

## ENSURING SOCIAL SECURITY AND STATE STABILITY IN WARTIME CONDITIONS: MECHANISMS AND STRATEGIES

Andrii Ivanov<sup>1</sup>  
Vadym Pienov<sup>2</sup>  
Yurii Shyrobokov<sup>3</sup>  
Olha Makarevych<sup>4</sup>  
Nataliia Bondar<sup>5</sup>

### ABSTRACT

**Objective:** The research will investigate the procedures for providing social protection in armed conflict.

**Theoretical Framework:** Among the significant factors that define social security, the study defines legal defence, economic security, social security through the availability of necessary social services, and physical security of the people.

**Method:** The research methods include operations with legal documents, the comparison of the research with the data of the experience of other countries, the analysis of the content of articles, and statistical and systematic analysis.

**Results and Discussion:** Thus, there is a need to enhance legislation and provide effective mechanisms for its implementation. Economic security is brought through financing tools and SME support, according to financing aids. Healthcare and education are social services; thus, they require adjustments in case of a war. The emotional impact on people's state should be supported, and it is indeed necessary for their souls and minds. Social motives and projects are intended to help improve the existing situation of the most susceptible categories of the population. Interaction between state and non-governmental organisations play significant roles in providing social security.

**Research Implications:** The practical implications of the presented findings refer to the formulation of guidelines to enhance the efficiency of social security in contexts of military conflict and enhance the level of protection of the human rights of the citizens.

**Originality/Value:** The subject is devoted to social security problems in wartime because the existence of civil rights and the population's quality of life are threatened more than ever.

**Keywords:** insurance, defending the rights, war and violence, economic stability, cooperation between institutions, sustainable development, access to social services, Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

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<sup>1</sup>Faculty of Law, Academy of Labour, Social Relations and Tourism, Kyiv, Ukraine.  
E-mail: ivanovav913@ukr.net

<sup>2</sup>Odesa I. I. Mechnikov National University, Biological Faculty, Department of Physiology, Human Health and Safety, and Natural Sciences Education, Odesa, Ukraine. E-mail: vadim\_v.p@ukr.net

<sup>3</sup>Moral and Psychological Support Research Laboratory, Ivan Kozhedub National University of the Air Force, Kharkiv, Ukraine. E-mail: shyrobokovyuri@gmail.com

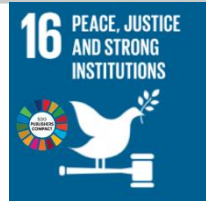
<sup>4</sup>Department of Economics and Law, National University of Food Technologies, Kyiv, Ukraine.  
E-mail: makarevych.o@gmail.com

<sup>5</sup>Chair of State and Legal Disciplines and Ukrainian Studies, Faculty of Law, Sumy National Agrarian University, Sumy, Ukraine. E-mail: ashatana2010@ukr.net

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## 1 INTRODUCTION

Thus, given the modern challenges and threats Ukraine has to encounter, it is crucial to guarantee the state proper social security. The war, a bitter experience for millions of citizens, has set before society and state difficult questions that cannot be solved without introducing various methods and actions. Social security is a broad concept comprising of protection of citizens' political, civil, and socio-economic liberties, economic and physical welfare, and the availability of social necessities. The inveterate interest in this topic can be considered in analysing all the consequences of military actions, the further fates of society after they occur, and the problems of restoring and developing society in postwar conditions. The investigation of the ways of protecting social security in the conditions of warfare explores and reveals proper approaches and assets to reduce the impact of warfare on citizens' stability and welfare. This article aims to consider the most critical social security provisions in wartime, describe the existing approaches, and make suggestions to enhance them. Particular emphasis is placed on the legal and economic factors and the part played by social programmes and measures regarding the population's less protected and weaker sections.

