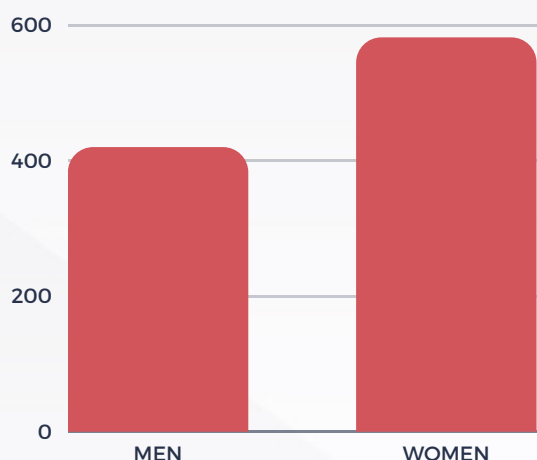
Also, together with the Ukrainian Helsinki Human Rights Union, the World Organization Against Torture (OMCT), the Human Rights Center ZMINA, the Media Initiative for Human Rights, the Crimean Human Rights Group, the Center for Civil Liberties, we recorded and documented the war crimes committed by the Russian military in Ukraine after February 24 in 2022.

TASK 1

Creation of text, photo and video materials about the life of community members or residents of cities, towns and villages in Ukraine during the war, self-organization of the population, stories of survival in occupied and liberated territories, transformation of security models and regular posting of materials on the information platform "Sheriffs for New communities" <https://sheriffua.org/> and platforms in social networks.

COMPARATIVE PLATFORM STATISTICS

PROJECT FOLLOVERS



41,9%

58,1%

The monitoring of information resources and the collection of stories from different regions of Ukraine, which demonstrate the self-organization of the population and the establishment of a safe environment in communities, were carried out. As a result of the monitoring, 22 people's stories were collected and 14 articles on population mobilization, 3 videos and 5 analytical articles were created.

14 information materials about the life of Ukrainian communities, population grouping and stories of survival in the occupied and liberated territories were published on the "Sheriffs for New Communities" website, which were read by 473,288 readers.

3 videos were created about the life of the residents of communities in Ukraine during the war and the self-organization of the population. Videos are posted on the website and in social networks. The number of views is 476,115 viewers, of which 419,189 are on Facebook, 202 are on Telegram, and 56,724 are on YouTube.



The Sheriffs for New Communities website

16 536

unique visitors

19 198

audience coverage

473 288

screenings in total



Facebook page

49600

video views

1,200000

total organic reach

67,800

audience
engagement



General statistics of the Telegram channel

138

SUBSCRIBERS

2500

INTERACTION

148

POSTS

43216

TOTAL COVERAGE

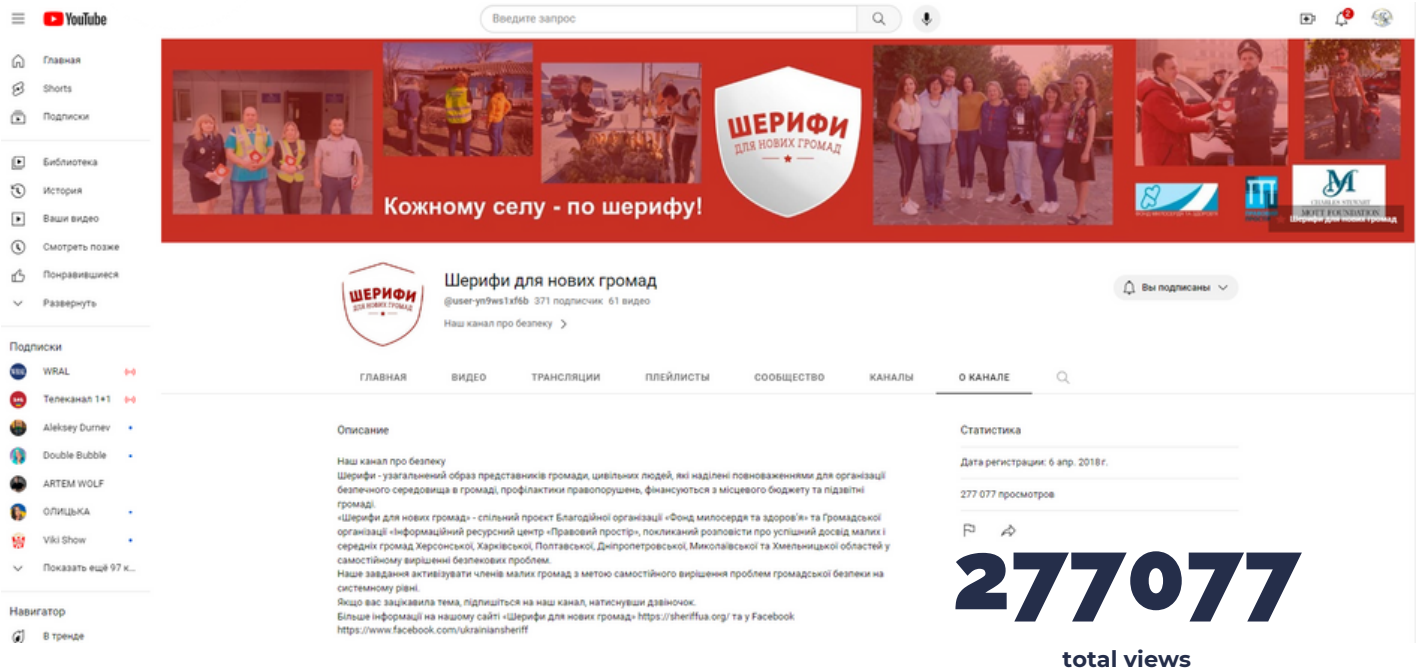
To improve communication with target audiences during the reporting period, we promoted the project pages on Facebook and Telegram social media, published community stories and useful materials, promoted and distributed project materials.

