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Narrative Progress Report

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

United Nations Recovery and Peacebuilding Programme (UN RPP)
United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)

4 Sakhalinska str., Kramatorsk
84306, Ukraine

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Photo credit: Volodymyr Nikolaiev / UNDP Ukraine

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Acronyms and Abbreviations

ADR	Alternative dispute resolution
AGORA	Assisting the Governance and Recovery Agenda for Donbas Project
ATO	Anti-Terrorist Operation
CATI	Computer-assisted telephone interviewing
CSO	Civil society organisation
CSS	Centre for safety and security
CSWG	Community security working group
EECP	Entry-exit checkpoint
EWER	Early warning and early response system
FLAS	Free legal aid system
GCA	Government-controlled area
HIV	Human immunodeficiency virus
IDP	Internally displaced person
JFO	Joint Forces Operation
LGBTIQ+	Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Intersex and Queer
NGCA	Non-government-controlled areas
NGO	Non-governmental organisation
NSJU	National School of Judges of Ukraine
SCORE	Social Cohesion and Reconciliation Index
SES	State Emergency Service
SGF	Small Grants Fund
TC	Territorial community
ToT	Training of trainers
UN RPP	United Nations Recovery and Peacebuilding Programme
UNFPA	United Nations Population Fund
UNHCR	United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
USAID	United States Agency for International Development

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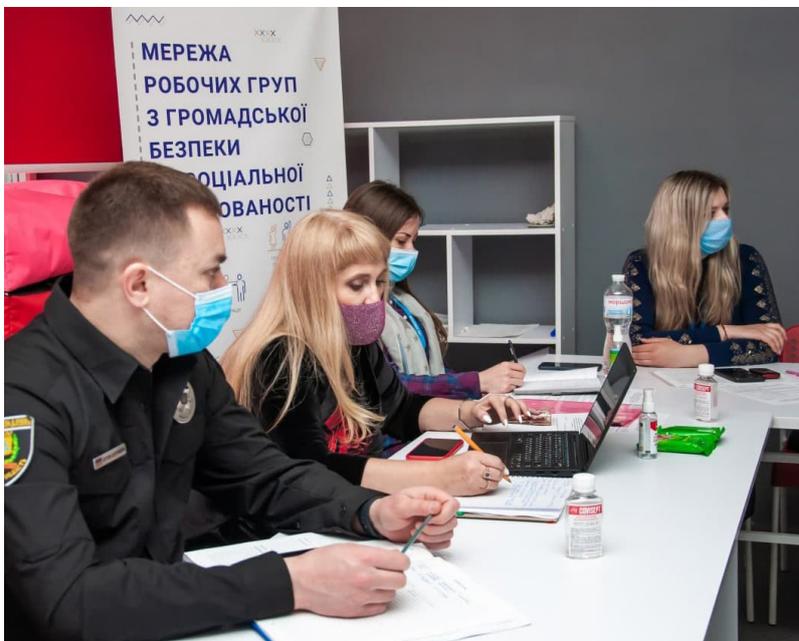
Executive summary

During its second year, the Project made important steps towards promoting peace and stability, enhancing community security and social cohesion as well as strengthening the institutional capacity of the security providers in the conflict-affected communities of Donetsk, Dnipropetrovsk, Luhansk, Zaporizhzhia and Zhytomyr oblasts.

As evidenced by recent data, the citizens' trust in key justice and security institutions has been increasing, but still remains at a generally low level. According to the AGORA survey¹ (2020), the proportion of the population that trusts the police is 37% in Donetsk Oblast and 38% in Luhansk Oblast, while the share of those who have trust in courts is 28% and 27% respectively. On average, the trust in the police has increased by 4% points, while the trust in courts has shown an improvement of 12% points from the baseline. Noticeably, the conflict-affected women and men, who had experience of interacting with the courts, expressed more confidence in being able to obtain justice than those that had not.

Regarding community security, the AGORA results demonstrate that the overwhelming majority of residents (92% in Donetsk and 93% in Luhansk oblasts) feel safe while walking alone in their community during daytime, while 60% of respondents (57% in Donetsk and 62% in Luhansk oblasts) reported they feel safe at night.²

Notably, 88.5% of members of the Community Security Working Groups, established with the support from the Project, are convinced that these groups contribute to a positive change in their communities, as well as advancing gender equality, youth engagement and inclusivity objectives at the local level. Importantly, over 85% of the respondents confirmed that CSWGs effectively adapted to remote work during the COVID-19 pandemic.



Community Security Working Group meeting in Vuhledar, Donetsk Oblast, listening to the report of Artem Sheremet, Head of local police.

Photo credit:
Vuhledar Police department

The Project continues to support the work of the Geoinformation system for conflict analysis and resolution – an innovative web-based tool that allows residents of the conflict-affected communities to identify local conflicts and seek further settlement. As of today, 47 specialists (34 women) are involved

¹ The "Assisting the Governance and Recovery Agenda for Donbas" (AGORA) project was launched by the UN RPP and implemented by ACTED/IMPACT to support evidence-based recovery and planning interventions in eastern Ukraine through area-based approaches, geographic information systems and information management.

² <https://reach-info.org/ukr/AGORA/HCVVA/>

in the work of the Geoinformation system as conflict analysts and mediators. The platform, since its launch in July 2019, has registered over 200 conflict situations that are being monitored and assessed. Over 20 conflict interventions in Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts were held with the help of the system.

The reporting period was highlighted by the establishment of a network of free legal aid advisers (paralegals) in eastern Ukraine, who will serve as connectors between the free legal aid system (FLAS) and the community members providing basic legal advice services and information on how to reach the system. A total of 20 FLAS advisers (75% women) will work along the “contact line” and in remote settlements. Importantly, the capacities of the network were enhanced by the provision of necessary equipment to work in remote locations (bicycles, e-bags with laptops, printers, scanners, etc.). Moreover, the paralegals strengthened their communication and conflict prevention skills through a series of training sessions organised by the Project.

Furthermore, 26 (17 women) representatives of the National School of Judges of Ukraine were equipped with the necessary knowledge and skills on judicial mediation to further build capacity of judges, including those who serve in eastern Ukraine.

A study on the accessibility of archives and court cases remaining in the non-government-controlled areas of Donetsk and Luhansk Oblasts was carried out to provide insight into how the absence of these documents affects the operations of the relevant state authorities, and access to justice for persons living in the conflict-affected area and IDPs. The study describes the background of the problem, the existing practices for overcoming it and suggests viable mechanisms to overcome the consequences connected with the loss of archives in the NGCA.



In total, 28 (21 women) law students and teachers from the two universities in Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts increased their knowledge and skills in specifics of monitoring of various trial types, the forms of abuse of procedural rights, the principles of work and responsibilities of an observer in court hearings, to further conduct the monitoring of court cases related to the armed conflict.

The reporting year was also marked by conducting a comprehensive study of the issues of compensation to civilians for the use of real estate property by military forces and law enforcement bodies during armed conflicts. The study provides an analysis of the national legislation, international humanitarian law and the available judicial practice, and suggests a set of recommendations to ensure protection of proprietary rights during armed conflicts.

The work towards the conflict-transformation and peacebuilding was highlighted by conducting a research on community-based reintegration of the ATO/JFO ex-combatants in the Project’s target oblasts. The study assesses the needs of the veterans and their families for social, economic, medical and psychological support as well as provides recommendations to both national and local authorities

for the current and strategic planning of the reintegration support.

To facilitate the networking of active ex-combatants across the country, a peer-to-peer mentorship programme was set up, engaging 28 mentees and 5 mentors from 5 target oblasts to share and exchange their experience of reintegration. As a result, 20 projects aimed at facilitating reintegration practices were developed, out of which 10 received grant support for their implementation.

Moreover, 234 (79% women) psychologists, psychotherapists, and doctors, who work with women ex-combatants in military hospitals in Donetsk, Luhansk, Dnipropetrovsk and Zhytomyr oblasts, strengthened their capacities during a series of dedicated training sessions. In addition, a roadmap for medical and psychological rehabilitation of veterans was developed to include a list of recommendations for improving medical and psychological rehabilitation and subsequent reintegration of ex-combatants at the national level.

To develop positive narratives aimed at raising awareness about the challenges faced by the conflict-affected people, namely youth, ex-combatants, and their families, as well as drawing attention to the problem of domestic violence, especially during the lockdown, four comic books were created to help visualise and communicate the stories of vulnerable and conflict-affected people. Easy to perceive, these visual stories will help raise awareness and sensitise the general population on the most pressing social issues.

In total, 15 motivational stories, providing real examples of how ex-combatants managed to overcome their problems with the help of psychologists and describe the processes of psychological recovery itself, were widely disseminated through various digital channels reaching more than 2 million people.



Nataliia Chuzhykova, 25 y.o. from Dnipro, ATO/JFO ex-combatant, a heroine of the Reporters motivational story “How the image of a veteran is transformed, and what the ex-combatants think about that?” created as part of the Project’s activities.

Photo credit:
Iryna Rybakova / The Reporters

During the reporting year, the Project took notable steps towards the empowerment of young people in implementing and promoting a network of peacebuilding initiatives in the conflict-affected areas of eastern Ukraine. An innovative online platform “FUNdraiser” for the youth³ from the Project’s target regions is now available to help young people build fundraising strategies to implement their initiatives related to community security and social cohesion, as well as contribute to connectivity between the youth and the local stakeholders.

Over 20 events were organised by the network of “Ambassadors of Peace”⁴, engaging some 570 conflict-affected boys and girls. A network is currently comprised of 73 (69 women) active citizens, mostly teachers, youth NGO members, school administrators, to promote the application of non-violent communication methods, human rights, gender equality, building of an inclusive, tolerant and non-discriminatory society.

³ This activity is co-funded by the Government of Denmark.

⁴ This activity is co-funded by the governments of Denmark, Sweden and Switzerland.

To promote rehabilitation and social engagement of children with special educational needs, the Project supported the construction of an adaptive climbing wall for physical therapy and rehabilitation of the children with disabilities in Sloviansk, Donetsk Oblast. The facility brings together specialists of the local inclusive resource centre, the department of special education of the university and the regional climbing association, and organises daily training activities for up to 30 children with autism, light sensory and musculoskeletal disorders.

The second hackathon “Hack for Locals 2.0: Safer Communities”⁵ gathered more than 360 participants from all over Ukraine, bringing up a variety of ideas, from a range of inclusive projects to support people with disabilities, promote waste management and support physical and mental wellbeing, to projects on coordinated safety services, evacuation plan development and training and alerting the population during emergencies. Three winning teams will receive financial and mentoring support to implement their innovative ideas in eastern Ukraine, while 4 more projects will be mentored by the UN RPP and partner IT companies.

To properly address the existing security concerns and institutional needs of security providers in the target regions, the Project carried out an in-depth assessment of community security and civil protection in the settlements of Donetsk and Zaporizhzhia oblasts located along the Azov Sea coastline. Based on the findings and recommendations of the assessment, it is planned to strengthen the capacities of the security providers in Donetsk and Zaporizhzhia oblasts and the local communities through supporting community policing programmes, rendering technical assistance, and conducting activities aimed at setting up coordination between local security providers and community members.

Overall, 47 police officers (25 women) of juvenile prevention and investigators, working with children in the newly established “green rooms”, raised their awareness regarding psychological and legal aspects of conducting child-friendly interviewing and received recommendations for effective communication with children.

Furthermore, 26 tourist police officers (12 women) and 16 rescuers (3 women) from Donetsk Oblast were equipped with necessary knowledge and vital skills, required for administering first aid for injured persons in case of an accident. Importantly, the police officers and rescuers can now act as first aid instructors in the training centres of the National Police and SES in Donetsk Oblast.

At present, 48 Community Security Working Groups operate in the target communities of Donetsk, Luhansk, Zaporizhzhia and Zhytomyr oblasts, providing space for police-community dialogue, information exchange, discussion of security issues and interaction among local authorities, security providers and community members, and involving some 920 active participants (64% women) in all four oblasts. Notably, 30 gender-responsive community profiles developed by the CSWGs on a participatory basis have enabled civil society activists in Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts to advocate for and adopt solutions for the most pressing security issues identified in their community. The development of 12 additional community profiles is underway.⁶ To further support the work of the CSWGs during the lockdown in online mode, the Project provided 38 sets of video conferencing equipment for CSWGs in the target locations. Notably, with all the required equipment in place, none of the CSWGs has interrupted its operation during the quarantine.

A Risk and Threats Management Coordination Assessment has been commissioned to provide recommendations for the development of a viable and effective risk management coordination mechanism in eastern Ukraine. Based on the results of the study, the Project will support the development of the interagency coordination mechanism, tailored to the local context, to be piloted in the selected target communities.

To further strengthen the security and safety of the target communities, the Project supplied the SES Training Centres in Donetsk, Luhansk and Zaporizhzhia oblasts with the necessary equipment enabling them to conduct professional training programmes for firefighters and rescuers. Moreover, the Project is supporting the establishment of the Centre for Safety and Security in Markivka community (Luhansk oblast) through the provision of construction materials and technical equipment to conduct repair work

⁵ The hackathon was conducted with joint support from the European Union and the governments of Canada, Denmark, the Netherlands, Sweden and Switzerland.

⁶ This activity is co-funded by the European Union and the Government of Denmark.

in the premises of the future centre.

In addition, 16 local firefighting brigades and 3 Centres for safety and security (CSSs) in Donetsk, Luhansk and Zaporizhzhia oblasts received specialised firefighting, communication and IT equipment and firefighting clothes to increase their capacity in responding effectively to emergencies.



The Main Departments of the SES of Ukraine in Donetsk, Luhansk and Zaporizhzhia oblasts have received sets of special equipment for disinfection, the procurement of which was funded by the government of Kingdom of the Netherlands.

Photo credit:
State Emergency Service in
Zaporizhzhia Oblast

During the reporting period, the Project continued the implementation of the small grants scheme as an effective instrument for engagement and empowerment of the local communities. In total, the Project supported the implementation of 73 conflict transformation and community security projects, including 17 grants specifically involving ATO/JFO ex-combatants to increase their participation in the local community development and dialogue processes. To date, 54 projects have been completed, covering over 74,000 beneficiaries (47% women). Moreover, the support was provided to 15 mini-initiatives to facilitate ex-combatants' reintegration into the local communities, enhance community security and social cohesion benefitting directly over 4,000 people (55% women).

Background

The socio-economic impact of the armed conflict continues to drive uneven and perpetuate non-inclusive development across the country, particularly in eastern Ukraine, including with regard to the protection of human rights and gender equality, equitable access to social and economic benefits, access to quality healthcare, and freedom of movement for civilians living in the conflict zone. These dynamics aggravated existing social fragmentation and prejudices, further deepening regional divides and magnifying pre-conflict horizontal inequalities.

Despite United Nations Secretary-General's appeal for a global ceasefire, hostilities in eastern Ukraine initially intensified, leading to an increase of civilian casualties until the renewal of the ceasefire came into effect on 27 July 2020. Following the introduction of the ceasefire, the Trilateral Contact Group reached agreement on the opening of the 2 new crossing points in Luhansk Oblast. The new entry-exit checkpoints (EECPs) of "Shchastia" and "Zolote" were set up in November 2020, however their opening was postponed due to ongoing disagreement on the mode of operation (vehicular and pedestrian or just pedestrian). Since March 2021, the security situation has been deteriorating in eastern Ukraine. Increased military presence, active fighting and use of heavy weapons raise concerns over a potential escalation of the armed conflict. In March 2021 alone, UN Human Rights Monitoring Mission in Ukraine reported 5 civilian casualties. While 2020 saw the lowest level of civilian casualties and attacks on civilian infrastructure for the entire conflict period, the recent return to active fighting might signify that the positive trend observed following the July 2020 ceasefire might reverse course soon.⁷

Since 2014, Ukraine has been implementing a decentralisation reform that seeks to fundamentally restructure centre-periphery relations at the local level through delegation of power from the national to the community level. According to the recent study, the reform already showed some positive results, e.g. newly amalgamated communities had significantly increased their tax revenues and decreased associated administrative costs compared to the non-amalgamated.⁸ Last summer, the government approved a new administrative-territorial structure of Ukraine by defining the borders of some 1,469 territorial communities to be united into 136 new raions, sub-regional administrative units, which will cover the whole country. The local elections held on 25 October 2020 provided an opportunity for the communities to elect new local governments at different levels and thus formally establish these new territorial units, which would mean the end to the reform. At the same time, the government postponed local elections in 18 communities of Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts⁹ which had a negative effect on the roll-out of the decentralisation reform in the region by creating the uncertainty around the reform processes. On 17 December 2020, amendments to the Law of Ukraine "On Military-Civil Administrations" were adopted allowing to create civil-military administrations in those territorial communities where the local elections could not take place.¹⁰ The law regulates the powers of civil-military administrations, property and other issues, which will allow these communities to fully function. On 19 February 2021, the President of Ukraine signed a decree to establish civil-military administrations in the communities close to the "contact line" where elections did not take place in October 2020 due to security concerns.¹¹

The novel coronavirus outbreak has starkly exposed inequalities worldwide and could set back human development for the first time since 1990. According to the UNDP's report "Human Development Perspectives COVID-19: Assessing the impact, envisioning the recovery"¹², the combined impact of different shocks affecting health, education and incomes could signify the largest reversal in human development on record. The fall-out from the pandemic is expected to hit poorer economies and regions harder, as they're less able to deal with the socio-economic impacts of the virus. In mid-March 2020, the government-imposed quarantine restrictions to minimise the risk of the coronavirus transmission across the country, including in the conflict-affected areas of eastern Ukraine. In May 2020, these

⁷ UN OCHA Situation Report, April 2021

⁸ <https://voxukraine.org/en/in-unity-there-is-strength-the-effect-of-the-decentralization-reform-on-local-budgets-in-ukraine/>

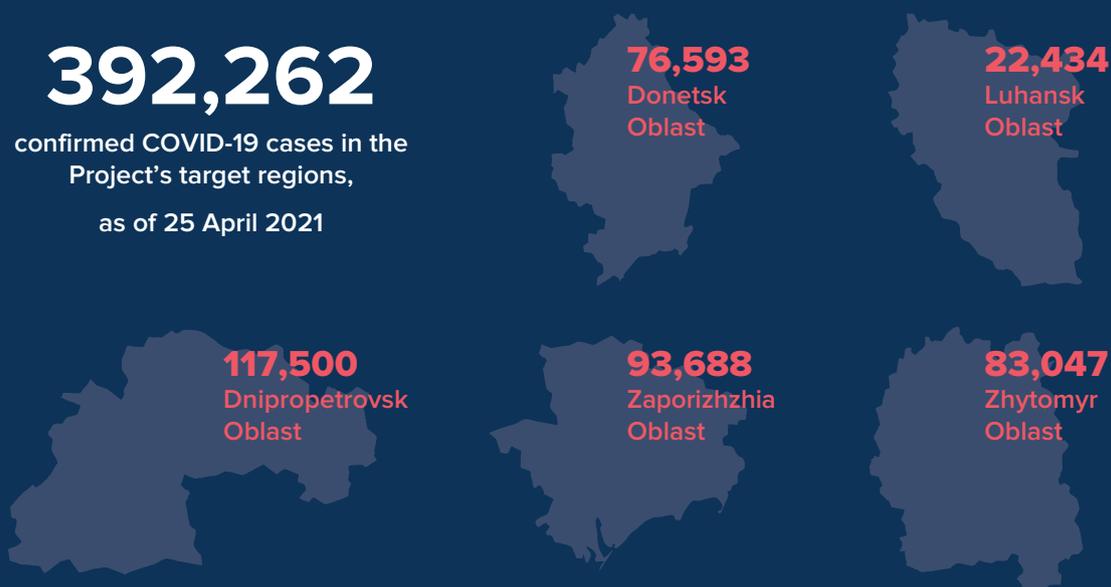
⁹ <https://zakon.rada.gov.ua/laws/show/v0161359-20#Text>

¹⁰ <https://zakon.rada.gov.ua/laws/show/1120-IX#Text>

¹¹ <https://www.president.gov.ua/documents/612021-36741>

¹² <http://hdr.undp.org/en/hdp-covid>

restrictions began to ease, and an adaptive quarantine was introduced to counter the spread of the virus. The COVID-19 restrictive measures are implemented in each oblast in accordance with its risk level. The adaptive quarantine currently in place has been recently extended until 30 June 2021.¹³ As of 25 April 2021, there are 2,025,271 confirmed COVID-19 cases (42,323 deaths) in the government-controlled areas of Ukraine, including 392,262 in the Project's target regions: Donetsk (76,593), Luhansk (22,434), Dnipropetrovsk (117,500), Zaporizhzhia (93,688) and Zhytomyr (83,047) oblasts. The vaccination campaign against COVID-19 started in Ukraine in late February 2021, and 526,916 people have been vaccinated so far.¹⁴ The pandemic, combined with the impact of the seven-year long armed conflict in the region, is further challenging people, households and businesses in unprecedented ways. Moreover, the COVID-19 pandemic further exacerbated existing vulnerabilities, in some cases further compounding them. Intertwined with multidimensions of discrimination and marginalisation, it also created new vulnerable groups, such as healthcare workers, the frontline staff of the response and workers in high-contact sectors and occupations, as well as informal workers who lost their jobs and remained without social protection.