## 2 THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK

Citizens' protection in the given conditions is essential to social security as it combines legal protection with military conflicts. The significance of building and enhancing the legislation on the rights of the fighting parties and the population can hardly be overestimated (Sheverdina, 2024). Olak and Konecka-Szydło (2023) policies concerning national security in the context of threats in the external environment. Kopczewski (2023) focuses on analysing conflicts and state security. Therefore, adopting legal regulation is essential to



social security, especially in conflict with the military. Legalising the legislation and improving it to meet new challenges assists in protecting citizens' liberty.

Economic security is essential to social security in a country's wartime situation. Thus, the state must support the economy, develop small and medium businesses, and help finance the needy population. The author Nataliya Denysenko, in her work of 2024, deals with economic security as part of national security and the necessity of economic measures (Denysenko, 2024). The grounds for achieving the state's national security were analysed by Kubetska *et al.* (2020), and they pointed out the significant economic requirements. Kuchmak *et al.* (2024) presents a study on the economic system and threats to economic security, arguing that the latter requires legal support moving forward to the year 2024. Economic security is described in detail in the work of Varnalii *et al.* (2024), especially in wartime, when attention is paid to the support of SMEs. Stability in the economic sphere is one of the features of social security when military conflicts exist. In this respect, financial assistance and economic instruments should be directed to ensure the state's stability and reliability.

Coordinative functioning between the state and other non-governmental organisations is vital to achieving social security in warfare (Varnalii *et al.*, 2022). Coordinated actions regarding using resources and implementing the support programmes are possible. Shchokin *et al.* (2023b) stress that public administration is an essential factor in states' security and the further adaptations of general and specific approaches to organising joint actions under existing strategies and implementation mechanisms. Ablazov *et al.* (2023) analysed the mechanisms of modern states' ensuring information security in conditions of hybrid warfare, paying particular attention to the elaboration of the authorities' cooperation mechanisms. Anthony (2023) highlights the growing multiplicity and complexity of the security actors' collaboration and security management in the post-war period, focusing on the present conflict phase in Ukraine. Savych (2020) also focuses on coordinated actions. The management of efforts and work is essential for achieving social security in war conditions. The involvement of state and non-governmental institutions in such procedures leads to better action in solving some issues and improving population aid.



The idea that all spheres should be covered to ensure state security is critical during the war (Shchokin *et al.*, 2023a). National security can be in military, social, economic and legal aspects. Ananin (2023) proceeds with interpreting the security of the state border of Ukraine in the context of hybrid warfare, with a particular focus on the historical factor. In more detail, the existing situation with the implementation of social security initiatives at the stage of the current state establishment is discussed by Denysenko *et al.* (2021), the concluding note emphasises the importance of an integrated approach. Thus, maintaining national security in wartime conditions is possible if efforts at different levels and sectors are unified and provided with a complex approach. It has been proved that legal remedies better safeguard the state's and its citizens' interests than social or economic safeguards.

Information security becomes essential in wartime as this indicates that information attacks can lead to an unstable situation in the country. Preservation and defence of the information space is one of the significant components of national security. Liu (2024) considers post-war security issues in preference to informational factors. Wartime situations require information security to be a significant component of any country's national security. Safeguarding the information space and the action of collections assist in preserving the structures of the state's stability and security.

Thus, legislative and regulatory support provides social security in military conflict. Legislative activities must be adjusted to modern threats and guarantee citizens' rights and the solidity of social institutions (Belousov, 2024).

The Law of Ukraine, "Some changes of the certain legislative acts of Ukraine on the provides of the social protection of the population during the martial law", of March 15 2022, with No 2126-IX, offers more guarantees and protection to vulnerable groups during the martial law. Thus, the act "On ensuring the rights and freedoms of citizens and the legal regime in the temporarily occupied territory of Ukraine", adopted by the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine on April 15, 2014, No. 1207-VII (as amended in 2022) defines the legal status in the temporarily occupied territories and the legal basis for the protection of social rights and freedoms of the citizens temporarily residing The Decree of the President of Ukraine of February 24, 2022, No. 64/2022, "On the



introduction of martial law in Ukraine” defines the legal regime of martial law and provisions for the population's social protection. Letter of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine, “Some issues of the social protection of internally displaced persons”, dated March 20, 2022, No. 332, provides for the measures for the social protection of internally displaced persons in the conditions of martial law. These legislative acts and regulatory documents are indispensable to the consolidation of social security in periods of war. Concerning the practical applicability and adjustments to the present concerns of the state and society, they defend citizens' rights and contribute to maintaining social order.

