

Determinants Influencing the Socially-Vulnerable Population of Ukraine During the Russo-Ukrainian War

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Abstract

The article studies determinants influencing the socially-vulnerable population of Ukraine in the period of the Russo-Ukrainian War. The research encompasses three directions: first, the study of the current number of socially-vulnerable groups of the population within the boundaries of the Carpathian area; second, the study and analysis of the determinants influencing the number of socially-vulnerable groups of the population; third, the investigation of the degree of the determinants' impact on the number of the socially-vulnerable population within the Carpathian area. The authors of the work have shaped five groups of determinants influencing socially-vulnerable population, namely national, administrative, economic, demographic, and social ones. The research confirms that before the war started in Ukraine, the number of socially-vulnerable population had been reducing both in the country and within the Carpathian area. In particular, in 2001–2021, the number of vulnerable groups of the population reduced by 23% in Ukraine, in the Chernivtsi region – by 24.5%, in the Ivano-Frankivsk region – by 10%, in the Transcarpathian region – by 8.6%, and in the Lviv region – by 6.1%. The situation has changed since the war started. Based on the conducted calculations, it is determined that the greatest impact on the socially-vulnerable population is created by the national and economic determinants, whilst the smallest one – by the demographic determinants, whereas the last ones depend on the geographic position of the region. It is also confirmed by calculations of the radar of determinants influencing socially-vulnerable population. During the Russo-Ukrainian War, the greatest impact of the determinants on socially-vulnerable population is marked in the Lviv region.

Keywords

socially-vulnerable population, Russo-Ukrainian war, determinants

Introduction

Under the current conditions of the Russo-Ukrainian War, the socially-vulnerable population of Ukraine needs a lot of support, since they are not able to get enough income because of the objective reasons. The support for socially-vulnerable population is of urgent concern, because their problems to be solved with the consideration of the specific circumstances and conditions. The above-mentioned aspects confirm the relevance and necessity of the present research, which aims to identify and systemise the main determinants influencing the number of socially-vulnerable groups of population.

The results of the authors' research are supplemented with the studies of domestic and foreign scientists on the theoretical and methodological aspects of identifying determinants which influence the number of socially-vulnerable groups of population. The research encompasses three directions: first, the study of the current number of socially-vulnerable groups of population within the boundaries of the Carpathian area; second, the study and analysis of the determinants influencing the number of socially-vulnerable groups of population; third, the investigation of the degree of the determinants' impact on the number of socially-vulnerable population within the Carpathian area.

The article comprises three chapters. The first chapter discloses the study of the number of socially-vulnerable groups of population within the Carpathian area. The second chapter provides an analysis of the determinants influencing the number of socially-vulnerable groups of population. The third part of the article supplies comparison of the determinants influencing the number of socially-vulnerable groups of population within the Carpathian area regions.

1. Literature review

The theoretical and methodological approaches to the problems of socially-vulnerable population are considered in the works of domestic and foreign scientists. The article of Abdurahmonova and Bukhadirov (2020) is devoted to the theoretical and practical problems of the social protection of vulnerable segments of population. The results of the scientific analysis identified the difference between the terms of the "social protection of population" and the "social protection of vulnerable groups of population". Socially-vulnerable population includes people or social groups which are more probable to suffer from social losses caused by economic, ecological, technological, and other factors of modern life (Nikitchyna, 2010). According to the Law of Ukraine "On social services", "vulnerable groups of population are the people/families which are at the highest risk of facing complicated life situations because of unfavourable external and/or internal factors; (or social groups which are more probable to suffer from the negative impacts of social, political, ecological factors or risks to get diseases or injuries)". Representatives of the vulnerable groups of population can be either individuals or social groups who are more probable to experience the negative impacts of social, ecological factors or get a disease (Semyhina and Hryha, 2001). Bachynska (2021) identifies that socially-vulnerable groups are made of representatives of the social groups with a high or medium level of maladaptation. Their adaptation and thus vulnerability is usually related with the functional disorder in all spheres.

In "Innovative Housing Policy and (Vulnerable) Residents", Frątczak-Müller studied the process of implementation of the social housing policy and its impact on the improvement of the living conditions of socially-vulnerable population. The research was conducted by the authors within the framework of the Programme of social housing, initiated in Gdańsk (Poland). Its results demonstrate a positive dependence between the degree of satisfaction of the residents' essential needs and use of the social housing instruments.

