



# Annual Progress Report

November 2020 – October 2021

## GOOD GOVERNANCE AND CITIZENS ENGAGEMENT

for justice, security, environmental protection  
and social cohesion in eastern Ukraine



# Content

ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS	4
ANNEXES	5
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY	6
BACKGROUND	9
<b>OUTPUT 1. CAPABLE, INCLUSIVE AND ACCOUNTABLE LOCAL GOVERNANCE INSTITUTIONS CONTRIBUTE TO CONFLICT RISKS MITIGATION AND PEACEBUILDING</b>	<b>13</b>
Sub-output 1.1. Institutional capacities strengthened to operate in a conflict sensitive manner and handle good governance requirements pre and post territorial amalgamation	15
Sub-output 1.2. New or improved institutions with effective reach-out facilities for citizens' administrative support in conflict affected areas and for state/civil society consultations are in place and operating	21
<b>OUTPUT 2. ENHANCED COMMUNITY SECURITY, LAW ENFORCEMENT AND ACCESS TO JUSTICE SERVICES THAT ARE CLOSER TO THE PEOPLE IN CONFLICT AFFECTED AREAS</b>	<b>27</b>
Sub-output 2.1. Strengthened conflict and gender-sensitive planning capacities amongst duty bearers for service development and strategies for improved community security and access to justice designed and implemented	29
Sub-output 2.2. New or improved institutions for justice, law enforcement and security which have relevant knowledge and skills to effectively and efficiently serve and protect people in conflict-affected areas	38
<b>OUTPUT 3. SUCCESSFULLY DECENTRALISED AND PARTICIPATORY ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION PROMOTES A CLEANER ENVIRONMENT IN THE CONFLICT AFFECTED AREAS</b>	<b>45</b>
Sub-output 3.1. Strengthened analytical and planning capacities, and strategies for improved environmental protection in place	47
Sub-output 3.2. Mitigated conflict-related environmental risks and improved environmental protection of the conflict affected areas	51
Sub-output 3.3. Increased civil society's activism for improved environmental protection	54
<b>OUTPUT 4. SOCIAL COHESION AND CITIZENS' INFLUENCE ON LOCAL DEVELOPMENT DECISIONS STRENGTHENED</b>	<b>59</b>
Sub-output 4.1. Increased conflict-sensitive dialogue for territorial community development between well-informed citizens and local self-governments	62
Sub-output 4.2. Capacities for conflict and gender-sensitive community development strategies/projects planning, implementation and monitoring strengthened	64
Sub-output 4.3. Strengthened civic activism and volunteering that effectively promote social cohesion and peacebuilding	70
Sub-output 4.4. Strengthened capacities of regional and local mass media, and enhanced policy making for conflict affected regions	75
LESSONS LEARNED	79
RISK ANALYSIS	81

# Acronyms and abbreviations

<b>ADR</b>	Alternative dispute resolution
<b>AGORA</b>	Assisting the Governance and Recovery Agenda for Donbas assessment
<b>ALDA</b>	European Association for Local Democracy
<b>ASC</b>	Administrative service centre
<b>ATC</b>	Amalgamated territorial community
<b>CAB</b>	Citizens' Advisory Bureau
<b>CSO</b>	Civil society organization
<b>CSS</b>	Centre for safety and security
<b>CSWG</b>	Community security working group
<b>DV</b>	Domestic violence
<b>EECP</b>	Entry-exit checkpoint
<b>EIA</b>	Environmental impact assessment
<b>EPR</b>	Extended producer responsibility
<b>FLAS</b>	Free legal aid system
<b>GBV</b>	Gender-based violence
<b>GCA</b>	Government-controlled areas
<b>HDPN</b>	Humanitarian-development-peace nexus
<b>IDP</b>	Internally displaced person
<b>ICT</b>	Information and communication technologies
<b>LGBTIQ+</b>	Lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, intersex and questioning
<b>LSGB</b>	Local self-government body
<b>MRTOT</b>	Ministry for the Reintegration of Temporarily Occupied Territories
<b>NGCA</b>	Non-government-controlled areas
<b>NGO</b>	Non-governmental organization
<b>SCORE</b>	Social Cohesion and Reconciliation Index
<b>SDG</b>	Sustainable Development Goal
<b>SEA</b>	Strategic environmental assessment
<b>SES</b>	State Emergency Service of Ukraine
<b>SGF</b>	Small grant fund
<b>SHG</b>	Self-Help Group
<b>SJA</b>	State Judicial Administration of Ukraine
<b>SP</b>	Service provider
<b>STEM</b>	Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics
<b>ToT</b>	Training of trainers
<b>UNDP</b>	United Nations Development Programme
<b>UNFPA</b>	United Nations Population Fund
<b>UNHCR</b>	United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
<b>UN RPP</b>	United Nations Recovery and Peacebuilding Programme

# Annexes

<b>Annex 1</b>	Results framework
<b>Annex 2</b>	Financial report
<b>Annex 3</b>	Assessment of the institutional capacities of the local authorities in 20 target communities of Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts
<b>Annex 4</b>	List of projects supported within the SGF (Good governance)
<b>Annex 5</b>	Summary document of the Fourth Judicial Forum
<b>Annex 6</b>	Gender mainstreaming in the work of the Community security working groups in Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts
<b>Annex 7</b>	Development and Implementation of the Peer-to-Peer Quality Evaluation within the National System of Free Legal Aid Provision in Ukraine
<b>Annex 8</b>	Manual on preventing delinquency and other negative phenomena through cooperation between police officers and children
<b>Annex 9</b>	Community Policing in Rural Areas
<b>Annex 10</b>	Manual on best practices of EPR implementation in the field of waste management for Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts
<b>Annex 11</b>	List of projects supported within the SGF (Environmental protection)
<b>Annex 12</b>	Manual “Six steps towards effective budget”
<b>Annex 13</b>	Implementing participatory budget projects in Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts
<b>Annex 14</b>	Manual “Management of volunteers’ programmes”
<b>Annex 15</b>	List of projects supported within the SGF (Community security and social cohesion)
<b>Annex 16</b>	List of the supported mini-initiatives

## Executive Summary

In its third year of implementation, the Project took major steps forward in strengthening local governance institutions, enabling them to provide gender-responsive and non-discriminatory public services, enhancing community security and social cohesion, as well as addressing environmental challenges in the conflict-affected communities in eastern Ukraine.

An important contribution was made towards the creation of accountable and resilient regional and local institutions. During the reporting year, the establishment of the E-Democracy Universal Platform in six pilot communities in Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts was completed<sup>1</sup>. With the support of the Project, 12 representatives of the target communities (all men) were equipped with the necessary technical skills to launch and maintain the system. The platform will make the work of local authorities more transparent, and will allow citizens to participate directly in decision-making processes by taking part in the formulation of public budgeting, submitting initiatives to improve the well-being of their communities, and drawing the attention of public servants to specific development issues.

To further increase the openness and transparency of the work of local self-government bodies, the Project supplied the necessary technical equipment and software to launch the “Holos” electronic voting system in 12 target communities<sup>2</sup>. The implementation of the system will facilitate the preparation and holding of meetings in local councils, as well as voting. The system also provides an analysis of the work of deputies and involves citizens in decision-making.

To support efficient communication between local authorities and citizens, and to enhance the provision of public services in rural areas, the Project supported the establishment of six more Public Platforms for Influencing Decision-Making<sup>3</sup> in the target communities in Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts. The Public Platforms are alternative advisory bodies to the local authorities, supporting effective interaction between local government bodies and community members to address pressing development issues in these communities.

Under the Project, more than 1,200 (88% women) representatives of local authorities and civil society from the target communities in Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts increased their knowledge on good governance, participatory decision-making, public finance, interaction between local authorities and community members, public monitoring and anti-corruption measures.

In total, 49 civic initiatives were supported to promote openness and accountability in local authorities, the piloting of innovative e-government tools, the provision of quality public and advisory services to the public, and the establishment of dialogue for effective cooperation between citizens and local authorities, benefitting over 80,000 people (59% women).

The second national innovation contest, “EastCode 2021,” attracted more than 300 participants from all over Ukraine and produced a variety of creative ideas to enhance good governance and civic engagement, environmental protection, sustainable development

<sup>1</sup> Kurakhove, Ocheretyne, Siversk and Toretsk in Donetsk Oblast; Bilovodsk and Popasna in Luhansk Oblast.

<sup>2</sup> Zvanivka, Khlivobodrivka, Kurakhove, Ocheretyne, and Siversk in Donetsk Oblast, and Kreminna, Hirske, Shchastia, Stanytsia Luhanska, Bilovodsk, Popasna, and Troitske in Luhansk Oblast.

<sup>3</sup> Zvanivka and Khlivobodrivka in Donetsk Oblast, and Kreminna, Hirske, Shchastia and Stanytsia Luhanska in Luhansk Oblast.

and responsible consumption, and access to public services in the conflict-affected areas of eastern Ukraine. The nine winning teams of this year's contest have received financial assistance of up to U.S. \$20,000 and mentoring support to pilot their solutions in the project's target communities in Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts, including those located along the 'contact line'.

As part of a comprehensive effort to strengthen environmental protection in the region, a dedicated online information platform was launched to allow the residents to track environmental conditions and identify hazardous places in their communities, as well as find all relevant information on current activities and events related to environmental protection in Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts.

Furthermore, Toretsk community has carried out a strategic ecological assessment, which formed a basis for the development of local strategic environmental documents. This will allow the community to independently form an environmental budget, using environmental tax income to implement local projects that address the area's most pressing environmental issues. Notably, the local authorities adopted the Strategy and the Programme of ecological development of Toretsk in July 2021.

With the expert support from the Project, an environmental impact assessment (EIA) of the construction of a regional waste management facility in Luhansk Oblast has been commissioned. The EIA thoroughly examined the possible environmental impact of this planned construction on the area and the population, and underwent public discussion. The assessment provided the basis for informed decisions to be taken on the planned implementation of the landfill project.

In addition, the Project supported a total of 18 civic initiatives that contribute to enhancing waste management and recycling, promoting renewable energy sources, developing green tourism, and restoring

water resources in the local communities, directly benefitting more than 37,000 people (61% women).

As part of the comprehensive support to ensuring public safety and security in the conflict-affected communities, seven police stations in Donetsk Oblast and six police stations in Luhansk Oblast<sup>4</sup> were outfitted with the necessary equipment to be fully operational. In addition, three new police stations have opened in Krasnorichenske, Triokhizbenka and Zolote, Luhansk Oblast, which will strengthen the security situation in these communities located close to the 'contact line' and benefit over 30,000 citizens.

Furthermore, the Project has piloted a what3words application – an innovative tool that enables emergency responders to find the exact location of an incident and render their services more quickly. Moreover, the SES Departments in eastern Ukraine received a set of ICT equipment and software allowing them to determine the exact location of an accident or emergency, plan routes, and communicate with residents in danger.

A mobile application named "eCourt" is available to ensure equal access to court services for all citizens, including residents of remote and non-government-controlled areas. The application allows its users to rapidly access essential documents in their personal e-offices, and enables courts to inform litigants about the status of specific cases in real time. Moreover, to facilitate access to free legal aid, personal e-offices have been introduced on the website of the Coordination Centre of Legal Aid Provision. This new tool allows citizens to apply for legal advice and track the history of their requests and responses in one virtual space.

To respond to the issues of domestic and gender-based violence in the conflict-affected regions, two SGBV/DV situational rooms and classrooms were established in Mariupol and Sievierodonetsk police training centres, relocated from the NGCA, and equipped with furniture and necessary tools. The fully outfitted study rooms

4 Manhush (two police stations in Yalta and Bilosaraiska kosa villages), Vuhledar (Nikolske village), Sartana and Cherkaske, Myrne, Kramatorsk (Shabelkivka village) communities in Donetsk Oblast; Shchastia, Lozno-Oleksandrivka, Stanytsia Luhanska, Nyzhnioteple, Milove and Kreminna communities in Luhansk Oblast.



will improve the learning process for police officers, equipping them better to address and prevent gender-based discrimination and violence in their communities.

The Project, in cooperation with UNFPA and the local authorities, supported the establishment of three shelters in Manhush (Donetsk Oblast), Kreminna and Popasna (both in Luhansk Oblast), as well as two day-centres in Pokrovsk and Vuhledar (both in Donetsk Oblast). The main function of these facilities is not only physical assistance to GBV and domestic violence survivors, but also comprehensive social, psychological and primary legal support, accompanied by awareness raising activities, aimed at preventing repeated cases of violence against women and girls.

Important progress was made towards strengthening social cohesion, promoting civic engagement and citizen participation in the local decision-making process. The reporting period was highlighted by the launch of a new capacity-building programme called “Local Innovation Laboratory” aimed at promoting the use of innovative approaches and tools in local development. Within this programme, 40 local leaders (34 women) already underwent a two-day training session on innovative ecosystems for community development.

A dedicated [website](#) has been developed to present the achievements and best practices of community profiling to a broader audience. The website presents statistics on the social, economic, civil, and community security spheres, security threats identified, initiatives proposed, and the results of public opinion surveys on social, legal, and security services. Importantly, each community is provided with the opportunity to create its online profile on this platform – the profile being owned and managed by the community itself.

The Association of CSOs of Luhansk Oblast received the necessary ICT equipment to conduct online meetings with all its members to shape the internal policies of the

association. Moreover, with the support of the Project, the Development Strategy of the Association for 2022-2025 and other important strategic documents were drawn up. This will strengthen the institutional capacity of the organization and enhance the influence of the region’s civil society institutions.

The Project took notable steps towards empowering young people to implement and promote their peacebuilding initiatives in the conflict-affected areas of eastern Ukraine through an innovative online platform “[FUNdraiser](#)”. During the reporting period, 154 young people (112 girls) submitted applications via the platform, and 25 teams registered to raise money for their projects. Moreover, five initiatives on public safety and social cohesion were selected to receive further funding and mentorship support from the Project.<sup>5</sup>

The Electronic Citizen Assembly – a new form of e-participation – has been introduced, and a memorandum between the CSWG Network in Luhansk Oblast and Luhansk Oblast Administration was signed. The main goal of the e-Assembly is to create a representative body at the regional level that will work as an additional channel for monitoring public opinion and conducting regular public consultations on the most important issues for residents of the Oblast. Importantly, it will allow to engage all the community members, including vulnerable groups and people living in remote rural areas, in the decision-making processes.

Furthermore, the Project, under its small grant fund, enabled 38 CSOs in the conflict-affected communities to implement initiatives aimed at enhancing community security and social cohesion, improving access to justice, and building the capacities of the local media, which benefitted more than 44,000 (56% women) local citizens.

<sup>5</sup> This activity is co-funded by the Government of the Kingdom of the Netherlands.



# Background

The COVID-19 pandemic continued to have a significant impact on developments throughout the reporting period, including policy and programmatic responses, as well as on the overall political context and ongoing conflict resolution efforts. The socio-economic effect of the pandemic itself and the quarantine measures imposed to combat it, combined with the delayed and initially insufficient vaccination programme, prompted further increases in unemployment, poverty rates, and social conflicts driven by increasing inequalities. As evidenced by the latest SCORE data, there has also been a significant decrease in trust in the president and the parliament, accompanied by reduced levels of support for reforms, and a rise in overall pessimism about the future among the conflict-affected population<sup>6</sup>. Feelings of disappointment and neglect prevail over the optimism and hope ushered in by the 2019 national election cycle, and the previous major concerns of most Ukrainians are still present, namely corruption, the armed conflict in eastern Ukraine, and the general economic situation in the country.

Two years after the electoral victory of President Volodymyr Zelenskyy and his Servant of the People party, the prospect of rapid progress towards a political settlement of the conflict in eastern Ukraine has all but faded away. Negotiations in the established international formats – the Normandy Quartet and Trilateral Contact Group – have come to a virtual standstill, while on the ground the initial reduction in hostilities and ceasefire violations caused by the COVID-19 outbreak and the July 2020 renewed ceasefire began to reverse in 2021. Tensions further increased in the spring and autumn of 2021 when the Russian Federation deployed an

estimated 100,000 troops along Ukraine's borders and in the Black Sea area during a series of military exercises. The continuing conflict and the prevailing absence of a political solution have taken a heavy toll on the lives of millions of ordinary Ukrainians living on both sides of the 'contact line'. Sporadic shelling, landmines, and unexploded ordnance still pose a threat. Community infrastructure and civilian assets are also being targeted, putting millions at risk of losing access to water, health, education and heating, and social and economic ties have been disrupted.

The stalemate in international negotiations, however, did not prevent the Ukrainian authorities from pursuing unilateral policies and initiatives in support of their reintegration agenda, and several important steps were taken during the reporting period, including the elaboration of:

- The 2030 Economic Development Strategy for Donetsk and Luhansk Oblasts, developed by the Ministry for Reintegration of the Temporarily Occupied Territories (MRTOT), which offers a new approach to the economic revitalization of the government-controlled areas (GCAs) of Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts by seeking to attract new investments and improve socio-economic conditions, while simultaneously showcasing the benefits of reintegration to the residents of the non-government-controlled areas (NGCA). The strategy corresponds with the main priorities and initiatives implemented by the UN RPP, including the strengthening of the regional labour market, promoting entrepreneurship, and developing critical social infrastructure. The new strategy also reflects

<sup>6</sup> Between 2019 and 2021, the level of trust in the president in eastern Ukraine decreased from 5.7 to 2.7, the level of trust in parliament in eastern Ukraine decreased from 3.9 to 1.7, and overall scepticism about reform processes increased from 5.8 to 7.5.

the human-centred approach of the UN RPP by seeking to improve the quality of life of the local population in a broader sense, rather than focusing on economic aspects alone. The emphasis on local communities as the basis of economic growth aligns well with the capacity development support and community mobilization that the Programme has been providing in the conflict-affected areas of eastern Ukraine.

