

Ukraine's perspective on gaps and key challenges in the investigation and prosecution of conflict-related sexual violence and violence against children

The National Social Service of Ukraine

is a central executive authority responsible for implementing state policy in the area of state supervision (control) over compliance with legislation in the provision of:

01 social services

02 social support

03 child rights protection

(including in institutional care settings and family-based care arrangements, as well as for children staying abroad)

04 ensuring **equal rights and opportunities** for women and men, preventing and combating domestic violence and gender-based violence, and countering human trafficking.

Its key powers in the field of child rights protection include

- Implementation of the 1996 Hague Convention on jurisdiction, applicable law, recognition, enforcement and cooperation in respect of parental responsibility and measures for the protection of children
- Approval of children's departure abroad, return of displaced (evacuated) children to Ukraine, and monitoring after their return.

Ukraine is actively developing a system of support for survivors of conflict-related sexual violence

Survivors of conflict-related sexual violence can access general or specialised support services, including day centres for psychosocial assistance, shelters, and other facilities providing support.



Today, Ukraine has more than **1,100** specialised support service providers for survivors of domestic violence and gender-based violence.

- 59** Shelters (up to 90 days, 24/7 accommodation)
- 113** Crisis rooms (up to 10 days, 24/7 accommodation)
- 113** Day centres for psychosocial assistance
- 119** Specialised services for initial psychosocial counselling
- 715** Mobile teams providing psychosocial support

- 13** Hotlines/helplines on prevention and response to domestic violence, gender-based violence, and violence against children
- 8** Other institutions exclusively supporting survivors of domestic and gender-based violence
- 3** Child protection centres

Results of Barnahus centres' work

Reporting period: May 2021 – April 2026



3,159 children received assistance in
15 Barnahus centres

357 children who received
repeat assistance.

