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For correspondence: State Service of Ukraine for Medicines and Drug Control  
120-A Berestejska Avenue  
Kyiv, 03115 Ukraine  
E-mail: [v\\_korolenko@yahoo.com](mailto:v_korolenko@yahoo.com)

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ORCID IDs

Vasyl Lazoryshynets:

<https://orcid.org/0000-0002-1748-561X>

Volodymyr Korolenko:

<https://orcid.org/0000-0002-9735-0896>

Bogdan Bozhuk:

<https://orcid.org/0000-0002-8089-2840>

Viktoriia Korolenko:

<https://orcid.org/0000-0002-5483-4620>

Authors' personal contributions:

The concept: Vasyl Lazoryshynets,

Volodymyr Korolenko;

Collection and analysis of data:

Volodymyr Korolenko, Bogdan

Bozhuk, Viktoriia Korolenko;

Writing: Volodymyr Korolenko,

Bogdan Bozhuk, Viktoriia Korolenko;

Editing and approval of the final version

of the article: Vasyl Lazoryshynets,

Volodymyr Korolenko.

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## Original article

# THE ROLE OF GLOBAL HEALTH DIPLOMACY IN THE ADVANCEMENT OF UKRAINE'S NATIONAL INTERESTS: A REVIEW OF CURRENT APPROACHES

Vasyl Lazoryshynets<sup>1</sup>, Volodymyr Korolenko<sup>1,2,3</sup>, Bogdan Bozhuk<sup>3,4</sup>, Viktoriia Korolenko<sup>5</sup>

<sup>1</sup>National Academy of Medical Sciences of Ukraine, Kyiv, Ukraine

<sup>2</sup>State Service of Ukraine for Medicines and Drug Control, Kyiv, Ukraine

<sup>3</sup>University of Economics and Law KROK, Kyiv, Ukraine

<sup>4</sup>State Institution "Kundiiev Institute of Occupational Health of the National Academy of Medical Sciences of Ukraine," Kyiv, Ukraine

<sup>5</sup>Bogomolets National Medical University, Kyiv, Ukraine

**Background.** In today's globalized world, Global Health Diplomacy (GHD) plays an increasingly vital role, as cross-border health threats demand coordinated, multilateral responses. For Ukraine—especially in the context of full-scale war and the challenges of post-war recovery—GHD serves as a key mechanism for integration into global cooperation frameworks, attracting international support, and building soft power through humanitarian and health-focused diplomacy. Modern GHD encompasses several interconnected approaches, each shaped by the nature of participating actors, strategic objectives, and the political context of engagement. Core models include classical diplomacy, multilateral diplomacy, and health security diplomacy, which often function in parallel and complement one another, depending on global and regional dynamics.

**Aim:** To analyze the state of evolution and modern approaches to global diplomacy in the field of health, with an emphasis on its strategic importance for Ukraine in the context of pandemics, war, humanitarian crisis and post-war reconstruction.

**Research methods.** Interdisciplinary systemic approach, combining the method of system analysis, comparative method, case analysis method, documentary analysis, and elements of SWOT analysis.

**Results.** A SWOT analysis of GHD approaches highlighted both opportunities and challenges for Ukraine. In recent years, the country has intensified its involvement in global health initiatives, combining domestic reforms with international cooperation. Partnerships with WHO, UNICEF, GAVI, and the Global Fund were established, along with integration into the European health and financial space. Since the start of the full-scale war, GHD has become a key tool for responding to humanitarian and health crises. Scientific and mental health diplomacy have emerged as strategic directions, making GHD an important platform for international coordination and advancing Ukraine's foreign policy goals through health-focused actions.

**Conclusions.** Effective health diplomacy requires cross-sectoral coordination, professional capacity-building, and sustained political support. Ukraine has succeeded in mobilizing humanitarian aid, evacuating patients, and maintaining its healthcare system through active cooperation with international partners. GHD has emerged as a tool of soft power, enhancing Ukraine's international image and creating opportunities for recovery through joint programs and participation in European health initiatives. In addition, scientific and medical diplomacy facilitates the integration of Ukrainian institutions into the European research space and strengthens the country's engagement in global discussions on health, biosecurity, and ethics.

