



Kingdom of the Netherlands



Final Report

STRENGTHENING NATIONAL AND LOCAL CAPACITIES FOR EFFECTIVE DELIVERY OF SECURITY, JUSTICE AND REINTEGRATION SERVICES IN CONFLICT-AFFECTED AREAS OF UKRAINE

United Nations Recovery and Peacebuilding Programme (UN RPP)
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The Network of the Community Security and Social Cohesion Working Groups event
Photo credit: Artem Hetman / UNDP in Ukraine



Table of Contents

Acronyms and abbreviations	03
List of annexes	04
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY	05
BACKGROUND	10
OUTPUT 1. STRENGTHENED MECHANISMS FOR CONFLICT TRANSFORMATION THROUGH THE PROVISION OF EFFECTIVE AND INNOVATIVE SERVICES	13
Output 1.1. Early warning mechanisms are enhanced	13
Output 1.2. Alternative conflict resolution mechanisms strengthened	16
Output 1.3. Pilot initiatives for supporting vulnerable populations suffering adverse effects from the armed conflict are launched	23
Output 1.4. Improved efficiency and accountability in courts, prosecution offices, and police in resolving conflicts generally, and those emanating from the armed conflict in particular	31
Output 1.5. Grants support to strengthened mechanisms for conflict transformation through the provision of effective and innovative services	33
OUTPUT 2. STRENGTHENED PERSONAL AND COMMUNITY SECURITY THROUGH GREATER INSTITUTIONAL AND CITIZEN ENGAGEMENT IN CONFLICT-AFFECTED AREAS	34
Output 2.1. Increased awareness of public attitudes, human rights redress mechanisms, and security risks by policymakers, the public, and particularly the youth	34
Output 2.2. Improved capacities and practices of law enforcement and local authority service providers to carry out community policing and discharge their responsibilities to citizens	38
Output 2.3. Broader and more effective application of mechanisms for coordinating between citizens, law enforcement bodies, local authorities and other stakeholders to promote community security	42
Output 2.4. Grant support for strengthened personal and community security through greater institutional and citizen engagement in conflict-affected areas	47
LESSONS LEARNED	48
Annex 1	51

Acronyms and Abbreviations

ADR	Alternative dispute resolution
ATO	Anti-Terrorist Operation
CSO	Civil society organization
CSWG	Community security working group
FLAS	Free legal aid system
GCA	Government-controlled area
GISMAERC	Geoinformation system for Monitoring, Analysis, Evaluation and Resolution of Conflicts
IDP	Internally displaced person
JFO	Joint Forces Operation
NGCA	Non-government-controlled area
NGO	Non-governmental organization
NSJU	National School of Judges of Ukraine
OHCHR	Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights
SCORE	Social Cohesion and Reconciliation Index
SES	State Emergency Service
SGF	Small Grants Fund
SHARP	SCORE-inspired Holistic Assessment of Resilience of Population
SSC	Safety and Security Centre
ToT	Training of trainers
UN RPP	United Nations Recovery and Peacebuilding Programme
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNFPA	United Nations Population Fund
UNHCR	United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
USAID	United States Agency for International Development

List of Annexes

Annex 1.	Results framework
Annex 2.	Financial report
Annex 3.	Alternative Dispute Resolution Strategy 2020-2022
Annex 4.	SCORE Ukraine 2021 Trends Report
Annex 5.	SCORE brief on Reintegrating ATO/JFO Veterans
Annex 6.	SCORE brief on Empowering Persons with Disabilities in eastern Ukraine
Annex 7.	Ambassadors of Peace: Establishment, Activity and Achievements of the Network
Annex 8.	Study of the issues of compensation to civilians for the use of real estate property by military forces and law enforcement bodies during armed conflicts
Annex 9.	Assessment of the availability of and satisfaction with the medical services in Ukraine by ATO/JFO ex-combatants
Annex 10.	Analysis of the current state of medical services provided to ATO/JFO ex-combatants in Ukraine
Annex 11.	Manual on the peer-to-peer support methodology
Annex 12.	Study on the availability of archives and court cases that remained in the non-government-controlled areas of Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts
Annex 13.	Enhancing the capacity of local general courts and the free legal aid system in Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts on armed conflict related cases while implementing transitional justice in Ukraine: needs and prospects
Annex 14.	The report “Fiat iustitia! The impact of coverage of court decisions in cases related to the armed conflict in eastern Ukraine on the public's attitude towards the judicial branch of government”
Annex 15.	List of the supported projects within the Small Grants Fund
Annex 16.	List of the supported mini-initiatives
Annex 17.	Security and Justice in Ukraine
Annex 18.	Security assessment of the communities in the Sea of Azov region of Donetsk and Zaporizhzhia oblasts
Annex 19.	Risk and Threats Management Coordination Assessment
Annex 20.	Manuals for FLAS representatives: providing legal assistance to ex-combatants
Annex 21.	Safer communities: how to mobilize the community for a safe and cohesive environment

Executive Summary

The Project, throughout all phases of its implementation, has made important contribution to promoting peace and stability, enhancing community security and social cohesion and strengthening the institutional capacity of security providers in the target communities of Donetsk, Dnipropetrovsk, Luhansk, Zaporizhzhia and Zhytomyr oblasts, as well as provided time-critical support to displacement areas after the escalation of the war on 24 February 2022.

While there is no doubt that the ongoing hostilities have significantly impacted some of the project's previously achieved results, and especially those related to infrastructure works conducted in areas that are currently under shelling or temporarily not under the control of the Government of Ukraine, nevertheless, the Project's strategy, *modus operandi*, and the theory of change have proven to be extremely resilient to the changed operational context – thus allowing the Project team to act swiftly to address new and emerging needs through tools and methodology tested since Project's inception.

It is particularly worth underlying the excellent partnerships created by the Project with first responders, law enforcement and civil protection actors, local self-government bodies, activists and civil society representatives, including through the Community Security and Social Cohesion Working Groups, which have been essential for the Project to take swift and decisive action in support of war affected communities during the emergency phase in the spring and summer of 2022.

As evidenced by recent data¹, the state institutions responsible for national security and defence enjoy the highest trust in the country (8.6 out of 10 for the State Emergency Service and

5.8 for the National Police²). Furthermore, NGOs, which are also among the most trusted institutions in Ukraine (7.2), can support state institutions by helping displaced persons and providing critical services to the population, as well as boosting and coordinating civic engagement and social cohesion in general.

The SHARP results³ also record high scores pertaining to various aspects of social cohesion and civic engagement throughout Ukraine, despite pressure from massive displacement and humanitarian challenges. The survey shows that the Ukrainian people strongly associate themselves with Ukraine, feel responsible for the country, and support state efforts to defend sovereignty and territorial integrity. It is interesting to note that the sense of civic duty is higher among young people (8.1) than the general population (7.6), making youth a driving force for any future recovery process.

While the results above can by no means be directly attributed to Project's activities, nevertheless they are a reconfirmation of the Project's theory of change and a clear indication of some of the key entry points for action, and leverages to be employed, to support Ukraine's resilience and social cohesion at subnational level, contribute to human capital and preserve the country's recovery potential, and foster a conducive environment for intergroup contact.

From the point of view of fair and equitable access to justice and legal assistance, the results of the recent study of the availability of legal aid in the context of martial law⁴ underscore that the free legal aid system has demonstrated a high level of stability despite the escalation of the military operations throughout the country, and the

1 SCORE-inspired Holistic Assessment of Resilience of Population (SHARP): Assessing Social Cohesion, Resistance, and People's Needs in Ukraine Amid Russian Full-Scale Invasion, conducted by the Partnership Fund for a Resilient Ukraine (PFRU), in cooperation with the USAID funded Democratic Governance East (DG East), USAID's Transformation Communications Activity (TCA), and UNDP, <https://app.scoreforpeace.org/en/ukraine/2022/1/map?row=tn-1>

2 Points on a 1-10 scale.

3 <https://app.scoreforpeace.org/en/ukraine/2022/1/map?row=tn-1>

4 Legal Aid Availability in the Context of Martial Law, UNDP, February 2023, www.undp.org/ukraine/publications/legal-aid-availability-context-martial-law

bodies and organizations that provide legal services to the population have been able to quickly adapt to the new conditions to ensure the proper quality of such services and client orientation. Thus, about 70 percent of respondents believe that since the beginning of the war, their opportunities to receive legal assistance have not reduced or have even increased. At the same time, the low level of trust in the courts (4.2) recorded through the above-mentioned SHARP assessment, continues to highlight the urgency of judicial reform in Ukraine.

Looking at the Project's support to community level conflict analysis and resolution, the Geoinformation system for Monitoring, Analysis, Evaluation and Resolution of Conflicts (GISMAERC) initially launched in communities in eastern Ukraine has proved to be a valuable tool for monitoring tensions in the communities of Donetsk, Luhansk, and Zaporizhzhia oblasts, and to support, through the work of trained mediators, conflict resolution activities. In light of the excellent results achieved before February 2022, and building on the experience and lessons learned in eastern oblasts, today, the Geoinformation system has been extended to central and western Ukraine, where the need for conflict resolution has dramatically increased, including as a result of the massive population movements and the significant burden on hosting communities to address the needs of internally displaced people. Since the launch of the platform, over 900 conflicts have been registered in the target oblasts, of which more than 50 percent were assessed as able to be settled through mediation and mapped on the system website⁵, and 197 conflicts were resolved with support from the conflict mediators.

Furthermore, the Project supported the network of Ambassadors of Peace in Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts, which presented a community of mediators promoting social cohesion and non-conflict and tolerant interaction in society, built on the principles of human rights, gender equality, inclusiveness, and participation. Overall, 160 events were organized by the network of Ambassadors

of Peace,⁶ engaging over 13,000 young people interested in civic activism (67 percent girls) and enhancing social cohesion in local communities in Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts.

The Project also took significant steps towards empowering young people to implement and promote peacebuilding initiatives in conflict-affected areas of eastern Ukraine. Through the innovative online platform "FUNdraiser",⁷ 154 young people (112 girls) submitted applications, and 25 teams registered to raise money for their projects. Moreover, five initiatives on public safety and social cohesion were selected to receive further funding and mentorship support.⁸ As in the case of GISMAERC, recognizing the validity and effectiveness of the tool in engaging young women and men in civic initiatives, the UN RPP is continuing to support the work of the platform, and will be holding a new Fundraising Challenge in 2023 and providing financial assistance for the implementation of youth community security and social cohesion initiatives, with a special emphasis on community-level recovery.

Throughout the implementation period, the Project has also made notable contributions towards ensuring provision of support and specialized services to vulnerable groups, in particular persons with disabilities, ex-combatants, and survivors of sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV). In cooperation with UNFPA, local civil society and local authorities, the Project supported the refurbishment of the premises of a shelter in Bakhmut (Donetsk Oblast), as well as a day-centre in Sievierodonetsk (Luhansk Oblast) for survivors of gender-based and domestic violence. While due to the start of the war neither of the facilities has been used as planned, nevertheless the lessons learned and methodology used by the Project has been examined and will be adapted to continue ensuring people-centred service provision both until the end of the war, and as part of the recovery planning. Further, to promote rehabilitation and social engagement of children with special educational needs, the Project supported the construction of an adaptive climbing wall for

5 <https://dialog-ua.org/>

6 This activity was co-funded by the governments of Denmark, Sweden and Switzerland.

7 <https://fundraiser.games>

8 This activity was co-funded by the governments of Denmark, Sweden and Switzerland.

physical therapy and rehabilitation of the children with disabilities in Sloviansk, Donetsk Oblast. In 2021, the classes of inclusive groups were held for 90 children (44 girls), including two permanent groups of children with special educational needs, consisting of twelve boys and three girls.

In early 2022, the Project concluded the implementation of the peer-to-peer support programme to help ex-combatants build stronger relationships with local authorities, law enforcement bodies and other stakeholders. The programme's effectiveness was confirmed by all participants, as well as testified by a number of social projects financed by ex-combatants to enable their return to civilian life and active engagement in their communities in line with the principle of "equal to equal". Among key achievements of the programme is also the creation of an active ex-combatant movement, both at inter-regional and Ukraine-wide levels, supporting retraining and mastering a new profession. In follow up to the programme, two "Veterandvzh" hackathons were conducted for ATO/JFO ex-combatants in 2020 and 2021, which resulted in support being provided for 17 projects developed to render services for ex-combatants (sport, rehabilitation, digital learning), improve infrastructure facilities for veterans and other purposes.

In addition, four veterans' spaces in Dnipropetrovsk (Pavlohrad and Novomoskovsk communities) and Zhytomyr oblasts (Berdychiv and Novohrad-Volynskiy communities) received necessary office equipment to support their work to facilitate veterans' reintegration and interaction with their communities. These structures have played a strong role, since the beginning of the war, in supporting war-affected communities and families of veterans, addressing some of the most time-critical needs, and providing space for civic engagement and volunteer action.

To promote information and communication technologies that offer innovative solutions to boost social cohesion and improve local safety and security, two "Hack for Locals" hackathons⁹ were held with support from the Project. More than 750 participants from all over Ukraine developed

practical solutions to the most pressing problems of community development, including community security, gender-based violence, and ensuring support for people with disabilities. As a result of extensive work and fruitful discussions, 11 projects were selected to receive grants and/or mentorship support to implement the ideas they developed at the hackathon.

The Project supported the establishment of a network of free legal aid advisers (paralegals) in eastern Ukraine and provided required capacity development support to its representatives. The paralegals serve as connectors between the free legal aid system (FLAS) and community members providing basic legal advice services and information on how to reach the system. With the beginning of the war, FLAS employees who had previously worked in Donetsk, Luhansk and other war-affected oblasts moved to transit and host regions and continued to provide free legal aid services to citizens remotely. The Project team quickly identified in consultation with these partners the increased demand for legal assistance as a consequence of the war and, through the provision of additional office equipment, was able to support the reestablishment of service provision in displacement areas and to boost the capacities of the lawyers to respond to reach out to internally displaced persons, including in hard-to-reach and rural areas.

Before the war started, progress was made towards the introduction of alternative dispute resolution (ADR) procedures in courts to improve the quality of legal services and facilitate access to justice for citizens. Overall, 50 representatives of the National School of Judges of Ukraine (NSJU) (34 women) received important knowledge and skills in judicial mediation. In addition, 28 FLAS employees (23 women increased their skills in ADR procedures to further teach this course to other FLAS workers.

The Project also developed an online learning course on judicial mediation, which is available on the NSJU website. Thanks to the emphasis placed by the Project on making its activities locally-owned and sustainable, the resources and

9 The hackathons were conducted with joint support from the European Union (EU) and the governments of Canada, Denmark, the Netherlands, Sweden and Switzerland

capabilities created are being adapted and employed today to address new and emerging tensions within war-affected communities.

To provide evidence-based support to the local courts, the Project carried out several studies on the transitional justice, best practices in conflict-related judicial cases on SGBV and the availability and accessibility of the judicial cases and the archives. Following the results of the studies, the Project rendered essential capacity-building support to local judicial institutions' FLAS lawyers to enable them to provide quality and timely services to the local population. These capacities are today more than ever in demand, as Ukraine grapples with the design of systems and mechanisms for transitional justice at the end of the present war.

Enhancing the capacities of law enforcement bodies was also one of the Project's priority areas of work, achieved through provision of technical assistance and capacity-development support. Overall, 79 juvenile prevention and investigator police officers (44 women) developed their capacities to conduct child-friendly interviews and received recommendations for effective communication with children. To better respond to SGBV and domestic violence, two "Polina" groups, operating in Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts, received specialized vehicles, as well as critical training in the field of SGBV prevention and counteraction. Moreover, 20 police officers from Zaporizhzhia Oblast (5 women) were equipped with the necessary knowledge on psychological approaches of working with survivors of domestic violence and abusers. In addition, to support the community policing initiative, the police officers in 32 settlements in Dnipropetrovsk Oblast received essential furniture, IT equipment and other items to support their work in local communities. The work done in eastern Ukraine is currently being replicated and scaled up in new target regions, to support capacity development and outreach of law enforcement in the face of new needs and challenges came to be after the beginning of the war.

Meaningful progress was made towards strengthening social cohesion, promoting civic engagement and citizen participation in the local decision-making processes. In total, 48 CSWGs were active in Donetsk, Luhansk, Zaporizhzhia and Zhytomyr oblasts,¹⁰ engaging some 1,100 (59 per cent women) representatives of the local authorities, security service providers, NGOs, community leaders and others. CSWGs are not only open dialogue platforms but also consultative and advisory bodies that made it possible to bring community decisions into the programme documents of local authorities and gradually move from project to programme management approach aimed at sustainable and qualitative changes. Importantly, with the beginning of the Russia's invasion of Ukraine, the CSWG Network was able to showcase the effectiveness and value of the community mobilization approach for community security and social cohesion. Strong horizontal ties, based on trusting relations between the main actors (local authorities, civil society, security service providers, and so on), enabled the working groups to quickly organize temporary shelters for internally displaced persons, provide vulnerable groups with vital assistance, facilitate the evacuation of the population, and render relevant educational activities.

