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THE IMPACT OF GLOBAL ISSUES ON DEMOGRAPHIC SECURITY

In today's dynamic world, the issue of demographic security has become a key indicator of a state's viability. Demographic processes are no longer isolated—they are under unprecedented pressure from global challenges facing humanity, which are transforming the structure of society, altering migration flows, and influencing the reproductive behavior of populations.

Global challenges facing humanity are extremely complex issues that affect all of human society and require coordinated, sustained, and effective efforts to address them. Among contemporary global problems, four main groups are distinguished: environmental (global warming, air and water pollution, soil degradation, loss of biodiversity), demographic (population explosion, population aging, uneven distribution across the globe, migration), political (the problem of war and peace, the threat of nuclear catastrophe, global terrorism, ethnic conflicts), and economic (shortages of raw materials and resources, the energy crisis, unemployment, and inequality between regions and countries of the world) [1, p. 53–54].

Demographic issues refer to changes in the structure of the world's population that can have a significant impact on the economic, social, and environmental dimensions of society. The causes of these problems include low birth rates in many countries; high mortality rates linked to poor living conditions or inadequate healthcare, population aging (increased life expectancy and declining birth rates), low levels of economic development in countries (poverty, hunger, unemployment, and low wages can significantly influence people's decisions regarding having children), and migration (the scale of external migration can affect demographic structures, especially in countries with high emigration rates) [1, p. 54–55].

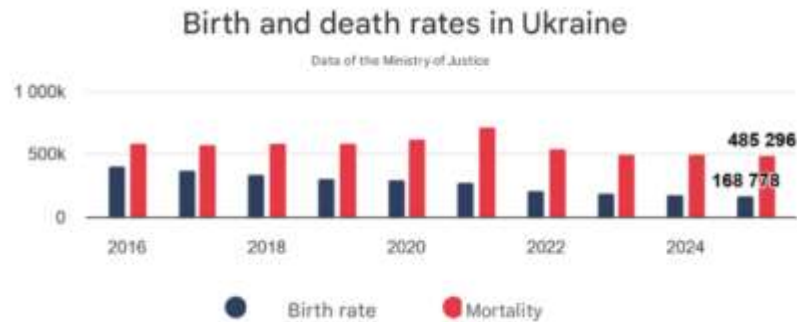
The critical nature of the demographic situation in 2026 stems from the convergence of military, political, environmental, and economic challenges. This “multi-crisis” triggers irreversible processes of population decline across entire geographic regions, making depopulation one of the major threats of our time, which is most acutely felt in rural and economically depressed regions.

Statistical data confirm the severity of these trends. In countries at the epicenter of geopolitical and economic crises, including Ukraine, the death rate has begun to significantly exceed the birth rate, creating what is known as a “demographic cross.”

According to UN representative DiCarlo, the civilian mortality rate in Ukraine as a result of the Russian invasion has risen by 59% compared to the same period in 2024 [6]. Unfortunately, there are no reliable official statistics on the number of fallen defenders. However, media reports indicate that approximately 55,000 Ukrainian defenders have been killed.

In 2025, 168,778 children were born in Ukraine, while 485,296 people died. The demographic “math” of war is simple and harsh: the ratio is 1 to 3, with deaths prevailing. Over the course of the year, the mortality rate in Ukraine decreased by 2%, and the birth

rate by 4.5%, according to data published by the OpenDataBot service, citing statistics from the Ministry of Justice (see Fig. 1) [4].



Reference [4]

According to the results of our own sociological survey, economic instability is the key barrier to the population's ability to realize its reproductive plans under current conditions. All respondents (100%) identified low income levels and general financial instability as determining factors in postponing childbirth. This trend is exacerbated by uncertainty about the future, directly caused by Russia's full-scale military aggression against Ukraine. Alongside general macroeconomic risks, social and living conditions have become particularly acute. In particular, for 66.7% of respondents, the lack of their own housing and unfavorable conditions for meeting basic living needs (including interruptions in electricity, water, and heat) are obstacles to having their first child [3, p. 89]. Thus, the combination of these threats is shifting reproductive behavior toward "social waiting," which in the long term will deepen the demographic crisis.

The situation is compounded by the global trend of population aging, which has a significant impact on the socioeconomic development of countries. "Ukraine is among the thirty countries in the world with the oldest populations. Nearly 22 percent of Ukrainians are aged 65 and older," stated Minister of Social Policy, Family, and Unity Denys Ulyutin during a meeting with Masashi Nakagome, Japan's Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary to Ukraine [5]. At the same time, migration processes have reached the scale of a national crisis. According to the National Bank of Ukraine and government reports, as of the end of 2025, over 7.5 million Ukrainians had left the country since the start of the war, and the total number of those abroad is estimated at about 25 million, including earlier emigration. These figures are not merely statistics—they reflect a mass exodus caused by the war, economic hardships, and the search for safety [2].

It should be noted that the most far-reaching consequence of the current demographic crisis is the destruction of the nation's young potential. The depletion of the active and reproductive core of society—due to the deaths of men of working age on the front lines and the mass emigration of women and children abroad—creates a critical gap in the generational chain that cannot be compensated for in the short term. This distortion is exacerbated by other global challenges. In particular, the rapid aging of the population combined with a youth deficit is altering the age structure of society and straining social systems.

At the same time, economic instability—manifested in rising poverty, unemployment, and low incomes—serves as the primary psychological barrier driving citizens toward "social expectations." Combined with large-scale emigration, these

factors entrench the human capital deficit, depriving the state of the internal resources needed for self-renewal.

Thus, retaining and returning the reproductive-age population is not merely a social challenge but a matter of national survival; without resolving this issue, the state's further economic and cultural development faces the threat of stagnation.

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