**Keywords:** COVID-19 pandemic, Global Health Diplomacy, state of war, emergency situation, prevention, healthcare, public health, health policy, mental health.

## Introduction

Global Health Diplomacy (GHD; synonyms: medical diplomacy, health diplomacy) is an interdisciplinary, multi-level process of diplomatic negotiations and collective responses aimed at shaping and managing global health policy. Summarizing the definitions of recent years, it can be concluded that GHD encompasses multi-level and multi-actor negotiations that shape and regulate the global political climate in the field of health [1-3]. All authors working on this topic emphasize that GHD combines the art of diplomacy with the field of global health and the desire to reduce inequalities and ensure human rights.

In today's globalized world, the importance of GHD is growing, as cross-border health challenges (pandemics, climate disasters, migration) require an international, collective response [3-5]. For Ukraine, especially in the context of the full-scale war and post-war reconstruction, the relevance of GHD lies in integrating the country into global cooperation systems, attracting international support, and building soft power through humanitarian and medical diplomacy. Examples of successful diplomatic multilateral projects include, in particular, such as the Taiwan-Czech Republic Agreement on the Restoration of Ukraine's Medical Sector (2023)—a demonstration of democratic solidarity through health diplomacy [4; 6], as well as supranational platforms such as the Summit of First Ladies and Gentlemen—an international initiative that brings together first ladies and gentlemen to address global challenges, initiated by the First Lady of Ukraine, Olena Zelenska.

Historically, GHD has evolved from traditional core diplomacy, in which countries have concluded intergovernmental health agreements, such as the WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control or the International Health Regulations (IHR). However, over time, the concept has expanded to a multistakeholder approach, including international organizations, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), and the private sector as actors; and health security diplomacy in response to pandemics or biological threats has emerged [4; 7].

Thus, modern global health diplomacy is based on several interrelated approaches, each reflecting the specificities of the actors involved, the objectives, and the context of political interaction. Leading approaches within GHD include core or classical diplomacy, multistakeholder diplomacy, and health security diplomacy. These models are not mutually exclusive; they often coexist in parallel, complementing each other depending on the global or regional context.

*Core Diplomacy.* This approach represents “traditional” intergovernmental diplomacy, in which countries conclude bilateral or multilateral agreements on health issues. The primary channels are ministries of foreign affairs, health and permanent missions to international organizations (in particular, the United Nations (UN), the World Health Organization (WHO), the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF). Examples of the results of this approach include the adoption of the IHR, the WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control, and global agreements to strengthen primary health care systems (the Alma-Ata Declaration of 1978, the Astana Declaration of 2018).

In recent years, especially as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, the need to improve this level of diplomacy has intensified, from coordinating data exchange to negotiating a global agreement on pandemics (the WHO Pandemic Agreement) [3; 8; 9].

*Multistakeholder Diplomacy.* In the second model, diplomacy is carried out not only by countries, but also by a wide range of other actors: international organizations (WHO, World Bank, Vaccine Alliance - GAVI), non-governmental organizations (Médecins Sans Frontières, MSF), the private sector (pharmaceutical companies, technology corporations, etc.) and the academic community. This approach has become particularly significant during the implementation of initiatives such as COVID-19 Vaccines Global Access—COVAX (a global vaccine distribution mechanism), where interactions among governments, businesses, and civil society have enabled the mobilization of resources and ensured access to vaccines for low-income countries.

This model contributes to the development of more flexible, adaptive, and context-sensitive solutions that take into account the interests of different parties. At the same time, it can create challenges regarding transparency, legitimacy and accountability for decisions made [3; 10].

*Health Security Diplomacy.* This model emphasizes health as a key element of national, regional and global security. This approach has been activated in the context of Public health emergencies of international concern (Ebola, COVID-19), biological threats, climate change, military conflicts and mass migrations. The main focus is on rapid response,

coordination of epidemiological surveillance, strengthening of health systems, and the development of long-term biosecurity.

