



PROJECT DOCUMENT

Project Title: Enhanced citizen engagement for improved community security, strengthened social fabric and increased stability in areas affected by the war in Ukraine

Project Number Donor's reference F2 no. 2018-4700

Implementing Partner:

Start Date: 01/10/2022

End Date: 30/09/2025

PAC Meeting date:

Brief Description

The years 2020–2021 marked a significant change in terms of social cohesion and community security in eastern Ukraine, caused by an escalation of hostilities and increase in military action. The build-up of Russian troops on the border and increase in shelling close to the 'contact line' defined the whole security situation in the region. This has disrupted on-going development gains, causing trust towards local authorities, which had previously been growing, to once again decline.

The country-wide war in Ukraine, launched by the Russian Federation in February 2022, has further resulted in significant loss of life, unprecedented displacement, and devastating destruction of infrastructure, affecting all oblasts of Ukraine, but mostly in the north, east, and south. Approximately 14 million people (6.9 million IDPs and 7.1 million refugees¹) have been displaced, with women and children being overrepresented. Older women and single mothers constitute the [majority](#) of the poor population of Ukraine. Early UNDP projections suggest that up to 90 per cent of the population of Ukraine could be facing poverty and vulnerability to poverty by the end of 2022. Eighteen years of socio-economic achievements are at risk.

The complex humanitarian, development, and peace challenges now emerging in Ukraine underscore the importance of programming that responds to the multiple dimensions of the crisis. This means supporting and leveraging the resilience of individuals, communities, and institutions to protect core government functions and public service delivery, as well as strengthening the social fabric and resilience of communities affected by the war.

Building on the evidence gained, results and successes and lessons learned from the previous interventions, this Project will, on the one hand provide a response to the time critical needs emerging as a consequence of the war, while at the same time continuing to address drivers and long-term consequences of the conflict, and to regain progress that had previously been made, while preventing further deterioration of development gains to occur. The dramatic events unfolding across eastern, northern and southern oblasts of Ukraine, greater social cohesion and gender-responsive community security require that: a) local law enforcement and justice institutions provide inclusive and quality security and justice services anchored to human rights principles, including in displacement settings; and b) communities identify and mitigate security and safety risks, including tensions and risks that might arise between host communities and displaced populations during prolonged displacement experiences. It also requires supporting

¹ Ukraine Situation Flash Update #29 (9 September 2022) -

<https://reliefweb.int/report/ukraine/ukraine-situation-flash-update-29-9-september-2022>

authorities as duty bearers to promote, protect and fulfil human rights for all, while giving rights holders, including women and youth, and other affected groups capacities for advocacy and participation in decision making in public spaces that are safe. For communities to better mitigate security and safety risks, they require capacities for dialogue for building and sustaining peace as well as early-warning and confidence-building mechanisms.

To facilitate this, the Project will strive to bolster institutions and mechanisms that provide community security and justice, as well as increase social cohesion and the propensity for dialogue including in displacement settings. This will contribute to the overall stabilisation efforts in the country, while also addressing the root causes and drivers of disunity and tension, and the long-term consequences of the ongoing war, with a view to defend the medium-term development gains and pave the way to sustainable recovery.

It is important to note that the war is ongoing in Ukraine. This limits the ability to conduct adequate assessments and hence lacking new data, the analysis below has had to rely on data and assessments from before the escalation of the war in pre-February 2022. In addition, the response will also have to remain flexible and might have to be adjusted in the coming months, if priorities change or the situation on the ground makes it necessary to limit certain activities or new opportunities arise.

The Government of Denmark has been clear about its support to Ukraine, as well as supporting its bid for full EU membership. During his speech to the Danish Parliament 29 March 2022, Ukrainian president Volodymyr Zelensky requested help with the rebuilding of the city Mykolaiv. During a meeting less than a month later in Kyiv, 21 April 2022, the Danish Prime Minister officially confirmed the support to the reconstruction of Mykolaiv, among other types of support Denmark could offer Ukraine.² In light of this commitment, the project will take a needs-based deliberate approach in providing assistance to Mykolaiv city and oblast, with a special emphasis on providing support to winterization activities in advance of the 2022/23 winter season. The oblast will be similarly at the fore of the implementation of all project activities throughout the implementation period.

Contributing Outcomes (UNDAF/CPD)

Outcome 4: By 2022, communities, including vulnerable people and IDPs, are more resilient and equitably benefit from greater social cohesion, quality services and recovery support

Indicative Output(s)

Output 1: The effectiveness of security service provision and civil protection functions is maintained, with reinforced capacities for crisis response, and public institutions and civil society are enabled to strengthen the social fabric, uphold human rights for all people, and engage in inclusive and gender-equitable response and recovery efforts (GEN 2)³

Output 2: Access to and quality of services is improved due to enhanced law enforcement, access to justice and inclusion, leading to strengthened perceptions of personal and community

² <https://www.president.gov.ua/en/news/volodimir-zelenskij-obgovoriv-z-golovami-uryadiv-daniyi-ta-i-74453>

³ The Gender Marker measures how much a project invests in gender equality and women's empowerment. Select one for each output: GEN3 (Gender equality as a principle objective); GEN2 (Gender equality as a significant objective); GEN1 (Limited contribution to gender equality); GEN0 (No contribution to gender quality)

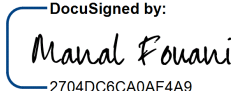
service among communities in particular women and youth, ex-combatants and other affected groups (GEN 2)

Output 3: Communities, including women, youth, ex-combatants and other affected groups, have enhanced capacities, are empowered and participate in local level, evidence-based development and decision-making (GEN 2)

Output 4: Conflict affected communities in Mykolaiv oblast, have additional capacities to support themselves throughout the winter season with a specific focus on vulnerable groups (GEN 2)

	Total resources	Donor Denmark:	DKK 59,000,000
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Agreed by (signatures):

Government	UNDP
Henrik Winther EUN Ministry of Foreign Affairs Denmark	<div>DocuSigned by:</div>  <div>2704DC6CA0AF4A9...</div> Manal Fouani Resident Representative, a.i. UNDP Ukraine
Date:	Date:

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I. DEVELOPMENT CHALLENGE

I.1 Overall context

In July 2019, Volodymyr Zelenskyy, a political newcomer, and his newly formed “Servant of the People” party won both the Presidential and Parliamentary elections based on three key promises: to restore peace, to combat corruption and to create an economic revival. This unprecedented electoral victory – President Zelenskyy won 73 per cent of the vote, while his party won 43 per cent of the vote and was able to form the first-ever single-party majority – created a new window of opportunity for advancing both the national reform and peace agendas. Since coming to power, the new President has repeatedly articulated his desire to “end the war” and advance peace through national unity, including the residents of the non-government-controlled areas (NGCA). In October 2019, he convened a National Unity Forum in eastern Ukraine, and in his 2020 New Year’s address to the nation, called for national unity based on dialogue and mutual respect between all Ukrainians. The subsequent re-establishment of a Ministry for Reintegration of the Temporarily Occupied Territories (MRTOT), and the elevation of its Minister to the level of Deputy Prime Minister to strengthen the government’s coordination on this critical issue, has further underscored the Government’s commitment to the peace agenda.

In line with this, the Government of Ukraine (GoU) has developed a number of strategic policy documents that are guiding the response in the east of the country. This includes the State Targeted Programme for Recovery (STP) of eastern regions of Ukraine. These documents reinforce the GoU’s development priorities and commitment to assuring the security of every citizen and effectively protecting the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Ukrainian state through security and defence reform. Recovery and peacebuilding in eastern Ukraine remains a priority of the GoU, and includes the facilitation of the socio-economic development of local communities to improve quality of life by strengthening their capacities and stability.

While this vision created fresh hope and a sense of renewal, the tasks before the authorities remained daunting, particularly in the face of longstanding and worsening fissures and tensions that continued to confront the government as they try to implement essential governance, decentralisation and health reforms, while at the same time attempting to deliver on the promise of a peaceful settlement of the conflict in eastern Ukraine without crossing political “red lines.” Significant obstacles include: unaddressed grievances and perceptions of exclusion related to long-standing subnational development inequalities, some of which have been exacerbated by the armed conflict and continue to fuel resentment and suspicion between different groups of people; limited institutional mechanisms, services and opportunities for people to fulfil their role as agents of change, including in dialogue and peacebuilding, coupled with inadequate skill sets, knowledge and networks; and lack of participation, especially by young people, in decision-making processes at local and national levels, which undermines their sense of agency, social activism and role as agents for change. Such obstacles continued to amplify and drive the conflict, as well as undermine social cohesion, trust in institutions, and the government’s articulated strategic objective of building national unity on the basis of inclusion and common values and to restoring stability in the region.

The years 2020-2021 marked a significant change in terms of social cohesion and community security in eastern Ukraine, caused by an escalation of hostilities and increase in military action. The build-up of Russian troops on the border and increase in shelling close to the ‘contact line’ has negatively impacted the security situation in the region. This has disrupted on-going development gains, causing distrust in national, subnational and local authorities, which had previously been growing, to decline. According to the Social Cohesion and Reconciliation Index (SCORE) data,⁴

⁴ SCORE indicators are measured on a 0 to 10 scale, where 0 is absence of the phenomenon in

the levels of trust in central authorities of all kinds (the President, the Cabinet of Ministers and the Parliament) has significantly decreased from 4.2 in 2019 to 2.1 in 2021. Similarly, the trust in key justice institutions (namely, the police and courts) has also deteriorated in the past 2 years from 3.8 and 3.4 in 2019 to 3.2 and 2.4 in 2021, respectively. The socio-economic effect of the pandemic itself and related quarantine measures, combined with delayed or initially insufficient vaccination administration, prompted further increases in unemployment, poverty rates, and social conflicts driven by increasing inequalities. Meanwhile, trust in public authorities has deteriorated significantly during the pandemic accompanied by reduced levels of support for reforms and overall pessimism about the future among the conflict-affected population. Between 2019 and 2021, the overall scepticism about the national reform process has increased from 5.8 to 7.5, while the levels of civic optimism have decreased from 4.5 to 3.0, on average. Feelings of disappointment and neglect prevail over the optimism and hope ushered in by the 2019 national election cycle, and the major concerns for most Ukrainians are still present, namely corruption, the armed conflict in eastern Ukraine, as well as the general economic situation in the country.

Social cohesion and perceptions of community security have also declined as a result of the escalation of hostilities. Recently collected data shows that community bonds have become weaker during this period, with only 24 per cent of conflict-affected residents are fully confident that they could rely on other community members for help.

The security situation and the overall operational environment in Ukraine have deteriorated rapidly following the launch of Russian full-scale military aggression against Ukraine on 24 February 2022. The armed violence escalated throughout the country, especially in Chernihiv, Kharkiv, Kherson, Kyiv, Mykolaiv, Sumy, and Zaporizhzhia oblasts, as well as in Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts which were already affected by conflict. Ukraine Flash Appeal shows that 18 million individuals will be directly affected by the conflict, with 12 million people in immediate need of humanitarian assistance⁵. Women and girls are increasingly facing sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV), including conflict-related sexual violence (CRSV), loss of livelihoods and loss of rights. These impacts are higher among IDPs (given the lack of safe accommodation, risk of human trafficking) and in host communities facing greater socio-economic pressures, and where IDPs may have also been affected by war-related crimes.

The International Monetary Fund's initial assessment suggests that the national GDP could decrease by up to 35% this year if Russia's invasion becomes a protracted war. According to a survey conducted by the European Business Association between 11 and 14 of March, among Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME) representatives in Ukraine, 42% of all small businesses are not operational anymore and 31% have suspended their operations with plans for resumption in the future⁶. Agriculture remains one of the most important providers of jobs and income-earning opportunities in rural areas, with every sixth working person engaged in the combined agriculture, forestry, and fisheries sector. It is uncertain whether Ukraine will be able to harvest existing crops, plant new ones or sustain livestock production under the current circumstances: according to the Government estimate, Ukraine may have 70% of the last year's harvest⁷ with the wheat harvest expected to reach 18-19 million metric tonnes compared to 33 million metric tonnes in 2021. Updated estimates of the Ukrainian Grain Association in August 2022 have reduced the overall forecasted harvest to reach 64.5 million metric tonnes, as a

society and 10 its maximum presence. Each indicator is measured through a range of questions (items). The responses to each item are added together to obtain a total score for the indicator.

⁵ <https://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/Ukraine%20Flash%20Appeal%202022.pdf>

⁶ <https://eba.com.ua/en/finansovi-rezervy-chverti-predstavnykiv-malogo-biznesu-vzhe-vycherpani/>

⁷ <https://kyivindependent.com/uncategorized/ukraines-agricultural-goal-is-to-have-70-of-last-years-harvest-despite-war/>

consequence of a decrease of almost 1 million hectares of seeded area (to 18 million hectares) from which it is possible to harvest the crop⁸.⁹

Early UNDP projections suggest that if the war deepens and expands, up to 90 percent of the population of Ukraine could be facing poverty and vulnerability to poverty by the end of 2022, and 30 percent of the population are likely to require life-saving humanitarian assistance. The same analysis suggests that already in the short- to medium-term, the 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.

These issues are discussed in more detail below.

I.2 Escalation of hostilities

While 2020 saw the lowest level of civilian casualties and attacks on civilian infrastructure for the entire conflict period¹⁰ along the 'contact line', the return to active fighting in February 2021 with reported increased use of heavy weapons and sniper fire as compared to January 2021¹¹ signified that the positive trend observed following the July 2020 ceasefire was reversing its course. In early March 2021, 100,000 Russian troops were positioned along the Russia-Ukraine border and within Crimea, in addition to its naval forces in the Sea of Azov. This deployment represented the highest force mobilization since Russia's occupation of Crimea and military incursion into eastern Ukraine in 2014. On 22 April 2021, the Russian Minister of Defence announced a drawdown of the exercise and ordered troops to return to their permanent bases by the end April but to remain "in a state of readiness for an immediate response in case of the unfavourable development." The war which escalated in early 2022 causes additional hardship, economic instability, lack of personal security, as well as increased anxiety, and psychological stress for the already conflict-exhausted people. In these circumstances, people's access to services and perceptions of social cohesion and community security are more challenged.

Another area, which was impacting people's perceptions of social cohesion and community security already before the February 2022, was with regards to ex-combatants. Concerns about ex-combatants in fact increased in recent years. The Security and Justice Survey showed that people were more concerned about 'people traumatised by the conflict' in early 2020: in Donetsk Oblast, concerns about people traumatised by the conflict doubled in 2019, while in Luhansk Oblast they increased by 10 per cent compared to 2018. Namely, 32 per cent of residents of the communities close to the 'contact line' in Donetsk Oblast consider 'people traumatised by conflict' to be a major issue in 2019, compared to only 15.9 per cent in 2018. Similarly, while in 2018 'people traumatised by the conflict' was a major issue for 55.9 per cent of residents of communities close to the 'contact line' in Luhansk Oblast, in 2019 that share rose to 65.9 per cent.¹² This indicator covers both combatants and non-combatants and shows that there is growing concern about people, including ex-combatants, suffering from the effects of conflict-related trauma. Research conducted by the US

⁸ <https://uga.ua/en/news/uga-reduced-the-forecast-of-the-current-year-s-harvest-to-64-5-mmt-of-grains-and-oilseeds/>

⁹ <https://www.fao.org/documents/card/en/c/cb9171en/>

¹⁰ 11 per cent decrease compared with 2019: 149 civilians killed and injured
<https://reports.unocha.org/en/country/ukraine/>

¹¹ OCHA UKRAINE Humanitarian Snapshot – June 2021
<https://reports.unocha.org/en/country/ukraine/card/2aRDKQualg/>

¹² Security and Justice in Ukraine: Perspectives from Communities in three Oblasts, 2019 – 2020, UN RPP, <https://www.ua.undp.org/content/ukraine/en/home/library/recovery-and-peacebuilding/security-and-justice-Ukraine-perspectives-from-three-oblasts.html>

Department of Veteran's Affairs suggests that the highest rate of suicide in ex-combatants occurs eight years post-conflict.¹³ As the war escalated to the country-wide hostilities in 2022 in Ukraine, it is anticipated that there will be an increase in the percentage of people traumatised by the conflict, whether or not they took an active role in the fighting, and concerns about those traumatised by the conflict, in the forthcoming period.

The latest data from SCORE 2021, shows that on average, a much larger proportion of ex-combatants experienced negative conflict-related experiences and trauma, such as personal participation in the hostilities (7.6 vs 0.3 among the general population), witnessing acts of violence (5.1 vs 0.9) and death (3.3 vs 0.3), or losing a close one due to the conflict (3.3. vs 0.4). The representatives of this group also tend to have higher levels of violent (4.0 vs 1.4) and active (5.9 vs 4.3) citizenship orientations¹⁴, highlighting the importance of readjustment to civilian life after the military service. Ex-combatants also tend to have a higher migration tendency (4.5 vs 4.1), measured as the degree to which one is inclined to leave one's region in search for more and better opportunities elsewhere. That said, ex-combatants are more likely to have entrepreneurship mentality (7.5 vs 6.3) and possess skills necessary for entrepreneurship such as risk taking, motivation, success orientation, innovative thinking and problem solving.

On 24 February 2022, following months of buildup of military forces at the border of Ukraine, the Russian Federation launched a military offensive targeting the eastern, northern and southern oblasts of Ukraine and the city of Kyiv. The intense military escalation has resulted in the loss of life, injuries, and mass movement of the civilian population throughout the country and to neighbouring countries, as well as severe destruction and damage to civilian infrastructure and residential housing.