Brytanska (2017) justifies the necessity of the social protection of population as a component of the state social policy. Social protection is characterised by the available system of social services which are changed under the impact of time and innovations that is confirmed by Reut (2008); and supply of housing grants, that is marked by Khrenova (2018). According to the experts' opinion, people suffering from the lack of housing get insufficient state support and are often provided with temporary shelter which becomes the final solution and causes their social isolation (Abbé Pierre Foundation and Feantsa, 2019).

The necessity and directions of funding of socially-vulnerable population are considered in the works of Matviienko (2017). Rybak (2013) stresses the financial support with consideration of the modernised social protection of population. Radchuk (2014) focuses on the legal aspects of the most vulnerable groups of population. All those aspects of the state social policy require joint efforts and the team work that is substantiated by Duvanska (2020). This topic is also researched by Shults et al. (2021) and by Bochko et al. (2022).

In spite of a large scope of researches devoted to the improvement of the living conditions of vulnerable groups of population, there are still many unconsidered aspects which deal with the study of the determinants influencing the number of socially-vulnerable population of Ukraine. The issue

is of critical concern in the period of the Russo-Ukrainian War, which has caused a rapid growth of the number of such a category of people.

2. Methodology

During the Russo-Ukrainian War, a particular attention is drawn to the determinants influencing the number of socially-vulnerable population to find out the amount of people living in complicated conditions and to develop variants to help them. In particular, Mollá, Polotskaya, Sobrino and Rabasa (2021) suggested a new methodology to identify people who probably live in vulnerable conditions by consolidating all personal and ecological factors into a single index determining the level of social vulnerability. The authors of the research define the determinants influencing the number of socially-vulnerable population during the War.

Thus, the number of socially-vulnerable population is influenced by the factors which are systemised into five main groups, namely national, administrative, economic, demographic, and social ones (Fig. 1).

