

TOWARDS GOOD GOVERNANCE THROUGH PUBLIC PARTICIPATION, IMPROVED SERVICE DELIVERY AND GREATER ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION IN THE EAST OF UKRAINE

Progress Report

August – December 2022



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ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

ECHR	European Court of Human Rights
ILO	International Labour Organization
NGO	Non-governmental organization
OCHA	UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs
OHCHR	Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights
RBR	UNDP's Resilience Building and Recovery Framework
SCORE	Social Cohesion and Reconciliation Index
SGBV	Sexual and gender-based violence
SHARP	SCORE-inspired Holistic Assessment of Resilience of Population
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UN RPP	United Nations Recovery and Peacebuilding Programme

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

One year since the Russian Federation's invasion of Ukraine, the war has already resulted in significant loss of life, large-scale displacement, devastating destruction of infrastructure and unprecedented environmental damage. The access to and delivery of necessary social services for people in the most war-affected regions, especially vulnerable groups, also remain a challenge.

The SHARP¹ results demonstrate overall confidence in public institutions, and particularly regional (6.5²) and local (6.3) authorities throughout Ukraine in 2022. In terms of environmental security, the assessment revealed that people throughout the country tend to be generally satisfied with the quality of air and overall environmental health in their locations (6.1). However, the regions severely affected by the war, especially those close to the front line, appear to be more concerned about the environmental security (5.2 in Dnipropetrovsk and 5.6 in Mykolaiv oblasts).

Over the reporting period, the Project has made several notable achievements to address the above issues and increase resilience, effectiveness and quality of the local governance in the target regions and improve access to inclusive and non-discriminatory environmental protection and social services for the local and displaced populations.

An important contribution was made towards the creation of accountable and resilient local institutions in the war-affected regions of Ukraine. In the framework of the Good Governance School initiative, 90 participants (78 women) working for local authorities and civil society from Chernihiv, Dnipropetrovsk, Donetsk, Luhansk, Mykolaiv, Poltava and Sumy oblasts, increased their knowledge in good governance, peacebuilding and recovery issues, crisis management and public administration, as well as environmental protection at local level.

Furthermore, to increase the openness and transparency of the work of local self-government bodies, the Project has developed and delivered dedicated capacity-building programmes. In total, 245 representatives of the local authorities and health-care institutions (191 women) as well as 16 representatives of NGOs (10 women) enhanced their knowledge of the basics of public procurement, public monitoring and anti-corruption control and public procurement during martial law through a series of online and in-person training sessions.

Moreover, 19 compliance officers (11 women) increased their capacities for effective implementation of European Court of Human Rights practice regarding criminal proceedings on corruption offences. In addition, a dedicated manual entitled "Modern approaches to anti-corruption training: life hacks for compliance officers" has been developed by the Project to provide educational and methodological support for compliance officers and anti-corruption trainers.

To implement evidence-based solutions aimed at improving environmental safety in the target regions, the Project conducted an assessment to analyse the quality of existing atmospheric air monitoring systems in Dnipropetrovsk Oblast. Based on the available data, the Project created a rating system from territorial communities in Dnipropetrovsk Oblast in which the most atmospheric air pollution occurs,

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

2 Points on a 1-10 scale.

developed local inventories of the industrial and municipal facilities that are the major sources of environmental hazards, and summarized recommendations including technical parameters for innovative air quality monitoring stations.

Furthermore, the Project has supported six civic initiatives that contribute to enhancing waste management and recycling, restoring water resources, developing environmental monitoring systems, promoting environmental journalism, facilitating environmental education, and enabling recreation in the local communities, which together are benefitting more than 70,000 people.

Moreover, the Project is working towards improving the access to and delivery of social services for the community members in the target regions. In November 2022, 21 social workers (18 women) increased their knowledge of the specifics of the administration and operations of the regional mobile service for emergency social and psychological assistance, to enable such services to be rolled out in Chernihiv, Kharkiv, Mykolaiv and Sumy oblasts.

CONTEXT OVERVIEW

One year since the Russian Federation's 24 February 2022 invasion of Ukraine, the war has already resulted in significant loss of life, unprecedented displacement, internally and towards neighbouring countries, and devastating destruction of Ukraine's infrastructure. According to estimates, over 21 million people have been affected by the war, and some 18 million require humanitarian assistance.³ In the first few months after the invasion, nearly 8 million people were internally displaced in Ukraine, and the same number fled across borders. Since then, the displacement crisis has continued. Almost 5.6 million people returned to their places of origin, while millions more have continued to flee from the east. Today, more than 5.4 million people are still internally displaced in Ukraine, and 8.2 million people are refugees.⁴ Overall, the toll on civilians has been devastating – 22,209 casualties have been ver-

ified by the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) as of March 2023, including 8,317 killed and 13,892 injured. The number represents only a fraction of the actual toll, as the verification process has faced immense challenges, including a lack of access to areas under the military control of the Russian Federation.⁵

Since the full-scale war began, the total amount of documented damages caused by Russia to Ukraine's infrastructure has reached almost US\$147.5 billion. By April 2023, some 158,000 residential buildings, 3,200 education and 800 health-care facilities had been damaged or destroyed. The harm inflicted upon Ukraine's environment is estimated at US\$4.2 billion.⁶

