



**From
the People of Japan**



Project 00099817

Project Recovery and Peacebuilding Programme



CONTENTS

| | |
|--|----|
| EXECUTIVE SUMMARY | 3 |
| IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGY..... | 4 |
| PROJECT RESULTS..... | 6 |
| Rehabilitation of critical economic infrastructure | 6 |
| COMMUNICATION AND VISIBILITY..... | 14 |
| CHALLENGES AND RISKS | 16 |
| LESSONS LEARNED..... | 17 |
| RECOMMENDATIONS | 18 |
| Annexes | 19 |
| Information on beneficiaries of rehabilitated infrastructure..... | 19 |

Project 00099817
Project Recovery and Peacebuilding Programme

FINAL PROJECT REPORT
March 2016 – October 2017

Contacts: Programme manager, Mr. Victor Munteanu
E-mail: victor.munteanu@undp.org

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The armed conflict in eastern Ukraine has greatly affected every aspect of local communities' lives. It has had a particularly severe impact on access to livelihoods and customary economic ties in the region. A significant proportion of infrastructures has been damaged or ruined, traditional markets appeared to have closed, and more than a million people have had to leave their homes, losing their jobs and businesses.

To address these issues, UNDP Ukraine collaborated with the Government of Japan to develop and implement the "Recovery and Peacebuilding Programme" project. This Project aimed to support local socio-economic recovery and improve living conditions of at-risk/vulnerable groups (i.e., displaced, disabled, elderly, women and youth) by restoration and rehabilitation of critical infrastructure in government-controlled areas (GCA) and to improve access to utilization of quality health, education and social services in eastern Ukraine.

The Project consolidated and was built on the gains of the past actions funded by the Government of Japan, for expanding the renovation of critical socio-economic infrastructure and service delivery in GCA's of Donetsk and Luhansk Oblasts. Based on the actual needs of local authorities and target communities 10 social and economic infrastruc-

ture facilities were selected and rehabilitated in the target region.

UNDP experts have visited around 50 socio-economic infrastructure facilities in both oblasts. Finally, the Project has selected 10 facilities in 9 municipalities in the Government-controlled areas of the Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts through a consultative process with local authorities, NGOs and communities. These facilities include two bridges, four medical care facilities, one rehabilitation centre for children with disabilities, one social centre for children development, one kindergarten and one residential care centre. The technical evaluation and developing of engineering design for recovery works started in March 2016 and were followed by the tendering process. The construction works were completed in time by the end of October 2016.

With the expansion of the UNDP Ukraine "Recovery and Peacebuilding Programme", the Project's best practices, partnership gains and experience will be applied to ensure further rehabilitation of the socio-economic sphere in the targeted region. It is planned that the recovery of social services, alongside with support to the local economy and restoration of governance in Donbas, will bring more benefits to the local communities and the peace-building process.

IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGY

Alongside general principles of political neutrality, conflict sensitivity and accountability, UNDP has applied a number of specific approaches to ensure the effectiveness of the recovery and peacebuilding activities.

Inclusive and Participatory Approach

The Project experts established strong partnerships with local communities, NGOs, social service providers, and the authorities to help them in evaluating and prioritising the region's recovery needs. This approach was especially important for the infrastructure rehabilitation component because of the large financial commitments and the time investments they required. Therefore, different interest groups were gradually included in the selection process. Project experts collected detailed information on recovery needs from local authorities at the region, district and city levels. At the same time, the priorities for and the feasibility of recovery were discussed with local experts on infrastructure and economic development.

Using the Build Back Better principle

The damages caused by the armed conflict have added to the general unsatisfactory condition of social infrastructure since most of the premises were old and badly maintained over the past decades. At the same time, the overload of the facilities caused



Kids making a performance at the restored kindergarten in Svitlodarsk, Donetsk region



A girl is playing at the newly-restored centre "Children's town" in Pokrovsk, Donetsk region

by the IDPs influx further decreased the quality of services. Hence, the social infrastructure had to be not only recovered but upgraded as well.

The Building Back Better principle has been applied both regarding physical restoration and service provision. The key aim of the Project team was not only to help in restoring economic, social and healthcare infrastructure facilities but to make services they provide more accessible for people, as well as more up-to-date.