Such modern-day issues concerning armed conflict significantly impact the social security of the state, particularly in the ongoing war in Ukraine. Legal protection in the form of social security, economic stability and most other fundamentals of need-based social services are under considerable stress. In wartime, infrastructure becomes destroyed, the economy is unstable, and social injustice emerges as burning issues capable of being solved by proper mechanisms. This intelligentsia is inherent to the legal system that has to shift to the new paradigm and has numerous problems before it, including the challenges to providing combatants and war veterans' rights. It is impossible to talk about social security without touching upon the aspects of economic security, and these issues are particularly essential given the times of military confrontations. Therefore, economic support, access to social services, and psychological support are the constituents of social security. It is also noteworthy that social measures and practices related to the targeted social programmes and initiatives supporting sensitive population groups ensure social security. Thus, there are numerous issues related to how this problem of providing social security when the army dominates the state can be solved, which can be reflected in the legal and economic aspects.

This article aims to analyse the state's social security and how to provide it in war conditions.

Objectives of the article:

1. To determine the existing state of social security in conditions of military conflict;
2. To examine the possibilities of providing social security in war conditions.



3. This paper aims to determine the main issues and concerns that social security encounters during wartime;
4. To identify the legal regulation of social security in war conditions;
5. In order to formulate recommendations for enhancing the mechanisms for providing social security in situations of military conflict.

### 3 METHODOLOGY

*Legal research analysis of regulatory and legal materials.* The method allows for the systematic analysis of Ukrainian legislation relating to social security in the context of warfare. Moreover, it was possible to reveal the degree of compliance of the above indicators with the aims of the adopted legal acts as the basis for the state policy of social protection for citizens affected by armed conflict.

*Comparative analysis.* This method involves comparing different techniques and structures of social security in different countries during wartime. International experience of SA was revealed, which made it possible to define its efficient practices and use them in Ukrainian conditions. Sources of information included legislation and practices of such countries as the USA, Israel, and Germany, among others.

*Analysis of the sample of scientific articles.* Because the last tendencies taken into view by social security will be examined, articles and studies from this area will be considered. Thus, this method will enable one to gather systematic data from various scientists and experts with the help of questionnaires and interviews to reveal the aspects of the existing research that lack information.

*Systematic analysis.* This method involves analysing all the factors of social security provision in a war environment. The correlation between legal-enforcement measures, economic components, coverage of social services, and measures to safeguard people's physical integrity will be discovered through systematic analysis.

These research methods will illuminate the issue of social security during wartime and prevent potential weaknesses caused by using a one-sided method



only. They can then be used to identify approaches and possibilities to enhance the existing system.

## 4 RESULTS

The existing status of social security in militant situations can be viewed and analysed in terms of multiple layers, including legal safeguards for the individual, financial security, social services, and physical security.

Martial law presents many difficulties for the legal system as the latter faces a new situation. However, one of the most crucial processes is the protection of the rights of fighters and veterans. It can be noted that the legal regulation of social security for these categories needs further elaboration and perfection. The economic aspect of social security is closely related to this aspect, which is an essential component, including, for example, in conditions of military conflict. Ensuring the population's economic security is crucial as one of martial law's components, where the development of an economic security strategy contributes to the stability of the state. In wars, health services for the populations, education and social services such as welfare may be sharply reduced. Such concepts as food availability and the state's role also emerge in the context of food security to feed the population. Protection of human lives and their physical integrity are the state's direct responsibilities, especially regarding the war conditions. An essential function of social entrepreneurship is to bring socio-economic security and develop new jobs or maintain the most vulnerable people in society.

