

Veteran Reintegration Program

Analytic Report July 14, 2021



Veterans' Reintegration Survey Methodology

In October 2019, IREX and its local partner, the Kyiv International Institute of Sociology (KIIS), started a research study within the Ukraine Veteran Reintegration Program that aimed to fill in critical gaps in research on veterans. The study included 12 focus groups and a structured survey. The survey was conducted among two target groups: veterans of the Anti-Terrorism Operation and Joint Forces Operation (ATO/JFO) and the general population of Ukraine. The goal of the ATO/JFO survey was to assess veterans' current situation and needs in the areas of employment, physical and mental health, benefits received, and social well-being. The goal of the survey of the general population was to collect socioeconomic data to compare with the veterans' data in order to reach a better understanding of the general public's views of ATO/JFO veterans. This research was conducted by IREX in partnership with NGO Veteran Hub, as part of the Veteran Reintegration Program. IREX would also like to acknowledge and thank the NGO Legal Hundred for the support it provided during the recruitment of veterans in the research phase as well as Kyiv International Institute of Sociology for its efforts in the fieldwork, data preparation and analysis.

The Survey of Veterans

Definition of Veterans

In IREX's study, veteran was defined as a person who has served in the ATO/JFO area of the Armed Forces, National Guard, State Border Service, or Volunteer Battalions from April 2014 until the present. This person could have remained in the military or public service at the time of the survey, but he or she should have been serving outside the ATO/JFO area. Combat experience and official status were optional. Our definition included (1) those who

had been in the ATO/JFO area for at least 30 calendar days in total or performed combat tasks including direct fire contact with the enemy and (2) those who carried out reconnaissance activities and were injured, making it impossible for them to continue performing their tasks.

Fieldwork and Sampling

The fieldwork for the veteran survey started in March 2020 and lasted until the COVID-related quarantine restrictions went into effect in Ukraine. Prior to the restrictions, 105 interviews were conducted, 41% of which were face-to-face or in-person surveys. The fieldwork was resumed using the telephone interview method in July and finished in October 2020. During this time, 1,800 interviews were conducted.

Although IREX and KIIS conducted t tests to compare responses between in-person and telephone survey samples, it is still possible that the COVID-19 pandemic could have impacted the responses in certain sections of the survey.

During the transition to the telephone interview method, the survey form was adapted to revise some questions and add new questions. Two weighting variables were used: one for the total sample of 1,905 interviews and another for the sample of 1,800. Two parameters were used for weighting: the distribution of the veterans by regions (oblasts) and by gender. The Ministry of Veteran Affairs' (MoVA) official statistics of registered veterans as of July 1, 2019, was applied to design the survey sample and to weigh the collected data.

Veteran Reintegration Program

Analytic Report July 14, 2021



The regional distribution of the veterans' sample was proportional to the number of veterans registered in each region. The distribution of the type of settlement was as follows: One-third of respondents were residents of the rural areas (villages and urban villages); one-third resided in the oblast centers; and one-third lived in other cities and towns. According to the official MoVA data, the percentage of veterans that are female is 4% and those with disabilities 3%. For analytical purposes, the number of women was increased to 209 respondents (11%). The number of disabled veterans was not limited, as disability could be underreported; 27% of veterans in the final sample (521 persons) qualified themselves as disabled. There were no reliable data about the age, education, employment, material well-being, and other sociodemographic parameters of the veterans' population. So, there was no predefined quota. The general principle of recruiting was to invite people with different sociodemographic profiles to participate in the survey.

The recruitment was carried out by the Legal Hundred, a Ukrainian nongovernmental organization (NGO), under the supervision of KIIS, using a "snowball" sampling approach. The snowball sample was seeded with veterans whose contact information was provided by local veterans' organizations, individual activists, the Legal Hundred network, and other sources. The share of respondents who were surveyed as part of the "snowball" is 56% of the sample size.

Therefore, the sample of this survey is not truly random, and thus results may differ from the true conditions of the overall veteran population.

Given that veterans were sampled using the snowball approach, the veterans in this sample are likely better connected to the NGOs and other veterans than is the overall veteran population, which may have skewed some of the results of the survey.

The Survey of the General Population

The sample of the general population survey represents the adult population of Ukraine (18 years and older) in all regions of Ukraine, excluding temporary occupied territories of Donetsk and Lugansk oblasts and Crimea.

The survey of the general population took place from July through September 2020.

Data collection was conducted by the CATI (computer-assisted telephone interviewing) method. A random sample of mobile phone numbers was used. KIIS randomly generated a database of roughly 200,000 phone numbers for each of the 12 prefixes used by the three primary mobile operators in Ukraine. KIIS then conducted a validity check on the generated numbers to determine which were in use. From this validated set of numbers, KIIS created a dialing database. Three contact attempts were made to each selected respondent, with the repeated contacts made at a different time on a different day. To complete 1,700 interviews, KIIS used 24,966 telephone numbers, for a response rate of 6.8%. The margin of sampling error was ± 2 points.

Calculations were performed using weights based on the following criteria:

Veteran Reintegration Program

Analytic Report July 14, 2021



- Quantity of mobile phone numbers that belong to respondent and are currently in use.
- Number of adult population in villages, urban villages, towns and cities, and oblast centers in each of five macroregions.¹
- Number of men and women in four age groups: 18–29, 30–44, 45–59, and 60+ years old.

¹ Western macroregion: Volyn', Zakarpattia, Ivano-Frankivsk, Lviv, Rivne, Ternopil, Khmelnytskyi, Chernivtsi regions. Central macroregion: Vinnytsya, Zhytomyr, Kyiv, Kirovograd, Poltava, Sumy, Cherkasy, Chernigiv region and Kyiv city. Southern macroregion: Mykolaiv, Odesa, Kherson region. Eastern macroregion: Dnipro, Zaporizhya, Kharkiv region. Donetsk and Lugansk oblasts. The data were taken from State Register of Voters as of July 21, 2019.

Veteran Reintegration Program

Analytic Report July 14, 2021



Glossary

ATO/JFO	Anti-Terrorism Operation and Joint Forces Operation
Veteran	A person who has served in the ATO/JFO area as a member of the Armed Forces, National Guard, State Border Service, or Volunteer Battalions from April 2014 until the date of the Survey
Combatant	Combat capacity is defined as a role in which a veteran was trained and equipped to fight opposing forces. It is based on fact, not on official documents.
Active-duty veteran	A veteran who is an active-duty member, not just a reservist, of the Armed Forces, National Guard, State Border Service, Security Service of Ukraine, National Police, or volunteer battalions. Such active-duty members at the moment of the survey could not be serving at the JFO area.
Non-active-duty veteran	A veteran who is NOT an active-duty member of the Armed Forces, National Guard, State Border Service, Security Service of Ukraine, National Police, or volunteer battalions. Such veterans can be reservists.
Well-being	Social well-being which includes perceived reintegration experiences by veterans, family and community relationships of veterans.