The ability of local authorities and service providers to sustain a minimum level of services has also been severely hampered in war-affected areas,



People fleeing the war-affected regions of Ukraine.
Photo credit: UNDP / Oleksandr Ratushniak

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

4 Ibid.

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

6 Damages to Ukraine's Infrastructure, Kyiv School of Economics (17 May 2022), <https://kse.ua/about-the-school/news/147-5-billion-the-total-amount-of-damages-caused-to-ukraine-s-infrastructure-due-to-the-war-as-of-april-2023/>

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

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

A series of attacks on energy infrastructure across Ukraine have caused severe disruption to the functioning of power plants and energy transmission systems. According to the recent comprehensive Energy Damage Assessment from the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the World Bank, the attacks on energy infrastructure has caused over US\$10 billion in damages and left over 12 million people with no or limited electricity.⁷ The power outages have disrupted public services, including transportation, communications, livelihoods, and access to running water and heating – a particular concern in the winter given sub-zero temperatures.⁸

The war has also had a devastating impact on Ukraine's economy and people's livelihoods. As estimated by the International Labour Organisation (ILO), employment in 2022 was 15.5 per cent (2.4 million jobs) below the 2021, pre-war, level.⁹ According to World Bank data, Ukraine's gross domestic product (GDP) shrank by 37.2 per cent in the second quarter of 2022 compared to the same period in 2021. The effects of the war on poverty and society are expected to be massive. As forecast by the World Bank, the proportion of the population with income below the national poverty line may reach nearly 60 per cent, up from 18 per cent in 2021. Based on the global poverty line of \$6.85 a day, poverty was projected to have increased from 5.5 per cent in 2021 to 25 per cent in 2022.¹⁰

UNDP analysis also suggests that development setbacks for Ukraine will be significant, including increased inequalities and poverty rates; the country's economy, its social fabric, and the environment will also suffer. Eighteen years of socio-economic achievements in Ukraine are at risk, and an effective humanitarian-development-peace nexus approach will be critical to mitigate such dramatic development setbacks.¹¹

The present Project contributes to UNDP's Resilience Building and Recovery (RBR) Framework for Ukraine, launched in 2022, and is integrated into the comprehensive multi-donor inter-agency Recovery and Peacebuilding Programme (RPP), which has been addressing priority needs in eastern Ukraine since 2014. The RPP was designed to strengthen community security and social cohesion, support the economic recovery and provision of public services, and further implement of decentralization and health-care reforms in the government-controlled areas of Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts, as well as Kherson and Zaporizhzhia oblasts in southern Ukraine. Following the escalation of hostilities in February 2022, the RPP has expanded its activities to other oblasts of the country, including transit and IDP-hosting communities in eastern, central and western Ukraine.

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

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

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

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

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

Intermediate Result 1:

Local authorities are able to lead effectively sustainable and gender-responsive recovery and service delivery in the conflict-affected communities of Ukraine, based on the principles of good governance and with active public participation

An important contribution was made towards the creation of accountable and resilient local institutions in the war-affected regions of Ukraine. In the framework of the Good Governance School initiative, 90 participants (78 women) working for local authorities and civil society from Chernihiv, Dnipropetrovsk, Donetsk, Luhansk, Mykolaiv, Poltava and Sumy oblasts, increased their knowledge in good governance, peacebuilding and recovery issues, crisis management and public administration, as well as environmental protection at local level.

Furthermore, to increase the openness and transparency of the work of local self-government bodies, the Project has developed and delivered dedicated capacity-building programmes. In total, 245 representatives of the local authorities and health-care institutions (191 women) as well as 16 representatives of NGOs (10 women) enhanced their knowledge of the basics of public procurement, public monitoring and anti-corruption control and public procurement during martial law through a series of online and in-person training sessions.

Moreover, 19 compliance officers (11 women) increased their capacities for effective implementation of European Court of Human Rights practice regarding criminal proceedings on corruption offences. In addition, a dedicated manual entitled “Modern approaches to anti-corruption training: life hacks for compliance officers” has been developed by the Project to provide educational and methodological support for compliance officers and anti-corruption trainers.

OUTPUT 1.1

The attitudes of local authorities towards the citizens are inclusive, open and transparent, and ethical

Under this output, the Project’s interventions are designed to strengthen the capacities of the local self-government bodies and civil society to ensure citizens’ equal and non-discriminatory participation in local decision-making.

During the previous reporting period, the Project launched the Good Governance School on the standards for civic participation in public life regarding the recovery of the territories. This initiative was designed to strengthen adherence by the local governments or civil-military administrations to good governance principles, and ensure civic engagement in the local recovery processes of their communities.

The Good Governance School was organized as a series of training workshops, which took place from 3 October to 5 November 2022 in Poltava and Vinnytsia oblasts. Overall, 90 people (78 women) – heads of village and city councils, representatives of local authorities and NGOs, and civic activists – from 25 territorial communities of Chernihiv, Dnipropetrovsk, Donetsk, Luhansk, Mykolaiv, Poltava and Sumy oblasts took part in the training programme. The participants improved their knowledge and skills in peacebuilding and recovery issues, crisis management and public administration, applying good governance principles at local level, enhancing public participation, providing quality service delivery, and greater environmental protection. In addition, the participants from Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts shared best practices of good governance, including such initiatives as citizen’s advisory bureaux and public platforms, which were imple-



Participants at the Good Governance School during a training session in Poltava.
Photo credit: Pavlo Malovanyi / UNDP Ukraine

mented in the region earlier within the UN RPP. The experience and competencies developed in Donetsk and Luhansk can be further applied by the local authorities in other war-affected oblasts across Ukraine to establish effective mechanisms for cooperation and civic engagement in rebuilding and recovery processes.