Barnahus centres opening timeline

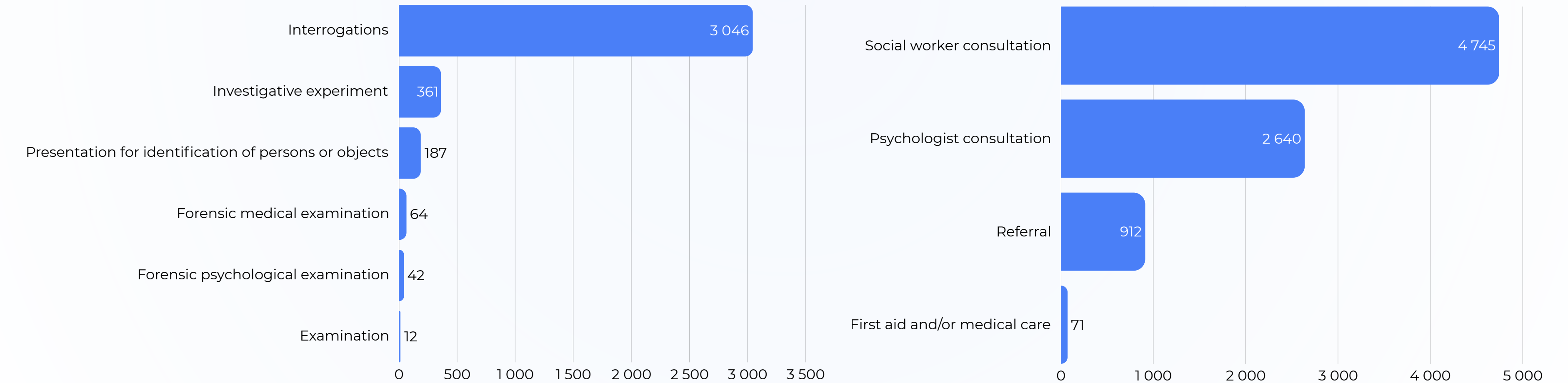


3,712

Organized investigative (search) and procedural actions

12,080 services provided

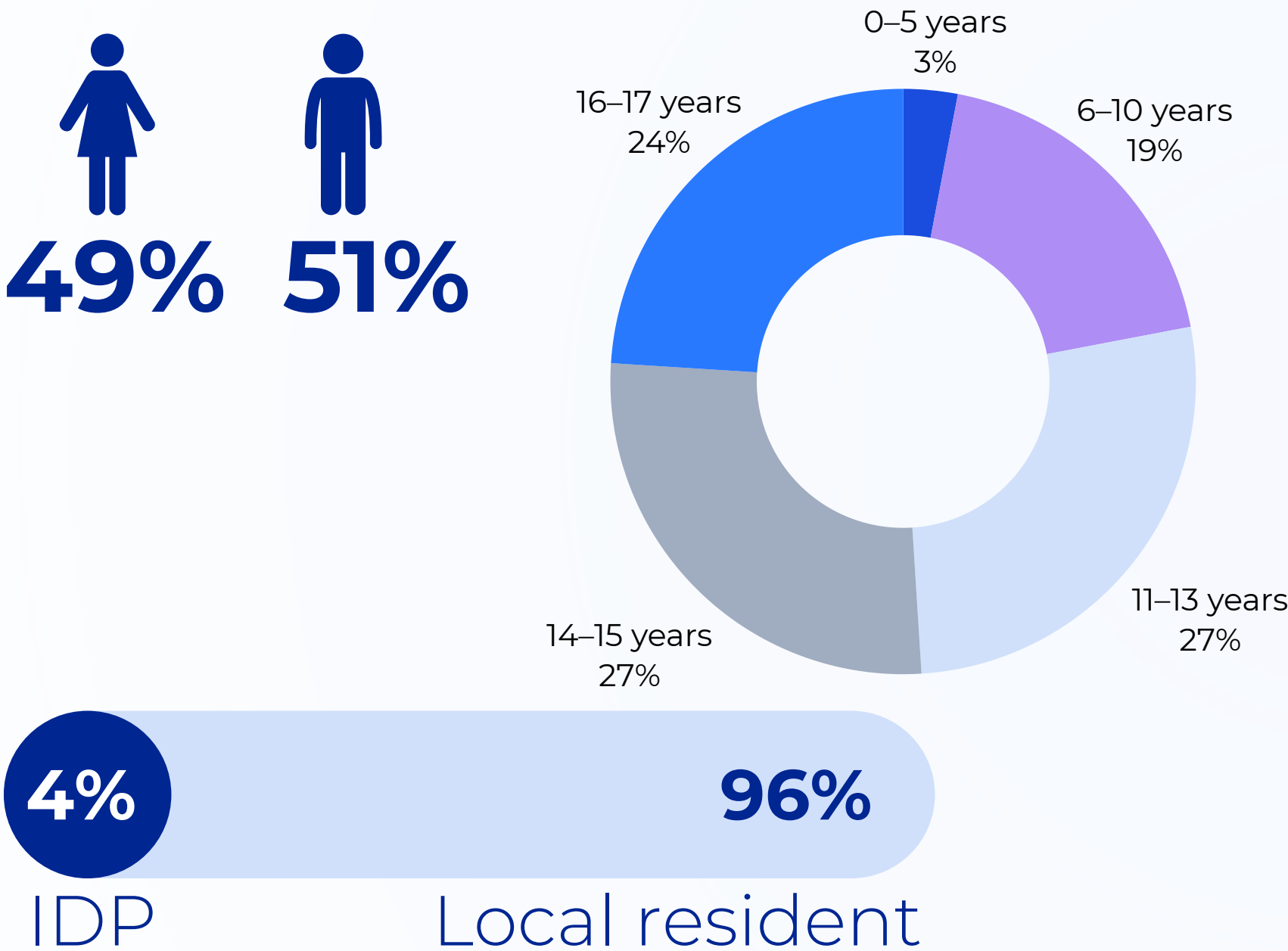
8,368 Other provided services and referrals



Referrals to healthcare facilities (HCF), social services, child protection services (CPS), comprehensive medical or psychological assessments, and legal service providers