To strengthen the security and safety of the target communities, the Project supplied the State Emergency Service (SES) Training Centres in Donetsk, Luhansk and Zaporizhzhia oblasts with the equipment they needed to conduct professional training programmes for firefighters and rescuers. Moreover, five Safety and Security Centres (SSCs) and 17 local firefighting brigades in Donetsk, Luhansk and Zaporizhzhia oblasts received specialized firefighting, communication and IT equipment and firefighting clothes to increase their capacity to respond effectively to emergencies. Additionally, a specialized car was transferred to the Main Department of the SES in Zaporizhzhia Oblast to improve the mobility of its rescue and diving unit, ensuring a rapid response to emergencies along the Sea of Azov coastline. Apart from that, the Project supported the establishment of a SSC in Bondarivka village of Markivka community (Luhansk Oblast) by providing construction materials

¹⁰ 16 in Donetsk, 16 in Luhansk, nine in Zaporizhzhia and seven in Zhytomyr oblasts.

for repair works on the premises of the centre.¹¹ Post-February 2022, to support the SES units relocated from Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts to provide seamless services in the host communities, the Project delivered 60 sets of protective firefighter clothing (25 for Luhansk SES and 35 for Donetsk SES) to provide protection to the rescuers engaged in day-to-day rescue operations.

Through the Small Grant Fund, the Project supported the implementation of a total of 103 grant initiatives to promote conflict transformation, enhance community security and access to justice and to facilitate the reintegration of ATO/JFO ex-combatants back into civilian life, directly benefitting over 230,000 people (54 percent women), including children, youth, internally displaced persons (IDPs) and persons with disabilities. Moreover, support was provided to 26 mini-initiatives to facilitate ex-combatants' reintegration into local communities, enhance community security and social cohesion and promote humanitarian-development-peace nexus activities directly benefitting some 13,500 people (59 percent women).

Finally, the Project also contributed to addressing the urgent needs of people affected by COVID-19 in eastern Ukraine. Support was rendered to service providers remaining at the forefront of preventing the spread of the coronavirus disease, as well as to CSOs operating in the region.

In particular, SES departments, local firefighting brigades and SSCs, as well as departments of National Police and Patrol Police in Donetsk, Luhansk and Zaporizhzhia oblasts, received 71 motor sprayers, 19 firefighting backpacks, 34,500 protection masks, 565 respirators, 3,250 pairs of medical gloves, 75 kg and 100 litres of surface disinfectants and other supplies. Moreover, health care facilities, SES and police departments in eastern Ukraine were supported through the provision of 31 containers of concentrated disinfectant for surfaces. The Main Department of SES of Ukraine received video communications equipment for the meeting room of the State Commission for Technogenic and Environmental Safety and Emergencies and the SES Task Force on COVID-19, allowing the SES to conduct its working meetings and conferences online. Overall, 880 litres of disinfectant, 4,000 protection masks and 17,600 pairs of gloves were procured for free legal aid offices and local courts in Donetsk, Luhansk and Zaporizhzhia oblasts. In addition, during the reporting period, five CSO projects and one civic mini-initiative aimed at helping communities in Donetsk, Dnipropetrovsk and Zaporizhzhia oblasts combat and prevent the spread of COVID-19 were supported through the small grants scheme

11 This activity is co-funded by the EU.

Background

One year since the Russian Federation's 24 February 2022 invasion of Ukraine, the war has already resulted in significant loss of life, unprecedented displacement, internally and towards neighbouring countries, and devastating destruction of Ukraine's infrastructure. According to estimates, over 21 million people have been affected by the war, and some 18 million require humanitarian assistance.¹² In the first few months after the invasion, nearly 8 million people were internally displaced in Ukraine, and the same number fled across international borders. Since then, the displacement crisis has continued. Almost 5.5 million people returned to their places of origin, while millions more have continued to flee from the east. Today, more than 5.4 million people are still internally displaced in Ukraine, and over 8 million people are refugees.¹³ Overall, the toll on civilians has been devastating – 22,209 casualties have been verified by the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) as of March 2023, including 8,317 killed and 13,892 injured. The number represents only a fraction of the actual toll, as the verification process has faced immense challenges, including a lack of access to areas under the military control of the Russian Federation.¹⁴

During the year of the full-scale war, the total amount of documented damages caused by Russia to Ukraine's infrastructure has reached almost US\$147.5 billion. By April 2023, over 150,000 residential buildings, 3,200 education and 800 health care facilities had been damaged or destroyed. At least 426 large and medium-sized private enterprises, as well as state-owned enterprises, and tens of thousands of small private enterprises, have been damaged or destroyed since the beginning of the war. The destruction of the Kakhovka Dam on 6 June caused massive flooding in southern regions of Ukraine, leaving behind

devastation, an unconfirmed number of civilians killed and injured and a worsened humanitarian situation in areas already facing the dire consequences of the war.¹⁵



Crisis psychologists assisting people at the site of the missile attack on a residential building in Dnipro

Photo credit: Oleksandr Pitel / UNDP in Ukraine

The ability of local authorities and service providers to sustain a minimum level of services has also been severely hampered in war-affected areas, as employees have fled or can no longer access their workplaces. The forced displacement has placed an additional burden on local service providers in host and transit communities, including administrative, health care, mental health, and social services, and services to ensure access to justice. According to the SES, large areas of Ukraine require demining. Mines, booby-traps, and improvised explosive devices have been left behind, posing a significant danger to civilians and returnees.

¹² Ukraine Data Explorer, OCHA, <https://data.humdata.org/visualization/ukraine-humanitarian-operations/>

¹³ Ibid.

¹⁴ Ukraine: civilian casualty update 20 March 2023, OHCHR, <https://bit.ly/40mXRI3>

¹⁵ Ukraine – Humanitarian Impact and Response Flash Update #8: Destruction of Kakhovka Dam (22 Jun 2023), UN OCHA, <https://reliefweb.int/report/ukraine/ukraine-humanitarian-impact-and-response-flash-update-8-destruction-kakhovka-dam-22-jun-2023-enuk>

Key population groups – including those directly affected by the war; survivors of war crimes, including SGBV; and women providing care for children, older people, and the sick – are at increased risk of mental disorders and psychological distress. Mental health and psychosocial support services (MHPSS) will be critical to address trauma and stress disorders. Provision of assistance to SGBV survivors is a particular concern: rape has emerged as a weapon of war, and a toxic, hyper-masculine environment has led to a sharp increase in incidence of conflict-related sexual violence, sexual exploitation and abuse and human trafficking. SGBV is a persistent problem in Ukraine.

The full-scale invasion by the Russian Federation of Ukraine gave rise to a large number of legal issues that required urgent resolution: from the status of internally displaced persons to the need for prompt responses to the requests of people affected by the war. This naturally led to an excessive workload for organizations and institutions that provide legal assistance in Ukraine, because demand for legal services has increased rapidly.¹⁶

A series of attacks on energy infrastructure across Ukraine have caused severe disruption to the functioning of power plants and energy transmission systems. According to UNDP's and the World Bank's recent comprehensive Energy Damage Assessment, the attacks on energy infrastructure have caused over \$10 billion in damage and left over 12 million people with no or limited electricity.¹⁷

The power outages have disrupted public services, including transportation, communications, livelihoods, and access to running water and heating – a particular concern in the winter given sub-zero temperatures.¹⁸

The war has also had a devastating impact on Ukraine's economy and people's livelihoods. As estimated by the International Labour Organization (ILO), employment in 2022 was 15.5 percent (2.4 million jobs) below the 2021, pre-war, level.¹⁹ According to World Bank data, Ukraine's gross domestic product (GDP) shrank by 37.2 percent in the second quarter of 2022 compared to the same period in 2021. The effects of the war on poverty and society are expected to be massive. As forecast by the World Bank, the proportion of the population with income below the national poverty line may reach nearly 60 percent, up from 18 percent in 2021. Based on the global poverty line of \$6.85 a day, poverty was projected to have increased from 5.5 percent in 2021 to 25 percent in 2022.²⁰

UNDP analysis also suggests that development setbacks for Ukraine will be significant, including increased inequalities and poverty rates; the country's economy, its social fabric, and the environment will also suffer. Eighteen years of socio-economic achievements in Ukraine are at risk, and an effective humanitarian-development-peace nexus approach will be critical to mitigate such dramatic development setbacks.²¹

16 www.undp.org/ukraine/press-releases/system-free-legal-aid-ukraine-demonstrates-high-level-resilience-war-conditions-undp-report

17 Ukraine Energy Damage Assessment Report, UNDP/the World Bank, March 2023, <https://bit.ly/3LvWdbz>

18 Ukraine: Situation Report, 16 Nov 2022, UN OCHA, <https://cutt.ly/o3jZi2U>

19 Impact of the crisis on employment, incomes and social protection, February 2023, ILO, <https://bit.ly/3ZENoQL>

20 Europe and Central Asia Economic Update, Fall 2022: Social Protection for Recovery, the World Bank, <https://openknowledge.worldbank.org/handle/10986/38098>

21 The Development Impact of the War in Ukraine: Initial projections, UNDP, <https://bit.ly/3xNBekW>

SPOTLIGHT ON THE PROJECT'S RESPONSE INITIATIVES AFTER THE BEGINNING OF THE WAR

With the beginning of the Russian invasion of Ukraine, the Project was able to refocus some of its planned activities to respond to the immediate needs of the war-affected children, women and men from its target areas. These activities included:

- Emergency response to the frontline communities, where hostilities are ongoing, as well as transit communities receiving the first waves of IDPs.
 - Enhancing the capacity of local authorities and civil society to address the critical needs of the communities which receive most IDPs (western and central regions of Ukraine).
 - Improving the capacity of security providers (the SES and the National Police) to respond and prepare for emergencies.
 - Supporting justice institutions (FLAS and local courts) to improve their capacities to deliver timely and high-quality legal and judicial services to IDPs as well as other vulnerable groups in transit and host communities.
- During 2022, the Project has provided the following emergency assistance to war-affected communities throughout Ukraine:
1. Transfer of equipment for rubble removal for the SES and rescue brigades (volunteers) in Novohrad-Volynskiy and Zhytomyr (Zhytomyr Oblast).
 2. Provision of household equipment and kitchen utilities for the IDPs' temporary shelter in Pavlohrad, Dnipropetrovsk Oblast.
 3. Delivery of food items and hot meals for IDPs and the local population from vulnerable groups in Novohrad-Volynskiy (Zhytomyr Oblast).
 4. Conducting webinars for some 100 psychologists on how to help overcome the negative outcomes of war and improve mental well-being.
 5. Supplying 180 power banks for security service providers in Zaporizhzhia Oblast to enable them to provide immediate support to the population.
 6. Purchasing IT equipment and furniture for the Donetsk State University of Internal Affairs, relocated from Mariupol to Kropyvnytskyi, to restore the educational process.

Outcome 1.

STRENGTHENED MECHANISMS FOR CONFLICT TRANSFORMATION THROUGH THE PROVISION OF EFFECTIVE AND INNOVATIVE SERVICES

Output 1.1.

Early warning mechanisms are enhanced

ACTIVITY 1.1.1. STRENGTHENING THE CAPACITY OF MECHANISMS THAT CAN BE USED TO PROVIDE EARLY WARNING FOR SECURITY AND CONFLICT-RELATED ISSUES

Communities have less destructive conflicts when they have the capacity and the social capital (including cohesion, trust, respect for the social contract by all, and functional and transparent institutions and rules) to address the causes of conflicts early on, and constructively. Thus, the main motive behind implementing conflict resolution practices in everyday life in local communities is to give them the ability to manage disagreements, redress grievances, and prevent violent conflict constructively and effectively. Such conflict resolution methods can include dialogue, problem-solving workshops, participatory policymaking, civic and political activism, public awareness raising, court procedures, and other practices.

As part of its comprehensive work to develop effective conflict resolution practices for the communities in eastern Ukraine, the Project launched an innovative web-based tool entitled “Geoinformation system to monitor, analyse and evaluate conflicts” (detailed information is provided under Activities 1.2.2 and 1.2.3). The system was established in line with the recommendations of advisory groups on social cohesion and a network of mediators, and enables residents of conflict-affected regions to submit identified conflict situations through an interactive web platform and seek further resolution. This pioneering solution is a good example of an early response mechanism to effectively address conflict situations with the support of dedicated mediators and advisors. In 2022, the coverage of the Geoinformation system was extended to include central and western Ukraine, where the demand for conflict resolution increased due to the hosting of a significant number of internally displaced. These conflicts related to access to services, religious, language, ideological and other factors. Overall, the pilot was implemented in Donetsk, Luhansk, Zaporizhzhia, Kharkiv, Dnipropetrovsk, Chernivtsi, Lviv and Ivano-Frankivsk oblasts. For the territories under the military control of the Russian Federation, the project envisaged recording conflicts, analysis and forecasting of possible actions after the Government of Ukraine gains control of these areas. The UN RPP will further support the Geoinformation system, including through development and implementation of sustainable mechanisms on interaction with communities and working with conflict situation.

The Project also contributed to the development of the Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) Strategy for 2020-2022, which built on the need to mainstream conflict prevention and resolution through the work of the Programme as a whole (Annex 3). The strategy was designed to develop a comprehensive conflict prevention and resolution methodology for communities, with an active participatory approach. The vision underpinning the strategy is that local communities can constructively and effectively manage disputes, redress grievances, and prevent conflicts if a broad palette of methods is employed, including democratic participation at the local, regional and national levels of decision-making, and fostering solidarity, collegiality, and social innovation. The key elements of the ADR strategy included enhancing conflict monitoring and early warning mechanisms and strengthening multi-faceted conflict resolution techniques, which are based on addressing structural causes through democratic participation at the community level.

Furthermore, the Project developed a methodology for establishing an early warning system (EWS) at local level, which was piloted in four communities of Donetsk (Sartana and Volnovakha) and Luhansk (Popasna and Stanytsia Luhanska) oblasts. The aim of the system was to help identify signals of potential social tension and conflict, if not addressed at an early stage, forecast and draft scenarios of conflict development and further response plans. In total, 12 monitoring specialists (7 women) were selected among local activists and trained to identify and analyse signals of potential conflict according to the developed methodology. During the reporting year, the monitors identified and analysed over 370 conflicts, most of them related to the provision of services, interaction with local authorities and armed forces, education, religion and other issues. After the full-scale military invasion of Ukraine in February 2022, further piloting in Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts of the EWS methodology for conflict monitoring was suspended.

ACTIVITY 1.1.2. PROMOTE LESSONS LEARNED FROM THE FUNCTIONING OF EARLY WARNING MECHANISMS AT THE NATIONAL LEVEL

The Project worked continuously to identify and collect best practices and successful examples of implementation of specific initiatives on piloting early warning and response mechanisms. The experience and best practices of the successful implementation of various initiatives to reduce community exposure to conflicts and tensions were shared and promoted through regional and national forums, round tables and other forms of inter-municipal cooperation.

As one of the Project starting points, the UN RPP organized a two-day National Forum on Trends in Community Security and Social Cohesion, held on 28-29 November 2019 in Kyiv.²² The event received large-scale public attention and brought together more than 150 participants, representing civil society, international organizations, the government, law enforcement agencies and the courts. To effectively discuss current practices, the most efficient approaches to community security, access to justice, community mobilization, and social cohesion at the local and regional levels, as well as lessons learned so far, the Programme applied interactive formats, facilitation tools and techniques during its activities. In line with the Project's objectives, one of the key forum sessions was focused on local practices in alternative dispute resolution and early warning mechanisms. The session was an important dialogue platform between civil society and the main stakeholders working constantly in this area: at the session challenges and best practices were discussed, visions exchanged, and approaches for use in the implementation of further activities brainstormed.

22 Co-financed by the EU and the governments of Denmark, Sweden and Switzerland.



Strategies to rebuild trust and cooperation among communities in Ukraine were discussed at a two-day National Forum on Community Security and Social Cohesion, which opened on 28 November in Kyiv.

Photo credit: Serhii Mynenko/
UNDP Ukraine

Moreover, the results of the work and best practices of the Geoinformation system to monitor, analyse and evaluate conflicts were presented at a conference entitled: “Do communities need dialogue, and how to work professionally with conflicts: the experience of the Geoinformation system’s specialists and partners”. The event was held on 3-6 December 2021 in Sviatohirsk (Donetsk Oblast) and was attended by more than 130 representatives of the central and local authorities and civil society from Donetsk, Luhansk and Zaporizhzhia oblasts. During the conference, the participants discussed the achievements of the Geoinformation system regarding conflict transformation and dialogue building, and opportunities for further expansion of the system throughout Ukraine.

In addition, during February 2022, a series of roundtables were conducted in seven communities in Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts²³ to present effective methods of conflict transformation to local authorities and civil society. The meetings were attended by Geoinformation system specialists as well as representatives of central, regional and local authorities and NGOs. The participants discussed the best practices of the Geoinformation system and its contribution to strengthening social cohesion through the introduction of modern methods of conflict analysis, monitoring, and resolution.