Moreover, the participants in the Good Governance School studied strategic and spatial planning as a tool for achieving sustainable development and project management to solve social and economic challenges at local level. They also learned about implementing effective strategies for building good governance in the transition from war to peace, and the importance of civil society, business and the media in recovery and development.

Enhancing transparency and supporting local anti-corruption measures through dedicated capacity-building programmes is another priority for the Project under this output. During the reporting period, several online and in-person capacity-building activities were conducted for the local self-government bodies to promote ethics and transparency in public administration and enable the local authorities to manage public funds efficiently.

In May 2022, three webinars on issues of public procurement during martial law were held by the Project for procurement officers from the target communities and representatives of health-care institutions. During the webinars the participants learned about a new public procurement platform, introduced during the war, and recent changes in the national public procurement law. Overall, 130 (102 women) representatives of the local authorities and health-care institutions benefited from three webinars enhancing relevant skills and knowledge.

Furthermore, the Project's online learning programme was supplemented by a series of in-person training sessions. During July-September 2022, a total of eight training sessions on the basics of public procurement and public procurement during martial law took place in Kamianets-Podilskyi (Khmelnyskyi Oblast) and Chernivtsi. The events enabled 115 procurement officers (89 women) from local authorities and health-care institutions in the target oblasts to enhance their knowledge and skills on procurement issues and efficient and transparent use of public funds.

In addition, to raise awareness and enhance the competencies of civil society representatives for

transparency, integrity, and anti-corruption best practices, the Project organized a 2-day training programme on public procurement under public control during martial law. The event took place in Poltava in October 2022 and gathered 16 NGO participants (10 women) from the Project's target communities. During the training programme, the participants strengthened their knowledge of public monitoring and anti-corruption control during martial law to foster local anti-corruption initiatives and increase transparency and confidence in local public institutions.

The institution of compliance officers, introduced recently in Ukraine, was established to reduce corruption risks and prevent violations of anti-corruption legislation in public sector organizations. The main tasks of the compliance officer include assessment of corruption risks, identification of conflicts of interest and facilitation of their settlement, development and implementation of anti-corruption measures, and provision of methodical and advisory support on adherence to the anti-corruption legislation.

To support the capacity building of the compliance officers in the target communities, the Project conducted a 2-day training session on implementation of European Court of Human Rights (ECHR) practice in the work of compliance officers. The event took place in Poltava in November 2022 and gathered 19 compliance officers (11 women). The main objective of the training session was to increase the effectiveness of implementation of international standards in the field of human rights in Ukraine, in particular for compliance officers to implement ECHR practice in their daily work. Moreover, the participants on the learning programme received practical skills through working out possible cases on implementing ECHR practice regarding corruption criminal offences, application of the ECHR in the consideration of criminal proceedings on corruption offences, and so on.

Moreover, the dedicated "Modern approaches to anti-corruption training: life hacks for compliance officers" manual has been developed to provide educational and methodological support for specialists working in this field (Annex 3). The manual provides guidance on organization of work for compliance officers, and its importance in en-

suring awareness of the anticorruption legislation and corruption prevention. The publication also provides practical guidance for anti-corruption trainers, and is aimed at familiarizing the public with up-to-day training techniques and methods for conducting online and in-person training programmes on anti-corruption issues.

OUTPUT 1.2

Local self-governments acquire and maintain essential governance qualities (competence, effectiveness, and efficiency) to manage their territories

The Project's goal under this output is to support the efficient work of the local self-government bodies in the target regions by enhancing the capacities of the leadership and officials of the territorial communities. This will enable local communities to harness the benefits of the decentralization process, and effectively manage their territories to ensure their social and economic development.

To this end, the Project has launched a certified online management performance training programme for representatives of local self-government bodies from the target communities in Chernihiv, Dnipropetrovsk, Donetsk, Luhansk, Mykolaiv and Sumy oblasts. The learning process is planned for 2023 and will provide the local officials with important practical knowledge in four main thematic areas:

- **Informational technologies**, which envisages providing comprehensive knowledge and practical skills for applying necessary tools for information protection, including engineering and technical measures such as use of secure connections, firewalls, separation of information flows between network segments, use of encryption and protection against unauthorized access, and so on. Such comprehensive information protection systems are crucial for data security in public institutions.
- **Legal issues**, which covers the peculiarities of interaction with local population and inter-

nally displaced persons as well as functioning of local self-government bodies / civil-military administrations during wartime.

- **Human resource management**, covering the main goals and principles of good performance management in local authorities, development and application of key performance indicators, and the impact of the performance management system on the efficiency and effectiveness of the local self-government representatives and staff.
- **Sustainable and socioeconomic development**, aimed at building capacities of local authorities in effective and efficient management of the territories to achieve sustainable economic growth, taking into account economic, social and environmental considerations in local decision-making.