Current projections show that 18 million individuals will be directly affected by the conflict, with 12 million people in immediate need of humanitarian assistance. The number of IDPs and refugees now amounts to approximately 14 million people – more than 30 per cent of Ukraine's population¹⁵. According to recent estimates from the UN OCHA¹⁶, over 7.1 million people have already left Ukraine as refugees and over 6.9 million moved within the country, mostly to the western oblasts¹⁷. Majority of those who left or was displaced are women and children. People on the move are extremely vulnerable to numerous potential health and protection risks, while response capacities in host communities, especially in the western oblasts receiving growing numbers of displaced people, are already stretched to the brink. Women and girls are increasingly facing SGBV, including conflict-related sexual violence (CRSV), loss of livelihoods, and loss of rights. These impacts are higher among displaced populations (given the lack of safe accommodation and risk of human trafficking) and in host communities facing greater socio-economic pressures, and where IDPs may have also been affected by war-related crimes.

Such forced migration summons an additional burden on local service providers in host and transit communities, including administrative and social services, legal aid, psycho-social support, and healthcare. Primary services such as banking, social transfers, and transport have also been affected, as have basic services, such as health, water, heating, and electricity, and local administration. With the continuation of the Russian military aggression and mounting insecurity,

¹³ National Veteran Suicide Prevention Annual Report 2020, US Department of Veteran's Affairs, <https://www.va.gov/opa/pressrel/pressrelease.cfm?id=5565>

¹⁴ Violent citizenship orientation is defined as a degree to which one is willing to engage in civic and political matters to improve things in their community and society, using all means of change including violence if necessary; while active citizenship orientation shows a degree to which one is willing to change things in their community and society, using political and social means of action.

¹⁵ <https://data.humdata.org/visualization/ukraine-humanitarian-operations/>

¹⁶ <https://reliefweb.int/report/ukraine/ukraine-situation-flash-update-29-9-september-2022>

¹⁷ <https://data.humdata.org/visualization/ukraine-humanitarian-operations/>

supply chains are likely to be disrupted for a prolonged period of time. The ability of local authorities and service providers to sustain a minimum level of services has also been severely hampered, as employees have fled or can no longer access their workplaces. Pre-existing socio-economic factors – such as gender gaps in economic opportunities, poverty, men control over decision-making and assets, and women’s insecure access to and control over property and land rights – tend to increase the risk of vulnerabilities experienced by women.

I.3 Situation of women

Multiple challenges to advancing the gender equality agenda at the national, subnational, and local levels also persist, including a lack of a coordinated and comprehensive whole-of-the-government approach to gender mainstreaming and insufficient levels of domestic public finance for gender programming, strategies, and women’s rights organizations.

The socio-economic assessment of the impact on businesses and households, conducted by the United Nations System in Ukraine, showed that women and girls were disproportionately affected by the crisis because of their high exposure to the virus. For example, women account for 82 per cent of the total health and social workers (compared to 70 per cent average worldwide). Moreover, according to the assessment of the COVID-19 pandemic impact on MSMEs in eastern Ukraine, women seem to have been more affected by the economic slowdown resulting from the pandemic. Women-managed businesses have demonstrated a lower level of adaptation to the new conditions. Although, there are sectoral specifications, in general, women have more likely been laid off or sent to unpaid/paid leave during the quarantine.

The latest SCORE data (2021) shows that 62 per cent of women of the conflict-affected population have difficulties in meeting their own or their dependents' nutritional needs (compared with 49 per cent of men when answering the same question). Women in Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts are facing challenges with personal security: they feel less safe in daily life and walking alone in the street at night is still not an option for them as 64 per cent of women respondents (and 44 per cent of men respondents) do not feel safe while doing so. The overall levels of personal security are also significantly higher among men compared to women (4.8 vs 4.1). There is a gap between men and women in the job market of the conflict-affected population: the share of women who feel that it would be difficult for them to find a satisfying job is higher than among men. Furthermore, the deeply entrenched patriarchal attitudes and gender stereotypes in the society represent a significant threat of rollback of the many achievements made on gender equality. As also evidenced SCORE, men are more prone to support traditional roles and responsibilities assigned to women and men (5.2 vs 4.4).

Gender-based violence has long been a serious problem in Ukraine. Some [67 per cent](#) of women in the country said that they have experienced psychological, physical or sexual violence at the hands of a partner or non-partner since the age of 15. Women whose current partner has fought or is currently fighting are substantially more likely to experience psychological, physical and sexual violence at the hands of their partner than those whose partner is not fighting or has not fought (79% compared to 58%)¹⁸.

As evidenced by the thematic assessment,¹⁹ women were disproportionately affected by the crisis not only because of their high exposure to the virus as health and social workers, but also due to unfair distribution of unpaid domestic and care work. The pandemic also triggered a spike in domestic violence against women and girls. For example, the number of reports of domestic

¹⁸ https://www.osce.org/files/f/documents/1/3/440312_0.pdf

¹⁹ https://ukraine.unfpa.org/sites/default/files/pub-pdf/gbv%20in%20the%20conflict-affected%20regions%20of%20ukraine_eng.pdf

violence have doubled during the lockdown. The national hotline on domestic violence saw a 23 per cent increase in calls during the first month of COVID-19 lockdown. The second month saw a 72 per cent increase over the pre-quarantine period²⁰. Many more cases have remained unreported. Awareness about programmes to shelter women survivors or rehabilitate perpetrators is low.

A survey on Gender Based Violence in the Conflict Affected Regions of Ukraine confirmed the increased vulnerability to various forms of violence in the conflict setting. For example, the share of IDP women reporting at least one instance of violence outside the family before their displacement was three times higher than that of local women during the entire conflict (15.2 per cent against 5.3 per cent of respondents). Among the most prevalent forms of abuse during the conflict, were instances of humiliation, insults, intimidation, blackmail, verbal threats, physical violence (being hit or slapped), confiscation of money or property, confiscation of official documents, forced labour without pay or for a pittance, and being subjected to improper sexual comments. In spite of the widespread taboo towards sexual violence, some episodes were also documented during the survey.

The conflict's impact on SGBV risks is also seen through the generalization of circumstances of the most serious episodes of violence. In particular, violent situations survived by women in local communities reflected a snapshot of the everyday life of the Ukrainian society: most episodes were caused by one perpetrator whom the survivor knew personally; they were alone at the time and did not face any particular threat to personal safety. In contrast, the prevailing numbers of IDP survivors have encountered violent situations caused by groups of people that the survivors did not know personally; they faced direct threats to their lives at the time of the incident, and confirmed that witnesses were also in danger. The checkpoints at the 'contact line' were regarded among the most dangerous locations in terms of vulnerability to all forms of violence.²¹

Gender analysis confirmed the relevance and the negative multiplying effect of the low participation of women, especially women from vulnerable groups, in decision making at both national and local levels. The limited participation of women in decision-making processes does not allow them to influence policy making at national and local levels, the adoption of appropriate legal acts inclusive of the needs of women and most vulnerable populations, and the mitigation of the negative economic consequences that are anticipated after the end of lockdown measures.²²

The vulnerability of IDPs (58 per cent women) is compounded by pre-existing hardships including lack of affordable accommodation, fewer employment opportunities, hurdles to access social payments, etc. The beginning of the war in February 2022 has jeopardized the safety of all Ukrainians, with specific impacts on key population groups. Women and girls are increasingly facing gender-based violence, including conflict-related sexual violence. These impacts are higher among displaced populations (given the lack of safe accommodation and risk of human trafficking) and in host communities facing greater socio-economic pressures, and where IDPs may have also been affected by war-related crimes.

Ukrainian officials and media reports with survivors' testimonies indicate that incidents of [rape and sexual violence](#) are increasing in the country since Russia's military offensive began on 24 February. This includes reports of soldiers [killing unarmed civilians](#) and raping their spouses, of sexual assaults on young women sheltering in basements, and attacks on women in their homes in villages and city outskirts. Ukraine's Prosecutor General, Iryna Venediktova, has referred to such incidents and called for support and outreach to survivors, many of whom do not report the crimes. Incidents of gang rape, rape in front of children and sexual violence following the killing of family

²⁰ https://www.osce.org/files/f/documents/1/3/440312_0.pdf

²¹ https://ukraine.unfpa.org/sites/default/files/pub-pdf/gbv%20in%20the%20conflict-affected%20regions%20of%20ukraine_eng.pdf

²² <https://bit.ly/2RWlwar>.

members are [increasingly](#) being reported by survivors and witnesses. An increase in calls to the emergency hotline from women and girls seeking assistance has been reported by at least one charity that supports survivors of trafficking, domestic violence, and sexual assault: many of these cases could not be followed up because of the fighting. Parliament Commissioner for Human Rights Liudmyla Denisova informed of at least [400 cases](#) of raping children and adults by Russian military forces.

Alongside the increased prevalence of conflict-related sexual violence (CRSV) common in armed conflicts, women and girls face higher risks of human rights violations, reinforcement of traditional gender roles in militarized and hyper-masculine environments, and escalated risks of SGBV given the proliferation of arms in society. Not only does SGBV deeply affect a survivor's physical, psychological, and economic well-being, but it also perpetuates intergenerational cycles of violence, undermines the social fabric and resilience, and thwarts sustainable and inclusive recovery processes. Furthermore, war affects access to basic resources and further exacerbates the vulnerabilities of those already in vulnerable situations.

Moreover, the levels of [fear and anxiety](#) about exposure to violence and trauma — along with stressors related to displacement, family separation and the loss of livelihoods — have only risen as the war has escalated. A particular type of re-traumatization is experienced by those who have already been displaced from their homes in Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts, as well as Crimea, and now experience secondary displacement. The conflict-affected population is also in urgent need of [mental health and psychosocial support](#) (MHPSS) services, and some of these services are provided by [women's rights organizations](#) or volunteer initiatives.

To address such heightened vulnerability, support will be needed targeting the government and CSOs to develop strategies to eliminate adverse social norms that perpetuate gender stereotypes and harmful behaviours in conflict and post-conflict settings and ensure that it communicates the importance of these measures.

CSOs working on gender equality and women's empowerment must also be supported by ensuring funding for them to stay operational and allowing for flexible use of existing funds, with reporting mechanisms adapted to humanitarian settings. This may include facilitating dialogue platforms for women's CSOs and women human rights defenders to voice their experiences, and training on how to operate in a humanitarian context.

In addition, various ethnic and social groups face specific challenges of an intersectional nature as they seek refuge. Ukrainians of Roma origin, are more likely to suffer discrimination in Ukraine, exacerbated by the lack of documentation of identity or citizenship. LGBTQI+ people risk facing discrimination in Poland and Hungary, the two largest receiving countries.

In November 2019, at the Nairobi Summit, Ukraine committed to implement its national policies based on its newly developed legislative framework in order to achieve that all survivors of domestic and gender-based violence are aware of their rights and have access to quality and comprehensive services, including legal protection, social and psychological and health care support and rehabilitation while society in Ukraine develop zero tolerance for violence and actively counteract.²³

In February 2021, the Government approved the State Programme on prevention and elimination of domestic violence and gender-based violence 2021-2025. In 2020, Ukraine joined Biarritz Partnership for Gender Equality, which prioritizes the prevention of and response to gender-based violence among other targets. Back in 2017, Ukraine adopted a new law on domestic violence and introduced amendments to the Criminal and Criminal Procedure Codes that criminalized it. The

²³ <https://www.nairobisummiticpd.org/commitment/ukraine-free-gender-based-violence>

number of reports on SGBV has increased with the introduction of criminal responsibility for domestic violence and the improvement of legislation on preventing violence.

Also, in 2018, the Government approved the National Action Plan for the implementation of the recommendations made in the Concluding observations of CEDAW. In the Recommendation 26, the Government of Ukraine commits to introduce criminal liability for domestic violence and accelerate the ratification of the Council of Europe Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence Against Women and Domestic Violence (a.k.a. the Istanbul Convention).

In addition, in 2020, Ukraine adopted its second National Action Plan on UNSCR 1325, which indicates the seriousness of the GoU towards integrating the Women, Peace and Security agenda into the reform and reconstruction and peacebuilding processes.

I.4 Situation for youth

Youth have similarly been affected by the increase in hostilities affecting their daily lives. There are currently approximately 1 million youth aged 10-24 were living in Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts, where the on-going hostilities have been observed to infringe on the living conditions of youth, on both sides of the ‘contact line’.²⁴ This infringement may include limiting their access to adequate housing, safe drinking water, energy for cooking, heating, lighting, and access to essential medicines and basic health services, including psychological support. Besides damages to essential infrastructures in the proximity of the ‘contact line’, and immense safety risks, the very establishment of the ‘contact line’ has isolated and divided communities, distanced residents from public services, disrupted trade, and forced young people to relocate in order to continue their studies, employment or allow them to access basic social, administrative or healthcare services. This has been exacerbated further by the closure of the EECs. Additionally, the combination of direct exposure to violence, a de facto barrier to movement, and damaged facilities has dramatically increased unemployment among both parents and young people. Overall, a lack of infrastructure, high unemployment rates and extreme poverty make young people living in these regions highly vulnerable. This has led a portion of this demographic to resort to highly damaging coping mechanisms including reduction in calorie intake, begging, increased alcohol intake or abuse, and participation in sex work.

Moreover, 95 per cent of people surveyed for the UN’s State of Youth in Ukraine report believe that opinions of young people and children should be taken into account in decision-making processes, yet only a third of young people surveyed, expressed a belief that the government adequately supported youth and their participation in public and/or political life.²⁵ More than half of young people have ideas on how to develop their communities and a majority responded that they would be willing to participate in the shaping of youth policies in their country. Young people thus appear to be eager to be engaged in public life, but they do not feel empowered or have opportunities to do so.

The latest SCORE data (2021) shows that young people in the 18-35 age group are overall less disappointed in authorities, both at the national and oblast level. They believe more in reforms and their effectiveness (for example, in land, decentralization and health reforms). Youth shows higher levels of support than other age groups for joining the EU (18-35 years – 4.6, 36-59 years – 3.6, 60+ years – 2.7) and NATO (18-35 years – 3.2, 36-59 years – 2.5, 60+ years – 1.9). Youth are also predictably more optimistic about the future (3.9 vs 3.0 among all age groups) and believe that ordinary people can change something in the society (4.5 vs 3.8) and they have higher social

²⁴ State of Youth in Ukraine, United Nations Ukraine, 2019 available at

<https://ukraine.un.org/sites/default/files/2020-06/06/THE%20STATE%20OF%20YOUTH%20IN%20UKRAINE%20report.pdf>

²⁵ Участь дітей у прийнятті рішень. (2017). Retrieved from U-report website: <https://ukraine.ureport.in/poll/2160/> (raw data; 8321 respondents, mostly young people; 21.07.2017. Estimated demographics of respondents: <https://ukraine.ureport.in/engagement/>)

tolerance (especially for the LGBTQI+ community) and tend to think about migration more often (5.5 vs 4.0). The role of youth as “agents of change” is very important in the local context, showing higher levels in the following categories:

- Sense of agency (5.7 vs 5.1)
- Sense of civic duty (5.6 vs 5.1)
- Sense of civic responsibility (5.5 vs 5.0)
- Social tolerance (6.7 vs 6.2)
- Entrepreneurship (7.3 vs 6.2)
- Active citizenship (4.5 vs 3.8)

As a result of Russian military aggression against Ukraine, many educational facilities have been destroyed or damaged, including 409 kindergartens, 550 schools, 58 VET colleges, and 45 higher education institutions²⁶. Most of those, which were not affected, continue to provide education services using online and remote tools, as many students and teachers are currently displaced or at risk. Although education is resuming online, many children and teachers — especially those displaced — may have difficulties accessing classes due to the lack of equipment, Internet access, as well as the lack of surroundings conducive to hours of studying. This will ultimately also have an impact on their family members and particularly mothers, who tend to take the main responsibility of home-schooling their children²⁷. Opportunities for inclusive learning, extra-curricular activities, and rehabilitation have also been reduced dramatically, especially in the regions directly affected by the war. According to the Education cluster’s estimates, over 3.3 million school-age children (3-17 yrs) are requiring education assistance now²⁸.

I.5 Decentralisation

Since 2014, Ukraine has been implementing a decentralisation reform that seeks to fundamentally restructure centre-periphery relations at the local level through delegation of power from the national to the community level. According to the recent study, the reform already showed some positive results, e.g. newly amalgamated communities had significantly increased their tax revenues and decreased associated administrative costs compared to the non-amalgamated ones.²⁹

During 2020, the government approved a new administrative-territorial structure of Ukraine by defining the borders of some 1,469 territorial communities that will be united into 136 new raions, sub-regional administrative units, which will cover the whole country. The local elections held on 25 October 2020 provided an opportunity for the local communities to elect new local governments at different levels and thus formally establish these new territorial units (ATCs), which would mean the end to the reform. At the same time, the government postponed local elections in 18 communities of Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts (12 of them being in the current Project’s target communities: Mariinka, Ocheretyne, Olhynka, Toretsk, Volnovakha and Vuhledar in Donetsk Oblast; Hirske, Popasna, Shchastia, Shyrokyi, Sievierodonetsk and Stanytsia Luhanska in Luhansk Oblast) due to security concerns. As a result, over 450,000 of conflict-affected women and men

²⁶ Ministry of Education and Science of Ukraine, Overview of the current state of education and science in Ukraine in terms of Russian aggression (as of April 10 – 16, 2022).