23 Illinivka, Kostiantynivka and Manhush in Donetsk Oblast; Milove, Novoaidar, Sievierodonetsk and Svatove in Luhansk Oblast.

Output 1.2.

Alternative conflict resolution mechanisms strengthened

ACTIVITY 1.2.1. CARRY OUT NEEDS ASSESSMENT ON PEACEBUILDING, MEDIATION AND ALTERNATIVE DISPUTE RESOLUTION / SCORE

The Social Cohesion and Reconciliation Index for Eastern Ukraine (SCORE) is an analytical tool designed to improve the understanding of societal dynamics in Ukraine, which helps to identify strategic entry points for policies and programmes that contribute to strengthening social cohesion. In 2019, a SCORE survey was conducted by the UN RPP in partnership with the USAID's Democratic Governance in the East project (DG East) and – as a result of the first joint project in eastern Ukraine – the SCORE team produced a number of analytical briefs:

- “Towards a common future: Voices from both sides of the contact line”, based on face-to-face interviews collected both in government-controlled areas (GCA) and non-government-controlled areas (NGCA); the inception phase included actual meetings in Kramatorsk with people living in NGCA (in the format of focus group discussions and in-depth interviews) to validate the data and preliminary hypotheses and assumptions;
- “Social cohesion along the contact line”, based on contact line SCORE boosters;
- “How people with disabilities live in Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts”;
- “Drivers of migration tendency in Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts”;
- 14 city profile briefs with the focus on the specific needs of several cities in Donetsk, Luhansk and Zaporizhzhia oblasts.

The results of the SCORE 2019 survey were made available on the SCORE website in the form of interactive maps and graphs with the possibility of data disaggregation by demographic characteristics, as well as in the form of brochures.

In 2020, the research process was inevitably hindered by the COVID-19 pandemic: coronavirus cases among interviewers, supervisors and employees of the polling agency, along with lockdown restrictions that slowed down the field stage.

In 2021, the annual SCORE survey was conducted from January to May and included about 19,000 face-to-face interviews, made up of a nationally representative sample (at the oblast level) and additional boosters (Luhansk and Donetsk oblasts (GCA), ‘contact line’ residents, 18 urban centres, Anti-Terrorist Operation/Joint Forces Operation (ATO/JFO) veterans, youth and adolescents, persons with disabilities, the Sea of Azov and the Black Sea coastline regions). The survey also included interviews from the NGCA; however a different method was applied to conduct them (computer-assisted telephone interviewing).

After a series of validation meetings with the local authorities, NGOs and CSOs in Donetsk, Luhansk and Kherson oblasts, the SCORE team prepared a series of analytical briefs that covered the topics of defining and measuring social cohesion, COVID-19 vaccination trends, and perceptions of land reform. The flagship report – SCORE Ukraine 2021 Trends Report: An investigation of socio-political, civic and economic trends – was also released, analysing regional trends in Ukraine using data that the team has collected since 2016 (Annex 4).

In September 2021, SCORE 2021 results were presented to all stakeholders and made available to the public. The results of the survey are available in the form of interactive maps and dashboards on the official SCORE website.²⁴ Also, with the support from the Project, additional data collection and analysis were carried out for the two vulnerable groups that the UN RPP is working with. This analysis resulted in briefs on Reintegrating ATO/JFO Veterans (Annex 5) and Empowering Persons with Disabilities in eastern Ukraine (Annex 6).

It was planned to launch the SCORE 2022 research project in February but this was eventually frozen because of the full-scale invasion of Ukraine. The SCORE community then developed SHARP²⁵ – a SCORE-inspired, agile tool for rapid evidence production to support Ukraine’s resilience with a focus on services, displacement, cohesion, resistance and recovery. The SHARP interactive heatmaps and report are available on the SCORE website.²⁶ At the beginning of 2023, the SCORE partners decided to launch a SCORE 2023 survey (field stage: March-June 2023), which also covers specific boosters for UNDP purposes – 1,500 interviews with veterans, youth and persons with disabilities.

ACTIVITY 1.2.2. SELECT AND TRAIN COMMUNITY MEDIATORS

As of today, 45 mediators, 41 analysts and 14 advisors from Donetsk, Luhansk, Dnipropetrovsk, Zaporizhzhia, Ivano-Frankovsk, Lviv, Kharkiv and Chernivtsi oblasts are engaged in the work of the Geoinformation system for Monitoring, Analysis, Evaluation and Resolution of Conflicts. These experts include professional mediators, dialogue facilitators, lawyers, sociologists, psychologist and others. Since the launch of the Geoinformation system, the Project has supported the regular capacity building of its mediators, which includes basic learning, skills testing and additional capacity-building activities, under the following broad topics:

- Peaceful methods of conflict resolution: mediation, negotiations and dialogue (conflict identification and analysis; negotiations and mediation; dialogue process, and so on).
- Geoinformation system as a mediation tool (dialogue process, roles of mediators and facilitators);
- Instruments of the system to be used in a dialogue process and mediation.

Moreover, selection of the mediators was overseen by the expert group for the Geoinformation system and had two stages:

1. Technical selection (review of documents, certificates and motivation letters);
2. Skills testing and interviewing of potential candidates.

Importantly, the second stage of the process included conducting in-depth testing of the practical skills of mediators at a three-day training session on “Professionalization in peaceful methods of conflict resolution (mediation, dialogue facilitation and mediation in conflict resolution): Standards and Ethics at Work.” Input and output testing are conducted to assess the level of mediators’ knowledge and evaluate their practical skills in mediation for conflict resolution.

24 <https://app.scoreforpeace.org/en/ukraine/2021/1/map?row=tn-3-0>

25 SCORE-inspired Holistic Assessment of Resilience of Population (SHARP): Assessing Social Cohesion, Resistance, and People’s Needs in Ukraine Amid Russian Full-Scale Invasion, conducted by the Partnership Fund for a Resilient Ukraine (PFRU), in cooperation with the USAID-funded Democratic Governance East (DG East), USAID’s Transformation Communications Activity (TCA), and UNDP.

26 <https://app.scoreforpeace.org/en/ukraine/2022/1/map?row=tn-1>

During 2022, the Project continued supporting the capacity building of the Geoinformation system experts (conflict monitors and mediators) as well as representatives of local authorities in target oblasts on working with conflicts in the communities through mediation, dialogue facilitation, negotiation and so on, to enable the conflict to be identified in time, choose better ways of resolution and finally reduce tension in the community. In total, 213 people (180 women, 42 internally displaced persons) were trained during 2022. Notably, the work of the Geoinformation system continues with support from the UN RPP and, as of today, it covers eight oblasts of Ukraine.²⁷ To meet the needs of the war-affected population and to address the existing conflicts in these regions, the Geoinformation system experts receive additional training on peacebuilding, peace mediation, the work of mediators during the war and other pertinent issues.

Furthermore, the Project supported the network of Ambassadors of Peace in Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts, which presented a community of mediators promoting social cohesion and non-conflict and tolerant interaction in the society, built on the principles of human rights, gender equality, inclusiveness and participation. To facilitate the educational activities of the network, the Project provided three schools in Bakhmut, Sloviansk and Verkhniotoretske of Donetsk Oblast, with the equipment and furniture needed to organize ambassadors' spaces at schools, to serve as educational and dialogue spaces for young people.



In addition, the Project supported the creation of mediation rooms at the social service centres in four communities in Donetsk (Dobropillia, Lyman, Sloviansk) and Luhansk (Troitske) oblasts. As a part of this activity, specialists working with vulnerable groups from nine centres completed a training programme on mediation. Of these nine centres in the capacity building programme, four were selected to create mediation rooms, based on their performance. The specialists from the centres received essential IT equipment, furniture and construction materials to complete refurbishment and organize their activities in a more efficient manner. The mediation rooms enabled the social workers to render quality support to vulnerable groups, troubled families and youth to provide social protection and to resolve both family and community disputes.

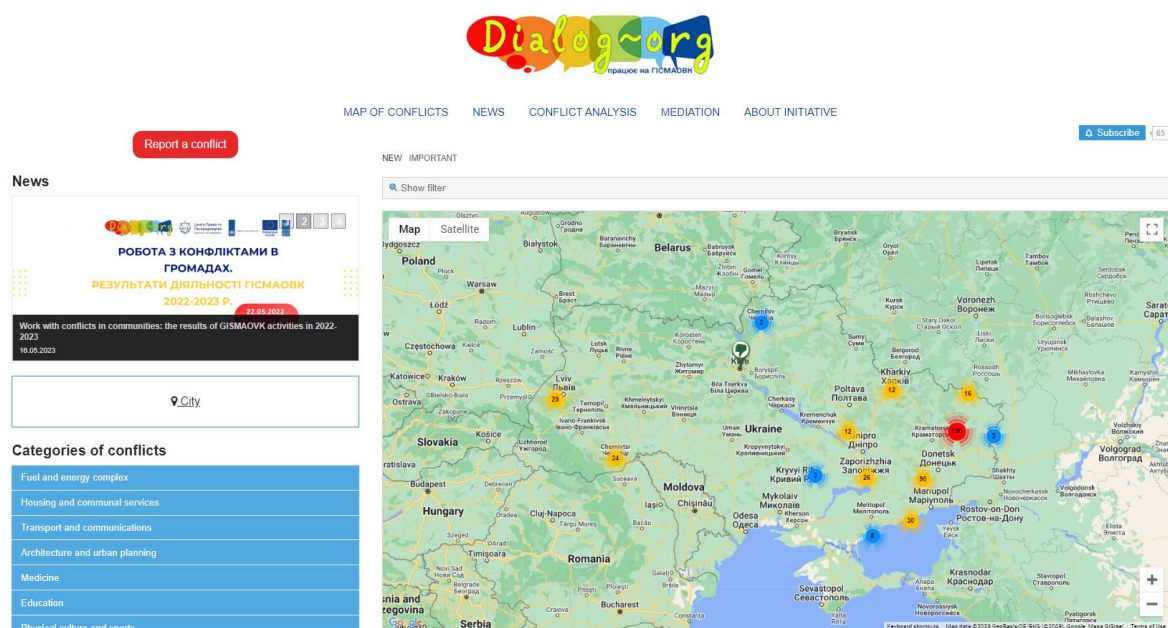
²⁷ Donetsk, Luhansk, Dnipropetrovsk, Zaporizhzhia, Ivano-Frankovsk, Lviv, Kharkiv and Chernivtsi oblasts.

ACTIVITY 1.2.3. SUPPORT THE DEVELOPMENT OF A PLATFORM FOR MEDIATORS IN WHICH TO EXCHANGE BEST PRACTICES

In 2019, the UN RPP started piloting the Geoinformation system for Monitoring, Analysis, Evaluation and Resolution of Conflicts as a sustainable tool for conflict resolution and prevention. The system enables residents of the conflict-affected region to submit identified conflicts through a dedicated [web platform](#) and to seek further resolution. The system introduces clusters of conflict analysts who identify conflicts at community level, analyse them according to the developed methodology, and add them to the conflict database with geotags; and clusters of conflict mediators who develop interventions and conduct mediation activities if given consent by the parties. The platform also presents visual data about the number and geography of the identified cases as well as the main categories of conflict.

Since the start of the project, the system has registered 904 potential conflicts in the target oblasts, of which 456 were assessed as potentially able to be settled through mediation and were mapped on the website of the system.²⁸ Of these, 197 conflicts were resolved with support from the conflict mediators, who developed intervention plans, communicated with the parties and carried out conflict resolution activities. Notably, most of the conflicts related to capacity-building of local communities, infrastructure, housing and utilities, the labour market and employment. Examples included ensuring sustainable water supply in Chernihivka community in Zaporizhzhia Oblast and landfill cleaning in Illinivka community in Donetsk Oblast. These issues were successfully resolved through mediation and dialogue with all the stakeholders and with support from the Geoinformation system experts. Due to the ongoing war in Ukraine, which escalated in February 2022, consideration of 168 conflicts was suspended as they related to territories under the military control of the Russian Federation or areas of active fighting.

During the pilot, the Geoinformation system showed its efficiency in identifying and mediating community conflicts in eastern Ukraine, sustainability and relevance with regard to the newly emerged local conflicts due to the large-scale war. The UN RPP is continuing to support the system by building the capacity of team members, organizing dialogues and showcasing positive examples of conflict resolution at the regional and national levels.



Web interface of the Geoinformation system for conflict monitoring and analysis

ACTIVITY 1.2.4. PILOT OTHER FORMS OF ALTERNATIVE DISPUTE RESOLUTION

The procedure for alternative dispute resolution (or mediation) in court – dispute resolution with the participation of a judge – was introduced into national legislation in late 2017. Moreover, the ADR was among the priorities of the Strategy for the Development of the Justice System and Constitutional Judiciary in Ukraine for 2021-2023, and the National Strategy for Human Rights.

To facilitate the use of ADR during trials, the Project took steps to increase the capacity of judges by enhancing their competencies and knowledge about the judicial mediation. In particular, the Project – jointly with the National School of Judges of Ukraine (NSJU) – organized a series of online and in-person training sessions on judicial mediation for trainers. As a result, 50 NSJU representatives (34 women) increased their knowledge and practical skills in such issues as mediation procedure, its phases, negotiation specifics, conflict factors and psychological aspects of working with the parties, to further teach this course to judges.

As of December 2021, eight trainers who completed the training of trainers (ToT) course conducted two approbation mediation training sessions for their colleagues. As a result, 19 judges (11 women) increased their knowledge and skills in mediation, its phases, negotiation specifics, conflict factors and psychological aspects of working with the parties. In addition, the Project has developed an online learning course on judicial mediation, which is available on the NSJU website.

Furthermore, the Project, in partnership with the Coordination Centre for Legal Aid Provision, developed and organized two ToT sessions on mediation for representatives of the free legal aid system (FLAS). In total, 28 FLAS employees (23 women) received vital knowledge on ADR and its integration into legal aid procedures to further teach to other FLAS workers.

The Project also supported the engagement of persons with disabilities in peacebuilding activities through the creation of a network of inclusive advisors in Luhansk Oblast. Overall, 15 activist members of the network (13 women) regularly participated in conflict resolution activities related to the rights of persons with disabilities, provided recommendations to local self-government bodies on the universal design principles, and monitored local policies on social protection. The achievements of the network included provision of substantial recommendations to the new Regional Target Programme entitled “Turbota”, aimed at extending social and legal support to vulnerable groups, including persons with disabilities. Moreover, the network meaningfully participated in the development of Regional Action Plans on implementation of the National Action Plan on United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325 Women, Peace and Security.

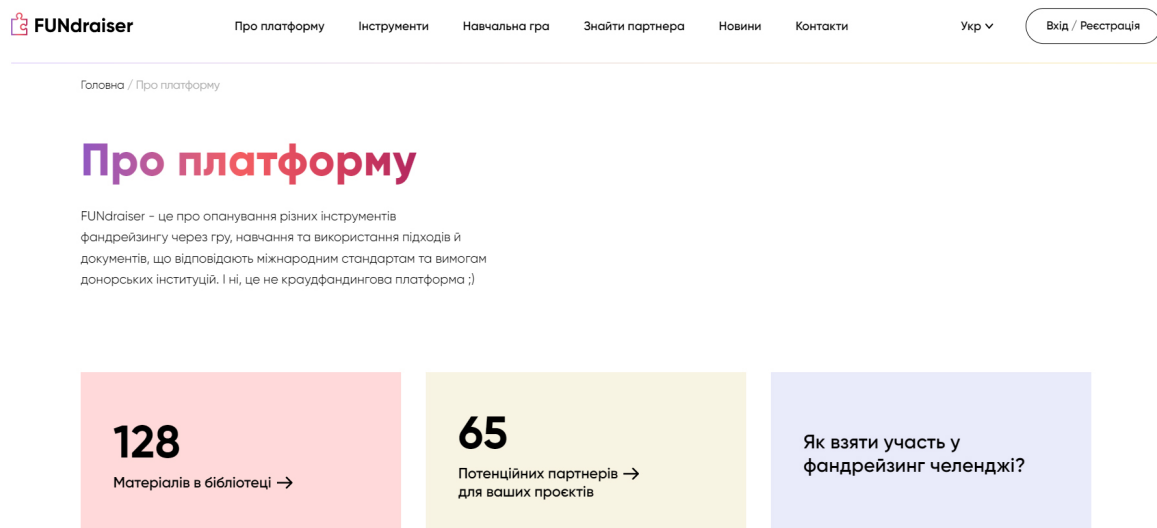
ACTIVITY 1.2.5. STRENGTHEN ENGAGEMENT OF YOUTH THROUGH INNOVATIVE PEACEBUILDING INITIATIVES

Youth plays a crucial role in promoting peacebuilding, community security and driving sustainable development at the local level. According to SHARP results,²⁹ the sense of civic duty is higher among young people (8.1) than the general population (7.6), making youth a driving force for any future recovery process.