- A draft law on a Period of Transition, also designed by the MRTOT, which sets out the main stages and procedures for the gradual restoration of constitutional order, citizens' rights, and the legitimate legal interests of legal entities whose interests have been violated during the armed conflict. The draft law offers a roadmap for a sustainable peace once a political settlement is reached, by offering political solutions to the issues of transitional justice, reintegration, and peacebuilding. At its core, the draft law seeks to build on the activities conducted under the UN RPP to facilitate reintegration, reconciliation, and sustainable peace by enabling a bottom-up approach of broad consultations with conflict-affected people, including women, young people, and internally displaced persons (IDPs), as well as other relevant stakeholders, such as civil society groups, local authorities, veterans, and national experts.

The local elections, conducted on 25 October 2020 under new election rules, provided an opportunity for local communities to elect new local self-governments at various levels and thus formally establish the new territorial units (TCs), marking the end to the current stage of the decentralisation reform. At the same time, the government postponed, for security reasons, local elections in 18 communities of Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts that are located along the 'contact line'<sup>7</sup>. As a result, over 450,000 conflict-affected women and men were unable to exercise their voting rights. Deprived of this opportunity, these population groups become, de facto, unable to exercise their right to have a say in

determining local development policies. The Ukrainian president in February 2021 signed decrees on the establishment of civil-military administrations (CMAs) in those territorial communities in which no elections could take place, as the absence of elections had caused a vacuum of governance. As of September 2021, acting heads of the CMAs in both Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts had been appointed.

The shock of the COVID-19 pandemic has created additional pressures on struggling conflict-affected populations, and has disrupted communications between the GCA and NGCA, with a 97% reduction in crossings of the 'contact line' in 2020 (from 1.2 million crossings per month to only 30,000). Despite the partial reopening of the entry-exit crossing points (EECPs), the level of movement across the 'contact line' has remained consistently low throughout 2021<sup>8</sup>. The public health-related measures applied on both sides of the 'contact line' further complicated the ability of people living in the NGCA to access essential services – let alone to maintain contact with family and friends – in the GCA. The combination of the coronavirus-related restrictions, a stalled political negotiation process, and the insecurity of a simmering armed conflict that continues to claim lives and damage civilian infrastructure is only furthering the divide – despite initiatives by the government of Ukraine to reach people residing in the NGCA.

Communities living close to the 'contact line' were particularly impacted by the imposition of stringent restrictions on movement. Access to adequate healthcare services, including emergency medical care, remains challenging for people of all ages, especially for older persons and people with disabilities living in remote rural settlements close to the 'contact line'. There is also a shortage of medical staff (from 20% to 40% depending on the settlement), while about 60% of the available primary care physicians are of pre-retirement or retirement age. As evidenced by the humanitarian medical organisation Médicos del Mundo, some of these

<sup>7</sup> This includes ten project's target communities, namely: Mariinka, Ocheretyne, Olhynka, Toretsk, and Volnovakha in Donetsk Oblast, Hirske, Popasna, Shchastia, Shyrokyi, and Stanytsia Luhanska in Luhansk Oblast.

<sup>8</sup> Humanitarian Needs Overview, OCHA, 2021

areas are not served by any family doctors at all<sup>9</sup>. About 35% of primary healthcare facilities have sustained damage or are in a state of disrepair due to a lack of maintenance, especially those in rural areas<sup>10</sup>. In the meantime, physical access to healthcare facilities along the ‘contact line’ remains a key issue due to limited public transport and damaged road infrastructure. This is also supported by the AGORA data, which shows that 56% of assessed households were dissatisfied with the provision of healthcare services in their communities, making this issue a primary area of concern<sup>11</sup>.

As of 6 December 2021, there had been 3,501,955 confirmed cases of COVID-19 (88,519 deaths) in the government-controlled areas of Ukraine, including 268,819 in Donetsk (157,878) and Luhansk (57,844) oblasts<sup>12</sup>. The vaccination campaign against COVID-19 started in Ukraine in late February 2021, and 13,753,064 people have been vaccinated so far, with 86% of them now being fully vaccinated<sup>13</sup>. The pandemic, combined with the impact of the seven-year long armed conflict in the region, further challenges people, households, and businesses in unprecedented ways. Moreover, the COVID-19 pandemic further exacerbated existing vulnerabilities – in some cases compounding them. Combined with multidimensional discrimination and marginalization, it also created new vulnerable groups, such as healthcare workers, frontline emergency response staff, and workers in high-contact sectors and occupations, as well as informal workers who lost their jobs and were left without social protection<sup>14</sup>.

The crisis and the lockdowns imposed have had significant negative economic consequences, causing a reduction in economic activity, hence, in output, trade, and, as a result, household spending. Real GDP in 2020

was down by 4% compared to 2019. Unemployment and economic vulnerability have increased across Ukraine, with Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts being the most affected. In June 2021, the national unemployment rate was 9.9%, while in Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts the respective rates were 15.2% and 16%. The combination of a high level of informal employment, widespread unemployment, low savings rates, and strong reliance on remittances highlights the vulnerability of large segments of the society when subjected to a prolonged lockdown and economic downturn. According to the World Bank, Ukraine’s economic recovery in 2021 is expected to be mild, given the high uncertainty associated with the vaccine rollout and the direction of its economic policies to address investment bottlenecks and safeguard macroeconomic sustainability<sup>15</sup>.

Multiple challenges to advancing the gender equality agenda at the national, regional, and local levels also persist, including the lack of a coordinated and comprehensive whole-of-government approach to gender mainstreaming, weak national gender machinery, and insufficient levels of domestic public financing for gender programming, strategies, and women’s rights organisations. Furthermore, society’s deeply entrenched patriarchal attitudes and gender stereotypes, as well as the compounding effect of the COVID-19 pandemic, represent a significant threat that the many achievements made on gender equality might be rolled back<sup>16</sup>. As evidenced by the thematic assessment<sup>17</sup>, women were disproportionately affected by the crisis – not only because of their high exposure to the virus as health and social workers, but also due to the unfair distribution of unpaid domestic and care work. The pandemic also triggered a spike in domestic violence against women and girls. For example, the number of reports of

9 Impact of Healthcare Reform on the Primary Healthcare Level in Conflict-affected Areas of Donetsk and Luhansk Oblasts, Médicos del Mundo, 2021.

10 Exploring Access to Healthcare Services in Ukraine: A Protection and Health Perspective, Health and Protection Cluster, 2019.

11 AGORA Information Hub, UN RPP, ACTED, IMPACT, 2020. URL: <https://reachinitiative.maps.arcgis.com/apps/MapSeries/index.html?appid=9c77280f4f124968af1f9a50b434a789>

12 Ministry of Health of Ukraine, 2021

13 Ibid.

14 COVID-19 in Ukraine: Impact on Households and Businesses, 2020.

15 The World Bank in Ukraine, 2021.

16 Advancing Gender Equality and Women’s Empowerment in Ukraine Through Effective Development Cooperation and Finance, UN Women, 2021.

17 COVID-19 in Ukraine: Impact on Households and Businesses, 2020.

domestic violence has doubled during the lockdown<sup>18</sup>. Awareness of programmes to shelter women survivors or rehabilitate perpetrators is low. On the other hand, fathers are often not engaged in sharing unpaid care and domestic work, which significantly burdens women. For example, only 6% of men in Ukraine take parental leave, even when it is offered<sup>19</sup>. In this regard, encouraging men to take a more significant role in childcare and household tasks is critical.

Decaying industries and abandoned coal mines in eastern Ukraine pose a significant risk to the region, particularly in cities where the industrial sector is prominent, by contaminating underground water sources, polluting the environment, and causing subsidence damage. Prior to the conflict, Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts were home to some 4,500 potentially environmentally hazardous enterprises, which were mainly located in densely populated areas<sup>20</sup>. Over the past few years, there have been repeated reports of disruptions of water supply and water disposal systems and facilities, some describing the discharge of pollutants directly into water sources. According to the AGORA assessment, more than 50% of residents of conflict-affected communities identified at least one environmental concern in their settlement, such as illegal landfills, air pollution, or water pollution<sup>21</sup>.

Thus, the assessment, mapping, monitoring, and predicting of disaster risks in critical civil infrastructure

is to be improved through comprehensive research and analysis of existing and alternative data sources, as well as through the implementation of confidence-building projects that promote cooperation between the authorities, businesses, and local communities.

These pressing challenges are addressed by UNDP within the framework of the project “Good governance and citizen engagement for justice, security, environmental protection and social cohesion in eastern Ukraine”. The Project aims to contribute to peace and reconciliation in the conflict-affected region, as well as to enhance its overall resilience to destabilization and shocks, such as the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Project is integrated into the comprehensive UN Recovery and Peacebuilding Programme (UN RPP), which addresses priority needs in eastern Ukraine following the outbreak of the armed conflict in the spring of 2014. The Programme is intended to strengthen community security and social cohesion, support the economic recovery of conflict-affected communities, and further the implementation of decentralisation and healthcare reforms in government-controlled areas of Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts. The Programme is supported by twelve international partners: the European Union, the European Investment Bank, the U.S. Embassy in Ukraine, and the governments of Canada, Denmark, Germany, Japan, the Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Sweden, and Switzerland.

18 Ukrainian women's voices amid the COVID-19 crisis, UN Women, 2020.

19 Baseline Study on Gender Norms and Stereotypes, UN Women, UNFPA, 2020.

20 Environmental Assessment and Recovery Priorities for Eastern Ukraine, OSCE, 2017.

21 AGORA Information Hub, UN RPP, ACTED, IMPACT, 2020.





## OUTPUT 1

# CAPABLE, INCLUSIVE AND ACCOUNTABLE LOCAL GOVERNANCE INSTITUTIONS CONTRIBUTE TO CONFLICT RISKS MITIGATION AND PEACEBUILDING

Photo credit: Oleksandr Simonenko / UNDP in Ukraine

Under this output, the Project's interventions are primarily focused on increasing the institutional capacity of local authorities and civil society, as well as bolstering coordination between them, in the target communities of Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts. This will lay the basis for building in these communities responsible and effective local executive and self-government bodies that can provide good quality and inclusive services to the conflict-affected population in eastern Ukraine.

At the outcome level, SCORE shows that the proportion of conflict-affected women and men who are actively engaged in civic activities is constantly growing, compared to the baseline: from 14% in 2017 to 28% in 2021 in Donetsk Oblast, and from 20% in 2017 to 28% in 2021 in Luhansk Oblast. There is a significant increase across all five different dimensions of civic participation in the community life, including attending events organized by local authorities (from 14% to 18%) or NGOs (from 25% to 32%), signing petitions (from 20% to 40%), volunteering, or donating money and other resources for good causes (from 25% to 33%), and participating in demonstrations at the local level (from 8% to 18%). Community cooperation, greater citizens' engagement, and active citizenry are not only contributing to a better quality of governance and service provision but also supporting the creation of more cohesive societies that are more stable, prosperous, and more resilient to shocks, violence, and instability.

Local authorities in eastern Ukraine, including village and town administrations, as well as mayors and heads of communities, remain the most trusted among all other political institutions both at the central (President, Parliament, Cabinet of Ministers) and regional (Oblast Administrations) levels<sup>22</sup>. Moreover, the views that local authorities could ask for additional payments to provide services are less common (4.5), especially in Luhansk Oblast (3.6), compared to the perceptions of grand

corruption among the political elite (8.1) and key public service providers at the national level (7.6). This can be attributed to the first results of the decentralization of power and resources from the central to the local level, as well as the application of the principles of good governance supported by the Project, which provide more opportunities for public participation in defining local budget priorities, monitoring, and evaluating the efficiency of their implementation.

During the reporting year, the establishment of the E-Democracy Universal Platform in six pilot communities in Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts was completed<sup>23</sup>. The platform will make the work of local authorities more transparent, and will allow citizens to participate directly in decision-making processes by taking part in the formulation of public budgeting, submitting initiatives to improve the well-being of their communities, and drawing the attention of public servants to specific development issues. With the support of the Project, 12 representatives of the target communities (all men) were equipped with the necessary technical skills to launch and maintain the platform.

To further increase the openness and transparency of the work of local self-government bodies, the Project supplied the necessary hard- and software to launch the "Holos" electronic voting system in 12 target communities<sup>24</sup>. The implementation of the system will facilitate the preparation and holding of meetings in local councils, as well as voting. The system also provides an analysis of the work of deputies and involves citizens in decision-making.

To support efficient communication between local authorities and citizens, and to enhance the provision of public services in rural areas, the Project supported the establishment of six more Public Platforms for Influencing Decision-Making<sup>25</sup> in the target communities in Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts. The Public Platforms

22 Cumulative scores for Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts are the following: Trust in the head of a town/village – 4.4, Trust in town/village administrations – 4.2, Trust in oblast state administrations – 3.1, Trust in the President – 2.7, Trust in the Cabinet of Ministers – 1.7, Trust in the Parliament – 1.6 (SCORE, 2021).

23 Kurakhove, Ocheretyne, Siversk and Toretsk in Donetsk Oblast; Bilovodsk and Popasna in Luhansk Oblast.

24 Zvanivka, Khlivodarivka, Kurakhove, Ocheretyne, and Siversk in Donetsk Oblast, and Kreminna, Hirske, Shchastia, Stanytsia Luhanska, Bilovodsk, Popasna, and Troitske in Luhansk Oblast.

25 Zvanivka and Khlivodarivka in Donetsk Oblast, and Kreminna, Hirske, Shchastia and Stanytsia Luhanska in Luhansk Oblast.

are alternative advisory bodies to the local authorities, supporting effective interaction between local government bodies and community members to address pressing development issues in these communities.

At two regional conferences entitled “Local Good Governance: Challenges and Solutions”, a total of 53 (79% women) representatives of local authorities, CSOs, and active members of territorial communities shared their experiences of good governance through presenting best practices in local self-government and in local government cooperation with civil society.

Under the Project, more than 1,200 (88% women) representatives of local authorities and civil society from the target communities in Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts increased their knowledge on good governance, participatory decision-making, public finance, interaction between local authorities and community members, and public monitoring.

In total, 49 civic initiatives were supported through the Project’s small grants fund (SGF). The initiatives aimed to promote openness and accountability in local authorities, the piloting of innovative e-government tools, the provision of quality public and advisory

services to the public, and the establishment of dialogue for effective cooperation between citizens and local authorities. The initiatives benefitted over 80,000 people (59% women).

The second national innovation contest, “EastCode 2021,” attracted more than 300 participants from all over Ukraine and produced a variety of creative ideas to enhance good governance and civic engagement, environmental protection, sustainable development and responsible consumption, and access to public services in the conflict-affected areas of eastern Ukraine. The nine winning teams of this year’s contest have received financial assistance of up to \$20,000 and mentoring support to pilot their solutions in the project’s target communities in Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts, including those located along the ‘contact line’.

A networking event – “Strengthening the Role of CSOs in Decision-Making Processes at the Local Level” – attracted 53 (36 women) civil society representatives from Donetsk, Luhansk, Odesa, Mykolaiv, and Kherson oblasts. At the event, attendees shared experiences and best practices in implementing civic initiatives in their communities and discussed ideas for future projects related to inter-regional and inter-municipal cooperation.

## Sub-output 1.1. Institutional capacities strengthened to operate in a conflict sensitive manner and handle good governance requirements pre and post territorial amalgamation

### Activity 1.1.1. To provide expert support to new ATCs or territorial communities in the process of being amalgamated.

The Project works extensively to provide effective, evidence-based support for amalgamation processes and ensure inclusive and innovative public services are rendered in target communities in eastern Ukraine. With the implementation of the decentralization reform

in Ukraine, citizen participation in decision-making is becoming increasingly important. In this regard, the development and use of e-democracy tools by communities is essential, especially given the constraints that the COVID-19 pandemic has placed on conducting safe interactions between citizens and local authorities. On the other hand, the availability of a range of digital solutions for civic participation increases public trust in local self-government bodies and enhances the efficiency and transparency of these bodies’ work.



With this in view, the Project from March through May 2021 conducted an assessment of the institutional capacities of the local authorities in 20 target communities of Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts<sup>26</sup> (Annex 3). The study looked at the availability of e-democracy tools (e-appeals, e-petitions, public budget, and online consultations) in each community, analysed their use, and studied access to public information and the involvement of citizens in decision-making. This revealed that, although almost all target communities have introduced e-democracy tools, they are not used effectively by either the local authorities or the public. A lack of information or low awareness of the availability of such instruments and the inaccessibility of websites often hampers citizens' participation in local decision-making. Other reasons for the low levels of citizen involvement included a lack of quality Internet connections, especially in rural areas, and insufficient computer literacy skills among the local population. In addition, the study stressed the importance of strengthening the institutional capacities of local self-government bodies so as to improve the quality of public services and establish efficient communications with community members. The assessment concluded that to increase the level of citizen involvement in local decision-making, a set of measures should be taken, including:

- improving the local legal base to regulate the use of e-democracy instruments;
- ensuring that the available e-democracy tools are simple to use, efficient, and accessible to citizens, including people with disabilities and people living in remote areas with limited Internet access;
- ensuring access to all necessary information on the implementation of e-democracy tools;
- raising the awareness of the local population about the availability of e-democracy instruments and their benefits through information and educational activities;
- building the capacities of employees of the local authorities in working with e-democracy tools, taking into account best international practices in this field.