Universal Design

All technical and engineering design projects were assessed by the National Assembly of People with Disabilities. Each technical drawing has been carefully reviewed and corrected by the trained experts of the Assembly before it went to the tender for construction work.

Improving energy efficiency

The Project has done its best to apply the energy saving technologies where it was possible given the budget and technical condition of the facilities. As an example – the Project installed LED lightings and ventilation systems with heat recuperation in those facilities where people spend many hours per day (e.g. hospital wards and educational institutions). Meanwhile, the bridge in Severodonetsk

was equipped with a modern autonomous lighting system fed by solar and wind power.

Gender Empowerment

A substantial share of IDPs staying in the Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts is represented by women with children, while their fathers choose to stay in the NGCAs or move to other regions searching for jobs. Therefore, provision of pre-school education and other educational services became a highly critical issue. Lacking the access to daycare facilities, both IDP and local women are unable to find a job or actively participate in the social life of the communities they live.

The Project restored four daycare facilities having expanded their capacity. They provide different types of services, namely the rehabilitation centre for children with disabilities, an orphanage, a child development centre, and a kindergarten.

Sustainability of the results

Sustainability shall be achieved by ensuring the inclusion in local and regional budgets expenses to cover recurring costs following the handover of the facilities. It means that the local communities will include infrastructure maintenance in local and regional budgets to ensure that the recurring costs that follow the reconstruction are covered.

PROJECT RESULTS

Rehabilitation of critical economic infrastructure

To support the revival of business activity and improvement of social and medical services provision in the region, UNDP committed to restoring 10 socio-economic infrastructure facilities in Donetsk and Luhansk regions. Because of the conflict-related damage and long-term exploitation a needs assessment was held to identify the sites for restoration.

The Project experts engaged in a series of consultations with local communities and authorities and conducted a field visit to inspect all suggested facilities. As a result, 10 infrastructure sites were approved by the Project Board.

The list of restored facilities includes two bridges, four medical care facilities, one rehabilitation centre for children with disabilities, one social centre for children development, one kindergarten and one

residential care centre. Five of the sites are located in Donetsk region and five in Luhansk region. In most cases, recovery was needed simply because of the technical conditions of the facilities caused by prolonged exploitation. Meanwhile, the bridges in Starobilsk and Severodonetsk were damaged during the conflict because they were used to transfer heavy military machinery and due to explosions occurring in the summer of 2014. Moreover, the Social Centre of Child Development in Svatove, Luhansk region was damaged by explosions at an ammunition depot near the town in autumn of 2015.

A technical assessment was held at all the sites, followed in nine cases by construction design. Both selection of the technical design and the construction contractors were held through an open tendering process.





1. Motor-road bridge in Severodonetsk, Luhansk region

This 111 meter long bridge (overpass) was originally built in 1975, and due to the long-term service, the movement of heavy duty military equipment and shelling in 2014, it was severely damaged. Its asphalt-concrete surface was destroyed, its reinforced-concrete railings and load-bearing structures were damaged, and reinforced-concrete structures cracked. As a result, the traffic on the overpass was limited for safety reasons. The overpass is located in Severodonetsk at an important road junction on a section of the R-66 highway that stretches across

most of Luhansk Oblast, connecting its northwest and southeast areas.

In March 2017, the UNDP started repairs of the structure. The overpass' support and pavement panels for vehicles and pedestrians were repaired and strengthened. Its asphalt road surface was completely replaced (1,165 m²), including on access roads. Additionally, waterproofing work was carried out, and a modern autonomous lighting system fed by solar and wind power was installed. The structure's renovation will increase its transport capacity to 8,000 vehicles per day. This means an increased volume of production in the area, the creation of additional jobs at local enterprises, and the restoration of interregional economic links.





2. Bridge over Aidar River in Starobilsk, Luhansk region

The bridge over Aidar River is located in Starobilsk at an important section of the national R-07 highway that stretches across the entire north of Luhansk Oblast, connecting its northeast and northwest areas with Kharkiv Oblast. The 250 meter long bridge was originally built in 1965 and due to the long-term service, the movement of heavy duty military equipment and an explosion in the summer of 2014, it was severely damaged. Due to this, motor traffic on the bridge was limited for safety reasons.