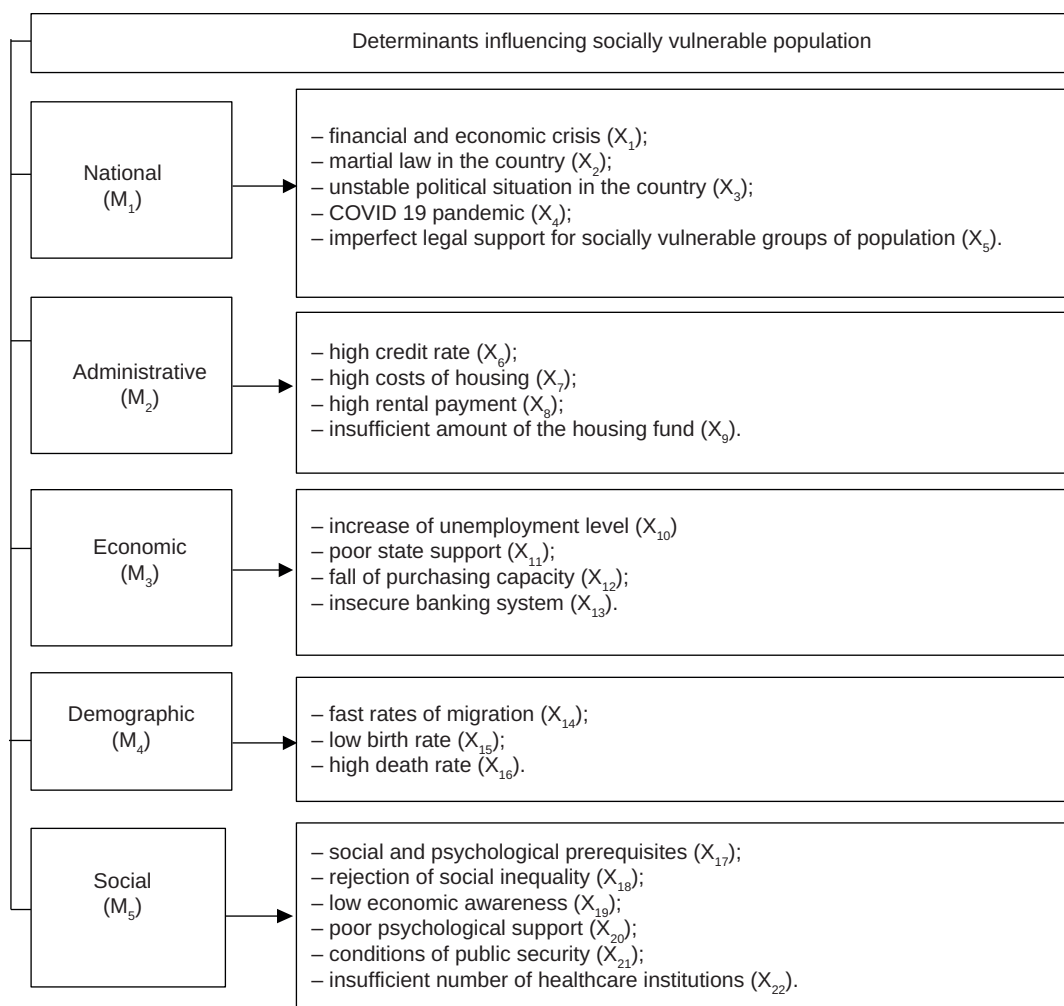


Figure 1. Main destructive determinants influencing the number socially vulnerable groups of population

Source: Systemised by the authors.

Determinants, described (or included) in the methodologies M₁, M₂, ... M₅, are mathematically described by the formulas 1–6.

$$M_1 \rightarrow [X_1, X_2, X_3, X_4, X_5] \tag{1}$$

$$M_2 \rightarrow [X_6, X_7, X_8, X_9] \tag{2}$$

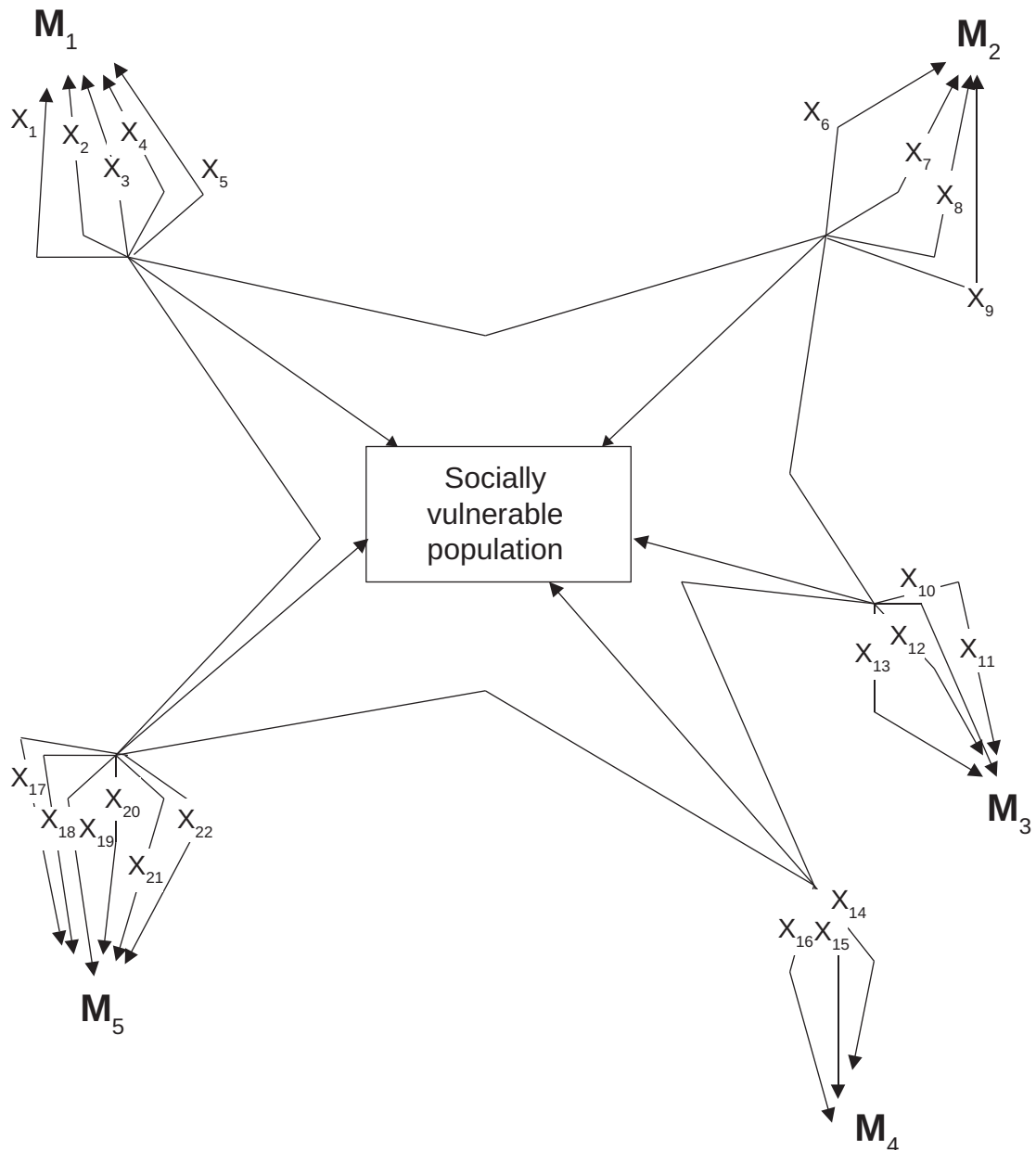
$$M_3 \rightarrow [X_{10}, X_{11}, X_{12}, X_{13}] \quad (3)$$

