



MOVING FORWARD
TOGETHER



Restoration of Governance in Crisis-Affected Communities of Ukraine

**Final Progress Report
June 2016 – August 2018**

The project is financed by the European Union
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Acronyms and Abbreviations

ASC	Administrative service centre
ATC	Amalgamated territorial Community
CME	Community Mobilization for Empowerment methodology
CSO	Civil society organization
CSWG	Community security working group
EU	European Union
GBV	Gender-based violence
GDP	Gross domestic product
GRB	Gender-responsive budgeting
GRPB	Gender-responsive planning and budgeting
HRBA	Human Rights-based approach
IDP	Internally Displaced Person
LGCC	Local gender coordination council
NGO	Non-governmental organization
NDI	National Democratic Institute
NAP	National Action Plan
RDA	Regional Development Agency
SDG	Sustainable Development Goal
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UN Women	United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women
UWF	Ukrainian Women's Fund
UFPH	Ukrainian Foundation for Public Health
USE	United Nations Social Cohesion and Reconciliation Index for Eastern Ukraine
UN SCR	United Nations Security Council Resolution
UN RPP	United Nations Recovery and Peacebuilding Programme
WPS	Women, Peace and Security
CEDAW	Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women

Executive summary

Four years after armed conflict began in eastern Ukraine, the Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts remain effectively divided between Government of Ukraine-controlled areas and non-government-controlled areas; an almost 500 km long 'contact line' separates the local population¹. Although most of the Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts were at some point affected by armed conflict (including anti-government elements taking control of many cities and towns), the Government of Ukraine was able to gain back much of the territory by August 2014. As of December 2018, roughly one-third of the region (mostly urban and industrial areas) remains controlled by de-facto authorities. The remaining two-thirds (mostly rural hinterland and smaller industrial towns) remains under control by the Government of Ukraine. Although a ceasefire and an outline for a political settlement were agreed upon in the Minsk memorandum in September 2014, and a package of measures for its implementation was agreed upon in February 2015 (later endorsed by UN Security Council resolution 2202 of 17 February 2015), no effective ceasefire has taken hold for any significant period. The parameters for a political settlement include the creation of a special status for certain areas of Donetsk and Luhansk, anchored in constitutional law, and the return of the entire area to Ukraine's sovereign control and legislative supremacy. While the original target date of the end of 2015 for the required legislation and special local elections was not met, parties agree that

the Minsk process remains the only available option for finding a lasting settlement for the conflict.

Persistent ceasefire violations and related trade boycotts have exacerbated pressures on the productive and public sectors in the Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts. A large part of the country's heavy industry and mines have been shuttered, wiping out much of the economic activities in Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts and aggravating the overall decline of the country's socioeconomic situation. Real GDP fell by 6.8 per cent in 2014 and by 10 per cent in 2015. This sudden loss of almost a fifth of GDP has seen a small bounce back to growth in 2016 reaching 2.3% and 2.5% in 2017. Ukraine has comparatively well-developed policy and legal frameworks on gender equality and women's empowerment. Ukraine has joined and adopted most of the key international and regional gender equality, women's empowerment and human rights frameworks and integrated these commitments into a number of national laws and policies. Ukraine joined the Beijing Platform for Action (BPfA) and ratified the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW)² and its Optional Protocol; localized the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) with gender equality placed centrally in 10 of 17 Goals, 25 of 86 targets and 45 of 172 indicators; signed the EU Association Agreement; ratified the European Convention on Human Rights and the European Social

¹ Combined, Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts have a population of around 6.6 million (2013 estimate) and cover an area of approximately 43,000 km²

² Country Gender Assessment for Ukraine, World Bank, 2016 UNDP Report, 2015

Research by the All-Ukrainian Charitable Foundation "Positive Women: Sexual and Reproductive Health, Gender Equality and Human Rights, Gender Violence, Economic and Political Opportunities of Women Living with HIV in Ukraine. March 2016"

UNDP, Human Development Report 2016. Human Development for Everyone, Statistical Annex, Table 5:

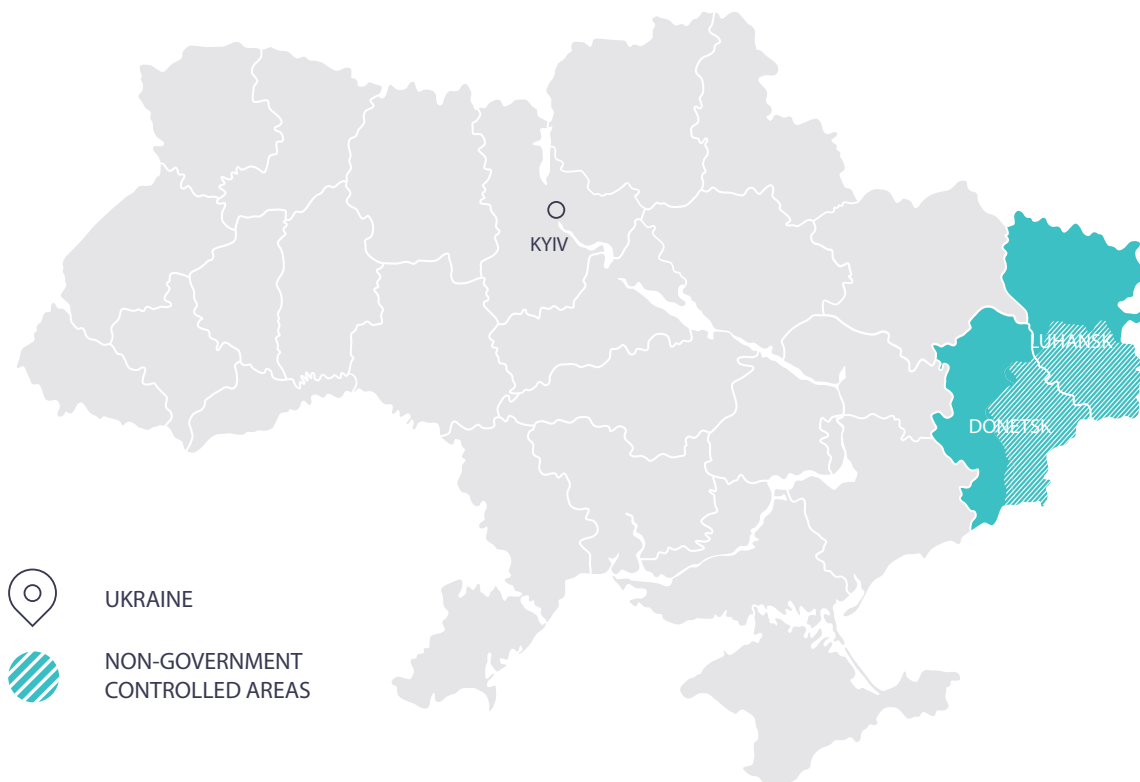
Gender Inequality Index, (New York, 2016) 215, 217.

Final Report on Monitoring of Women's Participation in the Electoral Process in the 2015 Local Elections in Ukraine, Committee of Voters of Ukraine, 2015.

Ministry of Regional Development, Construction and Housing and Communal Services of Ukraine, 7 May 2018

UN Women Ukraine "The analysis of vulnerabilities of women and men in the context of decentralisation in the conflict-affected areas of Ukraine" (September 2017). Available at: <http://eca.unwomen.org/en/digital-library/publications/2017/12/analysis-of-vulnerabilities-of-women-and-men-decentralisation-in-the-conflict-affected-areas-ukraine>

National Action Plan (NAP) on the implementation of recommendations provided in the Concluding Observations of the UN Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women to the eighth periodic report of Ukraine on the implementation of the Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) approved by Order of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine No.634-p dated 5 September 2018



Charter; and signed the Istanbul Convention (pending ratification).

The Government implements the National Strategy on Human Rights and the Action Plan (2016-2020) and has adopted the State Social Program on Equal Opportunities (2018-2021). As a crisis response measure, the Government adopted the National Action Plan for Implementation of United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325 for 2016-2020 (NAP 1325) and following its mid-term review in 2018 adopted the revised version in September 2018, which was crucial for its effective implementation at the local level. The Government also adopted the first ever National Action Plan (NAP) on the implementation of recommendations provided in the Concluding Observations of the UN Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women to the eighth periodic report of Ukraine on the implementation of the Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW). Importantly, over the last two years the Government strengthened and elevated the status of Ukraine's National Women's Machinery. These developments at the national level contributed to the government's streamlining the implementation of the state policy implementation across all sectors of the national reform agenda. In 2018 with the UN Women support

the Ministry of Regional Development, Construction, Housing and Communal Services drafted the Gender Equality and Decentralisation Strategy, therefore reinforcing of the implementation of the national gender equality policies at the oblast and local levels.

The impacts of a reorientation to a competitive market economy have put significant pressure on Ukraine's social fabric: protection mechanisms have failed to keep up with structural changes and external and rural-urban migration have exacerbated the challenges faced by state institutions. Accordingly, public scepticism is growing regarding state institutions' ability to protect the vulnerable or to provide a compelling vision of how Ukraine's largely poor population will be able to generate incomes and sustain families in the new economic order. These problems have been exacerbated by slow progress in reforming public sector institutions, many of which have failed to modernize and often do not enjoy high levels of trust by citizens, being perceived as being corrupt or mismanaged. In light of this situation, decentralisation reform and the restoration of governance functions in conflict-affected territories are key priorities to be addressed by national and regional authorities of Ukraine. In 2014, the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine adopted the State Strategy of Regional Development until 2020, aimed

at building open, accountable and transparent local governance structures that are capable of managing socioeconomic development, establishing effective channels of communication with the public and providing high-quality and inclusive services. This was possible only in the context of comprehensive decentralisation reform and complex transformations in the structures and functions of the entire system of central- and local-level public administration. In order for such transformations to take place, several interlinked reforms are still being carried out in the areas of strategic planning, territorial amalgamation, administrative and fiscal decentralisation.

The project's interventions were designed and aimed at contributing to these reform areas, resulting in the elaboration and follow-up adoption of the strategies of Luhansk and Donetsk Oblasts' Regional Development until 2020. Moreover, expert support was provided for the development of gender-responsive local socioeconomic strategies for seven amalgamated territorial communities (ATCs)³ and two local gender programmes in Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts communities.⁴ The strategies are aimed at facilitating both medium- and long-term strategic planning in order to boost prospects for their comprehensive development. In this regard, the strategies are comprised of strategic goals and concrete objectives that include: rehabilitating critical infrastructure, restoring public services provision, strengthening the capacities of local authorities in the decentralisation context, improving public safety and the rule of law, and promoting gender equality and human rights. The strategies integrate gender-responsive objectives and measures and allocate funds in order to address inequality; to improve underrepresented women's access to resources, infrastructure and public services (including prevention); and to launch crisis centres on gender-based violence (GBV).

Representatives of regional and local authorities have

also strengthened knowledge and skills to respond to the differentiated needs of women and men by integrating gender-responsive measures into local policies, programmes and budgets.

Expert support was also provided by the project in the development of action plans to ensure practical implementation of the strategies. The plans outline concrete sets of activities to be taken, responsible parties, deadlines and budgetary calculations in order to realize strategic development visions.

The project worked in close collaboration with communities on matters of territorial amalgamation, which forms a fundamental basis for the success of ongoing decentralisation processes. The project stood at the forefront of providing advisory support and recommendations in order to foster communities' voluntary amalgamation. To this end, a series of efforts were undertaken with regards to facilitating the exchange of national and international best practices to practically see and experience the benefits of territorially amalgamated communities with regards to providing public services and managing local funds, infrastructural projects and others. Advocacy efforts have also resulted in increasing public awareness and support for territorial amalgamation. New opinion leaders who are now in place are actively working with community members on further promoting and facilitating amalgamation processes.

Supporting local authorities' efforts to provide needed administrative and social services was central to alleviating the suffering of conflict-affected persons and to rebuilding citizens' trust in state institutions. The adverse effects of conflict-inflicted damage are disproportionately borne by poorer households, the displaced and other vulnerable and conflict-affected groups, especially women.⁵ Continuous provision and improvement of public services was thus essential for societal normalization, the stabilization of crisis-

³ Bilokurakhyne, Chmyrivka, Kreminna, Novopskov, Troitske, Vuhledar and communities (in Luhansk Oblast) and Kramatorsk, Bakhmut, Cherkas'ke, Lyman and Mykolaivka communities (in Donetsk Oblast)

⁴ Bilokurakhyne, Chmyrivka of Luhansk Oblast

⁵ OSCE Special Monitoring Mission to Ukraine, thematic report on hardship for conflict, available at: <https://www.osce.org/ukraine-smm/300276?download=true>

affected areas and for creation of the necessary conditions to ensure further success of ongoing decentralisation reforms. This has been accomplished by renovations and full operational support to the work of 14 administrative and social services centres (ASCs)⁶ that have rendered services to more than 170,280 conflict-affected people (63 per cent women). Making service provision inclusive and comfortable to residents were key priorities in the renovation process. Therefore, all ASCs were equipped with ramps, widened doorways, bathrooms with handrails and braille signs for persons with visual impairments. The centres also have advanced electronic queue management and payment systems to serve more customers and to improve staff efficiencies. Digital suitcases containing a laptop, specialized software, a scanner, an ID-card reader, a camera and a modem were transferred to these centres in order to enhance delivery of services

to residents with reduced mobility. Noteworthy, the suitcases were produced in Luhansk Oblast.

Significant progress was accomplished with regards to fiscal decentralisation with now-enhanced capacities and an institutional framework for local authorities to efficiently manage financial resources and to ensure transparency in budgeting and procurement processes. Expert support was provided in the development of financial profiles for 20 targeted communities.⁷ Financial profiles included communities' detailed situational analysis of socioeconomic, budgetary and demographic issues that have set a basis to ensure their further multifaceted development.

A series of efforts were undertaken by the project to assist regional and local authorities in systematically addressing the corruption that continues to pose a

⁶ Support to Administrative Service Centres in Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts, available at LINK <http://www.ua.undp.org/content/ukraine/en/home/projects/restoration-and-reconciliation-eu/Support-TsNAP.html>

⁷ Ten communities in Donetsk Oblast (Bakhmut, Cherkas'ke, Druzhkivka, Kramatorsk, Lyman, Mykolaivka, Mariupol, Sloviansk, Velyka Novosilka, Vuhledar); and ten communities in Luhansk Oblast (Bilokurakynne, Bilovodsk, Chmyrivka, Krasnorichenske, Markivka, Kreminna, Novoaydar, Novopskov, Popasna, Troitske)



major challenge and undermines public trust towards the work of governmental structures. The project facilitated the review of anti-corruption strategies of Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts and the development of actions plans to ensure their practical implementation. Strong emphasis was placed on increasing local civil society institutions' capacities to monitor local authorities' work on implementing relevant anti-corruption strategies. Monitoring was accompanied by developing and submitting recommendations to local authorities for further consideration and follow up actions Regional Development Agencies (RDAs) that are institutionally capacitated to contribute to further sustainable development of the conflict-affected areas are now in place in both the Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts.

The social cohesion and community security work-stream provided opportunities for learning and knowledge-sharing to improve the understanding and perception of communities across Ukraine about other communities (East-West Dialogue). It also stimulated and informed the overall discourse on the future of the country's development. Moreover, creating and enhancing mechanisms for the inclusion and participation of various groups (including internally displaced persons, representatives from vulnerable groups, such as people living with HIV, disabilities and the elderly) in recovery and development at the local, regional and national levels, coupled with support for strengthening the practices of mediation, dialogue and peacebuilding were at the core of restoring citizen trust in the state.

The project stood at the forefront of mobilizing and empowering communities to participate in recovery planning and development, which was reached by elaboration of and follow-up on the practical application of a community mobilization for empowerment (CME) methodology. The methodology emerged as a guideline, providing step-by-step instructions on mobilizing communities around common goals related to local development planning, budgeting, strengthening social cohesion and community security, promoting gender equality and women's empowerment.

While the Joint Project (JP) has successfully applied CME as a methodology for accelerating sustainable and equitable local development, local approaches varied. Both approaches have proven their effectiveness to mobilize women and men, initiative groups as actors and agents of change in different ways: 1) Application of CME by UNDP has strengthened the social cohesion and community security by promoting community dialogue and civic engagement; and 2) Application of CME by UN Women has mobilized and built capacity of women and men, especially women facing multiple forms of discrimination, and enhanced their leadership in and collaboration with the local authorities in making the local decision making human rights-based and gender-responsive.

Twenty-two local development forums are in place in conflict-affected areas, serving as interactive dialogue platforms for the authorities, community members and security providers to openly raise, discuss and develop joint solutions to rising challenges. Cooperation among local security providers and community members was enhanced via the establishment of special community security working groups.⁸ The community security working groups have proved to be important channels of bringing forward and addressing concrete security constraints; more than 70 per cent of members have reported that their voices are being taken into account in improving community security.

To ensure more effective coordination among local authorities, rescue services and law enforcement agencies, the project set up videoconferencing facilities in 32 towns across Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts. The system consists of 35 offices that operate 24 hours per day, seven days per week and cover all cities and towns in the government-controlled areas of Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts. The oblasts held a total of 444 video conference sessions.

Women and men, especially vulnerable people from conflict-affected areas, have addressed the human rights, gender and conflict-specific needs of the communities by implementing locally based civic initiatives through small grants. As a result of

⁸ Community Security Working Groups Scheme at <http://www.ua.undp.org/content/dam/ukraine/docs/Donbas/RPP/CSWG%20scheme.pdf>

competitive selection process, grants were provided to 84 community-based and local development initiatives⁹ to respond to the needs of local women and men, especially women facing multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination. The aims of the initiatives include promoting gender equality and women's rights, enhancing gender-responsive community security and improving social cohesion in conflict-affected communities. Among other benefits, the small grants were ranging from street lighting, laying speed bumps to setting zebra crossings, fences and installation of video surveillance cameras helped to increase women's access to services and information and to increase the level of trust between authorities and women's grass-roots groups.

Gender equality and human rights-based approaches were integral to the project's interventions. The UN Women worked to ensure that gender advocates and women affected by conflict participate in local decision-making, including about spending, and benefit equitably from governance reforms and recovery efforts. UN Women worked with women facing multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination, including internally displaced, conflict-affected women, women with disabilities, older women, and women heading households and the others to empower them to participate in local decision-making and advocate for the inclusion of their needs into local plans, programmes and budgets in Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts.

Local gender coordination councils (LGCCs), established by decrees of Heads of the ATCs in Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts and with UN Women support, were created in seven Amalgamated Territorial Communities;¹⁰ formalized LGCCs had not yet existed at the community level. LGCCs provide a platform for local women leaders to advocate for inclusion of women's needs in local plans and budgets and to demand accountability for

decentralized local authorities' implementation of gender equality national commitments.

Advocacy efforts of women and men with disabilities resulted in budget increase for the 2018 Accessibility Programme of Kramatorsk to ensure the equal access of public buildings and non-discriminatory services for women with disabilities.

Significant progress has been made on raising awareness and building knowledge of the regional and local authorities in the two conflict-affected Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts on gender-responsive budgeting. These efforts resulted in two amalgamated communities of Luhansk and Donetsk oblasts adopting local gender programmes with total allocation of UAH 260,500/\$9.3,000.¹¹

Representatives of regional and local authorities have strengthened knowledge and skills to respond to the differentiated needs of women and men by integrating gender-responsive measures in local policies, programmes and budgets. Thus, the Local Socio-Economic Strategies of seven ATCs¹² and two local gender programmes in communities¹³ of Luhansk and Donetsk oblasts integrate gender-responsive objectives, measures to address inequality, and improve access of most underrepresented women to resources, infrastructure, public services, including prevention and crisis centers on gender-based violence (GBV).

Local communities in Luhansk and Donetsk oblasts were sensitized on harmful gender stereotypes, gender discrimination and GBV through the 'Violence has no Excuse' awareness-raising and communications campaign.

⁹ Of these 84 small grants, 36 were funded by UN Women with the total amount of \$188,000 for women's empowerment initiatives and 48 grants were funded by UNDP with the total amount of \$506,000

¹⁰ Cherkas'ke, Lyman, Mykolayivka in Donetsk Oblast, and Bilokurakyn, Chmyrivka, Novopskov, Troitske in Luhansk Oblast

¹¹ Bilokurakyn, Chmyrivka of Luhansk Oblast

¹² Novopskov, Chmyrivka, Troitske, Kreminna, Vuhledar and Bilokurakyn communities (in Luhansk Oblast) and Kramatorsk, Bakhmut, Cherkas'ke, Lyman and Mykolaivka communities (in Donetsk Oblast)

¹³ Bilokurakyn, Chmyrivka of Luhansk Oblast



Background

Events and developments in Ukraine led to levels of crisis and opportunities that were unprecedented in its history as an independent state. From 2013 to 2014, large-scale demonstrations in Ukraine's capital Kyiv and other cities demanded a break from endemic corruption and called for adherence to European standards of governance. These protests ultimately precipitated a change in government in February 2014. This change, combined with Russia's annexation of Crimea in March 2014, shaped the context in which armed conflict erupted in Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts.

While most of the two oblasts was at some point affected by armed conflict, and anti-government elements had taken control of many cities and towns, forces loyal to the Government of Ukraine were able to gain back much of the territory by August 2014. Eventually, the two oblasts ended up being de facto divided into government- and non-government-controlled areas. Hundreds of thousands of people were displaced, especially from the areas outside government control; roughly half of the internally displaced population temporarily settled in the government-controlled areas of Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts. The oblast administrations themselves relocated from their previous headquarters in Donetsk and Luhansk cities to Kramatorsk and Severodonetsk respectively. In Donetsk Oblast, some state institutions also relocated to Mariupol.

Although a ceasefire and an outline for a political settlement were agreed upon in the Minsk Memorandum in September 2014, and a Package of Measures for its implementation agreed upon in February 2015, it took until September 2015 for a

ceasefire to hold for longer periods. The parameters for a political settlement include the creation of a special status for certain areas of Donetsk and Luhansk, anchored in constitutional law, and the return of the entire area under Ukraine's sovereign control and legislative supremacy. While the original target date of the end of 2015 for the required legislation and special local elections was not met, parties agree that the Minsk process remains the only available option for finding a lasting settlement for the conflict.

These events exacerbated long-standing governance deficits in Ukraine, which existed at all levels. "The ongoing conflict in eastern Ukraine has had a direct and highly negative impact on social cohesion, resilience, livelihoods, community security, and the rule of law," as identified through the recent Recovery and Peacebuilding Assessment that was conducted jointly by the European Union, the United Nations and the World Bank and endorsed by the Government of Ukraine.¹⁴

Displacement, fear and diminishing levels of trust are acute social problems, and conflict-related distress across communities is widespread. The conflict exacerbated pre-existing social fragmentation, prejudices, regional divides and low levels of trust in local authorities and institutions particularly in Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts. A recent UNDP-commissioned survey in Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts provided evidence for a very low level of trust in governance institutions. In many ways, the conflict and resulting displacement from Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts magnified Ukraine's pre-conflict fragility.

¹⁴ Ukraine Recovery and Peacebuilding Assessment, available at: http://www.un.org.ua/images/documents/3737/V1-RPA_Eng_Vol1.pdf

In government-controlled areas, pressure on local resources, service delivery, livelihoods, and governance has been building with increases in the numbers and the duration of stay of internally displaced persons (an estimated two-thirds of which are women and children). Women are disproportionately affected by the conflict due to persistent gender inequality and discrimination, as well as further entrenchment of gender stereotypes.

In pursuing an ambitious decentralisation agenda (one of the government's primary reform priorities), Ukraine must enact territorial-administrative reform to consolidate units of local governance. Accordingly, this poses additional challenges for local governments in Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts in meeting the requirements of the national reform process and the expectations of their respective constituencies. Strengthening local government capacities by improving transparency, accountability, equity, non-discrimination and responsiveness to community needs is a fundamental requirement if decentralisation and other reforms are to have a meaningful impact. This entails improving service delivery, community security and social cohesion among local populations, particularly women affected by conflict and other groups at risk of exclusion and discrimination. While the strain on governance institutions in Donetsk and Luhansk is already enormous as a consequence of the conflict, they are not exempt from following the demanding schedule of the national governance reform agenda.

Conflict disproportionately affects women due to persistent gender inequality and discrimination and due to deepened gender stereotypes, that emphasize men's roles as protectors and heroes and women's roles as caring supporters. Women and children make up a majority among internally displaced persons. The lack of adequate social support services has resulted in an increased

burden on women for the care of children, sick, elderly, the disabled and other family members. Women shoulder the responsibility of ensuring their families' social and economic well-being—including managing domestic needs, securing housing and providing economically in host communities with already strained resources.

The crisis has reinforced the stereotypical roles expected of women; women are traditionally expected to be homemakers and care givers. At the same time, women are chronically suffering from the insufficient inclusion of their needs in the analysis, planning and budgeting for local development, recovery and service delivery. Further, they have limited access to income-generation activities, social services and childcare. Women's participation in community security and conflict resolution remains extremely low. According to results of the Donetsk local authorities' capacity assessment, while women represent a majority in local government bodies, their capacity to influence decisions is insignificant. In addition, while women submit 50 per cent of all complaints to local authorities, only 19 per cent of their complaints are addressed. The same report indicates that local authorities have extremely limited understanding of gender analysis and the application of gender mainstreaming tools.¹⁵

In conflict-affected areas, implementing reforms that consider needs and contributions of women—particularly the most vulnerable—is of renewed urgency due to the severe impacts the war is having on social cohesion, community security, access to service delivery and the resilience of vulnerable groups. To effectively respond to the disproportionate impacts and needs faced by women, it is crucial to thoroughly integrate gender perspectives and interventions that specifically target women affected by the conflict into reform processes and into regional and local planning.

