

United Nations Development Programme



Country/Region/Global: _____

Engagement Facility

Project Title : Strengthening Capacities of the National Police of Ukraine on Reunification of Families in Ukraine

Expected UNSDCF/CPD Outcome(s) : Outcome 1: By 2024, women and men, girls and boys participate in decision-making and enjoy human rights, gender equality, effective, transparent and non-discriminatory public services.

Expected CPD Output(s) : Output 1.2. National institutions, systems, laws and policies advance the equitable realization of human rights, especially among vulnerable groups.

Initiation Plan Start/End Dates : 01/01/2024-31/12/2024

Implementing Partner : United Nations Development Programme in Ukraine

Brief Description

The project is designed to bolster the forensic capabilities of the National Police as part of the broader "The Ukraine Family Reunification Initiative." With the ultimate goal of reuniting Ukrainian children with their families as a consequence of the war, the project encompasses several key activities. These include the delivery of mobile forensic equipment to enable swift DNA sample gathering, an analysis of international best practices in creating and managing genomic information databases for an update to the national database "SLID," and the enhancement of the knowledge and skills of National Police forensic experts in utilizing new equipment and approaches for DNA data collection. The anticipated outcomes include strengthened capacities within the National Police for applying DNA identification approaches and the establishment of a foundation for a systematic approach to child reunification with families, encompassing enhanced technical capacities, database development, improved skills of forensic units, and increased awareness among war-affected individuals.

This goal will be achieved through two interconnected Outputs:

- Output 1. The National Police is equipped with enhanced technical infrastructure for DNA identification
- Output 2. The National Police is capable to apply new approaches of DNA identification and data collection

Programme Period: 01/01/2024-31/12/2024

Quantum Project Number: 01002071

Gender Marker: Gen 2

Total resources required 2,366,559

Total allocated resources: 2,366,559

- Regular _____
- Other: _____
 - Donor Netherlands
 - Government _____

Unfunded budget: _____

In-kind Contributions _____

Agreed by UNDP:

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19-Feb-2024

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I. PURPOSE AND EXPECTED OUTPUT

Since the full-scale invasion of Ukraine by the Russian Federation on February 24th, 2022, there have been evidence and reports of numerous war crimes, crimes against humanity and other related serious violations of international humanitarian law and human rights law. The unprecedented aggression of the Russian Federation has a significant impact on ensuring the rights of children in the territory of Ukraine.

On 27 October 2022, the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child adopted the Concluding observations on the combined fifth and sixth periodic reports of Ukraine. The Committee is deeply concerned that the armed attack by the Russian Federation since 24 February 2022 has had a devastating effect on people in Ukraine, particularly children, and has since created major obstacles to the implementation of all the rights of the child defined in the Convention and its Optional Protocols. In this regard, the Committee commends the efforts of the State party to mitigate the adverse effects of the armed conflict on children, but is nevertheless gravely concerned about multiple credible, corroborated, and consistent reports of gross violations of children's rights since the beginning of the armed conflict, including killings of children, mass displacement of children internally and outside the country, and the destruction of homes, schools, hospitals, and water and sanitation systems, committed mainly by the Russian Federation.

In such circumstances, it's critical for the Government of Ukraine to ensure systematic collection and recording of all cases of violations of children's rights. State authorities and human rights organizations systematically work on documenting committed war crimes, including those committed against children.

The Ministry of Reintegration of the Temporarily Occupied Territories of Ukraine, together with the National Information Bureau, the Office of the Prosecutor General, the National Police of Ukraine, the Ukrainian Parliament Commissioner for Human Rights, the Office of the President represented by the Counsellor-Commissioner for Children's Rights and Children's Rehabilitation created The Children of the War platform¹. This is a unified platform that collects information about children who suffered as a result of the war (killed, injured, missing, deported), as well as information about cases when children were found and returned.