Overall, it is planned to train some 300 local authority representatives in the framework of the certified management performance training programme.

OUTPUT 1.3

Newly appointed local self-governments have the necessary capacity to plan territorial development in a participatory and gender-responsive manner and apply sound financial management

One of the major challenges faced by the local self-government bodies in Ukraine remains the strategical development of their territories and effective management of public funds. Moreover, a lack of transparency and inclusiveness in strategic planning and budgetary processes, as well as their gender-blindness, have a direct effect on the allocation of resources and on the welfare of the community.

With this in mind, the Project is working towards supporting local self-government bodies in the target communities to strengthen their ability to strategically plan for the long-term sustainable development of their territories and to carry out sound financial management of their budgets, as

well as to create clear prospects for the efficient recovery. Importantly, the Project will support local authorities to ensure that both planning and financial management are carried out in a participatory and gender-responsive manner, to meet the actual needs and priorities of women and men in the community.

In addition, the Project will provide its expertise to ensure that local strategic planning takes into account the current political, cultural, social and health complexities in the region, includes gender-responsive anti-crisis approaches and measures, and clearly identifies the role of all stakeholders in contributing to addressing problematic issues.

More specifically, based on the results of the needs assessment, conducted in the war-affected regions, the Project plans to support Mykolaiv territorial community and Poltava territorial community in their efforts to elaborate local development strategies and respective implementation plans. The Project will also support the selected communities to adapt the strategies to the Sustainable Development Goals in close cooperation with local administration, UNDP and other relevant stakeholders.

These activities are planned to be implemented and completed by the end of 2023.

Intermediate Result 2:

War-affected women and men, girls and boys, equally benefit from improved service delivery and greater environmental protection

To implement evidence-based solutions aimed at improving environmental safety in the target regions, the Project conducted an assessment to analyse the quality of existing atmospheric air monitoring systems in Dnipropetrovsk Oblast. Based on the available data, the Project created a rating system from territorial communities in Dnipropetrovsk Oblast in which the most atmospheric air pollution occurs, developed local inventories of the industrial and municipal facilities that are the major sources of environmental hazards, and summarized recommendations including technical parameters for innovative air quality monitoring stations.

Furthermore, the Project has supported six civic initiatives that contribute to enhancing waste management and recycling, restoring water resources, developing environmental monitoring systems, promoting environmental journalism, facilitating environmental education, and enabling recreation in the local communities, which together are benefitting more than 70,000 people.

Moreover, the Project is working towards improving the access to and delivery of social services for the community members, especially the most vulnerable. In November 2022, 21 social workers (18 women) increased their knowledge of the specifics of the administration and operations of the regional mobile service for emergency social and psychological assistance, to enable such services to be rolled out in Chernihiv, Kharkiv, Mykolaiv and Sumy oblasts.

OUTPUT 2.1

LSGs are capable to strengthen environmental protection in their territories through effective environmental risks monitoring, land rehabilitation and waste management

Grant support to local environmental initiatives

The Project's interventions under this output are intended to contribute to building accountable local authorities capable of ensuring environmental safety through:

- monitoring and addressing environmental risks,
- ensuring the rehabilitation of damaged lands and natural areas,
- implementing effective waste management and recycling solutions, and
- supporting civic engagement in addressing major environmental problems in the target regions.

The Project established a small grant fund to support local environmental initiatives aimed at providing wider opportunities to the target communities to increase environmental safety. They address the most pressing ecological problems, such as introducing waste management, improving access to drinking water, environmental education, and recreation. During the reporting period, six projects were supported through the small grant programme to implement environmental initiatives benefitting some 70,000 people in the target oblasts.

More specifically, the supported civic initiatives included:

1. The purchase and installation of large and small containers for separate collection of solid waste in public areas of Korop community in Chernihiv Oblast, and procurement of a hydraulic press to produce recycled materials for further sale.
2. Improving the availability and quality of drinking water in the territory of Mena community in Chernihiv Oblast. The project envisages disinfecting 48 wells in the community, pumping water out of them and filling them with clean water. It is also planned to equip the wells with metal roofs, water-lifting structures, benches and sanitary zones around them.
3. Implementing a monitoring system for waste management in Pervomaiskyi community, Kharkiv Oblast, which includes setting up an observation point and oversight (installation of video surveillance cameras) of the disposal of solid waste at the landfill; and procuring additional containers to implement a containerized waste collection system in the community. In addition, the project foresees installation of GPS trackers on each unit of municipal transport in the community, which will allow the development of optimal routes for municipal vehicles, controlling the fuel used, and conserving material and labour resources.
4. Revival of composting traditions to preserve the environment in Voznesensk community, Mykolaiv Oblast. The project is intended to reduce the negative impact of the local landfill on the environment and public health caused by frequent fires and significant emissions of harmful substances into the atmosphere. This is planned to be achieved by promoting the composting of organic waste in private households in the city, which will reduce the amount of organic waste that goes to the landfill and generates biogas there.
5. Development of a network of information and recreation centres intended to support nature reserves as part of the restoration and management of community ecosystems. The initiative is being implemented in 10 natural parks in three oblasts – Chernihiv, Kharkiv

and Sumy – to unite existing environmental institutions into a network of information and recreation centres. The centres will provide environmental education and promote recreation, cultural and volunteer activities focused on preserving the environment and historical landscapes in the region.