²⁷ Rapid Gender Analysis, available at:

<https://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/RGA%20Ukraine-SDR%20Full%20Report.pdf>

²⁸ Ukraine: Education Needs Assessment Survey - 24 June 2022

<https://www.humanitarianresponse.info/en/operations/ukraine/document/ukraine-education-needs-assessment-survey-24-june-2022>

²⁹ <https://voxukraine.org/en/in-unity-there-is-strength-the-effect-of-the-decentralization-reform-on-local-budgets-in-ukraine/>.

were unable to exercise their voting rights. Deprived of this opportunity, these population groups become, de facto, unable to exercise their right to have a say in defining local development policies. In these territorial communities, where no elections could take place, the President of Ukraine signed, in February 2021, decrees on the establishment of civil-military administrations (CMAs) as temporary local government units, as the absence of elections caused a vacuum of governance. The CMAs hold all ordinary legislative and executive powers as well as some emergency powers. The officials are appointed by the President and are not elected, meaning that there is less scope for a participatory and inclusive approach to local government in these communities. While the CMAs were originally envisaged to be a temporary solution, they have been repeatedly prolonged. As of September 2021, all acting heads of CMAs have been appointed in both Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts. Such limitations will impact on the rollout of the decentralisation reform in the region.

II. STRATEGY

II.1 Programming Context

It is against this backdrop and to address these issues that UNDP, together with its partners, has designed this project. In the difficult conflict context described above, and against the backdrop of the decentralisation process, the key development challenges that the Project seeks to address are those, which constrain or limit stabilisation and peacebuilding in the two regions, including the drivers of the conflict such as low social cohesion, low trust in authorities, lack of a clear strategy and readiness for reconciliation, as well as their overall longer-term development. In particular, insecurity and the breakdown of trust in institutions are on-going problems that need to be addressed. Without effective and trusted mechanisms to redress grievances, governed by rule of law and in full respect of human rights, the roots of conflict and instability will remain, and efforts to pursue economic and social growth and stabilisation will be undermined. The fundamental dynamics between individual, community, and state institutions need to be transformed in order to address the causes, drivers and consequences of the conflict and promote constructive and systemic change and stability in the region. All citizens including those living in conflict affected areas and in particular close to the shifting frontline have the need and right:

- To feel secure in their community: this implies that relevant conflict-sensitive *law enforcement and security services anchored to human rights principles* are in place at the local level, tied to national strategies and policies and are delivered effectively and efficiently.
- To feel that their rights and possessions are respected and handled in a fair manner: this requires that an efficient and conflict sensitive system of access to justice is established closest to citizens (in particular in areas close to the ‘contact line’) and is accessible to all.
- To live in a cohesive society, which promotes, protects and fulfils human rights for all and which works towards the wellbeing of all its conflict affected members, fights exclusion and marginalisation and creates a sense of belonging and trust, thereby enhancing overall stability in the region.

It is important to note that the war is ongoing in Ukraine. Hence, the response will have to remain flexible and might have to be adjusted in the coming months, if priorities change or the situation on the ground makes it necessary to limit certain activities or new opportunities arise.

UNDP with support from the Danish Ministry of Foreign Affairs (DMFA), the Swedish International Development (SIDA) and the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC), has been implementing the “*Good governance and citizens engagement for justice, security, environmental protection and social cohesion in eastern Ukraine*” Project since 1

October 2018. The project ended on 31 December 2021.³⁰ It was part of a larger joint UN programmatic framework, supported by the EU and other development partners, the United Nations Recovery and Peacebuilding Programme (UN RPP). The *Enhanced citizen engagement for strengthened community security and social cohesion and increased stability in eastern Ukraine* (this Project) presents the expansion and consolidation of activities related to community security and social cohesion, based on the results, challenges, successes and lessons learned since the start of the implementation of the Good Governance Project in October 2018. In addition, the project has been widely informed by evidence and learning gathered through a number of studies, analyses and researches that have been undertaken as part of the project implementation, as well as by the current context analysis, as provided above. This project has been further informed by the independent evaluation of the UN RPP completed in August 2021. This allowed for further refinement of the concept based on the evidential findings and recommendations arising from the evaluation.

Following the Russian military invasion of Ukraine, the Project has included the rapid response component to address the urgent needs of war-affected populations in their communities and in the areas of displacement, and to build the resilience of local institutions and the society, at large, to be able to recover from the shocks of the armed conflict. This intervention is based on the experiences, methodologies, and lessons learned from the implementation of conflict-related stabilization and resilience building, as well as post-conflict recovery programmes.

During the implementation of the project since 2018, a number of lessons learned have been gained, from which this project will learn.

Lesson learned 1: During the COVID-19 pandemic, delivery rates did not drop, and the project adapted to continue to deliver, however logistical constraints imposed by the COVID-19 lockdown pushed the Project team to look for new ways of how to complete all planned activities on time and in full. The flexibility of projects during the quarantine restrictions allowed to consider the rapidly changing context and to improve the capacity of partners. Moreover, the Project's work plan was revised to allocate resources to meet the urgent needs of the target communities affected by COVID-19. These same approaches to remote implications have allowed UNDP to remain effective and proactively assist communities at the frontline even after February 2022.

Lesson learned 2: 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. Notably, online training sessions and webinars provide an opportunity to engage larger numbers of interested participants compared to the limited capacities of similar offline activities. At the same time, online events and capacity-building activities should be designed in such a way as to keep the audience interested and motivated to complete these online sessions. In order to avoid exacerbating inequalities and deepening the digital divide, mechanisms to ensure the participation of people and communities with limited access to the Internet should be explored and integrated into the implementation approach.

Lesson learned 3: The participation of a wide range of local stakeholders is extremely important for building confidence and enhancing security in conflict-affected communities. The participatory nature of all related activities, including the establishment of Community Security Working Groups (CSWGs), as well as the provision of shared training on community security for law enforcement agencies jointly with community residents, have fostered dialogue at the local level and have helped to promote social cohesion and security. CSWGs were successful in raising security, governance and economic issues to the attention of security providers and local authorities. Furthermore, the CSWGs are becoming a leeway into practical humanitarian-development nexus implementation at the local level, by mobilizing conflict-affected communities for action.

³⁰ Final report submitted 29 August 2022.

Lesson learned 4: More dialogue on development is needed between the local authorities and citizens, including strengthening a human rights based approach to these interactions. Dialogue processes among local administrations, civil society organisations, local activists, police and other stakeholders in communities including Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts are often absent or inefficient. The CSWGs are one of the instruments, which bring together different stakeholders at the local level and motivate them to interact and find solutions to community problems. However, oftentimes the concept of dialogue is not well articulated in the communities. Notably, according to the annual assessment, more than 88 per cent of members of the Community Security Working Groups, established with the support of the Project, are convinced that these groups contribute to a positive change in their communities, as well as advancing gender equality, youth engagement and inclusivity objectives at the local level.³¹ Importantly, over 85 per cent of the respondents confirmed that CSWGs effectively adapted to remote work during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Lesson learned 5: The work of the civil-military administrations (CMA) hinders the development of civil society, but the creation of the public platforms of influence will provide an opportunity to learn and to take into account the views of the community residents. Based on Ukrainian legislation, civil-military administrations are appointed by the national government, citizens do not elect them, causing a lack of legitimacy. At the same time, the Head of the CMA is commissioned to make decisions with regard to all areas of community development, including budget allocations. As of now, citizens and CSOs have very limited access to the budgeting processes in the community. A “good” but rare practice is when the Head of the CMA reports to the community on budget expenses. In most cases, budgeting processes are legally “hidden”. CSWG as an open dialogue platform could become the bridge to implement local democracy tools in CMA governed communities.

Lesson learned 6: The delivery of critical social and legal aid services, as well as the mechanisms of public participation in the decision-making processes, need to become more innovative, integrated and aimed at genuinely reaching out to the population living along the ‘contact line’ or crossing the line, as well as those living in remote rural communities in both Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts. In this regard, the Project will continue working on the implementation of inclusive and innovative tools and piloting new ICT solutions to ensure better access to quality services and enhance civic engagement in the conflict-affected communities.

Lesson learned 7: Provision of justice services remains challenged by COVID-19 restrictions. There is a lack of technical capacities in the local courts for conducting videoconferences and holding court hearings remotely to minimise citizens’ and courts’ personnel exposure to COVID-19. To ensure the availability and sustainability of justice services, local courts and legal aid representatives need to receive necessary assistance (IT equipment, personal protective equipment, etc.).

Key Findings from the Mid-Term Evaluation of the UN RPP

The evaluation found that that the UN RPP was relevant and delivering good results, notably in relation to access to justice (free legal aid and improved access to courts) and in participation (Community Security Working Groups were an effective way of increasing contact between citizens and authorities). There is however a need to make the rights-based approach more explicit. This is in particular relevant when supporting and collaborating with the authorities to ensure that the human rights principles are also anchored in processes and methodologies of the institutions as part of a focus on structural change. This approach is crucial for the authorities’ implementation of their duty bearer responsibly to promote, protect and fulfil human rights for all. Moreover, there is a need for strengthen synergies with other projects and programmes (including Danish support to the Office of the Ombudsperson through UNDP).

³¹ <https://reach-info.org/ukr/AGORA/HCVA/>

It was also found that UNDP as a lead agency together with UN Women and UNFPA should strengthen its relationship with authorities at the national level so that local interventions are tied more firmly with national strategies and policies. Sustainability will be further enhanced through placing local authorities in the lead. Meanwhile, key areas for further promotion include the inclusion of ex-combatants and Gender-Based Violence where there should be more focus on prevention. Moreover, work with WPS and UN Resolution 1325 should be further aligned with the Ukraine's 1325 National Action Plan.

The UN RPP also has a focus on the use of digital technology solutions to increase access to public services for the conflict-affected women and men. However, this should not be at the cost of citizens without smartphones and/or Internet access. This is in particular an issue for many people living in the villages along the 'contact line', who are in an already vulnerable position.

These lessons learned and evaluation findings have allowed for further refinement of the development of the concept for this evidence-based project.

II.2 Theory of Change

The complex humanitarian, development, and peace challenges emerging in Ukraine as a consequence of the military aggression of the Russian Federation underscore the importance of delivering programming that prioritises efforts to protect development gains alongside the provision of time-critical assistance. Such assistance must ensure that people can maintain their resilience to shocks to help them manage and recover from the crisis as quickly as possible.

Three significant elements must inform the immediate and medium-term response:

- 1) Ukraine is not an impoverished, fragile state in a protracted crisis. State capacities and capabilities (institutional, political, technical, organisational) have proven to be adaptable since the early days of the conflict. However, protecting and sustaining these capacities for building resilience will be an essential element in responding to the crisis in the immediate and longer-term.
- 2) Ukraine has high levels of human capital – an educated, dynamic, and entrepreneurial people with high levels of technological expertise and civic engagement, fertile soil and natural resources to exploit, as well as access to the European markets for the goods and services it produces. Managing and supporting these capacities in light of significant displacement must be a priority to ensure that Ukraine and Ukrainians can lead the response to the impacts of the current crisis.
- 3) The war has strengthened, not weakened, Ukrainian identity and social cohesion. Communities and civil society organizations across Ukraine have welcomed and assisted those displaced from the war-affected areas, in a display of collective solidarity that is both humbling and inspiring. The current crisis presents an opportunity to further strengthen the role of civil society and public institutions to maintain and strengthen social cohesion in Ukraine for the future.

Addressing the drivers and impact of conflict in eastern Ukraine and beyond, supporting stabilisation, greater social cohesion and gender-responsive community security remain a key strategic commitment of UNDP and will require that: a) local law enforcement and justice institutions provide inclusive and quality security and justice services that are anchored to the promotion, protection and fulfilment of human rights, and b) communities identify immediate response and recovery priorities, and mitigate security and safety risks. It also requires supporting

authorities as duty bearers to promote, protect and fulfil human rights for all, while giving rights holders, including women and youth, and other vulnerable groups capacities for advocacy and participation in decision making in public spaces that are safe and free from sexual harassment and gender-based violence.

For communities to better mitigate security and safety risks and potentially increase stability in the region, they require capacities for dialogue for sustained peace as well as early-warning and confidence-building mechanisms.

At the same time, the rapidly evolving context and the newly arising needs across all oblasts of Ukraine require initiating and rapidly scaling up crisis response activities that strengthen national and local capacities to protect and maintain development gains and strengthen the resilience of crisis-affected communities. In particular, urgent action is required to ensure public institutions and civil society have the capacity and resources to maintain and strengthen the social fabric, uphold human rights, and ensure the inclusion, protection and empowerment of all, including population groups with intersecting and multiple vulnerabilities.

The leadership and direction of national authorities in the early days of the war have done much to bolster the social cohesion and collective resilience of the Ukrainian people. Even so, mass internal displacement may bring new challenges to fragile, war-affected communities, with the potential for tensions between the residents of host communities and Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) requiring shelter and access to overwhelmed public services. For this reason, the project will take a two-pronged approach that aims to support i) in the short term, the social stabilization and mending of the social fabric, including through the consistent application of Rule of Law principles, respect for human rights and access to justice and survivor services; ii) in the medium term bolster institutions and mechanisms that provide community security and justice, increasing social cohesion and propensity for reconciliation and thereby addressing residual conflict potential and contributing to increased stability in the eastern oblasts of Ukraine following the end of the military operations.

The project also recognized the commitment made by the Government of Denmark to respond to urgent needs, as well as the establishment of sustainable development pathways in Mykolaiv oblast. In particular, in view of the upcoming winter season 2022/23, the project will make a deliberate effort to ensure that vulnerable individuals (including but not limited to IDPs, elderly, single-headed households, returnees) are protected from the hardship of winter through the procurement and distribution of winter items and repairs, especially in collective centers, and community heating points; while in parallel ensuring that key community infrastructure for service provision, is winter-proof and can maintain uninterrupted operations. This support will build on activities being currently implemented under the Recovery and Peacebuilding Programme in selected communities of Mykolaiv oblast.

The *theory of change* recognises that **strengthening perceptions of community security and increasing social cohesion is a complex and non-linear process** that is underpinned by tackling power inequalities and the root causes and drivers of instability in the region. This can only be achieved through joint actions of all humanitarian and development actors, based on continuous and shared research and learning, which **leads to social change, mutual trust, and protection and enjoyment of human rights**. In order to contribute to the stabilisation of the region, the project will respond to risks and the underlying root causes and drivers of the conflict.

The theory of change underpinning the project argues that:

If access to and quality of services is improved due to enhanced law enforcement, access to justice and inclusion, leading to strengthened perceptions of personal and community service among communities, whether in frontline zones, transit hubs or hosting areas, in particular women and youth, ex-combatants and other vulnerable groups; and

If communities, including women, youth, ex-combatants and other vulnerable groups, are more equal, have enhanced capacities, are included and empowered, and participate in local level, evidence-based development and decision-making, including what pertains the immediate assistance to displaced populations in hosting areas and local recovery planning;

Then the security of communities and citizens in conflict-affected areas and the level of social cohesion will improve; inequalities and perceptions of insecurity will be reduced; and public trust in institutions will be enhanced;

Which will reduce the propensity for inter-group tensions, and thereby strengthen the potential for immediate stabilization, medium-term reconciliation and stability, and a sustainable future settlement of the past and present conflicts.

The key **intended outcome** of the Project is to ultimately bolster institutions and mechanisms that provide community security and justice, increasing social cohesion and propensity for reconciliation and thereby addressing conflict potential and contributing to increased stability in the region. It is assumed that increased stability in communities within Government Controlled Areas (GCAs), where the project will be implemented, will contribute to a future comprehensive settlement of the 2014 conflict, as well as the present war, and the reintegration of Non-Government Controlled Areas (NGCAs).