On 18 April 2023, the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine adopted Resolution No. 339 Certain Issues of Protection of Persons, Including Children, Deported or Forcibly Transferred in Connection with the Armed Aggression of the Russian Federation against Ukraine² which provides for the creation of a Unified Register of Persons, Including Children Deported or Forcibly Displaced in Connection with the Armed Aggression of the Russian Federation against Ukraine. The register will consolidate information on all deported or forcibly transferred persons. Information will be entered into the Register by the National Information Bureau based on the monthly submission of information from ministries, central and local authorities, and heads of regional military administrations.

According to the Ukraine National Information Bureau, at least 20,000 Ukrainian children (up to 18 years old) from the temporarily occupied regions have been transferred to the Russian Federation and to territories of Ukraine under the Russian occupation. These children have been transferred to a set of an estimated 43 – 70 camps across Russia for political re-education, and some of the children have been placed with Russian families for "foster care" or adoption. According to Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky and others, the actual number of transferred children may be an order of magnitude greater than preliminary estimates, and the resulting damage to the children, their families, and the nation of Ukraine is incalculable. Forced and prolonged separation of children from their parents traumatizes children, threatens critical bonds of attachment, and increases the risk of negative, long-term effects on children's mental and physical health.

In this regard, the Government of Ukraine focuses its efforts on the creation of backgrounds and legal frameworks to reunify Ukrainian children with their families in short-term and long-term perspective. For both scenarios, creation of a DNA database will help to foster and make the process evidence-based. As in short-term perspective it'll facilitate the process of search and identification, in the long-term perspective the system will be used for the investigation of war crimes and ensuring justice.

In such context, the Ukraine Family Reunification Initiative has been designed to begin quickly, well before the end of the war. As locating and rescuing children during wartime is difficult, postponing these reunification efforts until the cessation of hostilities is not considered justified. Once the war ends, a large number of the forcibly displaced or deported children might be returned to Ukraine as part of a negotiated settlement. Alternatively, fewer children may be released or freed gradually, beginning at any time. Unless a DNA-based reunification programme is in place and active, the risk to the children is significant—including the risks of becoming ensnared in human trafficking, being misidentified, or waiting extended periods of time to be reunified with their families. Without an active DNA-based programme, it might take months or even years to

¹ <https://childrenofwar.gov.ua/en/>

² <https://zakon.rada.gov.ua/laws/show/339-2023-%D0%BF#Text>

accomplish the reunifications. From a clinical and developmental perspective, it is critical to reunify children with their parents as quickly as possible.

It is assumed that with an active reunification programme and supportive policies in place, a lot of children will be reunified with their families quickly, safely, and effectively. Reunifications will be conducted in a manner consistent with the European Council's Commissioner on Human Rights statements: "Urgent action needed to reunite Ukrainian children transferred to Russia and Russian-occupied territories with their families."

Finally, the approaches and infrastructure described herein can, when implemented, impact a wide range of critical applications, including:

- Prosecution of Transnational Criminal Enterprises
- Counter-terrorism
- Protecting and Reunifying Refugees
- Identification of missing persons
- War victims' identification
- Protecting Human Rights
- Preventing trafficking in people and reunifying those that have been trafficked

Rapid DNA serves a crucial role in identifying children separated from their families and is planned to be utilized to reunify forcibly displaced or deported children with their families through a trauma-informed approach that supports the best interest of the child and the rights and agency of the family. Reunification operates on a continuum, and the role of Rapid DNA begins early in the process. DNA can expedite identifications and, in some cases, bring about matches that may not have otherwise occurred. Knowledge of matches may immediately resolve the trauma of ambiguous loss created by the separation and restore family's sense of agency regarding care of their child. Administered compassionately, Rapid DNA for family reunification is hoped to be an important tool for healing trauma.

In addition to helping families, using Rapid DNA to document the identity and ultimate return of the children forcibly displaced or deported by the Russian Federation is expected to generate essential evidence in pursuing convictions for war crimes. DNA-based evidence is the most accurate and reliable method of proving identities and will play a central evidentiary role in court proceedings.

The project is aimed at enhancing the capacities of the forensic units of the National Police to ensure reunification of Ukrainian children with their families. The initiative will be a part of the broader national initiative of the National Police "The Ukraine Family Reunification Initiative".