To enhance the knowledge and competencies of representatives of local self-government bodies, the

Project organized a visit to Kyiv Oblast to study examples of good governance, smart infrastructure, and digital services in communities. During 18-22 October 2021, 18 (nine women) heads and specialists from local self-government bodies/CMA of Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts studied the experience of their colleagues in the development of e-services and e-democracy tools at the community level, and digital transformation and its implementation through cooperation between local authorities and civil society. In addition, the participants were introduced to various local projects implemented in Kyiv and other cities and territorial communities of Ukraine, such as the Open Data Portal, the Single Web Portal, the Participatory Budget, Online Petitions, the Open Budget of Kyiv, the Public Budget, the School Public Budget, Electronic Procurement, the Kyiv Contact Centre, etc. Moreover, during the study visit the participants increased their knowledge and skills in:

- publicity and the transparency of government activities;
- the use of modern management tools;
- the introduction of online instruments, and their security;
- common standards for the creation and implementation of digital tools;
- good quality systems for rapidly responding to cyber threats and other security vulnerabilities of online systems;
- the use of training resources and tools for the development of the administrative capacity of local governments.

### Activity 1.1.2.

**To build the capacities of regional and local authorities of conflict-affected areas in administrative and fiscal decentralisation.**

The effective management of public funds by local authorities in eastern Ukraine remains a key issue for the successful implementation of the decentralisation reform. Thus, as part of a comprehensive effort to support fiscal decentralization in Donetsk and

26 Donetsk Oblast: Volnovakha, Krasnohorivka, Kurakhove, Mariinka, Olhynka, Ocheretyne, Siversk, Soledar, Toretsk, and Khlibodarivka. Luhansk Oblast: Bilovodsk, Hirske, Zolote, Krasna Talivka, Krasnorichenske, Novoidar, Popasna, Stanytsia Luhanska, Shyrokyi, and Shchastia.

Luhansk oblasts, the Project is working to increase the financial capacity of the territorial communities and improve their financial planning, income policies, and procurement processes.

For this purpose, on 5-9 September 2021 a study visit to Lviv was organized for 20 (all women) representatives of regional financial departments and territorial communities of Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts to learn about successful practices in building capable, efficient, and transparent local financial management systems. During the learning event, the participants studied successful examples of efficient local financial management and increased their knowledge in the following areas:

- Attracting funds to increase local budget revenues;
- Tourist tax as an important source of local budget income. Community experience in increasing fiscal revenues through collecting local taxes and fees in Slavske community in Lviv Oblast;
- Organizing automated budgeting and analysing budget programmes;
- Organizing an internal control system for a local financial body;
- Budget regulations.

In addition, the participants learned about successful practices of inter-municipal cooperation in the form of joint financing of municipal institutions, studying the example of the Inclusive Resource Centre in Davydiv community in Lviv Oblast.

Furthermore, 886 (823 – women) financial specialists from local authorities, deputies of local councils, and representatives of public enterprises increased their skills in mid-term budget planning in local communities during nine webinars organized by the Project in May and June 2021. Specifically, the participants of the training programme received in-depth knowledge in the following thematic areas:

- Standard approaches to introducing mid-term budget planning in local communities;
- Implementing and improving internal control systems in local financial bodies;
- Key aspects in forecasting the revenue and

expenditure parts of the budget of a territorial community;

- Recommended approaches to determining priority expenditures;
- Practical principles for compiling a qualitative forecast of expenditures;
- Practical principles for developing and approving a three-year forecast;
- A model of internal controls in local financial bodies;
- A comprehensive, transparent institutional and organizational mechanism for managing local finances.

Notably, over 80%<sup>27</sup> of participants acknowledged the importance of the issues studied during the training programme, and 97% confirmed they would use the knowledge and skills they had obtained in their daily work.

In addition, on 18-22 October 2021 the Project organized a study visit to Dnipropetrovsk Oblast for 20 (17 women) representatives of the local financial authorities of the target communities in Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts. During the visit, the participants learned about the best practices for implementing IT solutions in the field of local budget management, and increased their knowledge in the following areas:

- Organization of digitalization of budget process in territorial communities of Dnipropetrovsk Oblast;
- Cooperation between the tax and financial authorities in terms of implementing local budgets;
- Implementing IT solutions in financial management;
- Financial management of social and cultural institutions.

### Activity 1.1.3.

To support the development of effective participatory mechanisms (taking into account existing mechanisms such as the civil society hubs supported by UNDP).

In 2021, the Project launched a training programme for the local authorities and civil society (the Good Governance Platform) in cooperation with the

27 Participants who gave 5 points out of 5 for the topic's importance.



Participants of the training programme of the Good Governance Platform.  
Photo credit: ALDA

European Association for Local Democracy (ALDA), an organisation dedicated to promoting good governance and citizen participation at the local level, which focuses in particular on activities that facilitate cooperation between local authorities and civil society in the European Union and its neighbourhood.

The training programme included learning sessions, roundtable discussions, and identifying and studying best practices of good governance and citizen engagement at the local level. With support from ALDA experts, the representatives of the target communities of Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts studied European experiences of responsible local governance, including the principles of publicity, transparency, innovations, and partnership, as well as raising their awareness about the professional competencies required for representatives of local authorities and public leaders. Notably, the programme aimed to strengthen the work of the local authorities, including their communications with citizens and promoting civic engagement in

local decision-making. The participation of civil society representatives was crucial, as it provided opportunities for mutual dialogue and the planning of possible joint work.

The training programme consisted of 12 training sessions, which were conducted offline from June through August 2021. Overall, 240 (197 women) representatives from local communities and civil society enhanced their knowledge in the following thematic areas:

- Professional competencies of representatives of local authorities and public leaders in the target communities;
- Creativity and innovation in local governance;
- The development and implementation of effective mechanisms for interaction between local authorities, the public and the media – expertise in participatory democracy;
- Responsible local governance: publicity, transparency, innovation, and partnership;

- Improving the budget management system of territorial communities in the context of the decentralization reform;
- Local budgets at the present stage: changes in legislation and new tools;
- The introduction of e-democracy in local self-government and receiving feedback from the community;
- The introduction of mediation principles in communications between the local governments and communities;
- Public monitoring and anti-corruption controls;
- Good governance: transparency of the local authorities, and their accountability to the community.

#### Activity 1.1.4.

##### To support the development or strengthening of citizens information and feedback mechanism.

With this activity, the Project is supporting the target communities through enabling local authorities and citizens to manage disagreements, redress grievances, and prevent conflicts, thus maintaining effective cooperation in resolving local development issues.

On 29-31 March 2021, in Sievierodonetsk, the Project conducted a training session on effective mechanisms for communications with the public and the media for 20 (14 women) specialists from local self-government bodies, and leaders of public organizations and media in the target communities in Luhansk Oblast. The participants were introduced to modern mechanisms of interaction between local government, the public and the media, and ways to establish effective communications between them. During the learning event, the participants gained valuable skills in applying effective communications instruments and developing communications strategies for local authorities. They also analysed the main avenues of communications with the public and studied information security issues. Notably, the training programme also included a roundtable discussion, held on 23 March, that engaged 31 (21 women) representatives of the regional and

local authorities. The meeting was aimed at addressing the main challenges that arise when establishing communications between local authorities, civil society, and the media. Based on the successful outcomes from this training session, an additional event was held on 12-14 April 2021 in Sviatohirsk for 20 (13 women) representatives of the target communities in Donetsk Oblast.

#### Activity 1.1.5.

##### To enhance social cohesion and demonstrate to citizens how they can contribute to rooting good governance principles in the work of their respective local governments.

Good governance, as a public management model, is a key principle in reforming local government territorial organisation on the basis of sustainable development. To advance the implementation of good governance policies and further strengthen the institutional capacity of local communities, the Project organized two regional conferences entitled “Local Good Governance: Challenges and Solutions”.<sup>28</sup> The conferences were held in cooperation with ALDA to summarise the efforts and results of Project in supporting the implementation of good governance principles in communities in Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts. The events brought together 53 (79% women) representatives of local authorities, CSOs, and active members of territorial communities to share their positive experiences of good governance through presenting best practices in local self-government and successful examples of cooperation with civil society during the decentralization reform. The final conferences aimed to highlight the achievements of the Good Governance Platform in strengthening the institutional capacity of local authorities in managing communities, ensuring the public has a say in decision-making, and implementing good governance policies using the principles of participatory democracy.

During the conferences, representatives of government agencies and CSOs studied current trends and promising areas in good local governance, exchanged experiences, and discussed ideas for the development

28 On 1-2 November 2021 in Kreminka, Luhansk Oblast and on 3-4 November 2021 in Sviatohirsk, Donetsk Oblast.





Local representatives at the Regional Conference “Local Good Governance: Challenges and Solutions” in Sviatohirsk.  
Photo credit: Artem Hetman / UNDP Ukraine

of community governance. In addition, the participants exchanged their experience of implementing projects and developing good governance, including setting up citizens advisory bureaus, creating a resource centre for initiative groups, introducing participatory school budgets, and organising social hubs, youth councils, etc.

### Activity 1.1.6.

**To train representatives of LSGBs to report in a clear and transparent manner to citizens on activities carried out, funds spent, and results obtained.**

In this activity, work focused on supporting target communities in eastern Ukraine by strengthening cooperation between the public authorities and civil society, and implementing various instruments to help increase the openness and accountability of local self-government bodies.

To this end, the Project, within the small grant fund (SGF), supported the implementation of 25 civic initiatives aimed at promoting the openness and accountability of local authorities and citizens' engagement in decision making. The supported initiatives, which benefitted more than 78,000 (59% women) residents, included:

- the introduction of an efficient land management tool in Toretsk, Donetsk Oblast and Novosilka, Luhansk Oblast, to improve access to public information and increase the transparency of land management by the local authorities;
- fostering citizen participation in local decision-making by equipping conference rooms and organizing online city council meetings in Bakhmut and Siversk, Donetsk Oblast, and online village council meetings in Bilovodsk, Luhansk Oblast;
- the creation of an information centre and promoting youth participation in local decision-making in Velyka Novosilka, Donetsk Oblast;

- improving access to public information and citizen participation through the creation of a modern web-portal for Toretsk community, Donetsk Oblast, and installing an information screen in Markivka community, Luhansk Oblast;
- conducting environmental video monitoring to increase public control over the implementation of environmental programmes in Olhynka and Bakhmut in Donetsk Oblast, and Bilovodsk and Hirske in Luhansk Oblast;
- the introduction of an e-document management system in Dobropillia and Ocheretyne, Donetsk Oblast, along with e-document and accounting systems in Markivka, Luhansk Oblast, to strengthen the accountability of the local authorities;
- installing a “Holos” roll-call voting system in Myrnohrad and Markivka (Donetsk Oblast) city councils to increase the transparency of local government;
- creating a public space to involve citizens in the local decision-making process in Novoaidar, Donetsk Oblast;
- creating four remote workplaces for ASC administrators to provide administrative services to the residents of Volnovakha community, Donetsk Oblast;
- improving citizens’ access to various e-tools to receive administrative services online in Sviatohirsk, Donetsk Oblast, and Svatove, Luhansk Oblast.

## Sub-output 1.2. – New or improved institutions with effective reach-out facilities for citizens’ administrative support in conflict affected areas and for state/civil society consultations are in place and operating

### Activity 1.2.1.

To support the development and implementation of an electronic document management system in target TsNAPs.

The Project works extensively to provide effective, evidence-based support for amalgamation processes and ensure inclusive and innovative public services are rendered in target communities in eastern Ukraine. With the implementation of the decentralization reform in Ukraine, citizen participation in decision-making is becoming increasingly important. In this regard, the development and use of e-democracy tools by communities is essential, especially given the constraints that the COVID-19 pandemic has placed on conducting safe interactions between citizens and local authorities. On the other hand, the availability

of a range of digital solutions for civic participation increases public trust in local self-government bodies and enhances the efficiency and transparency of these bodies’ work.

During the reporting period, the Project worked to finalise the installation of E-Democracy Universal Platforms, based on the VOLIS system<sup>29</sup>, in six selected target communities<sup>30</sup>. For this, a series of practical sessions on the installation and configuration of the platform’s software and the administration of the system were conducted for representatives of the pilot communities.<sup>31</sup> These sessions gave 12 system administrators (two people from each community) the knowledge and skills needed to administer servers running the Linux operating system, as well as the ability to install and configure the VOLIS software and maintain the platform. Notably, the platform will make

29 <https://www.volis.ee/gvolis/?lang=ua&kid=12520>

30 Kurakhove, Ocheretyne, Siversk and Toretsk communities in Donetsk Oblast, and Bilovodsk and Popasna communities in Luhansk Oblast.

31 On 15-19 March 2021 in Popasna and Bilovodsk, on 22-25 March 2021 in Kurakhove and Ocheretyne, on 29 March to 1 April 2021 in Siversk and Toretsk.

the work of local authorities more transparent, and will allow citizens to directly participate in decision-making processes by taking part in the formulation of public budgeting, submitting initiatives to improve the well-being of their communities, and drawing the attention of public officials to problems identified in their communities, as well as allowing them to view relevant documents and follow related discussions online. More specifically, the platform supports online participatory budgeting and voting, virtual meetings, interactions with citizens, monitoring of council meetings online, the introduction of an internal case and document management system, and more.

To further increase the openness and transparency of the work of local self-government bodies, the Project supported the launch of the “Holos” electronic voting system in 12 target communities.<sup>32</sup> The implementation of the system will facilitate the preparation and holding of meetings in local councils, as well as voting. The system also provides an analysis of the work of deputies and involves citizens in decision-making. For this purpose, the Project supplied the necessary hardware (servers, desktop and tablet computers) and the “Holos” software for installation in the premises of local councils.

Moreover, on 8-9 September 2021, in Sviatohirsk, the Project conducted a training session for representatives of the target communities in Donetsk Oblast on the use of the electronic voting system in the daily work of local councils. As a result, 20 (15 women) representatives of the local administrations of Zvanivka, Khibodariivka, Kurakhove, Ocheretyne, and Siversk received the required knowledge in the following areas:

- The concept of the electronic voting system in Ukraine;
- Legal aspects and the current state of implementation of electronic voting in Ukraine;
- Advantages of using electronic voting;
- Foreign experience in using electronic voting systems and addressing information security issues;
- Stages and methods for implementing the electronic voting system;

- The principle and specifics of operating the “Holos” e-voting system.

A similar training session is planned to be conducted for the representatives of Luhansk Oblast in December 2021.

Based on its previous success, and to continue promoting innovative solutions that will foster citizens’ participation in decision-making processes, improve the provision of public services, and develop local communities, the Project conducted EastCode 2021 – a national contest of innovative solutions for communities of eastern Ukraine. This year’s competition was held jointly with the Ministry of Digital Transformation of Ukraine, the Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources of Ukraine, Donetsk and Luhansk Oblast State Administrations, and other national partners and leading IT companies working in Ukraine.

A total of 312 teams from all over Ukraine offered innovative solutions for the digitization of public services and the development of local communities. The contestants in this year’s competition were to submit creative ideas in three thematic areas: good governance and civic engagement; environmental protection, sustainable development and responsible consumption; and public services, service delivery and access to services. Over two months of fruitful work with a team of mentors, the contestants improved their ideas and went through several stages of selection: out of the initial 312 teams, 60 were selected for the semi-finals, and, after mentoring meetings, 20 projects went on to the final. Following extensive work and fruitful discussions, the winning teams were selected. These were:

In the area of good governance and civic engagement:

- The GWARA MEDIA team with the GWARA BACK project;
- The NGO “Centre for Public Initiatives “Donbas” with the “Smart city in small communities of Donetsk Oblast” project;
- The StateWatch team with the Market Research Tool (MRT) project.

32 Zvanivka, Khibodariivka, Kurakhove, Ocheretyne, and Siversk in Donetsk Oblast, and Kreminna, Hirske, Shchastia, Stanytsia Luhanska, Bilovodsk, Popasna, and Troitske in Luhansk Oblast.



**EASTCODE 2021**  
National contest of innovative solutions for  
communities of eastern Ukraine



In the field of environmental protection, sustainable development and responsible consumption:

- The LDMS team with the project “Detection and monitoring of landfills”;
- Team All-Ukrainian Charitable Organization “Institute of Local Development” with the project “‘Course’ Let’s save the environment together”;
- The Pakovan team with the Pakovan Mobile Application project;
- The BeeHiveDoor team with the BeeHiveDoor project.

In the area of improving public services delivery:

- The Provodnik team with the [Provodnik project](#);
- The iDev team with the project “Inspector of accessibility of facilities and services”.