From March to June 2020, all entry-exit checkpoints (EECPs) in eastern Ukraine were closed in an attempt to contain the spread of COVID-19 in communities along the 420-kilometre “contact line” as well as in the rest of Ukraine. Before the closure, approximately 1.2 million people crossed the “contact line” every month to obtain services, social benefits, education, employment, healthcare or visited their family members. In March 2021, the level of civilian crossings of the “contact line” remained way below the pre-pandemic level: only 5% of 1.2 million crossings, recorded in March 2019, was observed. As of today, the EECP remain only partially operational. According to UN OCHA estimations, the closure has impacted more than one million people, including over 300,000 elderly and 163,000 vulnerable persons who have not been able to visit their families and friends, access essential services or withdraw cash since late March 2020.

Communities living close to the “contact line” were particularly impacted by the introduction of stringent restrictions to movement, imposed as a result of COVID-19. Access to adequate healthcare services, including emergency medical care remains challenging for people of all ages, especially for older persons and people living with disabilities in rural hard-to-reach settlements close to the “contact line”. Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts have a high proportion of elderly population (36% of total population, compared to 23% nationwide), particularly in isolated settlements.

¹³ <https://www.kmu.gov.ua/npas/pro-vnesennya-zmin-do-deyakih-aktiv-a405>

¹⁴ According to the data of the Ministry of Health of Ukraine



Photo credit:
Anastasiia Vlasova / UNDP
Ukraine

The crisis and the imposed lockdown have had significant negative economic consequences; it caused a reduction in economic activity, hence, in outputs, trade, and, subsequently, household spending. The real GDP in 2020 decreased by 4% compared to 2019. Unemployment and the level of vulnerability have increased across Ukraine, with Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts being the most affected: in 2020, the national unemployment rate constituted 9.5%, compared to 14.9%, 15.4% and 10.7% in Donetsk, Luhansk and Zaporizhzhia oblasts respectively.¹⁵ The combination of a high level of informality, widespread unemployment, low savings rates and strong reliance on remittances highlights the vulnerability of large segments of the society to a prolonged lockdown impacted by economic downturn.

The socio-economic assessment of the impact on businesses and households, conducted by the UN System in Ukraine, showed that women and girls were disproportionately affected by the crisis because of their high exposure to the virus. For example, women account for 82% of the total health and social workers (compared to 70% average worldwide). Moreover, according to the assessment of the COVID-19 pandemic impact on MSMEs in eastern Ukraine, women seem to have been more affected by the economic slowdown resulting from the pandemic. Although, there are sectoral peculiarities, in general, women have more likely been laid off or sent to unpaid/paid leave during the quarantine. The crisis and the lockdown have also led to a spike in domestic violence. The reported cases have increased by 30%, while many more have gone unreported. Gender analysis confirmed the relevance and the negative multiplying effect of the low participation of women, especially women from vulnerable groups, in decision-making at both national and local levels. The vulnerability of internally displaced persons (of which 58% are women) is compounded by pre-existing hardships including lack of affordable accommodation, fewer employment opportunities, hurdles to access social payments, etc. Their living conditions are at risk of further deterioration as a result of the restrictions imposed by the government to fight the spread of the COVID-19.

These pressing challenges are addressed by the project “Strengthening national and local capacities for effective delivery of security, justice and reintegration services in conflict-affected areas of Ukraine.” The Project is implemented in government-controlled areas of Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts, as well as Dnipropetrovsk, Zaporizhzhia and Zhytomyr oblasts.

The Project is integrated into the comprehensive UN Recovery and Peacebuilding Programme (UN RPP), which addresses priority needs in eastern Ukraine following the outbreak of the armed conflict in the spring of 2014. The Programme is intended to strengthen community security and social cohesion, support the economic recovery of conflict-affected communities, and further the implementation of decentralisation and healthcare reforms in government-controlled areas of Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts.

The United Nations Recovery and Peacebuilding Programme (UN RPP) is being implemented by four United Nations agencies: the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the UN Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN Women), the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO).

The Programme is supported by twelve international partners: the European Union, the European Investment Bank, the U.S. Embassy in Ukraine, and the governments of Canada, Denmark, Germany, Japan, the Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Sweden and Switzerland.

¹⁵ <http://www.ukrstat.gov.ua/>

Project's response to COVID-19

The Project initiated its response to the COVID-19 pandemic from the very first days of the crisis, when in March 2020 strict quarantine measures were imposed in the country. To this end, the Project's workplan was revised to allocate resources to meet the urgent needs of people affected by COVID-19 in eastern Ukraine.

Support was rendered to the service providers remaining at the forefront of preventing the spread of the coronavirus disease. The personnel of the State Emergency Service in Donetsk, Luhansk and Zaporizhzhia oblasts have been involved in conducting disinfection measures in public places, work of anti-epidemic commissions, task forces and regional headquarters to combat the spread of coronavirus infection. Police officers have been serving at the checkpoints created on the borders of oblasts, certain raions and cities to control compliance with special quarantine measures and to prevent the spread of the infection between the settlements. Moreover, they have been tasked with monitoring of compliance measures.

To strengthen the capacity of security service providers in eastern Ukraine to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Project provided the SES departments, local firefighting brigades and CSS as well as the departments of National Police and Patrol Police in Donetsk, Luhansk and Zaporizhzhia oblasts with 71 motor-sprayers, 19 firefighting backpacks, 34,500 protection masks 565 respirators, 3,250 pairs of medical gloves, 5,650 pcs of antiseptic gel in sticks, 1,898 bottles of hand disinfectant (or 435,55 litres), 75 kg and 100 litres of surface disinfectants.



SES officers demonstrate the new equipment provided by the Project to enable effective response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Photo credit: SES of Ukraine

Moreover, healthcare facilities, SES and police departments in eastern Ukraine were supported through the provision of 31 containers of concentrated disinfectant for surfaces.

The Project has also transferred video communications equipment (video terminal, monitors, and IP-phones) to the Main Department of SES of Ukraine to equip the meeting room of the State Commission for Technogenic and Environmental Safety and Emergencies and the SES Task Force on COVID-19. The technical assistance provided allowed the SES to conduct its working meetings and conferences online and protect the participants from getting infected with COVID-19.

Overall, 880 litres of disinfectant, 4,000 protection masks and 17,600 pairs of gloves were procured for free legal aid offices and local courts in Donetsk Luhansk and Zaporizhzhia oblasts.

In addition, during the reporting period, 5 CSO's projects and 1 civic mini-initiative, aimed at helping communities in Donetsk, Dnipropetrovsk and Zaporizhzhia oblasts combat and prevent the spread of COVID-19, were supported through the small grants scheme.

Output 1.1.

EARLY WARNING MECHANISMS ARE ENHANCED

Activity 1.1.1. Strengthening the capacity of mechanisms that can be used to provide early warning for security and conflict-related issues

The results of the latest SCORE survey show rather promising data for the further expansion of conflict settlement mechanisms in the communities of Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts, including those located along the “contact line”. According to the SCORE data, the average levels of confidence that people from different groups would hear one’s arguments and be ready to discuss matters is 6.3 for Donetsk Oblast (6.1 for Donetsk Oblast “contact line”) and 5.7 for Luhansk Oblast (5.7 for Luhansk Oblast “contact line”).

As part of its comprehensive work on the development of effective conflict resolution practices for the communities in eastern Ukraine, the Project launched an innovative web-based tool entitled “Geoinformation system to monitor, analyse and evaluate conflicts” (detailed information is provided under Activities 1.2.2 and 1.2.3). The system was established in line with the recommendations of advisory groups on social cohesion and a network of mediators and allows the residents of the conflict-affected regions to submit identified conflict situations through an interactive web platform and seek further resolution. This pioneering solution represents a good example of an early response mechanism to effectively address conflict situations with the support of dedicated mediators and advisors.

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

The proposed pilot model of an early warning system includes a method of mixed analysis, which allows for a systematic collection and analysis of data on the probability of conflicts in pilot communities (external and internal factors of occurrence/suppression/escalation, parties to a conflict, stages of identification, key players involved in conflict resolution, etc.). Various methods and tools are used to achieve the set goals: quantitative analysis based on clearly defined indicators, situation monitoring by a network of external and local experts, analysis of external and internal media, systematic analysis of research papers in clusters of pilot communities, targeted special field research on key topics. The early warning system allows to analyse the existing conflicts and develop recommendations for stabilising the situation and their further management, predicting the dynamics of conflicts and the possibility of their transition to different phases. The pilot model is planned to be operational in September 2021.

The expected results of the pilot project will include:

- a review of the level of risk for conflicts in the target communities (dynamics over the period of piloting);
- a detailed review of the level of risk for identified conflicts by areas, groups and types;
- regular information sharing and reporting – monitoring of the situation on the ground;
- special analytical reports in case of emergency, sharp escalation of the conflict, major changes in the context;

- development of forecasts, specific recommendations, action plans, response options based on the gathered evidence;
- development and testing of realistic scenarios for prompt response, elaboration of prevention action plans;
- self-assessment, analysis of the identified shortcomings in existing models and methods.

Upon identification and testing of realistic scenarios for rapid response, the expansion of geographies of the pilot project and its timeframe will be considered. While implementing the pilot model, the Project will ensure networking among targeted communities, interaction with local public institutions and assessment of the effectiveness of the early response system in order to gather important lessons learned and share experience for further strengthening of the methodology.

Activity 1.1.2. Promote lessons learned from the functioning of early warning mechanisms at the national level

The Project works constantly towards identifying and collecting best practices and successful examples of the implementation of specific initiatives on piloting early warning and response mechanisms. Consequently, raising awareness of the good practices implemented in the east as well as in other oblasts of Ukraine has great potential for replication in other communities. Moreover, inter-municipal communication helps identify more success stories that could be applicable to the Project's target communities. In this regard, regional and national forums represent an effective mechanism of sharing best practices of the successful implementation of various initiatives aimed at reducing community exposure to conflicts and tensions in eastern Ukraine.

Three years in a row the Project has supported conducting annual forums aimed to promote approaches to strengthening community security and social cohesion and sharing best practices and results achieved on the ground. Despite the fact that in 2020 the forum was not organised due to COVID-19 and related restrictions, the Project continued promoting a wider social dialogue on community security and social cohesion issues to further contribute to shaping macro-level policies and programmes.

In particular, 48 Community Security Working Groups now function as grassroots-level dialogue platforms intended to act as early warning mechanisms at the local level. Notably, almost 90% members of the CSWGs strongly believe that their activity contributes to positive changes in their communities. In 2020, a network of CSWGs was established in both Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts to coordinate activities, facilitate the exchange of best practices between the working groups, and provide methodological support. Moreover, 30 gender-responsive community profiles have been developed by the CSWGs on a participatory basis enabling the civil society activists to advocate for and adopt solutions for the most pressing security issues identified in their communities.

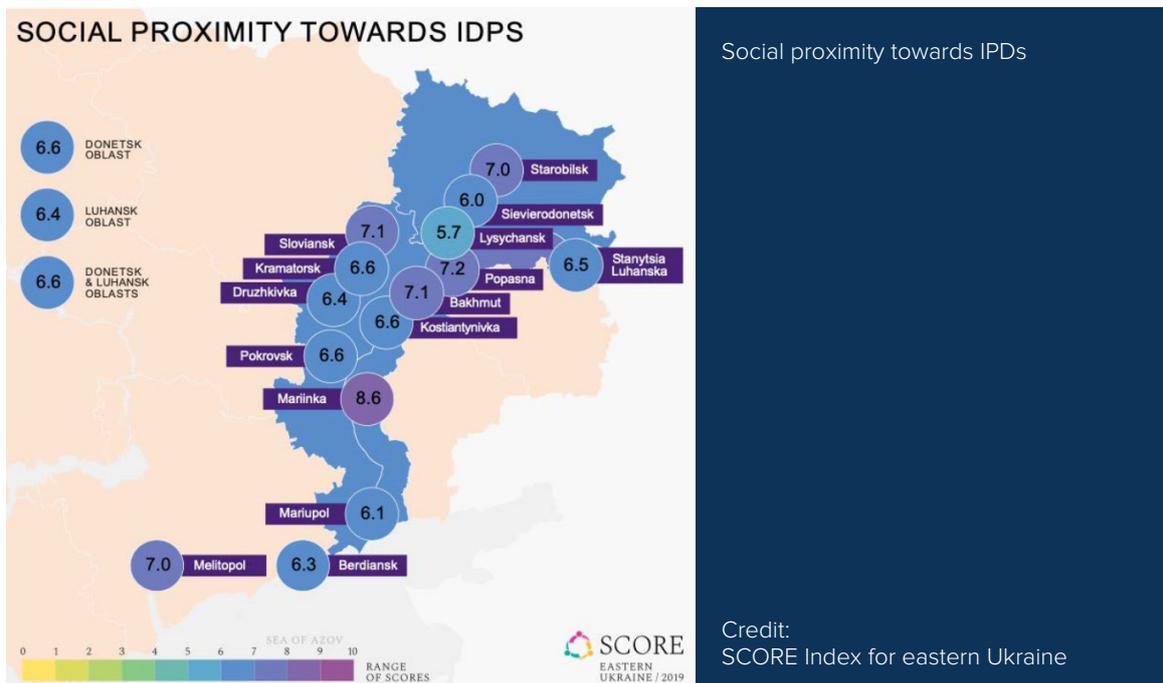
Output 1.2.

ALTERNATIVE CONFLICT RESOLUTION MECHANISMS STRENGTHENED

Activity 1.2.1. Carry out needs assessment on peacebuilding, mediation and alternative dispute resolution/ SCORE

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

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



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

In addition to analytical work, one of the main tasks of the SCORE team is to provide relevant data to all stakeholders such as:

- government authorities and institutions (participation in the development of the Donetsk Oblast Strategy until 2027; providing data for the Ministry for Reintegration of the Temporarily Occupied Territories, etc.);
- partners and donors (SCORE indicators are used as M&E indicators by both UN RPP and the DG East project);
- civic activists and the general public (publications in media, presenting SCORE results at the Investment and Unity Forum in Mariupol, etc.).

For 2021, plans are in place to conduct both the national SCORE, which will be available for each oblast, and another regional SCORE with a particular focus on eastern Ukraine (both GCA and NGCA) and the Sea of Azov region. Overall, the project will consist of approximately 20 thousand interviews which are expected to cover partners' data needs, as well as provide the opportunity to zoom in on a variety of groups, such as persons with disabilities, ATO/JFO ex-combatants, youth and residents of the territories along the "contact line".

In 2020, the research process has inevitably been hindered by the COVID-19 pandemic: coronavirus cases among interviewers, supervisors and employees of the polling agency, along with lockdown restrictions have slowed down the field stage. As of late April 2021, the polling agency is finalising all the components related to data collection, and the data analysis stage is planned to start in late May. The pandemic has also affected data collection in the NGCA – during the previous stage, the SCORE team was able to acquire personal interview data, while this year's checkpoint closure forced the team to switch to phone interviews, making data from the two waves not fully comparable.

During December-January 2021, the SCORE survey for NGCA was conducted using CATI method (phone interviews). Overall, 638 people were interviewed in NGCA of Donetsk and Luhansk Oblast. The survey provided insights into a number of issues, namely the level of access to services, the situation regarding COVID-19 pandemic, use of mass media and digital services and readiness for dialogue.

According to the survey results, the COVID-19 has turned digitisation from a "nice to have" to a "must-have" for many organisations and individuals, forcing them to adapt to a fast-changing environment. The data shows that the large part of the NGCA population (66%) now consume news from the Internet, rather than traditional media (including TV channels). Respondent's age is an important predictor of online media consumption: while 73% of young people (18-35 years) use Internet websites¹⁶ as their main source of information about political affairs, only 50% of the population aged 60 years and older are doing the same. Thus, online social media and Internet news websites can be used as effective communication channels for dialogue narratives and news from the GCA.

Over 20% of the NGCA population experienced mild or severe symptoms associated with COVID-19 during the last year. Noticeably, only 19% of persons with mild symptoms and 29% with severe symptoms actually tested for COVID-19. It might be explained by limited access to testing, low awareness or economic difficulties, but all these potential explanations need to be further investigated and supported with robust data. In general, over 78% of the surveyed population agreed that COVID-19 possess a significant risk to public health in their communities. The share of the NGCA residents, who say they plan to get vaccinated (if a vaccine is provided for free), is about 52%. This proportion is higher among those who believe in vaccines (68% of the total population) and among the elderly. Namely, over 64% of the population aged 60 years and older plan to get a vaccine for free, while only 44% of youth are ready to do the same.