$$M_4 \rightarrow [X_{14}, X_{15}, X_{16}] \quad (4)$$

$$M_5 \rightarrow [X_{17}, X_{18}, X_{19}, X_{20}, X_{21}, X_{22}] \quad (5)$$

$$I \rightarrow [M_1, M_2, M_3, M_4, M_5] \quad (6)$$

The model for evaluating the determinants influencing the number of socially-vulnerable population is shown in Fig. 2.



* X_n – the coefficient, needed by users of information on studying the determinants influencing the number of socially vulnerable population

Figure 2. Model of determinants influencing the number of socially vulnerable population*

Source: Own elaboration.

3. Empirical results

1. *Study of the number of socially-vulnerable groups of population.* The reduction of the number of vulnerable groups of population in the country is viewed as the index of its stability and civilisation. Thus, the primary task of state services is to supply the appropriate and qualified support for people suffering from complicated life conditions, to fulfil their potential, to change their life for better, to make them feel protected and demanded in the society. Before the War started, the number of socially-vulnerable population of Ukraine had declined every year. Such a situation was observed both in Ukraine generally and within the Carpathian area. The Carpathian area is chosen by the authors for the research, because the majority of internally-displaced people moved there. That area borders on five countries, namely Poland, Romania, Moldova, Hungary, and Slovakia, which determines its favourable geographical position. According to the data of the Western Regional Department of the State Border Guard Service of Ukraine, above 16.7 million people and more than 4.4 million vehicles crossed the border in western regions in both directions during the last 8 months (Western Regional Department of the State Border Guard Service of Ukraine). The most important transport routes used by temporary displaced people to run from the war are in the Carpathian area.

In particular, in 2001–2021, the number of vulnerable groups of population declined in Ukraine by 23%, in the Chernivtsi region – by 24.5%, in the Ivano-Frankivsk region – by 10%, in the Transcarpathian region – by 8.6% and in the Lviv region – by 6.1%. In the recent years, fast rates of the reduction of the number of vulnerable groups of population was marked in the Chernivtsi region and in the Transcarpathian region – by 8.8% and 8.5%, respectively (Table 1).

Table 1. Number of socially-vulnerable groups of population by the regions

Year	Number in the region				
	Lviv	Ivano-Frankivsk	Transcarpathian	Chernivtsi	Ukraine
2001	717,778	382,193	288,221	250,465	14,446,609
2011	712,557	372,186	294,365	240,311	13,737,959
2016	706,547	365,786	287,554	232,963	12,296,502
2020	684,341	350,354	269,730	220,116	11,334,730
2021	673,856	343,970	263,537	214,270	11,130,954
2021 in % to 2001	93.9	90.0	91.4	85.5	77.0
2021 in % to 2011	94.6	92.4	89.5	89.2	81.0

Source: <https://www.ukrstat.gov.ua/>.

In the examined period, researchers marked a growth in the number of people with disabilities within the Carpathian area regions, whereas generally in Ukraine, the index declined by 22.9% in the last 20 years and by 6.4% in the last decade (Table 2).

Analysing the index in the regions, one can see that it has dropped only by 0.2% in the Transcarpathian region and only for the last 10 studied years. The smallest number of people with disabilities was marked in the Chernivtsi region, and in 2021, it accounted for 42,905 people, which was 4.8% of the total population in the region. The Lviv region was characterised by the largest number of people with disabilities in 2021, i.e. 177,425 people, which was 7.2% of the total population in the region.