6. An educational programme on environmental journalism for local media personnel from Chernihiv, Dnipropetrovsk, Donetsk, Kharkiv, Kyiv and Zaporizhzhia oblasts. In the framework of the project, 100 journalists will increase their professional capacity to draw attention to ecological crimes committed by the Russian Federation in Ukraine and to raise awareness of the need for environmental research for further restoration and management of ecosystems in Ukraine.



Waste management and recycling



Composting of organic waste



Improved access to drinking water



Creation of a network of information and recreation centres



Monitoring system for waste management



Development of environmental journalism

Development of environmental risk monitoring systems

On its way to the European integration, Ukraine has ratified a wide range of environmental conventions and legislative acts, such as:

- The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (29 October 1996), the Kyoto Protocol and the Paris Agreement;
- The Aarhus Convention and its Protocol on Pollutant Release and Transfer Registries;

- The Convention on Long-Range Transboundary Air Pollution (5 June 1980);
- Directive 2008/50/EC of the European Parliament and the Council of 21 May 2008 on ambient air quality and cleaner air for Europe.

At the same time, the practical implementation of the obligations under these agreements – along with technological provision and methodological support to local authorities and industrial enterprises – remain at an insufficient level. Thus, despite the development of the regulatory framework in the field of environmental quality monitoring and management, most monitoring entities currently lack appropriate equipment for obtaining physical and chemical parameters of the environment in an automated manner, in particular indicators of pollutants and meteorological parameters.

Moreover, the large-scale military invasion of Ukraine has caused significant environmental damage and inflicted immediate and longer-term consequences on ecosystems. In total, Ukraine documented almost 2,300 environmental crimes between the beginning of the large-scale war and January 2023. According to the Ministry of Environmental Protection and Natural Resources of Ukraine¹², the key consequences of the full-scale war for the Ukrainian environment include:

- Incidents at nuclear power plants;
- Incidents at oil refineries;
- Damage to mines, drilling platforms and gas facilities;
- Damage to treatment facilities;
- Destruction of livestock farms;
- Destruction of rare species;
- Forest fires; and
- Extraordinary CO₂ emissions.

Furthermore, the war has damaged almost a third of Ukraine's forests. During 2022 at least 23,300 hectares were completely burned.

Huge damage was caused by soil and water pollution in the war-affected regions of Ukraine.¹³

In addition, the vast majority of Ukrainian rivers were subject to significant anthropogenic stress, due to technologically outdated equipment, insufficient cleaning and filtration of sewage waters, excessive agrochemical use, and other factors. In particular, an audit of the effectiveness of implementation of the State-wide target programme for the development of water management and ecological improvement of the Dnipro River basin for the period until 2021 showed that indicators of water quality in the river are deteriorating.¹⁴ The studies have revealed significant excesses in the content of synthetic substances: agricultural poisons, pharmaceuticals and substances used in perfumery; synthetic musk; heavy metals zinc and copper; as well as mercury. In total, 161 pollutants were detected in the surface waters of the Dnipro River basin, in particular, the herbicide atrazine, and the metals cadmium and nickel. In addition, the excessive algae growth in the Dnipro is one of the main causes of the mass plague of fish. The situation is also worsened by the shallowing of the river, which is occurring due to the lack of dredging, which was carried out when the river was used as a transport artery. Notably, the annual volume of water taken in from the Dnipro River basin and its tributaries is 7.4 billion m³ or 78.7 percent of water intake from surface water bodies of Ukraine.

Preliminary monitoring of environmental impacts since the outset of the invasion by the Russian Federation points to substantial damage to urban and rural environments across a wide geographic area. Numerous incidents have caused pollution to air, water and land and degraded nature¹⁵.

In view of the above, the Project has planned and is currently implementing pilot initiatives on environmental monitoring in 18 selected communities in Chernihiv, Dnipro, Mykolaiv and Sumy oblasts,

12 <https://mepr.gov.ua/dajdzhest-klyuchovyh-naslidkiv-rosijskoyi-agresiyi-dlya-ukrayinskogo-dovkillya-za-28-lypnya-3-serpnya-2022-roku/>

13 <https://www.kmu.gov.ua/news/ruslan-strilets-suma-shkody-ukrainskomu-dovkilliu-vid-zbroinoi-ahresii-rf-vzhe-stanovytponad-46-miliardiv-dolariv>

14 161 Chemical Elements, Polluting the River, Found in the Dnipro, Ukrainian News, 22 December 2021, <https://ukranews.com/ua/news/822981-u-dnipri-znajshly-161-himichnyj-element-shho-zabrudnyuye-richku>

15 The Environmental Impact of the Conflict in Ukraine: A Preliminary Review; UNEP, October 2022, <https://www.unep.org/resources/report/environmental-impact-conflict-ukraine-preliminary-review>

with the aim of developing an algorithm for improving the ecological situation by reducing the anthropogenic pressure on natural resources and public health in polluted communities.