The Project will contribute to the overall UNDAF Outcome 4 via the UN Recovery and Peacebuilding Programme, which include:

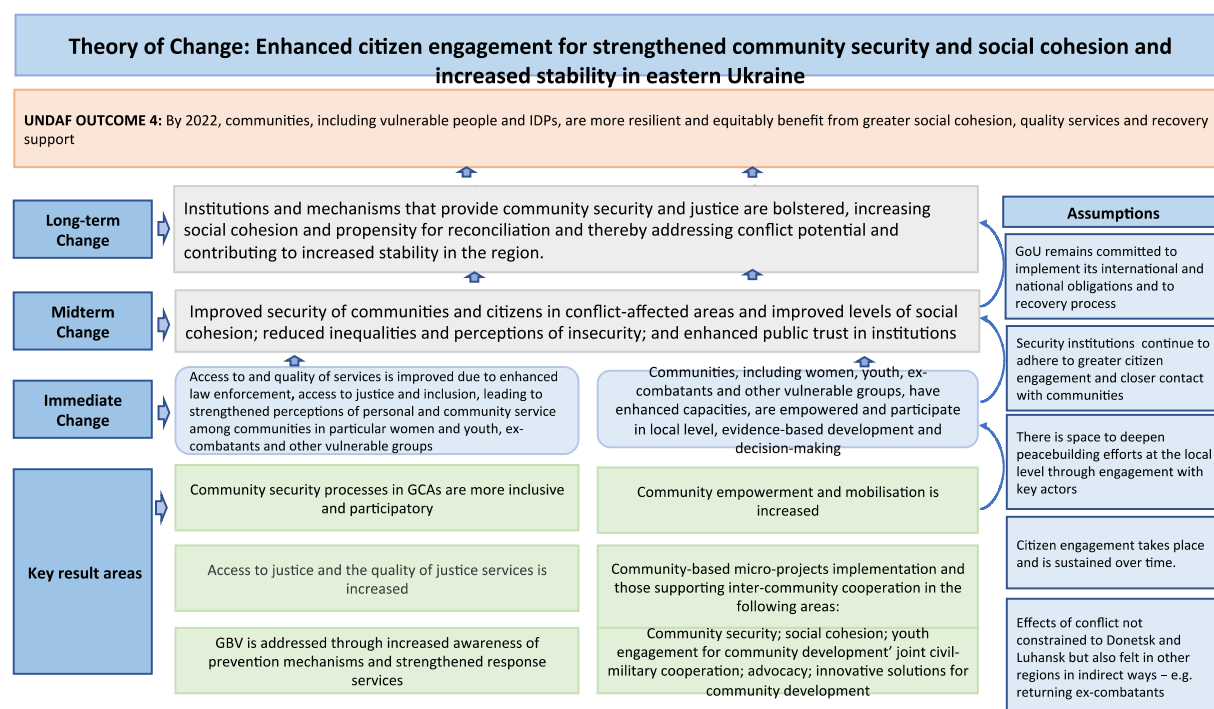
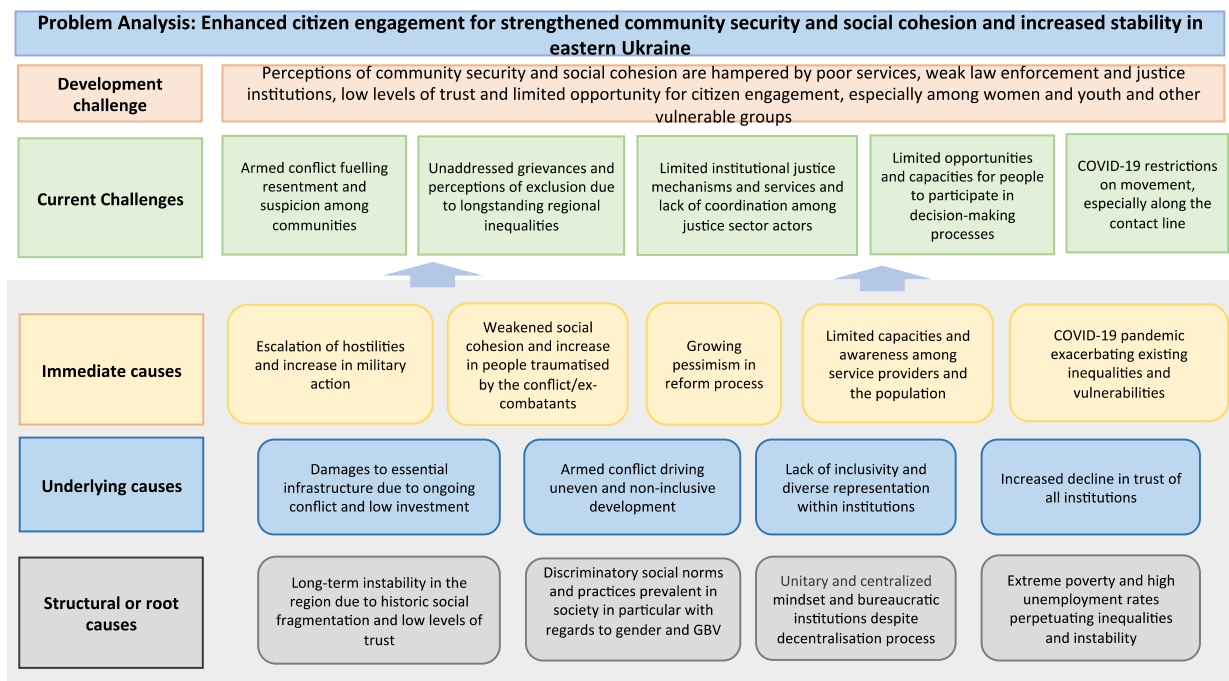
UNDAF OUTCOME 4: By 2022, communities, including vulnerable people and IDPs, are more resilient and equitably benefit from greater social cohesion, quality services and recovery support.

Ultimately this will lead to greater stability in the GCAs, enhance scope for cross ‘contact line’ interaction, and a positive perception of reform and social progress in the GCA, which provides an incentive for reconciliation and sustainable peace.

Therefore, when the citizens of conflict-affected areas, including but not limited to eastern Ukraine, become actively engaged in defining the security issues that plague their communities, *when* security institutions engage with citizens more closely (through institutions such as CSWGs or otherwise) and begin to act upon citizens’ concerns in order to protect, promote and fulfil human rights for all, *when* peacebuilding mechanisms are created or bolstered to help citizens resolve their conflicts at a local level, and *when* citizens demand and see that security providers and local institutions become more accountable to them, *then* these citizens start feeling safer and communities more stable. This feeling of safety not only leads to a higher level of trust in public institutions but combined with increased civic activism, also leads to improved social cohesion and enhanced stability in the region, thereby mitigating the drivers of conflict.

The theory of change also argues that successes achieved in GCA help demonstrate to citizens in NGCA that there are realistic and viable alternative models to service provision and development. This can play an important role in conflict transformation and peacebuilding.

The problem tree analysis and theory of change underpinning the project is provided below:



II.3 Project Strategy

II.3.1 Strategic Policy Framework

The project has been designed so that it is fully aligned with national and international, UN/DP and Danish policy frameworks.

In particular, the project is harmonized with Ukraine's **State Targeted Programme (STP) for Donbas Recovery (2017)**, which involves stimulating the social and economic development of territorial communities to improve the quality of life by strengthening their capacity and social stability and stimulate economic activity. The STP continues to provide an overarching strategy but in practical terms is now augmented by a wide range of other policy documents, including the

National Regional Development Strategy of Ukraine and the Regional Development Strategies of Donetsk and Luhansk Oblasts; 2030 Economic Development Strategy for Donetsk and Luhansk Oblasts; The Human Rights Strategy and Action Plan; and the National Action Plan for Implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 1325 on Women, Peace and Security.

The project is also aligned with the main provisions of the **Foreign and Security Policy Strategy of Denmark (2022)**, including in the areas of value diplomacy, safety and security, equality and respect for human rights. In line with the general foreign and security policy priorities identified in the Strategy, the Government of Denmark aims to support democratic forces and civil society actors in the eastern neighbourhood region, as well as stabilization and assistance to the war-affected areas.

Linkages with the 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals

An inclusive process in 2016-2017 to adapt the SDGs for the Ukrainian context resulted in a national SDGs system consisting of 86 national targets with monitoring indicators, which have been incorporated in 162 Governmental regulatory legal acts (4,300 planned actions). The Decree of the President of Ukraine “On the sustainable Development Goals for Ukraine up to 2030” (September 2019) consolidates the SDGs as benchmarks for policy and legislation.

An important milestone for implementation of the SDGs was preparation and presentation of the first Voluntary National Review (VNR), and this remains a key reference for long term strategic planning in Ukraine. Strategic partnership with the EU under the EU Association Agreement is a clear enabler and opportunity for the Agenda 2030 in Ukraine. The Government of Ukraine has also developed a National Economic Strategy up to 2030, its implementation will need to be grounded in a human-rights based, gender responsive, and consultative approach. The GoU is further implementing a set of foundational reforms aimed at restoring economic growth and bringing the country closer to the EU.

The Project is aligned with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and will support Ukraine’s contribution to them. The main SDGs that are relevant in this respect are: SDG 16 on peace, security and strong institutions and SDG 5 on gender equality. The works on these directly by strengthening the conditions for stability and sustainable peace in the GCAs while also offering opportunities to reach over to NCGAs where feasible. Gender equality and women’s empowerment are cross cutting and distinct initiatives are included in all engagement (e.g., prevention and response to SGBV). By promoting stronger inclusive and participatory governance at the local level, the project also contributes to SDG 10 on reduced inequalities.

The project will also make a contribution to UNSCR 1325 on Women, Peace, and Security (WPS) through promoting the involvement of women in decision-making and peace and security initiatives.

Alignment with Danish Development Priorities

The project is aligned with the new strategy for Danish development cooperation – Fælles om Verden (2021). The project will contribute primarily to the fourth strategic goal, this being to ensure security and safety through peacebuilding and stabilisation. It is also aligned with the new Danish foreign and security strategy; the Strategic Framework for Danish cooperation with the Eastern Partnership Countries, 2022-2026, the vision of which is to promote the countries’ anchoring of European values and strengthen their stability, development, and resilience. Objectives include strengthening democratic institutions, civil society’s role and ability to exercise influence, independent media, human rights, gender equality, reduction of social inequalities and inclusion; and the Danish National Action Plan (NAP) on Women, Peace and Security (WPS), 2021-2024. Inter alia, this requires a systematic integration of gender perspectives in planning,

implementation, and evaluation of foreign, security and development work. Specific goals include the strengthening of women's participation in conflict resolution and peace negotiation as well as the ability to ensure security for women and girls in fragile and conflict affected areas, including preventing and addressing sexual and gender-based violence.

The Government of Denmark has been clear about its support to Ukraine, as well as supporting its bid for full EU membership. During his speech to the Danish Parliament 29 March 2022, Ukrainian president Volodymyr Zelensky requested help with the rebuilding of the city Mykolaiv. During a meeting less than a month later in Kyiv, 21 April 2022, the Danish Prime Minister officially confirmed the support to the reconstruction of Mykolaiv, among other types of support Denmark could offer Ukraine.³²

The project will seek synergies and will coordinate with other Danish funded projects and programmes in Ukraine to ensure that there is no overlap or duplication and to fully maximise resource potentials. Close cooperation will be sought with the Danish funded project, **Strengthened contribution from civil society to resilience**, which is also part of the Danish stabilization programme for Ukraine. The two projects are mutually reinforcing, in particular through the following cross-cutting objectives:

- Strengthened cooperation and trust between citizens, civil society and authorities in eastern Ukraine, including strengthened awareness of human rights and International Humanitarian Law.
- Strengthened ability of civil society to participate in local communities, in particular with a focus on youth and women.
- Improved possibilities for ex-combatants' rehabilitation and reintegration into society.

The project will also closely collaborate and develop synergies with the Danish funded and UNDP implemented "Civil Society for Enhanced Democracy and Human Rights in Ukraine" (CSDR) and "Human Rights for Ukraine" (HR4U) projects.

For an overview of the alignment of this project with other UNDP projects please see the mapping provided under section VIII.2.

Strategic Positioning and Contribution to UN/DP development objectives

For its implementation, the Project will be fully integrated into the **UN Recovery and Peacebuilding Programme (UN RPP)**, supported by 12 donors and partially implemented by four UN agencies, under UNDP's coordination and overall oversight. This will allow for the maximization of resources as well as access to complementarities and synergies under numerous other initiatives with multiple other donors and development partners. This project will be integrated in Component 3 of the overall programme.

The Programme's interventions are grouped under the following key Programme components, which reflect the region's priority needs:

- Component 1: Economic Recovery and Restoration of Critical Infrastructure
- Component 2: Local Governance and Decentralization Reform
- Component 3: Community Security and Social Cohesion.

With its anchoring in UNDP, the RPP provides a means to ensure that governance, security and human rights issues are well covered, and the programme has close links to OHCHR, UN Women

³² <https://www.president.gov.ua/en/news/volodimir-zelenskij-obgovoriv-z-golovami-uryadiv-daniyi-ta-i-74453>

and OCHA as well as UNHCR on the HDP nexus. A further relevant attribute of the RPP is its scope to add a stabilisation element to national reform processes already underway, such as decentralisation, justice reform, law enforcement, and anticorruption.

The RPP is complementary to these initiatives and contributes to them. With regard to decentralisation, for example, the RPP is the main donor supported programme operating in conflict-affected areas in eastern Ukraine.

The RPP was designed to **respond to and mitigate the causes, drivers and effects of the conflict**. It is based on findings of the Recovery and Peacebuilding Assessment (RPA) and is aligned to the State Target Programme for Recovery as well as to the Donetsk and Luhansk Oblast Development Strategies up to 2027. It is an integral component of the UNDP Country Programme and is therefore fully aligned with the United Nations Partnership Framework (UNPF). It is part of the Inclusive Development, Recovery and Peacebuilding Portfolio (IDRPB), which is closely interlinked with the Democratic Governance and Energy & Environment Portfolios of UNDP, operating nationally and in all of Ukraine's regions and is consistent with the SDGs, in particular SDG 16 (Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions) and SDG 5 (Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment).

As an area-based programme specifically developed for the conflict-affected areas of eastern Ukraine, the RPP addresses the key stabilization, peacebuilding, economic and governance priority needs in eastern Ukraine following the start of the conflict. It takes into account the opportunities that have arisen from the Minsk Protocol of September 2014 and the renewal of its cease-fire provisions and is also fully adjusted to the humanitarian-development-peace nexus.

The Programme, which operates on the basis of a pooled funding arrangement, follows a multi-sectoral programme-based approach and is implemented using an area-based methodology. With the current project, it is a unifying interventions framework for 12 projects funded by 12 international partners with a total funding amounting to **\$ 115 million**, excluding this project. This project will fall within this framework and will support certain thematic issues relation to social cohesion and community security.

Following the sudden escalation of military activities in February 2022, and the corresponding increase of urgent needs in conflict-affected communities, transit hubs, and host communities, the UN RPP has scaled up its support to address the negative impact of the war, in line with UNDP's overall commitment to preserve development gains as fully as possible and to return Ukraine to pathways achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) as quickly as possible.

II.3.2 Project Implementation Strategy

The strategy for the project is based on research, analysis and learning; testing and piloting (and modifying where required); and rollout and expansion. Experiences gained during the first phase show that only through evidence-based learning can tangible changes be made and results achieved. Thus, the project is innovation driven but evidence based.

Specific project strategies for achieving the outcomes are detailed below:

Human Rights Based Approach

The principles of *leaving no one behind* (LNOB) and *reaching the furthest behind first* underpin the project, which has been designed in line with the human rights-based approach (HRBA). Applying an HRBA and working with both duty bearers and rights holders, activities will continue to

underpin work at the institutional level with on the ground interventions. The project will combine supporting duty bearers to deliver services and strengthen justice sector and law enforcement institutions, with supporting rights holders to understand and claim their rights and participate in decision making influencing their lives. The project will support the integration of human rights principles into the processes and methodologies of the institutions as part of its support towards structural change. It will support the authorities, as duty bearers, to promote, protect and fulfil human rights for all. At the same time, focus will be made on rights holders and in particular those who are left behind, including women, youth, ex-combatants and other vulnerable groups in the region, by raising their awareness and strengthening their participation and contribution in the decision-making process, through capacity development, networking and accessing the policy making process.

Integrated geographical focus

Project activities will be implemented in the government-controlled areas (GCA) with a specific focus on addressing the needs of the conflict-affected communities in eastern Ukraine, as well as the time-critical needs of displaced populations in transit hubs and hosting areas. Implementation, as it pertains to the activities envisioned under Output 1, will be guided by the operational context, accessibility and security in target areas, population movements, targeted needs assessments, and other evidence. For ex-combatants' support, activities will be implemented throughout Ukraine, with 50 per cent of the work done at the central/national level, and 50 per cent in the conflict-affected oblasts of eastern and southern Ukraine. Using the existing evidence and data, the intervention zones will be identified based on criteria including a) geographical proximity to the 'contact line', b) those which are in the area of operation of the military forces, and c) those identified as the most vulnerable communities by AGORA research and other needs assessments. This integrated approach will ensure that the project is reaching the right communities in the right locations. Working at both the national and local levels will allow for the interventions to be tied more closely to national strategies and policies and will further enhance sustainability by placing local authorities in the lead.

Gender Equality and Social Inclusion (GESI)

The Project will work on the premise that a two-pronged approach to GESI will be required. First, the achievement of gender equality and social inclusion will be mainstreamed through all outputs and activities to ensure participation in each activity of women, youth, ex-combatants and other vulnerable groups. Specific consideration will be given to how the project will ensure that gender and social inclusion perspectives are fully integrated in the work of the project. This will be achieved through the following tools:

- **Analysis and Planning:** During all planning exercises, from annual work plans (AWP) to each specific activity, the project will apply a gender and social inclusion lens to ensure all inputs are gender responsive and that all perspectives and voices are heard during implementation. Likewise, the analysis will be made from conflict sensitivity approach during the planning process of AWP.
- **Perspective:** The project will promote equal and full participation of vulnerable and underrepresented groups in all efforts for peace and security, including through the application of affirmative action measures and programmes.
- **Mainstreaming:** Each output of the Project will have specific components that relate to promoting and institutionalizing GESI, whether that be in legal frameworks or specific business processes.
- **Monitoring & Evaluation:** The project will collect gender and other disaggregated data to ensure the impact of the project's work can be measured effectively for each gender and vulnerable groups.

Leave No One Behind

The core principle of the SDGs and the 2030 Agenda is to leave no one behind. While Ukraine has made some advancements in terms of progress towards achievement of the SDGs certain challenges remain which will need to be overcome if it is to reach its SDG targets by 2030. In this context, the project will focus on trying to reach those who are furthest behind to ensure ultimately that no one is left behind. This includes taking affirmative actions in trying to reach the most vulnerable communities, such as women, youth, ex-combatants, PWDs and LGBTQI+ and addressing multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination. In this context, a greater focus will be placed on conducting analysis focusing on the core conflict drivers (including peace, stability, and facilitators), intersectionality, and vulnerable groups. In particular, it is important to understand vulnerability from a perspective of access to rights and services.