Therefore, the state of social security in military conflict situations is an interdisciplinary problem that requires a legal, economic, social, and physical solution. To preserve the population in such a situation, the state mechanisms must be changed to meet new threats.

Social security requires comprehensive mechanisms to protect citizens and maintain societal stability in wartime. It is crucial to consider the primary mechanisms used to achieve this goal (Figure 1).

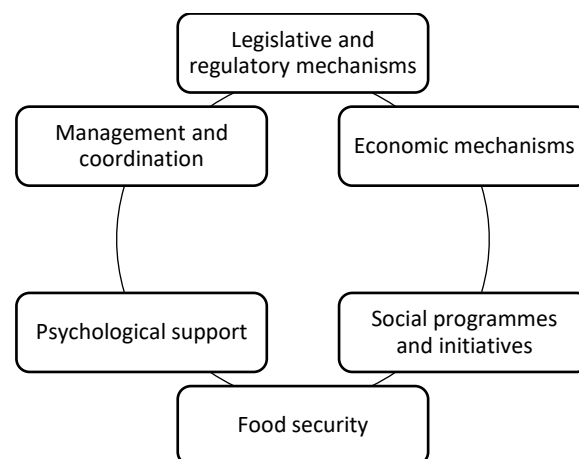
The stated and implied legislation and regulation systems are the key to guaranteeing social security in the environment of the military confrontation.



Some of them are formulating and enacting laws and policies to safeguard the rights of the citizens and their lives. These mechanisms must be changed to wartime to address new emerging threats and challenges effectively. Combatants, veterans, and other susceptible groups of the population's rights also should be protected by the legal system (Tropin *et al.*, 2021). That is why economic levers are considered the definite component of social security, particularly in the context of military aggravation. It should be added that their goals include providing economic stability, promoting employment, and encouraging SMEs. During a war, priority is always focused on the funds allocated for the most affected fields of the economy. These measures contribute to the non-escalation of the negative influence of the conflict and the post-crisis development (Tymoshenko *et al.*, 2023).

**Figure 1**

*Mechanisms for ensuring social security during the war*



Social programmes are essential to oversee the citizens' welfare during military conflicts. They facilitate people's health care, education, and social support needs. These programmes must be adjusted to the particularities of the war situation and the needs of different population groups. Humanitarian activities are those established to help society, especially needy groups like internally displaced persons and those affected by the war. Another sector that is most likely to rely on social security is psychological support in conditions of military conflict. Amid population, it is directed towards diminishing stress, anxiety, and other related psychological issues. Conflicts entail considerable





psychological stress, and when in this state, professional assistance enables citizens to manage the tension. Important issues that will be solved are organising the centres of psychological help and supporting the population's mental health.

Hence, some essential strategies for adequate social security involve cooperation between state and non-profit organisations. Integrated actions are more beneficial regarding resource utilisation and the launch of support programmes for the population. For most conditions of military conflict, it is critical to establish cooperation between different structures if the response to challenges is fast and efficient. This coordination assists in achieving the general goal of safeguarding citizens and sustaining societal stability.

Consequently, imperative legislative, economic, societal, food, psychosomatic, and managerial factors must be implemented to guarantee property and social security during the war. These factors are useful in safeguarding people and fostering stability in continued conflict situations.

In conditions of military conflict, social security encounters numerous problems and challenges, which society and states face and which disrupt the stability and people's well-being to a severe extent. Damage to infrastructures, economic issues, social injustice, and problems in food supply are the most challenging barriers to achieving social security. Moreover, psychological and legal issues also exist, along with a non-coordinated and decreased education level; all these challenge difficulties. The main problems and challenges of social security in conditions of war are presented in Table 1.