¹⁵ Ukraine Recovery and Peacebuilding Assessment, available at: http://www.un.org.ua/images/documents/3737/V1-RPA_Eng_Vol1.pdf

UNDP and UN Women developed the joint programme to address these challenges; it was developed to restore effective governance and to promote reconciliation in crisis-affected communities of Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts, thereby enhancing local governments' credibility and legitimacy in the government-controlled areas of the regions. The programme aimed to contribute to peace-building and the prevention of further conflict in Ukraine through effective and accountable decentralisation, gender-responsive recovery planning and equal access to services, as well as through enhanced community security and social cohesion. The project's interventions were designed to meet the following four specific objectives in line with the national and regional public reform agenda:

1. Improve regional and **local governments' capacity** in recovery planning and service delivery, so that is gender-responsive, participatory and in line with decentralisation and local government reform agendas;
2. Enhance **community security** for people in conflict-affected areas, with a focus on internally displaced persons and host communities;
3. Restore and strengthen **social cohesion** between local authorities and communities, including internally displaced persons; and
4. Increase knowledge and provide tools for regional and local governments and law enforcement bodies in conflict-affected to improve gender-responsive planning and budgeting and community security.

The project was integrated into a comprehensive UN Recovery and Peacebuilding Programme, a unifying programmatic framework for eight development projects funded by nine international partners.¹⁶

Designed to combine efforts across several areas, the successful implementation of the Recovery and Peacebuilding Programme is greatly contributing to mitigating mounting risks and managing increasing challenges in areas most affected by the conflict. Setting a long-term, integrated agenda for strengthening governance capacity at the regional, district and local levels makes current recovery interventions more robust, sustainable, inclusive and responsive; contributes to restoring trust in government and rebuilding legitimacy; and further enhances social cohesion and senses of security in affected communities, thus reducing the potential for conflict.

¹⁶ European Investment Bank, European Union, Governments of Netherlands, Norway, Japan, Poland, Sweden, Denmark, Swiss Cooperation Office



Objective 1

Improve regional and local government capacity in recovery planning and service, making it gender responsive, participatory and in line with the decentralisation and local government agenda



Decentralisation reform is among the top priorities addressed by national and regional authorities. Its fundamental objectives lie in transferring more responsibilities from central authorities to the regional and local levels with a view of raising efficiency of the system of public administration to better manage the development agenda and to increase their proximity to the communities they serve. Decentralisation reform was launched following the adoption of the State Strategy of Regional Development in 2014 by the Ukraine Cabinet of Ministers.¹⁷

The Strategy has identified directions, terms and mechanisms to implement the decentralisation reform agenda. The major directions of the ongoing decentralisation process include:

- Improving regional and local authorities' capacity for strategic planning and implementation of the development agenda;
- Improving the quality of public administration and the delivery of public services to community residents, especially the vulnerable groups;
- Enhancing the performance of local state administrations, improving relations between local administrations and individuals and legal entities through the introduction of e-governance;
- Implementing administrative-territorial reforms that allow for the amalgamation of existing communities into bigger units to increase transparency, accountability and further openness;
- Integrated implementation of the national gender equality policies at the oblast and local levels.

The project's intervention logic was built around assisting the efforts of national and local authorities in implementing these reform areas, leading to strategic and systemic changes in the following fields: Elaboration of a strategic planning development framework; fiscal decentralisation; territorial amalgamation processes; administrative decentralisation; and boosting transparency and anti-corruption capacities.

Elaboration of a strategic planning development framework

To ensure sustainable development in the conflict-affected oblasts of eastern Ukraine, the project provided support for the development of the Luhansk Oblast Regional Development Strategy 2020.¹⁸ The Strategy sets out mechanisms for diversifying the regional economy, improving the quality of social services, reforming local governance structures and building a secure society governed by the rule of law and respect for human rights.

The Strategy also defines the relationships between various levels of government and are intended to coordinate the efforts of all stakeholders to manage change in all areas of public life, including:

- Rehabilitating and developing critical infrastructure and ensuring its stable operation;
- Strengthening the capacity of local authorities to provide high quality and inclusive services using innovative technologies, in the context of nationwide decentralisation reform;
- Ensuring economic recovery, creating jobs and transitioning to sustainable development; and
- Creating favourable conditions for living and peacebuilding;
- Strategy development has been taking place in inclusive and participatory manner with the engagement of civil society groups and gender equality advocates.

Expert support was also provided in the elaboration of an action plan that includes concrete sets of steps to be taken, deadlines to be met, responsible parties and budgetary sources that are needed to guarantee the Strategy's practical implementation. The Strategy's development processes took place in an inclusive manner accompanied by discussion with women's organizations that solicited feedback and incorporated relevant recommendations to foster gender equality.

To foster local-level strategic planning and development, the project supported the elaboration of local development strategies for its targeted communities, placing key emphasis on their inclusive social and economic development to meet the needs and interests of their residents.

¹⁷The State Strategy on Regional Development is available at: https://surdp.eu/uploads/files/SSRD_2020_approved_final_EN.pdf

¹⁸The Luhansk Oblast Regional Development Strategy is available at: http://www.ua.undp.org/content/dam/ukraine/docs/Donbas/RPP/Luhansk-reg-dev-strategy_ENG-14-06-2017.pdf

Key achievements:

- Elaboration and adoption of the Luhansk Oblast Regional Development Strategy 2020 with a gender-specific objective on “creating the conditions for the rule of law, gender equality and protection of human rights.
- Elaboration of local socioeconomic development strategies and action plans to seven targeted communities:
- Four in Luhansk Oblast: Bilokurakhyne (see Annex 3), Novopskov (see Annex 4), Troitske (see Annex 5) and Chmyrivka (see Annex 6);
- Three in Donetsk Oblast: Mykolaivka (see Annex 7), Lyman (see Annex 8) and Cherkas'ke (see Annex 9).

The local development strategies aim at facilitating medium-term strategic planning to boost prospects for comprehensive community economic growth. Local self-government officials have also received knowledge and skills on the coordinated implementation of the strategies. Extensive focus was also made on making the strategies gender-responsive to address still existing gender inequalities and the needs of vulnerable women in local policymaking and implementation. Representatives from 20 targeted communities were trained on project writing and project management skills. As a result of these activities, 54 grants proposals were developed and submitted by participants to different donors to seek potential funding.

Fiscal decentralisation

Fiscal decentralisation is a cornerstone for effective implementation of ongoing decentralisation reform processes. It envisages local self-government institutions having the ability to efficiently manage their financial resources through proper planning, budget adoption, revenue raising and tax and fee administration.

Key achievements:

- Increased awareness of local authorities on the importance of carrying out gender-sensitive fiscal decentralisation;
- Enhanced capacity of local authorities on local financial management, transparent budgeting and procurement;
- Analysis of 2016-2018 fiscal decentralisation trends in 20 targeted communities;

- Investment profile for Luhansk Oblast that contains comprehensive information on competitive advantages and investment opportunities (see Annex 10);
- Development of 20 financial profiles for all the targeted communities that include a detailed situational analysis of socioeconomic, budgetary and demographic matters. The profiles are serving as a baseline information in planning and implementing communities' development agenda (see Annex 11 for Novosaidar ATC of Luhansk Oblast and Annex 12 for Bakhmut ATC); and
- Budget baseline calculations are conducted for newly ATCs.

Territorial amalgamation processes

In the territorial amalgamation process, extensive support was provided to local authorities aimed at uniting smaller communities into large ATCs to substantial new revenues, greater control over local land use planning and permitting, local fees and charges as well as new possibilities for inter-communal cooperation to jointly solve contemporary development challenges.

Key achievements:

- Plan and methodology adaptation for voluntary amalgamation to facilitate the entire process as well as provision of relevant advisory support, including analytical notes for communities, recommendations for further steps in the voluntary process, community development proposals, standard forms, and a package of documents regulating the establishment of each amalgamated community;
- Facilitation of an increase in the number of amalgamated territories. To date, nine of 20 targeted communities are amalgamated;
- More than 200 participants from Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts gained new knowledge, skills and experience on decentralisation through study visits to, Estonia, Georgia, Lithuania and Poland that have underwent similar processes in the past;
- In-country study visits to Ivano-Frankivsk, Lviv and Poltava have resulted in increased capacity for

amalgamation of more than 300 representatives from Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts; and

- Non-amalgamated communities received opinion leaders that can advocate for and raise public trust for decentralisation.

Administrative decentralisation

Another important project focus, support to administrative decentralisation, resulted in the establishment and full operational support to the functioning of 14 administrative service centres (ASCs). The centres provide high-quality administrative and social services to citizens (e.g. issuance of passports, certificates and other documents, the registration of place of residence). ASCs represent a new level of service delivery by the authorities due to the centre's proximity and openness to, and their convenience for, the citizens they serve. Moreover, their use of modern information technology has greatly accelerated all the administrative processes.

The project helped to repair the premises of the ASCs, supplied them with modern furniture, equipment and software and most importantly delivered trainings to staff members to provide high quality services to local residents.

Key achievements:

- 14 fully functional ASCs are in place in both Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts;
- More than 170,000 people have already received the needed services (63 per cent of the beneficiaries are women);
- 127 ASC workers were trained to provide high quality and inclusive services to local residents;
- 16 'mobile ASC' digital suitcases were transferred to ASCs in order to ensure service delivery; and
- 25 local self-government officials from Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts were capacitated on e-governance tools on the basis of Kharkiv Regional Academy of Public Administration.

Boosting transparency and anti-corruption capacities

Corruption continues to remain one of the key factors undermining public trust towards the work of both the national and regional authorities. Thus, in its interventions, the project prioritized this area of work and undertook series of measures to address this issue systemically via setting and enhancing existing institutional framework, increasing interaction between the civil society sector, the authorities as well as the public at large that must form a culture of zero tolerance to corruption.

Key achievements:

- Review of anti-corruption strategic plans for Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts to meet and address contemporary challenges along with development of action plans to ensure their implementation;
- Pilot communities in Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts enhanced their access to information on government's transparency issues via application of Sector Integrity and Vulnerability Assessment followed up by post-assessment discussions;
- Elaborated action plans for four targeted communities to implement anti-corruption strategies (Cherkas'ke and Lyman in Donetsk Oblast, Novopetrovsk and Troitske in Luhansk Oblast);
- A network of 12 CSOs capable of monitoring local authorities' efforts in addressing corruption, in issuing relevant recommendations and most importantly in building a constructive dialogue with the authorities at different levels. Four CSOs received grants to carry out public monitoring of local governments' transparency and accountability; and
- Support to the creation and further activities of the RDAs in Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts and their enhanced institutional and financial capacity on monitoring and evaluation, project management, anti-corruption, Prozorro (a public e-procurement system) and general procurement, engineering and public relations.

United Nations Social Cohesion and Reconciliation Index for Eastern Ukraine (USE)

To better understand the context and to ensure effective planning with regards to enhancing local governance structures and restoring social cohesion among various groups, the project supported the use of a comprehensive analytical assessment tool, the United Nations Social Cohesion and Reconciliation Index for Eastern Ukraine (USE).¹⁹

In 2018, the project supported the conduct of the second USE, involving 6,000 respondents to monitor the developments and to conceptualize the existing situation. Findings measured respondents' perceptions of the situation from 0 to 10 (0 being the lowest score). See Objective 3 for more information on USE methodology and its key results.

Major highlights related to local governance:

- According to USE, the level of active citizenship (measured as readiness to participate in local/national elections, meetings and volunteering) in Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts decreased from 3.7 and 4.1 in 2017, to 3.5 and 3.8 in 2018 (respectively);
- The level of trust to local administrations in Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts slightly decreased from 4.9 and 4.6 in 2017, to 4.7 and 4.5 in 2018 (please note that both changes are not statistically significant at the 0.05 level of significance). Similarly, the level of trust to regional administration in Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts also decreased from 3.8 and 3.7 in 2017 to 3.6 and 3.2 in 2018 respectively;
- There is no change in citizens' satisfaction with public service provision in Donetsk Oblast between 2017 and 2018, while there is a slight decrease in Luhansk Oblast: from 5.0 in 2017 to 4.9 in 2018;
- Citizens' perception of corruption decreased in both oblasts between 2017 and 2018: from 6.4 to 6.1 in Donetsk Oblast, and from 6.4 to 5.8 in Luhansk Oblast.

¹⁹ See <http://www.ua.undp.org/content/ukraine/en/home/recovery-and-peacebuilding/use.html>

Output 1.1

Enhanced capacity for decentralisation in government-controlled areas of Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts. Build the capacity of regional and local authorities in conflict-affected areas with regards to administrative and fiscal decentralisation and managing the territorial amalgamation process.

The restoration of governance functions in conflict-affected territories was possible only in the context of complex transformations in the structures and functions of the entire system of public administration (at both the central and local levels) and a comprehensive decentralisation reform. In order for such transformations to take place, several interlinked reforms are still being carried out: territorial, administrative, budgetary, tax and local government. The project's interventions aimed at contributing to these reform areas via joint design and implementation of locally owned initiatives, stemming from the provision of analytical information, design of local development strategies, action plans as well as support to the establishment of RDAs and strengthening of their financial and institutional capacities.

Activity 1.1.1

Analyse and assess the potential implications of decentralisation and provide information on the planning and implementation of reform in the conflict-affected areas of eastern Ukraine

The main goal of these analytical activities focused on exploring the local community capacities and on estimating the potential of the new amalgamated local government units. The results of the analysis have served as the basis for forming project interventions and areas of assistance. Local authorities were equipped with the necessary data and knowledge in bringing forward the decentralisation agenda through an inclusive consultation process with the citizens.

Following major interventions were undertaken:

Analysis of the financial sustainability of the 20 targeted communities (their revenues and necessary expenditures).

The analysis explored the following major items:

- Statistical data collection, compilation, classification and description of sources of communities' budgets for the period of 2014 to 2016, including: General fund revenues of local budgets, under Art. 64 of the Budget Code of Ukraine; special fund revenues of local budgets, under Art. 69-1 of the Budget Code of Ukraine; intergovernmental transfers (grants, subsidies), under Art. 96 of the Budget Code of Ukraine; Composition and amount of local expenditures; calculation of potential revenues and expenditures of communities if their amalgamation occurs according to a long-term plan;
- The development of informational profiles for each of the targeted communities in both oblasts, including: incomes and their budget expenditures before amalgamation; possible incomes and expenses in the budgets of the communities; problems in local finances, as well as appropriate recommendations to address them where necessary.

In-depth analysis of the local socioeconomic development and recovery strategies

The analysis was crucial for strategic planning and formed a basis for targeted communities' further development. The analysis included in-depth research of all the major areas surrounding the local development agenda, including socioeconomic-, environmental-, cultural-, community- and security-related aspects. Separate data was developed on the situation of vulnerable groups as well as data on gender-specific needs in order to allow implementation of specific measures to eliminate discriminatory practices and to contribute to the formation of inclusive policies in the targeted communities.

Baseline data to measure the progress of decentralisation and provision of public services

Providing high-quality public services plays a fundamental role in ensuring public satisfaction and trust towards the system of governance in general. Therefore, devising baseline data to enable regular monitoring of the quality of the provided public services and the decentralisation process is of crucial importance to assessing all efforts and policies undertaken in targeted communities.

The scope of work included desk research, expert interviews, focus group discussions in the field and the elaboration of a system of indicators to measure the progress of decentralisation reform. The study has shown the progress of the reform, especially in-service provision (e.g. administrative, social, medical, and educational), with regards to improved quality, better access (including for vulnerable groups), and increased satisfaction of people with the services provided. In 2018, the scope of work was complemented by small-scale, on-site polling that produced comparative findings data to assess reform progress in all targeted communities from 2016 to 2018.

Public outreach campaign on decentralisation

To raise public awareness and support for decentralisation processes, the project launched a communication campaign in 14 targeted communities; the campaign reached out to more than 100,000 people.²⁰

²⁰ See <https://undpukraine.exposure.co/decentralization-the-way-forward-for-eastern-ukraine>

The campaign involved multimedia content and outreach events in the form of a roadshow in communities that were not yet amalgamated. As a result of the campaign, the percentage of people who had never heard about the reform decreased by 10 per cent; the percentage of people who could name at least one benefit of decentralisation increased slightly. This indicates that continuing the information campaign is necessary to inform the public and gain its much-needed support to the reform process.

An interactive map was also created for Donetsk Oblast, providing a bigger picture of the recovery projects active in the region.²¹ The main objectives of the map are to coordinate recovery and development efforts and to raise awareness among the general public and international development partners of national and international completed, ongoing and planned projects, the nature of recovery work, the volume of funding, current implementation stage of projects and information results achieved.

Activity 1.1.2

Provide capacity development support and technical assistance in administrative and fiscal decentralisation

The main goal of these activities was to provide support for the oblast and local governments in relation to the administrative and financial aspects of the decentralisation process through several major interventions.

In its initial implementation phase, the project planned to establish Support Prefect Offices at the district levels (rayons). However, implementing this initiative required the introduction of a number of constitutional changes that are not yet in place. Therefore, following a joint decision approved by the EU Delegation, budgeted funds for this initiative were reallocated to support

the launch of the RDAs in both Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts. The RDA in each of the oblasts is designed to be an independent agency, governed by a Supervisory Board that includes representatives from the Oblast Administration, civil society and international partners.

RDAs were established to perform the following major tasks:

- Conduct regular analysis of the regions' socioeconomic situation and elaborate recommendations in addressing the challenges identified;
- Undertake necessary interventions to increase the regions' investment attractiveness and to contribute to their sustainable development;
- Foster regions' institutional and infrastructural development; and
- Learn and adopt best international experiences and practices related to the formation of sound policies to foster comprehensive development of the regions.

Formal establishment of the RDAs required institutional and operational support to their work. This was reached through the provision of technical aid to formulate work plans for the organizational development of RDAs.

The work plans were approved by members of the supervisory boards and include actions related to procurement, budget and finance, project and human resources management, general administration, monitoring, evaluation and issues related to addressing anti-corruption efforts. To further systematize the work of the RDAs, expert support was provided in elaborating operational principles and policy guidelines (see Annex 13).

The operational principles and policy guidelines include concrete standards and serve as a unified framework for all business processes, including project management, administrative and financial aspects. To increase operational capacity of RDA personnel, the project engaged three experts for the Luhansk oblast RDA and seven experts for the Donetsk oblast RDA in the most strategic areas of work: monitoring and evaluation, project management, anti-corruption, Prozorro and procurement, engineering and public relations.

²¹ See <http://cba.org.ua/mapd/>

Expert assistance resulted RDAs systematizing their work via developing and adopting working plans, which also included their potential future role as central procurement entities for the regions. Significant progress was made in enhancing the personnel capacities in progress and financial expenditure reporting, Prozorro, monitoring and evaluation.

Activity 1.1.3

Provide capacity development support and technical assistance in managing the territorial amalgamation process

The main goal of this activity was to support to the territorial administrative amalgamation process. The project's role focused on developing a concrete methodology in line with the tools provided by national government and international partners.

The **first step** in this process was to identify target clusters of local governments and of prospective maps. To this end, the UNDP, together with the respective departments of the Donetsk and Luhansk oblast administrations, developed a topographic database and territorial planning schemes for Lyman in Donetsk Oblast, and Troyiske in Luhansk Oblast.

The schemes include: a prospective outline for the future development of settlements, providing development suggestions for areas outside the current settlements; the identification of centres of the settlement system; proposals for the development of transport and engineering infrastructure; and proposals for the creation and use of economically attractive areas.

The **second step** was to set up a network of facilitators. UNDP experts conducted individual consultations in each of the 20 communities (with participation of around 400 people in total). The consultations collected needs assessment information (see Annex 14), which is being used to raise awareness about the amalgamation process within the communities themselves.

Special working groups were established in the communities, whose members operate as agents of change and received comprehensive assistance from the UNDP, including participation in study tours, training and direct consultative support in various areas of decentralisation.

To further accelerate the process of territorial amalgamation, UNDP developed a plan and **methodology for voluntary amalgamation**. UNDP worked on analysing the current situation, developing and improving plans and methods and identifying steps to be taken towards the voluntary amalgamation of communities in Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts. The work also included the provision of advisory support for further voluntary amalgamation. The products developed for 13 communities (by December 2017) include: analytical notes for communities, recommendations for further steps in the voluntary process, community development proposals, standard forms and a package of documents regulating the establishment of each amalgamated community. As a result, the project has made a tangible input to the amalgamation of nine of 20 territories.

To build capacity and provide practical knowledge about decentralisation and the main aspects of amalgamation, the UNDP team organized 13 two-day training sessions for representatives from 13 communities (completed by January 2018). In addition, 290 community representatives had obtained fundamental knowledge about the amalgamation process by the end of 2017, with an additional 249 trained in the period from 2017-2018. This has greatly contributed to the progress made in the areas of decentralisation and further sustainability.

Output 1.2

Strengthened capacity of regional and local governments in conflict-affected areas to improve quality, delivery and access to public services based on participatory, gender and conflict-sensitive approaches to planning and budgeting.

The transformation of local governance mechanisms should be accomplished without a decrease in the perceived quality or quantity of local services for citizens. Further, the transformation should lead to near-term increases in coverage and access, quality of services and citizens' satisfaction with their (new) local authorities. To ensure this, the project's interventions followed a logical framework, starting with analysis of the existing institutional legal framework related to the delivery of public services and a capacity assessment. This was followed by an elaboration of organizational development plans, exchange programmes for strengthening institutional capacities, training and technical assistance related to human resources, ITC/e-government, communication, legal advice, gender-responsive strategic planning, improvement of services delivery).

Activity 1.2.1

Establish and practice a participatory and conflict sensitive approach to planning and budgeting, which is inclusive, gender-responsive and that promotes women's empowerment

The goal of this activity was to strengthen local government's provision of public services, thereby increasing their coverage and access, the quality of the services and citizens' satisfaction.

To ensure comprehensive and sustainable development of the targeted communities, the project provided expert support in the elaboration of gender-responsive local socioeconomic development strategies for seven amalgamated territorial communities in both Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts. The strategies allow medium-term strategic planning for enhancing community prospects for economic growth and development while addressing the need for social cohesion, recovery and gender-responsive community security and services. Importantly, the strategies were developed in line with new territorial and institutional realities.

The full scope of strategy development took place in an intensive participatory, inclusive and transparent process that used a human rights-based approach and gender mainstreaming in order to promote the needs of the most vulnerable groups of the local population. To this end, UN Women carried out gender analysis of the documents and held joint strategic seminars in January 2018. Seminar goals included mainstreaming gender into strategic planning, improving monitoring and evaluation systems and devising gender-sensitive indicators for the elaborated strategies.

Support was provided in the elaboration of the Luhansk Oblast Regional Development Strategy 2020, aimed at ensuring the region's long term, sustainable and comprehensive development while taking into account contemporary challenges.

Activity 1.2.2

Ensure there are effective anti-corruption efforts in local government, as well as information management and monitoring systems for the development and implementation of public policies

The purposes of this activity focused on promoting government transparency, supporting civil society actors in public monitoring of government's decisions and activities and on ensuring that anti-corruption efforts are implemented at the local level.

Addressing local-level anti-corruption efforts was central to project interventions that resulted in the practical application of the Sector Integrity Vulnerability Assessment in the four targeted communities (Cherkas'ke and Lyman in Donetsk Oblast; Novopskov and Troitske in Luhansk Oblast). The application of the Assessment identified areas that are most vulnerable to corruption risks in the selected communities. Its findings served as an important basis in the elaboration of action plans to implement anti-corruption strategies in the above-mentioned ATCs.

In systemically addressing corruption, strong emphasis was placed on enhancing the roles of civil society institutions as watchdogs to oversee the performance of local authorities in relation to addressing corruption. With project support, a network of 12 organizations was trained on the tools and techniques of conducting public monitoring of the work of local executive institutions. Grants were allocated to four organizations to conduct monitoring in the following key directions: monitoring municipal property management; identifying and assessing of corruption risks in Donetsk Oblast Administration; and monitoring consolidated capital construction expenses in Luhansk Oblast Administration. The monitoring went beyond merely identifying existing problems; it was followed up by an elaboration of a concrete set of recommendations that were discussed and handed over to local counterparts for further actions.

Other areas of intervention with regards to tackling corruption included:

■ Ensuring integrity of the local counterparts

The project facilitated the development of an Integrity Management Strategy (see Annex 15) and plan at the request of the Donetsk Oblast Regional Administration and its RDA. The Strategy aims to help counterparts develop an effective plan of action to build their ability to detect, prevent and take measures against corruption in their respective institutions. Along with the Strategy, an Integrity Management Toolkit (see Annex 16) is available. The Toolkit has a list of elaborated instruments to declare conflicts of interest, verify assets declaration and to develop concrete actions against potential corrupt behaviour of relevant personnel.

■ Exchange of best practices in addressing corruption

Tirana, Albania

The project facilitated exchange visits in order to exchange best practices and tools to address corruption. Local counterparts, involving representatives from the targeted communities and CSOs, participated in the regional conference 'Corruption-Free Cities of the Future' in Tirana, hosted by the Government of Albania, 7 and 8 December 2017. The conference provided a first-hand opportunity to exchange experiences about achievements and challenges in preventing corruption at the local level, including by towns, cities and regions at large. Participants were familiarized with the UNDP toolkit on corruption-free cities that includes practical guidelines to design and implement integrity plans at the local level.

The convening also resulted in a better understanding of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the role of local governments, civil society and the private sector in their implementation and monitoring; improved understanding of potential vulnerabilities to corruption as well as accountability mechanisms in the public sector; and better understanding of the need for national authorities' (anti-corruption agencies') constructive engagement with local governmental structures and the need to go beyond compulsory integrity plans in their support to municipalities.

