SOCIAL AND HUMANITARIAN DEVELOPMENT OF UKRAINE: CURRENT CHALLENGES FOR PUBLIC POLICY AND ADMINISTRATION

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SUMMARY

The paper examines challenges in public policy formation and realization regarding the issues of social and humanitarian aspects under martial law. It analyses some of its key aspects which include Internally Displaced Persons, economic consequences, threats to security, psychological effects, humanitarian crisis, human rights violations and others. It studies the Plan on Ukraine's Recovery regarding its social and humanitarian components. The paper examines the challenges and directions for their solution regarding the educational, cultural and health policy of martial law revealing the issues of security, priorities of military needs and resources.

Keywords: *public policy, public administration, social and humanitarian policy, martial law, educational policy, culture policy, health policy.*

The current public policy in Ukraine is formed and implemented on the basis of legislation, which defines the procedures and processes used during martial law and corresponding actions.

The war in Ukraine, starting in 2014 and continuing with the large scale-aggression by Russia against Ukraine starting on 24 February 2022, had serious consequences on the social and humanitarian spheres of the country. Some of its key aspects include:

- Internally Displaced Persons – IDPs. The war caused massive displacement of people, first, within the country and, second, abroad. Millions of Ukrainians became internally displaced persons, seeking refuge in safe regions of Ukraine and those who moved to Europe and other continents to escape from bombing and shelling. This has created significant challenges in the field of housing construction, health care and social support;
- economic consequences. The war resulted in significant economic losses for Ukraine. The destruction and damage of the infrastructure, the stoppage of production, the loss of sales markets and economic instability have greatly affected the lives of citizens. This led to an increase in unemployment, a decrease in the standard of living and an increase in social tension;
- threat to security as military actions of Russia pose a threat to the security of Ukraine citizens in all regions of the country. People are constantly at risk of physical injury or loss of life, does no matter what part of the country it is – western or eastern, southern or northern. The safety of citizens is a priority of the government, but

there are still many challenges in ensuring full security;
- psychological effects as war has a serious impact on people's psychological well-being. War injuries, loss of family and friends, experiencing stressful situations can lead to the appearance of post-traumatic stress disorder;
- humanitarian crisis in controlled areas and on the front line. As a result of the fighting, many people have lost access to basic vital services such as water, electricity and medical care;
- human rights violations, including the release of propaganda, abuse of power, and crimes against humanity. This includes attacks on civilians, beatings, detentions, ethnic conflicts and sexual violence. These violations have a long-term impact on the lives and well-being of their victims;
- losses in education and culture. Hundreds of schools and universities were destroyed or ruined. Cultural monuments and museums are also affected by military operations. This has led to a loss of opportunities for education and development, as well as a loss of cultural heritage.

The peculiarity of martial law is that it is a special regime introduced under a threat to national security. It is provided for certain restrictions on civil rights and freedoms, in particular on education, culture, health care, etc. It is known that human rights and freedoms determine the content and orientation of the State [1, p. 40]. The formation and implementation of the public policy of martial law involve the following: development of the legislative framework; formation of relevant structures; planning and conducting of actions for mobilization, protection of the population and other tasks; communication. The social and humanitarian component of this process is defined by means of [2]: comprehensive support and protection of children and families with children displaced (evacuated) abroad; the introduction of mandatory cumulative pension provision (the second level of the pension system); popularization and development of adoption; implementation of veteran integration programs, which include educational and recreational initiatives for veterans and their families, as well as employment initiatives; providing housing (for young families, families with children); development of the child rights protection system; creation of conditions for professional re-adaptation of parents who lost their job positions as a result of the war; development of the system of regional implementation of veterans' policy by forming a network of modern service offices for veterans' affairs; creation of a system of veteran development centers on the basis of educational institutions; transformation of the network of hospitals for war veterans into modern rehabilitation centers in order to ensure the appropriate level and scope of rehabilitation assistance within the three-level rehabilitation system; effective functioning of the support system for evacuated/returned children; the newest integration policy of Ukraine; conducting an analysis of the effectiveness of various tools for supporting citizens (cost and benefit analysis) within the framework of key policies; development and implementation of changes to the legislation on the provision of social benefits; development of a training program for officials of local self-government bodies regarding planning, provision, monitoring and assessment of the quality of services; improvement of financing mechanisms for the provision of services (including social, correctional, other services) for children and families with children, etc.

We will examine the educational, cultural and health policy of martial law.

Regarding the educational policy of martial law, one of its most important aspects is ensuring the safety of the students and educators. The measures aimed at ensuring the safety of educational institutions of all types are being introduced at the same time as supporting education in general. The educational system, which is still under damage during the war, needs governmental funding and resources for its functioning and implementation of the principle of education accessibility for all population groups and respect for human rights. Corresponding measures are provided by the Projects of the National Program for the Recovery of Ukraine regarding the development of the education system [3].