UNDP will structure its work through the main Outcome with a cross-cutting communications element that underlies all other interventions. The key outcome of the project will be: ***strengthened capacities of the National Police to apply DNA identification approaches to ensure reunification of Ukrainian children with their families.*** The intervention will create a basis for further systematic approach of reunification of Ukrainian children's infrastructure including technical capacities, development of a database, enhancing knowledge and skills of forensic units, and increasing awareness among war-affected men and women.

This goal will be achieved through two interconnected Outputs:

- Output 1. The National Police is equipped with enhanced technical infrastructure for DNA identification.
 - o Activity 1.1 Provision of equipment on DNA identification
- Output 2. The National Police is capable to apply new approaches of DNA identification and data collection:
 - o Activity 2.1. Design and deliver capacity development trainings for the National Police staff responsible for further implementation of the initiative.
 - o Activity 2.2. Provide support in the analysis of international experience regarding databases and verification systems of human genomic information.
 - o Activity 2.3. Develop and launch the communication campaign on DNA identification possibility for Ukrainian families.
 - o Activity 2.4 Project management

The intervention will create a basis for further systematic approach of reunification of Ukrainian children's infrastructure including technical capacities, development of a database, enhancing knowledge and skills of forensic units, and increasing awareness among war-affected men and women.

In the frame of this project, the following key activities will be implemented:

- Strengthening technical capacities of the National Police through the delivery of mobile forensic equipment that enable quick gathering of DNA samples;
- Analysis of international experience and best practices of creation and functioning of databases and verification systems of human genomic information that will help to update the national database "SLID" so it can be applied for the purpose of family reunification;
- Enhancing knowledge and skills of the forensic experts of the National Police to apply new equipment and approaches to collecting and documenting DNA data.
- Development of communication strategy to raise awareness on the initiative and creation of promo materials (video and printing).

II. MANAGEMENT ARRANGEMENTS

UNDP Ukraine shall be responsible for the overall management of the project, primarily regarding the responsibility for the achievement of the outputs (results), impact and objectives.

The project will be implemented under the UNDP Democratic Governance Portfolio with overall supervision of the Democratic Governance Team Leader. Quality assurance of the project will be provided by the Programme Analyst, Governance. Project monitoring and evaluation as well as communications will be provided within the Democratic Governance Team.

A small team will be running the project, consisting of the following team members:

- Project manager (part-time, 10%) will be responsible for achieving the objectives of the project and ensuring the cooperation and support from the project partners, as well as for managing the implementation of the project.
- Procurement Analyst (part-time, 10%) will coordinate all stages of procurement for the project, and make sure that all procurement activities are in line with UNDP standards;
- Communication Analyst (part-time, 15%) will be responsible for coordination with government counterparts on communication and awareness-raising initiatives, development of ToRs for communication campaigns, coordination and managing of contractors and partners in order to communicate project results;
- Project Associate (part-time, 15%) will be responsible for the smooth administrative management and implementation of the project activities in close collaboration with both the project team and the UNDP Country Office.

The team will also supervise and work closely with the consultants to be engaged in organizing and implementing the project activities.

III. MONITORING

Monitoring Activity	Purpose	Frequency	Expected Action	Required Data	Responsible Agent
Track results progress	Progress data against the results indicators in the Results and Resource Framework (RRF) will be collected, entered in UNDP Ukraine Integrated Monitoring and Reporting Platform (IMRP), and analysed to assess the progress of the project in achieving the agreed outputs	Regularly on a monthly basis	Slower than expected progress will be addressed by project management.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Number of DNA mobile forensic labs delivered - Number of trained forensic experts - Number of people covered by communication campaign 	Project Staff Strategic Planning, Partnerships and Results-Based Management (SPP RBM) Unit