29 <https://app.scoreforpeace.org/en/ukraine/2022/1/map?row=tn-1>

During implementation, the Project took notable steps towards the empowerment of young people to implement and promote peacebuilding initiatives, such as development of school self-governance systems, the launch of an online platform for education and fundraising for youth initiatives, support for the network of “Ambassadors of Peace” and others.

An innovative online platform, “**FUNdraiser**”³⁰, is available to help young people from the Project’s target regions build fundraising strategies to implement community security and social cohesion initiatives at local level.³¹ The platform includes a set of game tools and over 120 helpful educational and informational resources for young activists, youth organizations and other stakeholders. During the Fundraising Challenge in summer 2021, a total of 154 young people (112 girls) submitted applications via the platform, and 25 project teams registered to raise money for their projects. At the final of the Fundraising Challenge, which was held on 6 August 2021 in Sviatohirsk, five winning teams were selected to present their public safety and social cohesion initiatives. The winning projects were provided with grant funding and mentorship support to implement their ideas. Importantly, the UN RPP is continuing to support the work of the FUNdraiser platform, which envisages holding a new Fundraising Challenge in summer-autumn 2023 and providing the winning teams with financial assistance to implement community security and social cohesion initiatives.



Web interface of the “FUNdraiser” online platform

Moreover, the Project contributed to peacebuilding and improving social cohesion by engaging conflict-affected young people in local educational and capacity-building initiatives of the “Ambassadors of Peace” network.³² The network comprises active citizens, mostly teachers, youth NGOs, and school administrators from communities in Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts. The ambassadors promoted among community members understanding and the application of non-violent communication methods, human rights principles, gender equality, and building an inclusive, tolerant and non-discriminatory society through interactive educational events, sport and cultural activities. Another network supported by the Project was a coaching team of youth activists who were engaged in promoting the principles of tolerance and anti-discrimination in communities of eastern Ukraine.

30 This activity was co-funded by the Government of Denmark.

31 FUNdraiser – YouTube channel. URL: www.youtube.com/channel/UCd8KPTly0yGkMp5lqKOePxQ/videos

32 This activity was co-funded by the EU and the governments of Denmark, Sweden and Switzerland.

To ensure the sustainability of the work of the two networks, the NGOs “Ambassadors of Peace” and “Laboratory of Development of Luhansk Oblast” were officially established. Further, the representatives of these NGOs, with support from the Project, developed innovative educational tools that worked both in online and offline modes. These initiatives included the “Ambassadors of Peace Laboratory: Conflict Transformation” and “Laboratory of Tolerance” educational campaigns. The purpose of the campaigns was to foster peacebuilding and improve conflict prevention mechanisms by conveying the importance of shaping an inclusive and tolerant society, and of education on tolerance, dialogue and mutual understanding among the younger generation in the east. Overall, the Project held a total of 160 events engaging over 13,000 young people interested in civic activism (67 percent girls) and enhancing social cohesion in local communities in Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts. A dedicated booklet was created to summarize the experience of the network and consolidate best practices from Ambassadors of Peace activity. The booklet includes history of the creation and development of the network, and describes the principles, goals and success stories of network members in Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts (Annex 7).

Output 1.3.

Pilot initiatives for supporting vulnerable populations suffering adverse effects from the armed conflict are launched

ACTIVITY 1.3.1. CONDUCTING A SURVEY OF DAMAGE TO AND DESTRUCTION OF HOMES AND PRIVATE PROPERTY

In 2020, the Project conducted a comprehensive study of issues relating to compensation for civilians for the use of real estate property by military forces and law enforcement bodies during armed conflict (Annex 8). The study provided analysis of national legislation and international humanitarian law, the available judicial practice in Ukraine and the practice of the European Court of Human Rights. The analysis was also supported by field work in communities of Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts, situated near the 'contact line'. As a result of thorough analysis, the study provided a set of recommendations to set up a legal foundation for ensuring the rights of property owners for use of their property for military purposes and damage incurred.

The findings and recommendations provided by the study were presented at a dedicated online session and discussed among the judges of the Civil Cassation Court, members of the parliament, representatives of the government, international organizations, civil society and media.

ACTIVITY 1.3.2. PROVIDING SUPPORT TO PROSPECTIVE CLAIMANTS OF COMPENSATION FOR DAMAGE TO AND DESTRUCTION OF PROPERTY

As a next step, the Project supported an initiative of the "Ukrainian Institute for Human Rights" NGO to develop two alternative mechanisms for protecting the rights of property owners whose real estate was located in the conflict zone in the east of Ukraine and was used by the military. The first mechanism foresees the development of an administrative procedure to provide compensation for damage caused to civilians whose property has been used for military purposes during the conflict. The second one implies initiation of positive case law on the issue (so-called strategic litigation). As an outcome, it was planned to establish an effective and efficient mechanism of compensation for use of private property for military purposes, which will not only improve the human rights situation in Ukraine but also improve the attitude of local residents towards the military, and therefore decrease potential societal tensions. During implementation, trials were conducted in five cases regarding the usage and damage of civilian property (three of them are related to women-owners); in one of the cases a decision of the court of first instance was received. In addition, the Project included an advocacy component, in particular, work with parliamentary committees, which were considering two alternative proposals designed to regulate these public relations. This activity was suspended after the Russian military invasion of Ukraine in February 2022.

ACTIVITY 1.3.3. ASSESSMENT OF VULNERABLE GROUPS AT LOCAL LEVEL

During implementation, the Project conducted several assessments, targeted at vulnerable population groups – including internally displaced persons, persons with disabilities, older people, ex-combatants and others – to capture their needs and better target UN RPP interventions in the target regions.



In order to identify the persistent problems of the most vulnerable members of society, the Project conducted a study focused on the needs, preferences and expectations of people living in four communities along the contact line in Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts (Krasnohorivka and Sartana in Donetsk Oblast, and Popasna and Stanytsia Luhanska in Luhansk Oblast). A series of desk reviews, in-depth interviews and focus group discussions were conducted, covering 275 persons (81 percent women). Respondents included persons with disabilities, older people, the unemployed, persons living in poverty, internally displaced persons and others directly affected by the conflict. All these groups are hard to reach with traditional survey methodologies and tools, such as stratified random sampling. In the study, most of the respondents in both Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts noted a lack of access to quality health care services, underdeveloped road infrastructure, an absence of employment opportunities to earn a sustainable income and outdated leisure facilities as being among the most pressing problems. Similarly, good health, peace, stable employment, the availability of transport and public infrastructure were the main indicators of personal well-being among respondents from the most vulnerable groups. Several of the study recommendations, focusing particularly on improvement of social services and involvement of members of vulnerable groups in community development processes, were followed by the UN RPP in the course of project implementation, to ensure that the needs and demands of these groups are properly reflected in local recovery priorities and initiatives.

Furthermore, the Project conducted research on community-based reintegration of ATO and JFO ex-combatants in the target oblasts (Dnipropetrovsk, Donetsk, Luhansk and Zhytomyr oblasts). The study was designed to assess the needs of the ex-combatants and their families for social, economic, medical and psychological support, as well as examine the process of community-based reintegration from various perspectives, including those of ex-combatants, their families/spouses and the community. Based on the results of the study, recommendations were prepared for both national and local authorities for planning further reintegration interventions to support the ATO and JFO ex-combatants in Ukraine.

In addition, the Project carried out complex research on providing medical assistance to ex-combatants in Ukraine (Annex 9). The study included a comprehensive desk review of legislation and available national and regional programmes of medical rehabilitation and support, as well as a survey of ex-combatants, medical staff, representatives of national and regional authorities and NGOs working with veterans in the three selected oblasts.³³ The research covered available medical services and programmes for veterans, their accessibility, and veterans' satisfaction with the received services. The study provided a set of recommendations for developing a national policy document on providing medical care for ex-combatants. Although the research was conducted before the start of the full-scale war in Ukraine in February 2022, the analysis presented in the report will remain relevant in the post-war period and will provide evidence-based recommendations for future programmes and policies for ex-combatants. As the number of veterans increases, their need for quality medical care and further rehabilitation will become even more acute.

Other studies conducted by the Project included an assessment of the current state of provision of medical and psychological services to ex-combatants. The results of this aided the development of a roadmap for medical and psychological rehabilitation of ex-combatants (Annex 10).



Veteran participating in the offline event on veteran reintegration in Sviatohirsk, Donetsk Oblast, prior to the COVID-19 pandemic outbreak.

Photo credit: Artem Hetman / UNDP in Ukraine

ACTIVITY 1.3.4. SUPPORTING THE NEEDS OF VULNERABLE GROUPS IN TRANSFORMING CONFLICTS AND RECEIVING EFFECTIVE SERVICES THROUGH PILOT INITIATIVES

Within this activity, the Project worked towards ensuring the provision of essential support and specialized services to vulnerable groups, in particular persons with disabilities, ex-combatants and survivors of sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV). In cooperation with UNFPA, local CSOs and the local authorities, the Project supported the refurbishment of a shelter in Bakhmut (Donetsk Oblast), as well as a day centre in Sievierodonetsk (Luhansk Oblast) for survivors of gender-based and domestic violence.

33 This activity was co-funded by the Government of Switzerland.

The main function of the facilities was not limited to providing physical assistance to SGBV and domestic violence survivors, but also comprehensive social, psychological, medical and primary legal support, accompanied by awareness-raising activities, intended to prevent repeated cases of violence against women and girls. However, due to the start of the large-scale war, none of the institutions has been used as planned; the premises and equipment of these centres have probably either been damaged or destroyed due to active hostilities in the area.

In early 2022, the Project finalized implementation of the peer-to-peer support programme to help ex-combatants build links with the local authorities, law enforcement bodies and other stakeholders. The programme helped facilitate the networking of active veterans across the country, empower ex-combatants to excel in their professional development and establish meaningful community participation. Notably, the ex-combatants who participated in the peer-to-peer programme confirmed its effectiveness. As a result of the programme they began to implement social projects to adapt ex-combatants to life in their communities more actively, adhering to the principle of “equal to equal”, engaging in the creation of an active ex-combatant movement, both at the inter-regional and all-Ukrainian levels, retraining and mastering a new profession faster.



“Peer-to-Peer” project to mentor the support to ex-combatants

In follow up to the programme, two “Veterandvizh” hackathons were conducted for ATO/JFO ex-combatants in 2020 and 2021 in hybrid mode. During these events, the participants worked in teams with guidance from professional mentors to develop project ideas for social change in their communities. As a result of the pitch presentations and competitive selection process, 17 projects were supported. The winning projects were focused on issues such as ensuring various services for ex-combatants (including sport, rehabilitation and digital learning), improving infrastructure facilities for veterans and other community members, and others.³⁴ Unfortunately, due to the Russian military invasion of Ukraine, only 1 of the 10 initiatives supported in 2021 remained relevant and received financial assistance from the Project.

34 For an example of social project development, see: <https://youtu.be/IAvqebBFIM>



Hackathon “Veterandvizh”
for ATO/JFO ex-combatants.

Photo credit: Serhii Minenko /
UNDP in Ukraine

To summarize the experience of the programme, the manual describing the peer-to-peer support methodology was developed (Annex 11). The information presented in the manual is based on the experience of working with 73 ex-combatants-members of the “veteran to veteran” mentoring programme for ex-combatants in the target communities of Donetsk, Luhansk (territories under the control of the Government of Ukraine), Zaporizhzhia and Zhytomyr oblasts during 2020-2022.

Despite the ongoing hostilities, the need for reintegration remains urgent for veterans throughout the country, and in connection with the predicted increase in their number after the end of the war, the need for such programming will grow and a new format will be required for implementation.

In addition, Project activities were also aimed at improving the provision of medical and psychological services for ex-combatants. A total of 25 psychologists (16 women) learned innovative methods for working with veterans and their families, namely cognitive and procedural therapy for ex-combatants. Moreover, the Project provided the rehabilitation centre for veterans and their families in Berdychiv raion, Zhytomyr Oblast, with training equipment for sports rehabilitation. Importantly, due to the long-lasting armed conflict in eastern Ukraine and the Russian large-scale invasion in 2022, the issue of providing qualified psychological assistance to ex-combatants will remain urgent, and there will be growing demand among professionals for improved mental health methods for providing psychological support.

The Project also worked towards addressing the need of persons with disabilities in the target regions. To support the rehabilitation and social engagement of children with special educational needs in Donetsk Oblast, the Project, in December 2020, supported the instalment of an adaptive climbing wall in the premises of Donbas State Pedagogical University. In 2021, inclusive group classes were held for 90 children (44 girls), including two permanent groups of children with special educational needs, consisting of 12 boys and 3 girls.

To promote information and communication technologies that will offer innovative solutions to boost social cohesion and improve local safety and security, two “Hack for Locals” hackathons³⁵ were held with support from the Project:

- **“Hack for Locals 2.0: Safer Communities”** held in 2020 and
- **“Hack for Locals 3.0: Together against violence”** conducted in 2021.

³⁵ The hackathons was conducted with joint support from the EU and the governments of Canada, Denmark, the Netherlands, Sweden and Switzerland.

More than 750 participants from all over Ukraine developed practical solutions to the most pressing problems of community development, including community security, gender-based violence, and ensuring support to people with disabilities. As a result of extensive work and fruitful discussions, the 11 projects were selected to receive grants and/or mentorship support for the implementation of the ideas they developed at the hackathon. Unfortunately, due to the outbreak of war in Ukraine in 2022, only two winning teams from the Hack for Locals 3.0 were able to implement their projects.



The “Social comics” project illustration

The project implementation period was also highlighted by the launch of a new capacity-building programme called “Local Innovation Laboratory”, aimed at promoting the use of innovative approaches and tools in local development.³⁶ Within this programme, 40 local leaders (34 women) completed a two-day training session on innovative ecosystems for community development. As a result, 12 projects developed by the participants were presented at the final pitching event in December 2021, to be further supported through the Project’s Small Grant Fund (SGF: for more see under Output 1.5 below).

Ultimately, a pilot programme on innovation development named “Co-create With the Locals” was launched by the Project to enhance the capacities of civil society activists to co-develop, test and implement innovative and practical solutions for their communities, using the tools of social innovation and collaboration. Joint work to develop innovative ideas, use of methodologies to test and validate their hypotheses, and day-to-day collaboration with mentors produced some new and creative local community development projects. The programme included training and mentorship components and engaged 28 participants (23 women) from nine oblasts³⁷ who worked together to co-create innovative solutions on community security and social cohesion issues. As a result, 23 project proposals were developed, 10 of which received financial support for implementation.³⁸

36 This activity was co-funded by the EU and the governments of Denmark, Sweden and Switzerland.

37 Donetsk, Luhansk, Zaporizhzhia, Kherson, Sumy, Mykolaiv, Chernihiv, Zhytomyr and Dnipropetrovsk oblasts.

38 This activity was co-financed by the EU.



Final event of the “Co-create with the Locals” pilot programme

ACTIVITY 1.3.5. RAISE AWARENESS AT NATIONAL LEVEL ABOUT LESSONS LEARNED FROM LOCAL SUPPORT TO VULNERABLE GROUPS

Commitment to building a tolerant and inclusive society and enhancing community development based on the principles of gender equality and a human rights-based approach in eastern Ukraine was among the Project’s priorities. In this regard, the Project constantly supported the sharing of best practices and lessons learned during various national forums and conferences to promote the principles of inclusiveness and equality, and particularly took into account the needs and rights of the vulnerable groups.

One example of such an event was the National Forum on Trends in Community Security and Social Cohesion, held in November 2019 in Kyiv (Activity 1.1.2). The forum was specifically dedicated to sharing the most effective approaches to community security, access to justice, community mobilization, and social cohesion at the local and regional levels, as well as lessons learned so far. Another national event was the Interregional Forum “Life without Barriers” which was held online in December 2020, and brought together some 1,300 representatives of the Donetsk and Luhansk oblast administrations, NGOs, international organizations, social, cultural and educational institutions, media as well as active youth and volunteers working in the field of social policy and inclusion. The forum was a unique opportunity to summarize the results achieved so far in addressing the pressing needs of persons with disabilities in eastern Ukraine, present video stories showcasing best practices of community work, share lessons learned and discuss plans for future work in this area.

Particular attention was paid to the specifics of building inclusion in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic, and the possible means of further cooperation between communities and local authorities.



The annual interregional forum “Life without Barriers”.

In addition, the Project supported the organization of the “Mental Health: Ukraine. The World. The Future” international conference in October 2021 in Kyiv, at which the participants shared experience and best practices for the creation of an effective system of medical and psychological rehabilitation for ATO/JFO ex-combatants in Ukraine.



The international conference “Mental Health: Ukraine. The World. The Future”.

Photo credit: Oleksandr Ratushniak / UNDP in Ukraine

Output 1.4.