The winning project teams have received up to U.S. \$20,000 and mentoring support to pilot their solutions in the project’s target communities in Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts, including communities located along the ‘contact line’.

### Activity 1.2.2.

To support the set-up of remote TsNAP for new ATCs where TsNAPs are located in central ATC cities only.

During the previous reporting periods, the Project supported the establishment of Public Platforms for Influencing Decision-Making in six pilot communities in Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts.<sup>33</sup> The public platforms enable citizens to be involved in local decision-making processes, establishing effective communications between local councils, civil society, and community members, and providing high-quality public services to community residents. Generally, a public platform serves as an alternative consultative and advisory body to local authorities. However, unlike a public council, such a platform does not require permanent membership (the membership can be changed on the basis of the issues being discussed), and its members do not necessarily represent an officially registered NGO. Therefore, public platforms are more suitable

33 Bilovodsk, Kurakhove, Ocheretyne, Popasna, Siversk and Vynohradne.

and effective for small communities with few registered NGOs.

Importantly, the sustainability of the public platforms' activity is ensured by official legal acts passed by the local authorities and adopted regulations and work plans in each community. For example, the Khlivodarivka Public Platform for Influencing Decision-Making was established under a decision of Khlivodarivka village council. Notably, the public platforms have already proved to be an effective mechanism to allow the public to participate in local decision-making and improve living conditions in conflict-affected communities. Successful examples of such involvement include the following:

- Introduction of the system of electronic economic accounting "Smart Village" and document management systems "DOK PROF 3" in Markivka community. The server hardware made it easy to integrate these systems into the existing community information network.
- Six local initiatives have been implemented in Velyka Novosilka TC: the creation of an information centre; art space as a platform for active participation of young people in the life of their community; creation of an open class on the basis of the Velyka Novosilka High School №2; inclusive resource centre of the school radio broadcasting studio. In addition, 250 adolescents were involved in training on local youth initiatives.

To further support effective communications between local authorities and citizens, and to enhance the provision of public services in rural communities, the Project has decided to build on the successful experience of the previous year by supporting the establishment of six more Public Platforms for Influencing Decision-Making<sup>34</sup>. To do this, the required equipment (LED screens, laptops, multimedia boards,

multifunction devices, etc.), furniture and software will be supplied to premises provided by local authorities. This will facilitate the work of the platforms and create opportunities to provide high-quality electronic services to community residents – especially those living in remote areas. Notably, public platforms and four workplaces in starosta (village community) districts that have already been established in Khlivodarivka community, Donetsk Oblast, for holding meetings with citizens, conducting training sessions, and providing high-quality e-services to community residents.

### Activity 1.2.3.

**To support Public Councils creation, as well as the formation of a network of Public Councils (PCs).**

The development of territorial communities in a democratic environment is impossible without the development of civil society institutions and ensuring that there is proper dialogue between the local authorities and civil society. In previous implementation periods, the Project supported 34 Public Councils (PCs) in the target communities in Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts as forums for the direct participation of citizens in decision-making at the local level. Today, all 34 PCs (23 in Donetsk Oblast and 11 in Luhansk Oblast)<sup>35</sup> are fully operational and serve as consultative and advisory bodies to advocate for the most pressing issues in the community to be addressed, as well as to monitor the implementation of public policies.

Furthermore, the Project has initiated an evaluation in Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts of the effectiveness of the PCs' activities. The study will examine the activities of the PCs at the local level, identify capacity gaps and needs, and develop relevant recommendations for improving their work, so as to strengthen the promotion

34 Zvanivka and Khlivodarivka in Donetsk Oblast, and Kreminna, Hirske, Shchastia and Stanytsia Luhanska in Luhansk Oblast.

35 Donetsk Oblast (Donetsk Oblast State Administration, Avdiivka City Council, Bakhmut City Council, Dobropillia City Council, Druzhkivka City Council, Kostiantynivka City Council, Kramatorsk City Council, Lyman City Council, Myrnohrad City Council, Novohrodivka City Council, Pokrovsk City Council, Sloviansk City Council, Selydove City Council, Bakhmut Raion (District) Administration, Volnovakha Raion Administration, Dobropillia Raion Administration, Kostiantynivka Raion Administration, Mariinka Raion Administration, Nikolske Raion Administration, Oleksandrivka Raion Administration, Pokrovsk Raion Administration, Sloviansk Raion Administration, Yasynuvata Raion Administration); Luhansk Oblast (Luhansk Oblast State Administration, Kreminna Regional Administration, Kreminna City Council, Markivka Regional Administration, Milove Raion Administration, Novoaidar Raion Administration, Novopskov Raion Administration, Popasna Raion Administration, Stanytsia Luhanska Raion Administration, Starobilsk Raion Administration, Troitske Raion Administration).



Representatives of CSOs from eastern and southern Ukraine talk during a networking event in Kobleve, Odesa Oblast, in September 2021. Photo credit: Artem Poznanskii / UNDP in Ukraine

of the principles of good governance in eastern Ukraine. The results of the research will be available by the end of 2021.

With support from the Project, 29 youth public councils were established in Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts (20 in Donetsk Oblast and nine in Luhansk Oblast)<sup>36</sup>. Today, the youth councils are continuing their work to involve young people in the processes of strategic planning and decision-making, addressing issues of the socio-economic, political, and cultural life of this target group. Importantly, the sustainability of both platforms –

Public Councils and Youth Public Councils – is ensured by a number of legislative acts, as well as by official decisions of local self-government bodies, adopted in each community.<sup>37</sup>

#### Activity 1.2.4.

To expand the activities of Citizen Advisory Bureaus (CABs) or pilot other local mechanisms for integrated solutions, with a particular focus on isolated communities or communities located near the contact line.

36 Donetsk Oblast (Donetsk Oblast State Administration, Bakhmut ATC, Bakhmut Raion Administration, Velyka Novosilka Raion Administration, Volnovakha Raion Administration, Vuhledar ATC, Dobropillia City Council, Dobropillia Raion Administration, Druzhkivka City Council, Kostiantynivka City Council, Kramatorsk City Council, Lyman ATC, Mariupol City Council, Nikolske Raion Administration, Novohrodovka City Council, Oleksandrivka ATC, Pokrovsk City Council, Selydove City Council, Siversk City Council, Sloviansk City Council); Luhansk Oblast (Luhansk Oblast State Administration, Troitske Village Council, Novopskov Village Council, Chmyrivka Village Council, Bilokurakyne Village Council, Bilovodsk ATC, Krasnorichenske ATC, Popasna City Council, Sievierodonetsk City Council).

37 Law of Ukraine “About local self-government in Ukraine”, specifically articles 13, 14, 15 on the bodies of self-organization of the population; Law of Ukraine “About the bodies of self-organization of the population”; Typical provisions on the public council at the central, local executive body, established by the decree of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine № 1378 on 15.10.2004; Decree of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine № 1198 dated 18.12.2018 “On approval of standard regulations on youth advisory bodies”. Examples of local decisions: Mariupol Youth Public Council; Bakhmut Public Council:

Improving the quality of, and access to, legal and administrative services for community members in eastern Ukraine – in particular to vulnerable groups – remains a Project's priority. In this regard, Citizens' Advisory Bureaus (CABs) play an essential role in supporting local authorities in delivering essential services to conflict-affected persons. Today, a network of 11 CABs previously supported by the Project under its SGF is working effectively to provide quality advisory support to residents of Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts, including those coming from the NGCA. The model of the provision of advisory services through CABs was further scaled up and adjusted to address current challenges caused by COVID-19 restrictions, including through digitalization and online service provision. Thus, during the reporting period, the Project supported 24 CABs and CSOs providing advisory services (legal, administrative, social, psychological, pedagogical, digital, etc.) to the population in conflict-affected areas, including those coming from NGCA (Annex 4 – List of projects supported within the SGF).

With the implementation of decentralization reform to further develop good governance in local communities, the number of new CSOs working in the fields of civic participation, improving public services, and local development has increased significantly in Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts. From 2019 to 2021, over 200 civic initiatives have been implemented in the target communities under the Project's small

grant fund. This demonstrates the high activity of civil society organizations and their strong motivation to work for local development in cooperation with the local authorities and community members. In this regard, CSO representatives need to develop their capacities to implement activities, ensure institutional sustainability, understand tools for public participation in development, and implement and improve policies at the local level. To this end, the Project conducted a networking event called "Strengthening the role of CSOs in decision-making processes at the local level" for CSO representatives to share experiences, best practices and, most importantly, discuss ideas for future projects. The event was held on 13-18 September 2021, in Kobleve (Odesa Oblast), engaging 53 (36 women) civil society representatives from Donetsk, Luhansk, Odesa, Mykolaiv, and Kherson oblasts. During the [event](#), the CSO representatives worked in teams to study citizen engagement, communicating with each other and building partnerships. They also presented their organizations and shared successful case studies of how to motivate communities to become involved in development activities. The participants also increased their knowledge about how to involve citizens in decision-making at the local level and how to work effectively with volunteers and communicate with an audience. The event helped disseminate positive experiences and highlight best practices in local self-governance and cooperation with NGOs in the context of decentralization reform.





## OUTPUT 2

# ENHANCED COMMUNITY SECURITY, LAW ENFORCEMENT AND ACCESS TO JUSTICE SERVICES THAT ARE CLOSER TO THE PEOPLE IN CONFLICT AFFECTED AREAS

Photo credit: Oleksandr Ratushniak / UNDP in Ukraine

Ensuring public safety and security in the conflict-affected communities, especially those close to the ‘contact line’, is among the Project’s priorities. In this regard, the interventions are focused on building the capacity of the local law enforcement bodies and emergency services and improving citizens’ interaction with local security providers. Several activities are aimed at strengthening community policing as an effective mechanism for the police to work more closely with the local population, when addressing various types of insecurity. Moreover, constant efforts are undertaken to raise public trust towards the judicial authorities of Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts, and further institutionalize and improve the provision of primary and secondary legal aid, especially for the vulnerable groups of women and men.

According to SCORE, the perceptions of personal safety are seeing positive trends, especially among women (from 3.9 in 2019 to 4.1 in 2021 for women, and from 4.2 to 4.6 among young women), following the Project’s extensive support to the rule of law institutions, as well as the implementation of gender-responsive local community security projects.

Although the police and courts are considered responsive and efficient, they are also seen as lacking in integrity, unfair and slow. Further, courts and lawyers are seen as unaffordable, particularly for women and the poor. At the same time, citizens with previous experience in court are more likely to have a positive opinion of justice sector institutions and their prospects of getting justice (77% vs. 50%). This could appear to indicate that the justice system actually delivers better than is perceived ‘from the outside’. The UN RPP has made some noticeable advancements in this area by implementing alternative forms of legal assistance and advice for the most vulnerable, including through mobile ASCs and offices of local administrations. In 2021, 40,000 conflict-affected women and men (62.6% women) received quality legal aid assistance through the UNDP-supported network of free legal aid service providers.

The Forum on Domestic Violence Prevention and Response, held on 16-17 September 2021 in Kyiv,

attracted over 100 representatives of central and local authorities, law enforcement agencies, and the courts, as well as representatives of NGOs from Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts who support local communities in SGBV/DV prevention. Based on the fruitful discussions, further activities will be planned by the Programme and the relevant national partners to address SGBV/DV – primarily to build the capacity of security providers and strengthen coordination between all actors involved in SGBV/DV prevention and response.

Furthermore, the Fourth Judicial Forum, held on 16 September 2021, gathered over 100 (60% women) representatives of the judiciary, parliament, civil society, and national and international organizations to discuss achievements, share practices, and brainstorm challenges in administering justice in Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts. As a result, the participants developed a set of recommendations to enhance the effectiveness of justice under the current conditions and improve access to justice, including for vulnerable populations, which will form the basis of the Programme’s future interventions.

A mobile application named “eCourt” is now available to ensure equal access to court services for all citizens, including residents of remote and non-government-controlled areas. The application allows its users to rapidly access essential documents in their personal e-offices, and courts will be able to inform litigants about the status of specific cases in real time. Moreover, to facilitate access to free legal aid, personal e-offices have been introduced on the website of the Coordination Centre of Legal Aid Provision. This new tool allows citizens to apply for legal advice and track the history of their requests and responses in one virtual space.

To further support the implementation of the “Community Police Officer” project in eastern Ukraine, seven police stations in Donetsk Oblast and six police stations in Luhansk Oblast were outfitted with the required furniture, safe boxes, and signboards to be fully operational. In addition, three new police stations have opened in Krasnorichenske, Triokhizbenka and Zolote, Luhansk Oblast, which will strengthen the security situation in these communities located only close to the ‘contact line’, benefitting over 30,000 people.

The Project has also piloted the what3words application – an innovative tool that enables emergency responders to find the exact location of an incident and render their services more quickly. Moreover, the SES Departments in eastern Ukraine received a set of ICT equipment and software allowing them to determine the exact location of an accident or emergency, plan routes, and communicate with residents in danger.

To respond to the issues of domestic and gender-based violence in the conflict-affected regions, two SGBV/DV situational rooms and classrooms were furnished in Mariupol and Sievierodonetsk police training centres, relocated from the NGCA, with furniture and necessary equipment. The fully outfitted study rooms will improve the learning process for police officers, equipping them better to address and prevent gender-based discrimination and violence in their communities.

The Project, in cooperation with UNFPA and the local authorities, supported the establishment of three shelters in Manhush (Donetsk Oblast), Kreminna and Popasna (Luhansk Oblast), as well as two day-centres in Pokrovsk and Vuhledar (both in Donetsk Oblast). The

main function of these facilities is not only physical assistance to SGBV and domestic violence survivors but also comprehensive social, psychological, and primary legal assistance, accompanied by awareness-raising activities, aimed at preventing repeated cases of violence against women and girls.

Through its small grant scheme, the Project continues to support the implementation of comprehensive regional community policing programmes in Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts. The programmes cover a variety of learning, sport-related and interactive activities aimed at preventing delinquency among adolescents, promoting tolerance and preventing bullying at school, building trust and partnership between children and law enforcement bodies, and developing healthy lifestyles. To date, 26 police officers and physical education teachers have engaged 168 children (71 girls) in sports activities aimed at enhancing interaction and building trust between local law enforcement agencies and adolescents. Moreover, the Project reached out to 1,400 adolescents (44% girls) to strengthen their knowledge about the prevention of violence and drug addiction, avoiding Internet and bank card fraud, road safety, and community security.

## Sub-output 2.1. Strengthened conflict and gender-sensitive planning capacities amongst duty bearers for service development and strategies for improved community security and access to justice designed and implemented

### Activity 2.1.1.

**To strengthen LSGBs' and service providers' capacities to plan the development/improvement of justice, security, and other service delivery strategically and promote horizontal relations among services providers.**

The ongoing armed conflict and the recent COVID-19-related restrictions have exacerbated existing challenges with domestic violence (DV) and gender-based violence (GBV) prevention, limiting a proper inter-sectoral response. In particular, data from the social affairs departments of Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts indicate there has been a rise in domestic





Participants of a forum on violence prevention in Kyiv discuss joint efforts to address various forms of violence in Ukraine.  
Photo credit: Oleksandr Ratushniak / UNDP in Ukraine

violence cases compared to the same period last year.<sup>38</sup> Moreover, according to a recent study conducted by AGORA, psychological or emotional abuse was the most common form of GBV encountered by service providers (75%), followed by physical assault (70%), while domestic violence was third.<sup>39</sup> The data show that SGBV/DV remains both one of the most widespread and at the same time underreported types of offence in eastern Ukraine. To address these issues, a range of activities should be undertaken, including capacity building for the various actors who have a mandate for SGBV/DV prevention and response, as well as raising public awareness about SGBV/DV issues.

To this end, the Project organized a Forum on Domestic Violence Prevention and Response, which was held on

16-17 September 2021 in Kyiv. The event attracted over 100 representatives of central and local authorities, law enforcement agencies, and the courts and representatives of NGOs from Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts who support local communities in SGBV/DV prevention. The event served as a dialogue platform between various actors to develop a shared vision for addressing different forms of violence in Ukraine and in the conflict-affected regions in particular. The forum focused on sharing experiences and discussing effective practices for preventing and combating SGBV/DV, raising the issue of violence against vulnerable groups, including people with disabilities, and how to prevent it. In addition, judicial practices for combatting violence and determining the criminal punishment for offenders were discussed at the forum, along with possible

<sup>38</sup> Luhansk Oblast: 1,069 in the 1st Quarter 2020, compared to 1st Q 2019 – 748 appeals. Out of 1,069 cases in the 1st Quarter 2020, appeals came from: children – 21; women – 828; men – 215. Donetsk Oblast: 1,970 in the 1st Quarter 2020 compared to 1st Q 2019 – 1,196 appeals. Out of 1,970 cases in the 1st Quarter 2020, appeals came from: 8 – children; 1,758 – women; 204 – men.