At a meeting with CMM managers, it was decided to replace the use of the Instagram social network with Telegram due to the specifics of the target audience. The experts involved provided a detailed content plan for the development of the project, and the project team collegially agreed to the changes.

Telegram channel "Sheriffs for new communities" was created on November 28. The number of subscribers has increased. The average coverage of the publication is 292. 57.97% of subscribers do not turn off notifications on the project's Telegram channel. The peak viewing time is from 13:00 to 19:00.



General statistics of the Youtube channel

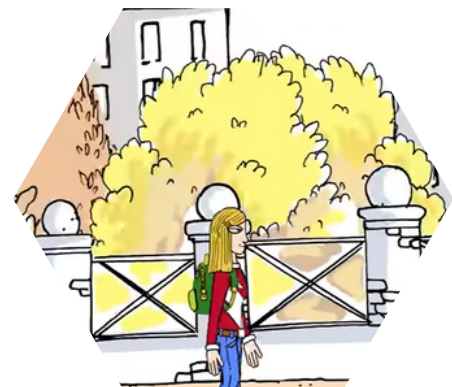


352000

general coverage

162000

number of views



As part of attracting the necessary additional funding, in 2021 we were supported by the project "New challenges - new methods: how to protect children in the territorial communities of the Kherson region" under the small grants program, which was administered by ISAR Unity within the framework of the UN Program for Reconstruction and Peace building with financial support of the European Union.

Together with our partners, we created three animated videos for schoolchildren on combating domestic violence, bullying, cyberbullying for schoolchildren. At the beginning of 2022, the team paid attention to the promotion of videos on social networks. The videos: "Don't be silent", "Violence is not a game", and "10 friends of cyberbullying" were also published on the project website and YouTube channel "Sheriffs for New Communities". Scripts were created based on the experience of surveying/questioning of students, their parents, experts of public organizations, educators, specialized services of local self-government bodies, representatives of law enforcement agencies, the system of children's ombudsmen). With the beginning of the large-scale invasion of the Russian Federation on the territory of Ukraine, the problems outlined in the animated videos did not lose their relevance, and even became somewhat more acute during the war. The results showed that the topic is relevant and in demand among the target audience.

TASK 2

Collection of photos, videos, audio and text materials to fill the online platform "War Archives" from the NGO "Docudays"

During the reporting period, together with the Ukrainian Helsinki Human Rights Union, the World Organization Against Torture (OMCT), the ZMINA Human Rights Center, the Human Rights Media Initiative, the Crimean Human Rights Group, and the Center for Civil Liberties, we recorded and documented the war crimes committed by the Russian military in Ukraine after February 24, 2022.

