

PROGRAM OF MEDICAL AND PSYCHOLOGICAL PROTECTION OF THE POPULATION IMPLEMENTED IN UKRAINE

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Introduction: Providing psychological protection of the population is a part of a civil protection program aimed at providing psychological support for people affected by emergencies in order to restore their normal functioning in society. At the present time of ecological catastrophes and natural disasters, radiation, nuclear, chemical, and other hazards, one of the factors protecting the population from death and providing human survival in extreme and emergency conditions is stable wellbeing, the ability to withstand stress and maintain high capacity for work and state of being organized. This is evidenced by the long-term experience of world catastrophes.

One of the main measures in the field of civil protection is the implementation of psychological support. Preventing or reducing the degree of negative psychological impact on the population and the timely provision of effective psychological assistance are provided through the following measures:

- planning the activities and use of the existing forces and facilities of the psychological support units of the specially authorized central executive body for civil protection issues;
- timely use of psycho-prophylactic methods;
- identification of factors contributing to the emergence of socio-psychological stress with the help of psychological and sociological methods;
- use of modern technologies of psychological impact to neutralize the negative impact on the population.

The program, norms, and methods for ensuring the psychological well-being of the population are enshrined in a number of regulatory legal acts requiring careful consideration in order to study the mechanism of the program's functioning and the problems associated with its implementation.

Purpose and objectives. Study the regulatory and legal framework of the program of population psychological support in emergency situations implemented in Ukraine; institutions responsible for the practical implementation of this program; problematic issues associated with its implementation.

The results of the study. According to the "Code of Civil Protection of Ukraine", medical and psychological rehabilitation is a set of actions aimed at recovery of the psychological and physiological functions of emergency response personnel, persons involved in post-disaster recovery, and people affected by the emergency situations.

The authority of the central (and the only) executive body for emergency situations, namely the State Emergency Service of Ukraine (hereinafter - the SES of Ukraine), which was established as a result of the reforms of the former Ministry of

Emergencies of Ukraine, includes: approving the list of medical and psychological rehabilitation centers, determining compliance of sanatorium facilities with its requirements, the procedure for rehabilitation, etc.

Chapter 9, Article 36 of the Code ... on the provision of medical wellbeing, provides the creation of centers of medical and psychological rehabilitation at health resort institutions for rehabilitation of citizens affected by the consequences of emergencies.

In addition, Article 38 "Psychological Protection of the Population" determines measures to ensure the protection of the population, including the psychoprophylactic and psycho-corrective impacts on the person within the limits of licensed and permitted methods in Ukraine. The measures also include coping the negative effect of emergencies and planning activities for the psychological protection of the population.

The target audience for the activities of the psychological services of the SES of Ukraine is two categories: a) the personnel of the SES of Ukraine, rescuers and persons involved in overcoming the negative consequences of emergencies and rescue operations; b) the population affected by the emergency.

For the first category, the measures stipulated by the SES of Ukraine and enshrined in the "Code ..." provide psychological training for rescuers, and also, according to the Order "On Approval of the Regulation on Medical and Psychological Rehabilitation ...", provide psychological support in the emergency zone and outside of it, as well as sending to rehabilitation centers in accordance with the procedure defined in this document.

Also, according to the Order "On Approval of the Procedure for Organizing Medical Support...", persons who took part in overcoming the negative consequences of emergencies are entitled to a free rehabilitation course. Those who were injured or participated in emergency recovery operations related to the death of people are obliged, in addition to undergoing appropriate therapeutic treatment, to undergo a course of psychological rehabilitation.

Persons, affected by the negative consequences of an emergency, are entitled to free psychological support in the emergency zone and outside it, as well as undergo a rehabilitation course in special care institutions.

Also Order of 16 June 2014 No. 398 "On Approval of the Procedures for the Provision of Home Medical Care for Persons in Cases of Medical Emergency", the relevant section, contains instructions for rendering psychological support by non-specialists. But the results of studies and surveys conducted in 2014–2016 by specialists of the Institute of Public Administration in the field of civil protection (hereinafter referred to as the IPACP) showed a rather low level of public awareness about the activities of the psychological services of the State Service of Ukraine. The majority of respondents learned about the activities of the above-mentioned services for the first time (the survey was conducted after the specialized classes "Psychological protection of the population"). The results of the study showed that the majority of respondents are inclined to consider the activities of psychologists in emergency situations to be expedient at the emergency response phase, rather than as

part of preventive measures. In addition, the survey included a question about the sources that would make it more convenient for respondents to receive information (receiving information from online sources and thematic lectures and master classes turned out to be preferable). The authors focus on the relevance of topics among the population, as well as on the fact that respondents are prone to overcoming problems that have already occurred (the question of the feasibility of psychologists in emergency situations) although the strategy of preventive measures is more effective. Other problematic points are: low psychological culture of the population and mistrust to specialists; difficulties in identifying the quality and state of the psychological state of the population (which opposes to rescue operations performing personnel).

Conclusions. In Ukraine, there is a fairly detailed system of legal acts on the psychological protection of the population as a whole, and the provision of psychological assistance to victims of the negative consequences of emergency situations. But more attention is focused on the mechanisms for overcoming the consequences of emergency situations, while the system of preventive measures is poorly developed. It is necessary to emphasize that with regard to psychological preparation and provision of psychological assistance, the mechanism stipulated by the law has been worked out in more detail with respect to rescuers, persons involved in the elimination of the negative consequences of emergency situations, personnel, than in relation to the civilian population. It is also worth noting the relatively insignificant awareness of the population about the state programs of psychological protection of the population.

References

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