<sup>39</sup> Gender based violence and related service provision in communities in Luhansk and Donetsk oblasts, 2021.  
URL: <https://www.ua.undp.org/content/ukraine/en/home/library/recovery-and-peacebuilding/GBV-related-service-provision-in-communities.html>



The 4th Judicial Forum, “The administration of justice in the context of armed conflict in eastern Ukraine,” attracted more than 100 representatives of various judicial institutions, as well as national and international legal experts.  
Photo credit: Andrii Kriepkikh / UNDP in Ukraine

methods to achieve effective interagency cooperation to prevent and combat SGBV/DV in Ukraine. Based on the results of the discussions, further activities will be planned to address SGBV/DV – primarily with the aim of building the capacity of security providers and strengthening coordination between all actors involved in SGBV/DV prevention and response.

Furthermore, the Project continues to support the free legal aid system (FLAS) in Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts. The activities of the FLAS are aimed at protecting human rights by ensuring citizens have equal access to legal information and justice, as well as strengthening the legal capacity of vulnerable groups and local communities, etc. In this regard, enhancing the knowledge and skills of FLAS specialists on an ongoing basis is essential to ensure their work is effective, and that they can provide high-quality services to

the public. To ensure the sustainability of capacity-building activities for FLAS specialists, the Project is supporting the establishment of a pool of qualified trainers from among FLAS employees, who will deliver learning activities for their colleagues. Overall, during the reporting period, 67 (53 women) trainers increased their knowledge and coaching skills through a series of Training of Trainers (ToT) sessions organized by the Project, namely:

- two, three-day ToTs on the development of coaching skills;
- a two-day ToT on effective telephone communications for FLAS specialists providing legal counseling via the dedicated hotline;
- a two-day ToT on the Practice of the European Court of Human Rights in civil cases<sup>40</sup>;
- a two-day ToT on emotional competence and burnout.

<sup>40</sup> As per the Law of Ukraine “On the Fulfilment of Decisions and Application of the Practice of the European Court of Human Rights”, the European Convention on Human Rights and the Practice of the European Court of Human Rights (ECHR) should be considered as a source of law. The use of the relevant practice is obligatory for Ukrainian authorities as a European Council member-state. Accordingly, legal representatives should have practical knowledge of the use of ECHR judicial practice.

To improve access to justice for conflict-affected people, the Project continues to support the capacity development of judges and is piloting mechanisms to bolster the effectiveness of justice and the rule of law at the local level. As part of this, the Fourth Judicial Forum was held in Kyiv on 16 September 2021 to discuss achievements, share practices, and brainstorm challenges in administering justice in Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts. The forum was conducted in a hybrid offline/online mode and attracted over 100 (60% women) representatives of the judiciary, parliament, civil society, and national and international organizations. The discussions highlighted critical issues concerning the administration of justice amid the long-lasting armed conflict in eastern Ukraine. Particular attention was focused on topics connected to transitional justice, reimbursements for damage suffered during the armed conflict, domestic violence, and difficulties in accessing justice due to the COVID-19 pandemic. As a result of the event, the participants developed a set of lessons learned and recommendations to enhance the effectiveness of justice under the current conditions and improve access to justice, including for vulnerable populations, which will form the basis of the Programme's future interventions (Annex 5).

### Activity 2.1.2.

**To raise awareness and understanding of LSGBs and SP (including police, emergency services, courts, legal aid systems and civil-military cooperation units) of human rights, and the right to relevant, fair, accountable, and accessible public services.**

One of the Project's goals is to improve the accessibility of justice services, including through implementing various digital solutions. In this respect, the UN RPP works closely with the State Judicial Administration of Ukraine (SJA), which is a state body in the justice system that provides organizational and financial resources to improve access to justice for conflict-affected people. Currently, the system of interaction between the SJA

and its users requires improvement, as users of court services are not able to promptly track and respond to changes in court cases in which they may be involved as a party.

To address this issue, the Project has supported the development of a mobile application named "eCourt"<sup>41</sup>, which aims to speed up and optimize the judicial processes, while also simplifying Ukrainians' access to these services. With the use of the mobile application, citizens will be able to rapidly access essential documents in their personal e-office, and courts will be able to inform litigants about the status of specific cases in real time. In addition to ensuring equal access to court services for all, the application will help residents of remote and non-government-controlled areas promptly obtain information about the progress of cases and the relevant procedural documents. Notably, "eCourt" will allow users to:

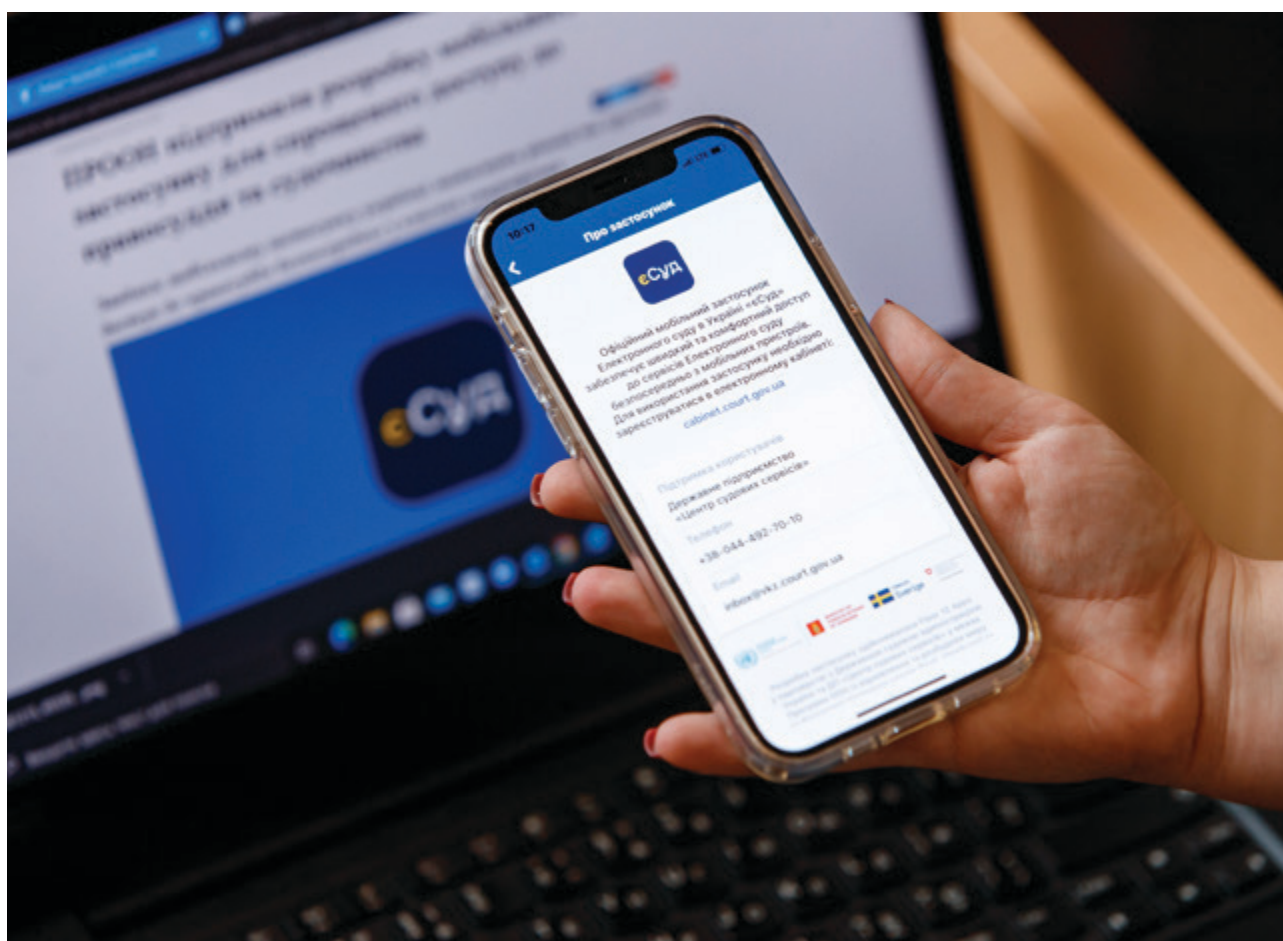
- receive push notifications regarding the receipt of new documents and changes and updates to on-going cases;
- review cases, proceedings, procedural documents sent by the courts to their e-office;
- view in their e-office applications, petitions, and other documents they create;
- view powers of attorney and warrants in their e-office;
- cancel powers of attorney and warrants issued by the user.

Importantly, the UN RPP will continue supporting the further development of IT solutions aimed at improving access to judicial services, including through upgrading this mobile app. In particular, there are plans to expand the functionality of "eCourt" by adding the user categories of a judge, legal representative, and prosecutor, and adding the ability to upload various other types of documents.

Furthermore, the Project also supported the development and launch of user's areas (personal e-offices) on the website of the Coordination Centre

41 The application can already be downloaded for iOS (<https://apps.apple.com/us/app/%D1%94%D1%81%D1%83%D0%B4/id1578245779>) and Android (<https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.floor12apps.ecourt&gl=UA>) smartphones.





Presentation of the mobile application “eCourt”, which was launched by the Project in partnership with the State Judicial Administration of Ukraine and the Centre for Judicial Services. Photo credit: Andrii Kriepikh / UNDP in Ukraine

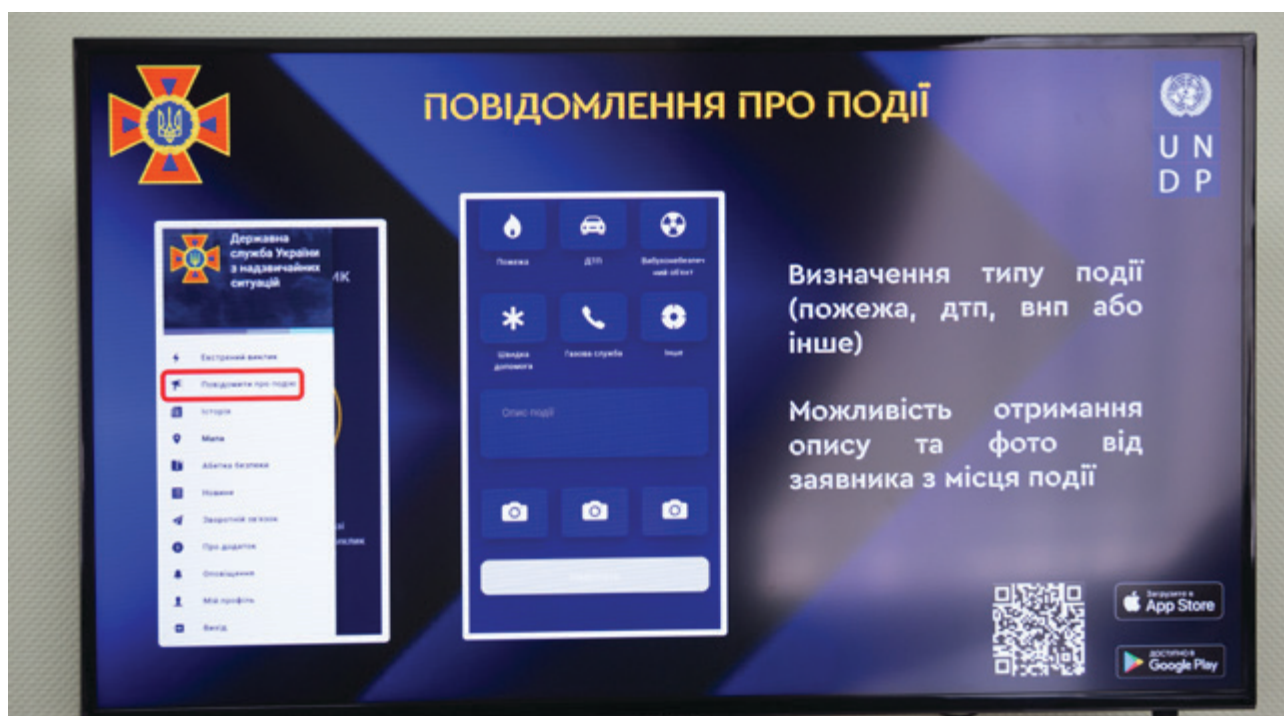
of Legal Aid Provision<sup>42</sup> to facilitate access to free legal aid. This new tool allows citizens to apply for legal advice and track the history of their requests and responses in one virtual space. Users can also upload required documents and sign them using an electronic signature, receive confirmations or rejections of applications for primary or secondary free legal aid, submit feedback regarding the work of legal aid system employees, participate in surveys on FLAS services, and more. Importantly, this new tool increases the capacity of the national free legal aid system to work with applications, and facilitates access to legal services for NGCA residents, which is particularly important in the context of the ongoing COVID-19 restrictions.

### Activity 2.1.3.

**To support participatory problem analyses and the piloting of strategic solutions on access to justice and community security in the Project’s pilot territorial units.**

The Project continues to render comprehensive support to the newly amalgamated communities in Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts in implementing the national Community Police Officer project, launched in 2020. The main task of a community police officer is to focus on the needs of the local population, maintain contacts with residents, maintain order on

42 <https://cabinet.legalaid.gov.ua/auth/?next=/>



Presentation of the Rescue 101 mobile application.  
Photo credit: Oleksii Kozlov / UNDP in Ukraine

the community's territory on a daily basis, respond to community problems promptly, and prevent offenses. This project aims to improve the security situation at the community level and enhance interactions between the community and the police. During the reporting period, seven police stations in Donetsk Oblast and six police stations in Luhansk Oblast<sup>43</sup> were outfitted with the required furniture, safe boxes, and signboards. In November, the furniture will be delivered to equip the police stations. In addition, the procurement of the required IT equipment and air conditioners for the police stations in the target areas is underway.

In 2020, the UN RPP supported the launch of the Rescue 101 mobile application<sup>44</sup>, designed to provide emergency support to local populations, including persons with disabilities, children, and other vulnerable groups. The main goal of the app is to bring the services provided by the Rescue Service closer to citizens, allowing rescuers to respond more promptly to emergencies, without the

direct involvement of the service's call centres. After successfully piloting the application in Donetsk Oblast, the SES of Ukraine decided to implement this digital tool throughout Ukraine. The Project has therefore initiated the procurement of the necessary IT equipment to support the launch of the Rescue 101 application in Luhansk Oblast. The delivery of the equipment is planned to be finalized by the end of 2021.

Within the Project's small grant fund (SGF), support was provided to one of the winners of the last year's Hackathon "Hack for Locals 2.0: Safer Communities" to launch a tool to provide timely and effective fire responses in the region. This initiative foresees the creation of 12 fire maps (dashboards) using ArcGIS cartography software: two maps for Donetsk and Luhansk oblast state administrations, and 10 maps for selected communities (five communities in each oblast). This tool will be used to analyse large amounts of data (operational satellite data, retrospective fire data for the last five years, and

43 Manhush (two police stations in Yalta and Bilosaraiska kosa villages), Vuhledar (Nikolske village), Sartana and Cherkaske, Myrne, Kramatorsk (Shabelkivka village) communities in Donetsk Oblast; Shchastia, Lozno-Oleksandrivka, Stanytsia Luhanska, Nyzhnioteple, Milove and Kreminna communities in Luhansk Oblast.

44 The application is available for iOS (<https://apps.apple.com/app/%D0%B4%D1%81%D0%BD%D1%81-101/id1532091902?l=en>) and Android (<https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=io.idev.dsns>) smartphones.





Rescuers use the what3words application to rapidly find the exact location of an incident.  
Photo of the SES of Donetsk Oblast

reports of fires from community residents) for further monitoring and planning for the effective prevention of fires and other emergencies. For example, based on an analysis of GIS information panels, local civil protection forces will be able to install hydrants and stationary water tanks in those areas where fires occur most frequently, as well as take fire prevention measures with the most fire-affected populations. Currently, pilot versions of the ArcGIS maps have been developed and are undergoing testing. Afterwards, the dashboards will be integrated into the websites of the oblast administrations and the pilot communities and assigned staff will be trained in the use of the ArcGIS fire maps.

In an emergency situation, identifying precisely where help is needed is essential for getting resources to the scene quickly. But people who call the emergency services for help often struggle to give their precise location, especially if they are in an area with no addresses or landmarks. In the conflict-affected eastern

Ukraine, there are many places, especially along the 'contact line', where it might be hard to get the exact address of a location where help is needed. In this regard, the Project has organized a series of training sessions for rescuers working in eastern Ukraine on how to use a what3words location technology and application. The what3words application<sup>45</sup> divides the entire surface of the globe into three metre squares, giving each square a unique combination of three words to identify it. The system works offline, making it ideal for use in areas with an unreliable data connection. Using what3words addresses, citizens can tell emergency services precisely where help is needed using only three words, enabling emergency responders to find the exact location of an incident and send responders there more quickly. Moreover, to support the introduction of this new tool, the Project supplied the SES Departments in eastern Ukraine with 233 modern tablet computers, 69 desktop computers, an interactive panel, routers, and a laptop, allowing them to determine the exact location of an

<sup>45</sup> Co-founded in London in 2013 by Chris Sheldrick, what3words is the simplest way to communicate a location. The system covers the entire world, never needs updating, and works offline. A what3words address is a human-friendly way to share very precise locations with other people, or to input them into platforms and machines such as ride-hailing apps or e-commerce checkouts. It is optimised for voice input and contains built-in error prevention to immediately identify and correct input mistakes. The free what3words app, available for [iOS](#) and [Android](#), and the [online map](#) enable people to find, share and navigate to what3words addresses in over 45 languages to date.

accident or emergency, plan routes, and communicate with residents in danger. The computers were provided with the necessary software, including the what3words application and an interactive map with the location of fire hydrants, reservoirs, SES units, fire defence structures, essential infrastructure facilities, potentially dangerous objects, as well as maps of forest districts and other information that will be useful during rescue operations. The modernised equipment and software will help rescuers respond more effectively to crises by determining accident locations more accurately and through more quickly processing operational information. To date, there are already successful cases of rescuing people using the app: A truck driver whose vehicle got stuck in sand on a remote, unmarked road near the town of Lyman, Donetsk Oblast, and a woman who got lost in a forest near Sviatohirsk, Donetsk Oblast, among others, were rescued with the help of the what3words app. Moreover, an information campaign has been launched in the target regions aimed not only at training rescuers to use the what3words technology, but also to teach the local population how using the app can save lives.