The proportion of the NGCA residents who visited GCA during the year dropped from 61.6% in 2019 to 34.3% in 2020. This can be explained by the closure of EECs and implementation of lockdown

¹⁶ These are news websites, not social media. The latter are used by 59% of the population (85% by the youth aged 18-35 years and 35% by people aged 60 and older).

measures on both sides of the “contact line”. Importantly, over 85% of the NGCA residents, who visited GCA in 2020 to obtain administrative services, were satisfied with the quality-of-service provision.

Over 77% of the NGCA respondents agreed that dialogue with people from the GCA would be mutually beneficial. Even more of them (80.3%) supported the idea that people from the other side of the “contact line” would hear them and be ready for a dialogue. Only 40% of the NGCA population often communicate with people who live in GCA, 41.7% are doing that sometimes, while about 18% do not communicate with them at all.

Activity 1.2.2. Select and train community mediators, and

Activity 1.2.3. Support the development of a platform for mediators in which to exchange best practices

In 2019, UN RPP started piloting the Geoinformation system for conflict monitoring and analysis as a sustainable tool for conflict resolution and prevention. The system allows residents of the conflict-affected region to submit an identified conflict through a dedicated web platform and to seek further resolution. The system introduces clusters of conflict analysts who identify conflicts at the community level, analyse them according to the developed methodology, and add them to the conflict database with geotags; and clusters of conflict mediators who develop interventions and conduct mediation activities upon the consent of the parties.

Since the start of the project, the system has registered 222 potential conflicts in the communities of Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts, out of which 58 were assessed as those that can be settled through mediation and were mapped on the website of the system.¹⁷ Out of this number, 20 conflicts were processed by the conflict mediators who developed intervention plans, communicated with the parties and carried out conflict resolution activities. As a result, 16 conflicts have been successfully settled and 4 are in the process and require interventions on the national level. Notably, most of the conflicts refer to the issues of the capacity-building of local communities, environment, housing and utilities.

At present, 24 conflict analysts (16 women) and 23 mediators (18 women) from Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts are involved in the work of the Geoinformation system. To ensure the effective operation of the system, 18 mediators (14 women) completed a comprehensive training course on the fundamentals of mediation (in total, 90 learning hours), 14 mediators (12 women) were trained to develop advanced mediation skills (90 learning hours) and 24 conflict analysts completed the course entitled “Methods of collecting, analysing and describing conflicts” (24 learning hours). Through the dedicated training programme, the mediators learned to identify various types of conflicts and the specific needs of the parties, design intervention plans, work with the parties to the conflict, facilitate dialogue, as well as increased their ability to work under stressful conditions. The conflict analysts learned the methodology of collecting data about conflicts, working with sources of information, verifying information, analysing conflict complexity and mapping the conflicts.

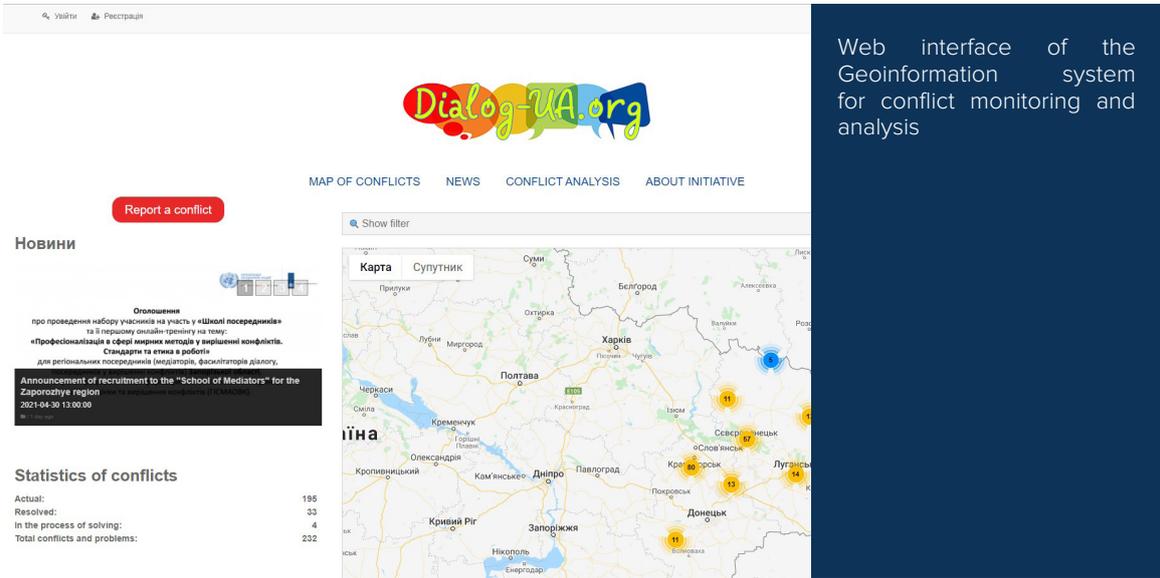
During the pilot, the Geoinformation system showed its efficiency in identifying and mediating community conflicts in eastern Ukraine and requires further support to multiply the best practices and ensure sustainability. The Project will continue supporting the system by building the capacity of the team members, organising dialogues and showcasing positive examples of conflict resolution at the regional and national levels. The end result of the pilot initiative would be a functioning network of certified conflict analysts and community mediators who could address the needs of the communities in the conflict cases.

Moreover, the Project has supported the creation of mediation rooms at the centres of social services in the 4 communities of Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts¹⁸. As an initial step, the centres of social services underwent a mediation capacity building programme for the specialists of the centres who are working with vulnerable groups. Among the 9 centres, that participated in the capacity building programme, 4

¹⁷ <https://dialog-ua.org/>

¹⁸ Dobropillia, Lyman, Sloviansk, Troitske.

were selected to create mediation rooms, based on their performance. The specialists of the centres received necessary IT equipment, furniture and construction materials to complete refurbishment and organise their activities in a more efficient manner. The mediation rooms will enable the social workers to work more efficiently with vulnerable groups, troubled families and youth to provide social protection and to resolve both family and community disputes.



Web interface of the Geoinformation system for conflict monitoring and analysis

Activity 1.2.4. Pilot other forms of alternative dispute resolution

The procedure of an alternative dispute resolution in court – the dispute resolution with the participation of a judge – was introduced to the national legislation in late 2017. The government and the Project took steps to increase the capacity of judges for this procedure, however lack of systematic measures to enhance the competencies and knowledge about this method eliminates the use of ADR during the trial. To address this issue, the Project jointly with the National School of Judges of Ukraine (NSJU) organised a series of online training sessions on judicial mediation. These activities were tailored to create a knowledge base for the forthcoming Training of Trainers in mediation course which is planned to be held in 2021. The webinars were attended by 26 (65% women) NSJU representatives who will be further engaged in training of judges, including those who serve in eastern Ukraine. Specifically, during the learning sessions, the participants gained theoretical knowledge and practical skills in such issues as the mediation procedure, its phases, negotiations specifics, conflict factors and psychological aspects of working with the parties.



Judge Forum in Sviatohirsk, Donetsk Oblast, in 2019, prior to the COVID-19 outbreak.

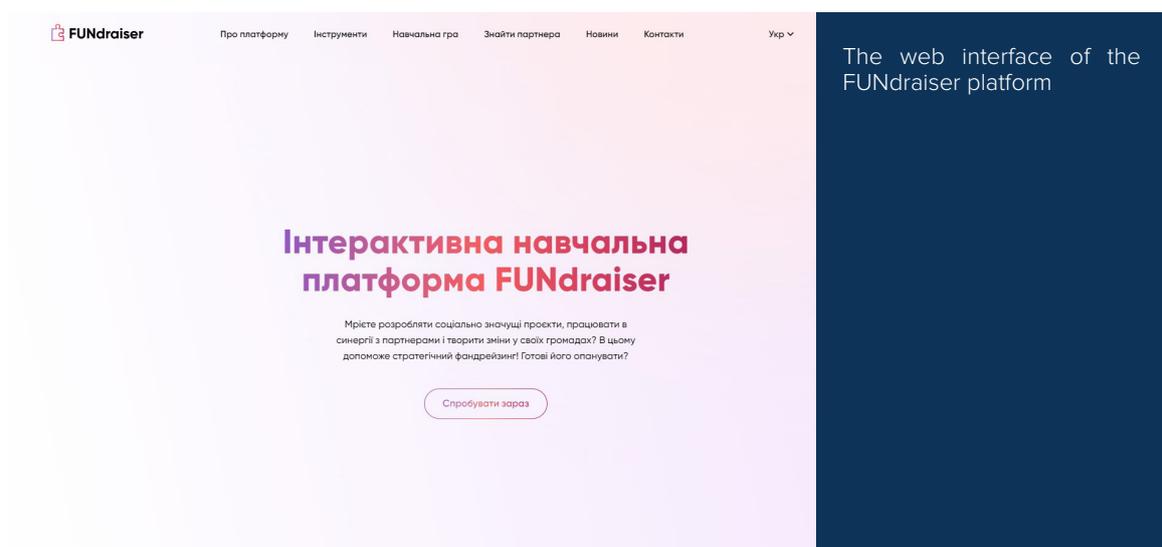
Photo credit: Artem Hetman / UNDP Ukraine

The Project is supporting the engagement of persons with disabilities in the peacebuilding activities through the creation of a network of inclusive advisors in Luhansk Oblast. The network consists of 15 activists (13 women) who are either members of organisations of persons with disabilities or are willing to advocate for the rights of persons with disabilities and inclusive society values in their communities. The members of the network regularly participate in the conflict resolution activities related to the rights of persons with disabilities, provide recommendations to the local self-government bodies on the universal design principles, monitor local policies on social protection, etc. Importantly, the network of inclusive advisors contributed to the development of the new Regional Target Programme “Turbota”, aimed at extending social and legal support to vulnerable groups, including persons with disabilities. Moreover, substantial recommendations were provided to the Regional Action Plans on the implementation of the National Action Plan on UNSCR 1325 Women, Peace and Security. Capacities of the network will be further developed through a comprehensive training course entitled “School of inclusive advisors”.

Activity 1.2.5. Strengthen engagement of youth through innovative peacebuilding initiatives

Youth plays a crucial role in promoting peacebuilding, community security and driving sustainable development at the local level. Today, young people in the conflict-affected regions of eastern Ukraine are still underrepresented in the processes of decision making due to the lack of capacity and relevant knowledge. According to UNDP’s survey, conducted in the summer of 2020, the COVID-19 pandemic negatively affected youth involvement in civic life. The share of those who became more active (7.3 %) is less than those who stated their civic engagement lowered (12.6 %). At the same time, the trend of declining civic activity among young people is more related to the quarantine restrictions rather than to declining interest in community life.¹⁹ Therefore, it is essential to develop new digital solutions that will help young people increase their capacities and skills to implement their community-based initiatives.

During the reporting year, the Project took notable steps towards the empowerment of young people in implementing and promoting a network of peacebuilding initiatives in the conflict-affected areas of eastern Ukraine. An innovative online platform “FUNdraiser” for the youth²⁰ from the Project’s target regions has been launched, based on an edutainment technique – a combination of education with entertainment²¹. This platform is expected to help young people build fundraising strategies to implement their initiatives related to community security and social cohesion, as well as contribute to connectivity between youth and local stakeholders.



¹⁷ How youth lives in Ukraine during COVID-19, UNDP, 2020

¹⁸ This activity is co-funded by the Government of Denmark

¹⁹ <https://fundraiser.games/>

The platform contains a set of game tools and over 120 useful educational and informational resources for young activists, youth organisations and other stakeholders, and is designed to reach the following objectives:

- to create an online educational environment to build the capacity of youth to elaborate their community projects, raise resources for their implementation, build partnerships at the local level and sustain positive results;
- to provide users with interactive ready-to-use toolkits, such as fundraising strategy template, sustainability assessment form, project budget, project monitoring templates, etc.;
- to facilitate collaboration among youth-led and youth-serving organisations as well as individual young activists and CSWGs to plan, raise resources and implement community-based initiatives.

During the reporting period, the Project has also engaged 27 active young people (16 girls) from 6 communities in Donetsk, Luhansk and Zhytomyr oblasts and helped develop their capacities in innovation and communication through online training activities and working with mentors. The participants learned necessary skills, from problem analysis to problem solving, project planning and effective communication with different stakeholders. As a result, 6 youth groups were created (1 in each community) to work together on identifying security issues in their communities and further development of solutions to strengthen personal and community security. Notably, several teams participated in Hack for locals 2.0 hackathon to present their innovative projects, sharing their ideas and experience with other participants.



“A network of “Ambassadors of Peace”, comprised of 73 (69 women) active citizens, mostly teachers, youth NGOs, school administrators, is actively functioning in the communities of Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts.

Photo credit:
Oleksandr Simonenko / UNDP Ukraine

The Project is further contributing to the prevention of conflict and sustaining peace by engaging conflict-affected young people in local educational and capacity-building initiatives aimed at increasing their knowledge of conflict management and civic activism. A network of “Ambassadors of Peace”, comprised of 73 (69 women) active citizens, mostly teachers, youth NGOs, school administrators, is actively functioning in the communities of Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts. The ambassadors promote among community members the understanding and the application of non-violent communication methods, principles upholding human rights, gender equality, building of an inclusive, tolerant and non-discriminatory society through interactive educational events, sport and cultural activities. Another network, supported by the Project, is a coaching team of youth activists who are engaged in promoting the principles of tolerance and anti-discrimination in communities of eastern Ukraine. To ensure the sustainability of the work of the two networks, the NGOs “Ambassadors of Peace” and “Laboratory of Development of Luhansk Oblast” were officially established. Further, the representatives of these NGOs, with the support from the Project, have developed innovative educational tools which work both in online and offline modes. Among such initiatives are the “Ambassadors of Peace Laboratory: Conflict Transformation” and “Laboratory of Tolerance” educational campaigns. The purpose of the campaigns is to foster peacebuilding and improve conflict prevention mechanisms by conveying the importance of shaping an inclusive and tolerant society, and of education of tolerance, dialogue and mutual understanding among the younger generation. During the reporting period, the Project held a

total of 32 events engaging 566 young people (351 girls) interested in civic activism and enhancing social cohesion in local communities. The activities of both labs were conducted in an entertaining interactive manner with elements of gamification and other innovative methods, and increased participants' understanding and awareness of the issues of non-violent communication, dialogue facilitation, inclusion, volunteering, development of tolerance, promoting sustainable development and SDGs, gender equality, climate change prevention and other issues. The results of the conducted campaign revealed that there is a high demand for such activities, especially during the lockdown. Moreover, the experience of the educational labs was showcased at various online events such as the National Forum "Living on the Border of Peace. Civic Initiatives Change the Lives of Ukrainian Communities", 11-12 November 2020, the Conference on Peace Education Opportunities to Support Reform "New Ukrainian School", 4 December 2020, and Interregional Forum "Life and World without Limits", 4-5 December 2020. The lab concept was also presented to methodologists and teachers at schools, vocational education institutions and universities, as well as to civic activists, as an effective educational and social cohesion instrument for youth²².

²² This activity is co-funded by the EU and the governments of Denmark, Sweden and Switzerland.

Output 1.3.

PILOT INITIATIVES FOR SUPPORTING VULNERABLE POPULATIONS SUFFERING ADVERSE EFFECTS FROM THE ARMED CONFLICT ARE LAUNCHED

Activity 1.3.1. Conducting a survey of damage to and destruction of homes and private property, and

Activity 1.3.2. Providing support to prospective claimants of compensation for damage to and destruction of property

The armed conflict in Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts led to multiple damages to infrastructure on both sides of the “contact line”, as well as to the loss or damage to civilian property caused by military use. Currently, there is no legal procedure for the documentation and compensation connected with the use of private real estate of civilians for military purposes. Another challenge is the absence of the relevant judicial practice in such disputes.

As part of the response to this situation, the Project conducted a comprehensive study of the issues of compensation to civilians for the use of real estate property by military forces and law enforcement bodies during armed conflicts (Annex 4). The study provides an analysis of the national legislation and international humanitarian law, the available judicial practice in Ukraine and the practice of the European Court of Human Rights. The analysis was also supported through field work in communities of Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts, situated near the “contact line”. As a result of a thorough analysis, the following core conclusions were drawn regarding the issue of military use of civilian property in eastern Ukraine:

- The military do not enter into lease and any other agreements regarding the use of civilian property, which complicates the process of obtaining compensation by the owners for such use of property and damage caused.
- The use of real estate, as well as furniture and appliances often result in property damage.
- The military use coal and firewood for heating which may incur additional losses to the owners.
- The military do not pay for utilities (water supply, gas, electricity) during the use of housing which may result in debts for the services that the civilians did not actually use.
- The presence of the military forces in houses makes these premises a target for possible shelling, therefore, the probability of damage to these objects grows.
- Explosive remnants of war that remain in the adjacent territories pose a danger to both the citizens and their property.

Output 1.3. Pilot initiatives for supporting vulnerable populations suffering adverse effects from the armed conflict are launched

To resolve the above-mentioned issues, the study provided a set of recommendations, which foresee the introduction of certain changes to the legislation, and include the following important steps:

1. To provide a procedure for establishing the fact of military use of private property.
2. To ensure recording of the information on the property being used for military purposes (address and description of the objects, the term of use, name of the owner, etc.).
3. To ensure the rights of the property owners, such as the right to be informed about the use of property, the right to clarify the procedure for estimating the value of compensation; the right to choose between monetary compensation and its alternatives; the right to appeal against a certain amount of compensation or violation of other rights provided by the relevant legislation.
4. To provide for the monetary compensation and its alternatives for the use of the property and damage incurred. Such options may include provision of subsidies for the payment of utilities, education allowance for the property owners and their family members, opportunity to purchase subsidised housing or obtain soft loans, provision of other optional benefits the cost of which is equivalent to the losses incurred by the property owners.
5. To establish a clear and transparent mechanism for calculating losses incurred by the owners in connection with the use of their property for military purposes.
6. To maintain communication with the property owners. This function can be performed by the local authorities to inform the citizens of the use of their property for military purposes and to determine the amount of compensation as well as clarify the compensation procedure and the rights of the owner related to such compensation.
7. To consider introduction of administrative liability of the military for non-notification of the local authorities about the fact of using a property for military purposes.
8. To ensure exemption from court fees for the property owners for initiating legal proceedings regarding the protection of their rights.

