



"The emergency in Ukraine, the war: focus on breastfeeding"

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UKRAINE BEFORE THE WAR





Ukraine was a beautiful and prosperous country with happy people. It was till the 24-th of February 2022.



THE IMPLEMENTATION OF BFHI IN UKRAINE BEFORE THE WAR

- The BFHI has been actively implemented in maternal and child health facilities since 2001.
- National BFHI criteria were adopted by respective Order of the MoH of Ukraine, which currently operates.
- Two more steps to “10 Steps of successes breastfeeding” have been adopted by the Order:
- **the 11th step** - monitoring compliance with the International Code of Marketing of Breast Milk Substitutes
- **the 12th step** – monitoring compliance with effective perinatal care practices (partner delivery, opportunity to choose the delivery positions, etc.) according to WHO–2009: «Mother friendly care».



THE IMPLEMENTATION OF BFHI IN UKRAINE BEFORE THE WAR

- Expanded-BFHI in Ukraine covers all types of mother and child health care institutions: maternity hospitals, children's hospitals, children's outpatients departments, antenatal clinics.
- E-BFHI National Methodological and Monitoring Centre was created in Kyiv in 2006 . The Centre operates and manages the implementation of BFHI in Ukraine.
- E-BFHI centers were established and operated in all 24 regions of Ukraine until 2014, when Crimea was annexed by Russia and some parts of the eastern regions were separated.

UKRAINE BEFORE THE WAR

STATISTICAL DATA

In 2021:

- About 30% of all mother and child health facilities were designated as BFH
- 92% of Maternity facilities were designated as BFH
- 88,5% of children were born in BFH
- Breastfeeding initiation rate was 93,3%
- According to state statistics EBF 0-6 months rate was:
 - 56.06% in all medical institutions (polyclinics)
 - 75.6% in medical institutions, designated as BFH (policlinics)



UKRAINE BEFORE THE WAR

- On October 21, 2021 the President of Ukraine signed a law in the field of child nutrition to ensure that Ukrainian legislation meets the requirements of European Union legislation
- The Decree reflects the requirements of the International Code of Marketing of Breast-milk Substitutes.

UKRAINE SINCE THE BEGINNING OF THE WAR



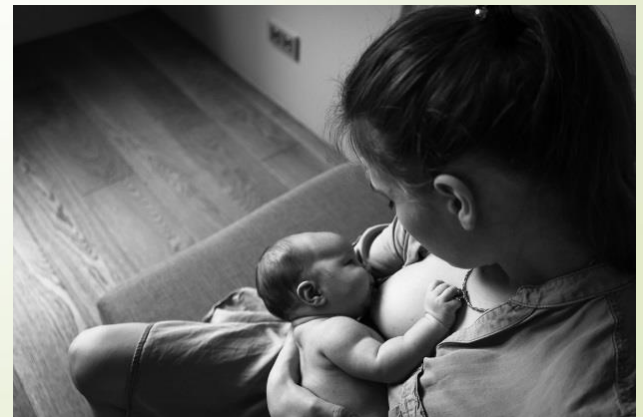


Places, destroyed by Russia.

UKRAINE SINCE THE BEGINNING OF THE WAR

- Since the beginning of the war in Ukraine, 826 medical facilities were damaged, more than 130 have been completely destroyed. <https://www.ukrinform.ua/rubric-ato/3567490-rosiani-z-pocatku-vijni-zrujnuvali-v-ukraini-127-medicnih-zakladiv.html>
- As of October 23, 2022, more than 1,250 children were injured in Ukraine: 430 children died and more than 820 were injured of various degrees of severity. <https://www.ukrinform.ua/rubric-ato/3599154-cerez-agresiu-rf-v-ukraini-postrazdali-vze-ponad-1250-ditej.html>

In cities where active hostilities are taking place or air strikes, or air alarms, hospitals are forced to use basements to protect mothers with newborns. In such situations infants breastfed in basements.



EXPERIENCES OF SOME PERINATAL CENTERS



Kharkiv Perinatal Center (Eastern Ukraine: active military actions)



Before the war

The pictures illustrate how the conditions in which mothers and children stay, have changed since the beginning of the war

During the war



The PC was working when enemy shells exploded within a radius of about 200 meters from the building, and the electricity and water supply disappeared.

Chernihiv Perinatal Center (The Northern part of Ukraine: the period of active military actions)

When Chernihiv was bombed day and night, doctors in the bomb shelter delivered babies and performed caesarean sections.



Odessa perinatal center (The South of Ukraine) No active military action, regular risk of missile strikes.