In the case of Ukraine, this approach has become particularly relevant after 2022, when the issue of providing medical care in conditions of full-scale war, epidemiological risks and destroyed infrastructure became the subject of international negotiations and humanitarian cooperation (for example, support from the WHO, the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), European Union (EU) institutions). This approach allows combining foreign policy interests with the ethics of global solidarity and human rights [3, 11].

GHD is also closely related to the concepts of “soft power,” security and human rights. Through global medical assistance (medicines, vaccines, technical support), countries can build a positive international image and voluntary influence, which is characteristic of soft power [12]. On the other hand, GHD uses security tools to fight pandemics and respond to bioterrorism—concepts of health security as a component of human security.

Finally, GHD supports the principles of human rights, equity, and global justice: ensuring that all countries have access to healthcare, vaccines, medicines, and medical devices, and that community participation in international decision-making is an ethical dimension of health diplomacy [7; 11].

**Objective:** to analyze the state of evolution and current approaches to GHD, with an emphasis on its strategic importance for Ukraine in the context of pandemics, war, humanitarian crisis, and post-war reconstruction.

**Materials and methods**

The methodological basis of the study is an interdisciplinary systemic approach that combines: the method of system analysis—for a comprehensive study of GHD as a political, humanitarian and security phenomenon; the comparative method—for comparing three key models of GHD (classical, multistakeholder, health security diplomacy) in terms of their relevance to the Ukrainian context; the method of case analysis—for studying examples of international cooperation in the field of health care for Ukraine (COVAX, EU–Ukraine Health Task Force); documentary analysis—for working with regulatory acts, strategies of international institutions and official sources; elements of SWOT analysis—for assessing the strengths and weaknesses of the application of GHD in Ukraine. The study used the following sources and materials: scientific articles published in professional international journals over the past 5 years; official documents of WHO, EU, GAVI, COVAX, and other intergovernmental initiatives in the field of global health; analytical reports of international organizations (WHO, World Bank, Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), USAID, European Commission Directorate-General for Health and Food Safety (DG SANTE); case studies related to Ukraine: international memoranda, examples of humanitarian and medical assistance from donors, WHO data on the consequences of the war for the Ukrainian healthcare system.

**Results and discussion**

SWOT analysis of the leading approaches within the GHD framework showed their opportunities and challenges, taking into account the Ukrainian context (Table 1).

Table 1

**Comparison of three main approaches to global health diplomacy, taking into account the Ukrainian context**

Approach	Strengths/Opportunities	Weaknesses/Challenges
Core or classical diplomacy (traditional intergovernmental diplomacy)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Has official weight and legitimacy</li> <li>– Ensures Ukraine’s participation in negotiations at the global level (WHO, UN, EU)</li> <li>– Can provide bilateral assistance (memoranda, support packages, training of personnel)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Limited human resources in the field of health diplomacy</li> <li>– Unequal negotiating resources (especially in crisis conditions)</li> <li>– Lengthy bureaucratic procedures</li> </ul>

<p>Multistakeholder diplomacy (NGOs, international organizations, private sector)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Flexibility and speed of response</li> <li>- Large-scale humanitarian support (WHO, UNICEF, MSF, International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), USAID)</li> <li>- Possibility of localized targeted assistance (medical equipment, medicines, mobile clinics and pharmacies)</li> <li>- Expanding partnerships beyond government structures</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Possible lack of coordination, conflicts of interest between the government, NGOs and business</li> <li>- Risk of duplication of efforts or loss of control</li> <li>- May be temporary, dependent on donors</li> </ul>
<p>Health security diplomacy (in the context of war, pandemics, biological threats)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- High priority for the international community</li> <li>- Improving the security image of Ukraine (as a country that is fighting challenges to global stability)</li> <li>- Activating the medical component in civil-military relations (e.g., post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), injuries, vaccination during war)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Significant dependence on external sources (financing, supplies)</li> <li>- Vulnerability to political changes (e.g. Ukraine’s priority for donors may decrease)</li> <li>- Insufficient domestic health security infrastructure (early detection system, response stocks)</li> </ul>

The history of Ukraine’s participation in global medical diplomacy, including in overcoming the COVID-19 pandemic

Over the past five years, Ukraine has significantly increased its participation in global health initiatives, demonstrating a harmonious combination of domestic reforms and international cooperation. Partnerships with leading organizations, including WHO, UNICEF, the Global Fund and GAVI, have become an important factor in combating the spread of HIV, tuberculosis and COVID-19.

