



## Ukraine- Researched and compiled by the Refugee Documentation Centre of Ireland on Wednesday 21 February 2018

### Information on access to medical treatment

A report issued in January 2018 by *Freedom House* reviewing events of 2017 notes that:

“The government made progress in crafting and implementing a number of reforms during the year, including changes to the health care and education systems, as well as measures designed to empower local and regional administrations” (Freedom House (19 January 2018) *Freedom in the World 2018 – Ukraine*, p.1).

In December 2017 *Human Rights First* notes in a report that:

“In October 2017, Ukraine's parliament passed a long-awaited law to reform the health sector, replacing a Soviet-style model. The reform introduced an "e-health" system in which patients first register with doctors of their choice, and then doctors sign contracts with the health ministry. Payment amounts are based on patient loads, as well as the costs of procedures, hospital visits, and other services” (Human Rights First (7 December 2017) *Democracy in Danger Ukraine at a Crossroads Four Years After Euromaidan*, pp.3-4).

A report published by the *Jamestown Foundation* in November 2017 notes:

“The Ukrainian Rada (parliament) successfully passed health reform bills on June 5 and October 19” (Jamestown Foundation (21 November 2017) *Ukraine and Russia Compete in Health Reform*, p.1).

A publication in October 2017 by *Reuters* points out that:

“Ukrainians die earlier than most Europeans and patients often bribe doctors for treatment or medicine...New legislation will create a national insurance system that pays doctors by the number of patients they have. Hospitals will be paid for services through the new system, rather than receiving lump sums from regional administrations as is now. It also allows patients to choose their doctor for the first time, rather than being tied to the doctor where their residence is registered, a move the government says will encourage medics to improve and gives them less scope to demand backhanders” (Reuters (25 October 2017) *Ukraine to ramp up health spending after anti-corruption push*).

The *Financial Times* in October 2017 notes:

“Currently a large share of healthcare funding is inefficiently spent and pocketed by vested interests along layers of bureaucracy, leaving few resources for care and medical professionals' salaries. Patients are often forced to make illegal cash payments to underpaid doctors” (Financial Times (19 October 2017) *Ukraine adopts crucial healthcare reform amid political protests*).

In October 2017 *Reuters* notes:

“- Ukrainian lawmakers voted through a long-delayed overhaul of the health system...The European Union and the International Monetary Fund have been pressing for faster reform in a country where lives are more than five years shorter than the European average, according to the World Health Organization...opponents of the changes, including many opposition MPs, say the more Western-style system will force patients to pay for their medicines for the first time, leaving the poorest with no healthcare. The legislation lets patients choose their own doctor, rather than have one foisted on them - a move the government said would encourage medics to improve service and give them less opportunity to demand kickbacks for treatment. The bill also sets out which medicines are paid for by the state and which ones patients will have to buy themselves. Backers have said it would be clearer than the present system, where medicines are in theory covered by the state, but patients often have to pay to get hold of pills when supplies run short” (Reuters (19 October 2017) *Ukraine passes long-delayed health reforms praised by West*).

In October 2017 *Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty* states in a report that:

“Lawmakers in Ukraine have approved a long-awaited law reforming the health-care system replacing broken-down Soviet-era arrangements with a Western-style, tax-funded health-care insurance system...Patients will have more choice under the new legislation, which proponents say will help improve service and end bribery and kickbacks that are seen as rampant in the country's medical sector” (Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty (19 October 2017) *Ukraine Passes Long-Delayed Health Reforms Sought By West*).

The *Jamestown Foundation* in September 2017 notes:

“...Ukrainians today pay for the majority of supplies and most treatment procedures. People are forced to bribe low-paid—and often unprofessional—doctors” (Jamestown Foundation (13 September 2017) *Who Is Opposing Ukraine's Health Reform Bill?*, p.1).

A report published in August 2017 by the *Centre for Strategic and International Studies* notes that:

“Patients routinely pay for everything...” (Centre for Strategic and International Studies (18 August 2017) *Ukraine's Health Sector*, p.4).