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

As a next step, the Project has supported the initiative aimed to develop two alternative mechanisms for protecting the rights of the property owners. The first mechanism foresees the development of an administrative procedure of compensation for the damage caused to the civilians whose property was used for military purposes during the conflict. The second one implies initiation of positive case law on the issue (so called strategic litigation). As an outcome, it is planned to obtain an effective and efficient mechanism of compensation for the use of private property for military purposes, which will not only improve the human rights situation in Ukraine but also improve the attitude of the local residents towards the military and therefore decrease potential societal tensions. Currently, trials have been initiated in 5 cases regarding the usage and damage of civilian property (3 of them are related to women-owners). The initiative also includes an advocacy component, in particular, working with the involved parliamentary committees and the ministries.

Activity 1.3.3. Assessment of vulnerable groups at local level

Reintegration of ex-combatants into society is often difficult as the ex-combatants and their families are frequently left without livelihoods or support networks during the challenging transition to civilian life. Even though the reintegration of ex-combatants is part of the national policy and often requires long-term external assistance, their reintegration within the host community is a key component for community stabilisation. Thus, reintegration support can be done at a personal level, at a community level and by combining both. At the same time, there is a lack of understanding of communities' resources, accessibility and availability of reintegration support for the ATO and JFO ex-combatants and their families.

In light of this, the Project conducted research on community-based reintegration of the ATO and JFO

Output 1.3. Pilot initiatives for supporting vulnerable populations suffering adverse effects from the armed conflict are launched

ex-combatants in the target oblasts (Dnipropetrovsk, Donetsk, Luhansk and Zhytomyr oblasts). The study aimed at assessing the needs of the ex-combatants and their families for social, economic, medical and psychological support as well as examining the process of community-based reintegration from different perspectives – ex-combatants’, their families’/spouses’ and from a community perspective.



Ex-combatant Oleksandr Karabinenko with his family, after obtaining a decision on the payment of monetary compensation for the purchase of housing. Oleksandr is one of 31,000 ex-combatants, who are queuing for apartments. Read more in the “Reporters” longread “Worthy of their own land”, supported as a part of the Project’s activities.

Photo credit: Danylo Pavlov / The Reporters

The number of ATO/JFO ex-combatants in the 4 target oblasts²³:

31,708

Dnipropetrovsk Oblast



30,546
men



1,162
women

20,068

Donetsk Oblast



16,582
men



3,484
women

20,046

Zhytomyr Oblast



19,127
men



919
women

12,802

Luhansk Oblast



11,008
men



1,794
women

The assessment provided several important insights, which should be taken into consideration, while planning further reintegration interventions to support the ATO and JFO ex-combatants in Ukraine:

- The current programmes for the ex-combatants’ support are not comprehensive; the needs of the ex-combatants are not fully addressed due to insufficient financing from the state and local budgets; the current legislation does not entirely meet the needs of the ex-combatants and their families.

²³ According to the data of the Ministry of Veterans Affairs reported that as of the beginning of July 2020.

Output 1.3. Pilot initiatives for supporting vulnerable populations suffering adverse effects from the armed conflict are launched

- The study revealed the absence of quality rehabilitation programmes for the ex-combatants during the early period right after the demobilisation when the ex-combatants and their families are most vulnerable.
- There is a need to work closely with the community heads regarding the accessibility and availability of social protection services for the ex-combatants and their family members.
- The successful adjustment to civilian life critically depends on employment opportunities available at the local level. It was stressed that the ex-combatants with disabilities and women find it even harder to find a job after their return.
- For successful reintegration, it is critically important to support the rehabilitation of the ex-combatants together with their families. Also, it is important to support the ex-combatants' family members during the rehabilitation period and train them on how to live with veterans after the return.
- According to the research, displaced ex-combatants and those from the rural areas, as well as bereaved families are considered among the most vulnerable groups.

Based on the results of the study, recommendations were prepared to both national and local authorities in the following areas:

- In the short-term perspective – to launch a unified state register of the ex-combatants; to introduce a mandatory 6-month adaptation programme for the ex-combatants demobilising from the JFO which will include medical, psychological, housing and employment support; to facilitate establishment of local platforms for meeting and experience exchange among the ex-combatants; to ensure rendering of quality administrative services for the ex-combatants.
- In the mid-term perspective – to ensure the availability of targeted psychological support to the ex-combatants; to launch an informational system in each oblast to advise on the available support to the ex-combatants (medical, educational, psychological, training, etc.) and organisations offering such services; to ensure the rights of the ex-combatants to work are guaranteed by law; to engage the ex-combatants' organisations into local decision-making and implementation of local civic initiatives.
- In the long-term perspective – to conduct a nationwide study of the problems of reintegration of the ex-combatants at the local level; to facilitate increase of the public support for the reintegration policies to ensure comprehensive and efficient support is provided to the ex-combatants; to introduce an index to measure the reintegration of ATO and JFO ex-combatants into local communities.

The findings of the research and the recommendations elaborated will be further presented and discussed with all the stakeholders at the beginning of 2021.

Activity 1.3.4. Supporting the needs of vulnerable groups in transforming conflicts and receiving effective services through pilot initiatives

As part of a comprehensive effort to support ex-combatants to reintegrate into their communities, the Project has launched a peer-support programme to help the ex-combatants build links with the local authorities, law enforcement bodies and other stakeholders. The pilot 3-month mentorship programme was set to facilitate networking of active veterans across the country, empower ex-combatants to excel in their professional development and establish meaningful community participation. The programme engaged 28 mentees (2 women) and 5 mentors (1 woman) from 5 target oblasts to mobilise the ex-combatants, share and exchange their positive experience of reintegration²⁴. Further, the programme's participants worked on the development of their initiatives aimed at enhancing community security and supporting reintegration of the ex-combatants. As a result, 20 projects aimed at facilitating reintegration practices were developed and presented during an online ideathon "Veterandvizh" on 10 October 2020, and 10 of them received grant support for their implementation. The projects were focused on various issues, identified by the ex-combatants at the community level, such as facilitating work with the youth,

²⁴ The programme can be accessed using the link: <https://itbro.pro/mentor-for-veteran/>

Output 1.3. Pilot initiatives for supporting vulnerable populations suffering adverse effects from the armed conflict are launched

providing support to the most vulnerable ex-combatants, improving the ex-combatants' public image in the community and conducting peer-to-peer support meetings for the ex-combatants.²⁵ Importantly, the ideathon helped not only to receive funding support for the ex-combatants' projects implementation but also boosted the networking among ex-combatants to jointly identify and propose effective solutions to the most pressing issues of ATO/JFO ex-combatants' reintegration.²⁶

**5 МЕНТОРІВ
ТА 28 ПРОТЕЖЕ**

“Peer-to-Peer” Project, to mentor the support to ex-combatants

ВЕТЕРАНДВІЖ

Online ideathon “VeteranDvizh” 2020

According to the Main Personnel Directorate of the General Staff of the Armed Forces of Ukraine, there are currently over 27,000 women serving in the army, out of which 949 are senior officers. As of today, 9,916 women have already received a status of an ATO/JFO ex-combatant, and upon the military service, the women face specific challenges with regard to their reintegration into civilian life. The processes of medical and psychological rehabilitation of women ex-combatants should take place taking into account their specific needs. However, no separate algorithms for the reintegration of women and men have yet been developed in Ukraine. With this goal in view, a 7-day online training programme was launched to strengthen the capacities of psychologists, psychotherapists and doctors who work with women ex-combatants in military hospitals. In total, 28 training sessions were conducted gathering some 234 (184 women) participants from Donetsk, Luhansk, Dnipropetrovsk and Zhytomyr oblasts. The following issues were covered by the learning programme:

1. Psychophysiological and medical and psychological rehabilitation of women ex-combatants.
2. Recommended list of measures for the rehabilitation of women ex-combatants.

²⁵ Example of social projects development: <https://youtu.be/IAvqebbbBFIM>

²⁶ Videos about the ideathon winners can be accessed at: <https://cutt.ly/LvQgOar>

Output 1.3. Pilot initiatives for supporting vulnerable populations suffering adverse effects from the armed conflict are launched

3. A woman in military service and after the military service: possible gender-related risks.
4. Introduction to non-violent communication in the family.
5. Psychological component of the complex rehabilitation for women ex-combatants with reproductive disorders.
6. Standards for diagnostics and work with conflict-affected women.
7. Sexual dysfunction in the families of women ex-combatants: possible causes and ways of overcoming.

In 2021, the Project will continue enhancing the capacities of the military hospitals and psychologists working with women ex-combatants in the 5 target regions.

Furthermore, in order to determine the current state of the provision of medical and psychological services to ex-combatants, a study was carried out and, as a follow-up, a roadmap for medical and psychological rehabilitation of ex-combatants was developed. The roadmap contains a list of recommendations for improving medical and psychological rehabilitation and subsequent reintegration of the ex-combatants at the national level, namely:

- creation of a unified register of the ex-combatants, integrated into the national DIIA system;
- digitalisation of services for the ex-combatants;
- conducting an audit of the system of provision of medical and psychological assistance to the ex-combatants;
- introduction of international standards for the provision of medical and psychological assistance to the ex-combatants;
- creation of centres for psychological assistance for the ex-combatants at the regional and local levels.



The first adaptive climbing wall opens at the Donbas State Pedagogical University. The construction and further equipment of the inclusive sports facility was carried out by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in Ukraine under the UN Recovery and Peacebuilding Programme with the financial support of the government of the Kingdom of the Netherlands.

Photo credit:
Artem Hetman / UNDP Ukraine

The Project also works towards addressing the need of persons with disabilities in the target regions. This vulnerable group constitute a significant share of the population in eastern Ukraine: almost 1 in 10 residents (including children) in GCA of Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts has a disability status²⁷. Rehabilitation and social engagement of children with special educational needs in eastern Ukraine remains one of the challenges for the local communities. According to the research of inclusive education conducted by the UN RPP in 2020, the lack of professional specialists and equipment are recognised among the key issues in the region²⁸. In order to address these issues, the Project initiated development and construction of an adaptive climbing wall for physical therapy and rehabilitation of the children with disabilities in Donetsk Oblast. The climbing wall was installed in Sloviansk, in the premises of the sports centre of Donbas State Pedagogical University. The facility brings together specialists of the local inclusive resource centre, the department of special education of the university and the

²⁷ According to the State Statistics Service of Ukraine.

²⁸ The study on the inclusive education in Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts is available at: <https://cutt.ly/wvQngsv>

Output 1.3. Pilot initiatives for supporting vulnerable populations suffering adverse effects from the armed conflict are launched

regional climbing association. Notably, adaptive climbing is considered to be one of the most effective practices for the rehabilitation and socialisation of people with disabilities and is actively used in many countries around the world. The climbing programmes are adapted to the needs of specific audiences and are overseen by teachers and specialists in rehabilitation and physical therapy. Currently, the inclusive resource centre organises daily trainings for up to 30 children with autism, light sensory and musculoskeletal disorders. Due to the COVID-19 restrictions, however, the trainings are limited to avoid the spread of the disease.



The persons with disabilities are among the most isolated and lacking social interaction, due to the poor infrastructure inclusivity, but also exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020. Less social contacts for persons with disabilities (both offline and online) has a negative effect on their psychological well-being and potential for civic activity. Many of the community security problems, including making public places safe, inclusive and accessible for all, need complex innovative solutions. This requires not just using technological innovation but also better coordination and joint efforts of all stakeholders. To further promote information and communication technologies that will offer innovative solutions to boost social cohesion and improve local safety and security, especially for the most vulnerable groups, the online hackathon “Hack for Locals 2.0” was launched with the support from the Project²⁹. The event was focused on such thematic areas as digital security and digital literacy, inclusive security services, coordination between security service providers and communities, crisis response and early-warning systems and evidence-based community security. Prior to the event, 3 webinars on inclusive services, open data and digitalisation of communities were delivered as part of the preparatory work. The “Hack for Locals 2.0: Safer Communities”³⁰ was held during 30 October – 1 November 2020 in partnership with the Ministry of Digital Transformation of Ukraine as well as Donetsk and Luhansk Oblast State Administrations. Over 3 days more than 360 participants from all over Ukraine offered a variety of ideas, from a range of inclusive projects to support people with disabilities, promote waste management and support physical and mental wellbeing, to projects on coordinated safety services, evacuation plan development and training and alerting the population during emergencies. As a result of extensive work and fruitful discussions, the three winning projects of this year’s hackathon were selected to receive financial and mentoring support to implement their innovative ideas in the communities of Ukraine:

- The “Don’t burn” team won the first place by proposing a project for timely and effective fire response. The team suggested creating a GIS platform for analysis, monitoring and rapid response to fires, using NASA satellite data and data on fires and potentially dangerous fire situations reported by residents of Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts via a Telegram-bot.
- The second-place “Ward” team developed a prototype mobile application for recognising objects and the space around them. In addition, the application will be able to read out texts and scan QR-codes and is programmed to detect motion, specifically when a phone is dropped, to send a SOS-signal

²⁹ The hackathon was conducted with joint support from the European Union and the governments of Canada, Denmark, the Netherlands, Sweden and Switzerland.

³⁰ The official website of the hackathon: <https://hackforlocals.org/>

Output 1.3. Pilot initiatives for supporting vulnerable populations suffering adverse effects from the armed conflict are launched

to a pre-selected number. This application will help persons with disabilities and elderly to navigate more comfortably, and other users will be able to quickly report a sudden danger thanks to a user-friendly interface.

- The third-place “Drop Table Team” invented a street lighting control system “ULight”, which allows street lighting to be controlled remotely: the app can be used to monitor lighting and report lighting faults, as well as promptly notify community members of unauthorised connections to street lighting networks.

Furthermore, the team “OTG bot”, who developed a telegram bot to streamline communication between local authorities and citizens, was awarded an additional grant, and the teams “CityGuard,” “IncNet” and “Micromobility Safety School” will receive mentorship support from the UN RPP. In addition, the “IncNet” and “Ward” teams received special award from the Luhansk Association of Organisations of Persons with Disabilities.

Activity 1.3.5. Raise awareness at the national level about lessons learned from local support to vulnerable groups

The commitment to building of a tolerant and inclusive society and enhancing community development based on the principles of gender equality and human rights-based approach remains a key priority for the Project in eastern Ukraine. In this regard, the Project constantly supports the sharing of best practices and lessons learned to promote the principles of inclusiveness and equality, especially taking into account the needs and rights of the vulnerable groups.

For this purpose, the annual Interregional Forum “Life without Barriers” was held online during 4-5 December 2020 to discuss the development of inclusion and accessibility in eastern Ukraine, the challenges faced by persons with disabilities, and the elaboration of joint solutions to overcome them. The annual forum aimed to draw public attention to the problems of persons with disabilities, especially during the COVID-19 pandemic, and together with national and international partners find effective solutions for building inclusive infrastructure in communities of Ukraine. The event gathered some 1,300 representatives of the Donetsk and Luhansk oblast administrations, NGOs, international organisations, social, cultural and educational institutions, media as well as active youth and volunteers working in the field of social policy and inclusion. The forum provided a unique opportunity to summarise the results achieved so far in addressing the pressing needs of the persons with disabilities in eastern Ukraine, present video stories showcasing best practices of community work, share the lessons learned and discuss the plans for the future work in this direction. Particular attention was paid to the specifics of building inclusion in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic, and the possible ways for further cooperation between communities and local authorities.



In addition, the Project will present the key findings and recommendations of the study on community-based reintegration of ex-combatants and the assessment on social reintegration of ex-combatants in local communities to all stakeholders during the National Forum, which is planned for the end of 2021.

Output 1.4.

IMPROVED EFFICIENCY AND ACCOUNTABILITY IN COURTS, PROSECUTION OFFICES, AND POLICE IN RESOLVING CONFLICTS GENERALLY, AND THOSE EMANATING FROM THE ARMED CONFLICT IN PARTICULAR

Activity 1.4.1. Capacity building and the introduction of best practices to increase efficiency of courts and the justice system

The vast majority of the residents of Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts are aware of the availability of government-appointed (free legal aid) lawyers. The figures illustrate that almost four-fifths (79.3%) of the population believe that the government would definitely or likely step in to assign a lawyer to those that cannot afford one, with a further 72.1% believing that this lawyer would be free of charge (compared to 39.2% of awareness about free legal aid services in 2018). Still, residents of rural areas rely more on local administrations rather than on the legal aid offices and other legal service providers, as they have fewer options than urban residents when it comes to seeking legal advice. To improve this situation, the Project, jointly with the Coordination Centre for Legal Aid Provision and UNHCR, supported the establishment of a network of free legal aid advisors (paralegals) in eastern Ukraine. These paralegals will serve as connectors between the FLAS and the community members providing basic legal advice services and information on how to reach the system. A total of 20 FLAS advisers (13 volunteers in Donetsk and 7 in Luhansk oblasts) will work along the “contact line” and in remote settlements. To enhance the capacities of the network of paralegals, the Project has supplied them with the necessary equipment (bicycles, e-bags with laptops, printers, scanners, etc.) and conducted a series of training sessions. The training programme covered such issues as the overview of the FLAS, communication and conflict prevention as well as methods of identification and response to gender-based violence.

One of the objectives of the Project is to improve the efficiency of the justice system at the local level and increase public trust in justice institutions. Effective communication with media and civil society plays a crucial role in reaching this goal. Each local court has an appointed judge for sharing information with the media (so-called judge-speaker). At the same time, professional lawyers lack respective communication skills to effectively present information and interact with the media. Moreover, the national legal education programme does not contain learning and enhancing communication skills. For this reason, the Project will deliver training sessions on the effective communication for judges of the local courts. To date, the training programme and the corresponding materials are developed, however,

Output 1.4. Improved efficiency and accountability in courts, prosecution offices, and police in resolving conflicts generally, and those emanating from the armed conflict in particular

the activities were postponed due to the quarantine restrictions as this kind of training exercise is highly interactive and thus requires in-person attendance.

The Project is working extensively towards improving the capacity of local judicial institutions to provide adequate and timely services to the conflict-affected population, including IDPs. One of the negative impacts of the armed conflict in eastern Ukraine is a lack of access to the archives and judicial cases which remained in the NGCA of both Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts. This situation creates delays in the resolution of cases in courts and worsens the situation with already limited access to justice for local citizens. In this respect, the Project undertook a study on the accessibility of archives and court cases remaining in NGCA of Donetsk and Luhansk Oblasts. The study offers a unique glimpse into the current situation with the availability of archives and court cases and how the absence of these documents affects the operations of the relevant state authorities as well as access to justice for the conflict-affected people. The assessment covered the issues related to the availability and accessibility of the judicial cases and the archives of the Pension Fund, the State Migration Service, the State Labour Service and the State Register of Civil Acts left in the NGCA. The final report presents the background of the problem, the existing practices for overcoming it and suggestions for improving the situation with access to archives and court cases (Annex 5). Furthermore, based on the findings and recommendations of the research, the Project has launched a pilot initiative in local courts to support digitalisation of the available judicial materials, which will allow to access required documents in case the archived papers will be rendered inaccessible.