Even before the start of the full-scale war, Ukraine remained among the countries in Europe with the highest prevalence of HIV and tuberculosis, which necessitated an urgent need for external support. Thanks to the involvement of the Country Coordination Mechanism (CCM) under the auspices of the Global Fund, large-scale financing was provided for antiretroviral therapy (ART), diagnostics, prevention, and systematic monitoring [13].

The emergency funding provided an emergency allocation of over USD 27 million in 2022–2023, in addition to a core grant of approximately USD 165.5 million for 2024–2026. This has helped maintain access to HIV and tuberculosis services, particularly in areas affected by conflict [13].

Civil society organizations and patient communities have been key drivers in ensuring continuity of care. Thanks to the community-driven governance model implemented by NGOs such as Positive Women, 100% Life, and Alliance for Public Health, no disruptions in ART provision have been recorded even six months after the start of full-scale war [14].

In the international scientific community, in particular Lancet HIV (2022), a unified European approach to providing care to people living with HIV in conflict settings was presented, with an emphasis on rational resource allocation, integration of clinical facilities, and prioritization of vulnerable populations [15].

As part of the COVAX global vaccine distribution mechanism, coordinated by GAVI, WHO and UNICEF, Ukraine has received emergency supplies of COVID-19 vaccines. This initiative is part of the broader ACT (Access to COVID-19 Tools) Accelerator program, which aims to ensure equal access to tools to combat the pandemic [16].

UNICEF has focused its activities, in particular, on maintaining routine immunization of children and preventing disruptions to the “cold chain” — aspects that are critically important in wartime conditions [17].

An example of effective interaction between Ukrainian and international structures was the successful overcoming of the polio outbreak in 2021–2023. Under the coordination of the Ministry of Health, WHO, UNICEF, and the Global Polio Eradication Initiative (GPEI), the outbreak was completely localized, and a large-scale immunization campaign was implemented even under military pressure, allowing the outbreak to be declared over in September 2023 [18].

Bilateral cooperation within the framework of European integration processes remained an important direction. Ukraine became a participant in the EU4Health initiative. It implemented a number of EU projects aimed at modernizing the public health system, digital transformation, reforming the blood service, developing professional education, and harmonizing national legislation with EU law in 2019–2025 [19].

Participation in global forums and donor conferences, such as the Ukraine Recovery Conference (URC), the Summit of First Ladies and Gentlemen, provided representatives of the Ministry of Health, public organizations, and patient associations with the opportunity not only to present Ukraine's experience, but also to participate in the formation of strategies and mobilization of long-term support [13; 14].

Thus, in recent years, there has been an organic combination of national reforms with international initiatives: a strategic partnership has been established with WHO, UNICEF, GAVI, and the Global Fund; programs in the field of HIV, tuberculosis, COVID-19 have been implemented; integration into the European regulatory and financial space has been ensured; Ukraine's diplomatic presence in global medical processes has been strengthened. All this strengthens the country's position as an active and responsible participant in global medical diplomacy.

#### *Global Health Diplomacy during a full-scale Russo-Ukrainian war: challenges, opportunities and strategic potential*

With the beginning of full-scale Russian aggression against Ukraine in February 2022, GHD has gained particular relevance as a tool for responding to a multidimensional humanitarian, security, and medical crisis. In the new environment, GHD has become an important platform for coordinating efforts among Ukrainian authorities, international organizations, and partner countries, ensuring not only support for the healthcare system but also the implementation of broader foreign policy goals through humanitarian and health-oriented actions.