**Table 1**

*Fundamental problems and challenges of social security during the war*

Problem	Description
Destruction infrastructure	of Self-destruction of medical, educational and social life organisations.
Economic problems	Unemployment, inflation, and erratic movement are other economic factors.
Social inequality	The social issues experienced include the polarity of the income levels, where the rich become richer while the poor become poorer.
Food shortages	Lack of staple foods and their extremely high prices.
Psychological problems	anxiety, stress and other psychological anomalies among people.
Legal problems	Legal vulnerability of the citizens and veterans of the country.
Lack of coordination	Lack of proper government mechanisms and the problem of synergy.
Decreased level of education	Suspension of classes because of COVID-19 and a consequential dilution of the quality of learning.



Such issues need intervention, and all state and non-state organisations should be involved in addressing them to solve them. Uncertainties in the economic processes require adjusting the legislation and regulations to provide citizens with suitable economic and legal assistance. Social programmes should help the targeted parts of the population, and psychological aid should help citizens maintain their mental health. Action coordination and efficiency on the field are the key elements to achieving social security and maintaining civil order in a conflict situation.

Thus, a state's social security effectiveness in wartime crucially depends on complex solutions to present problems. Therefore, it is critical to focus on all factors defining the scale of citizens' protection, rights, and basic needs. In order to make the necessary evaluations of present and future conditions that finally define social security, it is possible to employ several indices that give an accurate picture of the existing situation in this field. Such indicators allow for assessing the existing problems and formulating corresponding strategies to resolve them. To do that, it is necessary to point to the indicators defining the state of social security in wartime conditions according to the methodological requirements for determining the level of economy of Ukraine:

#### 4.1 UNEMPLOYMENT RATE

*Calculation method:* They calculate the unemployment rate as ((Number of unemployed / Economically active population) \* 100%). This indicator represents the unemployed part of the working-age population actively seeking a job.

The amount of people and differentiation by the income map of a country.

*Calculation method:* Adjustment where needed using the consumer price index to 'inflate' current year per capita average income to its value relative to the base year per capita average income.

This index reflects the population's income level change relative to the reference year. Access to critical social services such as healthcare, education,



and social protection can well or poorly indicate the use of sustainable services to address poverty.

*Calculation method:* The proportion of the population utilising quality social services through a percentage ratio.

For instance, the extent of utilisation of medical services could be defined as (Normalised number of people who availed medical assistance / Total population) x 100

#### 4.2 POVERTY RATE

*Calculation method:* [(Total population x Poverty income level)/Total population] \* 100

This indicator shows the population proportion whose income exceeds the official poverty line.

#### 4.3 GINI INEQUALITY INDEX

*Calculation method:* This index ranges between 0 and 1, where 0 represents the best scenario of income equality, and 1 represents the worst income inequality. This calculation employs factors such as income distribution among the population and other statistical methods.

The identified indicators make it possible to evaluate the social security state in the military conflict environment. The effective measurement of the unemployment rate, population income index, accessibility of fundamental social services, poverty rate, and Gini inequality index helps identify significant issues and potential solutions. These indicators are associated with economic health, social welfare, and availability of basic needs by the citizens. A continuous checking and evaluation of these indexes is helpful when it comes to providing positive measures for improving social security. While applying the proposed calculation methods and organising the analysis of their outcomes, one will contribute positively to citizens' sustainable development and protection (Gorokhova *et al.*, 2024; Agboklou *et al.*, 2024).



At the same time, in Ukraine's example, creating sufficient social security provisions is impossible in military conflict conditions without suitable legislative and regulating provisions. Laws and regulations on human rights, social rights, and other aspects were introduced to maintain people's rights and the principles of social justice and support vulnerable groups in the population. The following is Table 2, containing the vital regulatory documents on social security in war conditions.

These regulatory documents are crucial to social security in wartime conditions, setting legal norms, and establishing a competent method of population protection. They help preserve social order, enhance the quality of people's behaviour, and guarantee legal rights. Therefore, in the existing battle, it is crucial to strive to enhance legislation regarding all new conditions and requirements of society.