Activity 1.4.2. Supporting monitoring of court proceedings resulting from the armed conflict

Most people are not familiar with the act of court proceedings and, as a result, cannot determine whether the judicial decision was just and fair. This challenge leads to poor trust in the judiciary system. As evidenced in practice, among the most resonant judicial cases are those connected to the ongoing armed conflict in eastern Ukraine. However, parties to a trial may take to unjustified or unreasonable use of legal proceedings that will affect the speed and quality of the judicial process. To assess these issues, develop respective recommendations and implement them to streamline the judicial process, the Project supported an initiative related to monitoring of court proceedings. Within this initiative, the law students and teachers from the two universities in Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts are strengthening their capacities in monitoring trials related to the armed conflict. Within this activity, teachers and students of higher education institutions will be involved in monitoring trials in three jurisdictions – civil, criminal and administrative. Based on the results of such monitoring, up-to-date information regarding compliance with the standards of a fair trial will be collected, main problems in ensuring the right to a fair trial identified and recommendations for overcoming such issues will be developed. Moreover, it is expected that the trial monitoring tool will be further integrated into the educational process and the creation of a student monitoring network.

As of today, 28 (21 women) teachers and students have studied the methodology for monitoring of court proceedings and increased their knowledge in analysing the specifics of monitoring of various trial types, the forms of abuse of procedural rights, the principles of work and responsibilities of an observer in court hearings, etc. Importantly, all the acquired skills will be used by the participants during the monitoring of trials. In addition, special attention has been paid to the specifics of conducting interviews with participants in trials, as well as monitoring media publications on the trials related to the armed conflict in eastern Ukraine.

Output 1.5.

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

During the reporting period, the Project continued the implementation of the small grants scheme as an effective instrument for engagement and empowerment of the local communities. Based on the results of the selection procedure, the implementation of 22 access to justice and conflict transformation projects was supported, including 17 grants specifically involving ATO/JFO ex-combatants to increase their participation in the local community development and dialogue processes (Annex 8 – List of the supported projects within the SGF). To date, 14 out of 22 projects have been completed covering directly more than 18,500 beneficiaries (14% women).



Forum on somatic and psycho-somatic methods integration into Ukrainian system of ex-combatants' rehabilitation.

Photo credit:
NGO "Development Foundation"

As a part of comprehensive support to ATO/JFO ex-combatants' reintegration, the Project has supported the NGO "Development Foundation" in the development of a software product "Psychologist package" which encompasses a comprehensive set of methodological materials to be used for rendering psychosocial assistance. The software represents an application that is hosted on a single server and contains password-protected access for the psychosocial support providers. The application allows to provide psychological consulting both in online and offline modes with further automatic updates to the programme upon the Internet connection availability, which is important while visiting clients in remote and rural settlements. Importantly, the developed application will also allow to conduct a study on the quality of the psychological assistance provided by the specialists and identify existing shortcomings in this sphere. This part of the project is being implemented in partnership with Wesleyan University Quantitative Analysis Centre that will conduct all processing of depersonalised research data

after clients' consent, which fully meets international criteria for interdisciplinary research. During the reporting period, 47 (32 women) psychological service providers took part in the 8-day ToT programme on psychological and somatic rehabilitation tools and provided their first feedback regarding the convenience and ergonomics of the proposed application. Based on the results of the capacity-building activities, 34 psychologists have been selected for further psychosocial support services provision.

While Dnipropetrovsk and Zhytomyr oblasts are represented by the highest number of ATO/JFO ex-combatants across Ukraine, many veteran CSOs do not have enough capacity and experience to implement their initiatives using grant support. However, the ex-combatants with active civic position better understand the needs of the local veterans. In this regard, the instrument of mini-initiatives can become a useful tool to mobilise communities and address the existing issues.³¹ During the reporting period, the Project supported 12 veterans' mini-initiatives to facilitate ex-combatants' reintegration into the local communities. More specifically, 7 mini-initiatives tackled the issues related to community security (more details are available under Output 2.4) and another 5 were focused on conflict transformation in the target communities, particularly covering work with the youth, equipping local spaces for veterans, using different types of therapies for veterans and their families, and improving the image of a veteran in the community (Annex 9 – List of the supported mini-initiatives within the SGF). For example, in Zhytomyr Oblast, the Project has supported a local ex-combatant who organises outdoor camping and hiking activities for the local youth and children. Moreover, the initiative group has also expanded local tourist routes and enrolled more participants from the nearby villages. Overall, some 3,870 members of local communities (54% women) directly benefited from the implementation of these micro-initiatives.

Additionally, a dedicated organisation "Sotsioconsulting" was supported within the Small Grants Fund to conduct monitoring of the implementation of the UN RPP grant programme in Donetsk, Luhansk, Dnipropetrovsk, Zaporizhzhia and Zhytomyr oblasts. During the first implementation period, the project has developed M&E methodology and tools, mobilised and trained a pool of regional monitors. According to mid-term results, 34 small grant projects have been monitored through site visits and provided with relevant recommendations on possible ways of their improvement, taking into account the strengths and weaknesses of the supported NGOs. Due to implementation delays caused by the COVID-19 outbreak and related quarantine measures, the monitoring project is expected to be completed by May 2021.

³¹ Mini initiatives are often used to mobilise communities where the public sector is underrepresented or when an initiative group is formed and works on its challenge; however, it has not yet reached the stage of creating a CSO.

Output 2.1.

INCREASED AWARENESS OF PUBLIC ATTITUDES, HUMAN RIGHTS REDRESS MECHANISMS, AND SECURITY RISKS BY POLICYMAKERS, THE PUBLIC, AND PARTICULARLY THE YOUTH

Activity 2.1.1. Measure the perception of local communities of key security and justice issues, along with their experiences in accessing justice, their security concerns and their knowledge of how to obtain redress

Since 2017, the UN RPP has commissioned 3 surveys of citizens' knowledge of, attitudes toward and experience with justice and security issues in the conflict-affected communities in eastern Ukraine. The latest survey "Security and Justice in Ukraine: Perspectives from Communities in Three Oblasts" has been completed in 2020 with a special geographical focus on the conflict-affected areas of Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts as well in the Programme's target locations in Zaporizhzhia Oblast. The purpose of the survey was to assess the changes that took place since 2018 and to identify trends in this direction.

"Security and Justice in Ukraine: Perspectives from Communities in Three Oblasts 2019—2020" Report.



Output 2.1. Increased awareness of public attitudes, human rights redress mechanisms, and security risks by policymakers, the public, and particularly the youth

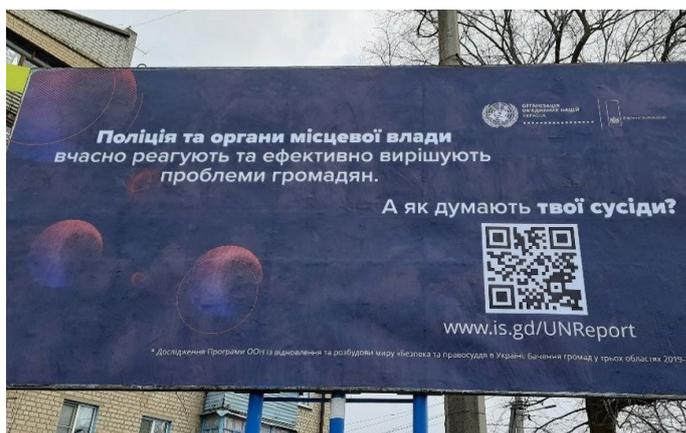
The UN RPP currently commissions a fourth wave of the study to observe the dynamics and key developments since the last assessment. Another focus of the survey will be on the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on different spheres of life – community development, human security, access to justice – especially for the representatives of vulnerable groups. It is planned to conduct a representative household survey of nearly 5,700 respondents in Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts (GCA) as well as in Zaporizhzhia and Kherson oblasts. The Assessment will encompass a representative cross-section of the residents of the 4 oblasts, including both urban and rural communities, with a particular focus on women, youth, elderly, persons with disabilities, persons living in areas close to the “contact line”, minorities (religious, ethnic, or linguistic), IDPs, the LGBTIQ+ community, and other vulnerable population (victims of gender-based and domestic violence, people living with HIV, etc.). Separate focus will be put on certain perceptions of people living in non-government-controlled areas of Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts through an online survey.

The annual Security and Justice Survey, supported by the Project, is one of the key monitoring instruments and analytical tools for the whole Programme, along with the SCORE and AGORA surveys. It provides unique data (at relevant levels of disaggregation) that allow to track the progress of the key national reforms in the conflict-affected regions, as well as to assess the impact of different development interventions related to reintegration, community security, rule of law and human rights.

Despite the fact that the fourth wave of the Security and Justice Survey was postponed to 2021 due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Project continuously collects and analyses the data on people’s perception of security and engagement through the regular meetings of the CSWGs in all target communities of Donetsk, Luhansk, Zaporizhzhia and Zhytomyr oblasts. Based on the recent survey results, over 83.7% of the members of CSWGs feel that their voices are considered in improving community security and 88.5% of them are convinced that the working groups are making positive change in their communities, as well as contributing to gender equality, youth engagement and inclusivity objectives at the local level. Importantly, over 85% of the respondents confirmed that CSWGs effectively adapted to remote work during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Activity 2.1.2. Undertake awareness-raising campaign to focus on security challenges and redress mechanisms

The survey “Security and Justice in Ukraine: Perspectives from Communities in Three Oblasts”, conducted in 2019, displayed different levels of the citizens’ awareness and sense of security with respect to geographical location – rural and urban settlements, between the oblasts and according to the proximity to the “contact line”. The results regarding the awareness of free legal aid service, for example, show that in Zaporizhzhia Oblast almost twice as many people know about the availability of this legal service (29.6%) compared to Donetsk (15.1%) and Luhansk (17.7 %) oblasts. Another example illustrates that the residents of communities in close proximity to the “contact line” stress their concern about “hard” security issues (mines and shelling) more frequently than those living in communities further away.



Project developed and launched an awareness-raising campaign with the focus on the rural areas and communities located close to the “contact line”. In total, 73 billboards showcasing the results of the Security and Justice Survey were placed in almost 30 settlements of Donetsk, Luhansk and Zaporizhzhia oblasts.

Photo credit:
Hanna Storozhenko / UNDP Ukraine

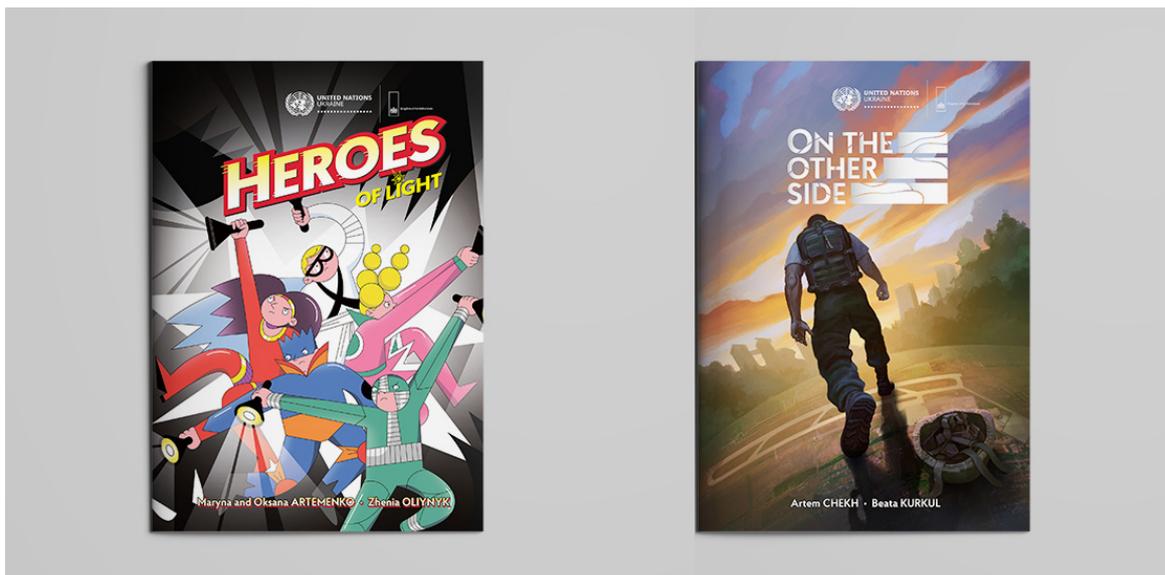
Output 2.1. Increased awareness of public attitudes, human rights redress mechanisms, and security risks by policymakers, the public, and particularly the youth

Taking into account the results of the survey, the Project developed and launched an awareness-raising campaign with the focus on the rural areas and communities located close to the “contact line”. In total, 73 billboards showcasing the results of the Security and Justice Survey were placed in almost 30 settlements of Donetsk, Luhansk and Zaporizhzhia oblasts. The messages included the survey results related to the issues of access to justice, especially for vulnerable groups, and the effectiveness of the work of the police and local authorities. All the billboards had QR-codes so that anyone interested in the issue could easily access the survey report. The information campaign reached more than 10,000 people, living in the Project’s target communities, who had the opportunity to familiarise themselves with the results of the survey following the links provided on the billboards.

Moreover, to share the results of the Security and Justice Survey with the relevant stakeholders as well as to ensure the advocacy follow-up from the partners, the Project conducted an online presentation of the report. The online event was attended by 25 representatives of the State Court Administration, the National Police, the State Emergency Service, UNFPA, UNHCR, the Embassies of Denmark, the Netherlands, Sweden and Switzerland in Ukraine, and partner NGOs working in the sphere of community security and social cohesion. Through it, the main findings of the study and detailed recommendations on future steps were discussed.

The Project is also working towards identifying and developing positive narratives to raise awareness about the challenges faced by the conflict-affected people, namely youth, ex-combatants and their families, as well as draw attention to the problem of domestic violence, especially in the context of the quarantine restrictions. To this end, a series of comic books was developed as an innovative storytelling instrument to help visualise and communicate the stories of vulnerable and conflict-affected people. Easy to perceive, these visual stories will help raise awareness and sensitise the public at large on the most pressing social issues:

- The two comic books – “The New Beginning” and “Heroes of Light”³² – are dedicated to the issue of domestic violence against children of different age. These stories tell in an accessible form about the signs of violence and ways to resolve the situation. Both books offer ways to address difficult situations and equip the reader with the necessary information about where to seek for help.
- The other two comic books – “The Sounds of Peace” and “On the Other Side” – are dedicated to the reintegration of the ex-combatants after returning to civilian life, as well as to the young people living in conflict-affected regions, especially near the “contact line”, and adapting to new realities.



The developed comic books will be further presented and disseminated in both printed and online versions and promoted through the UNDP’s and partner websites.

³² The comic books are available at: “The New Beginning” - <https://cutt.ly/DvGN3oC>, “Heroes of Light” – <https://cutt.ly/2vGMqVS>, “The Sounds of Peace” - <https://cutt.ly/yvGNgmM>, “On the Other Side”- <https://cutt.ly/lvGNbEK>

Output 2.2.

IMPROVED CAPACITIES AND PRACTICES OF LAW ENFORCEMENT AND LOCAL AUTHORITY SERVICE PROVIDERS TO CARRY OUT COMMUNITY POLICING AND DISCHARGE THEIR RESPONSIBILITIES TO CITIZENS

Activity 2.2.1. Training law enforcement agencies on community policing, in line with international human rights law, international humanitarian law, and the principles and norms of gender equality

Creating a safe environment and developing a capable security sector is the basis for achieving positive changes in any community and planning for future development. In 2020, the UN RPP supported the opening of child-friendly rooms at the police departments in Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts. The so-called “green rooms” are specially designed and equipped premises for interviewing children who are witnesses and victims of crimes, including domestic violence, as well as those who have committed violence. A child who has witnessed violence can be re-victimised during its questioning, therefore such interviews should be conducted in a child-friendly environment and under conditions minimising and preventing re-victimisation of children, taking into account their individual psychological and psychophysiological characteristics. In this regard, relevant capacity-building activities should be held for the police officers in line with the opening of such child-friendly rooms.

With this goal in view, to support the operation of the “green rooms”, the three 5-day online training sessions entitled “Conducting a child-friendly interviewing: psychological and legal features that must be taken into account by police officers” were conducted for 47 (25 women) police officers of juvenile prevention and investigators of the Main Departments of National Police in Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts³³. The training programme was developed based on methodological recommendations for interviewing children who have witnessed and/or became victims as well as committed violence and

³³ 31 police officers in Donetsk Oblast and 16 – in Luhansk Oblast

Output 2.2. Improved capacities and practices of law enforcement and local authority service providers to carry out community policing and discharge their responsibilities to citizens

were conducted by an experienced trainer with the involvement of a psychologist.

As a result, the police officers, who are involved in the process of interviewing children, raised their awareness in this area and received recommendations for effective communication with children, following the principle of «do not harm». In addition, the participants highlighted the need to develop practical skills in interviewing children, working out the basics of understanding the consequences of violence against children, identifying their needs, etc. Therefore, the Project will continue supporting activities aimed at developing child-friendly justice and strengthening the capacity of the police in this area. In 2021, it is planned to conduct offline training sessions on the concept of a “green room” for the police officers in Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts.



The psychological support room, established as part of a project implemented by NGO “Toloka” under the Project.

Photo credit:
Artem Hetman / UNDP in Ukraine

Activity 2.2.2. Build the capacities of law enforcement agencies to carry out community policing through additional methods

According to Article 12 of the Law of Ukraine “On Emergency Medical Care”, the police and the rescuers of the State Emergency Service are obliged to provide first aid to persons at the scene of the accident. The capacity-building of the police officers and the SES rescuers in mastering these skills is crucial as very often they are the first who arrive at the scene of an accident where injured people require emergency medical aid before the medical professionals arrive. In eastern Ukraine, the lack of certified trainers and specialised equipment in the training centres has been acknowledged as one of the key impediments to acquiring necessary skills and professional development of the police and SES personnel. This was specifically evidenced by the assessment of the technical and institutional capacity of local service providers in the security sector – the main departments of the State Emergency Service, the National Police and patrol police in Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts, conducted by the UN RPP in 2020.³⁴ According to this study, both the police and SES require modernisation and expansion of their facilities and equipment to provide quality and timely services to community residents, especially those living along the “contact line.”