As an initial step, the Project has launched several comprehensive environmental assessments to provide more evidence-based support to the selected communities. During the reporting period, the Project analysed the quality of existing atmospheric air monitoring systems in Dnipropetrovsk Oblast and developed recommendations for further improvements. Based on the available data, the Project has rated the territorial communities in Dnipropetrovsk Oblast in which the most atmospheric air pollution occurs, developed local inventories of industrial and municipal facilities that are the major sources of environmental hazards, and summarized recommendations, including the technical parameters for innovative air quality monitoring stations.

As a next step, it is planned to procure two indicative stations for air quality analysis (for the cities of Kryvyi Rih and Sumy) and a portable (drone) stations for air quality analysis for Dnipropetrovsk Oblast, and to conduct specialized training sessions on application of these innovative systems. These activities are scheduled to be completed in autumn 2023.

Furthermore, the Project has started the development of a comprehensive system for online monitoring of the state of water arteries in Chernihiv Oblast. Importantly, the introduction of an automated online monitoring system for water pollution in the Dnipro and Desna rivers and their tributaries will:

- increase the efficiency of integrated management of transboundary water resources, with real time monitoring of environmental risks in the reservoirs of the upper Dnipro basin;
- establish with a certain probability the location of the origin of pollution and the area of its spread;
- determine the concentration of the main pollutants;
- provide up-to-date information on the state of waters that is collected by waterworks for further preparation and purification;

- determine and develop measures to achieve good ecological potential in urbanized and regulated rivers (inclusion in river basin management plans);
- help simplify the process for obtaining open information about the ecological condition of the water arteries of Chernihiv Oblast.

As part of this work, the Project has conducted two regional and national experts' meetings to discuss best available practices and methods for river pollution monitoring. Based on the results of the discussions, it is planned to purchase automated stations for analysis of river-water quality and develop an online platform for automated expert and public monitoring of the state of water arteries in the region.

Support for rehabilitation of damaged lands and natural areas

The Project is supporting local governments and civil society to develop their capacities and knowledge of land and nature rehabilitation requirements and processes by commissioning expert environmental assessment, introducing innovative technologies and conducting dedicated workshops and training events.

The preliminary assessment and mapping has been launched of the pollution caused by military actions (unexploded ordnances, chemicals, radiological pollution, military waste and so on) in Mykolaiv and Sumy oblasts. The study will provide recommendations for further rehabilitation of the damaged lands in the target communities in the two oblasts, depending on the type and level of the pollution. This research is planned to be conducted in close collaboration with the experts from the Ministry of Defence of Ukraine and regional scientific institutes for in depth assessment of the damaged soils and quantitative and qualitative analysis of the soil samples.

Based on the results of this assessment, the Project intends to contribute to the design of innovative and cost-effective rehabilitation solutions in the regions by:

- Establishing a stationary laboratory or mobile eco-monitoring unit to analyse contaminated soil,

- Providing biologically active substances (phyto-, bacterial-, fungi-, etc) to remediate damaged soil in the target communities of Mykolaiv Oblast, and
- Organize a UNDP Forum on rehabilitation of damaged lands and natural areas, preliminarily planned for spring 2024.

Piloting effective waste management and recycling solutions

The Project is supporting the local self-government bodies in the target regions to explore and further implement the most efficient cleaning and waste recycling methods. In September 2022, the Project organized an interregional round table on the problems of the current state of household waste recycling and processing in the war-affected regions of Ukraine. The event took place in Ivano-Frankivsk and brought together 41 (14 women) representatives of the central and local authorities, departments of ecology of Chernihiv, Donetsk, Ivano-Frankivsk, Luhansk and Mykolaiv oblasts, civil society, business and academia. The participants discussed best practices in the field of household waste management in Ukraine and further promotion of ecological and energy efficient solutions at the local level, and exchanged experience in implementation of modern approaches to waste processing. The event also provided opportunities for the efficient dialogue and cooperation between regional authorities, local self-government bodies, civil society organizations, science and business and helped raise awareness of the issues of proper waste management and recycling at the local level.

OUTPUT 2.2

New LSGs take steps to ensure improved access to social services in their territories and promote the diversification of service provision through non-governmental actors

Improving the access to and delivery of social services for the community members in the target regions, especially vulnerable groups, remains one of the priorities of the Project.

Since the beginning of the full-scale invasion of Ukraine by the Russian Federation, a significant number of Ukrainians have found themselves in difficult life situations. Many citizens lost their property, work, documents, were left without necessary care or assistance or became displaced. Therefore, support from the state, especially for vulnerable groups, has become more and more important, as these people are unable to overcome such problems on their own.

In this regard, the social services represent a basic element of social protection of the population, aimed at overcoming or minimizing difficult life situations. At the same time, the high numbers of internally displaced people have placed an additional burden on local service providers in host and transit communities, including mental health and social services.

To address these issues, the Project is working on the development of the accessible service provision plans in six selected communities in the target oblasts, which will include provision of essential capacity-building support and equipment.

On 23-25 November 2022, the Project conducted a workshop on the administration and operations of the regional mobile service for emergency social and psychological assistance to vulnerable categories of population and methodical assistance to communities. The event took place in Poltava and brought together 21 (18 women) participants – the social sphere specialists who plan to be involved in the work of the regional mobile service for emergency social and psychological assistance in Chernihiv, Kharkiv, Mykolaiv and Sumy oblasts.