Kutaisi-Batumi, Georgia

A study visit to local counterparts from both Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts was organized to Georgia. Over the past decade, Georgia has made tangible and substantive progress in addressing corruption at both the national and local levels. Participants acquired in-depth knowledge and skills from Georgia's experience in applying the 'Island of Integrity' methodology, recognized by the UN Public Service Award in 2011. Islands of Integrity is a practical tool for Public Leaders and Managers to identify and change public policies and organizational systems prone to corruption through a strategic and participatory processes. 'Strategic' means that Islands of Integrity focuses on changing corrupt organizational systems, not (only) corrupt individuals; identifies and prioritizes the most dangerous forms of corruption; and goes through strategic planning process steps, from diagnosis to solutions. 'Participatory' means that managers and staff, leaders and outside stakeholders, work together to analyse the vulnerability to corruption of their organization and elaborate solutions. Since corruption is a concept loaded with emotions (e.g. fear, shame or defensiveness), anti-corruption practitioners help participants demystify corruption and approach it in an analytical way.

■ Openness of the communities

To promote government transparency through access to information, including online and webcasting tools, the project conducted an evaluation of the web pages and other online informative tools of the oblasts and of the four selected communities. The evaluation identified gaps in the provision of timely and publicly available data to citizens and resulted in the development of a checklist of information that the oblast and local governments should routinely disseminate.

Activity 1.2.3

Assist local authorities from cities and towns and the administrative centres of the newly amalgamated communities in improving public services

The purpose of this activity lay in the conduct of capacity assessment, organizational and capacity development of local counterparts in order to ensure the provision of high-quality public services to citizens.

Comprehensive capacity assessments and functional reviews were carried out in seven city administrations of ATCs with the objective of identifying strengths and weaknesses related to financial and administrative management, collection of revenues and the inclusion of a human rights-based approach and gender equality in local policy and programme development and implementation.

Conducted assessments were presented in the form of evaluation surveys for each of the targeted ATCs and encompassed the following key components:

- Description and analysis of the ATC management structure;
- Description and analysis of ATC decision-making and implementation processes;
- Review of the financial management in the targeted ATC as well as budget analysis, including data on its expenditures and needs;
- Analysis (including tables and graphs) of sources of government revenues and their generation;
- Description and a chart of the decision-making processes with regards to planning and implementing administrative services;
- Description and a chart of decision-making with regards to planning and implementing social services, especially targeting the most vulnerable groups); and
- Elaboration of recommendations in line with the issues identified.

The evaluation surveys were used as the needed basis in launching Organizational Development Plans for seven targeted communities. Going beyond merely analysing the existing situation, the Plans include concrete mechanisms to ensure improvements in institutional arrangements and measures to meet the needs of personnel. The Plans also include immediate advice to raise revenue and to improve expenditure effectiveness. The plans continue to serve as practical models for other non-amalgamated partner communities to accelerate the entire process, showcasing the tangible support provided by the project to communities that strictly adhere to and follow the ongoing decentralisation agenda.

Another key activity area includes capacity development interventions to local counterparts on a number of issues, including efficient financial management, budget transparency and procurement processes. For these purposes, the project developed a special training course, the **Formation of Practical Skills for Efficient Operations in Fiscal Decentralisation**, which focused on the following major topics:

- A general overview of the entire decentralisation reform process in Ukraine, including basic concepts, algorithms for the reorganization of local governance structures and procedural issues with regards to amalgamated communities);
- The procedure for setting revenues and expenditures in the local community budgets, the procedure for compiling relevant documents, and the optimization of financial management and fiscal policy at the local level;
- Efficient and needs-based use of available financial resources; and
- Implementation of local projects and project management (project management procedures in the targeted communities; exchange of best practices with other communities; enhancing cooperation with other executive authorities, international organizations and the donor community in order to raise funding; and procedures to develop relevant documents).

More than 350 people participated in the training session. Additional trainings on the development of practical skills for effective implementation of the decentralisation reform were delivered to more than 500 personnel of the city and village councils from the ATCs. The training agenda included specific topics related to improving delivery of public services in:

- The health sector, with a focus on organizing the provision of primary care;
- Social protection of the local population- general organization of social services, activities of local social centres and the provision of social assistance to families in need;
- Educational services and improvement of the system of preschool education;
- Law enforcement and the prevention of emergency situations;
- Fiscal issues and budgets of ATC — optimal organization of financial management and fiscal policy;
- Management of land issues in ATCs; and
- Organization of housing and communal services.

The project also extensively focused on improving local counterparts' capacities in elaborating and implementing community-driven project proposals. Seventeen four-day training sessions (three modules each) were held for 592 community representatives. The community representatives have since generated and submitted 54 project proposals to various donors to address community-based challenges.

A special training course, Organization of the Process of Administrative Service Provision, was designed and targeted to 127 ASC employees. The course explored all of the practical issues in organizing and delivering administrative services at the community level. Its participants were able to develop their communication skills and worked out techniques to deliver citizen-oriented, high-quality services. The course was built around the following major directions:

- Administrative services and activities of ASCs: the general organizational work of ASCs and a review of normative acts, best practices and innovative approaches in the work of ASCs;

- Tasks and functions of ASCs: the organization of the provision of administrative services in the shortest possible time and with the minimum number of visits, simplifying procedures in administrative services and improving the quality of their provision, and providing information to applicants about requirements and procedures for receiving the services;
- The main problems in the work of ASCs and their solutions: simplifying complex procedures of administrative services, reducing terms, changing inconvenient and limited operating times of administrative agencies and reducing large queues;
- Best experiences in the provision of administrative social services by other communities of Ukraine, resulting in study visits to Lviv and Mariupol; and
- Development of communication skills and psychological stability of ASC personnel.

Technical and operational support to ASC work led to more than 170,000 community residents obtaining needed social and administrative services, as evidenced by the 2018 Security and Justice Survey in three oblasts of Ukraine, where respondents were also asked about their experiences with administrative issues. Nearly one in ten (8.5 per cent) had tried to obtain a birth or death certificate within the 12 months preceding the survey. Of these, 87 per cent were very satisfied or satisfied with the process, a similar figure to the previous year.

The respondents were also interviewed about their experiences registering their residence permits. Of the 214 people (5.5 per cent of the overall sample) who tried to register, 81 per cent were very satisfied or satisfied with the process, which is a slight improvement from the previous year with the satisfaction rate of 75%. Another common administrative issue is registering land, either through owning or renting. Of the 185 people (4.8 per cent of the overall sample) who attempted to do this, 72 per cent were very satisfied or satisfied with the process. This is a significant improvement from last year, when only up to a half of those surveyed were satisfied with this process.

Activity 1.2.4

Pioneer innovative approaches and technologies (e-governance)

Introducing e-tools in the operation of public authorities and in the improvement of the quality of local public services was another essential project focus area. This was reached by conducting an assessment on the usage of e-governance tools by Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts leading to a detailed analysis and elaboration of recommendations for more openness, accountability and transparency of the authorities.

The software programme Universam of Services was installed in 10 ASCs of Luhansk oblast. The software allows quick information sharing, registers citizens' appeals and, most importantly, ensures that they are all processed on time to meet the demands of local residents.

Further, the electronic document management system, DOC PROF 3, was introduced in Druzhkivka and Mykolaivka city councils. It facilitates collaboration among various departments and increases document security and control with better knowledge management and search capabilities.

Training on e-governance for 22 people (representatives of target communities and RDA in Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts), jointly with the Kharkiv Regional Institute of Public Administration of the National Academy of Public Administration (in April 2018). The training increased the capacity of its participants on the application of modern e-governance tools, including introduction and usage of electronic document and knowledge management systems.





Objective 2

Enhanced community security for people in conflict-affected areas with a focus on internally displaced persons and host communities



Since independence, Ukraine has been characterized by weak rule of law, endemic corruption, regular (albeit generally limited) violations of human rights, and a paternalistic culture inherited from Soviet times. Following the developments in Crimea during March 2014, in the spring of 2014 conflict erupted in the Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts when pro-Russian separatists took control of parts of the two oblasts. Despite the Minsk Protocol of September 2014, the renewal of ceasefire provisions in February 2015 and other ceasefires (the latest being on 24 June 2016), hostilities continue along the Contact Line splitting the two oblasts.

Aside from the effects of the conflict, legal and institutional changes also had an impact on the framework in which the project was implemented. The nationwide decentralisation reform was introduced, with the aim of strengthening the accountability of local governments to the community population and improving the quality of services provided. This created opportunities for local actors to be actively engaged in the design and prioritization of services that have not been part of regular local service provision (e.g. security, legal aid).

In 2018, UNDP conducted a survey in the government-controlled areas of Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts and in Zhytomyr oblast.²² Survey results indicate that the main causes of insecurity in conflict-affected areas have evolved and are now more related to people's livelihoods than to conflict and violent crimes. The only exceptions are the areas immediately adjacent to the contact line, where people felt almost twice more insecure than people in other areas; issues more immediately related to the conflict, such as mines, shelling and conflict-related trauma still prevail in particular among the population living within 20 km from the contact line. Generally, tensions between internally displaced persons and host communities are perceived as less important.

Around half of the population in rural areas perceive policing as not meeting its security/protection needs. Response time to rural communities is inevitably longer due to the distances to be covered, compounded by a lack of vehicles and fuel which constrains effectively policing in those areas. Overall, consultations between local police and the population rarely take place, despite legal requirements for the police to engage with the public.

Gender-based Violence (GBV) was among the most serious areas of concerns expressed by the members of local communities in the east. According to the 2017 UN Women small-scale survey²³ on attitudes towards violence in Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts, 43 per cent of respondents did not trust the police, which was one of the reasons for not reporting on GBV. Women's groups in target communities also noted that some groups of women were at high risk of violence, including single mothers, older women, persons with disabilities, women serving at public administrations (mostly subject to harassment), and rural housewives (economically dependent on spouses and with no property). The access to prevention and crisis centers was particularly problematic for violence survivors, especially in rural areas.

In light of these developments, the project seeks to strengthen the protection of human security and access to justice and rule of law at the community level through:

Community empowerment and civil mobilization for local development, service delivery and community security

In meeting this objective, project interventions were built on UNDP's traditional strengths in Ukraine: community-based development, civil society networks and public engagement. The UN Women's contribution added depth in terms of identifying and addressing the human rights violations and gender inequalities at the community levels. The mobilized women's groups have developed community profiles that identify gender-specific needs and priorities (especially for vulnerable groups) to integrate and address during the formulation of local programmes, plans and budgets. The findings of the community profiles have been used during local consultations between the women's groups and local authorities and law enforcement bodies to raise the awareness of duty-bearers about the urgent gender-specific needs of the local communities. This approach has provided a two-way link between local communities, justice service providers and local administrations. It also links national-level reform efforts to local contexts.

²² Security and Justice in Ukraine, Perspective from Communities in Three Oblasts 2017, available at: <http://www.ua.undp.org/content/dam/ukraine/docs/DG/CBA-III/Security%20and%20Justice%20FINAL-ENG.pdf>

²³ The small-scale survey included 251 respondents and was conducted by UN Women in 2017. The report is not public and only has been used internally to plan communications activities.

The community security and rule of law workstream ensured the availability of and responsiveness to local population needs of services provided by the police, local authorities and justice institutions. This helped to improve the perception of personal and community security and strengthened people's trust in local service provision, thus contributing to long-term and sustainable results in peacebuilding, reconciliation and recovery. As a part of support to community security, the project worked extensively towards strengthening the capacities of law enforcement bodies in regions (patrol, district, juvenile prevention police officers), local authorities and service providers to prevent and address GBV and to support the GBV referral pathway. Comprehensive and systematic work with the media was completed to support gender-sensitive reporting. This has ultimately helped to sensitize and raise awareness on gender discrimination and gender stereotypes, as media plays a crucial role in raising awareness and changing the harmful attitudes towards the issue of GBV, especially in conflict-affected areas.

Moreover, the project provided support for the empowerment of the local population to actively participate in shaping local and regional government responses to community needs in justice and security, thereby strengthening the system and mechanisms for cooperation and coordination not only between community members and services providers, but also within diverse community groups. This has led to a more effective and adoptable solutions, practices and policy development.

Key achievements:

Institutional platforms

In enhancing community security for people in conflict-affected areas of eastern Ukraine, the project placed key emphasis on creating interactive institutional platforms between community members and the local authorities in order to raise and jointly address security and development challenges. This has led to the following achievements:

- 22 Local Development Forums (LDFs) were established and functional in all target locations²⁴. The LDFs serve as interactive platforms for the community, local authorities and security providers

to raise and jointly address development (including security-related) issues. LDFs are important stakeholders in community mobilization and can be used as a platform for dialogue between authorities and local self-government bodies, law enforcement agencies, non-governmental and charitable associations representing vulnerable groups, active citizens and action groups, foundations, enterprises and organizations of different ownership forms. LDF aims include creating the conditions to implement sustainable development principles in the community with the active involvement of population groups and representatives from institutions, organizations and business entities. LDFs also publicly discuss draft regulatory acts and decisions of local self-government bodies and promote the transparent exercise of powers by the ATC;

- Community security working groups (CSWGs) were set up as part of the LDFs to provide space for police-community discussions, information sharing and raising security issues and concerns among local authorities, security providers and communities at the grass-roots level;
- Recommendations developed by CSWGs as local initiatives are subject to mandatory consideration by local government authorities in accordance with Paragraph 3 of Article 9 of the Law of Ukraine 'On Local Government';
- 74 per cent of CSWG members feel that their voices are considered in improving community security;
- In 22 communities in target locations, 898 women and 585 men are now active leaders and decision-makers in their communities through their membership in the CSWGs.

Small grants to support community-based initiatives

The project ran a special grants scheme to support community-based initiatives to enhance security. The scheme empowered community members to identify the existing challenges and resolve them with project support. This resulted in 48 successfully implemented local initiatives to improve community security. Supported initiatives include installing street lighting, laying speed bumps, setting up zebra crossings, building fences and installing video surveillance cameras in conflict-affected communities of eastern Ukraine (see Annex 17 for detailed information on grants)

²⁴ See <https://drive.google.com/file/d/16s11mTMLxDiXGWQyMszTddrOziN0SVLL/view>

Capacity building interventions

Increasing the capacities of community members and law enforcement bodies in community policing and community mobilization was essential to building secure communities. Key results include:

- 381 police officers and community members have enhanced their understanding of community policing and its practical application;
- The development of a practical guidebook on community mobilization. The guidebook is available for public activists, members of non-governmental organizations (NGOs), representatives of local self-government bodies, amalgamated territorial communities, social work specialists and staff of international projects dealing with community mobilization challenges;
- 32 towns in Donetsk and Luhansk oblast have been connected via videoconferencing equipment, allowing accessibility to all government and local institutions. Videoconferencing is available 24 hours per day, 7 days per week.

Ensuring access to justice for conflict-affected communities:

The district court in Novopskov (which is close to the Contact Line) has been redesigned to improve accessibility for persons with disabilities and parents with children. All venues for visitors have been renovated to create an improved client-oriented environment.

Community security trends in UN Social Cohesion and Reconciliation Index for Eastern Ukraine

According to USE, citizen perceptions of personal security decreased in both oblasts between 2017 and 2018: from 4.7 to 4.4 in Donetsk Oblast, and from 5.1 to 4.7 in Luhansk Oblast.

The perception that internally displaced persons who live in the region are a social threat decreased in Donetsk Oblast from 3.5 in 2017 to 2.4 in 2018; it remained unchanged in Luhansk Oblast. In addition, the perception of other social groups as a social threat has significantly decreased in Donetsk Oblast, from 4.1 in 2017 to 3.0 in 2018, while in Luhansk Oblast the perception remained unchanged at 3.8.

The level of trust in the police in Donetsk Oblast increased from 3.3 in 2017 to 3.4 in 2018. In Luhansk Oblast, this value decreased from 3.5 in 2017 to 3.1 in 2018.

Output 2.1

Internally displaced persons and host communities have improved access to services that enhance community security and that are sensitive to their needs.

To improve community security, the project undertook series of activities primarily related to the establishment and functioning of relevant dialogue and institutional platforms for community members and local police to jointly identify and address security challenges. A series of grants were allocated to support community security initiatives, resulting in positive changes on the ground and improving people's access to justice.

Activity 2.2

Technical support for effective coordination between law enforcement bodies and local authorities and communities

Community Security Working Groups

In December 2016, UNDP conducted a legal study of Ukrainian legislation with the aim of identifying and assessing the existing legal frameworks related to decentralisation, local governance and community security. The data was used as a relevant basis in establishing Community Security Working Groups (CSWGs). As per the methodology, an assessment of community needs, a community development strategy (including a section dedicated to community security) and action plans were designed in close consultation with and inputs from community residents.

As a part of this approach, the project supported establishment of LDFs, a mechanism to bring local partners (e.g. administration, active citizens, internally displaced persons, people with disabilities, women, NGO representatives, deputies, police, businesses) together to discuss local development and to prepare roadmaps and action plans, including community security plans. The project also undertook a series of efforts to operationalize LDF work, which has resulted in the development of special regulations for LDFs. The regulations were subsequently adopted by relevant local councils. To date, 22 LDFs have been established and are functioning in target locations; the LDFs serve as interactive platforms for the community, local authorities and security providers to raise and jointly address issues related to security and development.

Identifying community security needs at the community level

All community settlements have been clustered (each cluster comprising two to five settlements). Results include:

- A questionnaire was drawn up for interviewing the inhabitants of each cluster on their concerns connected with security needs existing in their community;
- In collaboration with local government authorities, focus-groups consisting of representatives from relevant communities were formed (selection principles for forming focus-groups are described below);
- Focus group discussions were conducted in each cluster to familiarize the community with the Recovery and Peacebuilding Programme, its approach and strategic vision, and to collect responses to a questionnaire about security concerns in each location (see Annex 18 for information on focus group composition and selection criteria; Annex 19 for information on the questionnaire for interview during focus groups; and Annex 20 for a summary of the concerns collected at the focus groups);
- Analytical reports on the security needs of targeted communities were prepared after the focus group discussions in each cluster (see Annex 21 for an example of the analytical report on security needs);
- Two workshops were conducted in the Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts. The workshops involved members of CSOs and civic activists to discuss and formulate community security needs;
- The community security working group regulations were voted on and adopted by the LDFs, outlining their mandate and tasks (see Annex 22 for an example of the draft regulation); and
- Membership lists for CSWGs were developed and adopted by during the relevant sessions of LDFs in the respective communities.

As a result of these activities, CSWGs were set up as part of the LDFs to provide space for police-community discussions, information sharing and for raising security issues and concerns among local authorities, security providers and communities at the grass-roots level. They have played and are continuing to play a lead role in identifying community security-related issues and in finding concrete ways and mechanisms to address them. The range of issues addressed by CSWGs includes the following actions:

- Designing the local security programmes (including smart school, 'safe city', and 'safe bus stops');
- Establishing a Sexual and Gender-based Violence Centre in Sloviansk;
- Conducting public awareness campaigns on community security and access to justice;
- Creating fire brigades consisting of local volunteers (close to the line of contact);
- Installing clean water supply filters in schools of Druzhkivka and water wells in some localities close to the Contact Line;
- Conducting safety audits by designed methodology (e.g. road signs audit, fire protection audit, safety audit for schools and kindergartens, traffic safety audit for road signs and marking);
- Improving partnerships and communication among existing shelters for sexual and gender-based violence survivors within the oblast;
- Dealing with stray dog issues (recommendations on allocating the funds in the local budgets for dealing with stray dogs and for getting the veterinary consultations from the experts on solving the problems of wild animals penetrating human settlements);
- Building fencing for educational establishments (e.g. schools);
- Launching a mobile team of legal aid in remote rural and areas close to the Contact Line; Lightening streets and other public places, especially in places where youth gather;
- Setting up interactive communications between community residents and security providers (e.g. free secondary legal aid bureaus, state emergence services); and
- Equipping public institutions with proper fire-fighting equipment.

Following the official establishment of the CSWGs, the project placed enormous emphasis on providing capacity-building trainings to its members. Training courses such as 'Mobilizing Communities for Strengthening Community Security' and 'Social Project Implementation in Cooperation with UNDP' were organized for 240 members of the working groups, including local officials, community leaders and civic activists from the targeted communities.

Participant feedback was extremely positive, especially from those living in rural areas who were able to expand their knowledge and skills on community mobilization, development and the implementation of community-driven inclusive projects.

Community Policing

Project interventions placed significant emphasis on fostering community policing, an approach that was developed to help police address crime in an alternative manner rather than simply initiating repressive/responsive-based tactics. This type of approach considers the importance of applying prevention mechanisms to improve relationships with the population and to work more closely with the community when dealing with various types of crime. Community policing also integrates many principles associated with crime prevention, such as local knowledge-building and the promotion of human rights.

The project developed a training curriculum based on international standards and practices and supported the organization of two major training courses (see Annex 23 for curriculum details).

Capacity building interventions on community policing

Thirty-two (18 male and 14 female) strongly motivated district police officers, juvenile crime prevention officers and patrol officers were trained as trainers to follow the new approach to GBV, including Domestic Violence and Community Policing, and to share their knowledge with colleagues (this activity is described in details under objective 4).

Eight additional four-day training courses for 271 district police officers (207 male and 64 female), juvenile crime prevention officers and patrol officers from the Luhansk and Donetsk oblasts were organized and delivered.

A four-day police training programme was designed jointly with the UN Women and the Canadian Police Mission in Ukraine. Two of the four days were dedicated to community policing, interview techniques, dealing with vulnerable people and communicable diseases; the other two days were dedicated to sexual and gender-based violence/domestic violence. The target audience of the training included front-line police officers, district police officers and juvenile crime and patrol police officers who are directly engaged in implementing the community policing concept on a daily basis. The group was heterogeneous, and participants' levels of experience varied from 23 years to two months. Ninety per cent of the participants had never attended a course before. The majority of participants were young and had recently graduated from university. The number of female participants was quite high compared to other police training sessions: among police officers from Luhansk Oblast, 21 per cent were female; among police officers from Donetsk Oblast, 26 per cent were female. Further community policing capacity development interventions have included CSWG members. The training programme was dedicated to organizing police and community interactions within the framework of the CSWG, problem-solving models and developing best practices in such interactions.

The target audience for each training session included CSWG members from communities and front-line police officers who are directly engaged in implementing the community policing concept on a daily basis, as well as district police officers and juvenile prevention and patrol police officers in the same communities. Participants were equipped with the necessary knowledge, tools, capacities and skills needed for more effective cooperation and problem solving. 180 people were trained (60 police officers and 120 CSWG members).

Small Grants Initiative

To further foster community security, the project ran a grants scheme to support civil society initiatives that facilitate interventions to respond to community security concerns at the community level on a cost-share basis with the local authorities. The process enabled communities to identify and prioritize their needs and provided mechanisms and platforms for those needs to be both communicated and responded to. (See Annex 24 for a list of projects prioritized by communities during the first round of small-grant selection.)

The grants scheme allowed local community authorities to address local security challenges and to create active change on the ground. Sustainability was ensured by supporting existing community-level NGOs/CSOs and by requiring a cost-shared approach from the local authorities. (See Annex 25 for a detailed step-by-step selection process of the community security grants.)

The project supported the implementation of 48 local initiatives (grants totalling \$506,000) to enhance community security that resulted in better street lighting, installation of surveillance cameras and reconstruction of pedestrian road crossings (zebra crossings) in the targeted communities.

To address sexual and gender-based violence issues, a shelter for women was opened (with co-funding from the city administration) in Sloviansk in Donetsk Oblast. The shelter provides safe residence and legal, social and psychological assistance to women and children who have suffered domestic, sexual or gender-based violence. The shelter is a place where they can restore their inner strengths and make decisions about their future lives.

The centre can accommodate up to six adult clients and two children for up to one month (or longer in special cases). UNFPA is further supporting the centre's work in order to ensure quality service provision. The support is closely coordinated with city and regional authorities, the Donetsk Regional Centre for Social Services for Families, Children and Youth and non-governmental partners (such as the League of Social Workers).

Videoconferencing

Videoconferencing facilities were set up in 32 towns in Donetsk and Luhansk Oblast to ensure more effective coordination among local authorities, rescue services and law-enforcement agencies. The system now consists of 35 offices operating on a 24 hour-per day, 7 day-per week basis and cover all cities and towns in government-controlled areas of the Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts.

According to the statistics and journals of records provided by two hubs in Kramatorsk and Sievierodonetsk, 456 video conference sessions were held in the Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts.

Donetsk oblast:

The video conferencing facility for Donetsk Oblast was launched on 11 April 2017.

266 video conferences were organized by various Departments, including the:

- Department on the Social Protection of the Population;
- Department of Health;
- Department of Finance;
- Department on Investment-innovative Development and External Relations;
- Department for Family and Youth Affairs;
- Chairman of the Donetsk Oblast Administration; and
- Department of Physical Culture and Sports.

Moreover, 117 video conferences were organized by the Central Office of the State Emergency Service in Donetsk oblast, including an additional 10 by its apparatus. The State Labour Service of Ukraine in Donetsk oblast launched an additional 35 video conferences, expanding its use further.

Luhansk Oblast:

The videoconferencing facility for Luhansk oblast was launched on 1 June, 2018.

Given this short period of time, eight video conferences were organized for inter-agency purposes, involving the State Emergency Service, the State Border Control and Migration.

Moreover, 20 video conferences were conducted exclusively by the police.