One of the key areas of GHD in wartime was humanitarian diplomacy, which included establishing mechanisms for the delivery of critical medicines, operating mobile hospitals, and evacuating wounded and seriously ill patients from active combat zones. In this context, initiatives under the auspices of WHO, ICRC, and MSF, as well as numerous intergovernmental bilateral mechanisms responsible for direct medical assistance and transport logistics for evacuation, have played an important role [20].

International cooperation, primarily with the UN, the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), the EU, and partner governments, has proven crucial for stabilizing the national health system. Ukraine has received support through the WHO Emergency Response Framework, the rescEU system (the reserve capacity of the European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations), and NATO initiatives on medical evacuation and equipment supply [21].

Joint actions with organizations such as OCHA, UNICEF, and GAVI have ensured a rapid response to medical challenges and coordination of humanitarian missions [22].

At the same time, GHD faced numerous challenges from the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs during the war, including disruptions to logistical chains, a lack of protected humanitarian corridors, fragmented coordination of donor efforts, and threats to information security. Attacks on civilian infrastructure, including medical facilities, have complicated the implementation of humanitarian missions, requiring the deployment of adaptive models of medical care, such as telemedicine and mobile teams [23].

Medical assistance to Ukraine has gained importance not only as a form of humanitarian solidarity but also as a tool for donor countries to exercise soft power. Through their support for Ukraine, partners simultaneously demonstrate their commitment to international law, the principles of humanity, and global health security. This allows countries participating in GHD initiatives to build a positive international image, strengthen interstate ties, and lay the foundation for long-term partnerships in the field of medical technology, research, and education [4].

In the context of post-war reconstruction, the role of medical diplomacy will be significantly strengthened. GHD can serve as a tool for resource mobilization to rehabilitate damaged infrastructure, promote mental health, and strengthen the primary health care system. Multilateral partnerships with the WHO, the EU, the G7 countries, and global funds have the potential to serve as catalysts for systemic healthcare reforms in Ukraine in the post-war period [24].

A significant factor in the transformative impact of GHD is the possibility of Ukraine's integration into new European and global initiatives, in particular the European Health Union, EU4Health, and HERA (Health Emergency Preparedness and Response Authority). Accession to the EU opens up prospects for Ukraine's participation in the formulation of a common health policy, including in risk management, combating infectious threats, and developing digital health systems [25; 26].

The use of GHD tools also creates opportunities to promote Ukraine's national interests within global health structures. Devising a clear foreign policy in the field of health will allow Ukraine to act not only as an object of assistance, but also as a subject of international politics—a participant in global debates on medical security, accessibility of treatment, and the fight against inequality in health care [27].

For the strategic development of GHD in Ukraine, it is advisable to consider the creation of an institutional mechanism that would include:

- institutionalization of the position of health attaché at diplomatic missions;
- development of multilateral and bilateral partnerships with specialized structures;
- establishment of scientific and analytical platforms to support GHD policy (policy labs, consortia with international universities);
- integration of GHD competencies into training programs for civil servants and health care professionals.

Thus, GHD during a war appears not only as a crisis response tool but also as a systemic platform for restoring, reforming, and strengthening Ukraine's role in the international health system.

Prospects for scientific and medical diplomacy of Ukraine: integration into the European scientific space

In the modern global landscape, science and medical diplomacy are emerging as a strategic direction of foreign policy that combines academic mobility, international scientific cooperation, joint research, data exchange, and involvement in global medical and scientific platforms. For Ukraine, which is undergoing a healthcare system transformation in wartime conditions and is striving for full integration into the European Union, this tool is particularly important.

One of the key prerequisites for activating science and medical diplomacy has been the deepening of cooperation with the institutions of the European Union, primarily within the framework of the Horizon Europe, EU4Health, and Digital Europe programs. Ukrainian scientific institutions, including the National Academy of Medical Sciences of Ukraine (NAMS), participate in joint research projects with leading academic centers in the EU in molecular medicine, translational medicine, biosafety, pharmacology, and digital medicine [28].

