



## **'Enhancing Crisis Management and Emergency Response Capacities at All Levels of Government Authorities of Ukraine**

### **BOARD MEETING**

#### **Minutes**

#### **Agenda**

- 1. Update on progress results achieved in 2023 and project activities to address the new challenges with the start of the full-scale war in Ukraine, and the consequent resilience building and recovery efforts.*
- 2. Discuss the updated list of priorities and envisioned outputs of the project, exchange views on the next steps for the remaining period of project implementation.*

#### **Participants:**

- Mr. Igor Yaremenko, Deputy State Secretary of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine
- Ms. Yuliia Sokolovska, Deputy Head of the Office of the President of Ukraine
- Mr. Christophoros Politis, UNDP Deputy Resident Representative
- Ms. Olena Ursu, Programme Specialist, Democratic Governance (Team Leader), UNDP
- Ms. Olena Kulikovska, Programme Analyst, Democratic Governance, UNDP
- Mr. Johan Arvling, Chief Technical Advisor, Aid Effectiveness, UNDP
- Mr. Nazar Grom, Project Manager, UNDP
- Mr. Volodymyr Brusilovskyi, Digital, Inclusive, Accessible: Support to Digitalisation Project Manager, UNDP

#### **The main points discussed/suggested:**

##### **Mr. Igor Yaremenko, Deputy State Secretary of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine**

Noted that in the face of the ongoing war, this project has been instrumental in addressing the pressing challenges Ukraine faces. Partnership of the Secretariat of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine (SCMU) with UNDP underscores unwavering commitment of both parties to overcoming the complexities brought on by this war, and this cooperation reflects the shared vision of resilience and adaptability. Expressed gratitude to UNDP that the project 'Enhancing Crisis Management and Emergency Response Capacities at All Levels of Government Authorities of Ukraine' has been instrumental in addressing these critical challenges and allowed to get necessary expert and technical support to the Government of Ukraine.

Noted that the agile planning and swift adaptation of the project have allowed to respond effectively to ever-evolving circumstances. This adaptability has been vital in ensuring that the project response meets the urgent needs of Ukrainians during these challenging times, with full support and collaboration from the Government of Ukraine.

Through partnership with UNDP, SCMU is committed to enhancing Ukraine's crisis management and emergency response capabilities, which is a testament to dedication to safeguarding Ukraine's resilience and recovery, even in the face of adversity, with the strong backing of the Government of Ukraine.

UNDP's invaluable support in the preparation of the Ukraine Recovery Conference in London has been highly appreciated, as the Conference ultimately played a pivotal role in mobilizing substantial international support for Ukraine's economic stabilization and war recovery, resulting in a total commitment of around \$60 billion.

With UNDP support SCMU initiated the development of new mechanisms for the coordination of international technical assistance projects, with a particular focus on the implementation of a robust IT system in future. This will allow to minimize bureaucracy and expedite registration process of the ITA projects. The collaborative efforts between SCMU and UNDP have paved the way for significant progress in this regard. As a result of this collaborative work, SCMU supports the idea of the project extension and expansion of these initiatives to further support the Government in optimizing and streamlining this process. Together, UNDP and SCMU can enhance Government's ability to effectively respond to evolving challenges and deliver comprehensive assistance to our citizens, leaving no one behind in these testing times.

### **Mr. Christophoros Politis, UNDP Deputy Resident Representative**

Since 2019, UNDP has been supporting the Government of Ukraine to enhance its crisis management coordination mechanisms and ensure alignment of all national development policies and strategies with Agenda 2030 and the SDGs. The full-scale invasion of Ukraine by the Russian Federation started on 24 February 2022, following the territorially limited armed conflict in eastern Ukraine as of 2014, has caused significant civilian casualties, damage to infrastructure and has taken a severe human, social, and economic toll. While immediate support was rendered to the Government immediately after the outbreak of the war, it still requires enhanced capacity for the response in addressing the consequences of the war. The project was launched upon request from the Secretariat of the Cabinet of Ministers and President's Office to provide necessary support the Government to ensure sustainability, effectiveness and transparency in the continued crisis and emergency coordination, response planning between the central government, the oblasts/rayons and other stakeholders (international community, CSOs, private sector), while ensuring delivery of services and building stronger resilience of the receiving/host communities and of the IDPs.