To improve access to justice in the conflict-affected regions, the Project is further supporting capacity building of paralegals, and ensuring learning opportunities are available for them on an ongoing basis. For this reason, seven additional online training courses have been developed for the FLAS online learning platform<sup>46</sup>, covering the following issues:

1. Communications with vulnerable groups of people.
2. Communications and legal aid provision via phone.
3. Pension Law.
4. Inheritance Law.
5. Housing Law.
6. Labour Law.
7. Digital Security.

On successfully completing the above-mentioned courses, the paralegals will be able to provide quality legal information and advice to vulnerable people in Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts, residents of remote settlements, and people living close to the 'contact line'.

#### Activity 2.1.4.

**To promote women participation in service design or adaptation. In particular, to mobilise and work with women CSOs and volunteers' groups to tackle women safety issues in the territorial communities covered by the Project.**

The Project continues its work towards safeguarding the provision of specialized services to survivors of gender-based and domestic violence in local communities. During the reporting year, the following specialized centres were opened with the support of the Project, UNFPA, the local authorities and CSOs:

- a day centre with a crisis room in Pokrovsk, Donetsk Oblast;
- a day centre in Vuhledar, Donetsk Oblast;
- a shelter with a day centre in Kreminna, and a shelter in Popasna, Luhansk Oblast;
- a shelter in Manhush community (Yalta village), Donetsk Oblast.

The support rendered for the opening of the above-mentioned facilities included repair and restoration work, procurement of furniture, and capacity building of social workers and staff. Since the facilities opened, 469 people (444 women) have received comprehensive social, medical, informational, psychological and primary legal assistance related to GBV/DV response and prevention. All the facilities are fully inclusive, with rooms for visitors, a space for sessions with a psychologist, bathrooms, and a kitchen and living room, and are adapted to meet the needs of people with disabilities. Importantly, the operation of the shelters and the day centres will be further financed from the local budget, which is a prerequisite for their ongoing functioning.

Taking into account the results of a survey conducted during the previous Project implementation year among CSWG members (Annex 6), and on the basis of a delivered capacity-building programme on gender equality principles, the Project elaborated a

<sup>46</sup> <https://academy.legalaid.gov.ua/>



Violence survivors can now receive comprehensive support from qualified professionals at a 24/7 day-centre in Pokrovsk, Donetsk Oblast.  
Photo credit: Artem Hetman / UNDP Ukraine

dedicated gender manual. The manual incorporates useful information on various issues, including gender equality principles and standards, gender legislation, gender analysis and audits, gender mainstreaming in planning and management of social activities, etc. The manual will help CSWG members develop their gender competences so that they can conduct effective public activities aimed at creating safe and convenient public spaces for various social groups, and provide high-quality services to all community members, taking into account the various needs of each person.

### Activity 2.1.5.

**To inform the national level institutions on the results of the services' problems analyses in conflict-affected areas as well as on the services development strategies and initiatives that have emerged at local level.**

During the Domestic Violence Prevention and Response Forum, which took place on 16-17 September 2021 in Kyiv, the Project represented to the national-level authorities, such as the Ministry of Interior affairs, the National Police of Ukraine, the Prosecutors Office of Ukraine and other partners, a number of knowledge products and solutions, and namely:

- An analytical report with conclusions and recommendations on the implementation of the international standards and best practices on inclusion of persons with disabilities in preventive activities of police in Ukraine, as well as in the police's response to offenses to improve the protection of human rights, freedoms, and interests of people with disabilities.
- Success stories of implementation of SGBV prevention and response projects in Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts, such as creation of shelters, mobile teams, different types of awareness-raising activities and more.

In addition, the national-level stakeholders were informed on the issues of effective coordination of SGBV/DV prevention and response, which had been revealed during multidisciplinary seminars for law enforcement entities and the justice sector in Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts to improve cooperation in preventing and responding to domestic violence.

Furthermore, during a two-day legal forum, taken place in Kyiv on 14-15 September 2021, discussions were focused at the report on the development and implementation of the peer-to-peer quality evaluation within the national

system of free legal aid provision in Ukraine. The report was developed by the Project as a part of the research conducted during the previous reporting year (Annex 7). Specifically, the finalized pilot in eastern Ukraine on developed peer review procedures was presented and discussed by the forum participants, who also stressed the importance to continue this work and support the partner institutions till the full implementation of this procedure. The forum was attended by the representatives of the central and local authorities, people's deputies and experts of the Coordination Centre for Legal Aid and other stakeholders.

## Sub-output 2.2. New or improved institutions for justice, law enforcement and security which have relevant knowledge and skills to effectively and efficiently serve and protect people in conflict-affected areas

### Activity 2.2.1.

#### To support the implementation of community policing in rural areas and those close to the contact line.

The implementation of a community policing approach aimed at building ties and working closely with the community is a core principle of police reform in Ukraine, and the community policing principle is widely used in the everyday activities of the police. However, this method of cooperation is generally used in short-term projects aimed at resolving individual security issues, with the territory of its implementation limited to a single settlement. Therefore, the Project, through its SGF, is continuing to support the implementation of comprehensive regional community policing programmes in each of the target oblasts. The programmes are being implemented in close partnership with the Main Departments of the National Police in Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts and their field offices and cover several thematic areas.

In Donetsk Oblast, the community policing programme is being implemented in 20 communities<sup>47</sup> and is aimed at preventing criminal and administrative offenses among adolescents, preventing bullying at school, promoting tolerance, and discouraging illegal behaviour. The programme is currently underway and has already conducted training sessions for inspectors of juvenile prevention departments on identifying the root causes of deviant behaviour in children. Further work will include the development of a new methodology for improving children's behaviour. The community policing programme will provide juvenile crime inspectors with the necessary methodological knowledge to apply individual prevention measures in their work with adolescents, as well as improve communications between children and police.

In Luhansk Oblast, the community policing programme is aimed at preventing delinquency and other negative phenomena through cooperation between police officers and children, which includes improving the quality of police communications with the public, building trust and partnership between children and

47 Mariupol, Manhush, Sartana, Bakhmut, Toretsk, Kostiantynivka, Kramatorsk, Oleksandrivka, Druzhkivka, Sloviansk, Lyman, Pokrovsk, Avdiivka, Myrnohrad, Dobropillia, Selydove, Novosilka, Nikolske, Mariinka, and Krasnohorivka.





Participants of a training session in Lysychansk learn how to spot signs of domestic violence and apply an algorithm for directing victims to specialized services. Photo credit: Oleksii Kozlov / UNDP Ukraine.

law enforcement bodies, and developing healthy lifestyles. Specifically, during the reporting period, 26 police officers and physical education teachers engaged 168 children (71 girls) in sports activities aimed at enhancing interaction and building trust between local law enforcement agencies and adolescents in order to prevent delinquency (the “Trust Cup” football competition). Other activities also included education activities, such as lectures and quests, and visits to police stations where children met and communicated with juvenile crime prevention officers. As a result, over 1,400 adolescents (44% girls) increased their knowledge about the prevention of violence and drug addiction, avoiding Internet and bank card fraud, road safety, and community security. These activities also contributed significantly to improving interaction between the police and children, and increased trust in the law enforcement bodies. Moreover, a dedicated manual was developed to help police officers and physical education teachers introduce the methodology in their daily work with children to prevent delinquency and other negative phenomena, as well as build trust (Annex 8). An innovative new project under the community

policing programme is now being implemented in 14 settlements of Luhansk Oblast. The project aims to help prevent domestic violence in the region through engaging beauty industry institutions and their employees. Given the high demand for beauty services among both women and men, beauty salons, spas or barbershops could become new platforms for promoting zero tolerance for domestic violence and identifying persons suffering from GBV/DV who require assistance. In the project, employees of these facilities take a training course on responding to GBV/DV, with the support of police officers from the main Department of National Police in Luhansk Oblast and psychologists from the Luhansk regional centre for social and psychological support. During the reporting period, 91 employees of beauty shops increased their knowledge about domestic violence and the work of public institutions on GBV/DV prevention, and learned how to recognize signs of domestic violence, communicate with victims, and direct them to specialized services for assistance. Introducing such new approaches helps get more people involved in preventing domestic violence and increases their awareness of the issue.



Since the start of police reform, significant progress has been made in implementing the community policing principle at both the national and regional levels. To evaluate the results achieved so far, the Project implemented an assessment of how police in Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts implemented the community policing principle in their daily work, evaluating the efficiency of community policing initiatives and identifying current challenges, gaps and opportunities in mainstreaming the community policing approach in the work of the police in eastern Ukraine. Based on the study's results, a set of recommendations was provided to enhance the implementation of the community policing principle in conflict-affected areas. The recommendations included:

- applying a comprehensive approach to implementing the community policing principle in Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts through developing a corresponding strategy and action plan;
- ensuring the systemic capacity building of police officers on the theory and practice of applying the community policing principle in their work;
- improving communications and interaction with the community through using diverse channels of communication, providing regular updates on the work of the police and the implementation of projects related to community security, receiving and analysing feedback from the public, and more.

Moreover, the Project developed a guidebook entitled “Community Policing in Rural Areas”, which looks at the specifics of providing police services and ensuring safety and security in rural settlements (Annex 9). The manual covers the specifics of the work of community police officers, details existing practices, and provides successful examples of community policing in Ukraine and worldwide. The guidelines in the book can be used by police officers, representatives of local self-government bodies and civil activists to interact more efficiently with community members and improve the security situation in rural and remote settlements.

Building effective cooperation between the public and law enforcement agencies is at the core of ensuring public security and taking into account the needs of all community members. With this in view, the Project

supported the opening of the first police-owned community policing hub in Mariupol. The hub, called the “Open Police” creative space, brings together police, the public, local authorities and international partners to enable law enforcement bodies to better understand community needs and implement human rights policies more flexibly and effectively. The modern, fully equipped police hub, which is freely accessible to the public, is designed for holding public discussions, events and training sessions. It will serve as a dialogue platform to help improve the quality of police services, and help partners jointly create a safe local environment.

Furthermore, to strengthen the security situation in the community of Triokhizbenka in Luhansk Oblast, which is located only 2 kilometres from the ‘contact line’, the Project supported the opening of a police station in the area. Notably, the issue of a permanent presence of police in the community was raised and advocated by members of the local CSWG. Prior to this, the nearest police station was located in Novoaider community, 40 kilometres away from Triokhizbenka, which significantly reduced the efficiency and promptness of police services for the local population. The newly created police station is now located in the premises of the CMA and has been fully renovated and outfitted with the support of the Project. The police station has two full-time police officers who now serve the territory of Triokhizbenka community and four other small villages near the ‘contact line’ – Lopaskine, Lobacheve, Kriakivka, and Orikhove-Donetske – which have a total population of 1,600 people.

### **Activity 2.2.2.**

**To pilot various schemes for integration of legal aid and community policing functions at the local level.**

To respond to SGBV issues in the conflict-affected regions, the Project outfitted two SGBV/DV situational rooms and classrooms in Mariupol and Sievierodonetsk police training centres, relocated from the NGCA, with furniture, audio/video and other required equipment. The interactive rooms are furnished as a bedroom and a kitchen and are used to conduct lifelike simulations



The first "Open Police" creative space in Mariupol, Donetsk Oblast, aims to strengthen public safety, increase public confidence in the police, and foster cooperation between the police and the public. Photo credit: Oleksii Kozlov / UNDP in Ukraine

of SGBV/DV cases when training police officers. Cameras and speakerphones installed in the rooms allow the students in the classrooms to observe the scenarios being played out in the situational rooms and analyse the reactions of their colleagues in a given situation in real time. The fully outfitted study rooms will improve the learning process for police officers, equipping them better to address and prevent gender-based discrimination and violence in their communities.

Moreover, equipment (computers, tents, banners, flipcharts, educational sets, etc.) was delivered to the Main Department of the National Police in Luhansk Oblast to support the implementation of the regional strategy for the development of a safe environment. The equipment is now used by police officers during

various learning and awareness-raising activities to improve communications with the public, increase public confidence, and address communities' security issues.

Drug addiction poses a significant threat to both community security and the health of the nation. Evidence suggests that almost 90% of Ukrainian drug addicts are people under the age of 25. At the same time, in Ukrainian society there is a clear tendency for drug use to start at an earlier age – around 13-15 years<sup>48</sup>. Every 9th criminal conviction in Ukraine today is for drug possession<sup>49</sup>. Therefore, promoting a healthy lifestyle, especially among young people, and highlighting the consequences of drug misuse should be among the main preventive activities conducted by the police.

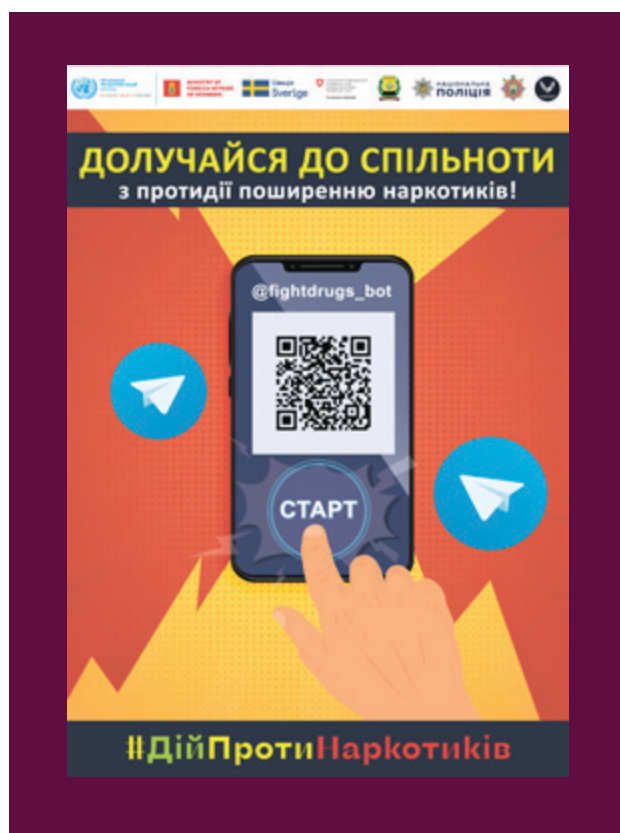
48 Titova M.P. Family relationships and adolescent drug addiction: Sociological aspects, 2018.

49 According to the Alliance for Public Health.

URL: <https://aph.org.ua/en/news/every-11th-convicted-person-in-ukraine-punished-for-the-drugs/>

With this goal in view, the Project, in partnership with the Department for Combating Drug Crime and the Main Department of the National Police in Donetsk Oblast, supported the launch of the “ActAgainstDrugs” chatbot. The chatbot was developed as part of the Donetsk regional crime prevention programme on combating drug addiction and drug trafficking for 2019-2021, which aims to introduce innovative methods to stop drug abuse and fight drug addiction. Using the chatbot, citizens can anonymously inform police about potential drug crimes. Particular attention is paid to combating the spread of illicit substances among young people, exposing channels of drug distribution via the Internet, and combating the street trafficking of drugs. In addition, users can easily get important information about the health consequences of drug misuse and, most importantly, find out how to get help and treatment. Moreover, the chatbot has a separate tab with information aimed primarily at young audiences, promoting healthy habits and a healthy lifestyle. The chatbot already has more than 1,800 subscribers and is widely used by police officers in their daily work. The chatbot is not only a source of information on preventing drug addiction and following a healthy lifestyle, but also an effective community policing tool.

Furthermore, in cooperation with Donetsk Oblast State Administration, Donetsk State University of Internal Affairs, the State Olympic Committee and the Main Department of the National Police in Donetsk Oblast, the Project conducted a photo contest titled “Stop Drugs – Live to the Fullest”. The competition was aimed at drawing public attention to the problem of drug addiction and promoting a healthy lifestyle. In total, 49 photographers, students, and police employees (29 women) entered the competition, which showcased their artwork. The best entries were presented at events in Kramatorsk (25-28 June 2021) and Mariupol (26 June 2021) devoted to the International Day Against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking. Residents of both cities were able to visit the exhibition and raise their awareness about drug abuse and its consequences through various sports competitions, workshops, and quizzes. In addition, the contest participants’ artworks are now used by police officers as they conduct preventive work at schools in Donetsk Oblast.