In May 2017, the UNDP started repairs of the facility. Iron-concrete beams were replaced, and span structures of the bridge have been reinforced. The construction company took measures to protect metal constructions from corrosion and renovated 200 square metres of the road surface. Additionally, a new energy-saving lighting system was installed along the entire 250 meter long bridge. The object's renovation increased its transport capacity to some 10,000 vehicles per day. This means an increased volume of production in the area, the creation of additional jobs at local enterprises, and the restoration of interregional and cross-regional economic links.





3. Blood Transfusion Station in Mariupol, Donetsk region

The Blood Transfusion Station in Mariupol was strategically important for the whole region – it is serving the entire southern part of Donetsk region with a total population of 550,000 people. The station is located in a densely populated residential area of Mariupol, on the premises of City Hospital No. 2. The station collects and processes about 5.5 tons of donated blood annually. It was built in 1995 and due to its exploitation without sufficient main-

tenance, required repairs and improvements to its energy efficiency.

In March 2017, UNDP, with financial support from the Government of Japan, started renovation work. Modern heat insulation was installed in the building, including insulation of 2,678 square meters of its facade. New windows were installed (307 square meters), and a new insulated roof (1,622 square meters) was put in place. The facility was also equipped with a modern automated heating station, which will provide the station with a reliable and efficient heat supply.



4. An outpatient clinic in Toretsk, Donetsk region

The city, which has a population of some 35,000, has suffered from a critical shortage of healthcare facilities. Almost half of the city's inhabitants did not have access to primary medical care services. The existing clinics and ambulance stations were working at overcapacity, so to create a new outpatient clinic, a former school building had to be repaired and renovated.

In April 2017, UNDP, with financial support from the Government of Japan, started renovation work on the first floor of a 3-storey building allocated to host an outpatient department. The building's entire first floor was renovated (450 square meters), all windows and doors were replaced, and modern energy saving LED lamps were installed. Sixty-seven meters of water supply and sewage pipes were replaced in the building. Landscaping and improvements to the area adjacent to the building were carried out, and a wheelchair ramp was installed at the entrance. The outpatient department will provide medical services to some 7,000 people, including IDPs.



5. Water supply system of Kramatorsk City Hospital No. 1 in Kramatorsk, Donetsk region

The construction of the hospital's water supply system started in 1936 and was completed only in 1986.

In recent years the system has been in a critical condition, and required repairs to ensure the normal functioning of the healthcare facility. Because of its long period of use, over 90% of the system's water pipes were damaged, which resulted in frequent leaks, hampering the work of the hospital.

In March 2017, UNDP, with financial support from the Government of Japan, started renovation work. Over

2,000 meters of internal and external water supply and sewage pipes were repaired. A modern water supply reservoir was installed in a newly-renovated building of the hospital. Construction workers also insulated the facade of the building of the surgical department, which hosts two operating theatres and a hemodialysis station.



6. Orphans Care Centre “Children’s Town”, Pokrovsk, Donetsk region

Children’s Town hosts and provides social services to the most vulnerable groups of the conflict-affected population – orphans and children deprived of parental care.

Similar residential facilities in Pokrovsk and surrounding areas are overcrowded. The orphanage in Pokrovsk, called the Children’s Town Residential Care Centre, was built in 1944 and required repairs and improvements to its energy efficiency.



In April 2017, UNDP, with financial support from the Government of Japan, started renovation work. The building’s façade was insulated, and its windows and doors were replaced. The ground floor was completely overhauled, with heating and ventilation systems being installed. A fire safety system was then installed and the premises were equipped to suit the needs of people with disabilities. The centre can now house up to 40 children.

7. Kindergarten #10 “Raduha”, Svitlodarsk, Donetsk region

The kindergarten was severely damaged by shelling during military hostilities in the winter of 2015.

Due to shelling and long-term exploitation, the building’s roof was seriously damaged, which resulted in frequent leaks. Around 70 children attend the kindergarten, which has a staff of 30 employees. The kindergarten has facilities for up to 200 kids.

In June 2017 UNDP, with financial support from the Government of Japan, started repair work at the facility. The entire roof of the building was replaced



and insulated (1,500 square meters), and a new ventilation system and water supply pipes were installed. Construction workers also installed a new fire escape staircase. The new insulated roof will improve conditions for the children and the staff in the building, as well as significantly reduce heating costs.