Improved efficiency and accountability in courts, prosecution offices, and police in resolving conflicts generally, and those emanating from the armed conflict in particular

ACTIVITY 1.4.1. CAPACITY BUILDING AND THE INTRODUCTION OF BEST PRACTICES TO INCREASE EFFICIENCY OF COURTS AND THE JUSTICE SYSTEM

To improve access to legal services for the residents of Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts, the Project, jointly with the Coordination Centre for Legal Aid Provision and UNHCR, supported the establishment of a network of free legal aid advisors (paralegals) in eastern Ukraine. These paralegals serve as connectors between the FLAS and community members, providing basic legal advice services and information on how to reach the system. To enhance the capacities of the network of paralegals, the Project supplied them with the necessary IT and other equipment and conducted a series of training sessions. The topics of the training programme included an overview of the FLAS, communication, conflict prevention, and methods of identification and response to gender-based violence. With the beginning of the war, FLAS employees who had previously worked in Donetsk, Luhansk and other war-affected oblasts moved to transit and host oblasts. At the same time, they are continuing to provide free legal aid services to citizens remotely. However, most of the office equipment of the paralegals could not be evacuated. Therefore, the UNDP enhanced the capacity of the FLAS to function and provide their services remotely (including via the “hotline”) by purchasing the necessary office equipment (laptops and headphones). This allows lawyers to respond to the needs of an increased number of internally displaced persons in need of legal assistance. In particular, 50 sets were purchased and handed over by UNDP, each of them includes laptops, headsets, mice and laptop bags. The equipment is being used by evacuated lawyers and the call centre workers.

Under this activity, the Project also worked towards improving the capacity of local judicial institutions to provide adequate and timely services to the conflict-affected population, including internally displaced persons. One of the negative impacts of the armed conflict in eastern Ukraine was lack of access to the archives and judicial cases which remained in the NGCA of both Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts. In this respect, the Project undertook a study on the accessibility of archives and court cases remaining in NGCA of Donetsk and Luhansk Oblasts (Annex 12). The assessment covered issues related to the availability and accessibility of the judicial cases and the archives of the Pension Fund, the State Migration Service, the State Labour Service and the State Register of Civil Acts left in the NGCA. Based on the recommendations of the study, the Project supported a pilot initiative in three local general courts³⁹ to digitize incoming procedural documents and specific categories of archival cases. Based on the results of this pilot activity, the Project planned to further evaluate the need to implement such a system in the rest of Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts. However, with the beginning of the large-scale war on 24 February 2022 further implementation of this initiative was suspended.

39 Donetsk Oblast: Artemivsk city and raion court (Bakhmut), and Ordzhonikidze district court of Mariupol; Luhansk Oblast: Sievierodonetsk city court.

To provide evidence-based capacity-building assistance to the local courts, the Project carried out the following studies:

- Assessment of the capacity building needs of local general courts and local secondary free legal aid offices dealing with civil and criminal cases during the transitional policy in Ukraine (Annex 13).
- Analysis of best practices in conflict-related judicial cases on sexual and gender-based violence, and the guidelines for local general courts on such trials, developed based on the study results.

Following the results of the studies, the Project rendered required capacity-building support to local judicial institutions to enable them to provide quality and timely services to the local population. This support included training sessions for judge-speakers⁴⁰ of the local general courts of Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts on communication with the media and civil society; a series of multidisciplinary workshops for representatives of law enforcement bodies and the justice sector (judges, prosecutors and FLAS lawyers) from Donetsk, Luhansk and Zaporizhzhia oblasts on prevention of and response to domestic violence.

ACTIVITY 1.4.2. SUPPORTING MONITORING OF COURT PROCEEDINGS RESULTING FROM THE ARMED CONFLICT

Under this activity, the Project, through the small grants scheme, provided support to civil society in building their capacity to assess conflict-related judicial cases, develop recommendations, and implement them to streamline the judicial process.

The first grant project related to monitoring of the impact of coverage of court decisions in cases related to the armed conflict in eastern Ukraine on the public's attitude towards the judicial branch of government. The purpose of this initiative was to improve the level of trust towards the judiciary through proper coverage of court decisions in cases related to the armed conflict in the east of Ukraine. The results of the project were summarized in a report targeted at employees of courts, the prosecutor's office, the police and other state institutions involved in the communication process on the armed conflict in eastern Ukraine, the media and civil society (Annex 14).

Another initiative supported through the SGF was creating and developing an effective network of students to monitor the court proceedings on the independence of judges in conflict-related cases. As a result of this project, 28 students at universities from Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts (21 women) received training and the necessary knowledge to monitor trials. Based on the results of this monitoring, up-to-date information was collected regarding compliance with fair trial standards, and the main problems of ensuring the right to a fair trial were identified.

Due to the beginning of the Russian military invasion of Ukraine on 24 February 2022, further implementation of this activity was suspended.

40 A judge of a local court appointed for sharing information with the media.

Output 1.5.

Grants support to strengthened mechanisms for conflict transformation through the provision of effective and innovative services

The Project established the SGF to strengthen mechanisms for conflict transformation. The fund was designed to support local initiatives that facilitate interventions responding to security concerns at the community level, on a cost-share basis with the local authorities of the target communities. It also enabled the communities to identify and prioritize their needs and, most importantly, provided avenues for these needs to be both communicated and responded to.

Based on the results of the expert evaluation, 12 projects facilitating conflict transformation were supported, benefitting more than 12,000 people (63 percent women). More specifically, the projects were designed to reduce conflicts in the target communities of Donetsk, Luhansk, Zaporizhzhia and Zhytomyr oblasts through alternative or innovative approaches to dispute and conflict prevention and resolution, and to facilitate community conflict analysis to prevent new and resolve existing conflicts.

In addition, 21 projects were supported to facilitate ATO/JFO ex-combatant's reintegration and rehabilitation in Dnipropetrovsk, Luhansk and Zhytomyr oblasts, directly benefitting 38,000 people (10 percent women). The projects covered the areas of medical and psychological rehabilitation and social adaptation of veterans, enhancing cooperation between ATO/JFO veterans, youth and police to increase public safety and promotion of social reintegration of ATO/JFO ex-combatants through training and various group activities (Annex 15 – List of supported projects within the SGF).

Furthermore, in 2021, the Project supported 19 civil society mini-initiatives in communities in Dnipropetrovsk, Luhansk, Zaporizhzhia and Zhytomyr oblasts. The mini-initiatives instrument was used to mobilize communities where the public sector was underrepresented, or when an initiative group was formed and worked on its challenge; however, it had not yet reached the stage of creating a CSO. The initiatives focused on conflict transformation, facilitating ex-combatants' reintegration and community security as well as promoting humanitarian-development-peace nexus activities, and benefitted some 4,500 people (52 percent women), including youth, children, ex-combatants and persons with disabilities (Annex 16 – List of supported mini-initiatives within the SGF).

Additionally, a dedicated organization "Sotsioconsulting" was supported by the SGF to monitor implementation of the UN RPP grant programme in Donetsk, Luhansk, Dnipropetrovsk, Zaporizhzhia and Zhytomyr oblasts. During the first implementation period, the project developed M&E methodology and tools, and mobilized and trained a pool of regional monitors. According to mid-term results, 34 small grant projects had been monitored through site visits and provided with recommendations on possible improvements, taking into account the strengths and weaknesses of the supported NGOs.

Outcome 2.

STRENGTHENED PERSONAL AND COMMUNITY SECURITY THROUGH GREATER INSTITUTIONAL AND CITIZEN ENGAGEMENT IN CONFLICT-AFFECTED AREAS

Output 2.1.

Increased awareness of public attitudes, human rights redress mechanisms, and security risks by policymakers, the public, and particularly the youth

ACTIVITY 2.1.1. MEASURE THE PERCEPTION OF LOCAL COMMUNITIES OF KEY SECURITY AND JUSTICE ISSUES, ALONG WITH THEIR EXPERIENCES IN ACCESSING JUSTICE, THEIR SECURITY CONCERNS AND THEIR KNOWLEDGE OF HOW TO OBTAIN REDRESS

Since 2017, the UN RPP has commissioned four surveys of citizens' knowledge of, attitudes toward and experience with justice and security issues in conflict-affected communities in eastern Ukraine (Annex 17). The latest "Security and Justice in Ukraine" survey was completed in 2021, with a particular geographic focus on the conflict-affected areas in Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts, as well as on Zaporizhzhia and Kherson oblasts.

The purpose of the survey was to observe the dynamics and key developments since the last assessment. Another focus of the survey was to assess the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on various areas of life – community development, human security, and access to justice – especially for representatives of vulnerable groups. The survey was conducted with 5,125 respondents aged 18 and over (56 percent women). Notably, for the first time, respondents in the NGCA of Donetsk and Luhansk were surveyed online.

The annual Security and Justice Survey, supported by the Project, was one of the key monitoring instruments and analytical tools for the whole Programme. It provided unique data (at relevant levels of disaggregation) that enable tracking of the progress of key national reforms in conflict-affected regions and assessment of the impact of different development interventions related to reintegration, community security, the rule of law and human rights. Since the beginning of the Russian invasion of Ukraine on 24 February 2022, the territories of the Project's target regions in the east of Ukraine became a centre of hostilities and are being most heavily affected by the ongoing war. Some target communities are now beyond the control of the government, while others are now on the frontline. Intense and escalating hostilities are continuing to cause casualties among civilians, as well as massive destruction of critical infrastructure in the region. Therefore, the results obtained within the fourth Security and Justice Survey can serve as a pre-war baseline, while new assessments are required to evaluate the current situation and align the UN RPP interventions to the new needs and challenges of the affected regions.

Apart from this, the Project has supported local security service providers by improving their capacity to deliver emergency services more efficiently. This support included training programmes for police officers on human rights, work with persons with disabilities and community policing, as well as provision of medical kits and training equipment to SES departments and higher educational institutions.



Participants of a training on cognitive-processing therapy for mental health professionals working with the rescuers of the State Emergency Service of Ukraine and the National Police.

Photo credit: Pavlo Malovanyi / UNDP in Ukraine

After Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine, the employees of the SES units and police departments in Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts remained to serve and perform rescue operations in war-torn communities. To ensure continued and effective operation of the first responders, the Project procured necessary IT equipment, including laptops, computers and communication enhancement equipment, for the administrative units of the SES and the National Police. Moreover, 20 police and SES psychologists (all women) from Luhansk, Donetsk, Kharkiv, Zaporizhzhia, and Poltava oblasts underwent a training programme on cognitive processing therapy and improved the practical skills to use this technique in their work with colleagues and civilian populations.

ACTIVITY 2.1.2. UNDERTAKE AWARENESS-RAISING CAMPAIGN TO FOCUS ON SECURITY CHALLENGES AND REDRESS MECHANISMS

To raise awareness and involve the local population in resolving security challenges, including through the CSWG mechanism, the Project conducted public campaigns by posting information on billboards showcasing the results of the Security and Justice Survey and the work of the CSWGs. In total, 73 billboards showcasing the results of the Security and Justice Survey on access to justice and the work of security providers and local authorities were placed in almost 30 settlements in Donetsk, Luhansk and Zaporizhzhia oblasts, reaching more than 10,000 people. Importantly, the campaign increased the awareness of the local population, including the elderly, who do not often use social networks, drawing their attention to the importance of community issues and the possibility of taking part in resolving them.

Another prominent example of promoting positive narratives and raising awareness about the challenges faced by conflict-affected people – specifically youth, ex-combatants and their families – as well as draw attention to the problem of domestic violence, was the creation of a series of comic books.⁴¹ The books are an innovative storytelling instrument to help visualize and communicate the stories of vulnerable and conflict-affected people to a broader audience. Easy to perceive, these visual stories helped raise awareness and sensitize the public at large on the most pressing social issues:

- Two of the comic books – “The New Beginning” and “Heroes of Light”⁴² – were dedicated to the issue of domestic violence against children of different ages.
- The other two comic books – “The Sounds of Peace” and “On the Other Side” – were dedicated to reintegration of ex-combatants after returning to civilian life, as well as to the young people living in conflict-affected regions, especially near the “contact line”.



Four comic books on social topics, developed by the Project, were presented at Comic Con Ukraine, Kyiv, 5 September 2021.

Photo credit: Oleksandr Ratushniak / UNDP in Ukraine

41 <https://socialcomics.in.ua>

42 The comic books are available at the following links: “The New Beginning” – <https://cutt.ly/DvGN3oC>; “Heroes of Light” – <https://cutt.ly/2vGMqVS>; “The Sounds of Peace” – <https://cutt.ly/yvGNGmM>; and “On the Other Side” – <https://cutt.ly/lvGNbEK>.

Notably, the Institute for Modernization of Education approved the use of all four comic books in extracurricular education in Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts, in particular through the La Strada mediator network. In addition, the comic books were awarded the title of “**Social Project of the Year**” for a series of social paintings by contemporary Ukrainian authors. Moreover, the comic books were presented at the Comic Con Ukraine festival in Kyiv on 5 September 2021, which gathered more than 40,000 participants.

In addition, the Project raised awareness of the application of an instrument of participatory budgeting in local development during an interregional conference held in Sviatohirsk, Donetsk Oblast, in October 2021. The participatory budget, as one of the tools of participatory democracy, helps to ensure equal access for all stakeholders to the community development process to ensure citizen participation in decision making. The conference brought together the most active representatives of Donetsk, Luhansk and Zaporizhzhia oblasts, so they could learn how local participatory budgets work and exchange experience on implementation of participatory budget projects.

Output 2.2.

Improved capacities and practices of law enforcement and local authority service providers to carry out community policing and discharge their responsibilities to citizens

ACTIVITY 2.2.1. TRAINING LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES ON COMMUNITY POLICING, IN LINE WITH INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS LAW, INTERNATIONAL HUMANITARIAN LAW, AND THE PRINCIPLES AND NORMS OF GENDER EQUALITY

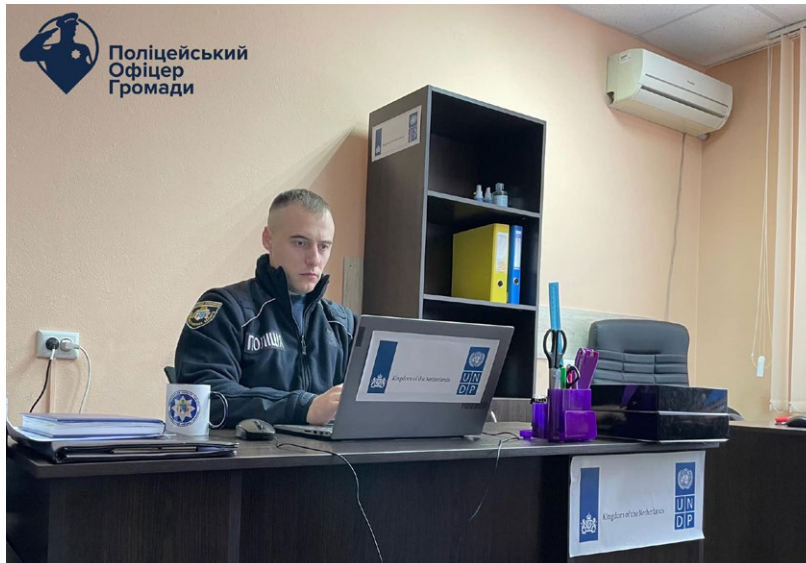
Enhancing the capacities of law enforcement officials was one of the Project's priority areas of work, and was achieved through provision of technical assistance and capacity-building support, such as training programmes, workshops and forums. These activities were primarily aimed at creating better working conditions and improving the knowledge and skills of law enforcement bodies on effective prevention of and response to SGBV, domestic violence and gender inequality.

In 2020, the Project supported the opening of child-friendly 'green rooms' at the police departments in Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts for interviewing children who are witnesses and victims of crimes, including domestic violence, as well as those who have committed violence. To increase the capacity of police officers to conduct child-friendly interviews, psychological and legal features of work with children in 'green rooms', the Project conducted dedicated training sessions for 79 juvenile prevention officers of the Main Departments of National Police (44 women) in Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts.

Moreover, the Project supported two local police offices in Luhansk Oblast⁴³ aimed at introducing the principles of openness and transparency in their works. This included the outfitting of service areas of the police offices with essential furniture and equipment, and minor repair works. The creation of such spaces significantly improved the quality of the provision of police services to the community.

In 2017, the National Police of Ukraine launched the "Polina" project in some regions of the country, intended to prevent and respond to SGBV. The essence of this project was the creation of special mobile police groups in cities with high population density, which included employees of various police departments: district officers, juvenile prevention and investigators (women and men). Members of these mobile groups received essential training in the field of SGBV prevention and counteraction. In particular, a project was launched in Sievierodonetsk in Luhansk Oblast and Mariupol in Donetsk Oblast, as well as in other regions of Ukraine. To increase the mobility of the "Polina" groups in their response to SGBV and domestic violence, the Project provided one specialized vehicle to each of the police groups operating in Mariupol and Sievierodonetsk. In addition, 20 police officers (5 women) from Zaporizhzhia Oblast were equipped with the necessary knowledge on psychological approaches to working with survivors of domestic violence and abusers.