Monitoring of open sources and analysis of committed war crimes was held. Search for witnesses and recording of testimonies of eyewitnesses of war crimes, crimes against humanity by the Russian military committed in Ukraine after February 24, 2022 were carried out. In particular, the use of civilians as "human shields", illegal detention, torture or ill-treatment of people, killing or wounding of civilians, rape, mining residential districts and objects, illegal detention and deportation, targeted shelling and deliberate bombing of civilian infrastructure objects and evacuation convoys.

In addition to many cases of disappearances that are a sad consequence of the armed conflict, Ukrainian human rights organizations and OMCT have documented the use of enforced disappearances as a systematic policy by Russian state agents against civilians perceived as local community leaders and local communities, opinion leaders in the recently occupied Ukrainian territories.

Between February 24 and April 29, 2022, OMCT and its Ukrainian partners submitted reports to the UN Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances regarding 16 alleged enforced disappearances in Russian-controlled territories and 1 report regarding an alleged enforced disappearance in the city of Kyiv, which is under the control of the Ukrainian government.

However, the actual number of cases that have signs of enforced disappearances of civilians, allegedly committed by the Russian military, is much higher. The largest number of cases were recorded in Kyiv, Kherson and Zaporizhzhia regions.

The main characteristic of the absolute majority of cases is the refusal of the Russian state authorities to provide any information about detained and kidnapped persons. Even when relatives communicate directly with Russian state agents or through a lawyer, there is a deliberate refusal to provide any information and a ban on any communication with the detainees. These actions form a pattern of deliberate mass violations of human rights.

Case studies provided by OMCT and its partners

As of April 29, 2022, out of 16 cases of enforced disappearances in Russian-controlled territories verified by OMCT and its Ukrainian partners through interviews with victims' relatives:

- Four persons were released from captivity (Oleg Baturin, Viktor Marunyak, Dmytro Bodya and Serhiy Priyma). The period during which the relatives of these people had no information about their whereabouts ranged from a few days to 45 days. Two of the four released (Oleg Baturin and Viktor Marunyak) were tortured and ill-treated by the Russian military or special services.
- Two people were found dead with gunshot wounds (Vladislav Kornienko and Denys Butenko) after relatives did not know anything about their whereabouts for more than a month and made various efforts to find them.
- In four cases, other witnesses informally informed the families that their relatives had been taken to Russia after their abduction. In three of these cases, relatives of the abductees learned about it from Ukrainian servicemen who were released as a result of the exchange of prisoners. The families were informed that the abducted relatives are in Russian detention facilities in the Bryansk and Kursk regions of Russia (Viktoria Andrusha, Yevhen Guryanov, Vasyl Volokhin). In one case (Serhii Tsygipa), the family learned about the transition of prisoner to Russia from news on Russian television. In all four cases, the relatives of the victims of enforced disappearances do not have official information from Russia about the whereabouts and state of health of these persons.
- In 6 cases, relatives still do not have official or unofficial information about the whereabouts of victims of enforced disappearances.

These 16 cases of enforced disappearances took place in Kherson, Kyiv, Zaporizhzhia, Mykolaiv and Chernihiv regions of Ukraine. There are 3 categories among these victims:

- representatives of local authorities, local activists and leaders of public opinion who openly opposed the occupation and refused to cooperate with the Russian troops (8 people);
- humanitarian volunteers who provided food and evacuation of the civilian population in the occupied territory (2 persons);
- ordinary civilians (6 people).

The conducted interviews, as well as the general context in the territories under the control of the Russian Federation, indicate that the goals of the enforced disappearances of representatives of local authorities, public activists and humanitarian volunteers are as follows: 1) to force the victims to cooperate with the Russian troops, 2) revenge for not supporting the Russian occupation, 3) to prevent any actions, including humanitarian ones, on the occupied territory, which are not approved by the Russian troops.

Another clear pattern is the enforced disappearances committed by Russian forces against ordinary civilians during their withdrawal from occupied territories or during the movement of military equipment and personnel through certain territories. OMCT and its Ukrainian partners have documented four such cases.

Enforced disappearances occurred both with and without witnesses. Witnesses reported that the act was carried out by groups of armed soldiers in balaclavas who behaved aggressively, threatened witnesses and apparently tried to restrain civilians. The soldiers wore white or red armbands and drove vehicles with a "Z" marking, the insignia of the Russian military.