8. The City Hospital Infectious Diseases Department, Rubizhne, Luhansk region

The Infectious Diseases Department of the central city hospital provides important healthcare services to some 55,000 of local population and IDPs in Luhansk region.

The infectious diseases wards provide services for at least 300 patients a year. The premises were significantly damaged due to long-term exploitation and required repairs to ensure the normal functioning of the healthcare facility.



In March 2017 UNDP, with financial support from the Government of Japan, started repair work on the first floor of the healthcare facility. Water, electricity supply and heating systems were replaced and ventilation, fire safety and energy-saving lighting systems have been installed.



9. Centre for the Social Rehabilitation of Children with Disabilities, Rubizhne, Luhansk region

The centre provides rehabilitation care aimed at development and correction of disorders of the children with disabilities and their integration into society. The previous building occupied by the Centre was too small to cover all the needs, and its condition was very poor. The only way to provide services of better quality was to move to other premises in the city which required a full renovation.

In October 2017, UNDP restored the building of the Centre for the Social Rehabilitation of Children with



Disabilities in Rubizhne, which provides important social services for up to 100 children with disabilities (both IDPs and local population) per year.

The entire building's roof (465 square meters) was replaced as well as all windows and doors. Interior and exterior finishing work and façade insulation were carried out. Water, electricity supply, heating and fire safety systems were installed. The construction workers also installed a wheelchair ramp at the two building's entrances.



10. Social Centre of Child Development, Svatove, Luhansk region

The centre assists in the development of children up to 5 years old as well as information and consulting services for internally displaced persons with preschool children. The centre also provides rehabilitation care to children with physical disabilities. The building was significantly damaged due to long-term exploitation and explosions at an ammunition depot near the town in autumn 2015, therefore required repairs to ensure the normal functioning of the facility.

In October 2017, UNDP restored the building of Social Centre of Child Development in Svatove, and now it provides important social services for up to 600 adults and 400 children per year (both IDPs and local population), including children with disabilities.



The entire building's roof (1,058 square meters) was replaced as well as all windows (70 pieces) and doors (98 pieces). Interior and exterior finishing work and façade insulation were carried out. Water, electricity supply, heating, ventilation and fire safety systems were installed. The swimming pool water treatment system was repaired. The construction workers also installed a wheelchair ramp at the building's entrance.



COMMUNICATION AND VISIBILITY

Communications were a crucial part of the Project implementation for two reasons. Firstly, the local communities in Donetsk and Luhansk regions still feel the consequences of the psychological trauma they went through. Being reminded of the support to Donbas from the international community is yet another way to mitigate the feeling of insecurity and to promote reconciliation in local communities and stable development in the region. Secondly, the Government of Japan is making generous commitments to supporting the people of Ukraine through technical assistance and loans to the Ukrainian Government. Clear visibility of Donor assistance both in the media and during public events has demonstrated the proper use of the funds and ensured general accountability. Therefore, the actual activities were focused on the three main goals outlined below.

An inclusive approach and participation

To ensure that the Project actions meet the communities' needs and lay the ground for future ownership of the results, UNDP made all possible efforts

to communicate its plans and progress on infrastructure rehabilitation.

Local media were chosen as a convenient and influential channel to disseminate this information. The tools used for their engagement included official delegation visits, official openings of the restored facilities, dissemination of press releases, interviews with UNDP representatives, and site visits.

Accountability

Proper use of the recovery and development funds is a topical issue for Donbas. Together with UNDP's commitment to open and transparent operation, this concern guided Project communications with the local and wider Ukrainian audience, as well as public authorities. It was also important to keep our colleagues and partners in other countries informed about the recovery progress. The Project used news publications in national media in addition to UNDP-owned social media accounts (13 posts) and its website (10 articles, each in Ukrainian and English) to reach these audiences.



Mr. Michio Harada, Deputy Head of Mission/Minister-Counsellor of the Embassy of Japan in Ukraine at the opening ceremony of a rehabilitated infectious diseases department of the city hospital in Luhansk region



Japanese sign plate at the rehabilitated bridge in Severodonetsk, Luhansk region

Demonstration of support

Information about the assistance that is coming to Donbas from various international donors serves to mitigate the feeling of insecurity that most of the local population experiences. To ensure that joint efforts by UNDP and the Government of Japan are

visible, branded items were designed and procured. This includes banners, flags, and signs bearing acknowledgements at the recovered facilities. Communication efforts resulted in 65 publications in the local media, eight publications in the national media, and 10 publications on the official websites of national and local authorities.