Child Demographic Profile

Reporting period: May 2021 – April 2026



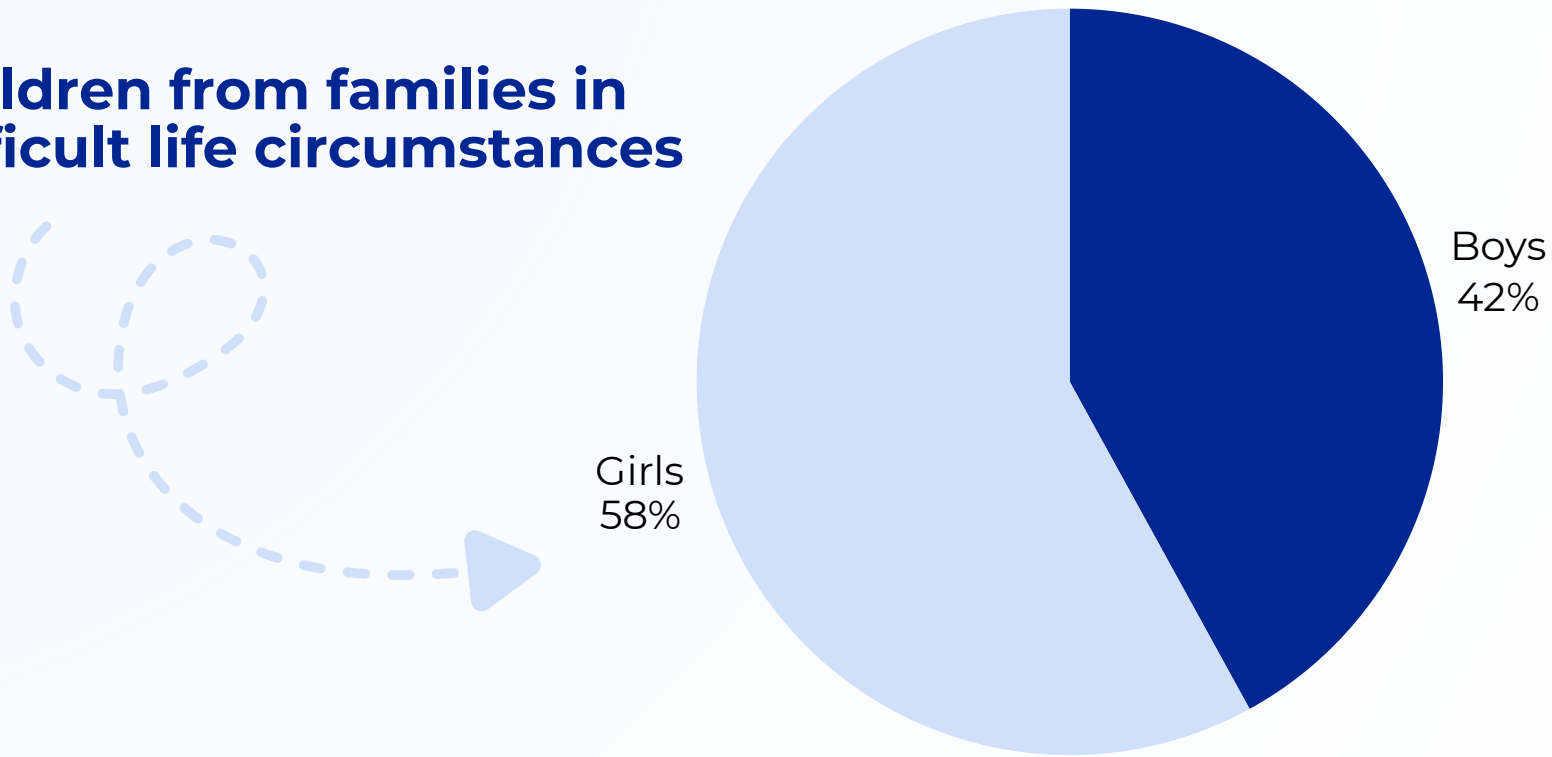
62% child victims of violence and other harmful circumstances

37% child witnesses of crime

908 children who experienced gender-based violence and/or domestic violence received assistance



Children from families in difficult life circumstances



Data on children affected by gender-based violence and/or domestic violence have been recorded since January 2025.

Within the framework of the project “Implementation of the Barnahus Model for the Protection of Child Victims of Violence”

“Tviy” Space

Main objectives of the child-friendly space:

- Psychosocial support for children in crisis situations
- Development of children’s social skills and creativity through structured activities
- Safe environment adapted to children’s age needs
- Strengthening parenting skills

Currently, **18** “Tviy” spaces are operating in the following regions of Ukraine:

3 Vinnytsia	4 Ivano-Frankivsk
6 Lviv	2 Chernivtsi
3 Ternopil	



At the initiative of the **National Social Service of Ukraine**, within the framework of a joint project with the **OSCE** – “Capacity Building of National and Local Partners in Providing Psychological Support and Social Protection for Children” – child-friendly spaces “Tviy” are being established.

In **2026**, the opening of **9** additional spaces is planned in Rivne, Zakarpattia and Kyiv regions.

Coordination and cooperation of stakeholders

In 2026, **50** survivors applied for social services and assistance:

27 women

5 girls

15 men

3 boys

8 children

Children received the following social services:

5 information provision

5 social support

5 counselling

5 shelter provision

5 psychosocial rehabilitation

7 individuals received medical assistance, as well as other types of support (material, technical, etc.)

From May 2024 to May 2026, Ukraine implemented **the Pilot Programme on Urgent Interim Reparations for Survivors of Conflict-Related Sexual Violence Committed in the Context of the Russian Federation’s Aggression against Ukraine**. The programme was implemented under the Framework Agreement between the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister for European and Euro-Atlantic Integration of Ukraine, the Government Commissioner for Gender Equality Policy, and the Global Survivors Fund.

