

The Role of Civil Society in Building Trust, Strengthening Accountability and Communication with Affected Communities



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Building and defending civic space



Democratic backsliding

Attacks on civil society are on the rise: cuts in funding, 'foreign interest' laws, threats and retaliation

Erosion of trust in CSOs

How CSOs communicate about their mission, strategies, donor support and the value of their work?

How CSOs build relationships with communities, decision-makers?

Stakeholders & their needs



Diversity and divisions within stakeholder groups

Transparency of **information** on plans and their impacts

Clarity on the decision-making **process**

Rights-based community perspective when defining IA scope and project risk category

Context risks & Retaliation risks assessments

Expert support and capacity building

What underpins decisions?

Public interest

Strategy

Business, Economy, Market

Private interests (integrity issues)

Politics / Security etc.

& the role of the IA process?



Case study: agribusiness in Ukraine

Owned by one of the richest oligarchs in the country

Vertically integrated 'farm-to-fork' meat production

Mega farms with capacity to host 20mln chickens at a time

Concentration of industrial crop & poultry production facilities

Impacts on water, soil, air, health, road safety and vibrations

\$ USD 1.5 billion of investments by public banks



Case study: IA process (2014-2018)

Narrow IA scope of projects

Low risk categorisation

Piecemeal EIAs - following national level regulation (extended moratoriums on state inspections on enterprises)

No comprehensive baseline data and no cumulative IA

Inadequate SEPs, reliance on client

Barriers to participation with threats, reprisals, numerous security incidents



Case study: accountability (2018-2026)

Incremental improvements by 2018, however, planned expansion could not be justified

Dispute Resolution 2018-2020, no agreement reached

Compliance reviews by two accountability mechanisms are on-going

Continued investments under the banner of wartime support

Limited monitoring and opportunities for participation, new retaliation risks



Case study: community monitoring

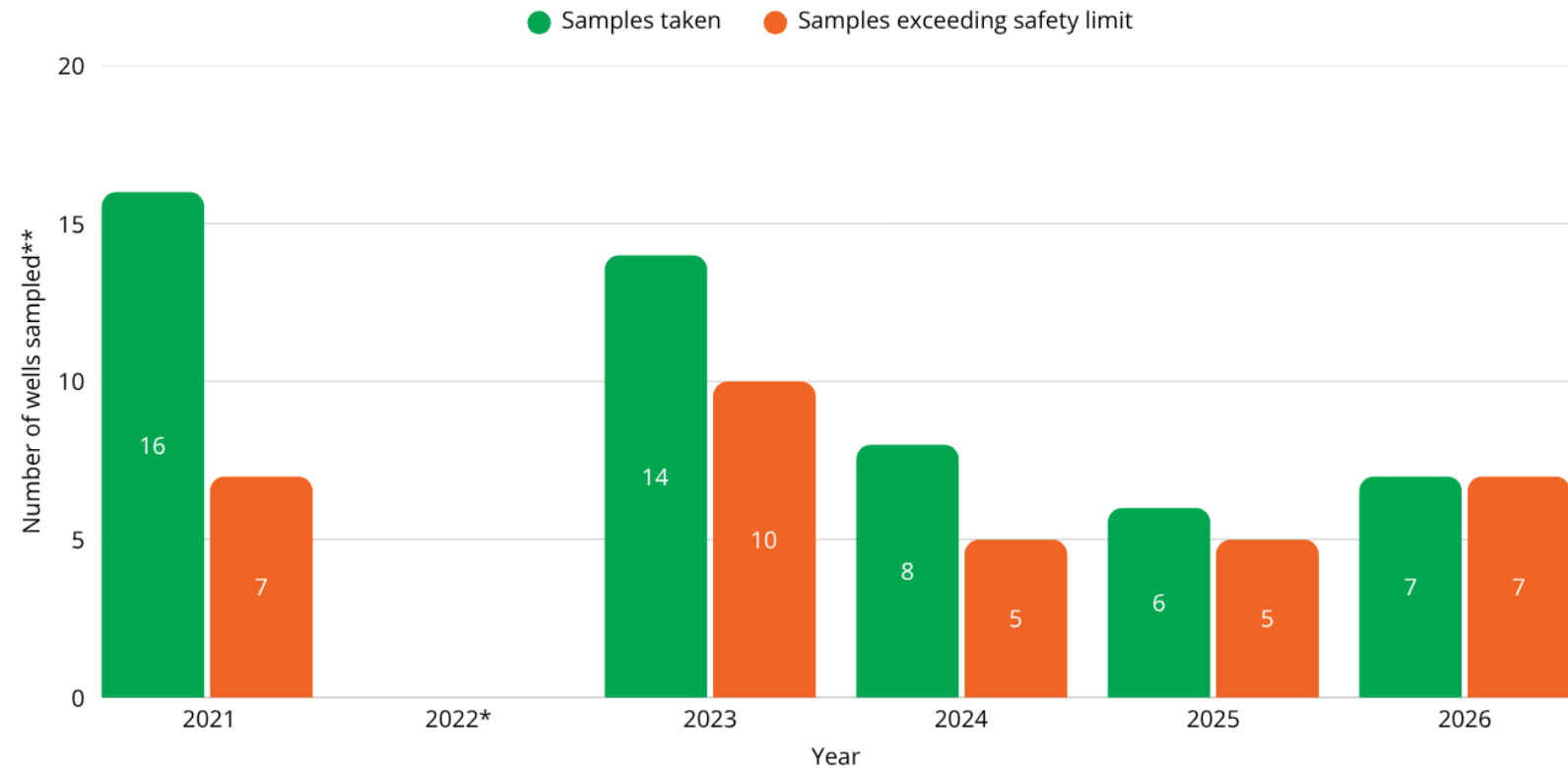
Community science, monitoring water pollution by nitrates for 5y