Whole of Government and Whole of Society Approaches

Whole of government and whole of society approaches are crucial in attaining the SDGs. The project will continue to build on the successful partnerships that it has forged to date, while seeking to deepen and broaden them. The project will strengthen its integrated implementation approach, by working at all three levels of government – local, regional and national – with an additional focus on the first two. Lessons learned from the existing project show that there is a need to adopt a holistic, whole of society approach to the project implementation and to have an integrated approach to activities, which include a broad range of stakeholders. This requires taking an inclusive approach to multi-stakeholder partnerships by supporting partnerships with a variety of actors. The project has created strong partnerships with government institutions, civil society and local communities. In this next phase, the project will continue these partnerships and will expand its partnership base further where relevant and possible. This will allow for even more meaningful participation across society and an integrated, whole of society approach.

Conflict sensitivity/Do No Harm

Ukraine is a complex environment with multiple stakeholders, many of whom have divergent goals and aims. Conflict sensitive programme management will be crucial, especially when dealing with restrainers of change. A basic conflict-sensitive approach will be maintained throughout the project implementation to anchor conflict perspectives into the project management cycle. At a minimum, the project will adopt a “Do No Harm” approach and will not support dividers. It will consider possible conflict at all levels, however the project’s outputs have been designed to lend themselves to vertical coordination through representation and participation, as well as horizontal networking through partnerships, alliances and empowerment. Generally speaking, this will include the identification of resistance to open discussions of potentially difficult issues, management of related risks through ongoing dialogue, good working relations with partners and stakeholders, and finding constructive solutions to implementation issues. Conflict risks have been identified in the risk management log and will be closely monitored through the M&E system. The conflict context and possible linkages with the Project will be monitored throughout the project cycle and if necessary adaptive measures are to be introduced. The key steps that the Project will comply with are: better understanding of the context; analysing connectors; considering (and Generating) programming options etc. To make these all happen in the implementation of the activities, the project will conduct the orientation and training for the project staff and officials of the implementing partners at different levels on conflict sensitivity and Do No Harm. The conflict sensitivity will be mainstreamed into the planning and the Do No Harm approach will be integrated as an important approach.

National Ownership

Overall, the project prioritises government ownership both at the formal level by supporting institutional capacity, integration of rights-based approaches, and strengthened legal and policy frameworks, as well as with a bottom-up approach of engaging the public in raising awareness of their rights, legislative development discussions and supporting mechanisms for public participation. The project continues this approach with ownership of the process being embedded through the following principles: participation of implementing partners in project design; alignment with the government's development plans and strategic plans of relevant sectoral institutions; ensuring that national stakeholders are not only beneficiaries but play an important role in the reform process; and mutual accountability as a foundation for engagement, coordination and achievement of results.

Transparency and accountability

In line with SDG target 16.6 to develop amongst others, transparent institutions at all levels and target 10 to “Ensure public access to information and protect fundamental freedoms, in accordance with national legislation and international agreements” the transparency pillar is considered a condition for accountability and integrity. It is only when information is made available that performance can be assessed, and improvements can be proposed through democratic checks and balances. The Project will be audited periodically, and spot checks will be undertaken. The internal controlling system will be strengthened, and support will also be offered to the implementing partners to establish the same. “**Zero tolerance policy**” will be adopted to advance integrity. In terms of engagement with the partners, the Project will provide support to develop necessary means and measures to continually impart information and disseminate appropriate levels of detail. This requires not only open and capable institutions but also independent and balanced media reporting as well as active citizen engagement.

Environmental Protection

In all the Project activities due consideration will be given to the environmental aspect. Some of the environmental challenges that affected the Project still exist, such as, infrastructural issues of Project partners and focus on recovery in the aftermath of the COVID-19 pandemic, as well as the ongoing hostilities. In addition, the Project will adopt some ‘Green’ measures, including limiting the use of printing, reducing its carbon footprint and will focus more on innovation and online engagement.

Stakeholder Engagement

The Project will have strong engagement with relevant national and local stakeholders to ensure that supported initiatives are aligned to national and local priorities for community security and social cohesion, based on international human rights standards. Every effort is made to build on existing national capacities, which not only minimizes the requirements to get efforts moving on the ground, but also facilitates the national ownership and leadership necessary for making advancing and promoting community security and social cohesion.

III. RESULTS AND PARTNERSHIPS

III.1 Expected Results

The Project approach builds on the core principle of “leaving no one behind.” It is particularly focused on SDG 16 (Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions) as well as aligning with the State Targeted Programme for Recovery in the Donbas.

The project has 3 key outputs. These have been structured to reflect three critical considerations. **The first consideration** is to build on practices, lessons learned and successes of the previous project as well as the recommendations arising from the Mid-Term Evaluation of the UN RPP. For example, the CSWGs; UNDP will deepen its support for existing ones by strengthening them further, in particular with regards to embedding human rights principles in their processes, increasing their capacity in emergency response and recovery coordination, and expanding their geographical coverage. As recommended by the UN RPP Evaluation, the focus on women and youth will be maintained, as well as introducing a focus on ex-combatants.

The second consideration will be to address the gaps noted over the course of the previous project and the shortcomings of the security sector institutions and peacebuilding processes. An example of such a gap is the reintegration of ex-combatants; UNDP will strengthen community-ex-combatant coordination mechanisms and introduce systems and procedures to help ex-combatants transition into civilian life.

Finally, the project has been designed to on the one hand, flexibly respond to the emerging needs following the beginning of the war in Ukraine, and on the other, respond over the medium-term to risks and to address the drivers and consequences of the ongoing war and previous conflict thereby contributing to increased stability in the conflict-affected regions.

Another key assumption of the project is that, while over the short term (preliminary identified as the period October 2022 to June 2023) the project will be mostly engaged in preserving development gains and bolstering community resilience, in reinforcing the social fabric, including in displacement settings, support upholding of community security principles, the application of human rights based approach, and of the rule of law, by the beginning of July 2023 the situation on the ground will have reached the required level of stability necessary for the country to fully engage in recovery activities envisioned under Outputs 2 and 3.

Output 1: The effectiveness of security service provision and civil protection functions is maintained, with reinforced capacities for crisis response, and public institutions and civil society are enabled to strengthen the social fabric, uphold human rights for all people, and engage in inclusive response and recovery efforts

Activity Result 1.1 Security and civil protection service providers at national and local levels have strengthened capacities for crisis response.

Overall aim: To support Government-led response to the emerging needs as a consequence of the war, including rescue services, the effective preservation of law and order in war-affected areas, transit hubs and host communities, and to support the application of the Rule of Law principles, respect for human rights and access to justice and survivor services ensuring that the war-affected population, and in particular persons with disabilities, displaced women and men, as well as elderly and youth, have access to justice and can address the issues emerging from the war, including war-related Gender-Based Violence.

1.1.1 The state system of security service provision and civil protection in conflict-affected, transit and host areas of eastern Ukraine is maintained

- Develop the capacity of duty bearers and service providers to provide life-saving rescue services to the war-affected population with precedence being given to communities at the frontline;
- Support the capacity of temporarily relocated security service providers to coordinate and maintain uninterrupted service provision and be prepared to resume their activities in the conflict-affected areas of eastern Ukraine;

- Implementation of community policing approaches and principles in transit and host communities.

1.1.2 The Rule of law and human rights are upheld in displacement settings through technical support and capacity building of service providers.

- Awareness-raising about available support and services to conflict-affected populations in transit hubs and host communities;
- Support and develop the capacity of regional and local NGOs working on access to justice and human rights to monitor IDPs cases and advocate for the specific needs of displaced populations;
- Support legal service providers with technical means to boost outreach to displaced populations;
- Provide technical and expert support to and increase coordination of civil society organisations, initiatives, and local authorities in host and transit communities to improve opportunities for returning combatants, especially those from vulnerable groups;
- Support the prevention and redressal of SGBV by strengthening service provision in SGBV shelters and day centres, including psycho-social services and emergency contraception.

Activity Result 1.2 Social fabric across war-affected communities, transit hubs and hosting areas is supported and strengthened through the engagement of civil society in recovery and IDP integration efforts, including community-level dialogue and conflict resolution activities

Overall aim: To bolster the social cohesion and collective resilience of the war-affected communities, transit hubs, and hosting areas, building on the lessons learned from extensive experience with social cohesion programming in eastern Ukraine. Despite the strengthened sense of national identity and unity stemming from the ongoing war, mass internal displacement is already posing new challenges and might increase tensions between host communities and IDPs. The project will monitor, address and prevent such tensions, and support appropriate dialogue, engagement, and integration of displaced populations in host community life, as well as in the immediate response and recovery planning, including through local Government-led early recovery working groups – platforms where representatives of local authorities, CSOs, youth vulnerable groups, and volunteers will jointly assess the needs and prioritize recovery response.

1.2.1 IDP integration in host communities supported through the strengthening of social fabric and support to community-owned solutions, social cohesion and dialogue

- Enable the engagement of young women and men from IDP and host communities by setting up mixed-group cultural programmes and initiatives, and promoting joint informal education;
- Develop and implement psychosocial support, rehabilitation and recovery programmes for displaced civil society activists and volunteers from eastern Ukraine, and provide them with knowledge and tools to re-establish their activities in transit and host communities;
- Promote training opportunities for service providers working with IDPs, youth activists and volunteer coordinators on non-conflict communication, conflict resolution practices and facilitation of dialogue.

1.2.2 Tensions in transit and host communities are reduced through pilot activities focused on decreasing harmful coping mechanisms to stress and youth violence

- Implement awareness-raising initiatives on the dangers of drug and alcohol use as coping mechanisms to stress and trauma through existing youth networks, and in partnership with social workers and police officers working with juvenile offenders.

- Pilot initiatives implemented in displacement settings to promote community- and family-centred programmes aimed at improving youth mental health and wellbeing, with a focus on vulnerable groups.

Output 2: Access to and quality of services is improved due to enhanced law enforcement, access to justice and inclusion, leading to strengthened perceptions of personal and community security among communities, in particular women and youth, ex-combatants and other vulnerable groups

Activity Result 2.1 Community Security processes in GCAs are more inclusive and participatory

Overall aim: The overall aim is to strengthen personal and community security and inclusion at the local level, and in particular among women and youth, by supporting communities and other stakeholders to work together and implement local and regional innovative solutions, based on improved knowledge, skills and resources available to all key stakeholders. Such partnerships will address both ‘freedom from fear’ and ‘freedom from want’ dimensions of community security, with a special focus on vulnerable groups including women and youth. It will cover community policing, security and safety centres, preventing and addressing emergency situations, civil protection units, civil-military cooperation, local volunteer teams, youth aggression, and drug-alcohol related awareness, as well as strengthening community-veteran coordination mechanisms. It will seek to fully embed human rights principles into the processes of the institutions as part of its focus on structural change and to ensure access to services for all.

2.1.1 The state system of security service provision and civil protection in conflict-affected, transit and host areas of Ukraine is more effective

- Decentralization of police services at the local level through integrating community police officers in remote locations
- Programmes to support the prevention of offences through partnership-based interaction between the police and the community
- Creation and functioning of Safety and Security Centres
- Strengthening the capacities of State Emergency Service (SES) units and civil protection units of local authorities to manage, control and coordinate the civil protection system at the regional and local levels.

2.1.2 Enhanced civil-military coordination, contributes to improved community security and community development in the conflict-affected areas

- Strengthening the system of coordination and cooperation between the local population (including civil society) and the State Defence representatives at the local level in ensuring community security and civil protection (State Civil Administrations (incl. CIMIC), Ministry of Defence, Ministry of Interior (National Police, SES, National Guard, Border Service, Migration Service), Ministry of Justice).
- Supporting pro-active engagement of local and regional dialogue platforms, including CIMIC units in the work of CSWGs via:
 - Joint participatory assessments, security passports of hromada, as well as mapping exercises
 - Conflict resolution and dialogues between military personnel and communities at the local level
 - Joint capacity development exercises, including workshops, trainings, forums
 - Short and mid-term plans of CIMIC consulted with local communities
 - Initiation, consultation and implementation of joint projects and initiatives.

- Developing the capacity of the CIMIC leadership team to understand the Human Rights Based Approach and Sustainable Development principles, understanding the role of military structures and civil-military cooperation in Humanitarian-Development-Peace Nexus processes.
- Increasing the capacity of SES units/MACs performing pyrotechnic work on humanitarian demining.

2.1.3 Programmes in schools in war-affected communities are piloted for tackling youth violence and prevention of crime and programmes for juvenile offenders

- Mentoring and mediation in schools both internally and with external expertise, including police
- Pilots of modern probation system for juvenile offenders: community-based and family-centred programmes
- Contemporary awareness programmes in schools about drug and alcohol related problems, crimes

Activity Result 2.2 Access to justice and the quality of judicial services is increased

Overall aim: The overall aim is to ensure that the war-affected population, and in particular women and youth, have access to justice and can address the issues/violations emerging from the war. It will cover legal aid provision in areas that will be object of returns and especially the new frontline communities by capacity development of the Free Legal Aid System at the local, regional and national levels, outreach to the residents of the NGCA, supporting the judiciary by making it more trusted and accessible through embedding human rights principles, overall capacity building of local CSOs working in the field of access to justice, and engagement of youth law students, women and those from other vulnerable groups in local communities.

2.2.1. Access to justice for conflict-affected populations is strengthened, in particular for women and youth, though legal aid provision and judicial services

- Capacity development of the judiciary and free legal aid lawyers to be better equipped in dealing with criminal and war-related cases, including e-solutions. It will also cover the capacities of FLAC hotline lawyers to address legal issues related to the armed conflict.
- Supporting the durable and sustainable solutions for professional capacity improvement within the judicial and Free Legal Aid System. It will cover development of a network of trainers within both the judiciary and FLACs. This support will also include educational online solutions (for both professional lawyers and paralegals) which are especially important during the martial law and recovery phase and for remote settlements, while being cognisant of the fact that not all communities have access to the Internet.

Activity Result 2.3 Gender-based violence is addressed through increased awareness of prevention mechanisms and strengthened response services

Overall aim: The overall aim is to reduce incidents of SGBV through addressing both the root causes and the contributing factors leading to SGBV, i.e working on prevention. Based on the results gained through previous UNDP support, the scope will be broadened to also include prevention related activities as well as on scaling up and introducing activities related to responses and the delivery of services. Continued efforts will be made to raise awareness of both men and women on the causes and consequences of SGBV. Activities will include promoting men's engagement on SGBV awareness issues, as well as on strengthening the capacities of service providers, including psycho-social support and justice related services. The support will work towards changing institutional practices as well as behaviours and awareness on SGBV. The interventions under this activity area will be coordinated with the CSDR project and will be implemented in cooperation with partnering UN agencies (UN Women and UNFPA).

2.3.1 Social and behavioural change is promoted through raising awareness for the prevention of SGBV

- Building capacity of service providers (national police and legal aid service) to promote awareness raising and targeted communication campaigns for both women and men to further improve their knowledge of their rights, available protection measures and services (including legal assistance), as well as to drive social and behavioural change on how to prevent SGBV.
- Support communities and SGBV survivors to challenge stigma and victim-blaming around SGBV to increase reporting SGBV cases and overcome harmful behaviors, especially in conflict settings, through awareness raising and cooperation with the media to address issues of hate speech and promoting standards of gender-responsive communications while treating SGBV topics.

2.3.2 Responses and support services are strengthened for survivors of SGBV

- Piloting response mechanisms for supporting SGBV survivors, including in hard-to-reach communities and conflict areas, also through promoting the use of digital/online means.
- Support to the network of shelters and day centres for domestic violence survivors.
- Strengthening the capacities of free legal aid providers and other justice sector actors to improve service delivery.
- Enhancing capacity of security and justice providers to combat SGBV through specialized training, including using the “SGBV/DV situational rooms” – special premises in Police Training Centres, where police officers will receive practical skills in responding to DV and SGBV; further enhancing and developing the use of existing child-friendly "green rooms" in targeted police stations, where children-survivors or children – witnesses of domestic violence may be interviewed ensuring minimum effect on children’s psycho-emotional state, supporting implementation of Barnahus principle.

Output 3: Communities, including internally displaced men and women, youth, ex-combatants and other vulnerable groups, have enhanced capacities, are empowered and participate in local level evidence-based recovery, development and decision-making

Activity Result 3.1 Community Empowerment and Mobilization is in place for increased resilience and recovery

Overall aim: The overall aim is to provide an enabling environment for and empower and build capacities of communities, and in particular women, youth and ex-combatants, to contribute jointly (feeling of agency) to recovery and development solutions at the local level based on research and analysis; to widen the opportunities for meaningful and pro-active participation of groups most at risk of being left behind including internally displaced women, men and youth; and to attract various actors/stakeholders for partnership, solutions and conflict resolution, and strengthening community resilience. It will cover awareness-raising of the rights and duties of citizens, civic activism, various collective actions, capacities and mechanisms for the dialogue, critical thinking, and will connect all development agents (governmental, civil society, profit organizations, security providers), to local, regional and national networks.

3.1.1. Capacities and mechanisms of informed participation and coordination between communities, law enforcement bodies, local authorities, businesses and other stakeholders are strengthened to distribute locally owned resources for community security, social cohesion and IDPs inclusion in the recovery process

- Introduction of community mobilization for CSSC methodology to new target locations and supporting the network of CSWG leaders for increased community resilience and strengthening of the social fabric;

- Promoting the advocacy and advisory role of CSWGs as open dialogue platforms, empowering citizens, including vulnerable groups, including IDPs, to influence local policies and decision-making, including through e-participation;
- Building capacities of NGOs, initiative groups, self-help and self-advocacy groups representing the interests of IDPs, persons with disabilities, elderly, women, youth, the most vulnerable war-affected population to be meaningfully engaged in CSWG activities and decision-making processes;
- Build the capacity and create necessary prerequisites to ensure the inclusion of ex-combatants in community life and decision-making processes, support coordination mechanisms at the local level;
- Ensuring the participation of youth CSOs, leaders, with a special focus on women and girls and networks in meetings and consultations with regional and local administrations, departments of state institutions and coordination and city/town councils, engaging them into decision-making processes through building leadership skills and civic competencies. Promoting youth participation in the recovery and development processes.
- Promoting youth participation in the recovery and peacebuilding efforts, based on the Youth Peace and Security Agenda, in order to ensure that the local, regional and national policies are tailored to their needs. Supporting youth volunteering programs aimed at recovery of communities, integration of IDPs, and resolution of conflicts in project's target communities.