Description of an illustrative case recorded by the project team

● On March 21, 2022, Viktor Marunyak, the head of the village of Stara Zburyivka in the Kherson region, controlled by Russia, was kidnapped. On March 23, 2022, Russian intelligence agents allegedly brought Mr. Marunyak home in handcuffs, threatened his wife, ransacked the entire house and took all the money, gold jewelry, and food. He was not allowed to speak, but Mr. Marunyak managed to tell his wife that he had been severely beaten. Having found nothing compromising, the Russian military left with Mr. Marunyak. The next day, Russian officers briefly brought Mr. Marunyak home. He was in a terrible condition, he could hardly move, he could not eat. After that, he was taken away again. Since 10 a.m. on March 24, his location was unknown. Since the beginning of the Russian invasion, Mr. Marunyak openly supported the territorial integrity of Ukraine and publicly spoke out against Russian aggression. 60-year-old Viktor Marunyak has several serious diseases that require constant treatment. His inability to take his medication regularly posed a serious threat to his health and even his life. On April 12, 2022, Viktor Marunyak was released. In a few weeks, it was possible to take him and his wife to the territory controlled by Ukraine. Later, friends transported him to Latvia.

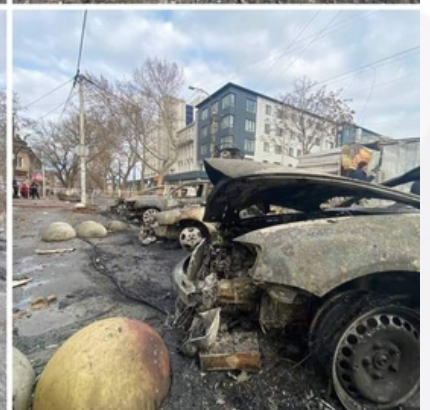
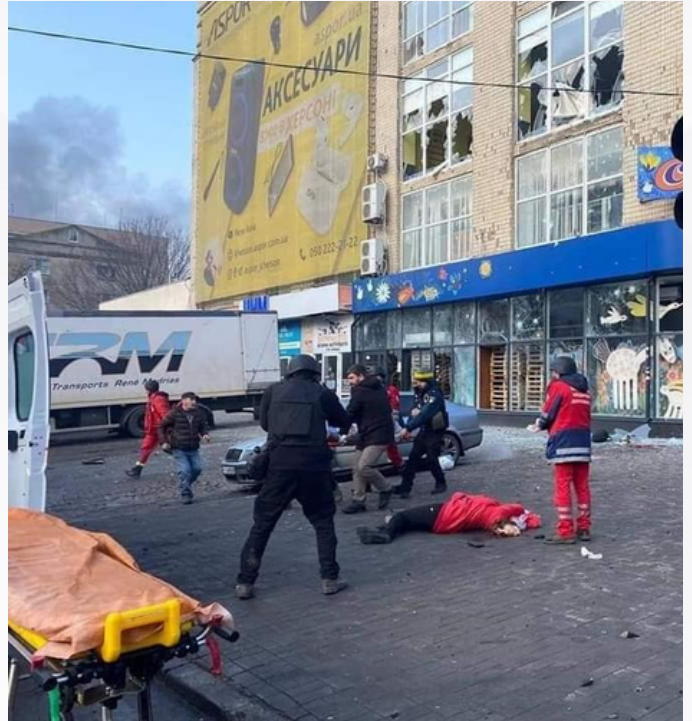
Information provided by the World Organization Against Torture (Brussels-Geneva, Belgium-Switzerland), IRC "Legal Space" (Kherson, Ukraine), Human Rights Center ZMINA (Kyiv, Ukraine), Center for Civil Liberties (Kyiv, Ukraine), Media Initiative for Human Rights (Kyiv, Ukraine), Crimean Human Rights Group (Kyiv, Ukraine).

In addition, in the period from February 24 to December 24, 2022, 2, 568 episodes of international crimes allegedly committed by the Russian invaders in the city of Kherson and the Kherson region were documented and entered into the database of the Ukrainian Helsinki Union for Human Rights.