2. *Study of the determinants influencing the number of socially-vulnerable population.* Under the current conditions of the Russo-Ukrainian War that contributes to the growth of the number of socially-vulnerable population, it is reasonable to study the determinants influencing its dynamics. Among the main ones, the authors of the research specify the deficiency of the housing fund for temporary displaced people, because the number of them is getting larger every day. It is

worth noting that 11 million people were forced to move to safer regions of the country or abroad (Marshalok, Markuts and Andrienko, 2022).

Table 2. Number of people with disabilities

Year	Number in the region				
	Lviv	Ivano-Frankivsk	Transcarpathian	Chernivtsi	Ukraine
2001	148,176	74,084	51,813	40,293	2,597,537
2011	156,959	76,828	54,441	40,275	2,418,454
2016	166,517	80,078	55,053	41,580	2,233,159
2020	174,887	82,735	54,512	42,627	2,240,955
2021	177,425	83,996	54,322	42,905	2,263,414
2021 in % to 2001	119.7	113.4	104.8	106.5	87.1
2021 in % to 2011	113.0	109.3	99.8	106.5	93.6

Source: <https://www.ukrstat.gov.ua/>.

The number of socially-vulnerable groups of population is influenced by national factors, including conditions of the financial and economic crisis; martial law in the country; political situation in the country; the COVID-19 pandemic; imperfect legal support for socially-vulnerable groups of population. Findings of the research, conducted by applying the expert method (the experts included representatives of regional power authorities, managers of enterprises and public organisations, the total number of 23 people) are systemised in Table 3.

Table 3. Values of the national determinants (M_1)

Determinants	Weight coefficient	Value in the region							
		Lviv		Ivano-Frankivsk		Transcarpathian		Chernivtsi	
		Value	Result	Value	Result	Value	Result	Value	Result
Financial and economic crisis (X_1)	0.04	3	0.12	4	0.16	3	0.12	4	0.16
Martial law in the country (X_2)	0.06	4	0.24	4	0.24	4	0.24	4	0.24
Instable political situation in the country (X_3)	0.05	4	0.20	5	0.25	4	0.20	3	0.15
COVID 19 pandemic (X_4)	0.03	4	0.12	3	0.09	2	0.06	3	0.09
Imperfect legal support for socially vulnerable groups of population (X_5)	0.05	3	0.15	3	0.15	3	0.15	3	0.15
Total impact of the national determinants (M_2)	0.23	18	0.83	19	0.89	16	0.77	17	0.79

where 0 – the lowest, and 5 – the highest level of the determinant's impact in the region

Source: Own elaboration.

According to the results of the conducted research on the impact of national determinants, it is confirmed that the COVID-19 pandemic made the least impact on the socially-vulnerable population in the Transcarpathian region. Such a situation is determined by the fact that in the region, the number of infected people accounted for 9.7% (as of June 2020) of the total population of the region (1243.7 thousand people), whilst in the Lviv region, the number of infected people was 12.42% of the total population (2476.1 thousand people).

The financial and economic crisis in the country little influenced the socially-vulnerable population of the Transcarpathian and the Lviv regions, because they received support according to the programmes provided by the neighbouring partner-states. In particular, the Transcarpathian region

got support from Hungary according to the “Hungary Helps’ programme, the “Hungarian money: Orban’s impact’ project, and others.

A great impact on socially-vulnerable groups of population is also made by administrative factors, including provision of those people with housing. It should be noted that satisfaction of the housing needs is one of the primary tasks that should be solved by the bodies of local government. If the state runs a positive policy in that direction, it should be combined with the tasks of social policy, related with the state social support, and should be implemented in the form of the state partnership in the construction industry. There is a close dependence between the impact of social programmes and the degree of satisfaction of the residents’ housing needs (Frątczak-Müller, 2022). Innovative Housing Policy and Vulnerable Residents, 2020). In the conditions of the Russo-Ukrainian War, the costs spent for housing have considerably increased, particularly in the western regions, which is caused by the increased number of temporarily displaced people. For instance, in the period from 24th February, 2022, to July 2022, the Lviv region has hosted 350 thousand people, the Transcarpathian region – 340 thousand people, Ivano-Frankivsk – 90 thousand people, and the Chernivtsi region – 80 thousand people. It is worth noting that it is only the number of those who are registered in the centres of administrative services. The high demand for housing stimulates the rise of prices for rent and, thus, the deficiency of the housing fund. The values of the administrative factors are systemised in Table 4.