Support to the State Emergency Service of Ukraine

The project also provided support to the State Emergency Service of Ukraine in Donetsk oblast by providing a quadcopter equipped with a thermographic imager that can receive and transmit video content from any location or emergency site in real time. This has enabled better coordination of efforts between local authorities and security providers in addressing emergency situations and conducting search and rescue operations.

Accessibility of the courts and infrastructure for service provision

The project conducted an assessment of the physical condition of court buildings in all targeted communities, checking their compliance with national and international regulations and requirements for use by people with disabilities and by parents with children. The assessment revealed that no single court in Donetsk and Luhansk oblast was able to meet the required standards. The assessment was handed over to the State Court Administration for further review and follow-up actions.

The project's activities in this regard were not limited to a simple assessment; they were accompanied by small reconstruction of the Vuhledar court building that is close to the 'contact line' and receives a lot of visitors from NGCA. The reconstruction was designed to meet all technical standards and to improve physical access to justice for the most vulnerable groups.

The assessment showcased an urgent need for office equipment to allow judges to work with sensitive information and to connect to centralized databases. In this regard, support was provided to local courts of general jurisdiction with the required office equipment in Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts, including those courts operating along the 'contact line', with the aim of improving the quality and speed of service provision for the local population, including most vulnerable groups (e.g. women with children, breastfeeding mothers, pregnant women, women who lead households, internally displaced persons, persons with disabilities, elderly persons and people with low income).

Activity 2.3

Expand access to information and raise public awareness of security-related community issues

To raise public awareness of security-related community issues, the project organized a series of national and regional conferences to present the results of the Security and Justice: Perspectives from Three Oblasts survey, launched within the framework of the UNDP Recovery and Peacebuilding Programme Rule of Law project funded by the Government of the Kingdom of the Netherlands.

The conferences were held in Kyiv, Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts and were followed by discussions to encourage evidence-based policy-making and to strengthen advocacy for legal and procedural reforms that will have a meaningful impact on the lives of the public. Participants of the regional conferences included representatives from the ATCs, the oblast administrations of Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts, the Interior Ministry, the National Police of Ukraine, courts, Free Legal Aid centres, the Ombudsman's Office, and non-governmental and civil-society organizations.

The conferences highlighted the key findings of the report and developed concrete recommendations with key stakeholders on how the findings could prompt better legislation and policy (see Annex 26 for details on working group recommendations on improving community security and justice at the community level.) Public presentations of the results were held in the cities of Druzhkivka, Kramatorsk, Sloviansk, of Donetsk Oblast as well in Kreminna, Lysychansk, Rubizhne, Sievierodonetsk of Luhansk Oblast. A series of billboard posters on the problems of domestic violence were placed in targeted communities to raise public awareness on the scale and negative consequences of this societal issue.

UNDP also supported the launch of a drawing competition among schoolchildren, Safety through the Eyes of a Child. By involving children's artistic creativity, the competition raised awareness on the sources of community security and threats to it among children and young people and promoted SDG16, "promote sustainable development of peaceful and non-discriminatory communities, provide equal access to justice."²⁵

The project also conducted an awareness-raising campaign on zero tolerance for sexual and gender-based violence and domestic violence. A series of videos were broadcasted on the national and regional TV-channels to reach wider audience. The videos were aired 414 times on regional TV channels and 252 times on national TV channels (national: 'UA Pershyi'; regional: '27th channel' and 'DoTeBe' in Donetsk Oblast, and 'LOT' in Luhansk Oblast).

²⁵ See <http://www.unwomen.org/en/news/in-focus/women-and-the-sdgs/sdg-16-peace-justice-strong-institutions>





Objective 3

Social cohesion is restored and strengthened between local authorities and communities, including internally displaced persons



The conflict in eastern Ukraine has significantly reduced social cohesion,²⁶ which was already weak after years of divergent and politically charged narratives and widened pre-existing divides between elites and the general population. Therefore, advocacy and investment in a narrative that gives the local population hope

and identifies ways towards a brighter future remains essential to mobilizing the public and to ensuring the support of affected communities for reform.

Weak social cohesion originates from low citizen engagement and activism and poorly developed dialogue platforms between various groups (especially between conflicting parties). To measure the scale and depth of the problem, the project relied on data provided by two waves of Vulnerability and Risk Assessments conducted in 2015 as well as the UN SCORE for Eastern Ukraine (USE). The data was utilized to enhance and complement monitoring and evaluation tools by providing relevant data and measuring the impact at the outcome and output levels, primarily for Component 3 of the Action (Community Security and Social Cohesion).

The data also informed programme design and monitoring and evaluation for the other components. USE provides both descriptive and predictive analysis by using statistical modelling techniques and a robust participatory methodology to: a) measure levels of social cohesion (the extent to which coexistence between individuals in a society and the institutions that surround them is harmonious) and reconciliation (the propensity for groups in conflict to come closer); b) track the levels of these two outcomes over time; and c) on the basis of the data generated, formulate evidence-based policy and targeted programmes that respond more precisely to strengthen levels of social cohesion by addressing the root causes of conflict and preventing the emergence and/or relapse of conflict in affected communities.

The findings of the USE served as a benchmark for properly identifying and prioritizing interventions with regards to enhancing social cohesion.

Key findings from the first wave of the USE include:

- The overall levels of social tolerance are moderate, with an average score of 5.6 in Donetsk Oblast and 5.4 in Luhansk Oblast (where 0 indicates high intolerance towards minority and marginalized groups, and 10 indicates full acceptance of minority and marginalized groups by all members of society). While there are no significant differences between women and men, those differences exist between groups with different income levels, education and age. Young people, as well as those with higher incomes and levels of education, tend to be more socially tolerant towards persons from minority and marginalized groups;
- Levels of active citizenship and civic engagement are particularly low in both oblasts, with an average score of 3.7 in Donetsk Oblast and 4.1 in Luhansk Oblast. It was also revealed that persons over 60 years of age are significantly less engaged in socially related activities than those below 40 years of age (with scores ranging from 2.6 to 4.5 respectively). The general inertia could be explained by a common view among the local residents that authorities neither seek to include citizens in decision-making processes nor are particularly responsive to citizens' demands. A second important reason is a lack of information (i.e. citizens have limited knowledge about the issues on the agenda of local councils and those of other authorities). Finally, though of lesser importance, people find civic engagement to be too time-consuming compared to other aspects of life (e.g. work or family time);
- The level of neighbourhood support — the extent to which one feels supported by and can rely on neighbours for support — across the two oblasts is moderate, with an average score of 5.1 in Donetsk Oblast and 5.3 in Luhansk Oblast. A demographic breakdown of the data showed that the highest levels of neighbourhood support are found among the older population (i.e. 60 years of age and above) and the most economically disadvantaged members of society (i.e. those who do not have enough money even for food).

²⁶ Social cohesion refers to a sense of social belonging and the quality of the relationships among groups in society and among people and institutions.

The social cohesion workstream provided opportunities for learning and knowledge sharing between different communities in Ukraine to improve their understanding and perception of each other (East-West dialogue). It also stimulated and informed the overall discourse on the country's future development.

Key achievements:

- Community mobilization methodology guidebook to enhance community security and social cohesion, developed and available for use, provides detailed instructions on mobilizing communities around common goals related to local development planning, budgeting, strengthening of social cohesion and community security²⁷;

- Approximately 340 community members have improved their skills and knowledge on enhancing social cohesion in their communities through capacity building interventions and in-country study visits; and
- The local media community's capacities are enhanced on practical techniques of conflict-sensitive reporting and public interaction.

²⁷ Community mobilization methodology can be accessed on: <http://www.ua.undp.org/content/ukraine/en/home/library/recovery-and-peacebuilding/community-mobilization-guidebook.html>



Output 3.1

Women and men in the conflict-affected areas (both internally displaced persons and host communities) are mobilized and empowered to effectively participate in local development and recovery planning, service delivery and community security.

Community Mobilization for Empowerment (CME) is defined as a process of engaging communities to identify community priorities, resources, needs and solutions that are human-rights-based, gender-responsive and are aligned with the Leave No One Behind principle of the Sustainable Development agenda.

The project's intervention logic to mobilize and empower women and men in the pilot communities to effectively participate in local development and recovery planning began by the practical application of the Community Mobilization for Empowerment methodology. As a result of consultations with national and international experts, a guideline providing step-by-step instruction on mobilizing women and men in the communities targeting the most disadvantaged and socially excluded, around common goals contributed to the inclusive local development planning, budgeting, as well as strengthening social cohesion, community security, promoting

gender equality and women's empowerment. The CME methodology has been applied within the JP as a starting point for accelerating sustainable and equitable local development where all community members, irrespective of their sex, age, disability, HIV or other characteristics, are seen as equal actors and agents of change. H The complementarity of the approaches to community mobilizations applied by UNDP and community mobilization for empowerment applied by UN Women yielded tangible results: strengthened the social cohesion and community security by promoting community dialogue and civic engagement on local governance, recovery and peacebuilding; empowered and strengthened capacity of vulnerable men and women , especially women facing multiple forms of discrimination, and enhanced their participation in local decision making thus enhancing its gender-responsiveness and addressing the human rights concerns (see Objective 4 for additional information).

Activity 3.1

Adapt community mobilization for empowerment methodology and conduct community mobilization for empowerment programmes

The conflict in eastern Ukraine has had tremendously negative impacts on the community mobilization that is one of the key determinants of success or failure of a community. To address this challenge, the project has been engaging community mobilizers to encourage community members to participate in desired actions for its development and to promote community cohesion, unity of purpose and action, to actively counteract division, superstition, racism and to meet with one another to share best practices.

To further promote the CME methodology, the project developed a special guidebook, 'Community Mobilization: UNDP Approach towards Community Security and Social Cohesion' based on the project's practical experiences enhancing community security and social cohesion in 20 communities in Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts.

The guidebook is useful for public activists, members of NGOs, representatives of local authorities and others in mobilizing their communities for action by:

- Enhancing their understanding of basic concepts, approaches and concepts underlying community mobilization;
- Developing a general idea of the cycle of community mobilization and peculiarities of its step-by-step implementation when applying different approaches;

- Developing a phased plan for the community mobilization process, taking into account the specifics and resources of the community itself, the objectives and capabilities of the programme and the socio-political context in which the mobilization is taking place;
- Demonstrating how the process of mobilizing communities can be integrated into local government bodies' planning and budgeting processes.

To ensure its further practical application, a training session on participatory tools for CME, including mobilizers' deeper reflections on everyday practices, successes and problems, was provided to UNDP community mobilizers. As a result of this training session, the programme for an advocacy workshop was prepared. Moreover, two workshops on 'Advocacy as a Tool for Empowerment: A Human Rights-based Approach' for public activists and local government representatives from Luhansk and Donetsk oblasts were organized. Participants were sensitized to undertaking effective dialogue and actions for community security, civic engagement and empowerment of the most vulnerable groups in their communities.

Activity 3.2

Assist men and women who represent vulnerable groups create sustainable advocacy bodies and raise rights awareness

Interventions were centred on the provision of support to the implementation of advocacy initiatives of community-based organizations in Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts.

Twenty grants (totalling \$60,136) were realized. The projects ranged from promoting the rights of the most vulnerable groups (including women, youth and internally displaced persons) to various advocacy campaigns that encourage civic participation in local-level decision-making processes.

Donetsk oblast grants:

Support for implementing the League in Action project in Mariupol resulted in an advocacy campaign promoting youth rights and the usage of a mobile security app "102" to report criminal incidents to the police. A series of advocacy campaigns were held on the rights of the most vulnerable groups, including sexual and gender-based violence survivors, focusing on their access to administrative and legal services. The campaigns took place in Cherkas'ke, Druzhkivka Vuhledar, Kramatorsk, Lyman, Velyka Novosilka, Pryvillia. The campaigns were accompanied by public outreach and capacity-building activities, including forums and conferences dedicated to the promotion of human rights and civic participation.

Luhansk oblast grants:

Advocacy campaigns on civic participation in the budget approval process were carried out in Chmyrivka Krasnorichenske, Kreminna, Novoidar, Osynivka, Sievierodonetsk and Troitske. Campaigns resulted in citizen's increased awareness of budget planning processes and submission of their recommendations to align them to the needs of the most vulnerable groups. Other supported initiatives include anti-corruption campaigns among local populations, particularly targeting youth and young leaders that will stand at the forefront of the fight against corruption.

Activity 3.3

Support for initiatives on intra- and inter-communal dialogue on local governance, recovery and peacebuilding and the development of local media through a conflict-sensitive approach

Enhancing intra- and inter-communal dialogue remains a key prerequisite to more effectively addressing and contributing to strengthening local governance, recovery and peacebuilding. The project's interventions were focused around the need to promote exchanges among local government staff, business representatives and other local government stakeholders from conflict-affected areas with their peers in other parts of Ukraine.

Exchange visits served as an opportunity to identify bottom-up solutions to common challenges in the Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts (e.g. the influx of internally displaced persons) and make progress in terms of strengthening social cohesion, public trust and community security. Followed by in-depth discussions, participants' perceptions of the issues improved significantly, leading to both sides expressing more openness and eagerness to learn from each other and feeling more connected to national agendas and development goals. To date, 62 representatives (36 women and 26 men) from civil society, local authorities and the private sector from Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts participated in exchange visits to Chernivtsi, Poltava and Zhytomyr. In addition, 20 community representatives from Zhytomyr have visited target communities in Donetsk oblast to share their experiences of local engagement, solidarity and empowerment.

Building the capacities of communities and their leaders to effectively address conflict situations is of fundamental importance in reaching sustainable peace in the region. UNDP implemented the initiative 'Building the Capacity of Community Leaders in Applying Dialogue for Decision-making and Conflict Resolution', in partnership with the Institute for Peace and Common Ground.

As a result, 20 training courses were conducted in all target communities of Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts. The courses were attended by 340 participants (174 of whom are female community leaders). The training courses focused on:

- Theories and techniques of engaging and leading dialogue processes to address socially important local issues;
- Development of skills for constructive dialogue facilitation;
- Instruments of civic participation; and
- Identification of community development needs and potential solutions to them.

Empowering communities on matters of conflict resolution and dialogue processes is a challenging, complex and yet a crucial task that needs to be regularly addressed. Conducting large-scale trainings established a foundation for the next steps, which lie in the practical application of the obtained competencies in leading dialogues in their communities to address issues of social importance.

Local media and conflict-sensitive approach:

The media community plays a key role in generating and shaping public opinion. The media's ability to avoid being highly politicized and to report objectively, especially in a conflict setting, is essential to building public trust, social cohesion, harmony, mutual tolerance and respect for diversity.

To help build up the media as a voice for social cohesion, a media workshop on the 'Formation of the Media Space Based on the Principles of Pluralism of Ideas and Social Orientation' was organized in Kyiv by Donetsk Debate Club. The school's participants included 13 journalists from Luhansk and Donetsk oblasts. The journalists increased their theoretical knowledge on the importance of social cohesion and acquired needed skills on conflict-sensitive reporting.

The school was also accompanied by practical training sessions on the use of social media channels and on the production and dissemination of video products.

Media workshop participants generated series of scenarios for social videos focusing on the importance and promotion of social cohesion as a glue to hold societies together. Media grants were allocated to support the production of 10 best videos on the basis of the developed scenarios²⁸

United Nations Social Cohesion and Reconciliation Index for Eastern Ukraine (USE)

USE is a sophisticated analytical tool designed to improve understanding of societal dynamics in the five eastern oblasts of Dnipro, Donetsk, Kharkiv, Luhansk and Zaporizhzhia. USE helps to identify strategic entry points for policies and programmes that contribute to strengthening social cohesion. USE is jointly implemented by three United Nations agencies: UNDP, UNICEF, and the International Organization for Migration. The first USE wave was completed in October 2017, capturing the views of 5,300 respondents.

Social cohesion trends in the first and second USE waves

- According to USE, the overall level of social tolerance (the degree to which one is tolerant towards different groups in terms of personal interaction and community acceptance) increased in both oblasts between 2017 and 2018: from 5.6 to 5.7 in Donetsk Oblast, and from 5.4 to 5.6 in Luhansk Oblast;
- Overall openness towards internally displaced persons increased in both oblasts between 2017 and 2018: from 7.7 to 7.9 in Donetsk Oblast, and from 7.5 to 7.6 in Luhansk Oblast;
- The extent to which one feels supported by and can rely on neighbours for support in Donetsk Oblast decreased from 5.1 in 2017 to 4.7 in 2018; it slightly increased in Luhansk Oblast (from 5.3 in 2017 to 5.4 in 2018);
- The level of civic optimism (an extent to which the present generation is believed to be in a better position to past generations) increased in both oblasts between 2017 and 2018: from 3.2 to 3.6 in Donetsk Oblast and from 3.0 to 3.1 in Luhansk Oblast.

²⁸Videos are available at: <http://ndo.lg.ua/en/video>



Objective 4

Regional and local governments and law enforcement bodies in conflict-affected areas have knowledge and tools for gender-responsive planning and budgeting and community security



In the framework of the joint programme, UN Women worked to mainstream gender equality and human rights perspectives into local development, recovery and community security processes in eastern Ukraine. This work remains relevant in terms of the objective of promoting the participation of gender advocates and women affected by conflict in local decision-making, including on public spending, and the objective that women benefit equitably from governance reforms and recovery efforts. UN Women addressed the need to increase awareness of representatives from regional and local authorities about gender equality and women's rights. UN Women also worked to strengthen the capacities of women's groups to meaningfully participate in local recovery planning, development and community security decision-making.

Over the last two years Ukraine has made significant progress to stepping up its gender equality commitments. The country has strengthened the National Women's Machinery in 2017. By the Cabinet Decree #1179, the Vice-Prime Minister for European and Euro-Atlantic Integration of Ukraine was made responsible for the government-wide coordination of national gender equality policy, in addition position of Government Commissioner for Gender Equality Policy has been established. This allowed to enhance the overall accountability and coordination for the implementation of the international commitments and national gender equality policy frameworks. During the reporting period one of the significant policy developments included the revision of National Action Plan on the implementation of the UN SCR on women, peace and security (2018)²⁹, based on the mid-term evaluation. The revised NAP 1325 includes important provisions to capacitate local authorities on NAP 1325 implementation, adopt local action plans, enhance access to violence survivors to services and provide training to the social service providers for GBV prevention and response. The revised NAP 1325 provides opportunity for its effective localization in order to address the needs of conflict-affected women, especially those facing multiple forms of discrimination

in the eastern Ukraine.

In 2018 the government adopted the State Social Programme on Ensuring Equal Rights and Opportunities for Women and Men till 2021³⁰, by Decree of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine. The programme integrates measures to promote gender equality and women's rights, including integrating gender into the new regional and local socioeconomic development programmes.

A new Law on Prevention and Combating Domestic Violence (Bill n. 5294) entered into force in 2018. The Law introduces measures to prevent and combat all forms of gender-based violence. In addition, the Criminal Code of Ukraine (n. 4952) was amended to impose criminal liability on domestic violence and GBV and introduces restricting orders for perpetrators, was enacted in January 2019³¹.

As a part of mainstreaming gender into the sectoral reforms the Ministry of Regional Development, Construction and Housing and Communal Services has drafted the gender equality strategy aimed at coherent integration of the gender equality international commitments and national priorities in Decentralisation reform (pending endorsement). The strategy and action plan were informed by the Analysis of Vulnerabilities of women and men in the context of decentralisation in the conflict-affected areas of Ukraine (see Annex 27) conducted within the JP, as well as by the community-based good practices piloted by the JP. Such practices were: Gender Accessibility Audit methodology as a tool for local planning and budgeting for the public facilities and services for women and men with disabilities; establishing the Local Gender Coordination Councils in amalgamated territorial communities as inclusive platform for participatory decision making. JP has strengthened capacity of local authorities to apply the Gender-responsive budgeting as a tool for local strategic planning and budgeting. UN Women worked together with development partners such as National Democratic Institute and the Gender-Responsive Budgeting Project in Ukraine (both the lead partners

²⁹ Order # 113 by the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine (2016), amended by order 637-p (2018); National Action Plan on the Implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 1325 on Women, Peace and Security till 2020.

³⁰ Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine decree # 273 (Apr.2018), State Social Programme to Ensure Equal Rights and Opportunities for Women and Men for the period up to 2021.

³¹ Link to the Law on amending the criminal code: <https://zakon.rada.gov.ua/laws/show/2227-19>. Link to the Law of Ukraine on Prevention and Response to Domestic Violence: <https://zakon.rada.gov.ua/laws/show/2229-19>

on GRB implementation in Ukraine) to promote GRB practice in the process of local development.

Despite the national level policy developments on gender equality and women's empowerment the local level implementation is still lagging behind. In the reporting period, the project's operating environment was characterized by increased attention to gender equality at the national level and, to a lesser extent, at the regional and local levels. The joint programme leveraged new developments and tendencies related to gender equality and women's rights in order to mainstream gender into local development, recovery and community security processes in the east of Ukraine.

Women facing multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination (such as internally displaced women, women and girls with disabilities, single female-headed households and conflict-affected women) increasingly participate in local decision making and demand the inclusion of their needs in local plans, programmes and budgets through ten public consultations in conflict-affected communities of Donetsk and Luhansk regions³². Mobilized women and men have increased their knowledge and skills in gender analysis of local needs through community profiles and to voice their needs with local authorities in order to ensure that gender-responsive services are provided to target the different needs of women and men (see Annex 28).

In 2017, eight communities³³ included 20 out of 30 proposed gender-responsive recommendations made by women's groups in prospective plans and programmes (see Annex 29). The active engagement of vulnerable women in local decision-making is a significant achievement, considering that vulnerable women's groups have been perennially excluded from participating in regional and local decision-making on recovery, community security and local development.

"I am a displaced woman from Donetsk city. We moved to Yarova Village in 2014. Through Community Mobilization for Empowerment work I've met some like-minded people and grew my knowledge and skills. One of the biggest benefits is that I've got a job. And that is huge; it gave me wings".

Nataliya Hordiyenko,

Internally displaced person, Leader of the "Yarivchanka" self-help group Yarova Village, Donetsk Oblast

³² 10 round table consultations with the participation of 109 participants (98 women and 11 men) were conducted in October 2017 in ten communities of Luhansk and Donetsk oblasts.

³³ Bilokurakyn, Bilovodsk, Chmyrivka, Kreminna, Troitske hromadas of Luhansk Oblast and Cherkas'ke, Lyman and Vuhledar, hromadas of Donetsk Oblast.

“There are no gynaecological examination rooms or beds for women with disabilities. That means that a woman with disabilities cannot get a medical examination. After Audit results were reported to the Kramatorsk City administration the local authorities heard our voices and allocated 6 million UAH, the biggest amount ever, in the 2018 city budget for ensuring that the audited facilities as well as other public buildings of Kramatorsk City are accessible to and usable by persons with disabilities”.

Tetiana Bobrovska,
Association of Women with Disabilities
of Northern Donbass

Traditionally underrepresented women's groups have enhanced their participation in local decision-making to demand the implementation of gender equality national commitments on regional and local levels.

Enhancement of women's groups' participation came as a result of comprehensive work by UN Women in partnership with regional and local administrations and gender equality advocates, including: increasing knowledge and skills of women's groups on gender equality, the human rights-based approach and evidence-based advocacy through the CME approach; mobilizing 364 women and 52 men in 58 self-help groups; facilitating consultative meetings with authorities and women's groups, especially during local programme and budget planning; strengthening twenty new women's CSOs in the communities where there was no CSO before; and raising awareness on gender equality and harmful gender stereotypes (see Annex 30).

Compared to 2017, Kramatorsk city's accessibility programme budget was increased three times in 2018 to support information, communication and infrastructure accessibility of public services for women and men with disabilities. The Kramatorsk city council's Accessibility Committee allocates UAH 6 million (\$214 thousand) in the 2018 local programme, in 2017 the allocation was UAH 2 million (\$ 74 thousand). Implementation of the accessibility programme will have real impacts in enhancing access to social, health and education services for women and girls with disabilities in the conflict-affected Donetsk region (see Annex 31).

This achievement is a result of advocacy efforts of women and men with disabilities based on the findings of Gender Accessibility Audit³⁴ (see Annex 32), conducted for the first time with the direct participation of women and men with disabilities in partnership with the National Assembly of People with Disabilities and UN Women.

Local authorities adopted gender-responsive regional and local Socioeconomic Development Strategies, including seven³⁵ Local Strategies of ATCs. The adoption of gender-responsive regional and local policies promotes gender-responsive local development and addresses conflict-related gender inequalities in these oblasts.

This was a result of joint strategic work by UN Women and UNDP, including raising awareness of local authorities on gender equality, enhancing knowledge and skills in gender-responsive planning and budgeting (GRPB) and providing technical support to develop the indicators for monitoring and evaluation.

As a result of joint, comprehensive work, the seven strategies of the ATCs included 84 gender-specific measures, such as creating centres of social services for vulnerable groups; implementing gender-responsive budgeting; preventing and responding to GBV; and

³⁴ UN Women, “Gender Accessibility Audit” (2017). Available at: <http://eca.unwomen.org/en/digital-library/publications/2018/05/gender-accessibility-audit-of-the-city-of-kramatorsk-donetsk-oblast>

³⁵ Cherkas'ke, Lyman, Mykolaivka of Donetsk oblast and Bilokurakyn, Chmyrivka, Novopskov and Troitske of Luhansk oblast.

supporting women's economics development. Two ATCs (Bilokurakynne³⁶, and Troitske³⁷) have included gender-responsive objectives, such as gender-responsive local development and empowering women in local decision-making. Strategy development was informed by the community profiles that were finalized by mobilized women's groups. Four ATCs (Bilokurakynne³⁸, Troitske³⁹, Chmyrivka⁴⁰ and Novopskov⁴¹ of Luhansk Oblast) have already drafted strategy implementation plans. Local programmes include gender-responsive measures and allocate budget funds to address gender equality concerns and respond to the needs of vulnerable women in Luhansk region⁴². Adopting local gender-responsive programmes with budgets enhances the equitable access of vulnerable women to quality services.

