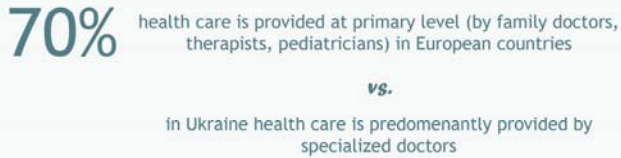


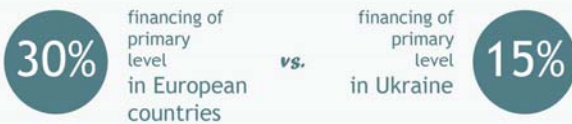
HEALTHCARE REFORM IN UKRAINE: CHALLENGES AND FACTS

MORE CARE PROVIDED BY SPECIALIZED DOCTORS



HEALTHCARE SYSTEM: In Ukraine, polyclinics *de facto* act as primary healthcare facilities, that by the definition should be the first contact of a patient in the healthcare system. As a result, in Ukraine health care is provided predominantly by specialized doctors, while in European countries 70% of health care is provided by primary health specialists – family doctors, general practitioners, therapists and pediatricians. Therefore, the structure of financing by type of health provider is different.

INSUFFICIENT FINANCING OF PRIMARY LEVEL



While reforming healthcare in pilot regions the Cabinet of Ministers changed the distribution of funds from about 15% of total financing going to primary level doctors to near 28% allocated to newly created centers regardless the structure of health care system in the regions. Secondary level of healthcare provision, currently represented by clinical and diagnostic centers and hospitals with specialized medical personnel, did not receive compensation for the previous low level of financing. As a result, these facilities could hardly finance even current expenditures. This further increased already high tensions between health establishments of different levels. Partially this is due to the vague understanding of their future by specialized doctors, who fear possible dismissal or necessity to train to become a family doctor.

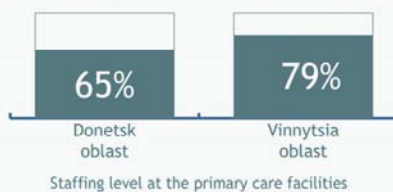
INSUFFICIENT NUMBER OF YOUNG DOCTORS



STAFF: In the beginning of the reform, all regions of Ukraine faced the same challenge of inadequate number of primary level practitioners – family doctors, therapists and pediatricians. The staffing levels do not exceed 80% of the required number of doctors.

INADEQUATE NUMBER OF DOCTORS

Number of doctors at primary care facilities is insufficient



Besides, 60% of pediatricians and therapists are either of pre-retirement or retirement age, which questions the rationality and appropriateness to retrain them during 6 months courses to become a family doctor. Focus groups discussions and in-depth interviews indicate that therapists with working record of more than 20-30 years are not ready to become family doctors and provide healthcare to children, while pediatricians with the same working record do not want to be responsible for caring for elderly people. Therefore, the Government should primarily focus on teaching family doctors in medical universities and academies. They also should revise plans of internship of family doctors.

LOW WAGES



Actual wages of doctors do not match the level declared by authorities. Wage increase was at 30%.

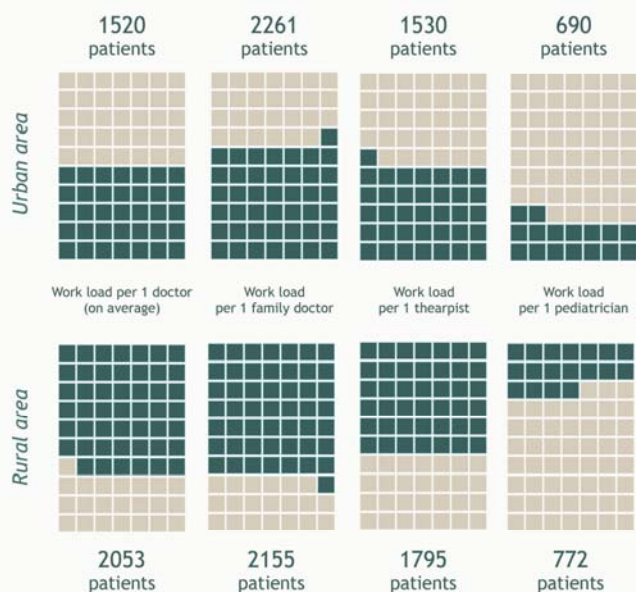
MOTIVATION: Expansion of competences in provision of health care by former therapists and pediatricians was not compensated by sufficient increase in wages. While the Ministry of Health reported that wages increased to UAH 5-6 thous., while *de facto* they increased by only 30% from the low base level (to UAH 2400-2900). To receive high wages family doctors need to have sufficiently more patients than defined by the norm.