Table 4. Values of the administrative determinants (M_2)

Determinants	Weight coefficient	Value in the region							
		Lviv		Ivano-Frankivsk		Transcarpathian		Chernivtsi	
		Value	Result	Value	Result	Value	Result	Value	Result
High credit rate (X_6)	0.05	4	0.20	4	0.20	4	0.20	4	0.20
High costs of housing (X_7)	0.05	4	0.20	3	0.15	3	0.15	4	0.20
High rental payment (X_8)	0.04	5	0.20	4	0.16	4	0.16	3	0.12
Insufficient amount of the housing fund (X_9)	0.02	4	0.08	3	0.06	4	0.08	4	0.08
Total impact of the administrative determinants (M_2)	0.16	17	0.68	14	0.57	15	0.59	15	0.60

where 0 – the lowest, and 5 – the highest level of the determinant’s impact in the region

Source: Own elaboration.

Among the studied administrative determinants, the highest level of impact was marked in the Lviv region, because the rental payment in that region demonstrated the highest increase among the studied regions, i.e. by 300% on average. In particular, on the Internet (e.g. <https://www.real-estate.lviv.ua>; <https://www.real-estate.lviv.ua>), one can find apartments for rent at the price of 1500–2000 USD per month.

In the study of the number of socially-vulnerable groups of population, the important position is taken by technically economic factors. They include an increase in the unemployment level; the fall of purchasing capacity; insecure banking system. The increase of unemployment level differs depending on the region (Czyszkiewicz, 2005). In the period of the Russo-Ukrainian War, the level of population’s purchasing capacity has significantly dropped, particularly of the temporarily displaced people who have lost their homes, jobs, etc. Therefore, it is necessary for the state to provide support for population, especially for those who suffer the most from the war. All those determinants are studied and systemised in Table 5.

Table 5. Values of the economic determinants (M_3)

Determinants	Weight coefficient	Value in the region							
		Lviv		Ivano-Frankivsk		Transcarpathian		Chernivtsi	
		Value	Result	Value	Result	Value	Result	Value	Result
Increase of unemployment level (X_{10})	0.04	4	0.16	4	0.16	4	0.16	4	0.16
Poor state support (X_{11})	0.10	3	0.30	3	0.30	3	0.30	3	0.30
Fall of purchasing capacity (X_{12})	0.05	4	0.20	5	0.25	4	0.20	5	0.25
Insecure banking system (X_{13})	0.05	2	0.10	2	0.10	3	0.15	2	0.10
Total impact of the economic determinants (M_3)	0.24	13	0.76	14	0.81	14	0.81	14	0.81

where 0 – the lowest, and 5 – the highest level of the determinant's impact in the region

Source: Own elaboration.

According to the research results, among the economic determinants, the factor of the appropriate level of support for population is of particular importance. The index is identical for the examined regions, because it is set by the state and does not depend on the place where the temporarily displaced people live.

In the period of the Russo-Ukrainian War, demographic factors are also of great importance. It should be noted that the highest values of the determinant of ‘fast rates of migration’ were found in the Lviv and the Transcarpathian regions, because the majority of people crossed the state borders in those regions when moving abroad. General evaluation of the demographic determinants is systemised in Table 6.

Table 6. Values of the demographic factors (M_4)

Determinants	Weight coefficient	Value in the region							
		Lviv		Ivano-Frankivsk		Transcarpathian		Chernivtsi	
		Value	Result	Value	Result	Value	Result	Value	Result
Fast rates of migration (X_{14})	0.08	5	0.40	2	0.16	5	0.40	2	0.16
Low birth rate (X_{15})	0.04	4	0.16	3	0.12	3	0.12	2	0.08
High death rate (X_{16})	0.06	5	0.30	4	0.24	2	0.12	3	0.18
Total impact of the demographic determinants (M_4)	0.18	14	0.86	9	0.52	10	0.64	7	0.42

where 0 – the lowest, and 5 – the highest level of the determinant's impact in the region

Source: Own elaboration.