3.1.2.Integration processes of internally displaced people and organizations are supported, co-led by host communities and IDPs, and fully community-owned.

- Development of local action plans and the incorporation of displacement issues into local development plans, with participation of representatives of displaced communities in the conception, elaboration and implementation of those plans.
- Based on participatory assessment and planning, develop and implement models of IDPs' local integration, including creation of co-working and co-creation spaces, integration centers, digital hubs in host communities.
- Promote programmes for conflict management and resolution of tensions to support the integration of IDPs into the host communities.

Activity Result 3.2. Financial support is provided to community-based micro-projects implementation (through grants' and mini-initiatives' mechanisms) and those, supporting inter-community cooperation, in the following areas:

- Community security
- Social cohesion
- Youth engagement in community development
- Joint civil-military action/cooperation
- Advocacy
- Innovative solutions for inclusive community development
- Improved access to justice
- Support to children and youth with disabilities

Furthermore and where relevant in outputs and activity results listed above, UNDP and the Danish Ministry of Foreign Affairs might also decide to utilise this project to address new needs identified in the area of operation, for example engaging communities and CSOs in quick-fix/small repair, renovation or refurbishing public and private infrastructure to support conflict-affected communities, both those people who remained and those who returned, ahead of the winter as an early recovery intervention in line with the Humanitarian-Development-Peace NEXUS approach.

Output 4: Conflict affected communities in Mykolaiv oblast have additional capacities to support themselves throughout the winter season, with a specific focus on vulnerable groups

The onset of the war in February 2022 has brought significant new challenges across all oblasts, whether directly or indirectly affected by the military operations. The scope, scale and intrinsic character of winterization needs in Ukraine has increased manyfold, as destruction of housing, property and productive assets, and loss of employment, in addition to the unprecedented population movements, has undermined the ability of millions of people to ensure for themselves safe and dignified living conditions in their communities of origin, in areas of displacement, or in return settings.

An inter-Agency mission to Mykolaiv oblast, conducted at the end of August 2022, has highlighted pressing unmet needs, across the spectrum of humanitarian action. At the time of the mission, despite the dire security situation, city administration estimated that more than 200,000 individuals were still living in Mykolaiv city. The oblast is hosting approximately 89,000 IDPs, one quarter of them minors, with approximately 15,000 being hosted in collective centers. According to local estimates, slightly more than 20% of the buildings in the city suffered some sort of damage due to the ongoing military operation and 700 buildings do not have windows, and not all available collective centers are ready to host IDPs as temperatures drop.

Further, as the military offensive intensifies in neighboring Kherson, a further influx of IDPs is expected in the oblast, further straining already limited resources. Based on the available information about recent displacement movements, it is to be expected that this new wave of displacement will include very vulnerable individuals, including women and children, elderly people and individuals with disabilities.

In order to support residents of the oblast, as well as IDPs, to support themselves during the winter, as well as continue receiving basic health and social services, the project will implement targeted activities in support of winterization efforts within the oblast. In addition, and given the dynamic situation in Ukraine, UNDP and the Danish Ministry of Foreign Affairs might also agree to activate other elements from the broad range of development offers under the UN RPP, such as those implemented in the components on ‘Economic Recovery and Restoration of Critical Infrastructure’ and ‘Local Governance and Decentralisation Reform’³³, in support of urgent needs.

Activity Result 4.1 Urgent support is provided, in collaboration with local authorities, civil society, and national partners, to ensure warm, safe, and dignified living conditions to conflict affected communities in Mykolaiv oblast throughout the winter season 2022/23 and beyond

Actions implemented under Output 4 may include (non-exhaustive list):

- Provision of heating appliances (stoves, heaters, radiators, mobile boiler units, etc.).
- Provision of household items appropriate to increase thermal comfort (i.e., blankets, quilts, winter clothing).
- Provision of solid fuel (coal, wood, pellets) especially in rural communities underserved by local markets.
- Provision of construction materials for repairs and insulation of collective centres and/or private housing, and/or key community infrastructure.
- Provision of generators and alternative energy supply solutions for powering key community infrastructure including but not limited to, health centers and hospitals, administrative service centers, collective centres, and facilities hosting and supporting the work of emergency/first

³³ UN RPP and its components: <https://www.undp.org/ukraine/inclusive-development-recovery-and-peacebuilding>

responders (i.e., State Emergency Service, National Police of Ukraine, volunteer firefighting groups, etc.).

Further initiatives that will ensure sustainability of the support being provided under this output may be identified in consultation with Mykolaiv oblast administration and the Danish Ministry of Foreign Affairs during the inception phase of the project.

Activities implemented in the oblast will be closely coordinated with ongoing initiatives being implemented by the UN Recovery and Peacebuilding Programme in the area of health and public service provision, and in support of the implementation of good governance principles.

III.2 Resources Required to Achieve the Expected Results

The key resources that will be required by the Project to achieve its expected results include:

Human resources

a) Project staff:

- 1 International Programme Manager (15% of time)
- 1 International Component Lead (20% of time)
- 1 National Project Management Specialist/Coordinator (100% of time)
- 1 Administrative Associate (100% of time)
- 2 Community Mobilization Officers (100% of time)
- 1 Youth Engagement and Volunteers Specialist (100% of time)
- 3 Project specialists: 1 Social Cohesion Associate (100% of time), 1 Civil Society Engagement and Capacity Development Specialist (20% of time), 1 Engineering Specialist (10% of time)
- 1 Knowledge Management Specialist (30% of time), 1 Communication Specialist (20% of time) and 1 M&E Associate (30% of time), 1 Data Analysis and Research Specialist (20% of time)
- 1 Grant Management Associate (50% of time)
- 1 Procurement Associate (50% of time)
- 1 Finance Associate (40% of time)
- 1 Field Security Officer (20% of time)
- 2 drivers (50% of time)

b) Short term expertise and UNDP country and regional offices support

- International experts with up to 60 inputs days per year, each, plus travel costs with particular experiences in designing strategies for a) improved justice and community security, b) civic groups empowerment, evidence-based development and decision-making
- National experts (and their travel costs) including (but not limited to): trainers in strategic planning and budgeting, monitoring and evaluation, human rights-based service provision planning and delivery; experts in justice and security systems, mediators, dialogues facilitators, youth work, etc.
- Contractors: whenever necessary, the Project will call upon the services of companies specialised in organising public information/awareness campaigns, capacity building events and surveys.
- UNDP Country Office HR, Finance, and Procurement personnel, as well as a Programme Analyst (to ensure Project's outputs quality control and oversight) in country office and/or regional office.

Grants: it is planned that a total of up to **US \$ 1,000,000** from the Project's budget will be funding projects (average amount of \$10,000 for micro-initiatives and up to \$50,000 for larger, more experienced NGOs) at community level focusing on relevant development problems. The Project will encourage and support the budgeting of civil initiatives by local self-government bodies or

local authorities (LSGBs) at community level and will ensure the visibility of community projects designed under the Project for co-funding. Also, it is envisioned that grant support will be applied as a modality of the implementation of the planned activities aiming at developing capacity of the local, regional and national NGOs.

Equipment and supplies. These relate mainly to surveys, communication and visibility items, translation, equipment and furniture (for the government institutions and territorial communities), vehicle maintenance, office costs, rental of equipment, audio-visual and printing costs, office supplies and direct security.

A detailed budgeting of Project's costs is provided in the Multi-Year Work Plan.

III.3 Partnerships

In order to achieve its expected outcomes and results, the Project will benefit from the existing and long-term partnerships, established by UNDP through its many projects, with regional and local authorities in the target areas, as well as at the central level. This will allow for strengthening the national level synergies so that local interventions can be tied more closely to country-wide strategies and policies, while also enhancing sustainability by placing local authorities in the lead.

(i) National level

At the national level, the Project will maintain partnerships with and provide information on key results and achievements to relevant representatives of:

- Civil-Military Cooperation of Armed Forces
- The Ministry of Justice, State Institution Probation Centre
- The High Council of Justice
- The Supreme Court
- The Coordination Centre for Legal Aid Provision
- The Ministry of Interior, the National Police and State Emergency Service
- The Ministry for Communities and Territories Development of Ukraine
- The Ministry for Reintegration of the Temporarily Occupied Territories of Ukraine
- The Office of the Commissioner for Human Rights
- State Court Administration

(ii) Regional level

At the regional/territorial level, the Project will maintain partnerships with regional administrations/councils, regional centres of free secondary legal aid provision, Prosecutor's offices, regional police, courts of appeal and territorial departments of the State Court Administration of Ukraine in the target oblasts, emergency service providers, and SGBV service providers. It will regularly inform them on the Project's achievements and will invite them to key relevant Project's events.

(iii) Local level

At the local/territorial level, UNDP will work in partnership with:

- Local self-governing bodies
- Local police
- Civil Protection Units
- Public councils, community security working groups
- Emergency services and other relevant institutions for community security
- Civil-military cooperation units
- Local courts
- Free Legal Aid Centres
- CSOs, Citizens' groups, youth groups, ex-combatants' groups
- Schools, colleges and universities
- Community resource centres.

In addition to the above-mentioned partnerships, the Project will develop and maintain “expert partnerships” and networks. It will identify and pursue opportunities for the deployment of experts from Denmark for short-term missions (i.e., assessments, monitoring, technical assistance, etc.) to engage on some project components. The Project will encourage secondments of international experts to its offices in eastern Ukraine, subject to clearance of administrative arrangements by UNDP headquarters. Danish candidates will have equal opportunity to apply for United Nations Volunteer positions and/or consultancy assignments within the project, based on the allocation and availability of sufficient funds and in accordance with UNDP’s rules and regulations on recruitment and procurement through competitive and transparent processes. While not formally considered as official staff or paid positions, the Project will also welcome candidates from Denmark for potential internship opportunities within the project.

The Project, through the UN RPP staff, will ensure close coordination and cooperation with representatives of the Danish Embassy in Ukraine and will invite them to take part in monitoring missions to project sites, dialogues with key Project’s counterparts and beneficiaries, as well as in the Project’s Board meetings.

III.4 Stakeholder Engagement

The Project’s key target groups are the LSGBs, citizens’ groups (women, youth, ex-combatants) and CSOs in the Project’s territorial units. In order to achieve rapid stakeholder engagement, the Project will carry out a public information campaign on the Project’s objectives and intended results throughout the two oblasts. This campaign will take the form of information workshops, carried out, at least twice during the Project’s lifetime backed up by media coverage (on-line and through social media) and relevant posts on UNDP website as well as on LSGBs and CSOs websites.

Engagement of target groups and key stakeholders will be further strengthened when they see the concrete results and solutions, that make a difference for the communities’ populations, are achieved, with Project’s support. It is thus important that the target groups understand well the necessary pathway, which they have to follow in terms of capacity building, planning and testing, in order to achieve these results/solutions.

III.5 Risks and Assumptions

Risks

The project’s approach to managing and responding to risks is informed by the UNDP Guidance Note on Managing Risks Across UNDP’s Programming and Operations. Risk management will inform decision-making at all levels and forms a key process in the project implementation. Risks will be regularly monitored, analysed and updated in the project’s iterative risk log framework. This will enable smart risk-taking and adaptive management. This will allow the project:

- To ensure that *programmes are effective and relevant*
- To find more *innovative solutions* to deliver higher impact
- To *allocate resources* where they are most needed
- To be *accountable for the results produced* considering internal and external constraints
- To safeguard *people and the environment*
- To manage *safety and security* risks to UNDP personnel, premises and assets, i.e. reduced to an acceptable level.

There are a number of *risks* that may delay or prevent achievement of the planned results:

- Significant escalation of the conflict, which could undermine the willingness to move towards democratic governance
- Changes in regional and local administrations' leadership, as well as a different legal status of the Project's target communities might have a negative impact on the roll-out of decentralisation reform in the region, as well as might limit opportunities for local government engagement in some of these communities (CMAs)
- Persisting corruption undermines trust in public institutions and leads to fiduciary risks
- Lack of interest in reconciliation and recovery on the part of key players
- Inefficient coordination with new donors, development actors and other UN agencies
- Politicization by the Government and other actors of activities in the conflict-affected areas
- Several consecutive waves of the coronavirus epidemic would lead to Project's implementation constraints in the region and would trigger a second negative growth phase with serious socio-economic impacts.

Assumptions

To work towards more resilient communities including to hybrid threats and destabilisation, such as the COVID-19 pandemic, and increase their peacebuilding capacity, the theory of change is based on a number of external *assumptions*:

- The Ukrainian Government remains committed to the undertaken obligations under international law, including treaties and conventions as well as political commitments
- Institutions charged with providing security (including CMAs and local police) continue to adhere to their strategies that call for greater citizen engagement and closer contact with communities through methods such as community policing and dialogue
- There is a strong political commitment at the highest levels in government for recovery efforts in eastern Ukraine and the increasing stability and adhering to the rule of law are key priorities
- There is space to deepen peacebuilding efforts at the local level through engagement with key actors in the form of mechanisms such as early warning systems and mediation
- Citizens' engagement takes place and is sustained throughout time
- The effects of the war are not constrained merely to the most affected oblasts in the east and south, but are also felt in other regions across Ukraine in indirect ways, such as through the potential difficulties facing returning combatants, and the ways that their attitudes and experiences shape their communities, as well as through the shared experience of war in hosting areas.
- By the beginning of January 2023, the situation on the ground will have reached the required level of stability necessary for the country to fully engage in recovery activities envisioned under Outputs 2 and 3.
- War affected communities, particularly those close to the new frontline, become accessible for project operations.

III.6 Knowledge

Knowledge gained through the monitoring and feedback process will inform corrective management measures and decision-making. The project will record good practices and what activities led to positive results and will share this monitoring and evaluation information widely, both nationally among stakeholders, donors and partners.

In the previous phase of the project there has been a strong emphasis on capturing lessons learnt and sharing knowledge – both within the project and other complementary projects, with relevant stakeholders and with the public at large. This will continue through this Project, however an additional focus during this phase will be on strengthening even further the monitoring, evaluation and learning aspects of the project in order to systematically capture all results and lessons learnt from the project implementation. The Project will furthermore strengthen mutual learning and exchanges of experiences within the Project and between partners.

The project intends to conduct a number of studies and researches, the results of which will be widely publicised and shared, including with national partners, development partners, CSOs and other relevant stakeholders. In addition, the project will conduct a Final Evaluation and provide all necessary support to the donor-led Midterm Evaluation. The donor-led Mid Term Evaluation will provide an opportunity to review progress made to date and allow for any course corrections or adjustments during the remaining implementation period. The Final Evaluation will assess the results of the project overall and will provide recommendations for any future assistance.

III.7 Sustainability and Scaling Up

As with the first phase of the project, ensuring the sustainability of initiatives supported through this Project will be a priority. Through all of its assistance, the project will work closely with the partners to make sure that the most urgent needs are rapidly responded to, while at the same time laying the building blocks to introduce necessary means and measures to foster and strengthen community security and social cohesion. In this regard, as mentioned above, necessary support will be provided to strengthening the capacity of national and local stakeholders to eventually assume all aspects of community security and social cohesion and oversight of the human rights situation on the ground. The sustainability strategy will be further defined during the project implementation based on continuous discussions with the partners.

In terms of sustainability, the project interventions have been developed based on evidence-based research and knowledge gained during the first phase of the project, together with extensive consultations with all stakeholders, including national partners, development partners, CSOs and CBOs, and ownership of the interventions is assessed as high. The project priorities directly support the targets and goals of national and sector specific strategic plans, as outlined above. During the first phase of the project, as well as through other mutually reinforcing projects, such as the RRP, UNDP has established strong partnerships with all key stakeholders. UNDP is recognised as being the main trusted partner of government, giving it access to institutions that other organisations do not have. In addition, UNDP is also a trusted partner of civil society and is recognised for its unique integrator role of bridging the gap and convening diverse stakeholders. Through its commitment to development and peace-building programming in Ukraine, UNDP has demonstrated that it is able to develop long-standing partnerships and remain committed to issues as long as it is needed to achieve positive results. The project is thus in a unique position to serve as an integrator between partners, through investments in dialogue in support of a coherent and transformative approach to bolstering institutions and mechanisms that provide community security and justice, increase social cohesion and the propensity for reconciliation, thereby addressing conflict.

Sustainability and scalability of project interventions and benefits in the short and long run depend on the availability of desired policies, institutional frameworks, human and technical skills, social acceptance, environmental viability and most importantly availability of desired financial resources. Overall, in view of the high level of acceptance and ownership of relevant stakeholders for project outcomes and interventions, it can be deduced that the results of the activities will continue, and benefits will gradually continue to flow, especially for women, youth, ex-combatants and other vulnerable groups.