Some of those cases are as follows:

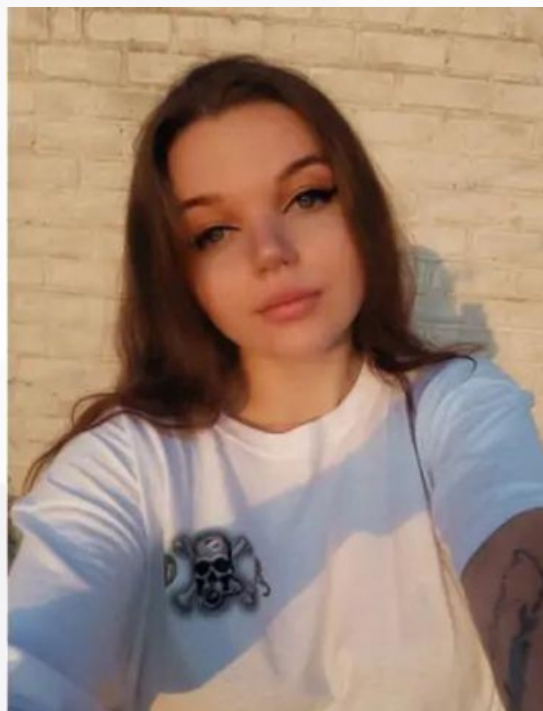
On December 24, 2022, at least 16 people were killed and 80 injured in the city of Kherson as a result of shelling by the Russian military. In particular, the attack was made in the center of the city - the "Silpo" market and the Central Market - the places of maximum crowding.





On December 22, 2022, as a result of shelling by Russian military of the village of Vesele in the Novokahovka community, **Lyudmila Ivanivna Annas**, the head of the Vesele district, was seriously injured. She died of her injuries on December 27, 2022.

On December 6, 2022, in the village of Hladkivka, Skadovsk district, on the Central St. Russian military abducted a local resident - **Larisa Vasylivna Salogub**.



In the village of Balashove, Genichesk district, Russian soldiers kidnapped a local resident, 21-year-old student of Kherson State University, **Ganna Yeltsova**, from her own house.





On December 4, 2022, in the Tavriyskyi district in the city of Kherson on Admiral Senyavin Avenue, a multi-apartment residential building was damaged as a result of a Russian military rocket strike.



On December 5, 2022, in the city of Kherson, as a result of a Russian military missile, the building of the Kherson Vodokanal was damaged, and one person died.



On the night of December 10, 2022, the Russian military fired at a critical infrastructure facility belonging to Khersonoblenergo JSC, as a result of which 3 official vehicles were destroyed, a hangar and 5 other pieces of equipment were damaged.



On December 23, 2022, after 4 p.m., the Regional Polyclinic on Potemkinskaya St. in Kherson was attacked by a MLRS.

The analysis of the collected information gives reasons to claim that civilians were killed and wounded, and civilian residential buildings and infrastructure objects were destroyed and damaged due to deliberate and indiscriminate shelling.

Also, the analyzed information gives reason to claim that there were facts of enforced disappearances, capture of civilians, violations of the regime of humanitarian corridors and attacks on humanitarian cargo and convoys, volunteers, looting, murders etc.

We believe that such acts can be preliminarily qualified as crimes against humanity under Article 7 paragraph (1) points (a), (d), (e), (f), (i) and as war crimes under Article 8 paragraph (2) point (a) sub-points (i), (ii), (iii), (iv), (v), (vii), (viii), point (b) sub-points (ii), (iii), (iv), (v), (viii), (ix), (xx), (xxii), (xxiii), (xxv).

After the liberation of the right-bank part of the Kherson region by the Armed Forces of Ukraine on November 11, 2022, the Russian military is shelling mainly the city of Kherson and settlements along the Dnipro river in the de-occupied territory. As a result, the largest number of facts of damage and destroyed property, killed and wounded civilians is observed in the city of Kherson. There are some villages which were completely destroyed.

Intensification of filtering measures by the Russian military on the Left Bank of the Kherson region, checking of civilians by the Russian military have become massive and more brutal. But due to fear for their lives, as well as power outages, shortages of mobile communications, and the Internet, information about abducted civilians has drastically decreased.

During the shelling of Kherson, a clear trend of damage to critical infrastructure facilities is observed. Administrative buildings of regional and city administrations, Kherson Vodokanal (City Water Supply offices), JSC "Khersonoblenergo", ambulance station, fire station, bakery, several hospitals (including maternity wards), etc. were damaged.



TASK 3

Informing the population through the project website <https://sheriffua.org/>, Facebook pages, Instagram and YouTube channel about how to act during war in different conditions and where to turn for help - by developing infographics and useful materials.

7 materials were published with consultations from experts on solving urgent issues during wartime (consultations for IDPs, residents of occupied and liberated territories, victims of hostilities, human trafficking or exploitation, violence, violation of children's rights, etc.).