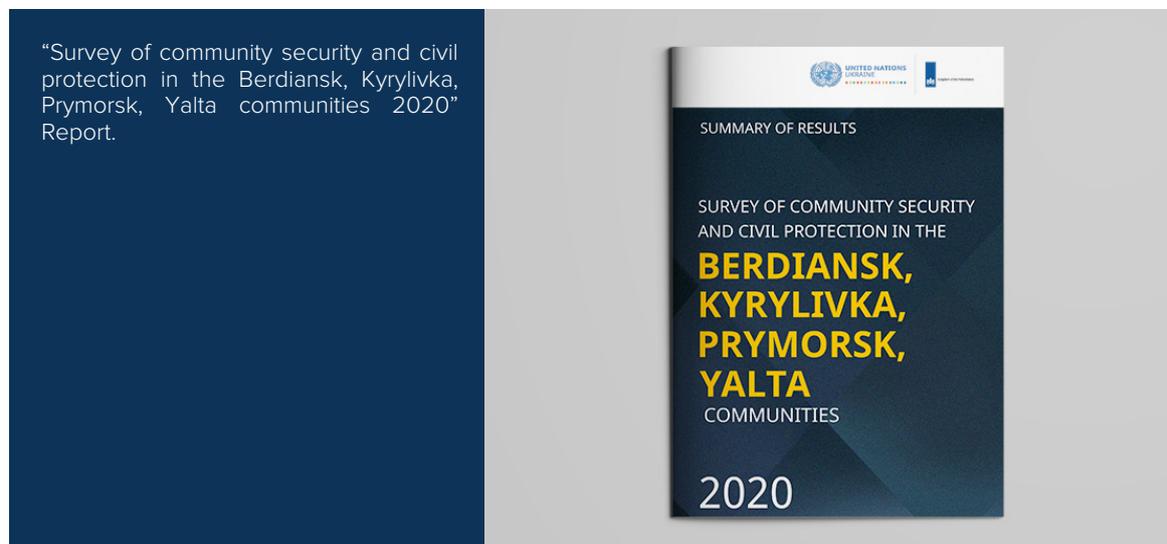
Moreover, in 2018, the National Police established a new unit in Donetsk Oblast – the tourist police – comprised of 26 tourist police officers (12 women) engaged in coastal patrolling in Donetsk Oblast. The tourist flow to the region has been growing steadily, thus the security and safety of tourists and residents is one of the main priorities for the local communities.

³⁴ Assessment of the institutional capacity of the Main Department of the National Police of Ukraine in Donetsk Oblast; Assessment of the institutional capacity of the Main Department of the State Emergency Service of Ukraine in Donetsk Oblast; Assessment of the institutional capacity of the Main Department of the State Emergency Service of Ukraine in Luhansk Oblast; Assessment of the institutional capacity of the Department of Patrol Police of Ukraine in Luhansk Oblast; Assessment of the institutional capacity of the Department of Patrol Police of Ukraine in Donetsk Oblast; Assessment of the institutional capacity of the Main Department of the National Police of Ukraine in Luhansk Oblast.

Output 2.2. Improved capacities and practices of law enforcement and local authority service providers to carry out community policing and discharge their responsibilities to citizens

Towards this goal, in October 2020, the Project organised a series of 7-day training sessions on emergency medical care for 26 tourist police officers (12 women) and 16 SES rescuers (3 women) from Donetsk Oblast. The training activities were conducted in accordance with the training programme approved by the Ministry of Health³⁵ and consisted of the 2 modules: Basic Life Support (8 learning hours) and First Responder at the Scene (48 learning hours).³⁶ More specifically, the course “First Responder at the Scene” includes the fundamentals of human anatomy and physiology and the basic skills needed to assess the emergency scene and provide first aid under extreme conditions, before the arrival of professional medical care. During the second course on the fundamentals of life support the police officers and rescuers mastered a basic resuscitation algorithm using an automatic external defibrillator by one or more rescuers. Equipped with the necessary knowledge, the police officers and rescuers can now act as first aid instructors in the training centres of the National Police and SES in Donetsk Oblast. Additionally, each participant of the training programme received a set of medical and training equipment to conduct first aid training for the police and SES personnel in order to increase the effectiveness of their work with the citizens.

To properly address existing security concerns and the capacity-building needs of security providers in ways corresponding to the specifics of the target regions, the Project initiated a comprehensive assessment of community security and civil protection in the settlements in Donetsk and Zaporizhzhia oblasts located along the coast of the Sea of Azov. The research was conducted in Berdiansk, Prymorsk and Kyrylivka communities in Zaporizhzhia Oblast as well as in settlements of the Yalta urban village council in Donetsk Oblast. The communities were carefully selected in line with the Project’s objectives, focusing both on rural and urban areas with significantly differing population sizes, in order to obtain an in-depth overview of security issues specific to these areas and individual communities. The study included various security aspects of the target communities, such as the assessment of safety issues from the perspective of community members, the institutional capacity of local security providers to address specific security challenges, evaluation of community policing initiatives, etc. (Annex 6).



The assessment results demonstrate that the perception of community safety varies depending on the settlement type: the larger the settlement is, the less proportion of population consider it to be safe. Thus, the sense of security is higher in rural areas, even though they have lower police presence than in urban areas. At the same time, the perception of security is much lower in Yalta community than in the communities of Zaporizhzhia oblasts, which can be explained by the proximity to the “contact line”. While all the communities face some specific security challenges, the main security concerns are the same in all four communities, namely theft, fraud, unemployment and poor financial standing. The study also revealed that most residents are not well informed about community policing project and its advantages for the local communities. The level of trust in legal proceedings and law enforcement

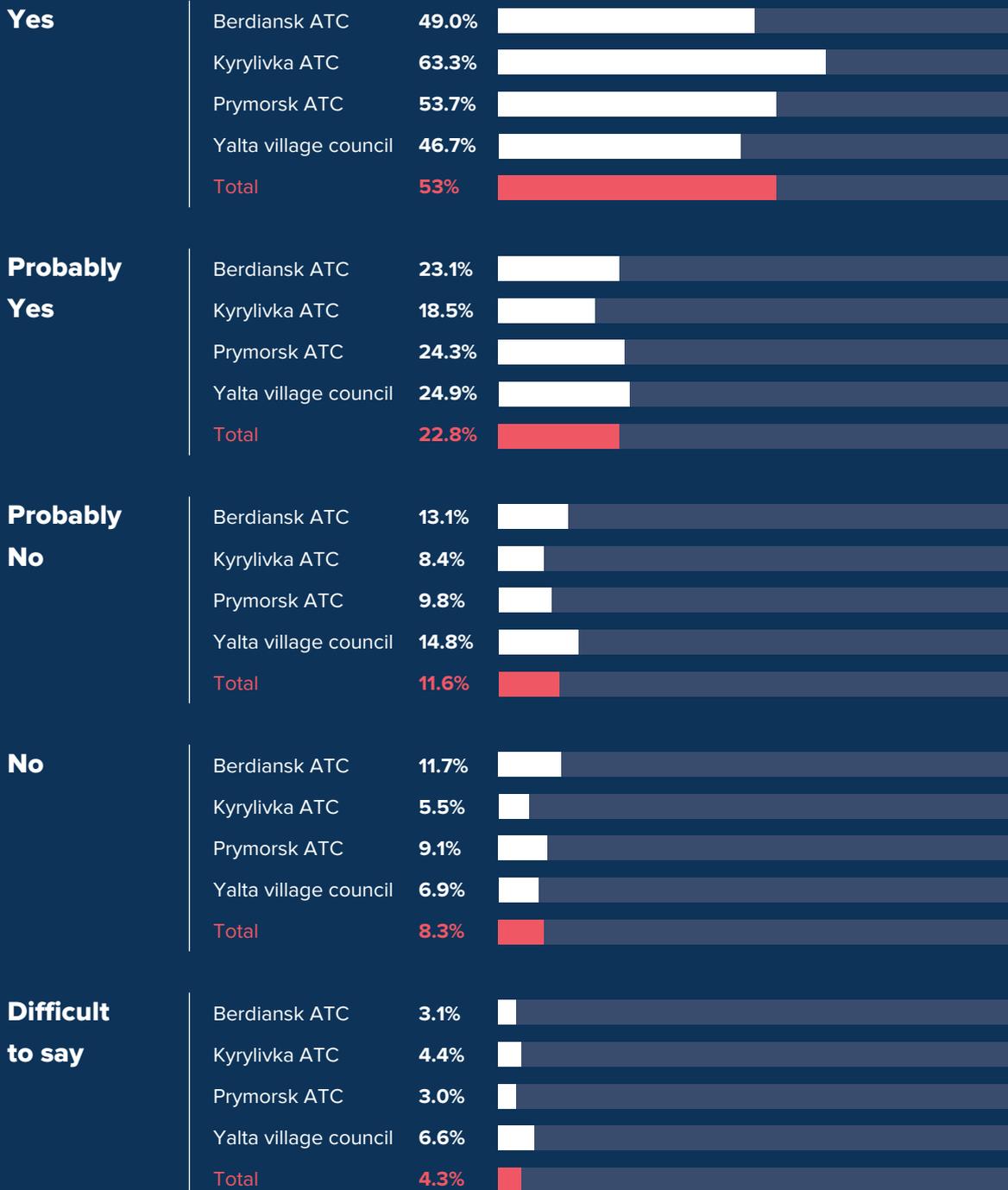
³⁵ Order No 346 of 29 March 2017 “On improving learning on providing medical care by people without medical education”.

³⁶ <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ahPTWGalluE>

Output 2.2. Improved capacities and practices of law enforcement and local authority service providers to carry out community policing and discharge their responsibilities to citizens

authorities in the communities surveyed is also low. The police and the SES units are understaffed in some of the surveyed locations and require technical support for the effective fulfilment of their mandate. In addition, a majority of the local population does not consider their communities to be cohesive. This issue is particularly pressing for Berdiansk and Prymorsk communities.

Would you describe your community as safe?



Based on the findings and recommendations of the assessment, it is planned to strengthen the capacities of the security providers in Donetsk and Zaporizhzhia oblasts through:

Output 2.2. Improved capacities and practices of law enforcement and local authority service providers to carry out community policing and discharge their responsibilities to citizens

- supporting community policing programmes both in rural and urban communities to address the most pressing security problems for the territorial communities;
- rendering technical assistance to the local security providers;
- conducting activities aimed at setting up coordination between the local security providers and the community members for mutual planning and responding to local security challenges.

Activity 2.2.3. Support the development and implementation of local security plans for local authorities

A wide variety of risks can decrease the sense of security, especially in the context of the ongoing armed conflict. The specifics and complexity of risks in the conflict-affected regions require a clearly defined approach to risk and threat management. Furthermore, in light of the decentralisation reform, most of the functions related to ensuring public safety and security in territorial communities are transferred to the local self-government bodies. In parallel, the SES units, being a part of the central executive authorities, continue operating at the local level. This creates a specific situation that requires a clear division of roles and responsibilities as well as, importantly, a robust coordination mechanism between all relevant actors to manage risks and threats at all levels.

Towards this purpose, the Project carried out a Risk and Threats Management Coordination Assessment, aimed at providing recommendations to develop a viable and effective risk management coordination mechanism in eastern Ukraine. As an initial step, the national civil protection system was examined against best practices employed around the world, and the ways to improve the risk and threat coordination system were suggested to meet the needs of the communities in Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts. Based on this assessment, an analytical report, analysing the available mechanism of risk and threat management coordination in Ukraine, in general, and in the conflict-affected regions, in particular, has been prepared (Annex 7). The findings of the assessment revealed weak coordination of and the division of roles and responsibilities in the risk and threat management in the country and in Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts. The Joint Operational Staff of the Armed Forces is responsible for the management of all threats to national security within the area of operation, i.e., all threats related to the armed conflict in eastern Ukraine. The decision-making for the response to various risks, excluding military ones, are under the responsibility of the Commission on Technogenic and Environmental Safety and Emergency Situation, chaired by the representatives of the respective local authorities. The actual response operations are coordinated by the SES regional representatives, while the mandate for public security and civil protection at the regional level is equally shared between the SES and the local authorities. Yet, the residents of Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts experience specific challenges and are exposed to certain risks caused by the armed conflict. Such an approach to risk assessment and coordination between the institutions is largely based on their willingness to address the situation, rather than the clear decision-making mechanisms. This creates a gap in effective decision-making and implementation in eastern Ukraine.

To address this gap, a comprehensive intervention is needed, including the development of a coordination mechanism between the local government and the law enforcement bodies. This mechanism will help assess the various risks in the conflict-affected area, build capacity of national and local authorities on risk and threat assessment, creation of a multiple risk assessment mechanism and enhancing the development of community security passports.

Based on the provided recommendations, the Project will support the development of the interagency coordination mechanism, tailored to the local context, to be piloted in selected target communities. Using this mechanism, the Project will carry out security risk and threat assessment in the selected communities and provide recommendations on process improvement, to be further implemented in other communities in eastern Ukraine.

Output 2.3.

BROADER AND MORE EFFECTIVE APPLICATION OF MECHANISMS FOR COORDINATING BETWEEN CITIZENS, LAW ENFORCEMENT BODIES, LOCAL AUTHORITIES AND OTHER STAKEHOLDERS TO PROMOTE COMMUNITY SECURITY

Activity 2.3.1. Build the capacities of Community Security Working Groups and support their functioning and

Activity 2.3.3. Promote lessons learned from the functioning of CSWGs at the national level

Civic engagement is an effective mechanism for advocating for citizens' needs and contributing to peacebuilding and the social and economic development of local communities. The situation in eastern Ukraine with regard to civic activism is far from meeting the demands of a robust democratic society. According to the findings of the 2019 SCORE survey, levels of active citizenship and civic engagement remained low, with an average score of 3.7 in Donetsk Oblast and 4.6 in Luhansk Oblast (on a 10-point scale). An insufficiently developed culture of community engagement and low participation in the decision-making process hampers both the building of trust-based relationships between citizens and community leaders, and effective local planning and development. The decentralisation process makes sense only if the community is willing and able to take responsibility for further actions.

Building on the successful work of the existing 30 Community Security Working Groups (CSWGs), which have proved to be an effective mechanism in discussing and resolving local security problems, the Programme facilitated the establishment of 9 new CSWGs in Zaporizhzhia Oblast (Azov Sea coast)³⁷, 7 CSWGs in Zhytomyr Oblast³⁸ as well as one new CSWG in Donetsk Oblast (Avdiivka) and one in Luhansk Oblast (Triokhizbenka). During the reporting period, these 48 CSWGs served as a dialogue platform to

³⁷ Melitopol, Novensk TC (Melitopol raion), Semenivka TC (Melitopol raion), Berdiansk, Pryazovsk TC, Berdiansk raion, Prymorsk raion, Yakymivka TC, Kyrylivka TC.

³⁸ Baranivka, Chervone, Nova Borova, Novohrad-Volynskiy, Semenivka, Vysoke, Zhytomyr.

Output 2.3. Broader and more effective application of mechanisms for coordinating between citizens, law enforcement bodies, local authorities and other stakeholders to promote community security

build trust and enhance social cohesion, coordinate the community security activities of all stakeholders, advocate for and empower vulnerable groups in the communities, fundraise for the implementation of security initiatives, as well as develop leadership among active community members. Currently, 920 (64% women) representatives of the local authorities and self-government bodies, community service providers, NGOs and community leaders, representatives of education, culture, social services as well as private sector participate actively in the regular meetings of the working groups. Importantly, the CSWGs do not just function as open dialogue platforms for the citizens, local authorities and security providers, but are also becoming an advisory body that allows community decisions to be implemented as part of the local policy documents.



Moreover, a network of CSWGs has also been established in Donetsk, Luhansk and Zaporizhzhia oblasts to facilitate dialogue and exchange best practices between the working groups, which also contributed to the strengthening of leadership potential in these communities. Further, it is planned to create an effective system for monitoring and disseminating best practices in the networks of CSWGs, as well as to develop effective mechanisms to ensure their sustainability, taking into account the specifics of each community and the networks as a whole.

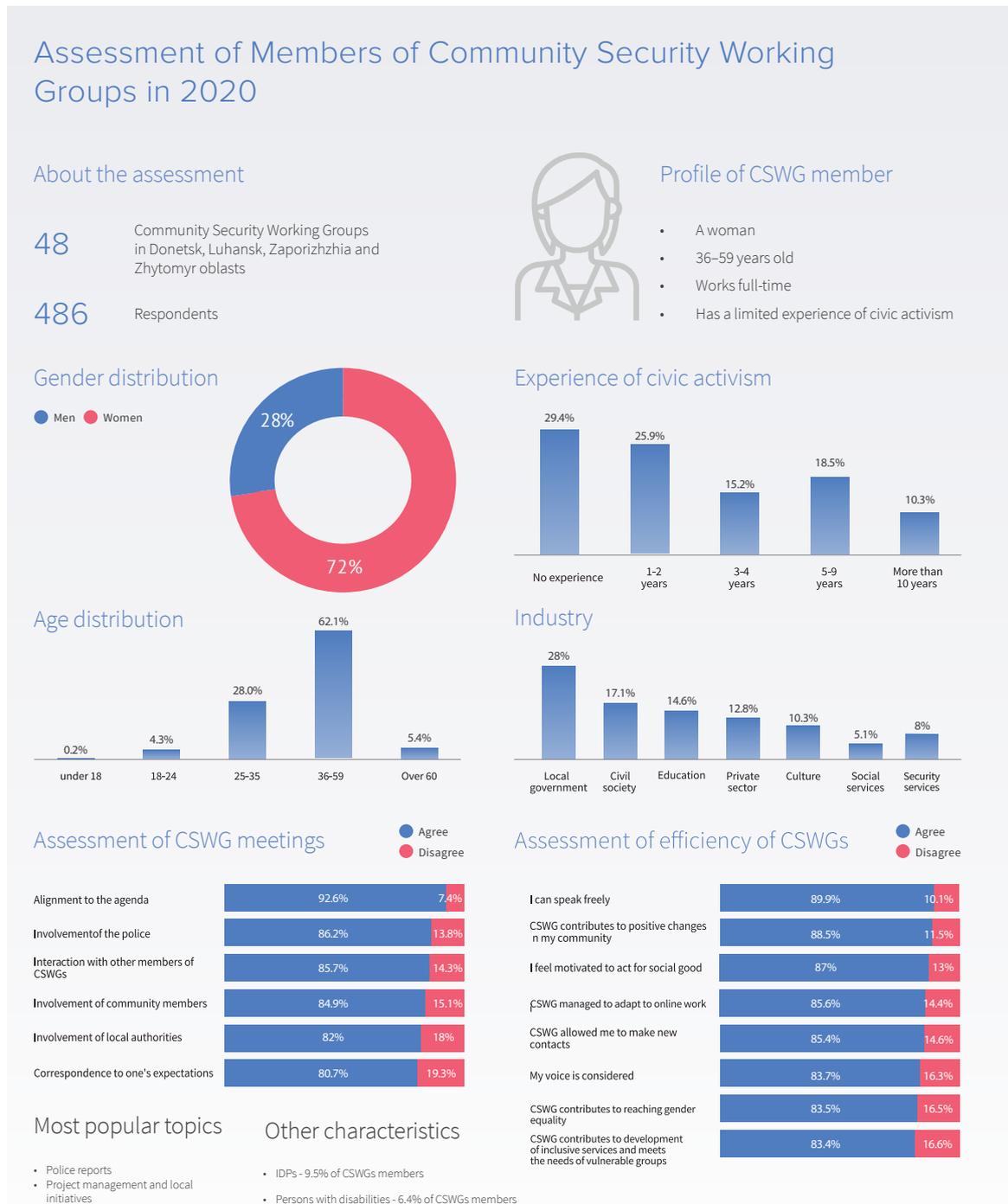
The reporting period was marked by the successful application of the 30 community profiles developed by the CSWGs of Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts, to advocate for solutions to security issues identified in their communities. Developed on a participatory basis, the community profiles provided detailed information on the quality of services in the community, urgent security issues and the level of social cohesion, and enabled community members, jointly with local authorities, law enforcement, bodies and emergency services, to respond to the most pressing security issues in each community. As a result, in Vuhledar (Donetsk Oblast), the Police Department, SES and the City Council launched a “Safe City Programme” that envisaged a set of measures aimed at increasing the level of security in the settlement, among which was the installation of equipment to connect the video cameras present in the city. Another successful example included the implementation of a number of projects by Popasna community (Luhansk Oblast) and namely the installation of street lighting, the construction of a sidewalk for the safety of schoolchildren, and the opening of a public space for young people in the city. Acknowledging this impactful effect of community profiling, the Programme started to develop 12 new community profiles³⁹ in the target communities of Zaporizhzhia oblast and in two communities of Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts, with the aim of identifying community security and social cohesion assets and challenges.