Empowering communities to measure and analyse impacts, to form informed positions and demands

Building evidence base for allegations of harm and expected remedy



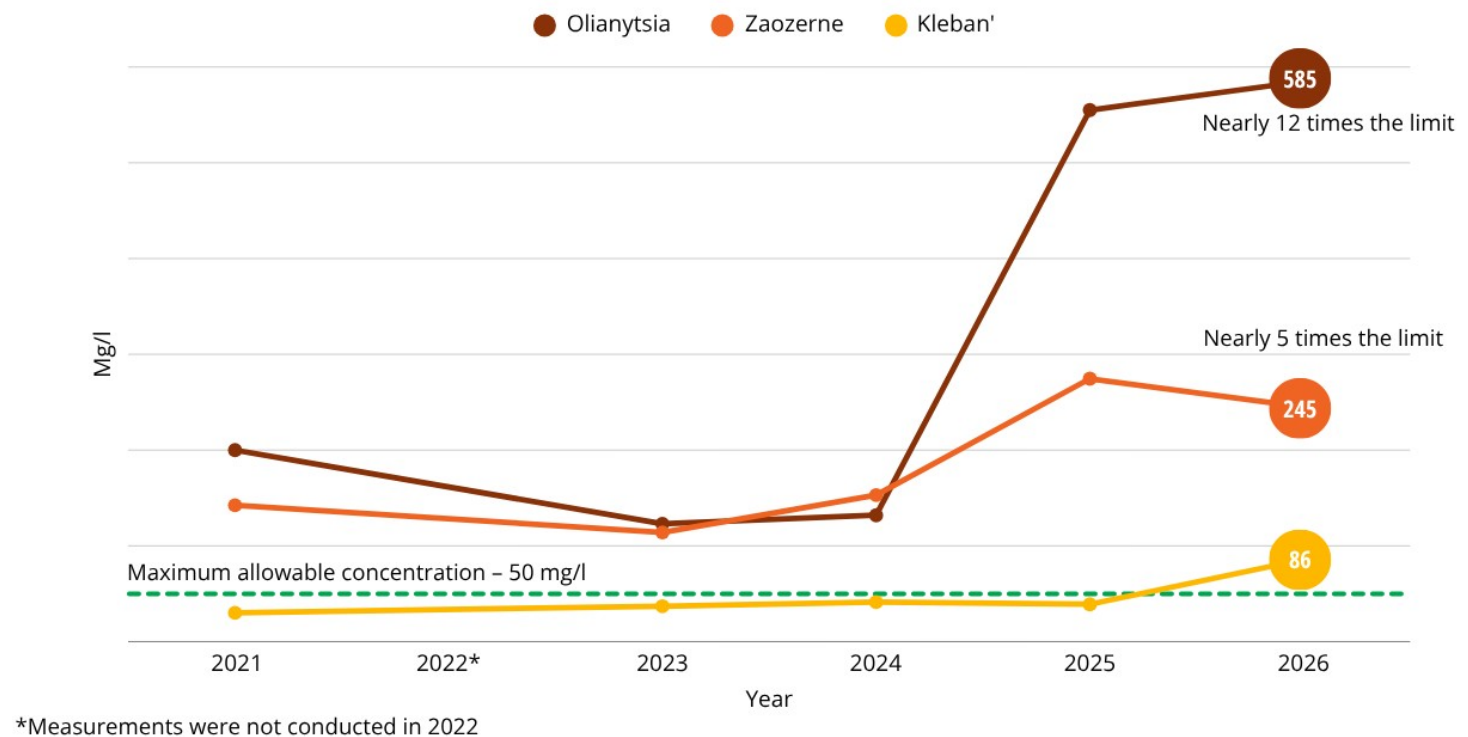
Case study: monitoring results (1)