43 Novoaidar and Sievierodonetsk.



Community police officers in Dnipropetrovsk Oblast received necessary office and IT equipment.

Photo courtesy of the Main Department of the National Police in Dnipropetrovsk Oblast

Ultimately, the community policing initiative was successfully launched and was implemented in Donetsk and Luhansk Oblast since the beginning of the Project. The initiative sought to show the advantages of deploying community police officers directly in communities to liaise with local residents and build transparency and trust in the institution. This is of paramount importance given the current uncertain evolution of the security situation. After the Russia's invasion of Ukraine, the Project also supported community policing initiative in Dnipropetrovsk Oblast given its proximity to the frontline, and being active transit area for people fleeing the war. In particular, the Project procured furniture, IT equipment and other items to support the work of community police officers in 32 settlements in Dnipropetrovsk Oblast.

ACTIVITY 2.2.2. BUILD THE CAPACITIES OF LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES TO CARRY OUT COMMUNITY POLICING THROUGH ADDITIONAL METHODS

In eastern Ukraine, the lack of certified first aid trainers and specialized equipment in the training centres was acknowledged as one of the key impediments to police and SES personnel acquiring necessary skills and professional development. At the same time, building the capacity of police officers and SES rescuers in these skills is crucial as very often they are the first to arrive at the scene of an accident where injured people require emergency medical aid before medical professionals arrive. To address this issue, the Project organized a series of training sessions on emergency medical care for 26 police officers (12 women) and 16 SES rescuers (3 women) from Donetsk Oblast. The training activities were conducted in accordance with the training programme approved by the Ministry of Health⁴⁴ and consisted of two modules: Basic Life Support (8 learning hours) and First Responder at the Scene (48 learning hours).⁴⁵ Equipped with the necessary knowledge, the police officers and rescuers were also enabled to act as first aid instructors in the training centres of the National Police and SES. Additionally, each participant on the training programme received a set of medical and training equipment to conduct first aid training for the police and SES personnel in order to increase the effectiveness of their work with the citizens.

⁴⁴ Order No 346 of 29 March 2017 "On improving learning on providing medical care by people without medical education".

⁴⁵ www.youtube.com/watch?v=ahPTWGalluE

Furthermore, the Project's activities were targeted at enhancing the transparency of police work and building cooperation between the police and community members. To this end, a multifunction dialogue space was set up at the Department of Patrol Police in Donetsk Oblast. The dialogue space was designed to hold various meetings with citizens, local authorities, CSOs and international organizations, discuss and plan implementation of joint projects and organize thematic training events and awareness-raising campaigns. Another initiative to strengthen cooperation between the police and community was the creation of a sports hub in Sievierodonetsk, Luhansk Oblast, to conduct various sports activities involving police officers and community members. The Project purchased and transferred sports and other equipment, furniture and air conditioning systems to equip the sports hub and the police offices, which are located at the same premises.

Moreover, the Project provided technical assistance to the Main Department of the National Police in Donetsk Oblast by supporting the overhaul of the premises of the several services working in the field of child protection in Kramatorsk (the Kramatorsk Children's Service, the Probation Service, the Juvenile Prevention Department, the Police District Office and the "Polina" mobile group). The support provided included procurement of construction materials, namely the gutter system, construction mixtures, and bulk and liquid materials.

ACTIVITY 2.2.3. SUPPORT THE DEVELOPMENT AND IMPLEMENTATION OF LOCAL SECURITY PLANS FOR LOCAL AUTHORITIES

To properly address existing security concerns and the capacity building needs of security providers in ways that correspond with the specifics of the target regions, the Project comprehensively assessed community security and civil protection in settlements in Donetsk and Zaporizhzhia oblasts located along the coast of the Sea of Azov. The research was conducted in Berdiansk, Prymorsk and Kyrylivka communities in Zaporizhzhia Oblast, as well as in settlements of Yalta urban village council in Donetsk Oblast. The communities were carefully selected in line with the Project's objectives, focusing on both rural and urban areas with significantly differing population sizes, in order to obtain an in-depth overview of security issues specific to these areas and individual communities. The study included various security aspects of the target communities, such as the assessment of safety issues from the perspective of community members, the institutional capacity of local security providers to address specific security challenges, evaluation of community policing initiatives, and so on (Annex 18).

Furthermore, to support the implementation of local security plans⁴⁶ in six communities of Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts,⁴⁷ the Project provided important IT and video surveillance equipment to Kreminna, Popasna, Sartana, Siversk and Volnovakha communities. Moreover, the Project supplied essential construction materials to Krasnorichenske community for renovating the fire station. To assess the effectiveness of implementation of the security plans, a dedicated training programme was organized on effective monitoring and assessment for 18 representatives of the local authorities and CSOs from the above-mentioned communities (13 women).

In addition, the Project supported the development of local security plans in seven communities of Zhytomyr Oblast⁴⁸ to improve public safety and security and support the reintegration of ATO/JFO veterans.

⁴⁶ Development of integrated security plans was funded by the EU within the UN RPP.

⁴⁷ Sartana, Siversk and Volnovakha in Donetsk oblast and Krasnorichenske, Kreminna and Popasna in Luhansk oblast.

⁴⁸ Baranivka, Chervone, Nova Borova, Novohrad-Volynskyi, Semenivka, Vysoke and Zhytomyr.

41 Output 2.

The security plans were developed jointly with representatives of the target communities and approved by the local authorities. In addition, through its SGF, the Project supported seven activities envisaged in these plans related to the reintegration of veterans. The supported activities covered social adaptation and psychological rehabilitation of veterans, including creating community spaces for ex-combatants and youth, establishing a psychological support room, and support for public institutions assisting veterans and their families.

In addition, the Project carried out a Risk and Threats Management Coordination Assessment, aimed at providing recommendations to develop a viable and effective risk management coordination mechanism in eastern Ukraine. Based on this assessment, an analytical report, analysing the available mechanism of risk and threat management coordination in Ukraine in general, and in the conflict-affected regions in particular, was prepared (Annex 19).

Output 2.3.

Broader and more effective application of mechanisms for coordinating between citizens, law enforcement bodies, local authorities and other stakeholders to promote community security

ACTIVITY 2.3.1. BUILD THE CAPACITIES OF COMMUNITY SECURITY WORKING GROUPS AND SUPPORT THEIR FUNCTIONING

Through the mechanism of CSWGs, the Project supported activities in the target oblasts to enhance civic participation, increase the openness of local authorities, and improve interaction and cooperation between all stakeholders. Overall, 48 CSWGs were active in Donetsk, Luhansk, Zaporizhzhia and Zhytomyr oblasts.⁴⁹ CSWGs were not only open dialogue platforms but also consultative and advisory bodies that made it possible to enshrine community decisions in local authority programme documents, and gradually moved from a project to a programme management approach for sustainable and qualitative change. Moreover, 42 community profiles, developed on a participatory basis by CSWG members, were actively used to advocate for solutions to security issues identified at local level.

In total, 1,100 participants (59 percent women) – representing local authorities and self-government bodies; community service providers; NGOs and community leaders; the education, culture, social service sectors; as well as the private sector – actively participated in regular meetings of the working groups. A network of CSWGs was active in Donetsk, Luhansk and Zaporizhzhia oblasts to facilitate dialogue and exchange best practice between the groups about community mobilization and tackling numerous challenges related to community security, social cohesion, and project development and implementation.

With the beginning of the Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine, the CSWG Network proved its effectiveness. Strong horizontal ties, based on trusting relations between the key actors (local authorities, civil society, security service providers, and so on), enabled the working groups to deploy humanitarian headquarters and volunteer centres quickly, organize temporary shelters for internally displaced persons, provide vulnerable categories of the population with medicines, food, and hygiene kits, arrange shelter, facilitate evacuation of the population, and provide educational support. As many CSWG participants moved from their communities to other safer regions of Ukraine, regular meetings are not held in each separate community anymore but are transformed into joint meetings by oblast and are moderated by the CSWG Network. To develop the capacities of the CSWGs and to enhance the interaction between civil society, local authorities, law enforcement agencies, businesses, international organizations and other institutions, the Project constantly conducted various training sessions and local development forums, and provided necessary technical support. For example, in response to COVID-19 quarantine measures, the Project provided the CSWGs of Donetsk, Luhansk and Zhytomyr oblasts with video conferencing equipment to organize online meetings of the working groups. Notably, with all the required equipment in place, none of the CSWGs interrupted its operations during the quarantine restrictions.

Apart from the CSWGs, 10 advocacy groups were established in Dnipropetrovsk and Zhytomyr oblasts⁵⁰ to help ATO/JFO veterans participate in local decision making processes and promote the veterans' agenda locally. Each advocacy group works on specific proposals to be submitted to the local authorities to improve veterans' reintegration opportunities and achieve sustainable results.

⁴⁹ Sixteen in Donetsk Oblast, 16 in Luhansk Oblast, nine in Zaporizhzhia Oblast and seven in Zhytomyr Oblast.

⁵⁰ Dnipropetrovsk Oblast (Dniprovske, Kamianka, Novolativka, Novomoskovsk, Pavlohrad, and Shyroke communities) and Zhytomyr Oblast (Andrushiv, Berdychiv, Novohrad-Volynskyi, Popilnia and Zhytomyr communities).

ACTIVITY 2.3.2. PROVIDE SUPPORT TO EX-COMBATANTS TO REINTEGRATE INTO THEIR COMMUNITIES AND BUILD LINKS WITH LOCAL AUTHORITIES, LAW ENFORCEMENT BODIES AND OTHER STAKEHOLDERS

Reintegrating ex-combatants into society in a non-conflict environment and addressing the security challenges that arise from this process are essential for building inclusive and safe communities. Psychological rehabilitation of the ATO/JFO ex-combatants is an integral part of their successful reintegration into civilian life. The mental health issues and trauma-related illnesses caused by the armed conflict, if not addressed in a timely manner, may be further aggravated by many factors – such as unemployment, stress and family discord – when the ex-combatants re-enter the society. To raise awareness of this issue, ten motivational stories and videos were created to provide real examples of how ex-combatants managed to overcome their problems with the help of psychologists. Moreover, another five stories were developed to describe the processes of psychological recovery by the psychologists themselves. The stories were widely disseminated through various digital channels, including social media.⁵¹ In addition, printed versions were disseminated in remote communities with contacts of organizations providing psychological services. In total, over 2 million people were reached by this informational campaign.

Facilitating ex-combatants' reintegration, transition, readjustment, coping, and community integration is a societal priority for the Government of Ukraine. In an effort to strengthen the capacity of the government and civil society to respond to the needs of veterans effectively, the Project has actively cultivated partnerships with international and national partners to ensure a gradual and non-traumatic return of veterans to civilian life. To this end, the Project in close cooperation with the Folke Bernadotte Academy organized a three-day training course on supporting the reintegration of veterans. Professionals involved in implementing national and international policies to strengthen the reintegration of Ukrainian veterans participated in the course.



Training course on supporting the reintegration of veterans in Truskavets in Lviv Oblast, held in cooperation with the Folke Bernadotte Academy in November 2022.

Photo credit: Viktor Moskaliuk / UNDP in Ukraine

Furthermore, to increase the level of knowledge of the representatives of the free legal aid system as regards the provision of legal aid to the ATO/JFO ex-combatants, the Project supported the development of handbooks with answers to basic questions and an overview of judicial practice for lawyers providing legal assistance to veterans (Annex 20).

51 www.facebook.com/watch/271314673762653/418518519172721/

Moreover, 126 lawyers from free legal aid offices (71 women) received necessary knowledge on the specifics of providing legal support to the veterans, during eight three-day online training sessions. In addition, dedicated leaflets with information on how to receive free legal aid services were developed and disseminated among ex-combatants.

As part of the work to strengthen the capacity of the Ministry of Veterans Affairs of Ukraine, the Project provided the regional departments of the Ministry in Dnipropetrovsk, Zhytomyr and Zaporizhzhia oblasts with the necessary office equipment. In addition, 26 representatives of the Ministry’s regional departments (14 women) took part in dedicated training and improved their communication skills to interact with local authorities on veteran reintegration in the context of decentralization, and also received new knowledge on monitoring and evaluation of the government and regional target programmes and projects.

In addition, the Project transferred office equipment to support the activities of four veterans’ spaces in Dnipropetrovsk (Pavlohrad and Novomoskovsk communities) and Zhytomyr (Berdychiv and Novohrad-Volynskiy communities) oblasts. The veterans’ spaces were created at the premises of existing veterans’ organizations, and are designed to facilitate veterans’ community collaboration and strengthen ex-combatants’ capacity to implement their community activities.

ACTIVITY 2.3.3. PROMOTE LESSONS LEARNED FROM THE FUNCTIONING OF CSWGS AT THE NATIONAL LEVEL

In October 2022, the Network of the Community Security Working Groups gathered in Truskavets, Lviv Oblast, for a networking event, the first held after the beginning of the full-scale war. The event involved civic activists, local authorities and police officers from the most war-ravaged areas of Ukraine. During the event, representatives of the working groups of Donetsk, Luhansk, Dnipropetrovsk, Zaporizhzhia, Zhytomyr and Kherson oblasts explored strategies for supporting communities that are located in the closest proximity to the frontlines.



A networking event of the CSWG representatives from Donetsk, Luhansk, Dnipropetrovsk, Zaporizhzhia, Zhytomyr and Kherson oblasts, held in Truskavets, Lviv Oblast.

Photo credit: Artem Hetman / UNDP in Ukraine

On 30-31 November 2021, 30 members of the CSWGs participated in the 10th national Civil Society Development Forum, organized by ISAR Ednannia NGO in Kyiv.

The Forum has become the largest national platform for inter-sectoral dialogue, where the exchange of ideas and learning of best practices are flourishing. The event focused on the role of civil society in building democracy, protecting human rights, strengthening social cohesion and national unity, and attracted about 1,800 participants from all over the country – from central and regional authorities, foreign embassies, CSOs, international organizations, and so on. At the Forum, CSWG members actively promoted Community Security and Social Cohesion Networks as effective tools of local democracy, dialogue and advocacy platforms for interaction between local authorities and civil society, presented lessons learned, best practices and innovative approaches toward strengthening community security, access to justice, community mobilization at the local, regional and national levels. The specially organized interactive zone at the forum called “Together we are in Safety: CSWG Network” enabled interaction with quests, including competitions, community mapping tool presentations, promo and knowledge products on community mobilization for community security.

Moreover, a web portal was created for the CSWG networks to raise awareness about the activities, tools and approaches used by the working groups and their networks in the target communities.⁵² To further enhance the accessibility, systematization and comparability of the information collected, and to increase the level of stakeholder awareness, a dedicated website was developed to present the achievements and best practices of community profiling to a broader audience.⁵³

In addition, to summarize and share its experience, the Project developed a manual on establishing a CSWG and applying the community mobilization methodology tool (Annex 21). The manual was completed on the eve of the full-scale invasion of Ukraine. Despite active hostilities, the effectiveness of the community security and social cohesion working groups methodology has been proven. The manual and methodology have been further shared with Project stakeholders at local, oblast and national levels throughout Ukraine. In the current situation, the summarized experience and best practices will be particularly important for implementing UN RPP activities in transit and host communities to mobilize the war-affected population there.

Recognizing the significance of endeavours of the CSWG Network, the Project created a series of videos that illuminate the indispensable contributions made by these representatives in their support of afflicted communities.⁵⁴ The heroines and heroes of the videos talk about how their pre-war experience with CSWGs helped them to quickly organize response, including evacuation of citizens, delivery of aid to Donetsk and Luhansk region, social activities in new conditions, establishing contact with communities left in the vortex of hostilities, sharing best practices of building new partnerships during war and cooperation of working groups at a distance.

ACTIVITY 2.3.4. BUILD THE CAPACITY OF SAFETY AND SECURITY CENTRES

As part of the decentralization reform, Safety and Security Centres (SSC) were established throughout Ukraine as a joint initiative of police, emergency services and firefighting brigades. The primary purpose of the SSCs is to ensure the provision of police, medical, fire and rescue services to the population, especially where the timely arrival of the SES units at the scene is difficult due to significant distances between community settlements and the locations where the units are deployed. The Project strengthened the capacity of the SSCs and local firefighting brigades, by both providing technical support and improving the necessary skills and abilities of rescuers, supporting them in fulfilling their respective powers.

52 <https://merega.org.ua/>

53 <https://partnercommunities.in.ua/community>

54 The link to videos: www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PL0-qYICKWMvquoQjWxOOmJ0gNoulZbRnW

During its implementation period, the Project supported the establishment of an SSC in Bondarivka village in Markivka community (Luhansk Oblast) by providing construction materials for repair works at the centre.⁵⁵ Moreover, two local SSCs in Donetsk Oblast (Sartana and Mykolaivka) increased their technical capacity by receiving modern professional equipment for firefighting, such as floating motor pumps and mobile lighting installations. In addition, technical assistance was provided to 11 settlements in Luhansk and Zaporizhzhia oblasts, in which local firefighting brigades were created.⁵⁶ The local firefighters received much-needed equipment and special firefighting clothes to provide rescue services to their communities more effectively.