UNDP's partnership with Government of Ukraine reflects a shared vision of resilience and adaptability, as we work together to navigate the complexities of an ongoing war. UNDP supports the Government of Ukraine in providing quality and timely services to citizens, ensuring that no one is left behind during these challenging times.

UNDP provided technical support to the new Government Recovery Plan, which focuses on forging a green, just, inclusive, and digital recovery to build a future-ready Ukraine that drives forward human development and opens up new opportunities for all citizens. The project supported the Ministry of Recovery in developing the [Professional Development Strategy for the Anti-Corruption Units in Ukraine's Ministry for Communities, Territories, and Infrastructure Development \(2023-2024\)](#), and presented it during the ['Keys to Transparent Recovery' Anti-Corruption Commissioners Forum](#). To strengthen the civil service capacity to respond to wartime challenges and ensure the smooth provision of essential services, jointly with the UNDP Human Rights for Ukraine Project, the project team developed two certified short-term online training courses for civil servants: "[Crisis communications for public servants](#)" and "[Crisis communications in human resource management](#)". UNDP focused on conceptualising additional technical support for local communities to expedite recovery and reconstruct vital infrastructure to ensure effective service delivery for citizens. UNDP formulated [proposals for local communities](#) based on external and internal experiences in rapid recovery and reconstruction of crucial infrastructure during crises. These proposals encompassed sustainable solutions to the crisis induced by the war.

UNDP's partnership with the Government of Ukraine has been instrumental in demonstrating the power of adaptability and resilience in the project implementation. Amidst the ongoing war, we've learned the importance of flexibility and responsiveness, enabling us to address the ever-evolving needs of the Ukrainian people. UNDP stands ready to continue this vital work, ensuring that the people of Ukraine receive the timely and high-quality services they need to overcome adversity and thrive. UNDP is strongly committed to supporting the Ukraine's recovery and resilience in the face of extraordinary challenges. UNDP is dedicated to leaving no one behind and is fully prepared to work alongside the Government of Ukraine in this endeavor.

**Ms. Yuliia Sokolovska, Deputy Head of the Office of the President of Ukraine**

Expressed appreciation for the ongoing cooperation with UNDP and successful collaboration on various projects, including the one at hand, and for the project's contribution to the shared goal of enhancing transparency and accountability of Ukraine's recovery process. Notably, this initiative has been instrumental in our collaborative efforts with the Government and the Office of the President of Ukraine to comprehensively revamp the institutional framework for policy-making on the topic of human capital development.

Noted with gratitude that UNDP has commissioned an extensive analysis of the existing institutional framework governing Human Capital Development policy, including a meticulous quantification of the substantial financial impact of the ongoing war on Ukraine's human capital. This analysis encompassed crucial areas, including the labour market, social inequalities, living conditions, education, health, and food security. Such support also included the review of the best international practices in the institutional Human Capital Development policy framework. As the government navigates the far-reaching consequences of the full-scale invasion, the indispensable need is recognized for significant investment in the restoration and recovery efforts, guided by a comprehensive assessment of the damages, losses, and the unique needs of those affected.

UNDP's leadership in spearheading the development of the Human Impact Assessment (HIA) report has been invaluable in providing profound insights into understanding how the war has affected different groups and regions in Ukraine. This report has delved deeply into the impact on individuals, their living conditions, health, education access, livelihoods, food security, gender equality, poverty, and human development.

UNDP's commitment to supporting the development of medical registries and a register for reimbursement under the leadership of the Ministry of Health of Ukraine is of utmost importance, aligning closely with our shared dedication to delivering timely and high-quality services to our citizens.

**Mr. Nazar Grom, Project Manager, UNDP**

Since the launch of the 'Enhancing Crisis Management and Emergency Response Capacities at All Levels of Government Authorities of Ukraine' project, UNDP has helped the Government of Ukraine to enhance capacities of the key government institutions through the following measures/results:

- **President's Office and SCMU**
  - analyse the present state of the institutional framework related to the Human Capital Development policy and make recommendations for its enhancement to inform decision-making on the future policy course;
  - quantify, jointly with the other UN agencies, the financial toll of the war on Ukraine's human capital on the following areas: Labour market, Social inequalities, Living conditions, Education, Health, and Food security;
- **Ministry of Social Policy:**
  - support more than 150 war-affected Ukrainian families by introducing a social family restoration programme with the Ministry of Social Policy of Ukraine;
  - assist the Ministry of Social Policy of Ukraine in improving the medical commission-related processes (MSEC);
  - improve the provision of social services in communities during wartime by preparing the guide on essential social services, and changes and peculiarities in their provision during the war, and widely disseminating among the social workers;
- **SCMU/National Agency of Ukraine on Civil Service:**
  - strengthen the civil service capacity to respond to wartime challenges and ensure the smooth provision of essential services;
- **Ministry of Culture and Information Policy:**
  - provide essential services by organizing trainings for 2,763 people's civil servants on crisis management and crisis communication;