Despite the war, partner births continue

During the missile strikes, when the sirens sound, mothers with children are forced to hide in bomb shelters or basements. In the pictures mothers with children listen to a lecture on breastfeeding

Kyiv perinatal center (The Centre of Ukraine) No active military action, regular risk of missile strikes.

- The first breast milk bank in Ukraine was established on the basis of the Kyiv Perinatal Center in 2019
- In difficult conditions of wartime all equipment of the perinatal center work regularly.
- Milk received from a small number of donors is used for children in the intensive care unit, for premature infants in the Perinatal Center and other maternity hospitals in Kyiv.
- At the same time, the mothers receive support with initiation of lactation.



Lviv Perinatal Centre (The West of Ukraine) No risk of active military action, regular risk of missile strikes.)

When there are no sirens, despite the martial law and the disturbing atmosphere, the perinatal center operates as usual for locals and refugees or displaced persons.



Antenatal classes on breastfeeding for pregnant women are held.



Partner births are practiced.

Since the beginning of the war internally displaced mothers have given birth to 693 babies, including 11 twins.



Mothers are consulted on BF.



Babies are breastfed.

CONSULTING WOMEN ON BREASTFEEDING BEFORE AND AFTER CHILDBIRTH.

Medical institutions and NGOs engaged in assistance :

- State maternity hospitals or clinics:

Each BFH institution has trained health professionals, who can provide qualified advice on breastfeeding

- Breastfeeding support centers

- Private clinics

- NGOs are involved in breastfeeding support (These include a strong network of mother-to-mother support groups, which are established in large regional centers and conduct informational and advisory activities on BF)

- Medical institutions cooperate with NGOs.

ONLINE CONSELING WOMEN ON BREASTFEEDING BEFORE AND AFTER CHILDBIRTH

- Many Internet sites supporting breastfeeding are created and operate in Ukraine.
- There are many educational videos on various BF issues on YouTube channel.
- Maternal and child health facilities have their own websites where it is possible to find information on BF.
- Breastfeeding mother-to-mother support groups also have their own web pages with information about BF.
- In the online mode mothers can ask questions and receive consultation by BF professionals.
- The Internet pages contain the telephone numbers of breastfeeding counselors who can provide online help.

In the emergency of a military conflict in Ukraine, mothers particularly appreciate breastfeeding. Breast milk is the only available food, when moms are in bomb shelters or basements. When fleeing shelling, when moving to safe places by train, in conditions when there is no water and electricity milk is always clean, warm and nutritious food.





HUMANITARIAN AID (HA)

Coordination Headquarters for Humanitarian and Social Affairs, established on the initiative of the President of Ukraine

- HA is provided to women and children affected by the war in Ukraine and internally displaced persons.
- HA is provided by Ukrainian and international charities from around the world. Volunteers play an important role in the organization of HA. HA includes the provision of medicines, care products, diapers, clothing, baby food, etc.
- In each locality there is humanitarian aid headquarter, where aid is received and from where it is distributed to places where in need.
- Maternity and children's hospitals receive breast milk substitutes and medical nutrition for non-breastfed infants. Medical facilities are also provided by age-appropriate feeding for infants and young children aged 6 to 23 months.
- In cities where hostilities are taking place, mothers or caregivers can receive the baby food in HA headquarters.
- Preference is given to the supply of liquid formula to places of active hostilities.
- The problem is the lack of proper control over compliance with the requirements of the International Code of Marketing of Breast-Milk Substitutes and the relevant Presidential Decree.

PSYCHOLOGICAL SUPPORT

It is well known that hostilities, explosions, shootings, bad news can cause stress in the mother and reduce the milk flow.

- Psychological support is extremely important in times of war! It can be obtained:
- Medical institutions.
- Psychosocial support centers
- Special NGOs provide free psychological counseling by phone.
- Telephone hotlines operate 24 hours throughout Ukraine.
- Assistance of a multidisciplinary team of specialists, which includes a psychologist
- A psychologist works with every internally displaced person in the perinatal center where I work. The mothers who fled from Kharkiv, experienced a highly depressive condition after witnessing active hostilities. One of my patients would always start crying when she heard the siren. A psychologist works in such conditions, the patients receive help from all medical staff. We have some success stories of mothers discharged home with the ability to breastfeed.