By the end of the second year of the project implementation, in coordination with the development of the exit strategy for the RPP, the project will develop a comprehensive exit strategy, together with its partners, covering the remaining two years of project implementation. The exit strategy will focus on sustaining the achieved changes and results related to the results framework and will define the specific handover of all interventions to the respective institutions. It will also include an advocacy strategy, which will address absorption of project activities into the state budget or budget of respective institutions. The exit strategy will be developed in close consultation with all implementing partners. It will indicate how the project can smoothly phase out and handover

interventions to partners, to ensure sustainability and continuity. The exit strategy will also highlight possible future options for replicability and scaling up of interventions in future.

IV. PROJECT MANAGEMENT

IV.1 Cost Efficiency and Effectiveness

Being fully integrated into the UN RPP, the Project will be implemented in a cost efficient and effective manner.

From a cost efficiency and value for money point of view:

- The Project will share office premises established in Dnipro and Poltava .. These costs will be charged to the Project at the rate of up to 15% of total office costs.
- It will be able to use offices' cars (among which armoured vehicles), thus avoiding any significant acquisition and disposal costs, whilst responding to the UN transportation security requirements when intervening in areas close to the 'contact line'.
- All procurement procedures will be conducted, as required by UNDP procurement regulations, on the basis of the best value for money.

From an effectiveness point of view:

- The Project will have immediate access to the UNDP knowledge base as well as to UNDP's partners (government and civil society) at local, regional and national levels.
- Through joint implementation and office sharing, it will be able to easily and regularly cooperate and coordinate activities with other projects under the RPP.
- In order to ensure the Project's implementation efficiency, clear criteria will be defined, at the very start of the Project, for territorial communities "graduation" from a given Project's capacity building and support cycle. In other words, the target groups will be made aware, early in the training/support cycle, of the level of skills and competence to be attained at the end of the cycle.

Criteria will relate to:

- Proven understanding of key principles of human rights-based approach to service development
- Evidence based competence of strategy design including results framework, and budgeting
- Evidence based competence of community project design, implementation and monitoring
- Evidence based competence in organizing community dialogues and acting on their results
- Evidence based competence to apply for financing from relevant State and non-state funds
- The competence of target groups to complete financing application forms
- This list is not exhaustive.

Three surveys, planned to take place at Project's start (for baseline assessment), mid-point and end, will allow, among other things, to capture a sufficient level of detailed information on skills and competence acquisition and their further use by the target groups.

IV.2 Project Management

The Project will be an integral part of the UN RPP in general and in particular of its Component 3 'Community Security and Social Cohesion', described in section II.2. The Programme implementation team will ensure the Project's overall implementation, its administration, financing management, communications, monitoring and reporting. It will also be responsible for communications with representatives of key national, regional and local stakeholders, for organizing Programme Board meetings as well as for ensuring synergies between similar projects

within the UN RPP and/or across the UN system. UNDP Country Office Support Services will be also provided to the Project on an on-going basis.

V. RESULTS FRAMEWORK³⁴³⁵

³⁴ UNDP publishes its project information (indicators, baselines, targets and results) to meet the International Aid Transparency Initiative (IATI) standards. Make sure that indicators are S.M.A.R.T. (Specific, Measurable, Attainable, Relevant and Time-bound), provide accurate baselines and targets underpinned by reliable evidence and data, and avoid acronyms so that external audience clearly understand the results of the project.

³⁵ Due to the fluidity of the operation context, the results framework is to be considered indicative and will be revised/updated during the inception phase

EXPECTED OUTPUTS	OUTPUT INDICATORS ³⁶	DATA SOURCE	BASELINE		TARGETS				
			Value	Year	2022	2023	2024	2025	DATA COLLECTION METHODS & RISKS
Output 1: The effectiveness of security service provision and civil protection functions is maintained, with reinforced capacities for crisis response, and public institutions and civil society are enabled to strengthen the social fabric, uphold human rights for all people, and engage in inclusive response and recovery efforts.	Output indicator: Number of target communities with improved capacity for IDP management and stabilization	Project records	0	2022	3	10	NA	NA	Project records, and reports of local authorities. The activities under this output are expected to be completed by the end of June 2023.
	Activity Result 1.1 Security and civil protection service provision Indicator 1.1.1 Number of relocated SES units benefiting from technical assistance and targeted support from the project	Project records	0	2022	2	5	NA	NA	Project records, and reports of local authorities and service providers. The activities are expected to be completed by the end of June 2023.

³⁶ It is recommended that projects use output indicators from the Strategic Plan IRRF, as relevant, in addition to project-specific results indicators. Indicators should be disaggregated by sex or for other targeted groups where relevant.

	Indicator 1.1.2 Number of IDPs and host community members who are engaged in community policing programmes, disaggregated by oblast, sex, and age	Project records	0	2022	0	2,000	NA	NA	Project records, and reports of local authorities and service providers. The activities are expected to be completed by the end of June 2023.
	Indicator 1.1.3 Number of internally displaced and other war-affected persons benefiting from legal aid services and advice, disaggregated by sex	Project records	0	2022	0	10,000	NA	NA	

	Activity Result 1.2 Social fabric supported and strengthened Indicator 1.2.1 Number of war-affected populations benefiting from quality psycho-social and rehabilitation services, disaggregated by oblast, sex, and age	Project records	0	2022	700 direct and 1,450 indirect beneficiaries	3,270 direct and 11,500 indirect beneficiaries	NA	NA	Project records, and reports of local authorities and service providers. The activities are expected to be completed by the end of June 2023.
	Indicator 1.2.2 Number of vulnerable youth trained on stress management and prevention of harmful coping mechanisms, disaggregated by oblast, sex, and age	Project records	0	2022	100	500	NA	NA	Project records, and reports of local authorities and service providers. The activities are expected to be completed by the end of June 2023.

Output 2 Access to and quality of services is improved due to enhanced law enforcement, access to justice and inclusion, leading to strengthened perceptions of personal and community service among communities in particular women and youth, ex-combatants and other vulnerable groups	Output indicator: Proportion of conflict-affected population in target oblasts who trust in key security and justice institutions, (disaggregated by sex, age, vulnerability, and Oblast)	SHARP (2022) Survey in progress – results available by end 2022	Courts not yet available Police not yet available	2022	At least 5% points improvement in all target groups	At least 7% points improvement in all target groups	At least 10% points improvement in all target groups	At least 15% points improvement in all target groups	SHARP Survey Survey is not conducted due to COVID or worsening of the security situation
	Activity Result 2.1 Community security and social cohesion Indicator 2.1 Proportion of population in the selected target communities who feel safe in their everyday life (disaggregated by sex, age, vulnerability, and Oblast)	SHARP 2022 Survey in progress – results available by end 2022	Not yet available	2022	At least 5% points improvement in all target groups	At least 7% points improvement in all target groups	At least 10% points improvement in all target groups	At least 15% points improvement in all target groups	

	Activity Result 2.2 Access to justice and the quality of judicial services is increased Indicator 2.2.1 Number of legal aid users who benefited from quality service and advice provided by the free legal aid bureaus, disaggregated by Oblast and gender	Administrative data from the free legal aid network	N/A	2022	Donetsk 78% Luhansk 76%	Donetsk 80% Luhansk 78%	Donetsk 82% Luhansk 82%	Donetsk 85% Luhansk 85%	Administrative data from the free legal aid network
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	<p>Activity Result 2.3 SGBV is addressed through increased awareness of prevention mechanisms and strengthened response services</p> <p>Indicator 2.3 Percentage of women that feel safe walking alone in the street at night in their locality, disaggregated by Oblast, M/F, age and proximity to ‘contact line’</p>	SHARP 2022 Survey in progress – results available by end 2022	Not yet available	2022	At least 5% points improvement in all target groups	At least 7% points improvement in all target groups	At least 10% points improvement in all target groups	At least 15% points improvement in all target groups	SHARP Survey Survey is not conducted due to COVID or worsening of the security situation
Output 3 Communities, including internally displaced men and women, youth, ex-combatants and other	Output Indicator: The level of active citizenship in target oblasts, disaggregated by Oblast	SHARP 2022 Survey in progress – results available by end 2022	Not yet available	2022	At least 5% points improvement in all target groups	At least 7% points improvement in all target groups	At least 10% points improvement in all target groups	At least 15% points improvement in all target groups	SHARP Survey Survey is not conducted due to COVID or worsening of the security situation

vulnerable groups, have enhanced capacities, are empowered and participate in local level, evidence-based recovery and development and decision-making	Activity Result 3.1 Community Empowerment and Mobilization is increased Indicator 3.1.1 Percentage of members of community security working groups who feel their voices are taken into account in improving community security, disaggregated by Oblast	Survey of CSWG members	N/A	2022	TBD but no less than 75%	TBD but no less than 80%	TBD but no less than 85%	TBD but no less than 85%	Survey of CSWG members
	Indicator 3.1.2 Number of recovery and service improvement plans developed by the members of community security working groups, disaggregated by Oblast and target group	Project records	0	2021	10 3 – women 3 – youth	20 7 – women 7 – youth	40 10 – women 10 – youth	50 15 – women 15 – youth	Project records

	<p>Activity Result 3.2 Financial support is provided to community-based micro-projects implementation</p> <p>Indicator 3.2.1 Number of local services improvement projects planned in a conflict and gender sensitive manner and implemented by CSOs and citizens groups (including those led by women, youth and ex-combatants)</p>	Existing project data	0	2022	20	60	90	120	Project data
					30% Women	30% Women	30% Women	(Cumulative total over project implementation period)	CSOs do not engage with project
					30% youth	30% youth	30% youth		
					20% ex-combatants	20% ex-combatants	20% ex-combatants		

	Indicator 3.2.2 Number of beneficiaries of local services improvement projects planned in a conflict and gender sensitive manner and implemented by CSOs and citizens groups (disaggregated by target groups)	Project data	0	2022	10 000 50% women 30% youth 10% ex-combatants	25 000 50% women 30% youth 10% ex-combatants	50 000 50% women 30% youth 10% ex-combatants	75 000 50% women 30% youth 10% ex-combatants	Project data
Output 4: Conflict affected communities in Mykolaiv oblast have additional capacities to support themselves throughout the	Output indicator: Proportion of interviewed local officials and residents recognizing project's contribution to winterization efforts in target communities	Survey data	N/A	2022	TBD	TBD			Project records, and reports of local authorities and service providers. The activities are expected to be completed by the end of June 2023

winter season, with a specific focus on vulnerable groups	Activity Result 4.1 Urgent support is provided for winterization Indicator 4.1.1 Cumulative number of communities who have received winterization support through project action	Project data	0	2022	3	10			Project records, and reports of local authorities and service providers. The activities are expected to be completed by the end of June 2023
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VI. MONITORING AND EVALUATION

In accordance with UNDP's programming policies and procedures, the project will be monitored through the following monitoring and evaluation plans:

[Note: monitoring and evaluation plans should be adapted to project context, as needed]

Monitoring Plan

Monitoring Activity	Purpose	Frequency	Expected Action	Partners (If joint)	Cost (If any)
Track results progress	Progress data against the results indicators in the RRF will be collected and analysed to assess the progress of the project in achieving the agreed outputs. The progress on the performance indicators will be regularly reported into UNDP Ukraine Integrated Monitoring and Reporting Platform	Quarterly, or in the frequency required for each indicator.	Slower than expected progress will be addressed by project management.	UNDP	
Monitor and Manage Risk	Identify specific risks that may threaten achievement of intended results. Identify and monitor risk management actions using a risk log. This includes monitoring measures and plans that may have been required as per UNDP's Social and Environmental Standards. Audits will be conducted in accordance with UNDP's audit policy to manage financial risk.	Quarterly	Risks are identified by project management and actions are taken to manage risk. The risk log is actively maintained to keep track of identified risks and actions taken.	UNDP	
Learn	Knowledge, good practices and lessons will be captured regularly, as well as actively sourced from other projects and partners and integrated back into the project.	At least annually	Relevant lessons are captured by the Component team and used to inform management decisions.	UNDP	
Annual Project Quality Assurance	The quality of the project will be assessed against UNDP's quality standards to identify project strengths and weaknesses	Appraisal QA (at the project kick-off), Implementation	Areas of strength and weakness will be reviewed by project management and used to inform	UNDP	

	and to inform management decision making to improve the project.	QA (bi-annually), Closure QA (at operational closure of the project)	decisions to improve project performance.		
Review and Make Course Corrections	Internal review of data and evidence from all monitoring actions to inform decision making.	At least annually	Performance data, risks, lessons and quality will be discussed by the Programme board and used to make course corrections.	UNDP and Project Board	
Project Report	A progress report will be presented to the Programme Board and key stakeholders, consisting of progress data showing the results achieved against pre-defined annual targets at the output level, the annual project quality rating summary, an updated risk long with mitigation measures, and any evaluation or review reports prepared over the period.	Annually, and at the end of the project (final report)		UNDP	
Project Review (Project Board)	The project's governance mechanism (i.e., project board) will hold regular project reviews to assess the performance of the project and review the Multi-Year Work Plan to ensure realistic budgeting over the life of the project. In the project's final year, the Programme Board shall hold an end-of project review to capture lessons learned and discuss opportunities for scaling up and to socialize project results and lessons learned with relevant audiences.	At least annually	Any quality concerns or slower than expected progress should be discussed by the Programme board and management actions agreed to address the issues identified.	UNDP	

Evaluation Plan³⁷

Evaluation Title	Partners (if joint)	Related Strategic Plan Output	UNDAF/CPD Outcome	Planned Completion Date	Key Evaluation Stakeholders	Cost and Source of Funding
Mid-Term Evaluation	MFA, Denmark		4	June 2024	UNDP, MFA, Denmark	MFA, Denmark
Final Evaluation	MFA, Denmark		4	September 2025	UNDP, MFA, Denmark	Project

³⁷ Optional, if needed

VII. MULTI-YEAR WORK PLAN^{38 39}

All anticipated programmatic and operational costs to support the project, including development effectiveness and implementation support arrangements, need to be identified, estimated and fully costed in the project budget under the relevant output(s). This includes activities that directly support the project, such as communication, human resources, procurement, finance, audit, policy advisory, quality assurance, reporting, management, etc. All services which are directly related to the project need to be disclosed transparently in the project document.

UNORE as of September, 2022 DKK 7.42/USD 1.00

									UNORE Sep 2022	
PLANNED ACTIVITIES	Planned Budget by Year ,USD				RESPO NSIBLE PARTY	PLANNED BUDGET			7.42	
	2022	2023	2024	2025		Funding Source	Budget Description	Amount, USD	DKK	USD
Activity Result 1.1 Security and civil protection service provision	59,502.74	178,508.20			UNDP	DMFA	Equipment and supplies,	238,010.94	1,766,041.20	238,010.94
							Travel, Local consultants, Training, Workshops and Confer, Salaries technical specialists			

³⁸ Cost definitions and classifications for programme and development effectiveness costs to be charged to the project are defined in the Executive Board decision DP/2010/32

³⁹ Changes to a project budget affecting the scope (outputs), completion date, or total estimated project costs require a formal budget revision that must be signed by the project board. In other cases, the UNDP programme manager alone may sign the revision provided the other signatories have no objection. This procedure may be applied for example when the purpose of the revision is only to re-phase activities among years.

Activity Result 1.2 Social fabric supported and strengthened	47,902.93	143,708.77			UNDP	DMFA	Local Consultants, Travel, Grants, Training, Workshops and Confer, Salaries technical specialists	191,611.70	1,421,758.80	191,611.70
Sub-total for Output 1	107,405.67	322,216.97	0	0				DKK 3,187,800 Adjusted to USD 429,622.64	3,187,800.00	429,622.64
Activity Result 2.1 Community Security processes in GCAs are more inclusive and participatory	124,631.90	418,753.94	381,526.23	231,228.03	UNDP	DMFA	Local Consultants, Travel, Grants, Training, Workshops and Confer, Salaries technical specialists	1,156,140.10	8,578,559.53	1,156,140.10

Activity Result 2.2 Access to justice and the quality of judicial services is increased		119,635.36	119,635.37	45,575.38	UNDP	DMFA	Local Consultants, Travel, Grants, Training, Workshops and Confer, Salaries technical specialists	284,846.11	2113558.15	284,846.11
Activity Result 2.3 SGBV is addressed through increased awareness of prevention mechanisms and strengthened response services	18,431.22	55,293.65	73,724.87	36,862.45	UNDP	DMFA	Local Consultants Travel Grants Contractual services Training, Workshops and Confer Miscellaneous Salaries technical specialists	184,312.19	1,367,596.45	184,312.19
Advocacy, Monitoring and Evaluation				50,266.96	UNDP	DMFA	Knowledge Management Specialist (15%)	50,266.96		

							Comm Specialist (10%) M&E Associate (15%)		372,980.85	50,266.96
Sub-Total for Output 2	143,063.12	593,682.95	574,886.47	363,932.82				DKK 12,432,695 Adjusted to USD 1,675,565.36	12,432,694.98	1,675,565.36 0.00 0.00
Activity Result 3.1 Community Empowerment and Mobilization is increased	52,266.15	495,085.66	436,521.76	187,404.49	UNDP	DMFA	Local Consultants, Travel, Grants, Training, Workshops and Confer, Salaries of technical specialists	1,171,278.06	8,690,883.21	1,171,278.06
Activity Result 3.2 Financial support to community-based micro-projects implementation and those, supporting intercommunity cooperation		286,231.08	192,894.85	143,115.54	UNDP	DMFA	Local Consultants, Travel, Grants, Training, Workshops and Confer, Grant management associate (30%)	622,241.47	4,617,031.71	622,241.47

Advocacy, Monitoring and evaluation				36,602.44	UNDP	DMFA	Knowledge Management Specialist (15%) Comm. Specialist (10%) M&E Associate (15%)	36,602.44	271,590.10	36,602.44
Sub-Total for Output 3	52,266.15	781,316.74	629,416.61	367,122.47				DKK 13,579,505 (Adjusted to USD 1,830,121.97)	13,579,505.00	1,830,121.97
Activity Result 4.1 Urgent support is provided for winterization	355,589.12	1,426,415.74			UNDP	DMFA	Equipment and supplies	1,782,004.86	13,222,476.06	1,782,004.86
Sub-Total for Output 4	355,589.12	1,426,415.74						DKK 13,222,476.06 (Adjusted to USD 1,782,404.86)	13,222,476.06	1,782,004.86
Total implementation	658,324.06	3,123,632.40	1,204,303.08	731,055.29					42,422,476.04	5,717,314.83
Management costs directly related to implementation including security costs	107,658.69	430,634.77	430,634.77	322,976.07				1,291,904.30	9,585,929.91	1,291,904.30
DPC at 4%	30,639.31	142,170.69	65,397.51	42,161.25				280,368.77	2,080,336.24	280,368.77
GMS at 8%	63,729.76	295,715.03	136,026.83	87,695.41				583,167.03	4,327,099.38	583,167.03
BUDGET	860,351.82	3,992,152.89	1,836,362.19	1,183,888.02				7,872,754.93	58,415,841.58	7,872,754.93
1% RC Levy								78,727.55	584,158.42	78,727.55
TOTAL								DKK 59,000,000	59,000,000.00	7,951,482.48

	(Adjusted to USD 7,951,482.48)		
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VIII. GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT ARRANGEMENTS

VIII.1 Implementation modality

This project will be implemented under the UN Recovery and Peacebuilding Programme (UN RPP) using Direct Implementation Modality (DIM). Details of the Project implementation modality are provided below (VIII.2 and VIII.3).