“ActAgainstDrugs” chatbot.  
Illustration: National Police of Ukraine

In 2020, the Project analysed current international standards and best practices in inclusive approaches used by police in other countries, as well as the current legislation of Ukraine in the field of preventive police work and the provision of police services to people with disabilities. Based on recommendations from the analysis, the Project conducted four, two-day training sessions for police officers from the preventive sector (district and juvenile crime prevention police officers, duty officers from police stations) in Donetsk Oblast. The training programme engaged 96 police officers (35 women) and covered the protection during policing of the human rights, freedoms, and legitimate interests of people with disabilities. The same training programme is to be conducted for police officers in Luhansk Oblast.

To aid the implementation of the “Community Police Officer” project, and with the advocacy efforts of the CSWGs, the Project supported the renovation and equipping of police stations in the communities of Zolote and Krasnorichenske in Luhansk Oblast. Prior to





Opening of the police station in Krasnorichenske, Luhansk Oblast.  
Photo credit: Oleksandr Simonenko / UNDP in Ukraine.

this, the citizens of Zolote, located close to the ‘contact line’, received police services from Popasna, which is 25 kilometres away. This had led to an increase in the number of offenses and a low level of police response. The newly created police station, staffed by 25 police officers, will now serve not only the residents of the town (14,000 people) but all the citizens of Hirske community (23,000 people). The work of this police station will be critical in ensuring public security for both local residents and people coming from the NGCA once a new EECP opens in Zolote. The nearly 7,500 residents of Krasnorichenske, previously served by one policeman from the nearest town, Kreminna (30 kilometres away), will now be able to receive police services from a local station located in the centre of the settlement. A community police officer will now be stationed in the village on a permanent basis.

Moreover, the Project is continuing to pilot the decentralisation of free legal aid provision in various ways in order to identify the best and most financially

effective model. As foreseen, legal aid will be rendered in the premises of local administrative service centres (ASCs) and local self-government bodies in six pilot communities, namely Manhush, Mariinka and Volnovakha in Donetsk Oblast, and Shchastia, Nyzhnioteple and Stanytsia Luhanska in Luhansk Oblast. The results of this project will be analysed in the respective manual (currently under development) for local self-government officials, which will be presented to the local authorities and the management of the Coordination Centre for Legal Aid Provision.

### Activity 2.2.3.

**To support the integration and roll out of the Centres for Safety and Security (CSS) in the conflict-affected areas covered by the Project.**

To strengthen the security and safety of the target communities, the Project provided support for State Emergency Service (SES) operations in Donetsk and

Luhansk oblasts. In Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts SES firefighter-rescuers, as well as rescuers from local fire brigades, now undergo professional training at SES training centres that were relocated from the NGCA. During the previous reporting period, the two relocated training centres of the State Emergency Service in Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts were supported with the equipment, software, and furniture they required to increase their technical capacity. With the necessary support provided, the centres now conduct professional training sessions for firefighters and local fire brigades, enabling them render high-quality security and rescue services to local communities.

Moreover, it is planned to provide the CSSs in Lyman, Sartana, Mykolaivka, Illinivka communities with special firefighting clothes and equipment to increase the technical capacity of these communities to react to emergencies.

#### **Activity 2.2.4.** **To strengthen the capacities of** **Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts' judges** **and court administration.**

Independent monitoring of security and legal services provided to the public is a prerequisite for ensuring their quality, availability, and accessibility to all people, including vulnerable and marginalized

groups. Therefore, the Project is assisting local CSOs in building their capacities to monitor the provision of security services and access to justice at the local and oblast levels.

As an initial step, the Project supported a study aimed at strengthening the expert capacity of CSOs in Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts to monitor access to justice and security at the local and regional levels. The study summarizes the results of a series of monitoring activities performed by local CSOs in 15 conflict-affected communities in eastern Ukraine<sup>50</sup>, and covered the issues of community security, decent living standards, social protection of vulnerable groups, and access to justice. Based on the results of the study, recommendations were produced for increasing the efficiency of local CSOs in conducting monitoring of access to justice and security at the local and regional levels<sup>51</sup>.

Further, building on the results of the study, six local CSOs<sup>52</sup> will undergo a training programme to increase their capacities to monitor access to justice and the provision of security services in the field of social rights of vulnerable groups. It is foreseen that the capacity building support provided will also help create an effective network of organizations monitoring human rights at the local and regional levels in Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts.

50 Donetsk Oblast: Bakhmut, Volnovakha, Druzhkivka, Kramatorsk, Mariupol, and Sloviansk; Luhansk Oblast: Krasnorichenske, Kreminna, Lysychansk, Novoaidar, Novopskov, Rubizhne, Sievierodonetsk, Stanytsia Luhanska, and Shchastia.

51 <https://ldn.org.ua/useful-material/final-nyy-zvit-za-proiektom-mipl-donbas-2020/>

52 Two organizations at the regional level, one each in Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts, and four organizations at the local level (two organizations in Donetsk Oblast and two in Luhansk Oblast).





## OUTPUT 3

# SUCCESSFULLY DECENTRALISED AND PARTICIPATORY ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION PROMOTES A CLEANER ENVIRONMENT IN THE CONFLICT AFFECTED AREAS

Photo credit: Artem Hetman / UNDP Ukraine

The ultimate goal of the Project's interventions under this output is to contribute to building accountable regional and local authorities capable of ensuring environmental safety and sustainable management of natural resources, as well as to support citizen engagement in addressing chronic environmental problems in Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts.

Success has been achieved in terms of building local self-governments and civil society environmental protection awareness and capacities in relation to solid waste management, development of renewable energy sources, air pollution monitoring, prevention of natural disasters, and awareness-raising on existing environmental hazards and risks. The level of cooperation between the local authorities and large industrial enterprises in eastern Ukraine regarding the reduction of pollution is also gradually improving due to the Project-supported regional conferences, research, and dialogue efforts.

At the same time, more needs to be done to strengthen good governance in further developing efficient environmental monitoring systems, setting up effective local waste management services, and improving authorities' capacity for analytical and participatory planning to ensure the development and implementation of improved and sustainable local environmental protection models.

In recognition of the results and achievements in the field of environmental protection, monitoring, and awareness-raising in the conflict-affected areas of eastern Ukraine, the Project has received an award at the Fourth All-Ukrainian Forum "Leadership and Eco-Transformation 2021".

To support evidence-based decision making, the Project commissioned research into the current state of coal mines in the target areas to identify the most suitable paths for efficiently reclaiming coal mine waste dumps in eastern Ukraine.

Furthermore, Toretsk community has carried out a strategic ecological assessment, which formed a basis for the development of local strategic environmental documents. This will allow the community to independently form an environmental budget, using environmental tax income to implement local projects that address the area's most pressing environmental issues. Notably, the Strategy and the Programme of ecological development of Toretsk were adopted by the local authorities in July 2021.

The Project provided expert support to the local authorities in conducting an environmental impact assessment (EIA) of the construction of a regional waste management facility in Luhansk Oblast. The EIA thoroughly examined the possible environmental impact of this planned construction on the area and population, and underwent public discussion. The assessment provided the basis for informed decisions to be taken on the planned implementation of the landfill project.

With the support of the knowledge platform launched by the Project, 497 (401 women) civic activists and employees of local self-government bodies have already increased their knowledge and skills in implementing environmentally sensitive and participatory policies and in increasing cooperation with civil society to enhance environmental protection in the target communities.

At the All-Ukrainian Forum on the Green Economy, held in Kyiv on 21-22 October 2021, some 190 experts and participants discussed current environmental issues, in particular balancing economic growth and protecting the environment, as well as ways to achieve decarbonisation and find effective measures to adapt to climate change.

A dedicated [online information platform](#), launched with support from the Project, will allow residents to track environmental conditions and identify hazardous places in their communities, as well as find all relevant information on current activities and events related to environmental protection in the region.

Through a specialized training programme, 28 (two women) representatives of the SES in Luhansk Oblast are now equipped with the necessary knowledge to address natural disasters and emergencies of a natural or human-caused character in the region.

The Project supported a total of 18 civic initiatives that contribute to enhancing waste management and recycling, promoting renewable energy sources, developing green tourism, and restoring water resources in the local communities, directly benefitting more than 37,000 people (61% women).

In total, more than 300 (64% women) people – representatives of the local authorities, CSOs, students and community activists of Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts – gained new skills and knowledge during a number of capacity-building sessions on various environmental issues, such as the sustainable use of natural resources, waste management and energy efficiency, global environmental issues and climate change, environmental safety in very heavily industrialised regions, the development and implementation of effective environmental strategies, and more.

## Sub-output 3.1. Strengthened analytical and planning capacities, and strategies for improved environmental protection in place

### Activity 3.1.1.

**To provide practical support to LSGBs to restore, expand, and automate pollution monitoring, control, and environmental reporting in the conflict area.**

Underground coal mining involves the extraction of significant amounts of rock from the subsoil to the surface. Currently, there are already 421 slag heaps in eastern Ukraine (177 in Donetsk Oblast and 244 in Luhansk Oblast), occupying some 2,400 hectares of fertile land that would also otherwise be suitable for industrial and residential construction. Coal mine slag heaps can lead to the degradation of natural landscapes, pose a risk to human health and life, and could possibly trigger a man-made disaster. Today, with the coal industry in Ukraine undergoing transformation, due attention should be paid to the issue of reclaiming mining waste dumps in the eastern regions, taking into account best practices available in the county and abroad.

The Project conducted an analytical study of coal mining areas (government-controlled areas in Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts) to consolidate best practices and help shape policies for the efficient reclamation of

coal mine waste dumps in eastern Ukraine. The study examined in detail the current situation at the state enterprises Toretskvuhillia, which includes four coal mines in Toretsk community in Donetsk Oblast, and Pervomaiskvuhillia, which includes four coal mines in Hirske, Zolote and Toshkivka in Luhansk Oblast. The study included analyses of the structure and components of slag heaps, evidence of environmental pollution in the areas due to waste disposal from mines, and the possible influence of this on ecosystems. It has been noted that the proper reclamation of waste dumps requires that they first be classified according to a set of qualitative characteristics. With this in view, a register of waste dumps of the mines covered by this study was compiled, identifying the key features of these objects – their mode of operation, thermal condition, slag heap shape, height, composition of rock, etc. The study also summarised the best practices in waste dump reclamation that coal mine enterprises of eastern Ukraine might adopt. Such practices include removing slag heaps, using them for electricity generation (using their geothermal energy or by installing wind turbines on top of them), producing building materials from waste rock, landscaping and greening slag heaps, and transforming slag heaps into sports or tourist infrastructure.





Students in Kreminna, Donetsk Oblast, joined the ecological activities conducted on the All-Ukrainian Environment Day and the Day of Environmental Knowledge. Photo credit: Vitalii Shevelev / UNDP Ukraine.

With support from the Project, two environmental education events dedicated to the All-Ukrainian Environment Day and the Day of Environmental Knowledge were held in April 2021 in Vuhledar (Donetsk Oblast) and Kreminna (Luhansk Oblast). The eco events brought together nearly 50 (54% women) students, civic activists and representatives of local authorities and public utility companies, with the aim of changing established living habits and supporting environmental protection. The activities conducted during the events included planting trees, cleaning up public areas, and carrying out a water quality analysis at a local water pumping station. In addition, the children and students took part in practical lectures on sustainable consumption, composting, waste management and promoting sustainable development principles.

Implementing the principles of good governance, the Project maintains a continuous dialogue between various stakeholders so as to address the region's most urgent environmental safety challenges. In this regard, two regional environmental civil society

forums entitled "Environmental Institutionalization of Democratic Governance in Communities" were held in Sievierodonetsk and Kramatorsk on 11-12 and 26-27 August 2021 respectively. The forums brought together a total of 88 (53 women) active community members and representatives of regional and local authorities and CSOs to discuss how civil society can participate in the public governance of environmental issues at the local level. During the events, participants identified mechanisms to help local governments engage civil society in working jointly to address environmental challenges and involve active citizens and CSOs in resolving local environmental problems.

### Activity 3.1.2.

**To support public participation in the environmental impact assessments (EIA) at territorial level.**

An environmental impact assessment (EIA) is an environmental policy tool that takes into account environmental factors in planning and management

processes, along with economic and social factors. Such assessments are conducted on the principle that it is easier to identify and prevent negative consequences of activities at the planning stage than to detect and revise them at the implementation stage. EIAs provide a comprehensive analysis of the potential impact of a planned activity on the environment, and the results of this analysis are used to prevent or mitigate potential environmental impacts.

The Project is working extensively on raising public awareness about EIAs and participation in them at the local level, as well as developing the capacities of local authorities and civil society to conduct them. EIAs are conducted in accordance with the current legislation<sup>53</sup> before the launch of new projects that may have impact on the environment to ensure there is a transparent and participatory decision-making process. To support local communities in this process, the project facilitated the conducting of an EIA on the planned construction of a central waste management facility in Lysychansk (Luhansk Oblast). The assessment included a thorough analysis of the proposed project against a set of criteria, which helped to identify the best technical conditions for setting up the facility, including:

- a set of technological measures aimed at protecting the environment during the construction of the waste management facility;
- assessment of potential emergencies and their consequences for the environment;
- the size of the sanitary protection zone for the solid waste sorting station;
- primary means for extinguishing fires.

The assessment also included comments and objections from the public, which were properly responded to and taken into consideration. Importantly, this specialized facility will meet all modern waste management standards and will meet the needs of almost the entire territory of Luhansk Oblast (GCA) for waste disposal. It will be used to properly sort and store solid waste, as well as for the collection and disposal of landfill gas (biogas) generated by the decomposition

of organic waste. This, in its turn, will help mitigate the negative impact of illegal landfills on the environment and on public health. Moreover, the construction of the waste management facility will create new jobs in the region and produce additional revenues from the sale of recycled materials. In addition, the results of this assessment may be used for further strategic planning and developing activities in Luhansk Oblast.

In July and August 2021, the Project conducted 19 training sessions, two round tables and two discussions in Pokrovsk, Sviatohirsk, Berdiansk, Serebrianka (Bakhmut raion) in Donetsk Oblast, and in Sievierodonetsk and Kreminna in Luhansk Oblast. In total, 497 (401 women) representatives of local self-government bodies and civil society were provided with the necessary knowledge and skills in the following areas:

- Sustainable community development. Local environmental challenges and global solutions based on systemic thinking and cooperation;
- Synergies between governance, security, gender equality and social inclusion in community;
- The interaction of national authorities and local self-government bodies. Tools for public monitoring and civic science to address environmental challenges and formulate a strategy for sustainable community development;
- Best practices in addressing waste management issues in communities;
- Environmentally oriented solutions and green restoration in communities;
- Education for sustainable development and its role in strategic community development;
- Green entrepreneurship for sustainable community development;
- Climate change, energy efficiency and community-based solutions;
- Ecosystem approach and the role of protected areas in communities;
- Green public procurement in communities.

To further strengthen the capacity of the local authorities and CSO activists in Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts,

53 Law of Ukraine "On Environmental Impact Assessments", № 2059-VIII of 23.05. 2017.



the project launched a training platform<sup>54</sup> with learning materials on various environmental issues and local sustainable development, including on implementing environmentally sensitive and participatory policies, increasing cooperation with civil society to enhance environmental protection in the target communities.

To summarise the Project's work aimed at increasing awareness of the target communities about environmental management, including efficient waste management, the Interregional ecological forum "Waste management. Challenges and solutions" is scheduled for 1-2 December 2021 in Kramatorsk. The forum will provide opportunity for some 150 representatives of regional and local authorities, CSOs, private sector and environmental experts to discuss best practices in the field of waste management in Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts, as well as exchange their experience in waste processing and promoting the implementation of environmental and energy efficiency solutions at the local level.

### Activity 3.1.3. To facilitate the development of participatory innovative strategies, and their budgets.

To improve the level of environmental protection at the local level, the Project supported the development of an environmental strategy and the conducting of a strategic environmental impact assessment for Toretsk community (Donetsk Oblast). The strategic document on environmental development meets the following principles:

- environmentally balanced planning in the community;
- contamination prevention and response;
- public participation in the decision-making process;
- partnership between civil society and the central and local authorities;
- equal access to environmental information for all community members.

The final version of the strategy and programme for the environmental development of Toretsk were adopted by the local authorities in July 2021. Importantly, the documents allow the community to independently form an environmental budget using environmental tax income to implement local projects that address the most pressing ecological issues in the area. To further support strategic environmental policy-making at the local level, the Project has also initiated the creation of environmental development strategies and the conducting of strategic environmental assessments for Kurakhove (Donetsk Oblast) and Shchastia (Luhansk Oblast). This work is to be finalised by the end of 2021.

As a result of the study of the impact of closing unprofitable mines<sup>55</sup>, a set of recommendations and priority measures aimed at maintaining a favourable water and environmental situation had been identified.

In the field of air protection:

- development of projects for utilization and capture of pollutants within the mine enterprises;
- development of sectoral strategies to improve air quality;
- compliance with and implementation of the tasks of the Strategy of State Environmental Policy of Ukraine for the period up to 2030 .
- In the field of waste management:
- organization of measures for waste disposal and sorting;
- monitoring the quality of soils, air and groundwater within the location of waste disposal sites and at the border of the sanitary protection zone.
- In the field of water treatment:
- to develop projects for centralized provision of settlements with drinking water;
- proper treatment of mine water pumped to the surface, in order to prevent contamination of surface waters
- organization and expansion of the network of monitoring the level and quality of groundwater.