- launch the development of National Media Literacy Strategy by the media literacy project “Filter” in order to enhance the Government’s and people’s resistance to disinformation;
  - conduct trainings on countering disinformation and strategic communications for public servants at central and regional levels facilitate the participatory process of developing the National Media Literacy Strategy under the leadership of the Ministry of Culture and Information Policy of Ukraine
  - support the Ministry of Culture and Information Policy of Ukraine in holding the contest “Reporter” for youth aimed at developing quality journalism to reduce the spread of fake news support the National Media Literacy test conducted by the National Media Literacy project of the Ministry of Culture and Information Policy;
- **Ministry for Communities, Territories, and Infrastructure Development:**
- develop the Professional Development Strategy for the Anti-Corruption Units of Ukraine’s Ministry for Communities, Territories, and Infrastructure Development (2023-2024);
  - train 45 anti-corruption commissioners and experts of the Ministry for Communities, Territories, and Infrastructure Development bodies to implement the Ministry’s compliance system;
  - hold the Anti-corruption Forum for the anti-corruption commissioners to introduce the new system of competencies and necessary skills for experts in the prevention of corruption during the recovery process;
  - provide technical support for formulating the proposals for local communities in rapid recovery and reconstruction of crucial infrastructure during crises;
  - analyze methods to involve civil society in decision-making, especially for local reconstruction strategies. From this analysis, recommendations will be made to boost civil society’s influence on strategic decisions, including required legislative changes in the context of the reconstruction of territorial communities and regions;
  - develop and launch an online training course, “Strengthening Integrity: Minimizing Risks and Building Compliance by Businesses during Reconstruction” business representatives;
- **Ministry of Health of Ukraine:**
- assist the Ministry of Health of Ukraine in launching the development of the State Medicine Register (SMR);
  - systematize covering processes across all stages of medicines life cycle;
  - support the creation of the State medical devices register (SRMD) system;
  - initiate the software updating of the Electronic Healthcare System to further incorporate reimbursement functions, particularly within the medical devices for people with disabilities, e.g., prosthetics and implants;
- **Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine:**
- facilitate the digital transformation of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA) by launching the Digital Transformation Project Office;
  - provide 83 uninterrupted power supply units (UPS) and 104 accumulator batteries to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to withstand future attacks on the capital’s power grid.

Several initiatives like development of medical registries and register on reimbursement will require additional time to be finalized and several initiatives, including support to the MFA on digital transformation and support to the SCMU on development of the effective system for ITA, will require additional resources.

### **Mr. Ihor Yaremenko, Deputy State Secretary of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine**

Based on the support provided by the Project and results achieved, the Secretariat of the Cabinet of Ministers confirms the relevance and efficiency of the support provided by project especially during the wartime. Project report as well as the indicated priorities are approved. UNDP is kindly requested to consider extending the project under which these critical activities were initiated. This will ensure the continuity of our collaborative work, as it lays the foundation for further advancements in this domain. By extending this project, we can build on the progress made and continue to support the Government in efficiently coordinating international technical assistance projects. Support to this project extension will significantly contribute to our collective mission of providing timely and quality services to the citizens of Ukraine, leaving no one behind during these challenging times.

**Mr. Christophoros Politis, UNDP Deputy Resident Representative**

Based on our internal decision and a thorough assessment of resource availability, we have agreed to pursue a cost extension for the project. As part of this extension, an additional \$450,000 USD will be allocated to support project implementation throughout 2024. This decision is instrumental in ensuring the continuity of our efforts and achieving the project's objectives, especially in light of the ongoing challenges we are addressing.

**Decisions made and actions to be taken:**

1. The Project Board members expressed the overall positive assessment of the achieved results and endorsed the progress report.
2. The Project Board members approved extension of the project till the end of 2024 with the updated budget.

Enclosure:

1. Progress report on project implementation.
2. Draft updated project document.

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