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.	At least semi-annually	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.	Risk registry	Project manager Portfolio management
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.	Regularly Lessons learned report at the project's operational closure	Relevant lessons are captured by the project team and used to inform management decisions. The concise lessons learned report will be prepared at the operational closure of the project.	Performance Data Progress report	Project Staff SPP RBM Unit
Review and Make Course Corrections	Internal review of data and evidence from all monitoring actions to inform decision-making.	Regularly on a monthly basis	Performance data, risks, lessons and quality will be discussed and used to make course corrections.	Performance data	Project Staff Portfolio and CO management
Progress report	A narrative progress report will be submitted to the donor (DSH-reports@minbuza.nl) consisting of progress data showing the results achieved against pre-defined targets at the output level.	On a quarterly basis By 30 June 2024, 30 September 2024, 31 December 2024, 31 March 2025	Performance of progress data, risks, challenges, lessons learned and quality will be discussed with the donor.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Number of DNA mobile forensic labs delivered - Number of trained forensic experts - Number of people covered by communication campaign - Risk registry 	Project Staff Portfolio Team SPP RBM Unit
Final Report	A detailed narrative report will be provided in three months after the conclusion of the project and the final evaluation: narrative and financial report on all outcomes, goal and the objective.	In seven months after the conclusion of the project, by 31 July 2025	Performance of final data, risks, challenges, lessons learned, and quality will be discussed with the donor.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Number of DNA mobile forensic labs delivered - Number of trained forensic experts - Number of people covered by communication campaign - Risk registry - Progress reports - Results of final evaluation 	Project Staff Portfolio Team SPP RBM Unit

				- Lessons learned report	
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IV. WORK PLAN

Period: 01/01/2024-31/12/2024

EXPECTED OUTPUTS	PLANNED ACTIVITIES	TIMELINE				RESPONSIBLE PARTY	PLANNED BUDGET		
		q 1	q 2	q 3	q 4		Funding Source	Budget Description	Amount, USD
<p>Output 1: The National Police is equipped with enhanced technical infrastructure for DNA identification.</p> <p><i>GEN2</i> <i>Indicators:</i> <i>Number of DNA mobile forensic labs delivered</i> Baseline 0 Target 2</p>	<p>Activity 1.1.: Provision of equipment on DNA identification to the National Police of Ukraine.</p>					UNDP	Netherlands	72200 Equipment and Furniture	1,757,250
								75100 Facilities & Administration (8%)	140,580.00
	SUBTOTAL Activity 1								1,897,830.00
<p>Output 2: The National Police is capable to apply new approaches of DNA identification and data collection</p> <p><i>GEN2</i> <i>Indicators:</i> <i>1. Number of trained forensic experts</i> Baseline 0 Target: to be identified by the NPU</p>	<p>Activity 2.1: Design and deliver capacity development trainings for the National Police staff responsible for further implementation of the initiative</p>					UNDP	Netherlands	75700 Trainings and Conferences	60,000.00
								75100 Facilities & Administration (8%)	4,800.00
	<p>Activity 2.2: Provide support in analysis of international experience regarding databases and verification systems of human genomic information</p>						Netherlands	75700 - Training, Workshops and Confer	30,000.00
								71600 Travel	68,819.96
							71300 Local Consultants	50,000.00	
							75100 Facilities & Administration (8%)	11,905.60	

based on internal needs assessment 2. Number of people covered by communication campaign Baseline 0 Target 100000	Activity 2.3: Develop and launch the communication campaign on DNA identification possibility for Ukrainian families					Netherlands	74200 Printing, Design, Translations	70,000.00
							71300 Local Consultants	7,000.00
							75100 Facilities & Administration (8%)	6,160.00
	Activity 2.4: Project management					Netherlands	71400 Contractual services – Individ (staff costs)	22,000.00
							74300 Contributions (Security costs 2%)	41,301.40
							64300 Direct Project Cost, Staff Mgmt Costs (2.31%)	48,608.57
							74500 Direct Project Cost GOE (0.69%)	14,582.57
							75100- GMS 8%	10,119.40
	SUBTOTAL Activity 2							445,297.50
TOTAL UNDP GMS							75100 Facilities & Administration (8%)	173,565.00
Levy 1%								23,431.28
GRAND TOTAL								2,366,559