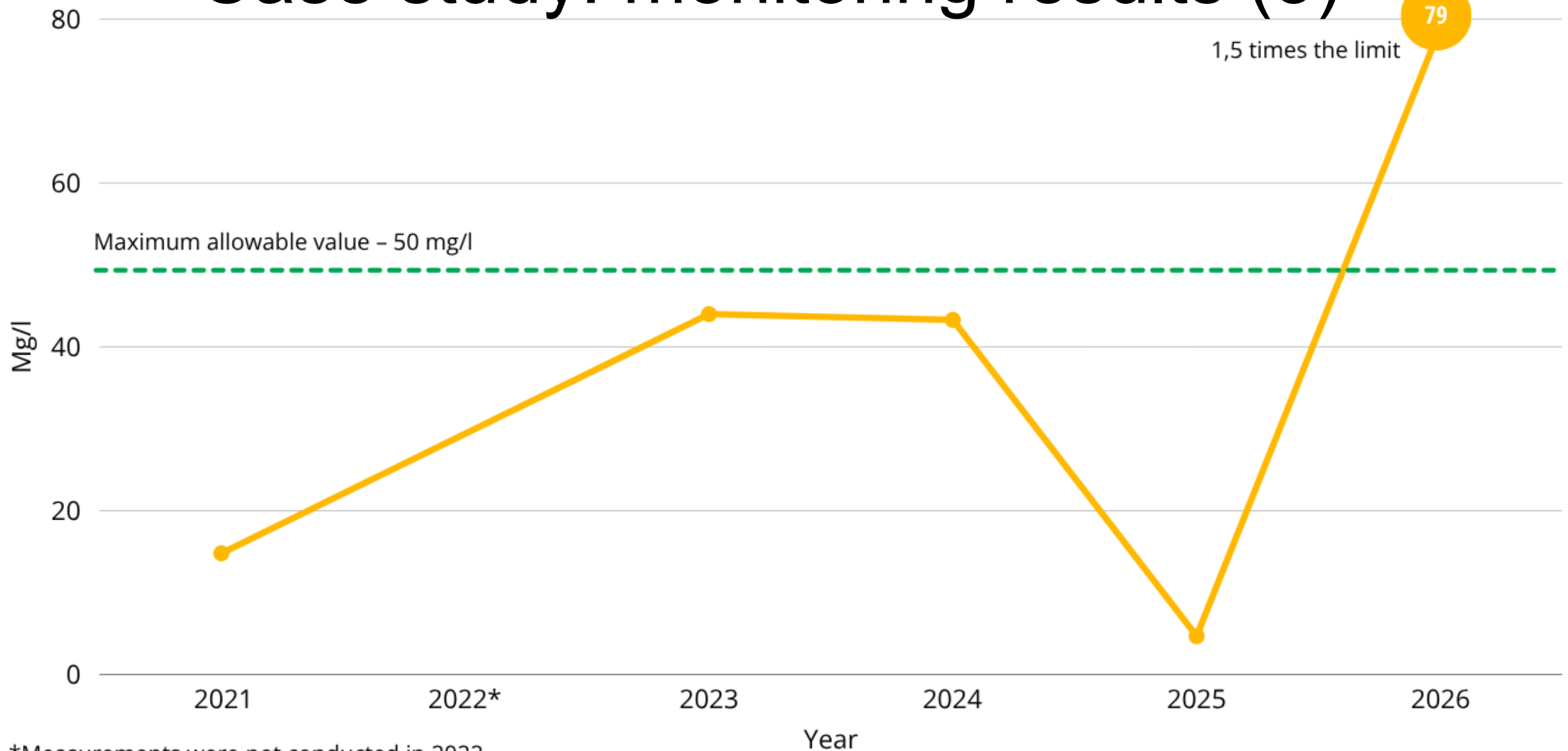
*Measurements were not conducted in 2022

**The exact list of wells sampled varied from year to year due to access constraints or other external circumstances

Case study: monitoring results (2)



Case study: monitoring results (3)



Case study: conclusions

Repeat investments, multi-facility enterprise

National vs EU / international / banks' standards

Early stages: scope of IA, context risk, sector risk, cumulative impact, baseline data

Participation: safe space, expert support and capacity building

Transparent monitoring

Remedy for harm





Let's continue the conversation!

Message me your questions or comments in the IAIA26 app.

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