The international scientific community is paying special attention to strengthening Ukraine's role as an active partner in the European system of academic expertise and knowledge exchange. In this context, an important step was the promotion of the application of the NAMS of Ukraine to join the Federation of European Academies of Medicine (FEAM)—the most influential platform that unites national medical academies of the EU countries and performs an advisory function for European institutions in the field of health policy, science and ethics [29].

Membership of the NAMS in FEAM opens up new opportunities for:

- inclusion of Ukrainian academicians in working groups on preparing recommendations for the European Commission;
- participation in inter-academic projects in the fields of public health, combating antimicrobial resistance, rare diseases, and immunoprophylaxis;

- expanding access to analytical platforms that influence the development of EU policies in the field of biomedical research.

On September 4–5, 2025, the President of the National Academy of Medical Sciences of Ukraine, Academician Vasyl Lazoryshynets, together with the Head of the International Relations Department, Andriy Butenko, held an online meeting with the leadership of FEAM: President, Professor Ferry C. Breedveld, and Operations Director, Ms. Louise Abboud.

As a result of the conversation, the National Academy of Medical Sciences of Ukraine officially submitted its application for membership in FEAM and received confirmation of its membership [30].

In addition, Ukrainian scientific institutions are actively developing cooperation through academic alliances, in particular through the European University Alliances, European Cooperation in Science and Technology (COST Actions), and the European Research Area (ERA). This creates conditions for joint clinical trials, interdisciplinary research, and the development of digital tools for assessing population health.

In wartime, academic diplomacy also serves to preserve and adapt scientific potential. Support programs for Ukrainian researchers (e.g., ERA4Ukraine, Science4Ukraine, special scholarships of the Max Planck Society, the German Academic Exchange Service DAAD, and the European Molecular Biology Organization (EMBO) provide mobility, access to laboratories, and the preservation of scientific schools and research projects [31].

At the same time, the digital transformation of the scientific sphere continues, which contributes to the integration of Ukraine into the European Open Science Cloud (EOSC), the development of national data registries, and participation in trans-European information infrastructures, in particular ELIXIR (European life-sciences infrastructure for biological information), BBMRI (European Research Infrastructure for biobanking and biomolecular resources), and ECRIN (European Clinical Research Infrastructure Network) [32].

In the future, it is advisable to consolidate the institutional framework of scientific and medical diplomacy, which would include:

- introduction of a mechanism for interdepartmental coordination of GHD and scientific diplomacy in the field of healthcare;
- development of diplomatic training for scientists and, especially, heads of scientific institutions;
- establishment of joint scientific and political platforms between Ukraine and the EU.

Thus, scientific and medical diplomacy acquires systemic importance for post-war reconstruction, the modernization of the healthcare sector, and the strengthening of Ukraine's international subjectivity within the global scientific and medical ecosystem.

#### *Mental health and medical diplomacy: the Ukrainian dimension in a global context*

The COVID-19 pandemic and the increase in protracted humanitarian crises, including armed conflicts, have led to a significant increase in the prevalence of mental disorders, among which depression, anxiety disorders and post-traumatic stress disorder dominate. The impact of these factors goes beyond the medical sphere and is directly reflected in socio-economic indicators. According to estimates by the OECD, the economic losses associated with mental disorders in member countries reach up to 4% of gross domestic product, mainly due to reduced labor productivity and the level of participation of the population in economic activity [33]. For the European Union and the United Kingdom, this amounts to more than USD 600 billion annually [34].

International recognition of this problem determines new approaches to shaping health policy. In the World Mental Health Report 2022, the World Health Organization identifies three strategic directions for transforming mental health systems: prioritizing them, scaling up services, and deep systemic change [35]. These provisions serve as a roadmap for integrating mental health issues into foreign policy and diplomatic processes.

In Ukraine, interest in mental health issues has increased significantly due to full-scale military operations and their humanitarian consequences. An important step was joining the WHO Special Initiative for Mental Health in 2021,

which involves building a management system in this area, strengthening human resources, expanding access to services, and protecting the rights of people with mental disorders [36].