Project implementation will be governed by the provisions of the present Project Document and its annexes, as well as by UNDP's Programme & Operations Policy & Procedures (POPP).

Governance of the Project will be supported through annual work planning as well as reporting and monitoring the delivery of results and impact on the basis of the results framework. The annual work plans as well as progress reporting will be the responsibility of the Project management in close consultation with UNDP. The work plan will be implemented upon its endorsement by the RPP Programme Board.

VIII.2 Governance and management set-up

The Programme Board

The RPP Board is the governing body of the project and with RPP's management team reporting directly to the board on delivery. A designated RPP Programme Manager, supervising dedicated programme component leads, will be responsible for the components financed under this agreement. Major procurements, grants and financing arrangements are launched and implemented by the RPP management team directly.

The RPP Board consists of representatives of UNDP in Ukraine, participating donors and representatives of the Recovery and Peacebuilding Programme beneficiaries/implementing partners.

The Board's membership includes the following components:

- Executive (role represented by UNDP), that holds the project ownership and chairs the group
- Senior Supplier (role represented by DMFA who provides financial and/or technical support for the Project) that provides guidance regarding the technical and financial feasibility of the Project;
- Senior Beneficiary (role represented by **Oblast Administrations of Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts**). The Senior Beneficiary may also include other oblasts and Central Authorities when/if required - the Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Internal Affairs, National Police of Ukraine, the State Court Administration, the Ministry for Reintegration of the Temporary Occupied Territories, the Ministry for Communities and Territories Development. The Senior Beneficiary ensures the realisation of the Project benefits from the perspective of Project beneficiaries.
- In the context of this Project's implementation, the RPP Board will hold meetings on an annual basis, or more frequently if deemed necessary. Senior representatives of the Project Beneficiary, Suppliers and Executive must attend the meeting. Relevant documents will be sent to each Board member at least one week before the meeting takes place. RPP Board will monitor the overall programme's progress; decide on strategic decisions to ensure the continued coherence between implementation and goals and objectives; approve annual work plans and budgets; and review project delivery.

The RPP Board will approve the visibility, advocacy and communication plans with the intention that such activities are coordinated with senior management of participating donors and implementing partners.

Amendments to the budget, including use of contingencies, will be subject to the approval of the RPP Board.

In addition to RPP Board meetings, UNDP will organize periodical meetings and/or field visits (at least twice a year as a minimum) with its international partners/donors on the Project to discuss, in a less formal set-up, results achieved, constraints met, solutions identified, etc.

Project Assurance is the responsibility of each RPP Board member, but the role can be delegated. The Project Assurance role supports the Board by carrying out objective and independent project oversight and monitoring functions. This role ensures appropriate project management milestones are managed and completed.

Project implementation will be governed by the provisions of the Project Document and UNDP Operations Manual. The project will utilize a direct payment modality.

Consultation and coordination

Consultations on all issues addressed by the RPP (and this Project) and coordination of all activities addressing these issues in the region are carried out as follows:

- *Within the UN:* under the RPP, four UN Agencies namely UNDP, UN Women, FAO and UNFPA, are jointly implementing all their recovery activities in the two eastern oblasts for their entire joint as well as individual donors. All aspects of the UN RPP are planned and coordinated under the direction of one Board; the programme has one workplan and implementation budget, is managed by one Programme Manager and is implemented by one mixed Programme Team, maximizing the programmatic and operational comparative advantages of the different Agencies.
- *With national and regional authorities:* the RPP represents all its projects (including this Project and the EU Support to the East of Ukraine) on the coordination platforms that are currently being organized at national and regional levels.
- *With local authorities:* the RPP is decentralized and an area-based approach of projects implementation is applied.
- *With other projects:* A mapping showing the coordination and synergies with other RPP projects is provided below. In addition, and as mentioned above, the project will seek out coordination and synergies with other DMFA projects and in particular its support to strengthening CSOs.

Mapping of projects implemented by the United Nations Recovery and Peacebuilding Programme (UN RPP).

Project	Donor	Timeframe	Total budget	Component 1 (Economic Recovery)	Component 2 (Local Governance)	Component 3 (Community Security and Social Cohesion)	Brief description
EU Support to the east of Ukraine - Recovery, Peacebuilding and Governance	EU	01/08/2018 - 31/07/2022	EUR 56,500,000	X	X	X	<p>The project is intended to strengthen community security and social cohesion, support the economic recovery of conflict-affected communities, and further the implementation of decentralisation and health care reforms, by pursuing the following objectives:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To enhance local capacity for gender-responsive decentralisation and administrative reforms to improve governance, local development and the delivery of services; 2. To address the negative consequences of the pandemic on local economies and stimulate sustainable employment and economic growth by providing assistance to MSME development through demand-driven business development services, professional skills training and financial support; 3. To enhance social cohesion, trust in local institutions and reconciliation through promotion of civic initiatives and partnerships between communities and security and justice service providers; 4. To strengthen young women and men participation in community development and decision making; 5. To support sector reforms and structural adjustments in health, education and critical public infrastructure to mitigate direct impacts of the conflict.
Good governance and citizens engagement for justice, security, environmental protection and social cohesion in eastern Ukraine	Sida	26/07/2018 - 31/01/2022	USD 3,000,000		X		<p>The project aims to contribute to peace, environmental protection and reconciliation in the conflict-affected region, as well as to enhance its overall resilience to destabilization and shocks (such as the COVID-19 pandemic). It is designed to contribute to resolving the key issues of weak rule of law and access to justice, physical and environmental insecurity and the breakdown of trust in institutions which are prevailing in Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts and which constrain or limit social cohesion and peacebuilding in these two conflict-affected regions, as well as their overall longer-term development.</p>
	SDC		USD 2,000,000		X	X	
	Denmark		USD 9,401,000			X	
Mobile Service Delivery for Conflict-Affected Populations in Eastern Ukraine	Canada	27/03/2019 - 31/12/2022	CDN 7,500,000		X		<p>The project's overall objective is to alleviate the hardships of conflict affected Ukrainian citizens, mainly women, who have to travel long distances in order to access and be provided administrative and legal aid services as well as information. The Project is developing a network of modern TsNAPs in conflict-affected Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts by creating effective gender-responsive TsNAPs outreach facilities (through</p>

							mobile service units) with the focus on providing access to services to the most disadvantaged groups, such as: elderly, women with children, women-headed households, women and men with disabilities.
Strengthening national and local capacities for effective delivery of justice, security and reintegration services in conflict-affected areas of Ukraine	The Netherlands	04/06/2019 - 31/03/2022	USD 6,250,000			X	The overall goal of the project is to strengthen community security, reintegration, rule of law and ensuring equal access to justice in conflict-affected Donetsk, Luhansk, Dnipropetrovsk, Zaporizhzhia and Zhytomyr oblasts. To do this, it fosters close cooperation with local institutions, including law enforcement and other institutions mandated with ensuring the security and well-being of local citizens (such as the emergency services). The project supports these institutions not only in building their capacities to deliver services, but also in reaching out to the communities they are serving to build engagement and cooperation between them.
Support to entrepreneurship and employment development along the coastline of the Azov Sea in Donetsk and Zaporizhzhia regions	Denmark	16/12/2019 - 31/12/2021	USD 2,862,828	X			The Project is designed to address the employment and livelihoods issues of the conflict-affected population through the provision of dedicated capacity building, advisory and financing support to women and men willing to set up their businesses, particularly those formerly employed in ports and in the fishing industry, to existing agriculture and non-agriculture MSMEs, as well as to start-ups, cooperatives and farmers associations.
Capacity Development Support for Integrated Mine Action in Eastern Ukraine	Canada	25/03/2020 - 31/12/2021	CDN 1,600,000			X	The project is aimed to support the Government of Ukraine in establishing a comprehensive, coordinated and gender-responsive mine action. It provides strategic capacity development support for mine action to enhance integrated planning, coordination, and operational efficiencies amongst the different mine action stakeholders presently active at the national level and regionally in eastern Ukraine.

IX. LEGAL CONTEXT

This project document shall be the instrument referred to as such in Article 1 of the Standard Basic Assistance Agreement between the Government of Ukraine and UNDP, signed on 18 June 1993. All references in the SBAA to “Executing Agency” shall be deemed to refer to “Implementing Partner.”

This project will be implemented by UNDP (“Implementing Partner”) in accordance with its financial regulations, rules, practices and procedures. The UNDP financial governance provides the required guidance to ensure best value for money, fairness, integrity, transparency, and effective international competition. Audits will be conducted in accordance with UNDP’s audit policy to manage financial risk.

X. RISK MANAGEMENT

UNDP (DIM)

1. UNDP as the Implementing Partner will comply with the policies, procedures and practices of the United Nations Security Management System (UNSMS.)
2. UNDP as the Implementing Partner will undertake all reasonable efforts to ensure that none of the [project funds]⁴⁰ [UNDP funds received pursuant to the Project Document]⁴¹ are used to provide support to individuals or entities associated with terrorism and that the recipients of any amounts provided by UNDP hereunder do not appear on the list maintained by the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1267 (1999). The list can be accessed via http://www.un.org/sc/committees/1267/aq_sanctions_list.shtml. This provision must be included in all sub-contracts or sub-agreements entered into under this Project Document.
3. Social and environmental sustainability will be enhanced through application of the UNDP Social and Environmental Standards (<http://www.undp.org/ses>) and related Accountability Mechanism (<http://www.undp.org/secu-srm>).
4. UNDP as the Implementing Partner will: (a) conduct project and programme-related activities in a manner consistent with the UNDP Social and Environmental Standards, (b) implement any management or mitigation plan prepared for the project or programme to comply with such standards, and (c) engage in a constructive and timely manner to address any concerns and complaints raised through the Accountability Mechanism. UNDP will seek to ensure that communities and other project stakeholders are informed of and have access to the Accountability Mechanism.
5. All signatories to the Project Document shall cooperate in good faith with any exercise to evaluate any programme or project-related commitments or compliance with the UNDP Social and Environmental Standards. This includes providing access to project sites, relevant personnel, information, and documentation.
6. UNDP as the Implementing Partner will ensure that the following obligations are binding on each responsible party, subcontractor and sub-recipient:
 - a. Consistent with the Article III of the SBAA [*or the Supplemental Provisions to the Project Document*], the responsibility for the safety and security of each responsible party, subcontractor and sub-recipient and its personnel and property, and of UNDP’s property in such responsible party’s, subcontractor’s and sub-recipient’s

⁴⁰ To be used where UNDP is the Implementing Partner

⁴¹ To be used where the UN, a UN fund/programme or a specialized agency is the Implementing Partner

custody, rests with such responsible party, subcontractor and sub-recipient. To this end, each responsible party, subcontractor and sub-recipient shall:

- i. Put in place an appropriate security plan and maintain the security plan, taking into account the security situation in the country where the project is being carried;
 - ii. Assume all risks and liabilities related to such responsible party's, subcontractor's and sub-recipient's security, and the full implementation of the security plan.
- b. UNDP reserves the right to verify whether such a plan is in place, and to suggest modifications to the plan when necessary. Failure to maintain and implement an appropriate security plan as required hereunder shall be deemed a breach of the responsible party's, subcontractor's and sub-recipient's obligations under this Project Document. Each responsible party, subcontractor and sub-recipient will take appropriate steps to prevent misuse of funds, fraud or corruption, by its officials, consultants, subcontractors and sub-recipients in implementing the project or programme or using the UNDP funds. It will ensure that its financial management, anti-corruption and anti-fraud policies are in place and enforced for all funding received from or through UNDP.
 - c. The requirements of the following documents, then in force at the time of signature of the Project Document, apply to each responsible party, subcontractor and sub-recipient: (a) UNDP Policy on Fraud and other Corrupt Practices and (b) UNDP Office of Audit and Investigations Investigation Guidelines. Each responsible party, subcontractor and sub-recipient agrees to the requirements of the above documents, which are an integral part of this Project Document and are available online at www.undp.org.
 - d. In the event that an investigation is required, UNDP will conduct investigations relating to any aspect of UNDP programmes and projects. Each responsible party, subcontractor and sub-recipient will provide its full cooperation, including making available personnel, relevant documentation, and granting access to its (and its consultants', subcontractors' and sub-recipients') premises, for such purposes at reasonable times and on reasonable conditions as may be required for the purpose of an investigation. Should there be a limitation in meeting this obligation, UNDP shall consult with it to find a solution.
 - e. Each responsible party, subcontractor and sub-recipient will promptly inform UNDP as the Implementing Partner in case of any incidence of inappropriate use of funds, or credible allegation of fraud or corruption with due confidentiality.

Where it becomes aware that a UNDP project or activity, in whole or in part, is the focus of investigation for alleged fraud/corruption, each responsible party, subcontractor and sub-recipient will inform the UNDP Resident Representative/Head of Office, who will promptly inform UNDP's Office of Audit and Investigations (OAI). It will provide regular updates to the head of UNDP in the country and OAI of the status of, and actions relating to, such investigation.

f. Choose one of the three following options:

Option 1: UNDP will be entitled to a refund from the responsible party, subcontractor or sub-recipient of any funds provided that have been used inappropriately, including through fraud or corruption, or otherwise paid other than in accordance with the terms and conditions of this Project Document. Such amount

may be deducted by UNDP from any payment due to the responsible party, subcontractor or sub-recipient under this or any other agreement. Recovery of such amount by UNDP shall not diminish or curtail any responsible party's, subcontractor's or sub-recipient's obligations under this Project Document.

Option 2: Each responsible party, subcontractor or sub-recipient agrees that, where applicable, donors to UNDP (including the Government) whose funding is the source, in whole or in part, of the funds for the activities which are the subject of the Project Document, may seek recourse to such responsible party, subcontractor or sub-recipient for the recovery of any funds determined by UNDP to have been used inappropriately, including through fraud or corruption, or otherwise paid other than in accordance with the terms and conditions of the Project Document.

Option 3: UNDP will be entitled to a refund from the responsible party, subcontractor or sub-recipient of any funds provided that have been used inappropriately, including through fraud or corruption, or otherwise paid other than in accordance with the terms and conditions of the Project Document. Such amount may be deducted by UNDP from any payment due to the responsible party, subcontractor or sub-recipient under this or any other agreement.

Where such funds have not been refunded to UNDP, the responsible party, subcontractor or sub-recipient agrees that donors to UNDP (including the Government) whose funding is the source, in whole or in part, of the funds for the activities under this Project Document, may seek recourse to such responsible party, subcontractor or sub-recipient for the recovery of any funds determined by UNDP to have been used inappropriately, including through fraud or corruption, or otherwise paid other than in accordance with the terms and conditions of the Project Document.

Note: The term "Project Document" as used in this clause shall be deemed to include any relevant subsidiary agreement further to the Project Document, including those with responsible parties, subcontractors and sub-recipients.

- g. Each contract issued by the responsible party, subcontractor or sub-recipient in connection with this Project Document shall include a provision representing that no fees, gratuities, rebates, gifts, commissions or other payments, other than those shown in the proposal, have been given, received, or promised in connection with the selection process or in contract execution, and that the recipient of funds from it shall cooperate with any and all investigations and post-payment audits.
- h. Should UNDP refer to the relevant national authorities for appropriate legal action any alleged wrongdoing relating to the project or programme, the Government will ensure that the relevant national authorities shall actively investigate the same and take appropriate legal action against all individuals found to have participated in the wrongdoing, recover and return any recovered funds to UNDP.
- i. Each responsible party, subcontractor and sub-recipient shall ensure that all of its obligations set forth under this section entitled "Risk Management" are passed on to its subcontractors and sub-recipients and that all the clauses under this section entitled "Risk Management Standard Clauses" are adequately reflected, *mutatis mutandis*, in all its sub-contracts or sub-agreements entered into further to this Project Document.