A particular impact on the socially-vulnerable groups of population is made by social determinants. It should be mentioned that Ukraine implements the project called ‘Social inequalities: Comprehension by Ukrainian society’, which was initiated by the Sociological Association of Ukraine under financial support of the Renaissance International Fund. It was forced by the necessity to solve the urgent problems of modern Ukrainian society, i.e. intensive social tension, caused by aggravation of the social inequality in our country, the appearance of new forms of citizens' inequality, revealed in unequal access of Ukrainians to different social resources. The most common form of social inequality can be observed in the Ivano-Frankivsk region, where the number of people earning under living wage exceeds 50%. It results in the low economic awareness in the region. Therefore, according to the experts' estimates, those indicators have caused high values of

the determinants of “Rejection of social inequality’ and “Low economic awareness’. The results of the estimates of the social determinants are systemised in Table 7.

Table 7. Values of the social determinants (M_5)

Determinants	Weight coefficient	Value in the region							
		Lviv		Ivano-Frankivsk		Transcarpathian		Chernivtsi	
		Value	Result	Value	Result	Value	Result	Value	Result
Social and psychological prerequisites (X_{17})	0.03	3	0.09	3	0.09	3	0.09	3	0.09
Rejection of social inequality (X_{18})	0.03	4	0.12	5	0.15	2	0.06	2	0.06
Low economic awareness (X_{19})	0.05	3	0.15	5	0.25	3	0.15	2	0.10
Poor psychological support (X_{20})	0.03	5	0.15	4	0.12	2	0.06	1	0.03
Conditions of public security (X_{21})	0.03	2	0.06	3	0.09	4	0.12	5	0.15
Insufficient number of healthcare institutions (X_{22})	0.02	5	0.10	4	0.08	3	0.06	4	0.08
Total impact of the social determinants (M_5)	0.19	22	0.67	24	0.78	17	0.54	17	0.51

Source: Own elaboration.

3. *Comparison of the determinants influencing the regions of the Carpathian area.* The results of the conducted research confirm that the greatest impact on the socially-vulnerable population in the period of the Russo-Ukrainian War is made by the national determinants in the Ivano-Frankivsk region and by the demographic determinants in the Lviv region. The lowest value of the impact made by demographic determinants is marked in the Chernivtsi region, i.e. 0.42. Table 8 provides systemised results of the research of the examined determinants.

Table 8. Total values of the determinants’ impact on the socially vulnerable population

Indicators	Value in the region			
	Lviv	Ivano-Frankivsk	Transcarpathian	Chernivtsi
Average value of the national determinants (M_1)	0.83	0.89	0.77	0.79
Average value of the administrative factors (M_2)	0.68	0.57	0.59	0.6
Average value of the economic determinants (M_3)	0.76	0.81	0.81	0.81
Average value of the demographic determinants (M_4)	0.86	0.52	0.64	0.42
Average value of the social determinants (M_5)	0.67	0.78	0.54	0.51

Source: Own elaboration.

According to the results of the conducted research, it is determined that in the regions of the Carpathian area, the greatest impact on the socially-vulnerable population is made by the national and economic determinants (Fig. 3).