"The role of women in the society defines its future. Gender equality is especially important in the context of decentralisation reform. Women and men are becoming agents of change in their communities, and more and more women are becoming leaders".

Igor Stokoz,
Deputy Head of Donetsk Oblast Civil Military Administration at GBV regional consultations

Notably, for the first time the Chmyrivka and Bilokurakynne ATCs of Luhansk Oblast allocated UAH 102,500 (\$3,660) and UAH 158,000 (\$5,700). The allocation was done through approved local programmes on Social Support to Families, Children and Youth, Prevention of Domestic Violence and Ensuring Gender Equality (2017-2022) (see Annex 33).

The programmes address issues of existing gender stereotypes and low awareness about gender-based and domestic violence among community members and define actions for the prevention of domestic violence and the provision of assistance and protection to survivors. While the programmes are costed, the budgets have not been realistically calculated for full implementation.

Internally displaced women, rural women and other vulnerable groups raise their voices to demand accountability of decentralized governments and meaningfully engage in local decision-making through participating in *Local Gender Coordination Councils*⁴³ (LGCCs) (see Annex 34). Previously, no gender councils existed in ATCs in the Donetsk or Luhansk oblasts. The LGCCs have been formally established in seven ATCs by the decrees of heads to provide direct access for women facing multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination to influence local decision-making and to demand accountability to gender equality commitments from authorities.

The formalized local gender councils represent local mechanisms for inclusive budget planning with the participation of women's groups to promote demand-driven services and to consider the needs of women facing multiple forms of discrimination.

³⁶ Strategy for Development of Bilokurakynne Amalgamated Territorial Community till 2020 (2028), adopted in 2017; Available at: <https://bilokurakynska-gromada.gov.ua/strategiya-rozvitku-bilokurakynskoi-ob%E2%80%99ednanoi-teritorialnoi-gromadi-do-2020-2028-roku-14-33-50-28-12-2017/>

³⁷ Strategy for Development of Troitske Amalgamated Territorial Community; adopted in 2017; Available at: <http://troicka-gromada.gov.ua/strategiya-rozvitku-troickoi-obednanoi-teritorialnoi-gromadi-14-43-17-09-01-2018/>

³⁸ Ibid.

³⁹ Ibid.

⁴⁰ Socioeconomic Development Strategy of Chmyrivka Amalgamated Territorial Community for 2018-2025; adopted by Village Council Decision #18/04 dated 22.12.2017. Available at: <http://chmyrivska-gromada.gov.ua/strategiya-rozvitku-gromadi-09-36-10-12-12-2017/>

⁴¹ Development Strategy for Novopskov Amalgamated Territorial Community until 2025 adopted by Settlement Council Decision #37/21 dated 25.01.2018. Available at: <http://novopskovrada.gov.ua/strategiya-rozvitku-08-37-13-19-10-2016/>

⁴² "Social Support for Family, Children and Youth, Prevention of Domestic Violence, Ensuring Gender Equality and Combating Human Trafficking in Bilokurakynne Amalgamated Territorial Community for 2017-2021." Available at: <http://bilokurakynska.gromada.org.ua/programi-na-2017-rik-07-54-06-16-02-2017/>

"Social support for families, children and youth, prevention of domestic violence, ensuring gender equality and counter-trafficking in persons in the Chmyrivka settlement territorial community for 2017 – 2021"

⁴³ LGCCs have been established by the decrees of the hromada heads in Novopskov, Chmyrivka, Troitske and Bilokurakynne communities (in Luhansk Oblast) and Cherkas'ke, Lyman and Mykolaivka communities (in Donetsk Oblast).

Including vulnerable women as members of local gender councils is a significant achievement, considering that the women's participation in public life remains low. Women hold only 18 per cent of seats in city councils and 15 per cent of seats in oblast councils⁴⁴, only 23 per cent of women are Heads of ATCs⁴⁵, in Luhansk and Donetsk oblasts the figure drops to 17 per cent.

Empowered women's groups serve as role models for other women in their communities and have been active in developing local initiatives through small grants that benefit women and girls from vulnerable groups. Implementation of small grant-funded joint development initiatives was contingent on including objectives to promote gender equality, to enhance women's security in conflict-affected communities and to increase women's access to services and information. This has contributed to increased trust between the authorities and women's grass-roots groups (see Annex 17). Local authorities have committed in-kind and financial resources (a minimum of 12 per cent of the total small grants' budget⁴⁶) as part of local ownership and sustainability.

"There is stereotype thinking that government is separated from the people. When local people realized that government authorities were ready to work with us and willing to hear our problems, local people started talking openly about their needs, particularly those of women with children. Our organization has become an accumulation centre where all needs of women are gathered together, and then passed directly to government authorities."

Svitlana Troyanovska,

Board Member of NGO Kramatorsk Mothers,
Donetsk Oblast

⁴⁴ Committee of Voters of Ukraine, 2015. Final Report on Monitoring of Women's Participation in the Electoral Process in the 2015 Local Elections in Ukraine.

⁴⁵ Ministry of Regional Development, Construction and Housing and Communal Services of Ukraine, 7 May 2018.

⁴⁶ The small grants were funded by UN Women; the grant fund was \$188,000 in 2018.

Output 4.1

Regional and local governments and law enforcement bodies in conflict-affected areas have the knowledge and tools to conduct gender-responsive planning and budgeting and to improve community security.

Regional and local authorities, service providers, women and men from the communities have increased understanding about the differentiated needs of women and men from vulnerable groups based on the findings of the “Analysis of vulnerabilities of women and men in the context of decentralisation reform in the conflict-affected communities of Ukraine” conducted by UN Women in 2017. The Analysis identified vulnerable groups facing multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination and the opportunities and risks for them in the contexts of decentralisation reform. Coupled with information from the community profiles collected by mobilized women’s groups, the findings have been used as a basis for discussing the gender-responsive measures to be included in local programmes, and budgets to address the needs of the most vulnerable.

Regional and local authorities have raised awareness and increased knowledge about GRPB in the context of decentralisation reform. Through trainings and on-the-job coaching, 445 (364 women, 81 men) local authorities have improved their knowledge and understanding of how to conduct gender analysis of local programmes, how to engage with civil society groups and how to hold participatory processes for local planning and budgeting.

UN Women has advocated for mainstreaming gender into the national budget code for 2019 and has submitted policy recommendations to the Ministry of Finance on improving sex-disaggregated data collection and on developing a normative framework for ATCs to integrate gender-responsive objectives and indicators into local programmes and budgets. The recommendations were submitted through the *Donor Council on Decentralisation* and its Working Group on *budget and local self-governance*,⁴⁷ where UN Women has been a member since 2017 (see Annex 35). If these recommendations are adopted, changes in the budget code will contribute to ensuring the implementation of gender-responsive results-based budgeting at the local level. Sex-disaggregated data collection and analysis will generate evidence that can be used to make regional and local planning and budgeting efforts inclusive of the needs of women and men.

Strategic partnerships with the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Ukraine and the National Police were key factors in increasing awareness and knowledge of GBV prevention and response and community security among police officers. This is in line with the priority of the Ministry of the Internal Affairs to educate newly hired and re-attested police officers on preventing and responding to GBV. This is a meaningful investment in internal human capacity of the regional police units; previously, they did not have enough human capacity or sufficient training materials for internal GBV trainings.

303 police officers (78 women and 225 men) in Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts have enhanced skills and knowledge on preventing and responding to GBV and community security. Of the 303 police officers who underwent training 32 officers (14 women and 18 men) have increased their skills and knowledge as trainers in community security and GBV. Thirteen out of 32 trainers have already been engaged as co-trainers with professional trainers from the Ukrainian Foundation for Public Health (UFPH); they applied their knowledge and skills in GBV prevention and response and community security to conduct training sessions for district and patrol police officers in Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts. Post-training evaluations of 32 police officers, those who have been trained as trainers, *demonstrated an increased understanding of GBV* (84 per cent compared to 53 per cent before training) and knowledge of referral pathways (91 per cent compared to 63 per cent before training). Similarly, before the training only 60 per cent of participants were able to explain the value of cooperation with a community, while after training this indicator increased to 84 per cent (see Annex 36).

Regional and local authorities, law enforcement bodies, service providers and women's groups have increased their understanding and awareness of *women's safety and security concerns, especially violence survivors*, and have agreed on joint measures to address the needs of survivors through regional and local policies. The 20 multisectoral consultations have provided the platform for 355 persons (311 women and 44 men) to discuss the challenges, including safety and security concerns, of women and girls, lack of services and prevailing harmful stereotypes.

The multisectoral groups submitted 39 joint recommendations to the *State Regional Administrations* of Donetsk and Luhansk to integrate *GBV prevention and response measures into the local budgets*. Recommendations include generating evidence and data for preventive services; increasing investment through local budgets for services for GBV survivors; ensuring procurement of services through local CSOs; raising community awareness of the root causes of violence; and increasing the capacities of local specialists to provide psychosocial assistance to violence survivors (see Annex 37).

⁴⁷ Donor Council on Decentralisation and its Working Group #2 on budget and local self-governance <https://donors.decentralization.gov.ua/workgroup/58eb8f366783ec04585d83fb>

The proposed recommendations are the result of comprehensive UN Women support, including: improving capacities of law enforcement bodies in GBV prevention and response and community security; increasing understanding of women's security and safety needs by organizing 20 multisectoral consultations; technically assisting multisectoral groups to draft recommendations on GBV prevention and response.

Ninety-nine mobilized women from the Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts have increased their understanding of the roles of rural women in local development based on the experiences of Khmelnytsky, Poltava and Vinnytsia ATCs through five *exchange visits* organized in 2018.

Twenty-three women and six men with disabilities have increased their skills in evidence-based advocacy and developed seven recommendations based on the Gender Accessibility Audit findings. The recommendations are aimed at enabling the full participation of women and men with disabilities in all spheres of life. Women and men with disabilities presented their needs (identified through the Accessibility Audit), and raised the issues of inaccessible infrastructure for women with disabilities to decision makers at the regional forum *Leave No One Behind: The Rights of Women with Disabilities held in Kramatorsk* (see Annex 38).⁴⁸

Women and girls with disabilities, their family members and local authorities in the Donetsk and Luhansk regions have enhanced their knowledge on gender accessibility audit methodology. Enhancing the capacities of women with disabilities in advocacy tools and empowering them for stronger civic engagement are meaningful preconditions for their increased participation in local decision-making, particularly considering that women with disabilities have been widely excluded from public representation and have faced long-term discrimination due to the inaccessibility of public infrastructure, widespread stereotypes and stigma. Seventy-five persons (67 women and 8 men) participated in four workshops on gender accessibility audit conducted by the National Assembly of People with Disabilities and UN Women (see Annex 39).

Law enforcement bodies, regional and local administrations and the general public have been sensitized on GBV and gender equality through the Violence has no Excuse communication campaign in Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts. The campaign was implemented in partnership with the Ministry of the Interior of Ukraine and the National Police. It has integrated messages that specifically call on men and boys to halt GBV, including domestic violence. The messages have reached communities through social media, community-based activities, radio programmes and public service announcements. The campaign has reached 34,892 people on social media⁴⁹ and 1081 people through sports- and arts-based awareness-raising events⁵⁰ in target oblasts (see Annex 40).

⁴⁸ The article was published on the UN Women website for Europe and Central Asia, "Women with disabilities are unable to access public services in eastern Ukraine, finds UN Women's Gender Audit," December, 2017. Available at: <http://eca.unwomen.org/en/news/stories/2017/12/women-with-disabilities-are-unable-to-access-public-services-in-eastern-ukraine>

⁴⁹ Facebook page of the National Police of Ukraine. As of October 2018; <https://www.facebook.com/UA.National.Police/videos/2001776240077180/>
Facebook page of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Ukraine. As of October 2018; <https://www.facebook.com/mvs.gov.ua/videos/1743748055711878/>
Facebook page of UN Women Ukraine. As of October 2018; <https://www.facebook.com/unwomenukraine/videos/462818540888009/>
<https://www.facebook.com/unwomenukraine/videos/426259661124125/>
Three social videos on Violence has no Excuse on the YouTube page of UN Women regional office for Europe and Central Asia; uploaded in January and May 2018;
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jglzjANG5Ns&feature=youtu.be>
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BDAvvH9xL2Q&feature=youtu.be>
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ADjbBj98_KM

⁵⁰ Between April 2017 and May 2018, UN Women organized six sports- and arts-based activities within the Violence Has no Excuse campaign, including the Race against Violence, conducted in Kramatorsk, Sievierodonetsk, Mariupol; and art-based initiatives conducted in Sievierodonetsk and Kreminka (Luhansk), Sloviansk and Mariupol (Donetsk).

Activity 4.1.1

Gender analysis of the implications of decentralisation on women and men, particularly vulnerable groups, and conclusions and recommendations (vulnerability study)

(This activity also contributes to activity 1.1.1 under objective 1)

The project continuously applied the *Leave No One Behind* principle in order to address the gender-specific needs of women who face multiple forms of discrimination and in order to empower them as active agents of development.

The project supported the *participatory workshops on Analysis of Vulnerabilities' of Women and Men* for local authorities and communities, which proved to be a crucial precursor for increasing the awareness on the differentiated needs of women and men to be addressed through local strategies, programmes and budgets. The project organized workshops to present the findings of the Vulnerability Analysis in all targeted communities. One-day workshops were conducted in six ATCs⁵¹ in April 2017. In June 2017, such workshops were conducted in 14 targeted communities⁵² and were attended by 130 local authorities and women and men from the communities (117 women and 13 men) (see Annex 41).

Gender Accessibility Audit

The Vulnerability Analysis and community profiles have identified women with disabilities as one of the most vulnerable groups. UN Women, in partnership with the National Assembly of People with Disabilities of Ukraine and the Kramatorsk City Council of Donetsk Oblast, conducted the first Gender Accessibility Audit of the health, social and education facilities of Kramatorsk city. The Audit results confirmed that all eight audited buildings did not comply with national standards on accessibility.⁵³ The Gender Accessibility Audit findings and recommendations were presented at the first regional forum, *Leave No One Behind*, held in Kramatorsk on 15 December 2017. The Forum, attended by 61 participants (45 women and 16 men), included persons with disabilities, gender equality advocates and local authorities. Participants discussed implementing the recommendations through local programme and budget of Kramatorsk for 2018.

Table 1: *The list of state buildings Audited buildings include public institutions that provide services that are a priority for women with disabilities (and women who have children with disabilities) in the city of Kramatorsk:*

1. *Children's Clinical Hospital;*
2. *Obstetrical and gynaecological unit, City Hospital #1;*
3. *Obstetrical and gynaecological consultation centre, City Hospital #3;*
4. *Outpatient clinic of primary health care centre #2;*
5. *Outpatient clinic #7 of the primary health centre #1;*
6. *Kindergarten #71;*
7. *Department of labour and social protection and*
8. *Territorial centre for social services.*

⁵¹ Between 13 and 28 April, one-day workshops were conducted for 87 representatives (77 women and 10 men) from Mykolaivka, Lyman and Cherkas'ke of Donetsk Oblast and Novopskov, Bilokurakyn, and Chmyrivka communities of Luhansk Oblast.

⁵² Two one-day workshops (1 and 2 June 2017) were conducted for 43 representatives (40 women and three men) of 14 project communities undergoing the process of amalgamation – Bakhmut, Sloviansk, Kramatorsk, Druzhkivka, Mariupol, Vuhledar, and Velyka Novosilka in Donetsk Oblast, and Bilovodsk, Krasnorichenske, Markivka, Popasna, Novoaidar, Kreminna, and Troitske in Luhansk Oblast.

⁵³ State Building Norms on "Buildings and structures. Accessibility of houses and buildings for people with limited mobility" #B.2.2-17:2006, adopted by the Decree #362 of the Ministry of Construction, Architecture, Housing and Communal Services, Nov. 2, 2006.

In order to scale up the application of the Gender Accessibility Audit methodology in the process of decentralisation reform, UN Women developed the Gender Accessibility Audit toolkit (see Annex 42). During the second phase of the EU-funded joint programme (EU Support to the East of Ukraine – Recovery, Peacebuilding and Governance),⁵⁴ the Gender Accessibility Audit toolkit will be presented to the U-LEAD programme⁵⁵ that supports country-wide decentralisation reform and to the Ministry of Regional Development, Construction and Housing and Communal Services. This will be meaningful for sharing and further disseminating the Gender Accessibility Audit methodology to other regions of Ukraine in the context of decentralisation reform.

Activity 4.1.2

Provide knowledge and skills to regional and local authorities in gender-responsive planning and budgeting and improve the quality, delivery and access to public services for vulnerable women and men

(This activity also contributes to output 1.2)

On 25 October 2016, with the aim of promoting gender-responsive decentralisation reform and integrating gender equality priorities into the regional strategies, UN Women organized local consultations between oblast administrations and women's CSOs in order to review the draft Luhansk Oblast Development Strategy.⁵⁶ Forty one internally displaced persons and conflict-affected persons (33 women and eight men) participated in the consultations (see Annex 43).

This resulted in submitting the draft Development Strategy's 43 recommendations for gender mainstreaming.

“Women’s organizations are our reliable partners. In crisis situations, women’s organizations were especially mobile, dynamic and well organized. These recommendations will be integrated into the Strategy’s implementation plans.”

Ms. Olga Lishyk,
Deputy Head of the Luhansk Oblast Civil-Military Administration

As the result of the consultations, the draft Luhansk Strategy 2020 has been revised.⁵⁷ For example, one of the objectives has been reformulated as “creating the conditions for the rule of law, gender equality and protection of human rights.” Further, the Luhansk Strategy 2020 included measures such as providing services to violence survivors, creating the psychosocial mobile teams for the survivors of violence, providing the trainings for the representatives of all governance branches to improve the social services and address gender issues. Women have been included among the primary target groups to provide assistance in small business development and self-employment.

As part of efforts to increase women's participation in local decision-making, UN Women organized several forums and consultations. The consultation at which the recommendations were prepared was held on the occasion of International Peace Day on 21 September 2016 in Sviatohirsk of Donetsk Oblast.

⁵⁴ This is four-year programme funded by EU and is being implemented by UNDP, UN Women, UNFPA and FAO in Eastern Ukraine.

⁵⁵ Supported by the EU and implemented by GIZ and SIDA.

⁵⁶ Article was published on UN Women web-site for Europe and Central Asia; “Gender Perspectives are Crucial in Ukraine's Crisis Area,” November, 2016; <http://eca.unwomen.org/en/news/stories/2016/11/gender-perspective-crucial-in-ukraines-crisis-areas>

⁵⁷ Luhansk Region Development Strategy for the period until 2020; Sievierodonetsk 2016; http://www.ua.undp.org/content/dam/ukraine/docs/Donbas/RPP/Luhansk-reg-dev-strategy_ENG-14-06-2017.pdf

“We had regional HIV prevention programmes – all of them are on hold since the region has been torn by the conflict. The biggest challenge is to restore and strengthen these links under the circumstances of armed conflict, when HIV-positive people get even more vulnerable than before due to displacement, loss of jobs, loss of access to therapy and medical service.”

Liudmyla Maslova,
Director of Donetsk Oblast HIV/AIDS Centre

During the consultations, central and local government representatives met with women’s groups and discussed ways to localize Ukraine’s National Action Plan (NAP) 1325 for the implementation of the UN Security Council Resolution on Women, Peace and Security.⁵⁸ Of 17 proposed recommendations, 10 were integrated in the adopted plan on Women, Peace and Security for 2017 by the Luhansk State Regional Administration (see Annex 44). The recommendations proposed by women from the Luhansk region address issues such as community security and GBV and the need to allocate local budgets for implementing NAP 1325. Forty-four people (35 women and nine men), including representatives from the Ministry of Social Policy, regional governments, military official and women’s NGO participated in the forum (see Annex 45).

Another important platform for women’s groups to voice their concerns and to advocate for including the needs of women living with HIV into regional plans was the forum on *Gender Aspects of HIV Prevention and Response*, held in Donetsk Oblast.⁵⁹

During the forum, women living with HIV advocated and proposed 33 recommendations for gender- and HIV-responsive regional programme in order to ensure adequate response so that HIV-positive women can protect themselves from infection, overcome stigma and gain greater access to treatment and care (see Annex 46). The forum was conducted on International Women’s Day on 8 March 2017, jointly with Donetsk Oblast Civil-Military Administration, Oblast HIV/AIDS Centre, and the Positive Women and the Svitanok NGOs. Thirty-eight people (including 33 women) participated in the forum.

Regional and local authorities increased knowledge in Gender Responsive Planning and Budgeting

The regional and local administrations in Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts, with support from UN Women, and in partnership with the NGO “Bureau of Gender Strategy and Budgeting,” completed capacity-building trainings on GRPB for authorities and mobilized women’s groups.

Prior to the series of training, a training needs assessment was conducted to assess the needs of the regional and local authorities. A total of 190 representatives (152 female and 38 male) participated in the training needs assessment. The assessment revealed that 83 per cent of the participants had never received gender-related training; 60 per cent were moderately familiar with decentralisation reform and the planning and budgetary process in Ukraine; 37 per cent were not informed of and so never applied principles of participatory budgeting and planning, and *78 per cent were not familiar with GRBP tools.*

Based on the training needs assessments, the training course *Gender Mainstreaming into Local Policies, Plans and Budgets* was developed. Because communities were at very different amalgamation stages and had differing levels of capacity and motivation, it was decided to conduct two types of trainings: basic training and advanced training. Basic training on gender analysis and gender mainstreaming included basic principles of GRPB and covered all of the project’s targeted communities.

⁵⁸ Article was published on UN Women web-site for Europe and Central Asia, “To Build Peace in Ukraine, More Women Decision Makers are Needed,” September, 2016; <http://eca.unwomen.org/en/news/stories/2016/10/to-build-peace-in-ukraine-more-women-decision-makers-needed>

⁵⁹ Article was published on UN Women web-site for Europe and Central Asia, “Coordinated Actions are Needed to Respond to HIV in Ukraine’s Crisis Area,” March, 2017; <http://eca.unwomen.org/en/news/stories/2017/03/coordinated-actions-are-needed-to-respond-to-hiv-in-ukraines-crisis-areas>

Advanced training envisaged deeper learning of GRPB methodology. In total, 445 authorities (364 women and 81 men) and among them mobilized 54 women's groups have improved their knowledge and skills on the GRPB methodology.

In addition to the GRPB basic and advance trainings, UN Women supported 67 on-the-job trainings and consultations at which representatives from local authorities in 10 project communities (141 women and men)⁶⁰ have increased their skills in gender analysis and in developing gender-responsive goals, objectives and indicators for local programmes (see Annex 47). Twenty-three authorities (19 women and four men) from Luhansk and Donetsk oblasts have increased the understanding and knowledge on gender mainstreaming in decentralized communities through two study tours in the Dnipropetrovsk and Ternopil regions. They have improved their knowledge of how gender mainstreaming is practised during the decentralisation process, and of the type of local mechanisms that are created to institutionalize gender equality through regional and local policies and programmes (see Annex 29).

Women participate in local planning and budgeting through LGCCs

Women's increased participation in local planning and budgeting has been secured through LGCCs that have been established in accordance with Article 42 of the Law of Ukraine on Local Governance and by the Decrees of Community Heads (with the support of UN Women) in seven ATCs.⁶¹ The LGCCs include members of executive boards and various departments of amalgamated territorial communities, local NGOs and women's groups.

Twenty-four mobilized women have become members on the councils and have formalized their presence and participation in local decision-making. Six LGCCs⁶² have had their terms of references approved by the heads of their respective communities (see Annexes 48 and 49).

Two of them, Bilokurakyne and Cherkas'ke ATCs, have approved implementation plans (see Annex 50). LGCC main objectives are to ensure that gender is mainstreamed into local programmes and budgets and that human rights and gender equality standards are respected and adhered to. This is a very promising development that needs to be embraced and replicated in other communities and regions.

"In cooperation with local non-governmental organizations, we have put together an annual work plan. The Gender Coordination Council has already held five meetings where we, in an informal setting, had round-table discussions on how our community should operate to be thriving, effective and sustainable."

Nataliya Zhukova,
Secretary of Bilokurakine Village Council,
Luhansk Oblast

Technical support and policy advice

With UN Women and UNDP technical support, seven local socioeconomic development strategies of ATCs⁶³ have included gender-responsive objectives and measures. UN Women and UNDP presented seven draft strategies as good practice examples at joint strategic workshops with the participation of 115 representatives (86 women, 58 men) of oblast administrations, ATCs and U-LEAD oblast representatives.

⁶⁰ In Bilokurakyne, Bilovodsk, Chmyrivka, Cherkas'ke, Kreminna, Lymanska, Mykolaivska, Novopskov, Troitske, Vuhledar, Kramatorsk.

⁶¹ Cherkas'ke, Lyman, Mykolaivka in Donetsk Oblast, and Bilokurakyne, Chmyrivka, Novopskov, Troitske in Luhansk Oblast.

⁶² Chmyrivka, Cherkas'ke, Bilokurakyne, Mykolaivka, Novopskov and Lyman ATHs

⁶³ Bilokurakyne, Chmyrivka, Cherkas'ke, Lyman, Mykolaivka, Novopskov, Troitske.

Activity 4.1.3

Community security analysis, awareness raising initiatives; training on preventing sexual and gender-based violence for communities (GBV prevention)

(This activity also contributes to output 2.)