**Table 2**

*Key regulatory documents regulating social security in wartime conditions in Ukraine*

Document type	Document title	Date and number	Regulation of social security during the war
Laws of Ukraine	of The Law of Ukraine “On March amendments to certain legislative acts of Ukraine concerning the provision of social protection of the population in martial law conditions”.	2022, No. 2126-IX	15 It predicts and establishes additional social measures to protect the population during martial law and assists various categories, particularly IDPs.
	The Law of Ukraine “On the April implementation of rights and freedoms of individuals, and legal conditions in the territories of temporary occupation of Ukraine”. 2022)	2014, No. 1207-VII	15 Stipulates legal conditions and regulates society's position in (as the occupied territories and in provision of their social rights.
	The Law of Ukraine “On March amendments to certain legislative acts of Ukraine concerning the provision of social guarantees to citizens in martial law conditions”.	2022, No. 2115-IX	1 Makes changes in legislation to clarify the measures for the maintenance of social rights and assistance to people in the period of martial law.
Decrees of the President of Ukraine	of Presidential Decree of Ukraine “On the introduction of martial law in Ukraine” vs. “Place of residence of armed forces and security agencies”.	2022, No. 64/2022	24 Disposes of the legal regime of martial law that determines the population's social protection measures.
	Acting on the Decision of the Committee of the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine on National Security and Defense № 3014-IV from 14.12.2006 and by Article 85 of the Constitution of Ukraine, the	2022, No. 63/2022	24 It stipulates how threats can be kept at bay, protects the nation's population in case of war, and provides social protection.



	President of Ukraine adopted the Decree “On measures to ensure the national security of Ukraine”.	
Resolutions of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine	The governmental decision of January 9 of the Ukraine number 920 of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine “On approval of the regulation on the unified state system of civil protection”.	9 Coordinates the work of the unified state system of civil protection involved in martial law.
	Decision No. 592 of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine “On some issues of social protection of 332 internally displaced persons”.	20 Specifies the social protection measures of internally displaced persons in martial law conditions.
	The Decree “On approval of the procedure for providing of state social assistance to citizens affected by armed aggression”.	10 Specifies the process of granting state social assistance to individuals who became victims of military aggression.
Other regulations	The Order of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine No 5-p “On approval of the action plan for social protection of persons affected by the armed conflict” with break down by regions of Ukraine.	Sanctions are action plans concerning the social protection of the persons affected by the armed conflict.
	The Regulation on the Ministry of Social Policy of Ukraine “On approval of the procedure for organisation of social services and provision of social services in martial law conditions”.	25 Controls the functioning and provision of social services in martial law conditions.

Based on an analysis of other countries' experiences, this paper reveals a range of strategies for protecting social security in situations of military conflict (Figure 2). These examples show that applying various mechanisms and measures helps preserve people's lives and maintain stability.

The experience of other countries demonstrates the need to use a multi-faceted concept to further provide social justice in the conditions of militarisation of the conflict. They include relatively recent cases of the USA, Israel, Germany, South Korea, and the United Kingdom to stress the need for synching up the actions of all state and public entities to safeguard the population and ensure harmony when experiencing a conflict. They can be used as examples to form and enhance the social security systems in other countries that have undergone a war.



**Figure 2***Social security examples of other countries during the war*

Thus, in a military confrontation, it is required to establish and use means for forming social security to support citizens. The main recommendations concern legislative measures, economic actions, social activities, psychological assistance, organisational and coordination actions, and educational measures (Table 3).

These recommendations will help build a stable social security system to respond quickly to wartime conditions. Legal activities should guarantee people's freedoms and liberties, while economic activities should strengthen positions in the financial sphere. Financial aid will help vulnerable groups to secure their needs; social programmes and psychological support will help them during this period. Increasing effective collaboration of the organisations and educational activities will help sustain and develop a stable society during conflict conditions.