As a next stage, the development of a website has been initiated to present the achievements and the best practices of community profiling to a wider audience. The website will provide statistics on the social, economic, civil and community security spheres, the results of a public opinion survey on social, legal and security services, the identified security threats, proposed initiatives and results mapping of the Project’s target communities in the east. Moreover, the platform will include useful information on community mobilisation methodology, step-by-step guidance on establishing a CSWG, interviews and feedback from CSWG participants, and community profiling success stories. By sharing the benefits

³⁹ In Zaporizhzhia Oblast an additional profile will be developed for Osypenko TC (Berdiansk raion)

Output 2.3. Broader and more effective application of mechanisms for coordinating between citizens, law enforcement bodies, local authorities and other stakeholders to promote community security

and best practices of community mobilisation, joint analyses of security issues and community policing via a dedicated web platform, the Project will promote its approach to community security and social cohesion, which could be successfully replicated throughout the country. In addition, it is planned to present the best practices and achievements of the CSWG activity during the National Forum, which is scheduled for the end of 2021, providing quarantine restrictions will be lifted.



Moreover, in light of the COVID-19 quarantine measures, the Project has been actively exploring and supporting remote ways of cooperation within the target communities. However, some of the CSWGs

Output 2.3. Broader and more effective application of mechanisms for coordinating between citizens, law enforcement bodies, local authorities and other stakeholders to promote community security

of Donetsk, Luhansk and Zhytomyr oblasts did not have necessary equipment to organise the meetings of the working groups online. To support further work of the CSWGs, the Project transferred 38 sets of video conferencing equipment for CSWGs in the target locations. As a result, since the beginning of the quarantine, the CSWG meetings have been held online, to continue the work on identifying and addressing security problems, including those related to COVID-19, and plan the implementation of further community initiatives. Notably, with all the required equipment in place, none of the CSWGs has interrupted its operation due to the quarantine restrictions.

Activity 2.3.2. Provide support to ex-combatants to reintegrate into their communities and build links with local authorities, law enforcement bodies and other stakeholders

Psychological rehabilitation of the ATO/JFO ex-combatants is an integral part of their successful reintegration into civilian life. The mental health issues and trauma-related illnesses caused by the armed conflict, if not timely addressed, may be further deteriorated by many factors, such as unemployment, stress and family discord, when the ex-combatants re-enter the society. The recent assessment of the state of psychological rehabilitation of the ex-combatants showed that the vast majority of the veterans (74%) did not seek psychological assistance during the service and 63% of the ex-combatants have not communicated with psychologists since their demobilisation. Of those veterans, who resorted to the help of psychologists, 36% have applied once and only 6% visit a psychologist regularly. At the same time, half of the ex-combatants noted that psychological assistance was not offered to them upon the demobilisation and no information on the availability of such support was provided.



Ex-combatant participating in the offline event on ex-combatant reintegration in Sviatohirsk, Donetsk Oblast, prior to COVID-19 pandemic outbreak.

Photo credit:
Artem Hetman / UNDP Ukraine

To address this issue, 10 motivational stories and videos were created to provide real examples of how ex-combatants managed to overcome their problems with the help of psychologists. Moreover, another 5 stories were developed to describe the processes of psychological recovery by the psychologists themselves. The stories were widely disseminated through various digital channels, including the social media⁴⁰. In addition, printed versions were disseminated in remote communities with contacts of organisations providing psychological services (Annexes 10 and 11). In total, over 2 million people were reached by this informational campaign.

Furthermore, to increase the level of knowledge of the representatives of the free legal aid system as regards the provision of legal aid to the ATO/JFO ex-combatants, the Project supported the development

⁴⁰ <https://www.facebook.com/watch/271314673762653/418518519172721/>

Output 2.3. Broader and more effective application of mechanisms for coordinating between citizens, law enforcement bodies, local authorities and other stakeholders to promote community security

of handbooks with answers to basic questions and an overview of the judicial practice for lawyers providing legal assistance to veterans. (Annexes 12, 13 and 14). Moreover, 126 (71 women) lawyers of the free legal aid offices received necessary knowledge on the specifics of the provision of legal support to the veterans, during 8 three-day online training sessions. In addition, dedicated leaflets with information on how to receive free legal aid services were developed and disseminated among the ex-combatants.

Activity 2.3.4. Build the capacity of Safety and Security Centres

As part of the decentralisation reform, the Centres for Safety and Security are being established throughout Ukraine as a joint initiative of police, emergency services and firefighting brigades. The UN RPP supports the deployment of the CSS in eastern Ukraine through the capacity-building of the local security providers and volunteers, as well as by providing the necessary technical support.⁴¹

To further strengthen the security and safety of the target communities, the Project is providing its constant support to the operation of the State Emergency Service in Donetsk, Luhansk and Zaporizhzhia oblasts. The SES firefighters-rescuers, as well as rescuers of the local firefighting brigades, undergo professional training at the training centres of the SES in Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts, which were relocated from the NGCA. However, these training centres are lacking essential infrastructure and equipment to ensure effective learning process of the SES personnel. At the same time, the number of rescuers who undergo practical learning in these training centres is quite significant. For instance, the average annual number of personnel trained in the SES Training Centre in Donetsk Oblast is 563 people, including 292 SES rescuers, 49 representatives of local firefighting brigades and 222 employees of the local enterprises who receive knowledge on fire safety.

In this regard, the Project supplied the SES Training Centres in Donetsk, Luhansk and Zaporizhzhia oblasts with the necessary equipment, and namely interactive boards, projectors, document-cameras, self-contained breathing apparatus and medical manikins. It is expected that the provided equipment will significantly increase the technical capacity of these SES training centres and enable them to conduct professional training programmes for firefighters and rescuers.

Moreover, the Project is supporting the establishment of the CSS in Bondarivka village of Markivka community (Luhansk Oblast) through the provision of construction materials and technical equipment to conduct repair work in the premises of the future centres.

Activity 2.3.5. Support the Safety and Security Centres in carrying out their mandates



Severe firestorms in Luhansk Oblast in summer 2020.

Photo credit: Luhansk Oblast State Administration

⁴¹ The support to the CSSs is provided jointly by the European Union and the governments of Denmark and the Netherlands.

Output 2.3. Broader and more effective application of mechanisms for coordinating between citizens, law enforcement bodies, local authorities and other stakeholders to promote community security

Within the ongoing decentralisation process, the local communities now have more opportunities to address pressing security issues, and, at the same time, their responsibility grows. The Civil Protection Code of Ukraine defines the powers and strengthens the role of the local self-government bodies in the implementation of civil protection measures and counteraction to emergencies. However, currently, the system of local governance does not meet the needs of the local communities to ensure adequate protection of the population and territories from emergencies. In 2020, more than 100,000 fires occurred in Ukraine, with several severe fires in Luhansk Oblast, and timely response to such emergencies is extremely important to prevent their scaling up and avert negative outcomes. The arrival time of the rescuers to provide firefighting operations should not exceed 20 minutes. The SES subdivisions are located in raion centres and cities, and significant distance to remote settlements affects the arrival time of the fire brigades. The establishment of local firefighting and rescue units, in this regard, helps reduce the arrival time to an incident scene, increase public awareness of emergency response and, as a result, save lives and prevent property damage. At the same time, newly created territorial communities in rural areas not always have available resources to duly equip the local rescuers.

To address this situation, the Project delivered specialised firefighting equipment (chainsaws, motor pumps, power cutters, gasoline generators, water backpack fire extinguishers, etc.), communication and IT equipment and specialised firefighting clothes to 16 local firefighting brigades⁴² and 3 CSSs⁴³ in Donetsk, Luhansk and Zaporizhzhia oblasts to strengthen their capacity to rapidly and effectively respond to emergencies.

Furthermore, it is planned to conduct an assessment of the current state and opportunities for further development of the local and volunteer firefighting teams aimed at identifying the most appropriate ways to support the local authorities in achieving sustainability and effectiveness of these actors.

⁴² Bediansk rayon of Zaporizhzhia Oblasts (villages Osypenko, Chervone Pole, Dmytrivka, Novotroitske, Novopetrivka, Andriivka, Berestove and Mykolaivka); Milove rayon (villages Velykotsk, Zorykivka, Morozivka, Mykilske), Mostki village, Svatove rayon, Nevske village Kreminna rayon, Kamianka village, Novopskov rayon and Bilokurakyne amalgamated community (Luhansk Oblast).

⁴³ Lyman, Olhynka, Andriivka territorial communities.

Output 2.4.

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

The Programme continues supporting local initiatives within its SGF, enabling communities to identify, prioritise and address their needs with regards to community security, on a cost-sharing basis with the local authorities of the target communities. During the reporting year, the Project provided support for the implementation of 35 civic initiatives focused on community security, and 10 community policing and youth engagement initiatives in the target communities of Donetsk, Luhansk, Dnipropetrovsk, Zaporizhzhia and Zhytomyr oblasts. Among the supported community-based initiatives were, for instance, the installation of electronic security and performance systems at schools, creating community safe spaces, ATO/JFO ex-combatants engagement into the local community, installation of emergency warden systems and video surveillance cameras, improvement of street lightning, psychosocial rehabilitation of domestic and gender-based violence survivors, capacity building of community members in the field of civil defence and first aid. To date, the implementation of the 35 projects has been completed benefitting directly over 55,000 people (59% women).

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic outbreak, many face-to-face activities had to be changed to an online format, and some of the project activities were cancelled and substituted with ones that were possible to be implemented during quarantine and lockdowns. One project was cancelled at the request of the implementing partner, since due to quarantine restrictions it was not possible to launch the activities at all (the project implied the work of the police with youth in the schools of Donetsk Oblast).

Furthermore, a separate specialised grant was provided to the Legal Development Network organisation to enhance the capacity of the local CSOs and to conduct monitoring of access to justice and the provision of security services. Within the first phase of this project, the expert group has developed and tested a new direction of the Local Human Rights Index methodology aimed at identifying gaps in ensuring access to justice for community members, as well as providing recommendations for its improvement. To implement the methodology at the local level, 6 CSOs were mobilised, and 17 representatives of these organisations (9 women) were equipped with the necessary skills for further monitoring of social security services in Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts. As a result, 125 organisations and institutions were covered by the established monitoring groups. The final monitoring report was presented to the key stakeholders during the workshops, as a baseline for further advocacy activities. It is expected to increase the sustainability of the created network of local-level CSOs, by increasing their competencies in monitoring during the second implementation phase, enabling the network to operate efficiently after the project ends.

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

Moreover, the Project has supported 9 community security mini-initiatives including 6 focused on ATO/JFO veterans reintegration, targeting overall more than 1,200 direct beneficiaries (38% women). Examples of activities include the creation of local spaces for vulnerable groups of people, renovation of public spaces, improvement of road infrastructure through installation of traffic mirrors and speed limitation facilities, creating short films about veterans, safe utilisation of used batteries, awareness-raising events for children and youth on fire safety conducted by the local firefighting brigades (Annex 9 – List of the supported mini-initiatives within the SGF).

Lessons learned

1. Logistical constraints imposed by the COVID-19 lockdown pushed the Project team to look for new ways of how to complete all planned activities on time and in full. The flexibility of projects during the quarantine restrictions allowed to consider the rapidly changing context and to improve the capacity of partners. Moreover, the Project's workplan was revised to allocate resources to meet the urgent needs of the target communities affected by COVID-19.
2. Due to the pandemic and the subsequent quarantine restrictions, the Project had to explore new online solutions and e-tools to engage participants in learning through interactive platforms and digital channels. Notably, online training sessions and webinars provide an opportunity to engage a larger number of interested participants compared to limited capacities of similar offline activities. At the same time, online events and capacity-building activities should be designed in such a way so that to keep the audience interested and motivated to complete these online sessions.
3. The participation of a wide range of local stakeholders is extremely important for building confidence and enhancing security in conflict-affected communities. The participatory nature of all related activities, including the establishment of CSWGs, as well as the provision of shared training on community security for law enforcement agencies, jointly with community residents, have fostered dialogue at the local level and have helped to promote social cohesion and security. CSWGs were successful in raising security, governance and economic issues to the attention of security providers and local authorities. Furthermore, the CSWGs are becoming a leeway into practical humanitarian-development nexus implementation at the local level, by mobilising conflict-affected communities for action.
4. More dialogue on development is needed between the local authorities and citizens. Dialogue processes among local administrations, civil society organisations, local activists, police and other stakeholders in the communities of Donetsk, Luhansk and Zaporizhzhia oblasts are often absent or inefficient. The CSWGs are one of the instruments, which bring together different stakeholders at the local level and motivate them to interact and find solutions to community problems. However, oftentimes the concept of dialogue is not well-articulated in the communities.
5. Access to justice in remote settlements remains reduced significantly, especially in the context of the ongoing conflict. In view of this, the respective interventions should be performed, including technical assistance, to build the capacities of the free legal aid lawyers, enabling them to render their services to all conflict-affected people, including reaching the most vulnerable ones.
6. Provision of justice services remains challenged by the quarantine restrictions. There is a lack of technical capacities in the local courts for conducting videoconferences and holding court hearing remotely to minimise citizen's and courts' personnel exposure to COVID-19. To ensure the availability and sustainability of justice services, local courts and legal aid representatives need to receive necessary assistance (IT equipment, personal protective equipment, etc.).

Changes to risks and analysis

1. The quarantine measures to contain the spread of COVID-19 in Ukraine may be extended till the end of 2021, leading to a worsening of the economic situation and a sharp deterioration of people's life quality, first of all among the most vulnerable groups.

The spread of coronavirus infection in Ukraine continues to accelerate with the new cases and hospitalisations growing steadily since mid-February 2021. The quarantine has been extended until end of June 2021, however, if the epidemic situation continues to worsen and the vaccination pace remains slow the quarantine may be extended further, and the list of restrictive anti-epidemic measures will be expanded. In its turn, the impact of infection risk mitigation measures on the economy of small communities can be disastrous, with serious consequences on people's wellbeing and mental health, hugely affecting the most fragile community members. The freedom of movement through the contact line in eastern Ukraine may continue to be restricted. This will affect a number of rights of the conflict-affected people, including access to healthcare services and the right to social security, namely pensions. The vaccination against the COVID-19 started in mid-February 2021, however, the campaign goes at a relatively slow pace: only around 527,000 people received the first dose of the vaccine as of 25 April 2021 with only 5 people being vaccinated with 2 doses.

As it is still not clear how long the restrictive measures will continue to be in effect, and how the overall situation with the COVID-19 pandemic will evolve, there is a chance that the implementation of some of the Project activities, specifically those which require personal presence or interaction between the stakeholders, will be delayed. In this regard, the Project will closely monitor the situation at the local level and will carefully re-evaluate risks, as well as explore and apply alternative implementation arrangements, where applicable. The Project will also ensure that relevant service providers are well aware of the COVID-19 prevention measures to guarantee the continuous service provision to the residents of both oblasts. The data collection campaigns have been also adapted to be conducted remotely or postponed as appropriate to mitigate risks to staff and respondents.

2. Possible escalation of the armed conflict in eastern Ukraine may impede the implementation of the Project activities in communities along the “contact line”.

Although a ceasefire and an outline for a political settlement were drawn up in the Minsk agreements, no effective ceasefire has taken hold for a significant period of time. Since March 2021, the security situation has been deteriorating in eastern Ukraine. In July 2020, the ceasefire brought a long-awaited breathing space to conflict-affected people in eastern Ukraine. However, the growing number of ceasefire violations in the first three months of 2021 raises concerns over the possible return to the pre-ceasefire level of hostilities or, in the worst case, potential escalation. Deterioration of the security situation in Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts may preclude minimal security conditions necessary for programming in the areas close to the “contact line” and GCAs of these oblasts.

3. Different legal status of the Project's target communities will have a negative impact on the roll-out of decentralisation reform in the region, as well as limits opportunities for local government engagement in

the areas where local elections were not held.

On 8 August 2020, the Central Election Commission of Ukraine adopted a resolution, which approved a list of communities where the local elections cannot be held due to security concerns. It included 10 communities of Donetsk Oblast and 8 in Luhansk Oblast. Territorial communities, where no local elections were held, got into a legal situation in which the local self-government bodies could not fully exercise their rights, such as budget approval, treasury account management, etc. The local authorities in these communities will have a different legal status and will be represented by civil-military administrations, which further slows down the implementation of the decentralisation reform, economic development, and the provision of services there. As of January 2021, most of these newly created civil-military administrations didn't have the appointed leadership, which further affects their ability to effectively identify and implement development activities aimed to foster area-based development.

4. Macroeconomic instability and increased inflation may surge in poverty as income and consumption suffer from quarantine and lower remittances

Worsening of the macroeconomic situation in Ukraine together with the burden put on the national financial institutions by the COVID-19 pandemic may lead to increase of inflation rates, depreciation of the national currency and limited access to credit resources, particularly affecting the most vulnerable and those employed in the informal sector. The overall GDP decreased by 4% in 2020, as the pandemic has had a heavy toll on households and weakened government commitment to critical reforms. Only a partial recovery in GDP growth of 3.8% is expected in 2021, given the tightening of quarantine restrictions, high uncertainty regarding the rollout of the vaccine and the slow pace of structural reforms to address bottlenecks to investment and safeguard macroeconomic sustainability. In addition, both conflict-affected oblasts continue to report the highest unemployment rates among all other regions of the country, which are currently 14.9% in Donetsk Oblast and 15.4% in Luhansk Oblast, compared to the national average of 9.5%.