The Russia's military invasion of Ukraine caused immense damage to infrastructure and property in Donetsk, Luhansk and Zaporizhzhia oblasts, especially in the areas of active fighting and those under the military control of the Russian Federation, where access to key resources, including special firefighting equipment, is a challenge. The SES units have for the main part remained to serve and perform rescue operations in war-torn communities. Some units have been relocated from Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts and are continuing their work from other regions. To support the SES units from Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts, the Project delivered 60 sets of protective firefighter clothing (25 for Luhansk SES and 35 for Donetsk SES) to provide protection to rescuers engaged in day-to-day rescue operations.

ACTIVITY 2.3.5. SUPPORT THE SAFETY AND SECURITY CENTRES IN CARRYING OUT THEIR MANDATES

To further strengthen the security and safety of the target communities, the Project supported the operation of the SES in Donetsk, Luhansk and Zaporizhzhia oblasts. The Project supplied the SES Training Centres in Donetsk, Luhansk and Zaporizhzhia oblasts with the necessary equipment, including construction materials, office furniture, IT and specialized firefighting equipment, as well as medical mannequins to train firefighters and rescuers.

Moreover, the Project delivered specialized firefighting equipment (chainsaws, motor pumps, power cutters, gasoline generators, water backpack fire extinguishers, and so on), communication and IT equipment and specialized firefighting clothes to 16 local firefighting brigades⁵⁷ and three SSCs⁵⁸ in Donetsk, Luhansk and Zaporizhzhia oblasts to strengthen their capacity to respond to emergencies rapidly and effectively.

Apart from that, a specialized car was transferred to the Main Department of the SES in Zaporizhzhia Oblast to improve the mobility of its rescue and diving unit, ensuring a rapid response to emergencies along the Sea of Azov coastline.

In addition, to create and equip modern press studios to enable the regional SES departments to hold press conferences to inform the public about emergencies and broadcast meetings with the public on discussion of the most pressing civil protection issues, the Project provided IT, video and audio equipment for the press studios of the Main Departments of SES in Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts.

⁵⁵ This activity is co-funded by the EU.

⁵⁶ Andriivka, Berestove, Dmytrivka and Mykolaivka in Bediansk raion, Zaporizhzhia Oblast; Morozivka, Mykilske Velykotsk, Zorynivka in Milove community, Mostki village in Svatove community, Nevske and Prostore villages in Bilokurakyn community, Luhansk Oblast.

⁵⁷ Bediansk rayon of Zaporizhzhia Oblasts (villages Osypenko, Chervone Pole, Dmytrivka, Novotroitske, Novopetrivka, Andriivka, Berestove and Mykolaivka); Milove rayon (villages Velykotsk, Zorykivka, Morozivka, Mykilske), Mostki village, Svatove rayon, Nevske village Kreminna raion, Kamianka village, Novopskov raion and Bilokurakyn amalgamated community (Luhansk Oblast).

⁵⁸ Lyman, Olhynka and Andriivka territorial communities.

Output 2.4.**Grant support for strengthened personal and community security through greater institutional and citizen engagement in conflict-affected areas**

The Project used the Small Grant Fund to engage and empower local communities to act for and participate in their development. This was done by supporting local initiatives to enhance community security, access to justice and social cohesion. During implementation, the Project supported a total of 63 civic initiatives focused on community security, including community policing, GBV prevention and response and COVID-19 counteraction, and six access-to-justice initiatives in the target communities of Donetsk, Luhansk, Zaporizhzhia and Zhytomyr oblasts (Annex 15 – List of supported projects within the SGF). The total number of beneficiaries under this output since the start of the Project is over 180,000 residents of the target oblasts (63 percent women).

Furthermore, a specialized grant was provided to the Legal Development Network organization to enhance the capacity of local CSOs and monitor access to justice and the provision of security services. The project concentrated on the development and implementation of methodology aimed at identifying gaps in ensuring access to justice for community members, as well as providing recommendations for its improvement. To implement this methodology at local level, six CSOs were mobilized, and 17 representatives of these organizations (nine women) were equipped with the necessary skills to further monitor social security services in Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts. As a result, 125 organizations and institutions were covered by the established monitoring groups. The final monitoring report was presented to the key stakeholders at the workshops, as a baseline for further advocacy activities.

Moreover, the Project supported seven community security mini-initiatives focused on community security and social cohesion issues, targeting a total of more than 9,000 direct beneficiaries (63 percent women). Examples of activities include the creation of local spaces for vulnerable groups of people, renovation of public spaces, improvement of road infrastructure through installation of traffic mirrors and speed limitation facilities, and awareness-raising events for children and youth on fire safety conducted by the local firefighting brigades (Annex 16 – List of the supported mini-initiatives within the SGF).

Lessons Learned

01

With regard to the ongoing war in Ukraine, there is a persistent need to connect various development and humanitarian initiatives, in order to better contribute to durable solutions supporting the recovery, peace and reconciliation agenda in the war-affected regions of Ukraine. Such initiatives can meet the urgent needs of the community members in the target regions while laying the foundation for further planning and implementation of recovery activities.

02

Enhanced communication, cooperation and partnership between local authorities and communities should continue to be fostered via the establishing dialogue platforms and formats such as Community Security Working Groups (CSWGs) and advocacy groups, as well as other dialogue meetings. These mechanisms proved to be effective and sustainable to mobilize community members to address the most pressing security issues in their settlements. The dialogue platforms will enable local decision makers to capture the different needs of all community members, including vulnerable groups, and to tailor local policies to respond to the flagged community issues, making them more gender-responsive and inclusive.

03

The participation of a wide range of local stakeholders is extremely important for building confidence and enhancing security in war-affected communities. The participatory nature of all related activities, including the establishment of CSWGs, as well as the provision of shared training on community policing for law enforcement agencies, jointly with community residents, have fostered dialogue at local level and have helped to promote social cohesion and security. CSWGs have successfully raised security, governance and economic issues to the attention of security providers and local authorities. Importantly, the CSWGs have become an entry point to practical humanitarian-development nexus implementation at local level, by mobilizing conflict-affected communities for action.

04

The ongoing crisis has revealed further exacerbation of gender inequities, particularly among women facing multiple forms of discrimination. According to a Rapid Gender Analysis by UN Women and CARE,⁵⁹ the GBV threat – including conflict-related sexual violence, sexual exploitation and abuse and human trafficking – has risen exponentially since the war began. In this regard, the multi-sectoral coordinated response to GBV needs to be strengthened, especially in small communities. The representatives of the key GBV response actors require regular capacity-building support to increase their knowledge of GBV standards and overcome gender stereotypes.

59 <https://www.unwomen.org/en/digital-library/publications/2022/05/rapid-gender-analysis-of-ukraine>

05

Access to justice in remote settlements was reduced significantly, especially in the context of the ongoing war. In view of this, the respective interventions should be continued, including technical assistance, to enable FLAS lawyers to render their services for all conflict-affected people, including through digital communication and remote means, reaching the most vulnerable women and men.

06

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic and the subsequent quarantine restrictions, the Project had to explore new online solutions and e-tools to engage participants in learning through interactive platforms and digital channels, such as “FUNdraiser” platform, the online learning course on judicial mediation, and so on. Online training sessions and webinars provided an opportunity to engage a larger number of interested participants compared to the limited capacities of similar offline activities. The Project also revealed that the provision of justice services was hindered by the quarantine restrictions, and specifically a lack of technical capacity in the local courts for conducting videoconferences and holding court hearings remotely. Thus, to ensure the availability and sustainability of justice services while minimizing citizen’s and courts’ personnel exposure to COVID-19, the Project provided essential assistance (IT equipment and personal protective equipment) to local courts and legal aid representatives. Notably, many of the online tools developed are still not operational, even in the context of the large-scale military invasion.

07

As the digital skills gap may prevent the most vulnerable groups (women facing multiple forms of discrimination, elderly people and persons with disabilities) from benefitting from these digital and online tools, the Programme will continue investing in building the capacities of local actors to provide quality information services to citizens, as well as experimenting with new forms of capacity development for increased digital literacy among the war-affected populations.

08

People-to-people exchanges proved useful, enabling individuals active in the interventions to gain out-of-region exposure and experience. Moreover, they give individuals exposure to other communities that have endured conflict and see that the situation could “get back to normal.” Structured, well-prepared and moderated visits to other regions in Ukraine seem to have been beneficial for changing attitudes and mindsets.

09

The Programme should also further focus on preventive activities (during and after the war). This will allow, for example, to avoid the situation of data and case materials loss, and also ensure prompt deployment in the context of evacuation of the local authorities.

10

A number of studies conducted by the UN RPP in 2016-2022 revealed that veterans in Ukraine faced a number of challenges in returning to civilian life. These included feelings of exclusion and unfair treatment and higher rates of disability which affected both their physical and mental health and their ability to pursue productive livelihoods and effectively reintegrate into society. Since the full-scale Russian invasion in February 2022, the number of people serving in the armed forces has increased dramatically. Although the war is ongoing, it is already important to consider and plan reintegration programmes to support the large number of veterans, given that this will present significant challenges against a backdrop of huge humanitarian and recovery needs in the country as a whole. At the same time, it is important to note that ex-combatants can play an essential role in recovery and reconstruction efforts if their skills and experience can be properly harnessed. As part of the process of enabling structured and sustainable reintegration, UNDP is supporting the Ministry for Veterans' Affairs to develop a national veterans' policy on one hand and to implement it at local level through community-based reintegration practices on the other. Facilitating ex-combatants' reintegration, transition, readjustment, coping, and community integration is a societal priority for the Government of Ukraine. In order to strengthen the capacity of the government and civil society to respond to the needs of veterans effectively, the UN RPP is actively cultivating partnerships with international and national partners to ensure a gradual and non-traumatic return of veterans to civilian life.

11

The Project's peer-to-peer support programme helped facilitate the networking of active veterans across the country, empower ex-combatants to excel in their professional development, and establish meaningful community participation. Notably, the ex-combatants who participated in the programme confirmed its effectiveness, as the programme enabled the participants to actively implement social projects for the adaptation of ex-combatants in their communities, adhering to the principle of "equal to equal", to join the creation of an active ex-combatant movement, both at the inter-regional and all-Ukrainian levels, retraining and mastering new professions faster. Despite the ongoing hostilities in Ukraine, the need for reintegration remains urgent for ex-combatants throughout the country, and in connection with the predicted increase in their number after the end of the war, the need for such programming will grow and require a new format for implementation.

12

Due to the long-lasting armed conflict in eastern Ukraine and the subsequent large-scale invasion of the Russian Federation, the provision of qualified psychological assistance to ex-combatants will remain urgent, and there will be a growing demand among professionals for improved mental health methods for providing psychological support. In this regard, the Programme's activities should be aimed at improving the provision of medical and psychological services to ex-combatants.

Annex 1.

Results Framework of the “Strengthening national and local capacities for effective delivery of justice, security and reintegration services in conflict-affected areas of Ukraine” Project

Indicators	Baseline	Target (2019)	Actual (2019)	Target (2020)	Actual (2020)	Target (2021)	Actual (2021)	Target (2022)	Actual (2022)	Means of verification	Comments
Key Intendent Outcome: to bolster institutions and mechanisms that provide community security and justice and resolve conflicts most relevant to the region’s conflict-affected population, thereby increasing social cohesion											
The overall level of personal security in eastern Ukraine (by oblast)	4.4 [2018] – Donetsk Oblast	4.6 – Donetsk Oblast	4.1 – Donetsk Oblast	4.8 – Donetsk Oblast	4.1 – Donetsk Oblast	5.0 – Donetsk Oblast	4.2 – Donetsk Oblast	5.5 – Donetsk Oblast	NA	SCORE	The survey was suspended after the full-scale invasion of Ukraine by the Russian Federation on 24 February 2022. Currently, the territories of Donetsk, Luhansk and Zaporizhzhia oblasts are partially inaccessible due to ongoing hostilities. Some target communities are now beyond the control of the government, while others are now on the frontline.
	4.4 [2018] – Luhansk Oblast	4.9 – Luhansk Oblast	4.6 – Luhansk Oblast	5.0 – Luhansk Oblast	4.6 – Luhansk Oblast	5.2 – Luhansk Oblast	4.8 – Luhansk Oblast	5.5 – Luhansk Oblast	NA		
	NA	NA	NA	5.0 – Zaporizhzhia Oblast	4.3 – Zaporizhzhia Oblast	5.2 – Zaporizhzhia Oblast	4.5 – Zaporizhzhia Oblast	5.5 – Zaporizhzhia Oblast	NA		
Percentage of those that believe the courts would likely side with the most powerful person in a dispute	78.4% [2018]	76%	73.9%	72%	73.9%	67%	73.6%	67%	NA	Security and Justice survey	The survey was suspended after the full-scale invasion of Ukraine by the Russian Federation on 24 February 2022. Currently, the territories of Donetsk, Luhansk and Zaporizhzhia oblasts are partially inaccessible due to ongoing hostilities. Some target communities are now beyond the control of the government, while others are now on the frontline.
Percentage of those that believe the police would likely side with the most powerful person in a dispute	77.9% [2018]	76%	74.8%	72%	74.8%	67%	51%	67%	NA	Security and Justice survey	
Percentage of conflict-affected population who believe that they will be able to get justice if victim of a crime	51.1% [2018]	53%	53.8%	56%	53.8%	60%	48.8%	60%	NA	Security and Justice survey	
Increased SCORE index on the “level of neighbourhood support”	4.7 [2018] – Donetsk Oblast	4.9 – Donetsk Oblast	5.3 – Donetsk Oblast	5.1 – Donetsk Oblast	5.3 – Donetsk Oblast	5.3 – Donetsk Oblast	4.8 – Donetsk Oblast	5.3 – Donetsk Oblast	NA	SCORE	The survey was suspended after the full-scale invasion of Ukraine by the Russian Federation on 24 February 2022. Currently, the territories of Donetsk, Luhansk and Zaporizhzhia oblasts are partially inaccessible due to ongoing hostilities. Some target communities are now beyond the control of the government, while others are now on the frontline.
	5.4 [2018] – Luhansk Oblast	5.6 – Luhansk Oblast	5.4 – Luhansk Oblast	5.8 – Luhansk Oblast	5.4 – Luhansk Oblast	6.0 – Luhansk Oblast	5.4 – Luhansk Oblast	6.0 – Luhansk Oblast	NA		

Indicators	Baseline	Target (2019)	Actual (2019)	Target (2020)	Actual (2020)	Target (2021)	Actual (2021)	Target (2022)	Actual (2022)	Means of verification	Comments
PROJECT INTERMEDIATE OUTCOME 1: Strengthened mechanisms for conflict transformation through the provision of effective and innovative services											
Cumulative number of conflict transformation institutions with improved capacities to resolve and transform ongoing conflicts featuring members of the community	0 [2019]	2	0	4	6	4	6	4	6	Project community mappings and project reports	In total, 6 conflict transformation institutions (Donetsk Oblast – 3, Luhansk Oblast – 3) improved their capacities to resolve and transform ongoing conflicts featuring members of the community.
Increased SCORE Index on “readiness for dialogue towards all groups”	6.7 [2018] – Donetsk Oblast	6.8 – Donetsk Oblast	7.4 – Donetsk Oblast	7.0 – Donetsk Oblast	7.4 – Donetsk Oblast	7.2 – Donetsk Oblast	7.2 – Donetsk Oblast	7.5 – Donetsk Oblast	NA	SCORE	The survey was suspended after the full-scale invasion of Ukraine by the Russian Federation on 24 February 2022. Currently, the territories of Donetsk, Luhansk and Zaporizhzhia oblasts are partially inaccessible due to ongoing hostilities. Some target communities are now beyond the control of the government, while others are now on the frontline.
	6.1 [2018] – Luhansk Oblast	6.3 – Luhansk Oblast	7 – Luhansk Oblast	6.5 – Luhansk Oblast	7 – Luhansk Oblast	6.7 – Luhansk Oblast	7.5 – Luhansk Oblast	7.0 – Luhansk Oblast	NA		
Project Output 1.1: Early warning mechanisms are enhanced											
Percentage of those that believe the courts would likely side with the most powerful person in a dispute	9 [2018]	2	0	4	0	4	2 – Donetsk Oblast 2 – Luhansk Oblast	4	2 – Donetsk Oblast 2 – Luhansk Oblast	Project community mappings	Before 24 February 2022, Community Safety Networks had been established in Sartana and Volnovakha in Donetsk Oblast, Popasna and Stanytsia Luhanska in Luhansk Oblast. To date, all these communities are under the military control of the Russian Federation.
Cumulative number of persons that actively use the information produced by CSNs and other early warning mechanisms	0 [2018]	40	0	40	0	40	43 (28 women)	40	43 (28 women)	Project community mappings and project reports	Before 24 February 2022, some 43 community representatives (28 women) took part in the testing of early warning mechanisms. To date, all four target communities are under the military control of the Russian Federation.
Project Output 1.2: Alternative conflict resolution mechanisms are strengthened											
Cumulative number of mediators with increased knowledge and skills on conflict resolution mechanisms (disaggregated by oblast and gender)	0 [2018]	10	8 (3 – women) – Donetsk Oblast 17 (10 – women) – Luhansk Oblast	25	13 (8 – women) – Donetsk Oblast 17 (10 – women) – Luhansk Oblast	40	64 (47 – women) – Donetsk Oblast 34 (24 – women) – Luhansk Oblast	40	362 (288 women)	Project interviews/ reports of meetings with legal aid providers and police	In 2022, the work of the GISMAERC was extended to other regions of Ukraine and covered in total 8 oblasts: Donetsk, Luhansk, Dnipropetrovsk, Zaporizhzhia, Ivano-Frankovsk, Lviv, Kharkiv and Chernivtsi.