**Table 3***Recommendations for improving social security mechanisms during military conflict*

Direction	Recommendations
Legislative initiatives	Enshrine and enforce new laws to safeguard citizens' lives in the event of war.
Economic measures	Promote lending to small and medium enterprises to cure the economy.
Social programmes	Increase spending on social programmes for needy people since the country has the resources.
Psychological support	Establish sites for psychological help and support to people stressed by the war.
Management and coordination	Increase the effectiveness of governments and non-governmental organisations in managing human resources.
Educational initiatives	It is recommended that distance learning programmes be created to continue education in case of disruptions.

**5 DISCUSSION**

The possibility of protective social security in an active war provokes many discussions among scientists and specialists. This conflict tension can also be observed in the presentation of the social security state in wartime by the authors, to which the readers revealed different attitudes and approaches. Legal protection of the citizens is one of the significant areas of concern. Here, it is necessary to elaborate further on the legal framework concerning social security for combatants and war veterans, as Sheverdina notes in her work completed in 2024. For that reason, Lobko (2022) indicates the challenges of the contemporary support of legal measures for national security, noting the necessity to augment the quality of the legislation. According to Olak and Konecka-Szydło (2023), legal actions to safeguard people should be promoted. These components are closely related to the work of Kopczewski (2023), devoted to the problems of legal protection in wartime. Therefore, developing legal instruments and modernising existing legal provisions help address topical challenges in protecting citizens' rights and freedoms.

The other equally important discussion areas include rights to and access to essential social services. Lozynska (2024) and Mirshuk (2023) names food security, inaccessibility of medical services, and education as the problems encountered by the respondents. They think cutting off access to these services has severe social and economic impacts. According to Taranenko (2024) and





Tsymbal (2023), it is necessary to note the relevance of educational activities and social protection measures as vital components of state security systems. Stimulating the psychological readiness of the population in the conditions of an active conflict also produces thoughts and discussions. Thus, Sukhov (2023) and Korolchuk *et al.* (2023) stress the need for psychological help for citizens - the individuals who suffered from psychological and emotional issues because of the war. Kancik-Kottun (2024), Kovtunyk *et al.* (2023) note that psychological support can enhance people's morale and mental state.

Social policies and enacted programs comprising efforts to address the needs of the differently abled and socially sensitive groups are vital in enhancing social protection. Chaliuk (2023) and Romanova *et al.* (2020) have underlined that social programmes and social entrepreneurship ensure the needs of vulnerable people and contribute to employment. Thus, according to the authors Varnalii *et al.* (2023) and others, it is essential to establish successful strategies for state policies for social security in a wartime environment.

Thus, the consensus and concern among all the researchers interviewed highlighted the need for more research and amendment to social security issues during wartime situations. This includes considering new challenges and society's needs to adjust legislative, economic, and social actions to achieve proper stability and security of citizens' lives.

## 6 CONCLUSION

Firstly, in military conflict conditions, the state's social security can be accomplished through a combined approach to the people's legal, economic, service, and physical security. Current laws call for enhancements and the enhancement of their effectiveness.

Secondly, economic security has to be backed up by financial help instruments and small and medium-sized enterprises. Wars destroy social infrastructure, dismiss employees, and create a high unemployment rate, which negatively impacts the general population.



Third, fundamental social services, including health and education, are available to extremities in wartime conditions. Proper support structures must be put in place and made functional to ensure the availability of such services.

Fourth, citizens' mental health and morale are vital tropes that should be provided to make society whole. War leads to distress, unease, and other psychological conditions, for which reason practical approaches to seeking and receiving psychological assistance are developed.

Fifthly, the organisation of social programmes and initiatives should focus on needy people and be sensitive to the existing benefits. This concerns changes that could be made to programmes during the war and needs that may be essential according to the demographic group.

Sixthly, the state and non-governmental organisations must coordinate social security. Thus, employing a legal, economic, social, and psychological model will protect citizens and encourage them to meet their needs during conflicts.

More studies should focus on creating and enforcing new mechanisms and programs supporting social security, especially in military instability. The key here is to view new predicaments or other social requisites critical for attaining stability and/or security of its population.



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