RISK ANALYSIS

The main risks to effective Project implementation are primarily related to the ongoing war in Ukraine and include:

- Capture by the Russian army of other territories of Ukraine.
- An increased number of ad hoc missile attacks throughout the Project target areas.
- Increased population flows out of Ukraine and within the country leading to shortages of qualified workforce and suppliers.
- Inability of national and local institutions to function effectively, due to volatility in state financing and local budgets cuts, leaving no resources for development.
- Severe disruption to power and internet supplies.
- Critical macroeconomic turbulence.

Deterioration of the security situation in the Project's target areas may preclude the minimal security conditions necessary for programming. This is particularly true as many of these areas remain in close proximity to the front line or the border with the Russian Federation, and could face renewed/increased fighting and become inaccessible.

To minimize these risks, the Project is being implemented under the guidance of the United Nations Department for Safety and Security and the authority of the United Nations Designated Security Official.

Project staff will also continue to liaise with Ukrainian authorities to secure a safe environment for Project staff and implementing partners. Risk assessment and mitigation will include regular political and security analysis and consultations with key partners and security service providers. Tested business continuity and security plans and standard operating procedures are in place and are updated regularly to mitigate the impact of existing and potential threats to Project beneficiaries and UNDP staff.

Insufficient availability of well-qualified contractors and NGOs, as well as suppliers willing to deliver equipment to war-affected areas, may delay some Project activities. The required procurement and payment mechanisms will be accelerated through enhanced UNDP operational capacity, supported by Project resources. The appropriateness of community engagement modalities will be assured through rapid conflict analysis of the target areas and participatory dialogue with local authorities and community leaders.

Replacement of local or national government leaders, or the inability of local governments to function due to conflict or political transition, is another political risk. The risk of government turnover will be mitigated by identifying and aligning with key public service specialists, security providers and community members who can support and promote ongoing implementation of the Project activities.

LESSONS LEARNED

01

The ongoing full-scale war in Ukraine created a necessity for the territorial communities to initiate work on strategic recovery planning. The Government of Ukraine – and specifically the Ministry for Communities, Territories and Infrastructure Development of Ukraine, responsible for territorial and community development – issued a regulation under which all the communities should elaborate their recovery strategies, or at least update and adapt the available ones. Based on its long experience, UNDP has extensive expertise of building the capacities of local and regional authorities for strategic socioeconomic planning, and can provide its expert support to war-affected communities to elaborate their local development strategies and plans. Notably, the Project has already started to support pilot territorial communities of Mykolaiv and Poltava in their efforts to elaborate local development strategies and implementation plans. The planning and strategizing activities could be further expanded to other target areas to enable the territorial communities to become more resilient, and plan for their short- and long-term recovery from the effects of war.

02

The implications of the ongoing war, including damage to health-care and social infrastructure and the influx of internally displaced persons from the most war-affected regions to the central and western parts of Ukraine, created additional pressure on the health-care and social infrastructure in transit and host communities. Access to essential medical, social and psychological aid is also a challenge for vulnerable groups, such as persons with disabilities and chronic illnesses, and those living in remote rural areas. Thus, it is essential to intensify provision of technical assistance and capacity-building support to social service providers throughout Ukraine to reach the most affected and vulnerable populations, especially in the regions where the need for proper social services provision has increased.

03

The large-scale military invasion of Ukraine has caused significant environmental damage and inflicted immediate and longer-term consequences on ecosystems, especially in the most affected regions close to the front line. In this regard, more studies are required to assess the damage caused by the war to the environment, in order to properly plan further recovery and territorial environmental management in these areas. In addition, UNDP could expand its activities for air, land and water monitoring, debris management, damage assessment and environment management in the target regions.

04

In the current turbulent situation, efforts should be made to establish an effective local risk management system for local authorities, to ensure the sustainability of the results achieved during Project implementation. The activities need to be focused on strengthening the resilience and capacity of the local authorities and institutions to recover from the shocks of the war. Therefore, it is essential to enhance the knowledge and practical skills of representatives of local authorities and service providers in crisis management, preparedness, risk mitigation and emergency response.

Annex 1.

RESULTS FRAMEWORK

Level	Intervention Logic	Indicators	Baselines	Target (2022)	Actual (2022)	Targets	Data Source	Comments	
Overall Objective: Impact	Communities, including vulnerable groups, are more resilient and equally benefit from quality services and recovery support	1. Proportion of target populations who trust in their local administrations (disaggregated by sex, age, vulnerability, and Oblast)	6.5 (7.1 – IDPs)	N/A	6.5 (7.1 – IDPs)	At least 0.5 improvement on a 0-10 scale [2024]	SHARP, SCORE	The study was conducted in 2022.	
			6.6 – women 6.3 – men		6.6 – women 6.3 – men				
			18-35 – 6.5 36-59 – 6.3 60+ – 6.7		18-35 – 6.5 36-59 – 6.3 60+ – 6.7				
			6.7 – Chernihiv Oblast 6.5 – Dnipropetrovsk Oblast 6.3 – Mykolaiv Oblast 6.1 – Sumy Oblast		6.7 – Chernihiv Oblast 6.5 – Dnipropetrovsk Oblast 6.3 – Mykolaiv Oblast 6.1 – Sumy Oblast				
		2. The overall level of environmental security in Project's target communities (disaggregated by sex, age, vulnerability, and Oblast)	5.7 (6.1 – IDPs)	N/A	5.7 (6.1 – IDPs)	At least 0.5 improvement on a 0-10 scale [2024]	SHARP, SCORE		The study was conducted in 2022.
			5.6 – women 5.9 – men		5.6 – women 5.9 – men				
			18-35 – 5.9 36-59 – 5.5 60+ – 6		18-35 – 5.9 36-59 – 5.5 60+ – 6				
			6.9 – Chernihiv Oblast 5.2 – Dnipropetrovsk Oblast 5.6 – Mykolaiv Oblast 7.1 – Sumy Oblast		6.9 – Chernihiv Oblast 5.2 – Dnipropetrovsk Oblast 5.6 – Mykolaiv Oblast 7.1 – Sumy Oblast				