In July 2017 the *United Nations Economic and Social Council* states in a report that:

“In health, major bottlenecks include poor quality of care, inadequate infrastructure, especially in rural areas, and the widespread practice of unofficial fees for services...In 2012, out-of-pocket payments accounted for 54 per cent of health expenditure and represent a significant barrier to the utilization of health services...” (United Nations Economic and Social Council (17 July 2017) *Country programme document: Ukraine*, pp.2-3).

No further information on this issue could be found among sources available to the RDC.

## References

Centre for Strategic and International Studies (18 August 2017) *Ukraine's Health Sector*

[https://csis-prod.s3.amazonaws.com/s3fs-public/publication/170817\\_Twigg\\_UkrainesHealthSector\\_Web.pdf?t1w53xwygX6qBDTqWr5CiBU6oDWyptRc#page=5&zoom=auto,-13,344](https://csis-prod.s3.amazonaws.com/s3fs-public/publication/170817_Twigg_UkrainesHealthSector_Web.pdf?t1w53xwygX6qBDTqWr5CiBU6oDWyptRc#page=5&zoom=auto,-13,344)

Attachment not included due to IT limitations

Accessed Wednesday 21 February 2018

Financial Times (19 October 2017) *Ukraine adopts crucial healthcare reform amid political protests*

<https://www.ft.com/content/6358591f-2785-34b7-a1fe-b0d075a014a3>

Accessed Wednesday 21 February 2018

Freedom House (19 January 2018) *Freedom in the World 2018 – Ukraine*

<http://www.refworld.org/cgi-bin/texis/vtx/rwmain?page=printdoc&docid=5a65b23726>

Accessed Wednesday 21 February 2018

Human Rights First (7 December 2017) *Democracy in Danger Ukraine at a Crossroads Four Years After Euromaidan*

<http://www.ein.org.uk/members/country-report/democracy-danger-ukraine-crossroads-four-years-after-euromaidan>

This is a subscription database

Accessed Wednesday 21 February 2018

Jamestown Foundation (21 November 2017) *Ukraine and Russia Compete in Health Reform*

<http://www.refworld.org/cgi-bin/texis/vtx/rwmain?page=printdoc&docid=5a2113084>

Accessed Wednesday 21 February 2018

Jamestown Foundation (13 September 2017) *Who Is Opposing Ukraine's Health Reform Bill?*

<http://www.refworld.org/cgi-bin/texis/vtx/rwmain?page=printdoc&docid=59bba7894>

Accessed Wednesday 21 February 2018

Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty (19 October 2017) *Ukraine Passes Long-Delayed Health Reforms Sought By West*

<http://www.ein.org.uk/print/members/country-report/ukraine-passes-long-delayed-health-reforms-sought-west>

This is a subscription database

Accessed Wednesday 21 February 2018

Reuters (25 October 2017) *Ukraine to ramp up health spending after anti-corruption push*

<https://www.reuters.com/article/us-ukraine-crisis-reforms-health/ukraine-to-ramp-up-health-spending-after-anti-corruption-push-idUSKBN1CU1UE>

Accessed Wednesday 21 February 2018

Reuters (19 October 2017) *Ukraine passes long-delayed health reforms praised by West*

<https://www.reuters.com/article/us-ukraine-crisis-reforms/ukraine-passes-long-delayed-health-reforms-praised-by-west-idUSKBN1CO1YT>

Accessed Wednesday 21 February 2018

United Nations Economic and Social Council (17 July 2017) *Country programme document: Ukraine*

<http://www.refworld.org/docid/59ad2c3a4.html>

Accessed Wednesday 21 February 2018

### **Sources Consulted**

Amnesty International  
BBC News  
Electronic Immigration Network  
European Country of Origin Information Network  
Freedom House  
Google  
Human Rights Watch  
Immigration and Refugee Board of Canada  
Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre  
International Crisis Group  
IRIN News  
Lexis Nexis  
Minority Rights Group International  
Online Newspapers  
Refugee Documentation Centre E-Library  
Refugee Documentation Centre Query Database  
Reliefweb  
Reuters  
United Kingdom Home Office  
United States Department of State  
UNHCR Refworld