In 2022, the Ministry of Health, the Office of the President, WHO, and the Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC) developed a multisectoral roadmap for the development of the mental health and psychosocial support system within the National Mental Health and Psychosocial Support Program, initiated by the First Lady of Ukraine, Olena Zelenska. The document established clear roles for different sectors—health, education, social protection, and civil society—in the field of MHPSS [37].

Public diplomacy also plays an important role in promoting international awareness of mental health issues. The national program “How Are U?”, launched by the First Lady of Ukraine, has been an example of engaging international partners and leveraging global expertise to strengthen the national mental health system [38].

Mental health diplomacy tools are based on a combination of complementary approaches [8]. In particular, forum diplomacy involves active participation in international and regional platforms where the health agenda is shaped. Normative diplomacy includes implementing internationally recognized documents, such as the Comprehensive Mental Health Action Plan 2013–2030 [35] and the IASC Guidelines on MHPSS in Emergency Settings [37]. Financial diplomacy focuses on using proven economic indicators, such as GDP losses due to mental disorders, to justify the need for resource mobilization. Humanitarian diplomacy involves integrating standards, including the Minimum Service Package for MHPSS, into crisis response mechanisms and humanitarian programs [37].

Taking the above into account, it is recommended to integrate mental health issues into Ukraine’s foreign policy strategies and representative documents for international forums [35]. It is important to enshrine the international standards CMHAP and IASC Guidelines in national legislation [36, 37]. In addition, it is necessary to develop interdepartmental financial strategies to attract international funding [33], deepen international partnerships through participation in professional networks and intersectoral initiatives, and use national programs as a public diplomacy tool to present the Ukrainian experience.

## Conclusions

The experience of Russia’s full-scale war against Ukraine has highlighted the key role of GHD as a tool for ensuring the sustainability of the healthcare system, mobilizing international support, and promoting national interests on the world stage. An analysis of GHD’s strengths and weaknesses in 2022–2025 enables us to draw several strategic conclusions.

One of the most important lessons is that effective health diplomacy requires clear intersectoral coordination, professional training of personnel, institutional consolidation, and political support at the highest level. Ukraine was able to mobilize humanitarian aid resources, ensure patient evacuations, deploy mobile medical structures, and support critical healthcare functions precisely through dynamic interaction with international partners (UN, EU, NATO, WHO, humanitarian missions).

GHD has proven to be a powerful tool of “soft power,” allowing not only to receive external assistance but also to strengthen Ukraine’s image as a responsible international actor capable of partnership, innovation, and solidarity in global health. This opens up new prospects for post-war recovery through joint programs, investments, membership in European initiatives, in particular the European Health Union and EU4Health.

Third, scientific and medical diplomacy expands the horizons of cooperation, ensures the integration of Ukrainian research institutions into the European scientific space, and strengthens Ukraine’s position in global discussions on health, biosafety, and ethics. The application of the NAMS for accession to FEAM is an important marker of this movement.

Based on the conclusions obtained, it is advisable to propose the following ways to develop GHD:

1. Institutionalization of GHD: creation of a cross-sectional coordination center for medical diplomacy, introduction of medical attaché positions in foreign diplomatic institutions of Ukraine, and formation of interdepartmental platforms for strategic planning in the field of GHD.

2. Development of human resources: implementation of specialized training programs for specialists in GHD and scientific diplomacy on the basis of leading medical and diplomatic higher educational institutions of Ukraine in cooperation with international partners.
3. Support for scientific integration: entry of national scientific institutions into European academic associations (e.g., FEAM), joint research programs; financing of researcher mobility and joint projects.
4. Digital health diplomacy: development of Ukraine's participation in EU digital initiatives (e.g., EHDS, EOSC), formation of data exchange infrastructure and integration into trans-European medical networks.
5. Ensuring political continuity: integrating GHD goals into action plans for the implementation of the Healthcare System Development Strategy for the period up to 2030 and the Strategy of Foreign Policy Activities of Ukraine, enshrining the principles of medical diplomacy in strategic regulatory acts. Such steps will not only strengthen the operational capacity of crisis response but also lay the foundation for systemic development, European integration, and international recognition of Ukraine as an active player in the global healthcare sector.

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