Indicators	Baseline	Target (2019)	Actual (2019)	Target (2020)	Actual (2020)	Target (2021)	Actual (2021)	Target (2022)	Actual (2022)	Means of verification	Comments
Cumulative number of mediators with increased knowledge and skills on conflict resolution mechanisms (disaggregated by oblast and gender)	0 [2018]	10	NA – Zaporizhzhia Oblast	25	NA – Zaporizhzhia Oblast	40	7 (5 women) – Zaporizhzhia Oblast	40	362 (288 women)	Project interviews/ reports of meetings with legal aid providers and police	In 2022, the work of the GISMAERC was extended to other regions of Ukraine and covered in total 8 oblasts: Donetsk, Luhansk, Dnipropetrovsk, Zaporizhzhia, Ivano-Frankovsk, Lviv, Kharkiv and Chernivtsi.
			NA – other oblasts		NA – other oblasts		44 (32 women) – other oblasts				
Cumulative number of mediators actively engaged in community mediation at the local level (disaggregated by oblast and gender)	0 [2018]	5	6 (2 – women) – Donetsk Oblast	15	11 (9 women) – Donetsk Oblast	20	11 (9 women) – Donetsk Oblast	30	45	Project interviews/ reports of meetings with legal aid providers and police	As of today, 45 mediators from Donetsk, Luhansk, Dnipropetrovsk, Zaporizhzhia, Ivano-Frankovsk, Lviv, Kharkiv and Chernivtsi oblasts are engaged in the work of the Geoinformation system.
			7 (2 – women) – Luhansk Oblast		12 (5 women) – Luhansk Oblast		12 (5 women) – Luhansk Oblast				
Cumulative number of community projects and local initiatives initiated and implemented by youth in a gender-sensitive manner	0 [2018]	1	7 – Donetsk Oblast	4	9 – Donetsk Oblast	5	9 – Donetsk Oblast	5	9 – Donetsk Oblast	Data collected on the basis of project records and CSOs records	Overall, 18 community projects and local initiatives were developed and implemented by youth in a gender-sensitive manner.
			7 – Luhansk Oblast		9 – Luhansk Oblast		9 – Luhansk Oblast		9 – Luhansk Oblast		
Project Output 1.3: Pilot initiatives supporting vulnerable populations suffering adverse effects of the armed conflict											
Cumulative number of persons assisted in claiming compensation for property damaged during the armed conflict	0 [2018]	0	0	5	5 (3 women)	5	5 (3 women)	5	5 (3 women)	Project records, administrative data from CSOs	In 2020 – 2021, the Project assisted 5 representatives of vulnerable population (3 women and 2 men) in claiming compensation for the use of private property by military forces and law enforcement bodies during the armed conflict. While this pilot activity was marked by positive developments and required further advocacy efforts in 2022, its second phase has been cancelled due to the large-scale invasion of the Russian Federation into Ukraine.
Cumulative number of members of vulnerable groups benefitted from pilot initiatives (disaggregated by oblast, gender and age)	0 [2019]	0	0	0	0	500	0	500	0*	Project interviews and reports	*While pilot initiatives were expected to continue in 2022, the second phase of this activity has been cancelled due to the large-scale invasion of the Russian Federation into Ukraine.

Indicators	Baseline	Target (2019)	Actual (2019)	Target (2020)	Actual (2020)	Target (2021)	Actual (2021)	Target (2022)	Actual (2022)	Means of verification	Comments
Project Output 1.4: Improved efficiency and accountability in courts, prosecution offices, and police in resolving conflicts generally, and those emanating from the armed conflict in particular											
Cumulative number of court cases related to the conflict monitored	0 [2018]	0	3	30	8	45	20	45	20	Data collected on the basis of project, court and CSOs records	The monitoring activities were limited due the closure of courts resulted from COVID-19 pandemic and respective quarantine restrictions.
This activity was cancelled due to the Russia's large-scale invasion of Ukraine.	78.4% [2018]	76%	73.9%	72%	73.9%	67%	73.6%	67%	NA	Security and Justice survey	The survey was suspended after the full-scale invasion of Ukraine by the Russian Federation on 24 February 2022. Currently, the territories of Donetsk, Luhansk and Zaporizhzhia oblasts are partially inaccessible due to ongoing hostilities. Some target communities are now beyond the control of the government, while others are now on the frontline.
Project Output 1.5: Grants support to strengthen mechanisms for conflict transformation through the provision of effective and innovative services											
Cumulative number of local initiatives to strengthen mechanisms for conflict transformation, implemented with small grant support	0 [2019]	2	0	20	22	20	39	20	52	Project records, data from the grant administration company	Overall, 33 projects and 19 mini-initiatives focused on conflict transformation and ex-combatants' reintegration were supported by the Project.
Cumulative number of beneficiaries of local initiatives to strengthen mechanisms for conflict transformation, implemented with small grant support	0 [2019]	600	0	10 000	25 234 (25.3% women)	10 000	35 205 (34.6% women)	10 000	55 539 (24,5% women)	Project records, data from the grant administration company. Monitoring reports	To date, over 55,000 members of local communities (24,5% women) benefitted from conflict transformation and ex-combatants' reintegration projects and micro-initiatives.
PROJECT INTERMEDIATE OUTCOME 2: Strengthened personal and community security through greater institutional and citizen engagement in conflict-affected areas											
Percentage of population feeling safe at home (disaggregated by time of the day, oblast and gender)	88.6% (overall) 90.4% (day) 76.4% (night) 70.5% (women at night) [2018]	90% (overall) 92% (day) 79% (night) 72% (women at night)	89% (overall) 91.3% (day) 77.8% (night) 72.4% (women at night)	91% (overall) 93% (day) 81% (night) 74% (women at night)	89% (overall) 91.3% (day) 77.8% (night) 72.4% (women at night)	92% (overall) 94% (day) 83% (night) 77% (women at night)	87% (overall) 87% (day) 81% (night) 78% (women at night)	92% (overall) 94% (day) 83% (night) 77% (women at night)	NA	Security and Justice survey	The survey was suspended after the full-scale invasion of Ukraine by the Russian Federation on 24 February 2022. Currently, the territories of Donetsk, Luhansk and Zaporizhzhia oblasts are partially inaccessible due to ongoing hostilities. Some target communities are now beyond the control of the government, while others are now on the frontline.

Indicators	Baseline	Target (2019)	Actual (2019)	Target (2020)	Actual (2020)	Target (2021)	Actual (2021)	Target (2022)	Actual (2022)	Means of verification	Comments
Percentage of population feeling safe in their communities (disaggregated by time of the day, oblast and gender)	81.1% (overall) 84.8% (day) 49.5% (night) 38.2% (women at night) [2018]	84% (overall) 86% (day) 54% (night) 43% (women at night)	81% (overall) 85% (day) 54.7% (night) 42.4% (women at night)	85% (overall) 87% (day) 56% (night) 45% (women at night)	81% (overall) 85% (day) 54.7% (night) 42.4% (women at night)	87% (overall) 89% (day) 60% (night) 48% (women at night)	77% (overall) 86% (day) 57% (night) 48% (women at night)	87% (overall) 89% (day) 60% (night) 48% (women at night)	NA	Security and Justice survey	The survey was suspended after the full-scale invasion of Ukraine by the Russian Federation on 24 February 2022. Currently, the territories of Donetsk, Luhansk and Zaporizhzhia oblasts are partially inaccessible due to ongoing hostilities. Some target communities are now beyond the control of the government, while others are now on the frontline.
Percentage of members of community security working groups who feel their voices are taken into account in improving community security	73.8% [2018]	75%	84.8%	80%	83.7%	85%	85.1%	85%	NA	Survey of participants of CSWGs	As of December 2021, the proportion of population who confirm that their voice is heard in community dialogues was 85.1%, including 86.3% among women, 86.0% among persons with disabilities, and 83.0% among IDPs. The survey was suspended after the full-scale invasion of Ukraine by the Russian Federation on 24 February 2022.
Project Output 2.1: Increased awareness of public attitudes, human rights redress mechanisms, and security risks by policymakers, the public, and particularly the youth											
Percentage of population who consider available formal, informal, alternative or traditional dispute mechanisms as just, among those who experienced a dispute in the last 48 months	40.2% [2019]	NA	NA	42%	40.2%	45%	45.2%	50%	NA	Security and Justice Survey	The survey was suspended after the full-scale invasion of Ukraine by the Russian Federation on 24 February 2022. Currently, the territories of Donetsk, Luhansk and Zaporizhzhia oblasts are partially inaccessible due to ongoing hostilities. Some target communities are now beyond the control of the government, while others are now on the frontline.
Percentage of population who are confident about the protection of their rights by security and justice institutions (disaggregated by age, oblast and gender)	38% [2018]	42%	44.5%	45%	49%	48%	44.7%	48%	NA	Security and Justice Survey	The survey was suspended after the full-scale invasion of Ukraine by the Russian Federation on 24 February 2022. Currently, the territories of Donetsk, Luhansk and Zaporizhzhia oblasts are partially inaccessible due to ongoing hostilities. Some target communities are now beyond the control of the government, while others are now on the frontline.
Cumulative number of persons reached by information and awareness-raising campaigns on security challenges and redress mechanisms	0 [2019]	2 000	10 000	15 000	19 800	20 000	35 966	20 000	35 966	Project records and media monitoring	
Project Output 2.2: Improved capacities and practices of law enforcement and local authority service providers to carry out community policing and discharge their responsibilities to citizens											
Cumulative number of local community policing units	0 [2018]	1	0	8	20	8	34	8	34	Data collected on the basis of local authorities' administrative reports and project records	* This activity is co-funded by the governments of Denmark, Sweden and Switzerland.

Indicators	Baseline	Target (2019)	Actual (2019)	Target (2020)	Actual (2020)	Target (2021)	Actual (2021)	Target (2022)	Actual (2022)	Means of verification	Comments
Cumulative number of community policing services (of which women community policing) in place and operating in rural areas and close to the contact line	0 [2018]	2	0	7	18	7	18	7	50	Data collected on the basis of project records and administrative data from LSGBs	In 2022, the Project provided technical support to community police officers in 32 settlements in Dnipropetrovsk Oblast. * This activity is co-funded by the governments of Denmark, Sweden and Switzerland.
Cumulative number of local communities that developed comprehensive long-term security plans and strategies	1 [2018]	3	1	7	7	10	14	10	14	Data collected on the basis of project records and administrative data from LSGBs	* This activity is co-funded by the EU.
Cumulative number of community police officers with improved knowledge and skills in mediation, community policing and communication	344 [2018]	400	360	550	433	700	613 (110 women)	700	613 (110 women)	Project reports	
Project Output 2.3: Broader and more effective application of mechanisms for coordinating between citizens, law enforcement bodies, local authorities and other stakeholders to promote community security											
Cumulative number of Safety and Security Centres that benefitted from technical assistance and capacity building support	0 [2019]	10	11	15	15	18	18	20	19	Project records, monitoring reports	To date, the Project provided technical assistance and capacity building support to the Centres for Safety and Security in the following locations: Andriivka, Bilozerske, Cherkaske, Illinivka, Khlibodarivka, Lyman, Mykolaivka, Novodonetske, Novohrodovka, Novotroitske, Ocheretyne, Sartana, Shakhove, Siversk, Soledar and Sviatohirsk in Donetsk Oblast; Bondarivka village in Luhansk Oblast; Berdiansk in Zaporizhzhia Oblast.
Cumulative number of community security working groups established and fully functioning (by oblast)	4 [2018] – Donetsk Oblast	15	15	15	16	15	16	15	16	Project records, CSWGs registration forms and meeting minutes	Before 24 February 2022, a total of 48 CSWGs had been functioning in the Programme's target communities to provide space for discussions, information sharing and for raising security and development concerns among local authorities, security providers and communities at the grass-root level.
	5 [2018] – Luhansk Oblast	15	15	15	16	15	16	15	16		

Indicators	Baseline	Target (2019)	Actual (2019)	Target (2020)	Actual (2020)	Target (2021)	Actual (2021)	Target (2022)	Actual (2022)	Means of verification	Comments
Cumulative number of community security working groups established and fully functioning (by oblast)	0 [2019] – Zaporizhzhia Oblast	3	8	7	9	7	9	7	9	Project records, CSWGs registration forms and meeting minutes	Donetsk Oblast: Avdiivka, Dobropillia, Druzhkivka, Krasnohorivka, Manhush, Mariinka, Myrnohrad, Novhorodske, Pokrovsk, Sartana, Siversk, Sloviansk, Soledar, Svitlodarsk, Velykonovosilkivskiy raion, Volnovakha, Vuhledar. Luhansk Oblast: Bilovodsk, Krasnorichenske, Kreminna, Lozno-Oleksandrivka, Lysychansk, Milove, Novoaider, Nyzhnia Duvanka, Popasna, Pryvillia, Shchastia, Sievierodonetsk, Stanytsia Luhanska, Triokhizbenka, Troitske, Zolote.
	0 [2019] – Zhytomyr Oblast	0	0	7	7	7	7	7	7		Zaporizhzhia Oblast: Berdiansk, Berdiansk raion, Kyrylivka, Melitopol, Nove, Pryazovske, Prymorsk, Semenivka, Yakymivka. Zhytomyr Oblast: Baranivka, Chervone, Nova Boroza, Novohrad-Volynskiy, Semenivka, Vysoke, Zhytomyr. This activity is co-funded by the EU and the Government of Denmark.
Cumulative number of ex-combatants, youth and women, participating in civic initiatives aimed at increasing their participation in local community security	0 [2018]	120	145	400	3 115	500	3 882	500	3 882	Data collected on the basis of project records and data from partner organizations	
Cumulative number of safety audits conducted by the CSSs (disaggregated by oblast)	6 [2018]	10	6	20	6	20	6	28	6	Data collected on the basis of project records and data from partner organizations	The activity was limited due to COVID-19 pandemic and respective quarantine restrictions as well as the Russia's large-scale invasion of Ukraine.
Cumulative number of local volunteer fire and rescue brigades who benefitted from targeted technical assistance and capacity building	0 [2019]	16	0	16	16	17	17	17	17	Data collected on the basis of project records and data from partner organizations	Overall, 17 local firefighting brigades benefitted from target technical assistance and capacity building. Zaporizhzhia Oblast: Andriivka, Berestove, Chervone Pole, Dmytrivka, Mykolaivka, Novopetrivka, Novotroitske, Osypenko (Berdiansk raion) Luhansk Oblast: Bilokurakyne (2 teams), Kamianka, Mistky, Morozivka, Mykilske, Nevske, Velykotsk, Zorykivka.

Indicators	Baseline	Target (2019)	Actual (2019)	Target (2020)	Actual (2020)	Target (2021)	Actual (2021)	Target (2022)	Actual (2022)	Means of verification	Comments
Cumulative number of local volunteers with improved knowledge and skills on responding to emergency situations	0 [2019]	40	0	100	57	170	128	170	128	Data collected on the basis of project records and training feedback forms	The activity was suspended after the Russia's large-scale invasion of Ukraine. However, the Project continued to provide essential technical support to local firefighting brigades.
Project Output 2.4: Grants support to strengthen personal and community security through greater institutional and citizen engagement in conflict-affected areas											
Cumulative number of local initiatives on community security and civic engagement, implemented with small grant support	0 [2019]	12	0	35	45	40	58	40	76	Project records, data from the grant administration company	Overall, 69 projects and 7 mini-initiatives on community security, civic engagement and access to justice have been supported and implemented within the Project.
Cumulative number of beneficiaries of local initiatives on community security and civic engagement, implemented with small grant support	0 [2019]	40 000	0	80 000	90 309 (51 796 women)	100 000	124 430 (71 457 women)	100 000	191 531 (119 901 women)	Project records, data from the grant administration company	In total, over 190,000 members of local communities (62.6% women) directly benefitted from community security and civic engagement initiatives.