GBV remains one of the major community security concerns in the east of Ukraine. The ongoing conflict exacerbates the risk of GBV, with additional stress caused by displacement and post-combatants returning home with post-traumatic stress disorder, which often makes them turn on those close to them. Even though the police are often the first to be called for assistance, trust in the police remains low. The project supported consultations and focus group discussions among representatives of local authorities, police, social and psychological service providers and community members to conduct the community security analysis⁶⁴ and to discuss the security and safety concerns of women and girls from the project's targeted communities. The focus group discussions identified the several vulnerable groups as being at high risk of violence, including single mothers, older women, persons with disabilities, women serving at public administrations (mostly subject to harassment), and rural housewives (economically dependent on spouses and with no property). The majority of the participants stressed that no communication campaign on violence prevention has ever been implemented in their communities — and they are very much needed. The participants developed a list of community security needs and recommendations for communication materials on GBV that have been used to design the Violence Has no Excuse Joint Programme communications campaign (see Annex 51).

Violence Has no Excuse communications campaign

UN Women, in partnership with the Ministry of the Interior and the National Police of Ukraine, implemented the Violence Has no Excuse information campaign in the Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts. The campaign supported awareness-raising on GBV at the regional and community levels.

"I hope that running with us gave people the feeling that we are always here to help, even with sensitive issues like gender-based violence."

Yana Vasyenko,
Patrol police officer in Donetsk region

Using community-based events and social videos, the communications campaign was key to engaging men (particularly police officers) in promoting zero tolerance to violence. The campaign has sensitized local communities about GBV prevention and response; and promoted trust in the police in target oblasts. The campaign was launched with media briefings and the *Race against Violence* city races, with the participation of police, Oblast Administrations, civil society, service providers, international organizations and women and men, boys and girls from the local communities. The races were conducted on 13 May 2017 in Kramatorsk, on 30 June 2017 in Sievierodonetsk and on 12 April 2018 in Mariupol.⁶⁵ The city races contributed to raising awareness on GBV and increased trust between community members and the police. Overall, 615 people participated in the races. In Kramatorsk, the event was attended by 325 participants (123 female and 202 male), including 23 police officers (7 female and 16 male). In Sievierodonetsk, the event was attended by 70 participants (18 female and 52 male), including 24 police officers (2 female and 22 male). In Mariupol, the event was attended by 220 participants (52 female and 168 male, including 36 police officers).

⁶⁴ Focus-group Discussions with community representatives (123 participants; 115 female and eight male) and round-table meetings with the local authorities, social and other service providers engaged in GBV and domestic violence response (43 participants – 42 female and one male) were organized from Jan. 18-27, 2017.

⁶⁵ Article was published on UN Women web-site for Europe and Central Asia, "Police Run Against Violence in Eastern Ukraine" May, 2017; <http://eca.unwomen.org/en/news/stories/2017/05/police-run-against-violence-in-eastern-ukraine>

The programme also supported innovative art-based initiatives for raising awareness of GBV in Sievierodonetsk and Kreminna (Luhansk region), Sloviansk and Mariupol (Donetsk region). More than 466 people (232 women and 234 men) attended the events (see Annex 40).

The information campaign also included two events conducted on 24 November 2017 in Kramatorsk and Sievierodonetsk, on the occasion of the *International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women*. UN Women, together with the UFPH and State Regional Administrations, organized awareness-raising events as a part of the United Nations Secretary-General's campaign UNiTE to End Violence against Women (UNiTE). The events were conducted under the overarching theme Leave No One Behind: End Violence against Women and Girls (see Annex 52).

The joint project used different advocacy and communication tools, including social media, local media, public service announcements, posters and booklets under the information campaign. The project has produced and disseminated following materials:

Materials on prevention and response have been developed, specifically booklets such as the *Action Plan for Police Officers – Police Pocket Reminder* for situations of violence and the *Safety Plan for People Experiencing Violence* (see Annexes 53 and 54). The materials were piloted and shared among target audiences during multisectoral consultations, trainings and community-based events.

Four *articles* addressing attitudes and norms that perpetuate violence and promoting support services were published in 10 local newspapers.⁶⁶ The articles aim to sensitize community members about gender-based and domestic violence and increase trust in the police.

Radio programmes on the Violence Has no Excuse information campaign and on the training provided to police in Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts were aired on Ukrainian Radio and on the radio channel Pul's of the city of Sievierodonetsk.⁶⁷

Three audio advertisements were prepared with the aim of sensitizing the targeted communities to GBV prevention and response and to encourage survivors to report offences to the police. The radio advertisements promoted the National Toll-free Hotline on the Prevention of Domestic Violence. They were granted public service announcement status and were disseminated through two national and nine local media sources by national and regional radio stations⁶⁸ (see Annex 55).

Two social posters were published. The posters explain that violence is a crime and encourage survivors to seek help from the police and the National Toll-free Hotline on Domestic Violence (see Annexes 56 and 57). UN Women widely disseminated the posters to national and regional partners and community members. The posters have been displayed on billboards in 14 cities of Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts.⁶⁹

Three GBV videos for survivors of domestic violence were developed, and have reached 34,892 people via social media,⁷⁰ providing strong messages that violence is a crime and encouraging survivors and witnesses to report such cases to the police. Videos have been produced in cooperation with the Ministry of Internal Affairs and the National Police of Ukraine and are available on the Ministry's and National Police's Facebook pages. The videos have also been broadcast on national and regional television stations.⁷¹

⁶⁶ The articles were published in following newspapers: *Mayak*, *Vpered*, *Zorya*, *Maryinska Nyva* and *Provintsiya* in Donetsk Oblast and *Telegazeta*, *Svativski Vido-mosti*, *Sels'kaya nov*, *Kreminshchyna* and *Popasnianskyi vesnik* in Luhansk Oblast.

⁶⁷ Interview with Olena Yesipenko, representative of the NGO-Ukrainian Foundation for Public Health at Radio "Pulse"; August, 2017; <https://lot.lg.ua/author-program/puls-luganshyny-esipenko-09-08-17>

⁶⁸ National radiostations: 'Krains FM', 'Lux FM'. Regional radio stations: 'Puls FM', 'Radio Relax', '49th parallel', 'Radio STV', 'KTV Plus', 'Svativska Rayon TRC' in Luhansk Oblast and 'Radio Pryazovya', 'Merydian', 'Mozhlyvist'.

⁶⁹ Number of posters in each hromada-Donetsk oblast: Kramatorsk -5, Druzhkivka -2, Sloviansk -2, Bakhmut -2, Vuhledar -2, Mariupol -5, Sartana -1, Mykolaivka-1, Lyman -1, Velyka Novosilka -1. Luhansk oblast: Sievierodonetsk -3; Lysychansk -2; Rubizhne -2; Kreminna -1.

⁷⁰ Ibid.

⁷¹ National: "UA Pershyi." Regional: "27th channel" and "DoTV" in Donetsk Oblast and "LOT" in Luhansk Oblast.

UN Women invested in raising awareness of community mobilizers and members of self-help groups on GBV, prepared them to discuss GBV with the community members and provided information to them about available services.

During the one-day training session,⁷² 11 mobilized women and one man (who were internally displaced and conflict-affected persons) from target communities increased their knowledge of international and national legislation on preventing and responding to GBV and of referral mechanisms and methods for disseminating information on GBV prevention and response, including for domestic violence.

Investing in awareness-raising on community security and GBV among women's groups resulted in prioritized GBV concerns in community profiles. Subsequently, five of 36 women's groups submitted small grants proposals, addressed community security and GBV prevention and response issues by implementing awareness-raising preventive measures and established crisis centres for survivors in the Vuhledar, Kramatorsk, Kreminna, Bilokurakhyne, Starobilsk communities.

The small grant projects on prevention and response to GBV have contributed to raising the awareness of local communities and authorities on key issues of concern for survivors and to enhancing access to prevention centres for survivors of violence. Potentially, these local good practices on service provision could be further funded by local budgets.

Activity 4.1.4

Capacity building of regional, local authorities and law enforcement bodies about sexual and GBV and about referral pathways (GBV response)

(This activity contributes to output 2.)

GBV is one of the most serious areas of concern for members of local communities in the east. According to a 2017 UN Women-conducted small-scale survey⁷³ on attitudes towards violence in Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts, 43 per cent of respondents do not trust the police, which is one of the reasons for not reporting on GBV (see Annex 58). In the process of implementing law enforcement reform, the Ministry of the Interior of Ukraine has increasingly prioritized GBV issues and the need to educate police officers on prevention and response strategies.

With the aim of increasing the capacities of newly recruited police officers to adequately respond to and prevent GBV, UN Women and UNDP, jointly with the Ministry of the Interior, the National Police and the UFPH, organized a training-of-trainers course on *Community Security and Gender-based Violence Prevention and Response*. The training was attended by 32 officers of the National Police (14 women and 18 men).⁷⁴

The project also supported increasing the capacities of district and patrol police officers in community security and GBV by providing training for 271 police officers (64 women and 207 men). With increased awareness about preventing and responding to GBV and community policing, police officers are better able to engage with communities for dialogue, and to address cases of GBV.

⁷² Training on GBV for community mobilizers was conducted on 5 September 2017 in Kramatorsk.

⁷³ The small-scale survey included 251 respondents and was conducted by UN Women in 2017. The report is not public and only has been used internally to plan communications activities.

⁷⁴ Article was published on UN Women web-site for Europe and Central Asia, "Police officers in Ukraine trained to be responsive to gender-based violence," March, 2017; <http://eca.unwomen.org/en/news/stories/2017/03/police-officers-in-ukraine-trained-to-be-responsive-to-gender-based-violence>

The four-day training sessions provided theoretical knowledge of national and international legislation on GBV, practical strategies for community-police partnerships and skills for responding to GBV — with a focus on domestic violence and interacting with perpetrators and survivors. Of the 271 police officers who underwent training, 213 (42 women and 171 men) were from the National Police and 58 (22 women and 36 men) were from the Patrol Police. Among them, 141 were from the Luhansk region and 130 were from the Donetsk region (see Annex 36).

Multi-sectoral consultations on GBV prevention and response

UN Women facilitated local and regional consultations in 20 target locations⁷⁵ of Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts in multisectoral groups, including local authorities, the police, psychosocial service providers and women's community groups (355 total participants; 311 women and 44 men) on GBV and referral pathways (see Annexes 59 and 60). The discussions were held in communities during the multisectoral consultations between October 2017 and April 2018. As a result, 39 gender-responsive recommendations on how to include gender-specific community security needs in regional and local programmes were developed and submitted to Regional Administrations.

The regional consultations gathered 101 representatives (73 women and 28 men) of local authorities, law enforcement, social services, grass-roots organizations and leaders of women's groups from different cities and targeted communities.

Activity 4.1.5

Expanding access to information and raising public awareness of community security-related issues

(This activity also contributes to output 2.)

The small-scale survey on attitudes towards GBV in Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts (described under activity 4.1.4) revealed that about 20 to 30 per cent of respondents tend to be permissive of violent behaviour in a relationship. Violence is seldom seen as an intolerable aspect of a relationship and is sometimes seen as something that partners should just live with. The survey showed that such attitudes are more prevalent among men and among young people of both genders. Furthermore, a victim-blaming attitude is prevalent; more than half of all men agreed that women are sometimes beaten because of their own faults or behaviours.

Based on the survey's findings and the results of the inclusive consultations on community security, a GBV sensitization and awareness-raising campaign *Violence Has no Excuse* (described under activity 4.1.3.) was developed.

As a part of sensitization and raising awareness campaign UN Women disseminated 600 police booklets to police officers and 900 safety plans for survivors of domestic violence in Luhansk and Donetsk regions. By making the safety plan leaflet available on its website,⁷⁶ the Ministry of Interior is providing the entire population with easy access to the plan's information. Law enforcement bodies have considered both knowledge products to be highly meaningful. Upon a request from the Ministry of Internal Affairs, additional 5,000 copies of the safety plan and 5,000 copies police booklets were printed by UN Women for the Kyiv (Darnitsa district) and Odessa (Malinovskyy district) oblasts.

⁷⁵ Bilokurakyn, Bilovodsk, Kramatorsk, Krasnorichensk, Kreminka, Mariupol, Novoposkov, Popasna, Troitske, Velika Novosilka, Vuhledar, Novaidar, Bakhmut, Druzhkivka, Liman, Mykolaivka, Cherkas'ke, Chmyrivka, Markivka, Sloviansk communities.

⁷⁶ "Security Plan for people experiencing, or at high risk of domestic violence." Published on the web-site of the Ministry of the Interior. Available at: http://mvs.gov.ua/ua/infographic/2018/COVV/nacionalna_policiya/Osobistiy_plan_bezpeki.htm

Activity 4.1.6

Integrate gender perspectives in the CME methodology; training local NGOs, study visits to Georgia to learn the experience of community mobilization of women internally displaced persons

(This activity also contributes to output 3)

CME in eastern Ukraine has been implemented, based on the methodology developed by UN Women in Moldova.⁷⁷ The applied methodology proved to be successful in meaningfully engaging excluded women and men in mobilized groups; providing them with essential skills and knowledge to address inequalities and discrimination; and in responding to the circumstances of the most excluded and vulnerable women, those facing multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination.

UN Women (together with its national responsible party, the Ukrainian Women's Fund) applied the CME approach⁷⁸ to support women's empowerment, to identify the specific needs of women and men in the communities, to enhance dialogue between women's groups and elected officials and to strengthen women's advocacy efforts for integrating community priorities and needs into local policies and budgets. The Georgian experience on working with internally displaced persons and conflict-affected communities has been shared by UWF in the beginning of the CME launch.

Learning from two Georgian CSOs, the Women's Information Centre and the Taso Foundation, about working with conflict-affected women contributed to increasing the UWF's knowledge and skills.

The Women's Information Centre and the Taso Foundation shared their experiences through trainings and a study tour in Georgia. An introductory five-day training course for the UWF and pre-selected community mobilizers⁷⁹ was followed by workshops in the Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts.⁸⁰ Additionally, 19 representatives (16 women and three men) of the Donetsk and Luhansk Oblast Civil-Military Administrations, community mobilizers and local men and women leaders of self-help groups took part in a nine-day study tour to Georgia.⁸¹

During the study tour, participants visited Georgian regions that have been affected by conflict and populated by national minorities. During the visit, the Ukrainian delegation met with women living in rural and urban areas, including national minorities and internally displaced persons. Participants have increased the understanding about women's participation in local decision-making in conflict-affected communities (see Annex 61).

"Our people tend to be inactive. Usually they wait for someone to come and start improving living conditions and community infrastructure. After training, we now understand that only we can make our community a better place."

Natalya Gordiyenko,
leader of a self-help group in the village of Bylbasyvka in Donetsk Oblast

⁷⁷ Community Mobilization for Empowerment of Vulnerable Women and Men. Guidebook. UN Women Moldova. 2012.

⁷⁸ Article was published on UN Women web-site for Europe and Central Asia, "Women gain voice and leadership in conflict-affected eastern Ukraine," November, 2017; <http://eca.unwomen.org/en/news/stories/2017/03/women-gain-voice-and-leadership-in-conflict-affected-eastern-ukraine>

⁷⁹ The training was conducted in Kyiv from 17 to 21 November 2016.

⁸⁰ The workshops were conducted from 9 to 12 February 2017 in Kreminna, Luhansk Oblast, and from 13 to 16 February 2017 in Sviatiagorsk, Donetsk Oblast. The participants were 22 women from Luhansk Oblast and 23 women from Donetsk Oblast, including self-help group leaders.

⁸¹ The study tour to Georgia was held from 3 to 11 April 2017.

Local women from Donetsk and Luhansk regions have enhanced their knowledge on leadership through *in-country exchange visits*. Ninety-nine mobilized women and one man have increased their understanding of women's roles in local development based on the experiences of Khmelnytsky, Poltava, and Vinnytsia ATCs. Five study tours included different workshops and field visits with authorities, women deputies and women's groups. Community representatives were able to learn good practices on rural women's roles in local decision-making, gender-responsive budgeting and planning and developing joint measures for decentralized communities. Women from Luhansk and Donetsk shared their experiences with CME work.

Activity 4.1.7

Implement a full cycle of CME with women's groups

The programme supported the effective application of the CME approach in all 20 pilot communities of the Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts. One of the significant highlights is recognition that most sustainable changes and local development practices have come from effective cooperation between self-help groups and local administrations during CME work.

The CME process contains 10 steps: 1) Arriving in the community; 2) Establishing self-help groups; 3) Conducting community profiles; 4) Building the capacity of mobilized groups; 5) Identifying priority needs and consolidating groups; 6) Facilitating interactions between communities and the authorities, lobbying for incorporating their needs in local plans/programmes/strategies; 7) Identifying community empowering, leadership, and advocacy initiatives, for support with small grants; 8) Implementing such initiatives/projects; 9) Using monitoring for learning; and 10) Conducting evaluation and determining follow-up steps.

"We did not have strong civil society organizations in Kramatorsk before 2014. I am happy to see the women's non-governmental organization Kramatorsk Mothers operating here. The best part is that the group consists of young women who are actively involved in decision-making. They did a lot to make our dream come true and to open the Perinatal Centre in our town."

Liliya Kislitsyna,
Deputy of Kramatorsk City Council,
Donetsk Oblast

CME work supported the mobilization of women over community development issues. Women increased their understanding of differentiated needs of women and men through the community profiles. This innovative and participatory approaches enabled mobilized women to collect and analyse the information on vulnerable groups in each hromada, the resources available in hromadas, gender-specific needs, and the suggested gender-responsive initiatives to address identified needs, with a specific focus on the most vulnerable groups (see Annex 62).

After drafting the community profiles, the *Grant Guide on Women-led Local Development and Empowerment Initiatives* was finalized. The Grant Guide defines the small grants' objectives, eligibility and selection criteria, and the stages and procedures for selecting small-grant initiatives (see Annex 63). The Ukrainian Women's Fund announced the call for the small grants competition in 20 targeted communities of Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts in September 2017 (see Annex 64). The gender-responsive initiatives based on the community profiles were integrated into small grant proposals submitted by women's groups. 50 proposals have been received. Grant review committees were conducted in November 2017 and have selected 36 small grant projects for funding (see Annexes 65 and 66).

By applying the CME approach for local women's empowerment, the programme has achieved results that demonstrate significant individual- and community-level change (see Annex 67 for success stories and videos available in social media⁸²).⁸³

The significant outputs of the mobilized groups, which are already contributing to notable changes in the communities and empowering group members, include:

- CME work has resulted in mobilizing fifty-eight self-help groups with 416 members (364 women, 52 men) in 20 communities of eastern Ukraine. 12 per cent of which are internally displaced persons;
- Women had increased their skills and knowledge to participate in local planning and budgeting by the end of 2017. As a result, 20 out of 30 proposed recommendations by women's groups were included in local plans for 2018 in eight communities;
- The programme funded 36 of the proposals in January 2018. Local authorities co-financed 12 per cent of the small grant's total budget with in-kind or financial contributions;
- The CME process has demonstrated a potential for sustainability; 20 of 58 self-help groups have been formally registered as women's CSOs;

- Mobilized women have improved leadership skills and participated in local elections for the amalgamation of the territorial communities. Five women from the Bilovodsk and Krasnorichenske communities of the Luhansk region took part in local elections and were elected as village council deputies in 2017. Four of these women were elected in Krasnorichenske and one woman was elected in Bilovodsk;

- According to the decision of the Executive Committee of Vuhledar City,⁸⁴ one woman from a self-help group has become a member of the Vuhledar Coordination Council on family, gender equality, economic development, domestic violence prevention and combating human trafficking.

The regional forum (held in Sviatohirsk, Donetsk Oblast, on 24 to 25 April 2018) on *Advancing Human Rights and Gender Equality through Community Mobilization for Empowerment* discussed the experiences of CME implementation in the conflict-affected areas of Donetsk and Luhansk.⁸⁵ The forum contributed to increased motivation among decision makers, community practitioners and gender equality advocates for integrating gender-responsive interventions and human rights-based approaches into decentralisation reform.

⁸² Video on "Building Safer Communities for Women and Girls" June, 2018; <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PFRXGPgGr7A&feature=youtu.be>
Video on "Advancing the Rights of Women with Disabilities in Local Development," June 2018; <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ah7zngofCw&feature=youtu.be>
Video on "Women Leaders of Self-Help Group Drive Local Development in Eastern Ukraine," June 2018; https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XiUm_but3QU&feature=youtu.be
Video on "Partnership for Advancing Women's Rights and Gender Equality at the Local Level," June 2018; <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=P1UIM26Yr2k&feature=youtu.be>
Video on "Internally Displaced Women Have Become Agents for Change in Their Communities," June 2018; <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=neT3vubgLYU&feature=youtu.be>

⁸³ A featured story was published on the UN Women website for Europe and Central Asia: "From Where I Stand, it is Our Responsibility as a Community to Consider the Needs of Everyone," March, 2018; <http://eca.unwomen.org/en/news/stories/2018/03/from-where-i-stand-lilia-kulish>;
Featured story was published on UN Women web-site for Europe and Central Asia, "Rural women in eastern Ukraine build resilience in conflict-affected communities," March 2018; <http://eca.unwomen.org/en/news/stories/2018/03/feature-rural-women-in-eastern-ukraine-build-resilience-in-conflict-affected-communities>
Featured story was published on UN Women web-site for Europe and Central Asia, "From Where I stand, we helped our community to feel alive," March 2018; <http://eca.unwomen.org/en/news/stories/2018/03/from-where-i-stand-aliona-vdovenko>

⁸⁴ Decision # 177 on the membership of the Vuhledar Coordination Council on family, gender equality, economic development, domestic violence prevention and combating human trafficking. Executive Committee of Vuhledar City, 2018. See <http://www.vugledar-rada.gov.ua/index.php/dokumenti/rishennya-vikonavchogo-komitetu/5480-21-03-2018-177-pro-vnesennya-zmin-do-rishennya-vikonavchogo-komitetu-miskoji-radi-vid-28-12-2015-35-pro-stvorennya-koordinatsijnogo-radi-z-pitan-sim-ji-gendernoji-rivnosti-demografichnogo-rozvitku-zapobigannya-nasilstvu-v-sim-ji-ta-protidiji-torgivli-lyudmi>

⁸⁵ Video on "Regional Forum on Advancing Human Rights and Gender Equality through Community Mobilization for Empowerment," available at YouTube page of UN Women Regional Office Europe and Central Asia: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WJ1oQKv7_z8

During the forum, more than 120 women and men from 20 communities of the Donetsk and Luhansk regions shared their experiences in applying the CME methodology as well as results and lessons learned of its piloting by the local governments and women's self-help groups in eastern Ukraine. Forum participants also discussed good practices from other countries (e.g. Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Moldova and the United Kingdom) on community and social mobilization.

The forum brought together representatives of community-based organizations, organizations for people with disabilities, youth organizations, self-help groups, gender equality advocates, regional and local authorities, service providers, local entrepreneurs and UN Agencies. At the end of the forum, participants developed a number of recommendations for different stakeholders to implement in order to scale up the application of CME and gender-responsive local development across Ukraine (see Annex 68).

"The indicators are that there will be great changes in these communities, because just after less than two years methodology is being used, changes are happening in the communities, where before there was no Civil Society Organization now there is."

Simon Forrester,
international expert on community
mobilization, Eurasia Social Change, UK



Output 4.2

Enhanced capacity of gender advocates and women's groups to contribute to local decision-making, including on public spending, and to demand that it is accountable and transparent

Mobilized women's groups have enhanced skills and knowledge in gender equality and women's rights, gender analysis, advocacy, financial literacy for grant management, leadership and communication with support of UN Women and UWF. Mobilized women have collected data about gender-specific needs and priorities of vulnerable groups in local communities by compiled 20 community profiles. The community profile findings have been widely applied in women's advocacy efforts with local authorities to integrate gender-responsive measures into local programmes and plans for 2018.

Having received skills and knowledge on evidence-based advocacy, the mobilized women have engaged in dialogue with local authorities and have advocated for the integration of 30 gender-responsive recommendations, developed by them, into local programmes and plans. As a result, 20 (66 per cent) of the recommendations were considered in local programmes and plans of eight communities.⁸⁶ The gender-responsive measures integrated in the local programmes and plans included raising awareness about gender-based discrimination in local communities; increasing women's access to gynaecological services; promoting access to services for mothers with children with disabilities; promoting women's small business initiatives and entrepreneurship; and promoting women's leadership (see Annex 29). This is a result of UN Women efforts to provide continuous capacity-building support and to promote women's engagement in consultations with local authorities.

"In 2016 we created a profile of our town and assessed its needs in order to identify existing problems. It turned out that one of the most urgent issues was domestic violence. We presented the community profile to the local authorities and to the town mayor; we held a number of meetings with government representatives, education department, police officers; we pushed the issue to the town leadership, presented them our plans, and they all supported our idea. The mayor allocated some premises for us to establish Crisis Centre. All residents and police officers actively participate in all our events."

Olena Boiko,
"Integration Into the Future" self-help group

Mobilized local women have established 20 CSOs to further formally advocate with local authorities for the rights of women facing multiple forms of discrimination. This will promote the long-term organization of the most vulnerable women under the auspices of an established, legally recognized entity, thereby enabling them to expand and advance their evidence-based advocacy efforts. This transition from informal self-help group to formal CSO demonstrates a commitment and willingness to engage in advocacy with authorities and other stakeholders in order to further local development and gender equality at the community level. In addition, women mobilized in new CSOs serve as role models for other women in conflict-affected communities and as agents for change. Local women-leaders (including local deputies and members of community self-help groups from the Donetsk and Luhansk regions) have increased awareness on gender equality national policy framework, priorities, progress on implementation through participation in the First Women's Congress in Kyiv (2017) and in the first Regional Women's Congress organized in Odesa (2018).⁸⁷ The Congresses provided a platform for building networks between local leaders, women councillors and members of Parliament.