Number of readers:



7 289



711 535

Created and shared **6 infographics** with action algorithms, tips, hotlines and other useful information for getting help during wartime.

Viewed:



831



21891



146417

4 online consultations with experts were held live on Facebook and YouTube, they contained clarification of legal issues, communication with viewers and answers to audience questions.

Viewed:



175377



3279

4. RESULTS AND EVALUATION METHODS

Quantitative indicators:

planned

144 articles were planned in the project about the life of Ukrainian communities and population grouping were published on the "Sheriffs for New Communities" website

18 analytical materials were planned in the project on new models of security in communities and their transformation in extreme situations were published

36 videos were planned in the project were published

540 posts were planned were published on the Facebook social network and on the Telegram channel "Sheriffs for New Communities"

36 articles were planned in the project were published - with comments or consultations from experts, lawyers, human rights defenders regarding the solution of urgent issues during the wartime period

36 infographics were planned in the project with action algorithms, tips, hotlines and other useful information for receiving help during the war

completed

14 articles in the project about the life of Ukrainian communities and population grouping were published on the "Sheriffs for New Communities" website

5 analytical materials in the project on new models of security in communities and their transformation in extreme situations were published

3 videos in the project were published

257 posts were published on the Facebook social network and 148 posts made on the Telegram channel "Sheriffs for New Communities"

7 articles in the project were published - with comments or consultations from experts, lawyers, human rights defenders regarding the solution of urgent issues during the wartime period

6 infographics were created in the project with action algorithms, tips, hotlines and other useful information for receiving help during the war

Quantitative indicators:

planned

36 live broadcasts on Facebook and YouTube were planned in the project, the broadcast contained consultations of lawyer Oleksandr Danilov, with clarification of legal issues, communication with viewers and answers to audience questions

audience coverage in social networks Facebook, Telegram and YouTube is 1260 000 readers and viewers for the reporting period, were planned indicator for the entire project period

the reach of the audience on the website <https://sheriffua.org/> is 19,198 readers for the reporting period (the audience is female - 58.1%, male - 41.9%; Traffic sources: organic search - 71.1%, social networks - 19.71% direct views - 7.9%, referral links - 1.3%)

the number of video content views is 654,771 for the reporting period.

completed

published 4 live broadcasts on Facebook and YouTube in the project, the broadcast contained consultations of lawyer Oleksandr Danilov, with clarification of legal issues, communication with viewers and answers to audience questions

audience coverage in social networks Facebook, Telegram and YouTube is 2 003 834 readers and viewers for the reporting period, which is 743 834 more than the planned indicator for the entire project period

Qualitative indicators:

the target audience of the project receives high-quality and verified content about the life of the residents of communities in different parts of Ukraine during the war, including from the occupied territories and about the consequences of the war and the restoration of the de-occupied territories

the target audience is informed about how to act during war in different conditions and where to turn for help

presenting the true picture of events during the war

the audience of the project in different regions of Ukraine is informed about new security models and can implement them in their localities

users of social networks received free consultations from experts, lawyers, and human rights defenders on solving current issues during wartime and can solve their problems independently, using advice and action algorithms

restoring justice and promoting the punishment of those guilty of crimes

CONCLUSION

Implementation of the project allows to collect, study, analyze and generalize the practical experience of organization forms of security in the communities of Ukraine. Thus, we can spread examples of solving problems by the forces of communities, including rural ones, which contributes to the activation of communities in other villages to apply better experience in working on the permanent consequences of war. Which is very important for the psychological support of Ukrainians, the vast majority of whom are traumatized by the war.

During the implementation of the project, we made changes to the work schedule due to hostilities as a result of the full-scale invasion of the Russian army on the territory of Ukraine. Some plans had to be changed, focusing on the schedule of electricity blackouts, due to shelling, Internet outages, and the intensification of hostilities. But the project team quickly adapted to the new conditions and restrictions, despite the fact that we were in different regions of Ukraine. In general, the goals of the project have been achieved.

In general, we expect to achieve the planned results before the end of this grant period, despite the difficulties caused by the Russia's military aggression, the dispersal of the team in different regions and the forced volunteering of the entire team to help the destroyed territories, communities, IDPs, soldiers and relatives, remaining in the occupied territories of Ukraine. At the same time, as a result of us acquiring such an extreme and unique experience of working during the war, our team became stronger.



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