In addition, the educational policy is aimed at providing the necessary competencies for the Armed Forces and Defense Forces, as well as strengthening the ideology of national unity.

The educational policy during martial law is constantly changing compared to peacetime, because the country's priorities and needs differ. Martial law can cause:

- changes in the content of education, in particular, in the updating of military training, mandatory military training courses, special programs on military affairs, etc. The State concentrates its efforts on ensuring the training of military youth, introducing new disciplines into the national security curriculum, and promoting the active development of research in the field of military science. Within educational programs, during the study of educational subjects/disciplines and during the learning process, patriotic education of the population is activated, the purpose of which is to increase the level of national consciousness and identity;

- changes in the financing of education, namely its reduction because of the increase in spending on defense and security of the State;

- changes in the State order for specialties that can be useful in wartime, namely - engineering, medicine, research, etc. The educational policy can be aimed at training specialists for military industrial enterprises since the state of war is usually accompanied by an increase in military production, which requires appropriate professionals.

Regarding the culture and arts policy of martial law, since during martial law, the State prioritizes military needs and resources, this in turn, as in the case of education, can lead to a reduction in funding for cultural programs and projects. Under such conditions, cultural institutions and governing bodies in the cultural sphere are forced to function in the context of a limited regime.

Secondly, during the period of martial law, patriotic and military themes in culture become more relevant. The government actively supports the creation and distribution of works of art that embody and popularize military feats, victorious spirit and heroism.

Thirdly, the role and importance of national ideology in cultural life are increasing throughout the country. The State, with the help of cultural instruments and tools, actively promotes those political and ideological views and values that are relevant for military actions and advancement on the way to victory.

During the period of martial law, the government focuses on ensuring security in culture, that is, on the protection of cultural values from hostile actions and open theft of cultural property; carrying out special measures for the protection and restoration of

cultural heritage, for countering cultural aggression and propaganda of hostile ideology; the support of cultural institutions, such as museums, theaters and libraries, which can become important centers of spiritual life and leisure for the population during martial law; financing of cultural projects that contribute to the moral and spiritual mood of the population, increasing patriotism. In order to support the military forces, concerts and other events are organized with the participation of military bands and choirs, exhibitions of artworks dedicated to the war are held, and financial support is provided to military museums and other cultural military institutions related to the war.

Regarding the health policy of martial law. The period of martial law is an emergency situation that requires the State to take appropriate measures in protecting the health of the population - to provide emergency medical care to the wounded, sick and victims of war. Corresponding measures are foreseen for the period of restoration of the State and its health care system [4].

This policy is aimed at ensuring the maximum safety and health of the population, especially military personnel who are on the front lines and in the combat zone. During the period of martial law, the State implements a number of health protection measures, namely:

1. Mobilization of medical workers and deployment of medical centers in the combat zone in order to provide first aid to the wounded. The State also uses reserves of medical supplies and equipment to provide quick and high-quality medical care.

2. Development of Action Plans in case of outbreaks of epidemics and other diseases that are a threat to the life of the population. The State focuses on the development and implementation of national programs to improve public health. In particular, the State can adopt a special program for disease prevention, ensuring access to free medical care, as well as creating conditions for a healthy lifestyle.

4. Ensuring the production and distribution of medical products necessary to preserve the health of the population.

5. Carrying out large-scale campaigns for the prevention of infectious diseases, for example, vaccination.

6. Making decisions on limiting the movement of people and introducing quarantine measures to prevent the spread of diseases.

7. Providing support for the mental health of the population and helping in overcoming post-traumatic stress.

In turn, the main areas of modernization of the health care system after the war can be:

- the restoration of medical infrastructure. It is necessary to begin by restoring the destruction associated with the damage to buildings, medical equipment, medicines and other resources;

- ensuring the availability of medical services, because, after the war, many people may need medical assistance. This can be achieved through the creation of new medical facilities, the development of vehicles for transporting patients, etc.;

- professional development of medical personnel. The war is already leading to the loss of medical personnel and the downsizing of those who remain. Therefore, it is necessary to develop the medical staff by improving their qualifications, creating new train-

ing programs and providing additional incentives for the medical staff;

- development of the system of control and quality assurance of medical services. After the war, the number of patients in need of medical care may increase.

The State should also ensure effective monitoring and response to any cases of disease that may be related to the war by establishing special services responsible for providing medical care and disease control in the war zone.

It can be concluded that the social and humanitarian spheres in Ukraine are a complex task that requires attention to various aspects of citizens' lives. It requires systematic and coordinated work by the government and relevant institutions to achieve positive changes. The active participation of the State, the public, non-profit organizations and other stakeholders affects the creation of favorable conditions for the functioning of the social and humanitarian spheres under martial law.

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