"Project helped me unlock my own leadership potential, and I can now not only help women, but I can also help myself. Today, I am an adviser on internally displaced persons and I help people who have moved out of the occupied territories solve their problems. I help them speak up about their problems and make their voices heard on the national and regional levels."

Yana Lyubimova,
Community Mobilizer,
Bilovodsk and Chmyrivka Villages,
Luhansk Oblast

⁸⁶ By Kreminna, Bilokurakyn, Chmyrivka, Troitske, Bilovodsk hromadas of Luhansk oblast and Vuhledar, Cherkas'ke, Lyman hromadas of Donetsk oblast.

⁸⁷ Facebook page of Ukrainian Women's Congress, May 2018; <https://www.facebook.com/womenua.today/photos/pcb.218728242067874/218727628734602/?type=3&theater>

The congresses brought together diverse participants, including representatives of the Verkhovna Rada, national, regional and local governments; academia; international organizations; UN Agencies; CSOs; women deputies; empowered self-help groups; gender equality advocates; and the media.

Activity 4.2.1

Strengthen the capacity of women's groups to meaningfully participate in local recovery planning, development and community security decision-making/coordination; small grants (local development initiatives)

UN Women invested in building the knowledge and skills of community mobilizers and members of self-help groups to identify and analyse the needs of the most vulnerable populations from a gender and human rights perspective. Women leaders and local community activists have strengthened their capacities to conduct gender analysis and to use community profiles to define communities' gender-specific priorities. Community profiles provide the analytical basis to define the gender-specific needs of vulnerable groups and available community resources.

As a part of CME approach, a total of 562 people (478 women and 84 men), have received knowledge and skills about the human rights-based approach, gender equality and gender analysis, GBV prevention, evidence-based advocacy, leadership and communication, gender-responsive planning and budgeting, project development and implementation and financial management. 134 training sessions were conducted during the reporting period in 20 communities of two oblasts (see Annex 69).

Mobilized women have *successfully completed 36 small grants projects*, reaching about 3,424 women and 888 men as direct beneficiaries of the local development initiatives. Among others, small grants have contributed to enhanced safety for women in impoverished rural areas through installing street lightening and smart bus stop; increasing women's access to gynecological services;⁸⁸ establishing child care centres for single mothers; establishing GBV prevention crisis centres for survivors of violence in Vuhledar, Donetsk region;⁸⁹ and increasing access to information technology and skills training for women from vulnerable groups. Thirty-six local development initiatives-small grants were informed and based on the gender-specific priorities identified by the community profiles, collected by women's groups. Women have lobbied for and secured UAH 692 812 (approximately \$24,000) from local governments to co-finance 36 small grants to support local development initiatives. The co-financing made up at least 12 per cent of the total grant amount. The total grant fund for local initiatives was \$188,000. The smallest grant amount for community initiatives was \$3,358 and the largest grant amount was \$10,118 (see Annex 70).

"Our community has been changed by women. Our voices have been heard and cooperation started. It has become clear that women are able to address urgent gender inequality related issues in the communities and, therefore, it is very important to insure women's participation in decision making, but there is still a lot of work to be done."

Tetiana Chumak,
the leader of NGO "Neshcheretivska Mriya,"
Bilokurakine community, Luhansk Oblast

⁸⁸ Article published on 23 July 2018 on the online news agency "Ostrov"; "Healthy Women in Druzhkivka- EU supported to purchase the new equipment in the hospital " <http://www.ostro.org/eu4east/stories/551751/>

⁸⁹ Article published on 6 February 2018 on the online national news agency "Vchasno"; "Don't be silent: Crisis Centre for Women Survivors of Violence has been opened in Vuhledar" <https://vchasnoua.com/donbass/55031-ne-movchati-u-vugledari-z-yavitsya-tsentr-dopomogi-zhinkam-shcho-postrazhdali-vid-nasilstva>

Activity 4.2.2

Support women's leadership capacity; promote advocacy initiatives, including with the local and national authorities; provide small grants for leadership initiatives and study tours for female leaders from local government from conflict-affected areas and other parts of Ukraine; hold annual woman-leaders' congresses

The First Women's Congress was held on 23 and 24 November 2017. The Congress gathered about 400 participants, including members of parliament and other government representatives, academics, CSO representatives, women activists and development partners. 24 women (including local deputies and community self-help groups from the Donetsk and Luhansk regions) increased their awareness on national gender equality policy priorities and have enhanced social networks with women politicians and leaders (see Annex 71).

The Regional Women's Congress, in partnership with the Parliamentary Inter-faction Caucus for Equal Opportunities, was held on 18 May 2018. During the Regional Congress, three women from the Luhansk region participated for the first time in interactive panel discussions on women's political and economic participation, gender stereotypes and women's human rights with a specific focus on regional-level challenges and bottlenecks.

Over 60 participants from the south of Ukraine discussed the progress on implementation of the Resolution "Ten Steps to Achieve Gender Equality in Ukraine" and the tasks set by the First Ukrainian Women's Congress to feed further development of gender policy in the regions.

Activity 4.2.3

Awareness raising, communication initiatives on rights-based and gender-sensitive reporting on local development, recovery, community initiatives

Fifty-two regional and local journalists (37 women and 15 men) have increased knowledge and skills on gender-sensitive reporting⁹⁰. Media representatives made substantial contributions to the development of the *Media Guide for Reporting Gender-based Violence*, (see Annex 72) which ensured their ownership of the product and adherence to the principles it describes.

To overcome stereotypical perceptions and to sensitize media representatives, UN Women initiated a collaboration with the *Theatre for Dialogue*, a non-profit organization that works with vulnerable groups of women and men who face multiple forms of discrimination. Through exercises and drama workshops, participants identified their own gender biases and the role of the media in debunking gender stereotypes. Gender experts and media representatives created a series of role-plays that provided opportunity to reflect upon gender roles in society and to discuss bottom-up solutions to address gender discrimination.

⁹⁰The article was published on the UN Women website for Europe and Central Asia, "Journalists learn how gender-sensitive reporting can foster conflict resolution," December, 2016; <http://eca.unwomen.org/en/news/stories/2016/12/journalists-learn-how-gender-sensitive-reporting-can-foster-conflict-resolution>

"It is critical to show the personalities of women police officers. Women are strong, and they deserve to be reported about without harmful stereotypes."

Ksenia Shostatska,
journalist from Sloviansk, Donetsk Oblast

UN Women promoted gender-sensitive reporting among journalists through a media competition on *Best Gender-sensitive Media Reports*, conducted for local media representatives in the Luhansk and Donetsk regions. The call for submission was disseminated through a national website,⁹¹ and the UNDP and UN Women websites⁹². Altogether, 12 female and 8 male journalists from different media outlets submitted 41 pieces during February and March 2017. The competition jury selected three winners and they were awarded with prizes.

First prize winner was Ms. Kira Tolstyakova,⁹³ who authored a video report on women serving in the armed forces. The second prize winner was Ms. Ksenia Shostatska,⁹⁴ from Sloviansk, Donetsk oblast, who wrote an article about women patrol police officers. The third prize winner was Maryka Davydenko,⁹⁵ an internally displaced person from Donetsk, now based in Porkrovsk, who wrote an empowering story about an internally displaced businesswoman. The award ceremony event included a session on gender-sensitive reporting and introduced the Media Guide for Reporting Gender-based Violence to 20 journalists in the eastern regions (see Annex 73).

The interactive workshops, art, comics, and theatre performance have become powerful tool for raising awareness especially among youth. The *Comic Competition on Gender Equality – Picture It* and regional presentations of the winning posters were highly successful in reaching out more than 216 girls and boys and media representatives in local communities. The competition sensitized them on gender equality, stereotypes, GBV and discrimination. The competition replicated the Comic and Cartoon Competition on Gender Equality initiative implemented by UN Women and the European Commission, Belgium and the UN Regional Information Centre for Western Europe (UNRIC).⁹⁶

"It is often very difficult to identify stereotypes, as they are deeply rooted in our lives. Even young boys and girls can be trapped by old stereotypes. When we start thinking about them, we make first steps to their elimination."

Kyrylo,
student, Mariupol, Donetsk Oblast

Young artists throughout Ukraine between the ages of 18 to 30 years old were invited to participate and submit their drawings. The aim of the competition was to encourage young people to think about gender equality in Ukraine and to illustrate their understanding of women's rights and gender equality through comics, without words.

⁹¹ Call for media competition on gender sensitive reporting was published on national web-site of resource centre "Gurt"; available at <https://gurt.org.ua/news/competitions/36577/>

⁹² Call for media competition on gender sensitive reporting was published on UN Women web-site for Europe and Central Asia, February, 2017 <http://eca.unwomen.org/en/news/stories/2017/02/call-for-media-competition-on-gender-sensitive-reporting>

⁹³ Video report on women serving in armed forces available at: <http://vikna.stb.ua/ua/episode/divchata-persha-seriya-spetsproektu-vikon/>

⁹⁴ Article "Women Patrol Officers tell about their work in Police" was published in online magazine "Delovoi Sloviansk," March, 2017. Available at: <https://slavdelo.dn.ua/2017/03/26/miloe-litso-eshhe-ne-oznachaet-slabost-devushki-patrulnyie-o-svoey-rabote-v-politsii/>

⁹⁵ Article "Who has realized her potential in new location doesn't think about return" was published in online magazine "Vchasno," March, 2017. Available at: <http://vchasnoua.com/interview/50377-te-kto-realizovalsya-na-novom-meste-uzhe-ne-dumayut-o-vozvraschenii-v-donetsk-poteryav-vse-pereselenka-sozdala-us-peshnyj-biznes>

⁹⁶ Article was published on UN Women web-site for Europe and Central Asia, "UN Women launches comic competition on gender equality," February, 2015. <http://www.unwomen.org/en/news/stories/2015/02/un-women-launches-comic-competition-on-gender-equality>

The competition was held from November 2016 to February 2017. Information about the competition was disseminated through social media, posters, universities, art clubs, NGOs, and via journalists and artists.⁹⁷ In total, 62 submissions were received. The long list consisted of 42 comics from 24 locations in Ukraine. As a result of the jury's decision, six winners were selected. Additionally, one drawing was awarded a special International Women's Day prize.

An awards ceremony⁹⁸ was held in Kyiv on 21 July 2017 to both recognize the achievements of the young artists and to more widely disseminate their gender equality messages through the media, CSOs, other young people and gender-equality advocates.⁹⁹ The event was attended by 47 participants. The winning comics represent issues related to gender stereotypes and the traditional roles of women and men in Ukrainian society, the unequal distribution of childcare and domestic work, sexual harassment and barriers to career development for women.

Regional poster presentations for the Gender Equality – Picture It comic competition were conducted in order to help raise awareness about gender equality and to eliminate harmful gender stereotypes among youth in Kramatorsk, Mariupol and Sievierodonetsk. The presentations engaged 60 girls and 19 boys from project pilot communities. The regional presentations were followed by discussions with the young artists and the audience on the gender equality issues raised by the drawings (see Annex 74).

Young boys and girls have been sensitized on gender equality and gender stereotypes during the joint advocacy initiative organized in Kyiv International School in partnership with Kramatorsk City Council, and UN Women.¹⁰⁰ Around 90 young girls and boys (including 29 IDPs and conflict-affected youth from the Donetsk region, 14 girls and 15 boys) have attended a feminist theatrical performance 'Reviving Ophelia'¹⁰¹ (see Annex 75 and 76).

The high school students from the Donetsk region visited the capital, Kyiv (the first time for many of them). They visited the Taras Shevchenko National Museum, the Historical and Memorial Museum of Mikhail Hrushevsky and Ivan Franko Theatre. Moreover, the teenagers had an opportunity to meet with Maria Ionova, Member of the Parliament Inter-faction Caucus for Equal Opportunities, an inspiring role model for woman in politics. Ms. Ionova shared a story on the role of women in the Revolution of Dignity.

"Before bringing the idea of gender equality to others, we must first get rid of the deeply rooted stereotypes and other false conceptions that do not work in real life. First, we need to change our thinking, and only then change the thinking of others."

Darya Baklay,
16 years old, Kramatorsk, school #25

⁹⁷ Call for comic competition "Picture Gender Equality" was published on UN Women web-site for Europe and Central Asia, November, 2016; <http://eca.unwomen.org/en/news/stories/2016/11/comic-competition-picture-gender-equality-ukraine>

⁹⁸ Article was published on UN Women web-site for Europe and Central Asia, "Winners of the "Picture Gender Equality" Comic Competition announced in Ukraine "August 2017; <http://eca.unwomen.org/en/news/stories/2017/08/winners-of-the-picture-gender-equality-comic-competition-announced-in-ukraine>

⁹⁹ Live broadcast of the award ceremony of the comic art competition on gender equality. UN Women Ukraine Facebook page. <https://www.facebook.com/un-womenukraine/videos/356177661465659/>

¹⁰⁰ Video on "Youth Initiative to Combat Gender-based Discrimination and Stereotypes," July 2018; <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GnyERSwnams&feature=youtu.be>

¹⁰¹ Written by Dr. Mary Pipher and adapted into the screenplay by playwright Cherry Bennett. The exciting story of four girls who are struggling with the aggressive influence of popular culture and looking for their own way.

Challenges

In many cases, the simultaneous implementation of decentralisation and sectoral reform leads to contradictory practices. Sectoral reform processes need to take into account the roles of territorial authorities and provide them with clear and financially supported functions in the respective sectors;

Territorial authorities are willingly involved in projects, but they are not always sufficiently involved in implementing activities. It is necessary to elaborate a specific plan for better involvement of territorial administrations;

Territorial authorities, especially at the community level, lack sufficient qualified staff. Civil servants tend to be afraid of change and loss of position in the amalgamation process. It is necessary to complete the cycle of training and consultation that the programme provides;

The lack of gender awareness and weak planning, monitoring and coordination are some of the major challenges to improving regional and local implementation of gender equality commitments. Regional and local administrations tend to have low awareness of gender equality commitments such as the State Programme on Equal Rights and Opportunities, NAP 1325, Law on Domestic Violence and CEDAW Concluding Observations for Ukraine (2017);

While the newly created LGCCs might improve coordination within ATCs, managerial and technical-level staff from administrations are limited in their coordination role due to the lack of capacity and static roles defined in current job descriptions. There is no full time; paid staff in any of the administrations to fulfil the role of gender focal point or adviser; all functions are assigned to already overloaded positions;

ATCs lack sex-desegregated data, including the data on the needs and priorities of different vulnerable groups. Lack of data significantly hinders conducting gender analyses of the differentiated needs of women and men for consideration during local planning and budgeting processes;

Although mobilized women's groups have collected community profiles, a more systematic approach for sex-desegregated data collection on local level needs to be in place. Data collection and analysis must be an integral part of ATC administrative and operational work; it cannot be replaced by work performed by community groups. Therefore, UN Women, together with partners such as NDI and GRB project in Ukraine will continue to provide technical support and capacity building to the regional and local administrations in order to strengthen data collection and gender budget analysis for local planning and budgeting;

ATCs have not received top-down guidance on how to align gender-responsive budgeting with programme/ performance budgeting. Without the specialized technical assistance that the joint project has been providing to the ATCs, regional and local programmes and budgets in a majority cases are gender neutral. UN Women, together with its partners, will continue to lobby to issue budget recommendations by the Ministry of Finance on gender-sensitive indicators for regional and local governments. Such recommendations will assist in monitoring and reporting on performance and spending and will ensure the implementation of gender-responsive budgeting.

Lessons learned

A coordinated and integrated approach is essential to avoiding overlaps between different interventions and to ensure consistency with national and regional policies. Continuation of effective coordination, clear division of tasks and timely information sharing among the UN agencies involved in implementing this project are key to meeting the needs of national stakeholders. Providing support for further capacity building of the Luhansk and Donetsk oblasts to strategically oversee project interventions was a key tool in meeting stated project objectives;

The participation of a wide range of local stakeholders is immensely important to building confidence and enhancing security in conflict-affected communities. The participatory nature of the activities carried out by the project, including establishing CSWGs and the security-focused training seminars offered to law enforcement agencies and citizens, have fostered dialogue at the local level and have helped to promote social cohesion and security;

Stakeholder capacities at the local level are rather weak; continued engagement and support is needed to ensure that these actors are strong enough to discharge their mandates. This is true for civil society, local administrations and state institutions. Examples include: in many locations, there are no NGOs or CBOs that can lead from the civil society side; the majority of police working in the Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts have never had any gender-related training (24 out of 32 police officers interviewed at project-provided training did not have any relevant training experience in the past); and local administrations are lacking practices and ideas on how to allocate and spend security-related budgets;

The processes set in motion by the project require deeper attitudinal changes that go beyond capacity building. The nature of the previous political regime has left local actors passive and believing that the only way to address issues is by addressing higher-level authorities. This means that the project has to (and will continue to) expend efforts in trying to foster a culture among civil society actors, local administrations and state institutions such that they should take responsibility for solving local problems and that they should be proactive rather than reactive. This attitudinal shift can happen, including through the project's continued involvement with all of the above-mentioned actors in the field;

The public outreach campaign on decentralization processes proved to be an important undertaking in raising people's awareness of the reform process and in gaining public support. Outreach activities on the project's key undertakings must take place in the future;

Activities that have involved building dialogue within local communities have proven helpful and have, to some extent, not only helped address security and social cohesion but also governance and economic issues. It is thus important to ensure the continuation of such dialogue platforms and exchanges in and between the communities;

Despite the overall low level of understanding among authorities of Ukraine's national gender equality and women's rights commitments, there is a significant increase in political will when technical guidance and on-the-job coaching is offered to raise the awareness among authorities. Political will and individual and organizational commitments also have increased when the objectives of gender equality were placed within the framework of regional and local development, fostering greater benefits and improved service provision for vulnerable women's groups;

Interventions should be locally relevant and owned. The most effective interventions were those defined and led by mobilized women and girls themselves, including the most vulnerable. Strengthening the capacity of women's grass-roots groups and newly established women's organizations is crucial and needs to be continued in order to ensure a comprehensive and strategic approach towards increasing women's participation in local decision-making in conflict-affected areas of eastern Ukraine;

Mobilized women's groups have been capacitated through the support of a pool of locally recruited mobilizers, taking them through the initial stages of the CME process. A significant lesson is that the role of community mobilizer is crucial to strengthening local women's capacities and promoting their advocacy efforts to achieve the results that demonstrate significant individual- and community-level change;

In the course of ongoing conflict in the East and economic downsizing, gender equality tends to be not prioritized in comparison to more pressing and important issues, such as security, housing, infrastructure rehabilitation and economic growth. This is largely due to the lack of capacities and basic understanding of gender equality and women's rights among authorities and law enforcement bodies;

An important lesson is that having adopted a flexible approach to project implementation, the ability to respond to newly emerging demands allows plans to adjust. The programme has revised some of its work plan and started the introduction of a gender-responsive planning and budgeting approach with basic trainings for raising awareness among authorities, followed by advanced trainings at later stages. This approach proved to be effective. Through step-by-step learning and guidance, authority's awareness was raised, as was motivation to mainstream gender into local development.

Sustainability of Project Results

In planning and implementing its interventions, the project was guided by the fundamental principle of ensuring the sustainability of the achieved results. Well-documented and community-owned results that can be replicated/scaled-up represent true project successes. Based on the project objectives, the following concrete **sustainability mechanisms** were taken:

INSTITUTIONAL SUSTAINABILITY

Ensures that a system or an institution is in place that is capacitated with necessary knowledge and skills to carry its mandate on its own

- **14 fully functional ASCs** are in place in both Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts, having already rendered services to more than 170,000 residents;
- Establishment of **LGCCs** to serve as local institutional platforms for women to voice their needs and to lobby local authorities to integrate those needs into policies;
- **22 LDFs** are established and functional in the Donetsk, Luhansk and Zhytomyr oblasts and serve as interactive platforms for the community, the local authorities and security providers to raise and jointly address security-related issues.
- **CSWGs** were set up as part of the LDFs to provide space for police-community discussions, information sharing and raising security issues and concerns among local authorities, security providers and communities at the grass-roots level;
- **A Community Security Network** was set up in nine villages along the 'contact line', serving 25,000 people and enabling the authorities, police and community members to respond to and mitigate security threats;
- 20 local **women's civil society organizations** were established to further formally advocate with local authorities for the rights of women facing multiple forms of discrimination. This will promote the long-term organization of the most vulnerable women under the auspices of a legally recognized entity, thereby enabling them to expand and advance their evidence-based advocacy efforts.

LOCALLY OWNED INTERVENTIONS

- In all interventions the project followed the principle of not guiding but providing technical, expert support to the aspirations and intentions of local stakeholders to implement gender-responsive recovery and peacebuilding initiatives. From its onset, the project adopted and strictly adhered to the principle of community-based ownership to all of its activities, whether in the creation of platforms, or bringing together different community members that are united by a joint willingness to implement long-awaited community-owned change.

CAPACITATED LOCAL STAKEHOLDERS

- Capacity-building interventions focused on increasing counterparts' theoretical and practical knowledge and skills in order to ensure their ability to sustain project results.

WELL-DOCUMENTED RESULTS

- The project's communications plan and the conduct of its public outreach activities allowed for results and interventions to be widely shared with a larger audience. Well-documented project results helped secure the support of a wide range of stakeholders;
- The conduct of a public outreach campaign on the decentralisation process played a key role in ensuring that the final beneficiaries (regular residents of targeted communities) raised their awareness of the reform agenda, resulting in increased public support for ongoing initiatives. This approach is to be maintained in the upcoming project's next phase.



Results Framework

for the Joint UNDP and UN Women Programme "Restoration of Governance and Reconciliation in Crisis-Affected Communities of Ukraine" (results are reported on a cumulative basis)



OUTCOME: OBJECTIVE 1

Improved regional and local government capacity in recovery planning and service delivery, that is gender-responsive, participatory and in line with decentralisation and local government reform agenda

Indicator	Baseline	2017		2018		Data source	Comments	Responsible for Monitoring
	Value	Target	Result	Target	Result			
1a. Trust in Central Institutions (President, Cabinet of Ministers, Parliament, Courts) *	1.6 (Donetsk Oblast); 2.0 (Luhansk Oblast) [2017]	NA	1.6 (Donetsk Oblast); 2.0 (Luhansk Oblast)	1.8 (Donetsk Oblast); 2.2 (Luhansk Oblast)	1.8 (Donetsk Oblast); 1.6 (Luhansk Oblast)	USE Survey	According to USE, the level of trust in central institutions (e.g. President, Cabinet of Ministers, Parliament, and Courts) increased from 1.6 in 2017 to 1.8 in 2018 in Donetsk Oblast. At the same time, in Luhansk Oblast it decreased from 2.0 in 2017 to 1.6 in 2018.	UNDP, UN Women
* – shared result with Outcome 4								
1b. Trust in oblast state administrations *	3.8 (Donetsk Oblast); 3.7 (Luhansk Oblast) [2017]	NA	3.8 (Donetsk Oblast); 3.7 (Luhansk Oblast)	4.0 (Donetsk Oblast); 3.9 (Luhansk Oblast)	3.6 (Donetsk Oblast); 3.2 (Luhansk Oblast)	USE Survey	According to USE, the level of trust in oblast administrations in Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts decreased from 3.8 and 3.7 in 2017, to 3.6 and 3.2 in 2018 (respectively). It should also be noted that the level of change in Luhansk Oblast is statistically significant at 0.05 level of significance.	UNDP, UN Women
* – shared result with Outcome 4								
1c. Trust in village/town administrations *	4.9 (Donetsk Oblast); 4.6 (Luhansk Oblast) [2017]	NA	4.9 (Donetsk Oblast); 4.6 (Luhansk Oblast)	5.1 (Donetsk Oblast); 4.8 (Luhansk Oblast)	4.7 (Donetsk Oblast); 4.5 (Luhansk Oblast)	USE Survey	According to USE, the level of trust in local administrations in Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts decreased from 4.9 and 4.6 in 2017, to 4.7 and 4.5 in 2018 (respectively).	UNDP, UN Women
* – shared result with Outcomes 2 and 3								
1d. Civic life satisfaction (measured as a level of civic optimism) *	3.2 (Donetsk Oblast); 3.0 (Luhansk Oblast) [2017]	NA	3.2 (Donetsk Oblast); 3.0 (Luhansk Oblast)	3.4 (Donetsk Oblast); 3.2 (Luhansk Oblast)	3.6 (Donetsk Oblast); 3.1 (Luhansk Oblast)	USE Survey	According to USE, the level of civic optimism increased in both oblasts between 2017 and 2018: from 3.2 to 3.6 in Donetsk Oblast, and from 3.0 to 3.1 in Luhansk Oblast.	UNDP, UN Women
* – shared result with Outcome 3								
1e. Political Security *	3.7 (both oblasts) [2017]	NA	3.7 (both oblasts)	3.9 (both oblasts)	3.4 (Donetsk Oblast); 3.8 (Luhansk Oblast)	USE Survey	According to USE, the level of political security in Donetsk Oblast decreased from 3.7 in 2017 to 3.4 in 2018, while it slightly increased in Luhansk Oblast – from 3.7 in 2017 to 3.8 in 2018.	UNDP, UN Women
* – shared result with Outcome 3								
1f. Perceived level of corruption	6.4 (both oblasts) [2017]	NA	6.4 (both oblasts)	6.2 (both oblasts)	6.1 (Donetsk Oblast); 5.8 (Luhansk Oblast)	USE Survey	According to USE, citizens' perception of corruption decreased in both oblasts between 2017 and 2018: from 6.4 to 6.1 in Donetsk Oblast, and from 6.4 to 5.8 in Luhansk Oblast. The change in Luhansk Oblast is statistically significant at 0.05 level of significance.	UNDP, UN Women