Note: only online publications and broadcasts mirrored at the media's websites were tracked; with publications in traditional printed media and TV these numbers are estimated to be at least 20% higher.



Ukrainian national TV channel Espresso reports on the Japanese Embassy Delegation visit to Donbas

CHALLENGES AND RISKS

Safety issues

All the Project's recovery sites are located in the eastern conflict zone, two of them as far as 10-15 kilometres from the contact line. Although no actual security incidents were recorded, possible risks had a substantial impact on recruitment and procurement. Due to the high risks related to work at the conflict-affected territories, recruitment of short-term experts took more time than usual. Similarly, a number of qualified companies refused to work in conflict-affected areas because of security issues. Some tenders had to be re-announced, which required additional time for the procurement

process. Also, this complicated procurement of work and services that require specific certification (e.g. for reconstruction of sophisticated infrastructure, such as bridges). At the same time, it created favourable conditions for local companies that are ready to work in areas close to the contact line.

Seasonal factor

The short project cycle complicated its implementation. According to the technological requirements, some types of construction work could not be performed if the outdoor temperature goes under 5°C, which is usual weather in winter for Ukraine.

LESSONS LEARNED

Seasonal factors had a critical influence on the implementation of infrastructure rehabilitation projects. There are many types of construction work that cannot be carried out when the outside temperature is lower than 5°C, or when it is raining. Therefore, it is recommended that design and preparatory work be completed during the late autumn and winter

period, or construction work is limited to selected core work. The Project duration for infrastructure rehabilitation shall be at least 18 months. It will allow to ensure proper planning of preparatory work (e.g. technical evaluation and engineering design) and minimise the influence of seasonal factors on timely completion of the construction work.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The project duration for infrastructure rehabilitation should be at least 18 months. It would enable proper planning of preparatory work (e.g. technical evaluation and engineering design) and minimise the influence of seasonal factors on timely completion of construction work.

Project design work and tender procedure should be completed in cold period when the most types of construction work are forbidden according to the state standards and norms. It allows to save expenses

linked with carrying out construction work in unfavourable weather conditions (additional heating at the premises, more electricity supply, specialised equipment).

Considering the new construction legislation, it is recommended to assess the project design documents. It also requires obtaining a permit to start construction work at the State Architecture and Construction Inspection in Kyiv which takes more time for the whole project implementation.

ANNEX 1

Information on beneficiaries of rehabilitated infrastructure

| № | Sites | Beneficiaries* | | |
|--------------|--|----------------|----------------|----------------|
| | | Men | Women | Total |
| 1 | Motor-road bridge in Severodonetsk, Luhansk region | 118,800 | 178,200 | 297,000 |
| 2 | Bridge over Aidar River in Starobilsk, Luhansk region | 15,000 | 13,000 | 28,000 |
| 3 | Blood Transfusion Station in Mariupol, Donetsk region | 260,000 | 290,000 | 550,000 |
| 4 | Outpatient clinic in Toretsk, Donetsk region | 3,200 | 3,800 | 7,000 |
| 5 | Water supply system of Kramatorsk City Hospital No. 1 in Kramatorsk, Donetsk region | 50,000 | 50,000 | 100,000 |
| 6 | Orphans Care Centre "Children's Town", Pokrovsk, Donetsk region | 75 | 75 | 150 |
| 7 | Kindergarten #10 "Raduha", Svitlodarsk, Donetsk region | 150 | 150 | 300 |
| 8 | The City Hospital, Infectious Diseases Department, Rubizhne, Luhansk region | 320 | 367 | 687 |
| 9 | Centre for the Social Rehabilitation of Children with Disabilities, Rubizhne, Luhansk region | 53 | 58 | 111 |
| 10 | Social Centre of Child Development, Svatove, Luhansk region | 400 | 600 | 1,000 |
| Total | | 447,998 | 536,250 | 984,248 |

* These figures are the number of direct beneficiaries reported by the recipient institutions. The overall number of indirect beneficiaries (total population in the region/area) of all rehabilitated objects amounts to over 4,804,000 residents.



Project 00099817
Project Recovery and
Peacebuilding Programme

FINAL PROJECT REPORT • March 2016 – October 2017