UAH
5000-
6000



To receive wage at UAH 5000-6000 family doctor should have 3000 patients.

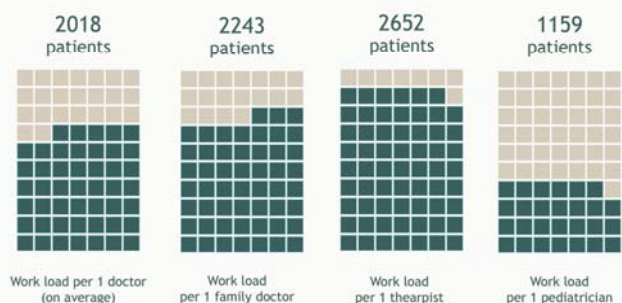
WORK LOAD OF DOCTORS AT PRIMARY LEVEL VINNYTSIA OBLAST



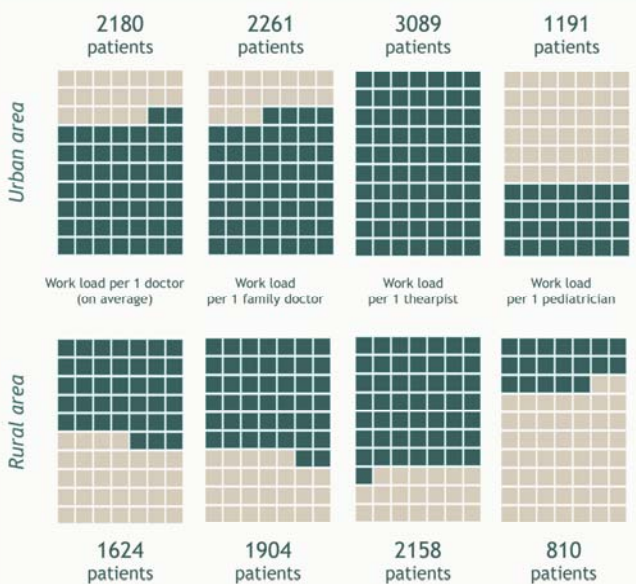
WORK LOAD PER 1 FAMILY DOCTOR :
1500 PATIENTS IN URBAN AREA, 1200 - IN RURAL AREA

WORK LOAD: Lack of sufficient quantity of primary level doctors resulted in higher work load than set by norm. This is especially a case for rural areas.

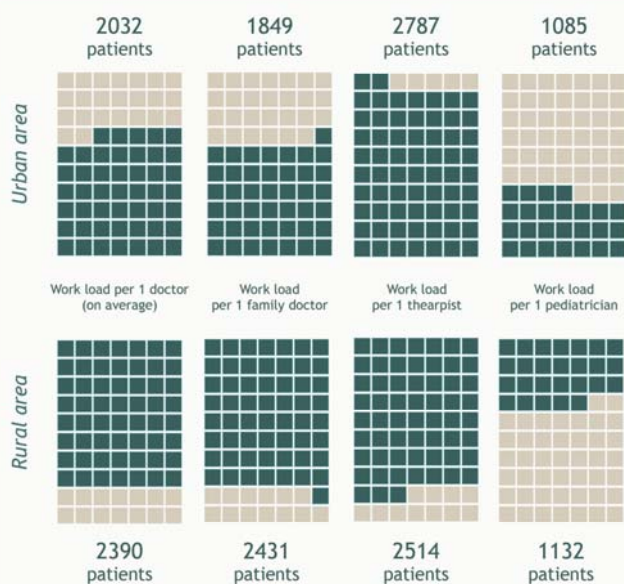
WORK LOAD OF DOCTORS AT PRIMARY LEVEL KYIV CITY



WORK LOAD OF DOCTORS AT PRIMARY LEVEL DONETSK OBLAST



WORK LOAD OF DOCTORS AT PRIMARY LEVEL DNIPROPETROVSK OBLAST



Between January 2012 and October 2013 Institute for Economic Research and Policy Consulting implemented the project "Analysis of healthcare reform in Ukraine", which was supported by the International Renaissance. The project documents and results are published at the IER's web-site: www.ier.com.ua