OUTPUT 1.1

Enhanced capacity of regional and local authorities in conflict-affected areas in administrative and fiscal decentralisation and in managing the territorial amalgamation process

Indicator	Baseline	2017		2018		Data source	Comments	Responsible for Monitoring
	Value	Target	Result	Target	Result			
1.1.1. Number of ASCs in targeted hromadas that are fully functioning	0 [2016]	13	2	13	14	Desk review, ASCs administrative data, Semi-annual reports of Donetsk and Luhansk Oblast Administrations on Decentralisation Reform	Two ASCs were opened in 2017: Druzhkivka (Donetsk Oblast) and Popasna (Luhansk Oblast). Twelve additional ASCs become fully functional in 2018: Sloviansk, Lyman and Mykolaivka (all three in Donetsk Oblast) and Bilovods'k, Bilokurakynne, Krasnorichens'ke, Kreminna, Markivka, Novoidar, Novopskov, Troitske, Chmyrivka (all nine in Luhansk Oblast).	UNDP
1.1.2. Number of people who received satisfactory services at the established ASCs	Total 0 [2016]	15,750	13,113	39,750	170,280	Feedback forms, ASCs administrative data	As of September 2018, over 170,000 people received satisfactory administrative and social services at the established ASCs in 14 target communities in Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts.	UNDP
	Women 0 [2016]	5,700	4,744	19,700	106,860			
	Men 0 [2016]	10,050	8,369	20,050	63,420			
1.1.3. Number of hromadas out of 20 targeted that are amalgamated	4 [2016]	10	7	14	10	State Statistics Service, Certificates of amalgamation, Annual reports of the Ministry of Regional Development	As of September 2018, 9 target communities have been amalgamated: Lyman, Cherkas'ke, Mykolaivka (all three in Donetsk Oblast), and Bilokurakynne, Bilovods'k, Chmyrivka, Krasnorichens'ke, Novopskov, Troitske (all six in Luhansk Oblast). First elections in Markivka ATC (Luhansk Oblast) will be held on December 23, 2018.	UNDP
1.1.4. Number of hromadas out of 20 targeted that have capacities for amalgamation	0 [2016]	7	6	11	10	Desk review, Project reports	The following target communities now have capacities for amalgamation: Markivka, Novoidar, Kreminna, Popasna (all four in Luhansk oblast), Velyka Novosilka, Bakhmut, Druzhkivka (all three in Donetsk oblast). In addition, three already amalgamated communities (Krasnorichens'ke, Bilovods'k, Troitske – all in Luhansk Oblast) had received required capacity for amalgamation during the implementation of the programme.	UNDP

1.1.5. Number of representatives of targeted hromadas who adopted experience from other countries on successful amalgamation and decentralisation processes	0 [2016]	140	79	205	210	Trip reports, Training feedback form	As of September 2018, over 200 participants from Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts gained new knowledge, skills and experience through study visits to Georgia, Estonia, Lithuania and Poland.	UNDP
1.1.6. Number of representatives of targeted hromadas who adopted experience from other regions of Ukraine on successful amalgamation and decentralisation processes	0 [2016]	180	105	300	304	Trip reports, Training feedback forms	As of September 2018, over 300 representatives of targeted hromadas from Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts gained new knowledge, skills and experience through study visits to other regions of Ukraine (Ivano-Frankivsk, Poltava, Lviv).	UNDP

OUTPUT 1.2

Strengthened capacity of regional and local governments in conflict-affected areas to improve quality, delivery and access to public services based on participatory, gender- and conflict-sensitive approaches to planning and budgeting

Indicator	Baseline	2017		2018		Data source	Comments	Responsible for Monitoring
	Value	Target	Result	Target	Result			
1.2.1. Number of Social and Economic development strategies for amalgamated hromadas that were drafted in participatory way and handed over to hromadas	0 [2016]	6	0	7	7	Desk review, Project reports	Seven amalgamated communities benefited from new Social and Economic development strategies: Lyman, Cherkas'ke, Mykolayivka (all three in Donetsk Oblast), Troitske, Chmyrivka, Bilokurakyn, and Novopskov (all four in Luhansk Oblast).	UNDP, UN Women

OUTCOME: OBJECTIVE 2

Enhanced community security for people in conflict-affected areas, with a focus on IDPs and host communities.

Indicator	Baseline	2017		2018		Data source	Comments	Responsible for Monitoring
	Value	Target	Result	Target	Result			
2a. Personal Security* <i>* – shared result with Outcome 4</i>	4.7 (Donetsk Oblast); 5.1 (Luhansk Oblast) [2017]	NA	4.7 (Donetsk Oblast); 5.1 (Luhansk Oblast)	4.9 (Donetsk Oblast); 5.3 (Luhansk Oblast)	4.4 (Donetsk Oblast); 4.7 (Luhansk Oblast)	USE Survey	According to USE, citizens' perception of personal security decreased in both oblasts between 2017 and 2018: from 4.7 to 4.4 in Donetsk Oblast, and from 5.1 to 4.7 in Luhansk Oblast.	UNDP, UN Women
2b. Social threat: all groups	4.1 (Donetsk Oblast); 3.8 (Luhansk Oblast) [2017]	NA	4.1 (Donetsk Oblast); 3.8 (Luhansk Oblast)	3.9 (Donetsk Oblast); 3.6 (Luhansk Oblast)	3.0 (Donetsk Oblast); 3.8 (Luhansk Oblast)	USE Survey	According to USE, the perception of representatives of other social groups as a social threat has significantly decreased in Donetsk Oblast from 4.1 in 2017 to 3.0 in 2018, while in Luhansk Oblast it remained unchanged (3.8).	UNDP, UN Women
2c. Civic life satisfaction (measured as a level of civic optimism) * <i>* – shared result with Outcomes 1 and 3</i>	3.2 (Donetsk Oblast); 3.0 (Luhansk Oblast) [2017]	NA	3.2 (Donetsk Oblast); 3.0 (Luhansk Oblast)	3.4 (Donetsk Oblast); 3.2 (Luhansk Oblast)	3.6 (Donetsk Oblast); 3.1 (Luhansk Oblast)	USE Survey	According to USE, the level of civic optimism increased in both oblasts between 2017 and 2018: from 3.2 to 3.6 in Donetsk Oblast, and from 3.0 to 3.1 in Luhansk Oblast.	UNDP, UN Women
2d. Discrimination (measured as a level of social tolerance)* <i>* – shared result with Outcome 4</i>	5.6 (Donetsk Oblast); 5.4 (Luhansk Oblast) [2017]	NA	5.6 (Donetsk Oblast); 5.4 (Luhansk Oblast) [2017]	5.8 (Donetsk Oblast); 5.6 (Luhansk Oblast) [2017]	5.7 (Donetsk Oblast); 5.6 (Luhansk Oblast) [2017]	USE Survey	According to USE, the overall level of social tolerance increased in both oblasts between 2017 and 2018: from 5.6 to 5.7 in Donetsk Oblast, and from 5.4 to 5.6 in Luhansk Oblast.	UNDP, UN Women

OUTPUT 2.1

Enhanced capacity of regional and local authorities in conflict-affected areas in administrative and fiscal decentralisation and in managing the territorial amalgamation process

Indicator	Baseline	2017		2018		Data source	Comments	Responsible for Monitoring
	Value	Target	Result	Target	Result			
2.1.1. Percentage of successfully implemented small grants projects on community security	0 [2016]	75%	95%	80%	100%	Community security assessment and needs mapping, Small grants evaluation report	As of September 2018, 48 out of 48 small grants projects and initiatives were successfully implemented.	UNDP
2.1.2. Number of Local Development Forums with Community Security working groups established and fully functioning	0 [2016]	20	20	20	22	Protocols of community security working groups meetings, LDF Reports	Fully functioning Local Development Forums with Community Security working groups were established in all target communities. In addition, two Local Development Forums with Community Security working groups were established in Novhorods'ke (Donetsk Oblast) and Stanytsia Luhans'ka (Luhansk Oblast).	UNDP
2.1.3. Percentage of the members of community security working groups who feel their voices are taken into account in improving community security	0 [2016]	50%	92%	75%	73.8%	Working groups' feedback forms	As of September 2018, 73.8% of members of community security working groups feel their voices are taken into account in improving community security.	UNDP
2.1.4. Number of police personnel and community members who feel comfortable engaging in community policing	0 [2016]	100	271	200	381	Training feedback forms	Over 380 police officers and community members improved their skills and knowledge on community policing.	UNDP
2.1.5. Number of measures taken to improve facilities for women and PWDs to visit justice institutions	0 [2016]	2	0	2	2	Honcharuk I. & Skvortsov O., "Accessibility of the Local Courts' Buildings in Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts", UNDP, 2017 Project reports	Rehabilitation of the court buildings in Novopskov (Luhansk Oblast) and Vuhledar (Donetsk Oblast) is completed, in line with the principles of universal design to improve physical access to justice, especially for the vulnerable groups (people with disabilities, mothers with kids, elderly people).	UNDP
2.1.6. Number of gender-related issues addressed by community security working groups	0 [2016]	4	12	14	16	Community security working groups' minutes and reports	In total, sixteen gender-related issues were addressed by community security working groups.	UNDP

OUTCOME: OBJECTIVE 3

Social cohesion restored and trust promoted between local authorities and communities, including IDPs.

Indicator	Baseline	2017		2018		Data source	Comments	Responsible for Monitoring
	Value	Target	Result	Target	Result			
3a. Civic life satisfaction (measured as a level of civic optimism) *	3.2 (Donetsk Oblast);	NA	3.2 (Donetsk Oblast);	3.4 (Donetsk Oblast);	3.6 (Donetsk Oblast);	USE Survey	According to USE, the level of civic optimism increased in both oblasts between 2017 and 2018: from 3.2 to 3.6 in Donetsk Oblast, and from 3.0 to 3.1 in Luhansk Oblast.	UNDP, UN Women
* – shared result with Outcomes 1 and 2	3.0 (Luhansk Oblast)		3.0 (Luhansk Oblast)	3.2 (Luhansk Oblast)	3.1 (Luhansk Oblast)			
	[2017]							
3b. Political Security*	3.7 (both oblasts) [2017]	NA	3.7 (both oblasts)	3.9 (both oblasts)	3.4 (Donetsk Oblast); 3.8 (Luhansk Oblast)	USE Survey	According to USE, the level of political security in Donetsk Oblast decreased from 3.7 in 2017 to 3.4 in 2018, while it slightly increased in Luhansk Oblast – from 3.7 in 2017 to 3.8 in 2018.	UNDP, UN Women
* – shared result with Outcome 3								
3c. Social distance (measured as a readiness for dialogue with representatives of other groups)	6.4 (Donetsk Oblast); 5.1 (Luhansk Oblast) [2017]	NA	6.4 (Donetsk Oblast); 5.1 (Luhansk Oblast)	6.6 (Donetsk Oblast); 5.3 (Luhansk Oblast)	6.7 (Donetsk Oblast); 6.1 (Luhansk Oblast)	USE Survey	According to USE, the extent to which one is ready for dialogue with representatives of other social groups increased in both oblasts: from 6.4 to 6.7 in Donetsk Oblast, and from 5.1 to 6.1 in Luhansk Oblast. The level of change in Luhansk Oblast is statistically significant at 0.05 level of significance.	UNDP, UN Women
3d. Negative stereotypes towards all groups*	2.6 (both oblasts) [2017]	NA	2.6 (both oblasts)	2.4 (both oblasts)	2.3 (Donetsk Oblast); 2.0 (Luhansk Oblast)	USE Survey	According to USE, the level of negative stereotypes towards other groups in Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts decreased from 2.6 in 2017, to 2.3 and 2.0 in 2018 (respectively). The change in Luhansk Oblast is statistically significant at 0.05 level of significance.	UNDP, UN Women
* – shared result with Outcome 4								

OUTPUT 3.1

Men and women IDPs and host communities are mobilized and empowered to effectively participate in local development and recovery planning, service delivery and community security

Indicator	Baseline	2017		2018		Data source	Comments	Responsible for Monitoring
	Value	Target	Result	Target	Result			
3.1.1. Number of community members that strengthened their skills and capacities on social cohesion and reconciliation through workshops and study visits (national and international)	0 [2016]	100	140	220	340	Training feedback forms, Trip reports	As of end of September 2018, over 300 community members strengthened their skills and capacities on social cohesion and reconciliation.	UNDP
3.1.2. Number of community dialogue platforms and spaces used for mediation, dialogues and resolution of disputes	0 [2016]	2	0	2	3	Community mapping and assessment	Three community dialogue platforms and spaces were created in Severodonetsk (Luhansk Oblast) and Bakhmut (Donetsk Oblast, two places) and are used as spaces for mediation and resolution of disputes.	UNDP

OUTCOME: OBJECTIVE 4

Gender advocates and women affected by conflict participate in local decision-making, including about public spending, and benefit equitably from governance reforms and recovery efforts

Indicator	Baseline	2017		2018		Data source	Comments	Responsible for Monitoring
	Value	Target	Result	Target	Result			
4a. Personal Security* * – shared result with Outcome 2	4.7 (Donetsk Oblast); 5.1 (Luhansk Oblast) [2017]	NA	4.7 (Donetsk Oblast); 5.1 (Luhansk Oblast)	4.9 (Donetsk Oblast); 5.3 (Luhansk Oblast)	4.4 (Donetsk Oblast); 4.7 (Luhansk Oblast)	USE Survey	According to USE, citizens' perception of personal security decreased in both oblasts between 2017 and 2018: from 4.7 to 4.4 in Donetsk Oblast, and from 5.1 to 4.7 in Luhansk Oblast.	UNDP, UN Women
4b. Trust in Central Institutions (President, Cabinet of Ministers, Parliament, Courts)* * – shared result with Outcome 1	1.6 (Donetsk Oblast); 2.0 (Luhansk Oblast) [2017]	NA	1.6 (Donetsk Oblast); 2.0 (Luhansk Oblast)	1.8 (Donetsk Oblast); 2.2 (Luhansk Oblast)	1.8 (Donetsk Oblast); 1.6 (Luhansk Oblast)	USE Survey	According to USE, the level of trust to central institutions (e.g. President, Cabinet of Ministers, Parliament, and Courts) increased from 1.6 in 2017 to 1.8 in 2018 in Donetsk Oblast. At the same time, in Luhansk Oblast it decreased from 2.0 in 2017 to 1.6 in 2018.	UNDP, UN Women
4c. Trust in oblast state administrations* * – shared result with Outcome 1	3.8 (Donetsk Oblast); 3.7 (Luhansk Oblast) [2017]	NA	3.8 (Donetsk Oblast); 3.7 (Luhansk Oblast)	4.0 (Donetsk Oblast); 3.9 (Luhansk Oblast)	3.6 (Donetsk Oblast); 3.2 (Luhansk Oblast)	USE Survey	According to USE, the level of trust in oblast administrations in Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts decreased from 3.8 and 3.7 in 2017, to 3.6 and 3.2 in 2018 (respectively). It should also be noted that the level of change in Luhansk Oblast is statistically significant at 0.05 level of significance.	UNDP, UN Women
4d. Trust in village/town administrations* * – shared result with Outcome 1	4.9 (Donetsk Oblast); 4.6 (Luhansk Oblast) [2017]	NA	4.9 (Donetsk Oblast); 4.6 (Luhansk Oblast)	5.1 (Donetsk Oblast); 4.8 (Luhansk Oblast)	4.7 (Donetsk Oblast); 4.5 (Luhansk Oblast)	USE Survey	According to USE, the level of trust in local administrations in Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts decreased from 4.9 and 4.6 in 2017, to 4.7 and 4.5 in 2018 (respectively).	UNDP, UN Women
4e. Negative stereotypes towards all groups* * – shared result with Outcome 3	2.6 (both oblasts) [2017]	NA	2.6 (both oblasts)	2.4 (both oblasts)	2.3 (Donetsk Oblast); 2.0 (Luhansk Oblast)	USE Survey	According to USE, the level of negative stereotypes towards other groups in Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts decreased from 2.6 in 2017, to 2.3 and 2.0 in 2018 (respectively). The change in Luhansk Oblast is statistically significant at 0.05 level of significance.	UNDP, UN Women
4f. Discrimination (measured as a level of social tolerance)* * – shared result with Outcome 2	5.6 (Donetsk Oblast); 5.4 (Luhansk Oblast) [2017]	NA	5.6 (Donetsk Oblast); 5.4 (Luhansk Oblast) [2017]	5.8 (Donetsk Oblast); 5.6 (Luhansk Oblast) [2017]	5.7 (Donetsk Oblast); 5.6 (Luhansk Oblast) [2017]	USE Survey	According to USE, the overall level of social tolerance increased in both oblasts between 2017 and 2018: from 5.6 to 5.7 in Donetsk Oblast, and from 5.4 to 5.6 in Luhansk Oblast.	UNDP, UN Women

OUTPUT 4.1

Regional and local governments and law enforcement bodies in conflict-affected areas have knowledge and tools for gender-responsive planning and budgeting, and community security

Indicator	Baseline	2017		2018		Data source	Comments	Responsible for Monitoring
	Value	Target	Result	Target	Result			
4.1.1. Number of regional / local authorities and women's groups informed by Vulnerability Assessment Report in Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts	0 [2016]	50	130 (117 women; 13 men)	50	130 (117 women; 13 men)	Vulnerability Assessment report, Field trip reports, Consultation and roundtable outcomes reports	Through 20 local workshops, the local authorities and women's groups have learned about the vulnerable groups in their respective communities and discussed their needs and opportunities for addressing these needs through decentralized planning and budgeting.	UN Women
4.1.2. Number of regional/ local authorities with increased knowledge on gender-responsive planning and budgeting	0 [2016]	200	330 (275 women, 55 men)	200	445 (364 women, 81 men)	Training reports, evaluations	Some 445 representatives of regional and local authorities have increased knowledge and skills in gender-responsive planning and budgeting in the context of decentralisation reform.	UN Women
4.1.3. Number of gender-sensitive recommendations provided by local women-leaders to regional and local governments for strategies and programs	0 [2016]	10	123	20	169	Packages of recommendations, event reports	UN Women conducted a gender analysis of the draft Luhansk Oblast Development Strategy and organized local consultations between the Oblast Administrations and women's civil society organizations on 25 October 2016. This resulted in 43 jointly developed recommendations for gender mainstreaming of the draft Strategy. During the forum on "Gender Aspects of HIV Prevention and Response in Donetsk Oblast," women, including those living with HIV, produced 33 recommendations for the adoption of a regional HIV prevention and response programme; Women's groups in Luhansk oblast proposed 17 recommendations to be integrated in WPS Regional Action Plan for 2017 by Luhansk State Regional Administration; Women and men with disabilities have advocated the implementation of 7 proposed recommendations based on the Gender Accessibility Audit findings of eight state buildings in Kramatorsk city. Mobilized women have engaged in dialogue with local authorities and advocated for the integration of 30 gender-responsive recommendations into the local programmes and budgets. The multisectoral groups have submitted 39 joint recommendations to the State Regional Administrations to integrate the GBV prevention and respond measures into the local budgets.	UN Women

4.1.4. Number of Local Gender Coordination Councils (LGCC) created in amalgamated communities	0 [2016]	6	7	6	7	Administrative data from LGCC, decrees in hromadas, ToR of LGCC	LGCCs were established by the Decrees of the Community Heads — with the support of UN Women — in seven amalgamated territorial communities (Cherkas'ke, Lyman, Mykolaivka in Donetsk Oblast, and Bilokurakyne, Chmyrivka, Novoposkov, Troitske in Luhansk Oblast).	UN Women
4.1.5. Number of law enforcement representatives with improved knowledge on community security and GBV prevention & response	0 [2016]	200	303 (225 men, 78 women)	200	303 (225 men, 78 women)	Training reports, evaluations	Police officers have improved knowledge and skills on preventing and responding to GBV - with a focus on domestic violence and interacting with perpetrators and survivors. Among them 32 (18 men, 14 women) police officers were trained as trainers in GBV prevention and response, who co-trained 271 police officers (207 men and 64 women) in the field units.	UN Women

OUTPUT 4.2

Enhanced capacity of gender advocates and women's groups to contribute to local decision-making including public spending, and to demand accountability and transparency thereon

Indicator	Baseline	2017		2018		Data source	Comments	Responsible for Monitoring
	Value	Target	Result	Target	Result			
4.2.1. Number of hromadas where gender equality priorities were included in the local programmes and budgets	0 [2016]	4	3	6	7	Project reports, local programmes and budget documents	Gender equality priorities were included in the local programmes and budgets of the following communities: Kreminna, Bilokurakyne, Chmyrivka, Troitske (all four in Luhansk Oblast), and Vuhledar, Cherkas'ke, Lyman (all three in Donetsk Oblast).	UN Women
4.2.2. Percentage of successfully implemented women-led community empowering, advocacy, and leadership initiatives -small grants	0 [2016]	75%	83%	75%	94%	Small grants monitoring reports; Final report of the Responsible Party	Mobilized conflict-affected women have successfully completed 36 small grants projects, having reached in total about 3,424 women and 888 men as direct beneficiaries.	UN Women
4.2.3. Number of Public Service Announcements on GBV sensitization and awareness raising in Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts	0 [2016]	2	2	3	3	Media clipping, videos posted on social media	In partnership with the Ministry of Interior and the National Police of Ukraine, UN Women developed three social videos on gender-based violence, disseminated through social media.	UN Women


Conclusion

The ongoing conflict in eastern Ukraine heavily undermined the ability of the state to address the needs of the public, resulted in massive declines in social cohesion, generated distrust towards local authorities and engendered feelings of insecurity and growing pressure to leave places of residence in search of better livelihood opportunities.

The conflict disproportionately affects women due to persistent gender inequality and discrimination and due to deepened gender stereotypes, that emphasize men's roles as protectors and heroes and women's roles as caring supporters. The lack of adequate social support services has resulted in an increased burden on women for the care of children, sick, elderly, the disabled and other family members. Women shoulder the responsibility of ensuring their families' social and economic well-being—including managing domestic needs, securing housing and providing economically in the host communities with already strained resources.

In light of these developments, national and local authorities took immediate measures to reform the public sector by making it open, accountable, transparent and, most importantly, citizen-oriented. In furtherance of these aspirations, the project provided comprehensive support to local and national authorities by improving their recovery planning and service delivery capacities.

As the country is still going through an intense decentralisation process, the project undertook a series of systemic interventions in strengthening and complementing the efforts of local governments in Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts to implement gender-responsive decentralisation reforms. As stated in the report, this included activities on helping communities combine territories and resources, drafting up-to-date development strategies and local gender programmes based on the community profiles including gender-specific needs of most vulnerable women, providing quality services through capacity building interventions and setting up fully equipped ASCs. Women's increased participation in local decision making has been ensured through established LGCCs in ATCs as a local inclusive platform for dialogue and consultations over local programmes and budgets between the duty bearers – local authorities and right holders – women and men in the communities. Other key interventions include setting up mechanisms to systematically address endemic corruption, to mobilize and organize financial resources and to ensure that the voices and concerns of vulnerable populations — especially women, persons with disabilities and the elderly — guide the design, implementation and monitoring of those reforms. This line of work was completed in 20 targeted communities that serve as good examples of the reform process and whose successful experiences can be replicated by other communities.



In the upcoming phase of the project, interactions with the 20 communities will be maintained to ensure sustainability of the achieved results. The next phase will aim at supporting the remaining 30 communities in Donetsk Oblast and 17 communities in Luhansk oblast that are part of the relevant prospective plan and have yet to be amalgamated. The project will thus directly contribute to the finalization of the amalgamation process in the east of Ukraine, provided that operational and security limitations in the area of military conflict are not preventing the organization of elections in respective future ATCs, as well as are not becoming a chronic hindrance in terms of operational access for programmatic interventions. The new phase of the EU-funded programming will further focus on creating sustainable local governments through amalgamation, developing the capacity of local authorities in the areas of strategic planning, local finances, evidence-based and gender-responsive planning and budgeting, community mobilization for empowerment initiatives and the provision of services to the population.

Another strategic and priority component of the project focused on strengthening social resilience, peacebuilding and community security. The project undertook a series of interventions aimed at building community-embedded mechanisms to ensure gender-responsive community security. This was primarily reached through the establishment and functioning of institutionalized platforms for community members to directly engage with local authorities and security officers on issues pertaining the well-being of their communities.

This constructive engagement led to more than 73 per cent of CSWG members feeling that their voices were taken into account in addressing community security-related challenges, local and regional multi-sectoral consultations inclusive of vulnerable women's groups, have led to development of recommendations on the gender-responsive measures to be prioritized when designing the regional/local programmes and budgets. This, in the longer term, will contribute to enhancing the ability of state institutions and local authorities to be more responsive to the needs of community representative, especially most excluded groups, by involving them in resolving community-based challenges and raising their ownership of the entire process. To foster the inclusion of women in the decision-making processes, LGCCs are in place to ensure that gender is mainstreamed into local programmes and budgets and that human rights and gender equality are respected and adhered to.

In its interventions, the project worked hand in hand with local authorities, community members and CSOs by meeting and adapting to their needs and demands. The project proved to be a reliable partner capable of providing technical assistance to the authorities in their ongoing efforts to further promote peacebuilding and reconciliation in crisis-affected communities by building effective governance structures and fostering a sense of national ownership of the process. This trustworthy partnership and the project's crucially important achievements will be an excellent starting point and a solid base in commencing with the next project phase.

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