**«Гарячі лінії»
психологічної допомоги:**

МІНІСТЕРСТВО
ОХОРОНИ
ЗДОРОВ'Я
УКРАЇНИ

**Контакт-центр МОЗ
0 800 60 20 19**

цілодобово, дзвінки безкоштовні

**Урядова лінія
1547**

цілодобово, дзвінки безкоштовні



**Лінія ГО «Ла Страда-Україна»
0 800 500 335**

(з мобільного або стаціонарного)

116 123 (з мобільного)

цілодобово, дзвінки безкоштовні

**Київський міський центр
психолого-психіатричної допомоги
при станах душевної кризи**

(044) 456 17 02

(044) 456 17 25

цілодобово

**Лінія Національної
психологічної асоціації
0 800 100 102**

з 10:00 до 20:00 щодня, дзвінки безкоштовні

**Лінія міжнародної гуманітарної
організації «Людина в біді»
0 800 210 160**

цілодобово, дзвінки безкоштовні

**Лінія допомоги Українського
ветеранського фонду
0800 33 20 29**

цілодобово, дзвінки безкоштовні

**Лінія емоційної підтримки
Міжнародної організації з міграції
0 800 211 444**

з 10:00 до 20:00 щодня, дзвінки безкоштовні

**Лінія запобігання самогубствам
Lifeline Ukraine
7333**

цілодобово, дзвінки безкоштовні

**Лінія Міністерства з питань
реінтеграції тимчасово окупованих
територій України
1548**

цілодобово

"Hotline telephone numbers" of psychological help in Ukraine are published on the website of the Ministry of Health of Ukraine

ORGANIZATIONS WHICH MOST ACTIVELY SUPPORT BF IN UKRAINE

➤ UNICEF



➤ Nutrition Cluster



➤ The Center for Social Leadership

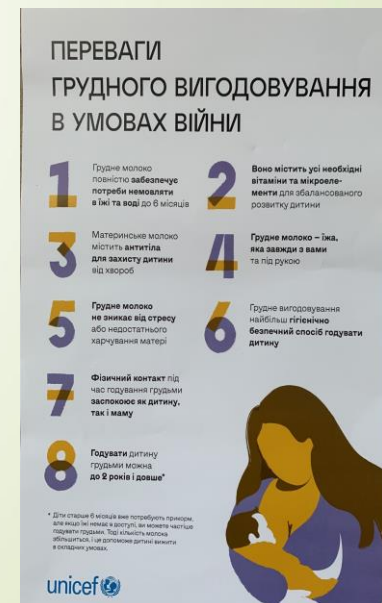
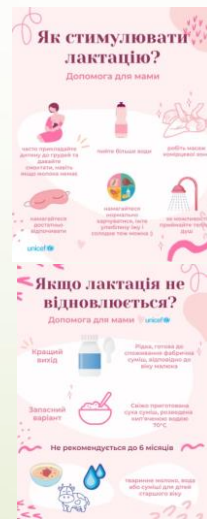
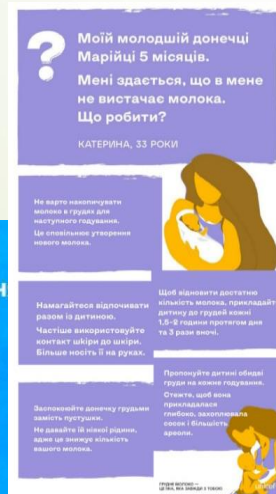


Organizations hold a variety of activities for the most vulnerable population, including infants and young children, aimed at protecting and promoting safe and appropriate methods of their feeding.

UNICEF has developed a large number of informational materials on breastfeeding and feeding young children during the war

- Feeding children under 2 years in emergency situations
- Baby food during the war
- Breast milk and infant formula: benefits and risks in wartime
- How to express breast milk
- Mother's nutrition during breastfeeding
- Can all women breastfeed?
- UNICEF) together with the NGO Milk Rivers of Ukraine prepared a course of 10 video lectures on BF with answers to questions that women have during pregnancy and after the birth of a baby.

https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLJ2-31j4oXT5uMvc_gyE_SyTM6wzM2EWX



We are very grateful to

- The Italian office of UNICEF, which in the first days of the war provided Ukraine with new information materials on breastfeeding and young child feeding in emergencies, for supporting migrants and refugees.



DESPITE ALL THE DIFFICULTIES
OF WARTIME, BREASTFEEDING
DOES NOT LOSE ITS VALUE.



Ukrainian singers create and sing songs
dedicated to children and breastfeeding



A photo of a Ukrainian woman feeding her 3-month-old daughter in the Kyiv metro during the bombing of the city by the Russian army became a symbol of the victory of good over evil, life over death. This inspired the artist Marina Solomennikova to paint a picture "Ukrainian Madonna, which became the prototype of the icon of the Virgin Mary in one of the temples of Naples.



On behalf of all Ukrainians, we would like to thank the representatives of Italy and other countries participating in the meeting for supporting our country and protecting the health and lives of our children.

We wish everyone peace and prosperity.

Thank you for your attention!