The Identification Committee was responsible for deciding on the award of urgent interim reparations in the amount of **EUR 3,000** to survivors of conflict-related sexual violence committed in the context of the Russian Federation’s aggression against Ukraine.

The Identification Committee received 1,208 applications:

362 women

20 girls

819 men

7 boys

Reparations were approved for 1,080 applicants:

331 women

19 girls

726 men

4 boys

Why is this important?

Ensuring the rights of children, including those returned after displacement (evacuation) or deportation, remains a key state priority.

The Minister of Social Policy, Family and Unity of Ukraine has instructed the National Social Service to carry out **state oversight of compliance** with children's rights in terms of providing children and the families to which they have returned with a comprehensive package of social, educational and medical services, as well as safe conditions for a child's development and upbringing.

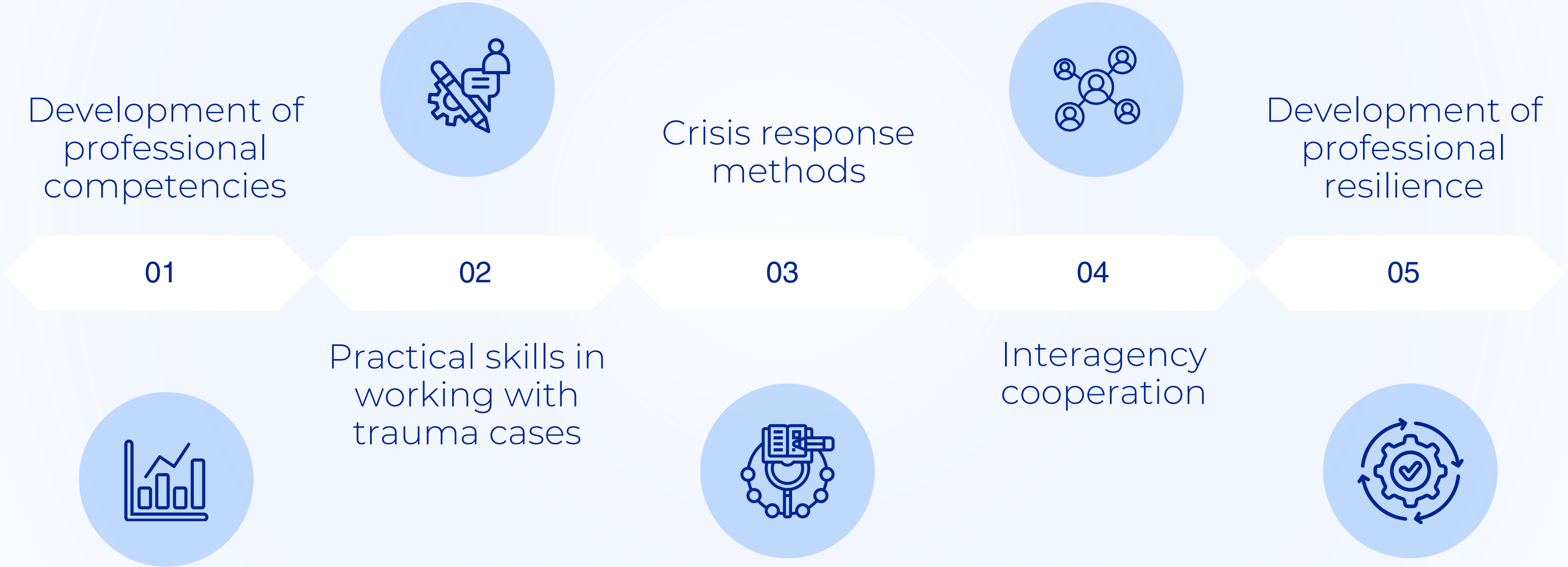
One of the main tasks is to verify how local specialists implement the Procedure for ensuring social protection of children in difficult life circumstances, including children who have suffered from abuse.

A generation of children affected by the war is emerging.

The effectiveness of the support system determines children's:



Capacity building



Challenges

- The first challenge remains the identification and documentation of crimes of sexual violence against children.
- The second challenge is ensuring child-friendly justice.
- Equally important is the proper training of all professionals working with these children, including investigators, prosecutors, judges, social workers, psychologists, and healthcare professionals.
- The fourth challenge is the need for further improvement of the legal and regulatory framework.
- The fifth challenge is ensuring effective coordination and cooperation among all relevant actors involved in the response.

Cooperation and partnership



Cooperation between the National Social Service of Ukraine and international partners



Memorandums of cooperation



Joint initiatives in the field of child rights protection



Thank you for your attention!