Level	Intervention Logic	Indicators	Baselines	Target (2022)	Actual (2022)	Targets	Data Source	Comments
Intermediate Result 1	Local authorities are able to effectively lead sustainable and gender-responsive recovery and service delivery in the war-affected communities of Ukraine, based on the principles of good governance and with active public participation	1.1. Number of communities that designed and adopted their Community Statutes in a participatory manner (disaggregated by Oblast)	0 [2022]	0	0	6 [2024]	Project records, reports of local authorities	
		1.2. Number of war-affected women and men benefitted from emergency support assistance from the Project (disaggregated by sex and Oblast)	0 [2022]	3,000	3,000	3,000 [2024]	Project records, administrative data from service providers	
Intermediate Result 2	War-affected women and men, girls and boys, equally benefit from improved service delivery and greater environmental protection	2.1. Number of target communities with improved service provision mechanisms in place (disaggregated by Oblast)	0 [2022]	0	0	18 [2024]	Project records, final assessment	These activities will start in the 2 nd half of 2023.
		2.2. Number of local evidence-based strategies, developed with Project's support, and adopted by Oblast authorities	0 [2022]	0	0	3 [2024]	Project records, reports of regional authorities	
Output 1.1	The attitudes of local authorities towards the citizens are inclusive, open and transparent, and ethical	1.1.1. Number of new computer literacy centres established in Project's target communities (disaggregated by Oblast)	0 [2022]	0	0	6 [2024]	Project records	These activities will start in the 2 nd half of 2023.
		1.1.2. Number of 50+ people trained in computer literacy centres (disaggregated by gender and age)	0 [2022]	0	0	1,200 [2024]	Project records, administrative data from service providers	These activities will start in the 2 nd half of 2023.
		1.1.3. Number of communities with established e-democracy platforms in place (disaggregated by Oblast)	0 [2022]	0	0	6 [2024]	Project records, administrative data from service providers	These activities started in 2023.
Output 1.2	Local self-governments acquire and maintain essential governance qualities (competence, effectiveness, and efficiency) to manage their territories	1.2.1. Number of project offices established at the local level (disaggregated by Oblast)	0 [2022]	0	0	6 [2024]	Project records, reports of local authorities	These activities started in 2023.
		1.2.2. Number of online competences building programmes for local authorities developed with Project's support	0 [2022]	0	0	1 [2024]	Project records, administrative data from service providers	The certified online management performance training programme is being developed. The study process will begin in 2023.

Level	Intervention Logic	Indicators	Baselines	Target (2022)	Actual (2022)	Targets	Data Source	Comments
Output 1.3	Newly appointed local self-governments have the necessary capacity to plan territorial development in a participatory and gender-responsive manner and apply sound financial management	1.3.1. Number of local authorities' representatives with improved knowledge and skills on good governance principles for recovery planning and territorial management (disaggregated by sex and Oblast)	0 [2022]	200	370 (290 women)	300 [2023]	Project records, training feedback forms and evaluation results	
		1.3.2. Number of trainers with improved capacity and skills to conduct training sessions on anti-corruption and integrity principles (disaggregated by sex and Oblast)	0 [2022]	0	0	40 [2024]	Project records, training feedback forms and evaluation results	
Output 2.1	LSGs are capable to strengthen environmental protection in their territories through effective environmental risks monitoring, land rehabilitation, and waste management	2.1.1. Number of targeted environmental assessments conducted with Project's support at the regional level (disaggregated by Oblast)	0 [2022]	0	0	3 [2024]	Project records, copies of the conducted assessments	
		2.2.2. Number of new environmental monitoring systems in place at the local level (disaggregated by Oblast)	0 [2022]	0	0	6 [2024]	Project records	
Output 2.2	New LSGs take steps to ensure improved access to social services in their territories and promote the diversification of service provision through non-governmental actors	2.2.1. Number of communities where non-governmental actors are effectively engaged in the provision of public services (disaggregated by Oblast)	0 [2022]	0	0	4 [2023]	Project records, reports of local authorities	These activities will start in 2023.
		2.2.2. Number of war-affected women and men benefitting from improved social care services (disaggregated by sex, age, vulnerability, and Oblast)	0 [2022]	0	0	5,000 [2024]	Project records, administrative data from service providers	These activities will start in 2023.