5. Closure of the entry-exit checkpoints limits the freedom of movement across the «contact line» in eastern Ukraine, as well as access to services for the most vulnerable groups

To control the spread of the COVID-19, the EECs along the «contact line» were closed on 22 March 2020. According to the UN Office in Ukraine, during the year since there has been a 97% reduction in civilian crossings compared to the previous 12 months. The closure has severed connectivity between people on either side of the «contact line» who regularly crossed it to visit relatives, recover pensions and access administrative, legal, social and health services. Medical needs are currently among the top-three reasons making people cross the «contact line». New measures to support the re-opening and operation of the remaining EECs had to be put in place, as well as opportunities for remote service provision and interpersonal dialogue must be further strengthened.

Annex 1.

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

Indicators	Baseline	Target (2019)	Actual (2019)	Target (2020)	Actual (2020)	Target (2022)	Means of verification	Comments
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Key Intendent Outcome: to bolster institutions and mechanisms that provide community security and justice and resolve conflicts most relevant to the region’s conflict affected population, thereby increasing social cohesion

The overall level of personal security in eastern Ukraine (by oblast)	4.4 [2018] – Donetsk Oblast	4.6 – Donetsk Oblast	4.1 – Donetsk Oblast	4.8 – Donetsk Oblast	NA*	5.5 – Donetsk Oblast	SCORE	*The data will be available in May 2021.
	4.7 [2018] – Luhansk Oblast	4.9 – Luhansk Oblast	4.6 – Luhansk Oblast	5.0 – Luhansk Oblast	NA*	5.5 – Luhansk Oblast		
	4.3 [2019] – Zaporizhzhia Oblast	NA	NA	5.0 – Zaporizhzhia Oblast	NA*	5.5 – Zaporizhzhia Oblast		
Percentage of those that believe the courts would likely side with the most powerful person in a dispute	78.4% [2018]	76%	73.9%	72%	NA*	67%	Security and Justice survey	*The fourth wave of the survey ‘Security and Justice in Ukraine’ has been postponed due to COVID-19 and related quarantine restrictions. The data will be available in July 2021.
Percentage of those that believe the police would likely side with the most powerful person in a dispute	77.9% [2018]	76%	74.8%	72%	NA*	67%	Security and Justice survey	*The fourth wave of the survey ‘Security and Justice in Ukraine’ has been postponed due to COVID-19 and related quarantine restrictions. The data will be available in July 2021.
Percentage of conflict-affected population who believe that they will be able to get justice if victim of a crime	51.1% [2018]	53%	53.8%	56%	NA*	60%	Security and Justice survey	*The fourth wave of the survey ‘Security and Justice in Ukraine’ has been postponed due to COVID-19 and related quarantine restrictions. The data will be available in July 2021.
Increased SCORE index on the “level of neighborhood support”	4.7 [2018] – Donetsk Oblast	4.9 – Donetsk Oblast	5.3 – Donetsk Oblast	5.1 – Donetsk Oblast	NA*	5.3 – Donetsk Oblast	SCORE	*The data will be available in May 2021.
	5.4 [2018] – Luhansk Oblast	5.6 – Luhansk Oblast	5.4 – Luhansk Oblast	5.8 – Luhansk Oblast	NA*	6 – Luhansk Oblast		

Project Intermediate Outcome 1: Strengthened mechanisms for conflict transformation through the provision of effective and innovative services

Cumulative number of conflict transformation institutions with improved capacities to resolve and transform ongoing conflicts featuring members of the community	0 [2019]	2	0	4	6	4	Project community mappings and project reports	To date, 6 conflict transformation institutions (Donetsk Oblast – 3, Luhansk Oblast – 3) improved their capacities to resolve and transform ongoing conflicts featuring members of the community.
Increased SCORE Index on “readiness for dialogue towards all groups”	6.7 [2018] – Donetsk Oblast	6.8 – Donetsk Oblast	7.4 – Donetsk Oblast	7.0 – Donetsk Oblast	NA*	7.5 – Donetsk Oblast	SCORE	*The data will be available in May 2021.
	6.1 [2018] – Luhansk Oblast	6.3 – Luhansk Oblast	7 – Luhansk Oblast	6.5 – Luhansk Oblast	NA*	7 – Luhansk Oblast		

Project Output 1.1: Early warning mechanisms are enhanced

Cumulative number of Community Safety Networks established at the local level that are fully functional and provide spaces for members of the community to formulate and address their grievances in cooperation with local institutions. (disaggregated by oblast)	9 [2018]	2	0	4	0*	4	Project community mappings	*The activity has been postponed due to COVID-19 pandemic. The first data will be available in September 2021.
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Indicators	Baseline	Target (2019)	Actual (2019)	Target (2020)	Actual (2020)	Target (2022)	Means of verification	Comments
Cumulative number of persons that actively use the information produced by CSNs and other early warning mechanisms	0 [2018]	40	0	40	0*	TBD	Project community mappings and project reports	*The activity has been postponed due to COVID-19 pandemic. The first data will be available in September 2021.
Project Output 1.2: Alternative conflict resolution mechanisms strengthened								
Cumulative number of mediators with increased knowledge and skills on conflict resolution mechanisms (disaggregated by oblast and gender)	0 [2018]	10	8 (3 – women) Donetsk Oblast 17 (10 – women) Luhansk Oblast	25	13 (8 – women) Donetsk Oblast 17 (10 – women) Luhansk Oblast	40	Project interviews/reports of meetings with legal aid providers and police	In total, 30 mediators (18 women) now have the increased knowledge and skills on conflict resolution mechanisms.
Cumulative number of mediators actively engaged in community mediation at the local level (disaggregated by oblast and gender)	0 [2018]	5	6 (2 – women) Donetsk Oblast 7 (2 – women) Luhansk Oblast	15	11 (9 – women) Donetsk Oblast 12 (5 – women) Luhansk Oblast	30	Project interviews/reports of meetings with legal aid providers and police	As of January 2021, 23 mediators (14 women) are actively engaged in community mediation at the local level.
Cumulative number of community projects and local initiatives initiated and implemented by youth in a gender-sensitive manner	0 [2018]	1	7 – Donetsk Oblast 7 – Luhansk Oblast	4	9 – Donetsk Oblast 9 – Luhansk Oblast	5	Data collected on the basis of project records and CSOs records.	Overall, 18 community projects and local initiatives were developed and implemented by youth in a gender-sensitive manner.
Project Output 1.3: Pilot initiatives supporting vulnerable populations suffering adverse effects of the armed conflict								
Cumulative number of persons assisted in claiming compensation for property damaged during the armed conflict	0 [2018]	0	0	5	5 (3 women)	5	Project records, administrative data from CSOs	As a pilot activity, the Project provides assistance to 5 representatives of vulnerable population (3 women and 2 men) in claiming compensation for property damaged during the armed conflict.
Cumulative number of members of vulnerable groups benefitted from pilot initiatives (disaggregated by oblast, gender and age)	0 [2019]	0	0	0	0*	500	Project interviews and reports.	*The data will be available upon adopting the relevant judicial practice or legislation at the national level.
Cumulative number of cases solved by legal aid family and child centers	0 [2019]	0	0	1	0*	5	Administrative data from service providers	*The data will be available upon adopting the relevant judicial practice or legislation at the national level.
Project Output 1.4: Improved efficiency and accountability in courts, prosecution offices, and police in resolving conflicts generally, and those emanating from the armed conflict in particular								
Cumulative number of court cases related to the conflict monitored	0 [2018]	0	3	30	8*	45	Data collected on the basis of project, court and CSOs records	*During the reporting period, the monitoring activities were limited due to the closure of courts resulted from COVID-19 pandemic and respective quarantine restrictions.
Cumulative number of CSO representatives with an improved capacity to monitor the transparency of court proceedings	0 [2018]	0	0	15	28 (21 women)	20	Data collected on the basis of project, court and CSOs records	To date, 28 community members (21 women) improved their knowledge and skills in monitoring the transparency of court proceedings.
Project Output 1.5: Grants support to strengthen mechanisms for conflict transformation through the provision of effective and innovative services								
Cumulative number of local initiatives to strengthen mechanisms for conflict transformation, implemented with small grant support	0 [2019]	2	0	20*	14	20	Project records, data from the grant administration company	Overall, 22 conflict transformation and legal aid initiatives were supported by the Project, with 14 of them are already completed. In addition, during the reporting period, the Project supported 12 veterans' mini-initiatives to facilitate ex-combatants' reintegration into the local communities.

Indicators	Baseline	Target (2019)	Actual (2019)	Target (2020)	Actual (2020)	Target (2022)	Means of verification	Comments
Cumulative number of beneficiaries of local initiatives to strengthen mechanisms for conflict transformation, implemented with small grant support	0 [2019]	600	0	10 000	22,445 (21% women)	10 000	Project records, data from the grant administration company. Monitoring reports	During the reporting period, over 22,000 members of local communities (21% women) benefited from conflict transformation and legal aid projects and micro-initiatives.
Project Intermediate Outcome 2: Strengthened personal and community security through greater institutional and citizen engagement in conflict-affected areas								
Percentage of population feeling safe at home (disaggregated by time of the day, oblast and gender)	88.6% (overall) 90.4% (day) 76.4% (night) 70.5% (women at night) [2018]	90% (overall) 92% (day) 79% (night) 72% (women at night)	89% (overall) 91.3% (day) 77.8% (night) 72.4% (women at night)	91% (overall) 93% (day) 81% (night) 74% (women at night)	NA*	92% (overall) 94% (day) 83% (night) 77% (women at night)	Security and Justice survey	*The fourth wave of the survey 'Security and Justice in Ukraine' has been postponed due to COVID-19 and related quarantine restrictions.
Percentage of population feeling safe in their communities (disaggregated by time of the day, oblast and gender)	81.1% (overall) 84.8% (day) 49.5% (night) 38.2% (women at night) [2018]	84% (overall) 86% (day) 54% (night) 43% (women at night)	81% (overall) 85% (day) 54.7% (night) 42.4% (women at night)	85% (overall) 87% (day) 56% (night) 45% (women at night)	NA*	87% (overall) 89% (day) 60% (night) 48% (women at night)	Security and Justice survey	*The fourth wave of the survey 'Security and Justice in Ukraine' has been postponed due to COVID-19 and related quarantine restrictions.
Percentage of members of community security working groups who feel their voices are taken into account in improving community security	73.8% [2018]	75%	84.8%	80%	83.7%	85%	Survey of participants of CSWGs	As of December 2020, the proportion of population who confirm that their voice is heard in community dialogues is 83.7%, including 86.6% among women, 83.9% among persons with disabilities, and 82.6% among IDPs.
Project Output 2.1: Increased awareness of public attitudes, human rights redress mechanisms, and security risks by policymakers, the public, and particularly the youth								
Percentage of population who consider available formal, informal, alternative or traditional dispute mechanisms as just, among those who experienced a dispute in the last 48 months	32.7% [2019]	NA	NA	42%	NA*	50%	Security and Justice survey	*The fourth wave of the survey 'Security and Justice in Ukraine' has been postponed due to COVID-19 and related quarantine restrictions. The data will be available in July 2021.
Percentage of population who are confident about the protection of their rights by security and justice institutions (disaggregated by age, oblast and gender)	38% [2018]	42%	44.5%	45%	NA*	48%	Security and Justice survey	*The fourth wave of the survey 'Security and Justice in Ukraine' has been postponed due to COVID-19 and related quarantine restrictions. The data will be available in July 2021.
Cumulative number of persons reached by information and awareness-raising campaigns on security challenges and redress mechanisms	0 [2019]	2 000	10 000	15 000	19 800	20 000	Project records and media monitoring	During the reporting period, about 9 800 persons were reached by the information campaign focused on redress mechanisms. The data will be available in July 2021.

Indicators	Baseline	Target (2019)	Actual (2019)	Target (2020)	Actual (2020)	Target (2022)	Means of verification	Comments
Project Output 2.2: Improved capacities and practices of law enforcement and local authority service providers to carry out community policing and discharge their responsibilities to citizens								
Cumulative number of local community policing units	0 [2018]	1	0	8	20*	8	Data collected on the basis of local authorities' administrative reports and project records	To date, 20 local community policing units have been supported in the following locations: Donetsk Oblast: Cherkaske, Mykolaivka, Novotroitske, Ocheretyne, Rai-Oleksandrivka, Petrivka, Ridkodub (Lyman ATC), Rubtsi (Lyman ATC), Shakhivske, Soledar, Zvanivka. Luhansk Oblast: Bilovodsk, Kalmykivka, Kolomyichykha, Lantrativka (Troitske ATC), Markivka, Pryvillia, Shulhynka, Topoli (Troitske ATC), Vesele. * This activity is co-funded by the governments of Denmark, Sweden and Switzerland.
Cumulative number of community policing services (of which women community policing) in place and operating in rural areas and close to the contact line	0 [2018]	2	0	7	18*	7	Data collected on the basis of project records and administrative data from LSGBs	* This activity is co-funded by the governments of Denmark, Sweden and Switzerland.
Cumulative number of local communities who developed comprehensive long-term security plans and strategies	1 [2018]	3	1	7	7*	10	Data collected on the basis of project records and administrative data from LSGBs	During the reporting period, the Project supported the development of comprehensive long-term security plans in Sartana, Siversk and Volnovakha in Donetsk Oblast, Krasnorichenske, Kreminna and Popasna in Luhansk Oblast. * This activity is co-funded by the EU.
Cumulative number of community police officers with improved knowledge and skills in mediation, community policing and communication. (disaggregated by oblast and gender)	344 [2018]	400	360	550	433*	700	Project reports	*In 2020, 73 police officers (37 women) improved their capacity in mediation, community policing and communication. Out of those, 57 officers (29 women) and 16 officers (8 women) were trained in Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts respectively. A total of 89 police officers (40 women) were covered in the course of the project implementation.
Project Output 2.3: Broader and more effective application of mechanisms for coordinating between citizens, law enforcement bodies, local authorities and other stakeholders to promote community security								
Cumulative number of Safety and Security Centers that benefited from technical assistance and capacity building support	0 [2019]	10	11	15	15	20	Project records, monitoring reports	As of December 2020, the following communities have fully operational Centres for Safety and Security: Andriivka, Bilozerske, Cherkaske, Illinivka, Lyman, Mykolaivka, Novodonetske, Novotroitske, Sartana, Shakhove, Siversk, Soledar and Sviatohirsk in Donetsk Oblast. The Project also supported the creation of the CSS in Bondarivka village, Luhansk Oblast, that will be launched in 2021.
Cumulative number of community security working groups established and fully functioning (by oblast)	4 [2018] – Donetsk Oblast	15	15	15	16	15	Project records, CSWGs registration forms and meeting minutes	To date, a total of 48 CSWGs are functioning in the Programme's target communities to provide space for discussions, information sharing and for raising security and development concerns among local authorities, security providers and communities at the grass-root level.

Indicators	Baseline	Target (2019)	Actual (2019)	Target (2020)	Actual (2020)	Target (2022)	Means of verification	Comments
	5 [2018] Luhansk Oblast	15	15	15	16	15		Donetsk Oblast: Avdiivka, Dobropillia, Druzhkivka, Krasnohorivka, Manhush, Mariinka, Myrnohrad, Novhorodske, Pokrovsk, Sartana, Siversk, Sloviansk, Soledar, Svitlodarsk, Velykonovosilivskiy raion, Volnovakha, Vuhledar.
	0 [2019] Zaporizhzhia Oblast	3	8	7	9	7		Luhansk Oblast: Bilovodsk, Krasnorichenske, Kreminna, Lozno-Oleksandrivka, Lysychansk, Milove, Novoaidar, Nyzhnia Duvanka, Popasna, Pryvillia, Shchastia, Sievierodonetsk, Stanytsia Luhanska, Triokhizbenka, Troitske, Zolote.
	0 [2019] Zhytomyr Oblast	0	0	7	7	7		Zaporizhzhia Oblast: Berdiansk, Berdiansk raion, Kyrylivka, Melitopol, Nove, Pryazovske, Prymorsk, Semenivka, Yakymivka. Zhytomyr Oblast: Baranivka, Chervone, Nova Borova, Novohrad-Volynskiy, Semenivka, Vysoke, Zhytomyr. This activity is co-funded by the EU and the Government of Denmark.
Cumulative number of ex-combatants, youth and women, participating in civic initiatives aimed at increasing their participation in local community security	0 [2018]	120	145	400	3 115	500	Data collected on the basis of project records and data from partner organisations	During the reporting period, 2 489 veterans and 481 youth representatives took part in the activities targeting these specific groups in Donetsk, Luhansk, Dnipro and Zhytomyr oblasts. Additionally, the Project supported 13 veterans' initiatives (mini-projects). The implementation was delayed due to COVID-19 and related quarantine restrictions. The beneficiary data will be available in May 2021.
Cumulative number of safety audits conducted by the CSSs (disaggregated by oblast)	6 [2018]	10	6	20	6*	28	Data collected on the basis of project records and data from partner organisations	*The data will be available upon finalising the Capacity Development Assessment in October 2021.
Cumulative number of local volunteer fire and rescue brigades who benefited from targeted technical assistance and capacity building	0 [2019]	16	0	16	16	17	Data collected on the basis of project records and data from partner organisations	During the reporting period, 16 local firefighting brigades benefitted from target technical assistance and capacity building. Zaporizhzhia Oblast: Andriivka, Berestove, Chervone Pole, Dmytrivka, Mykolaivka, Novopetrivka, Novotroitske, Osypenko (Berdiansk raion) Luhansk Oblast: Bilokurakyne, Kamianka, Mistky, Morozivka, Mykilske, Nevske, Velykotsk, Zorykivka.
Cumulative number of local volunteers with improved knowledge and skills on responding to emergency situations	0 [2019]	40	0	100	57	170	Data collected on the basis of project records and training feedback forms	In 2020, 57 local volunteers (all men) improved their capacity in responding to emergency situations.
Project Output 2.4: Grants support to strengthen personal and community security through greater institutional and citizen engagement in conflict-affected areas								
Cumulative number of local initiatives on community security and civic engagement, implemented with small grant support	0 [2019]	12	0	35	45	40	Project records, data from the grant administration company	Overall, 45 community security and civic engagement initiatives were supported by the Project, with 35 of them are already completed.
Cumulative number of beneficiaries of local initiatives on community security and civic engagement, implemented with small grant support	0 [2019]	40 000	0	80 000	55,111 (59% women)	100 000	Project records, data from the grant administration company	During the reporting period, over 55,000 members of local communities (59% women) benefited from community security and civic engagement initiatives.