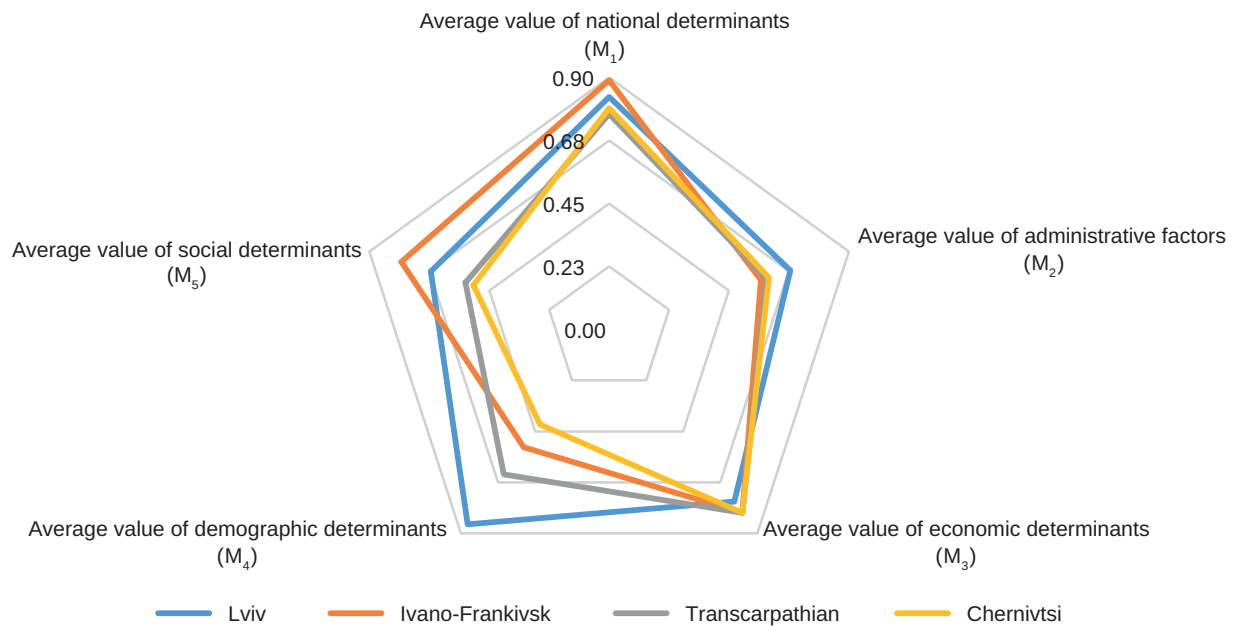


Figure 3. Radar of the determinants influencing the number of the socially vulnerable population in the regions of the Carpathian area.

Source: Own elaboration.

To measure the area of the radar of the determinants influencing the number of the socially-vulnerable population in the examined regions, the following formula is used:

$$S = \pi R^2 = 3.14 \times 100 = 3140$$

The area of different regions in the polygon of the determinants influencing the number of the socially-vulnerable population in the Carpathian area is calculated by the formula:

$$S_{\text{радар } i} = \frac{\pi}{I} \sum_{i=1}^n r^2 \quad (7)$$

Hence,

$$S_{\text{Lvivregion}} = \left(\frac{3.14}{4} \right) \times (0.83^2 + 0.68^2 + 0.76^2 + 0.86^2 + 0.67^2) = 2.290 \text{ (cm}^2\text{)}$$

$$S_{\text{Ivano-Frankivskregion}} = \left(\frac{3.14}{4} \right) \times (0.89^2 + 0.57^2 + 0.81^2 + 0.52^2 + 0.78^2) = 2.082 \text{ (cm}^2\text{)}$$

$$S_{\text{Transcarpathianregion}} = \left(\frac{3.14}{4} \right) \times (0.77^2 + 0.59^2 + 0.81^2 + 0.64^2 + 0.54^2) = 1.804 \text{ (cm}^2\text{)}$$

$$S_{\text{Chernivtsiregion}} = \left(\frac{3.14}{4} \right) \times (0.79^2 + 0.6^2 + 0.81^2 + 0.42^2 + 0.51^2) = 1.630 \text{ (cm}^2\text{)}$$

The calculation of the areas of the determinants influencing the number of the socially-vulnerable population in the Carpathian area is systemised in Table 9.

Thus, according to the data from Table 9, in the rating of the Carpathian area regions, the highest position in terms of the determinants influencing the number of the socially-vulnerable population is taken by the Lviv region, which has the largest area of the polygon, i.e. 2.290. The worst position is taken by the Chernivtsi region – 1.630.

Table 9. Rating of regions by the level of the determinants' impact on the socially vulnerable population

Region	Polygon area	Rating of the region by determinants
Lviv region	2.290	1
Ivano-Frankivsk region	2.082	2
Transcarpathian region	1.804	3
Chernivtsi region	1.630	4

Source: Own elaboration.

4. Conclusions

The results of the conducted research confirm that the greatest impact on the socially-vulnerable population is made by the national and economic determinants, whilst the least – by the demographic determinants. However, the last ones depend on the geographical position of the region that is also proved by calculations of the radar of the determinants influencing the socially-vulnerable population. For instance, in the Lviv region, the demographic determinants considerably influence the socially-vulnerable population, particularly during the Russo-Ukrainian War. The greatest impact of the determinants on the socially-vulnerable population in the period of the Russo-Ukrainian War can be marked in the Lviv region. Such a situation is determined by the great number of temporarily displaced people in that region. It is worth noting that since the War started, almost 2.2 million people moved across the region abroad. Particularly, among the national determinants, considerable attention should be paid to the state support in the following directions, namely maximum assistance and simplified procedure of registration and submission of the documents to receive financial aid for the internally displaced people; psychological, medical, and material support for them; provision of the educational services for children of pre-school and school age; reimbursement of the payment of utilities. The problem of employment of the temporarily displaced people should be of great concern. It is confirmed that the socially-vulnerable population feel the least impact of the administrative determinants.

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