<sup>54</sup> <https://ecoplatform.org.ua/>

<sup>55</sup> The study will cover the following mines: "Tsentrlna" and "Toretska" in Toretsk of Donetsk Oblast, "Mine named after D.F. Melnikov", "Chernomorka" in Lysychansk, Pervomaik Mines Group ("Zolota", "Karbonit", "Hirska", "Toshkivska") in Zolote of Luhansk Oblast).

**Activity 3.1.4.**

To promote effective Public-Private Partnerships for the implementation of the environmental protection strategies in the Project's pilot territorial units.

With support from the Project, a two-day National Eco-Business Forum entitled "Green Economy: How to Achieve Balance" was held in Kyiv on 21-22 October 2021<sup>56</sup>. The forum, organised in a mixed offline/online mode, was dedicated to finding effective solutions aimed at achieving a cleaner and safer, more sustainable future for Ukraine. The event brought together 190 (112 women) experts, representatives of the national and local authorities, and practicing

ecologists to share their views and discuss pressing environmental issues at the regional and national levels. The participants exchanged their professional opinions and experience on the current state and prospects for the eco-transformation and revitalization of coal-mining regions, and the implementation of the current regional and national environmental strategies. The forum covered such sectors of the country's economy as mining, electricity, metallurgy, the food industry, transport, agriculture, housing (water utilities, waste utilities, etc.), as well as the public sector. During the event, representatives of the local authorities from the project's target communities presented their achievements in environmental protection and sustainable development, and raised current ecological issues of their regions.

## Sub-output 3.2. Mitigated conflict-related environmental risks and improved environmental protection of the conflict affected areas

**Activity 3.2.1.**

To support LSGBs in ATCs and non-amalgamated communities (especially those along the contact line) to keep and update an inventory of the industrial and municipal facilities that have become, or hold the potential to become, major sources of environmental hazard as a result of the armed conflict.

To increase the awareness of the population in Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts about current environmental issues and ensure citizens' engagement in addressing them, the Project created an online information platform dedicated to the region's environmental problems. The [website](https://ecobusinessforum_2021_kyiv.tilda.ws/) includes useful information about the environmental monitoring tools available at the regional and national level, such as indicators from monitoring stations, maps of minefields, and so on. With

the support of the platform, the residents will be able to track environmental conditions and identify hazardous places in their communities, and will have access to all relevant information on current environmental protection activities and events in the region.

The Project is continuing to provide expert support to the target regions in identifying their most pressing environmental issues and implementing sustainable solutions for them. For this, a study has been initiated to evaluate and summarize best Ukrainian and international practices for implementing in Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts the extended producer responsibility (EPR) mechanism for managing household waste. EPR is an efficient and sustainable waste management tool, based on manufacturers being responsible for their products after they have been used, served their term, or become unnecessary to the consumer. This responsibility includes, in particular, collecting, sorting and preparing products for further recycling or reuse.

56 [https://ecobusinessforum\\_2021\\_kyiv.tilda.ws/](https://ecobusinessforum_2021_kyiv.tilda.ws/)



SES rescuers during a training session on addressing disasters and emergencies of a natural and human-caused character.  
Photo credit: Vitalii Shevelev / UNDP in Ukraine

Based on the findings of the research, a roadmap was developed for EPR implementation in the field of waste management for Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts, as well as a practical guide covering the best practical solutions for local communities in choosing the optimal EPR system (Annex 10). In addition, on the basis of another study, the Project will develop a roadmap on hazardous waste management for communities in Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts. This roadmap will be available by the end of 2021.

Due to the current shortages of groundwater, soil degradation, and climate predictions of a fall in precipitation in Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts, there is an urgent need to take measures to increase the area of forest and steppe land in the region. To support the local authorities in implementing a green transition to sustainable forestry, the Project initiated a comprehensive assessment of the most suitable areas for plant breeding, and is developing an action plan to prevent groundwater depletion and restore the natural

hydrological condition of the Martynenkove wetland (Lyman community). The results of this work will be finalized by December 2021 and further discussed with all stakeholders.

### Activity 3.2.2.

**To enhance cooperation on hazard and crisis management between competent authorities and operators of major industrial facilities, including the establishment of sufficient means and resources necessary for effective rapid response to emergencies in hazardous areas.**

In order to provide the target communities with the practical knowledge and skills needed to respond effectively to various hazards, the Project organized a training programme for representatives of the SES in Luhansk Oblast on addressing disasters and emergencies of a natural and human-caused





Local students taking part in the plogging event in the central part of Kramatorsk, September 2021.  
Photo credit: Andrii Makhnyboroda / UNDP in Ukraine

character. The training activities took place on 26-28 October 2021, and increased the knowledge and skills of 28 (2 women) rescuers from Svatove, Shchastia, Sievierodonetsk and Starobilsk communities in the following areas:

- Natural disasters;
- Human-caused emergencies;
- Public information systems;
- Organizing evacuations and providing first aid;
- Environmental and industrial disasters;
- Environmental and industrial risks. Current challenges for Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts;
- Risks associated with explosive remnants of war; mine action;
- Modern technologies for environmental remediation;
- Algorithm of actions during city and forest fires.

Notably, the participants learned how to use the mobile applications “Attention Luhansk Region” for efficiently informing the public through a notification system and

a mobile, and the what3words application to determine the exact location of emergency situations. In addition, the trainees practiced open-air evacuations for various types of emergencies, and the evacuation of people with reduced mobility. A similar training programme is also scheduled for 7-9 December 2021 for SES workers in Donetsk Oblast.

### Activity 3.2.3.

To facilitate the dialogue between the local authorities and the largest industrial enterprises to expand the environmental activities that have been reduced by the polluters with the onset of conflict and promote strategic industry innovation and modernization for reduction of environmental impact.

An interregional scientific and practical forum on human-caused problems in coal mining regions



was held on 17 December 2020. It was attended by representatives of the regional and local authorities of Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts, ecologists, scientists, CSOs, and international organizations. The participants discussed critical environmental issues in Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts related to the threat of flooding and mine closures, reviewing the effectiveness of the current monitoring system and ways to improve it. They also discussed the need to develop a roadmap of initiatives based on decarbonisation measures to address the region’s environmental problems, and an action plan to achieve them.

The United States Environmental Protection Agency estimates that the amount of textile waste in the world has increased by 811% since 1960. The figure becomes even more significant if we translate it into actual volumes: In 2020, textile waste in European countries amounted to more than 26 million tons. In part, these are excess fabrics

from the manufacture of clothing. Of the total waste, more than 60% went to landfills, 15% was incinerated to generate energy, and only 25% was recycled. In order to draw the attention of both clothing manufacturers and consumers to the problem of textile waste management, the Project, in cooperation with local textile producers and famous Ukrainian fashion designers, initiated an upcycling initiative. As part of this activity, fabric waste is collected and used by local companies in eastern Ukraine to produce toys, textile decorations and other items for the orphanages in Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts.

Furthermore, on 17 September 2021, on World Cleanup Day, the Project organized an eco-run event in Kramatorsk, Donetsk Oblast. During the activity, 127 (49 women) students from high schools and higher education institutions combined jogging with picking up litter (known as “plogging”) in the city park, making the popular public space cleaner and safer for residents.

### Sub-output 3.3. Increased civil society’s activism for improved environmental protection

**Activity 3.3.1.**  
To increase the capacities of CSOs and citizens’ groups to effectively initiate, plan and implement initiatives aimed at protecting the environment.

The Project is continuing to support local environmental initiatives aimed at providing wider opportunities to local communities to increase environmental safety. During the reporting period, 18 NGOs received grant support to implement environmental initiatives benefitting over 37,000 community members (61% women) in the target locations of Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts (Annex 11 – List of projects supported within the SGF). The project numbers and areas are as follows:

- |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|
|  | 7 | Waste management and recycling                  |
|  | 4 | Use of renewable energy sources                 |
|  | 2 | Green tourism and recreation                    |
|  | 1 | Cleaning of a pond bottom                       |
|  | 1 | Monitoring of water pollution                   |
|  | 1 | Ecological education for children               |
|  | 1 | Innovative support to sustainable ecosystems    |
|  | 1 | Online register of green areas in the community |



Setting up a park area in Kramatorsk city centre to mark World Environment Day.  
Photo credits: Artem Hetman / UNDP Ukraine

Among the supported projects are the installation of benches with solar panels with slots for charging mobile devices in Kurakhove, the creation of an ecology trail with information boards in Siversk, and the construction a waste recycling facility to produce anti-parking bollards in Popasna.

Furthermore, from December 2020 to February 2021 the Project organized a series of online training events entitled “Ecological Consciousness and Sustainable Development”. The training activities were targeted at representatives of the local authorities, students of secondary and higher educational institutions studying environmental specialties, and civic activists and CSOs working in the field of environmental protection. As a result, 54 (31 women) representatives of the target communities in Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts learned about the main environmental problems of heavily industrialised regions of Ukraine and the practical

provisions of the existing legislative base (EIAs and SEAs), identified technical aspects of implementing energy-efficient innovations in local communities, studied ways to expand protected areas in the region, and increased their knowledge about the management of solid and hazardous construction waste.

On 3-4 June 2021, the Project conducted an environmental campaign to mark World Environment Day, setting up a park area in Kramatorsk city centre called Commonwealth Square with national partners Donetsk Oblast State Administration and Kramatorsk’s local authorities. To demonstrate to the public the importance of landscaping public spaces in the city centre, the park area was specially cleared for the planting of 20 maple trees and the laying of flowerbeds. Holding such initiatives helps promote the ideas of environmentalism and sustainability, and engages the community in creating an eco-friendly environment.

**Activity 3.3.2.**

**To develop CSOs and citizens' groups competence to participate in decision making, including EIAs, and monitor the fulfilment of local projects and strategies aimed at environmental protection.**

During the reporting period, the Project organized a series of capacity-building activities for civic activists and CSO representatives aimed at enabling them to properly participate in decision-making to enhance environmental protection in local communities.

In April and June 2021, an online training programme on global environmental problems and the formation of environmental consciousness in the regions was conducted, engaging 36 (21 women) representatives civil society in the target communities. The training process covered various issues in two thematic modules.

Furthermore, on 9-28 December 2020 and on 17 March to 27 April 2021 the Project conducted a series of webinars on issues of environmental project management, basic communications, and the impact of COVID-19 on the environment. In total, 72 (54 women) civic activists, and representatives of the local authorities and businesses from the target communities in Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts increased their knowledge of current trends in environmental protection for the development of their territories. The trainees also learned to assess the potential consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic and their impact on the environment, while also gaining practical communications and media literacy skills.

Another series of 41 webinars held during November and December 2021 enabled 48 (31 women) representatives of the target communities, including local authorities, eco-activists and NGOs, to increase their knowledge of strategic management, environmental security of the industrial regions of Ukraine, and state

environmental policy in conditions of human overdevelopment of ecosystems. In addition, during 51 webinars held by the Project, 36 (27 women) representatives of the local authorities and civic activists from Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts studied ways to regulate greenhouse gas emissions in natural ecosystems and sectors of the economy.

**1. Global environmental problems of the XXI century:**

- Global environmental problems of the 21st century. Guidelines for alternative development strategies for the future;
- Ecological problems of eastern Ukraine and ways to solve them;
- Environmental problems of megacities. Urbanization of territories;
- The Earth's biosphere. Structure and development;
- Sustainable development of humankind;
- The problem of drinking water shortages in the world and in Ukraine. Water Fund of Ukraine;
- Pollution of water resources due to global environmental problems;
- Problems of water resources in eastern Ukraine;
- Humanity violations of the planetary limit of biodiversity loss;
- Fossil natural resources and their exhaustibility. Alternative energy sources;
- Climate change. Sources of greenhouse gas emissions in Ukraine;
- Problems of energy consumption in the world and in Ukraine;
- Depletion of natural resources. Food security;
- Rain load on urban areas in the context of global climate change;
- Deforestation and desertification. Exacerbation of global problems in the 21st century;
- Chemical pollution of parts of the environment. Interference in biochemical cycles;
- Invasive species. Genetic engineering. Trends in the development of unexpected environmental problems in the 21st century;
- Creation of microclimates for buildings and structures.





Students from Luhansk Oblast study the environmental condition of the Krasna River.  
Photo credit: Oleksandr Simonenko / UNDP in Ukraine

## 2. Environmental strategies within the concept of sustainable human development:

- Anthropogenic and urban landscape. Phytomelioration;
- The transition of the climate-dependent construction industry to the mandatory “Building with almost zero energy consumption” standard;
- Standardization of environmental pollution indicators in Ukraine;
- “Green” roofs. The concept of “green” construction. Prospects for the development of “green” construction in Ukraine;
- Technologies of building materials in “green” construction. Reduction of greenhouse gas emissions during their use;
- Solar activity and its impact on the Earth;
- Protection and rational use of groundwater;
- Harmful effects of flooding;
- International cooperation in the field of environmental protection;
- Integration with European environmental legislation;
- Basic methods and models of environmental project management;
- Strategic Environmental Assessments (SEAs). Public access to environmental information;
- Using agile methodologies to model and forecast construction project processes;
- Ways to reduce biodiversity loss on land and in water.



**Activity 3.3.3.**

To increase the level of awareness and information of territorial communities' members on environmental safety (with a specific focus on mine risks awareness and education, for communities located near the contact line) and the existing legal and regulatory framework for hazard and crisis management.

The Project is working actively to raise the awareness of young people in Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts about current environmental issues in the region and ways to help solve them. Practical research activity plays an important role in forming the environmental consciousness of citizens, namely young people. In this regard, the Project, in cooperation with the Luhansk Regional Centre for Ecological and Naturalistic Creativity of Student Youth, organized a regional learning activity to evaluate the state of small rivers in Luhansk Oblast, using the example of the Krasna River. During the event, some

40 local students were involved in studying the situation and finding possible solutions to a current environmental challenge in the region. So that it could continue conducting practical research activities for students, the Project supplied the centre with two professional water testing kits designed to accurately measure and monitor the most important parameters of river and lake water quality.

Furthermore, during June and July 2021 the Project conducted a Summer Educational School for eco activists and representatives of local and regional authorities and education institutions. In total, 87 (50 women) people raised their awareness about global environmental problems, namely energy efficiency, the sustainable use of natural resources, water, air and soil pollution, climate change, waste management, and the environmental rehabilitation of territories. The participants also enhanced their skills in developing effective environmental strategies, risk management and conducting EIAs and SEAs.



## OUTPUT 4

# SOCIAL COHESION AND CITIZENS' INFLUENCE ON LOCAL DEVELOPMENT DECISIONS STRENGTHENED

Photo credit: Oleksandr Simonenko / UNDP in Ukraine

Weak engagement of citizens in local decision-making inhibits community development, leaving acute problems people face unheard, and therefore unaddressed. Through its activities, the Project provides a framework that helps residents, including women, young people, and vulnerable groups, to participate in community life, interact with local authorities, the private sector, and media, and develop a shared vision and strategy – leaving no one behind.

Looking at the long-term trends from SCORE (2017-2021), Project's community mobilization and dialogue efforts have resulted in the improvement of community cooperation (+1) and sense of agency (+0.7), gender equality mindset (+0.6), and social tolerance towards various vulnerable and marginalized groups, including different ethnic and religious minorities (over 1 point on 0-10 SCORE scale). An increasing number of women and youth respondents are now confident that they can change things in their communities for the better, and believe that decision-making is inclusive and responsive, and local authorities are effectively addressing the emerging security priorities.

Similarly, social proximity to other groups is improving, including people with different political views (by 0.5 points on average), preparing the grounds for dialogue, social cohesion, and reconciliation. Moreover, positive trends are observed in the level of pluralistic Ukrainian identity, measured as a degree to which one believes that everyone despite their ethnic and cultural background is an integral part of Ukrainian society, reaching 6.9 and 7.3 in Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts respectively.

Thirty-two Community Security Working Groups are active in the target communities of Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts, providing space for a police-community dialogue, information exchanges, and interaction among local authorities, security providers and community members to address identified security issues. Overall, the groups involve more than 787 active participants (60% women). The latest survey shows that 84% of CSWGs members feel that their voices are considered in improving community security and 92% of them are convinced that these groups are

making positive changes, as well as contributing to gender equality (88%), youth engagement (87%) and inclusivity (85%).

To further enhance the accessibility, systematization and comparability of the information collected, and to increase the level of stakeholder awareness, a dedicated website has been developed to present the achievements and best practices of community profiling to a wider audience. The [website](#) presents statistics on the social, economic, civil and community security spheres, security threats identified, initiatives proposed, and the results of public opinion surveys on social, legal and security services. Importantly, each community is provided with the opportunity to create its own online profile on this platform – the profile being owned and managed by the community itself.

The reporting period was highlighted by the launch of a new capacity-building programme called “Local Innovation Laboratory” aimed at promoting the use of innovative approaches and tools in local development. Within this programme, 40 participants (34 women) underwent a two-day training session on innovative ecosystems for community development.

The Association of CSOs of Luhansk Oblast received the necessary ICT equipment to conduct online meetings with all its members to shape the internal policies of the association. Moreover, with the support of the Project, the Development Strategy of the Association for 2022-2025 and other important strategic documents were drawn up. This will strengthen the organization and enhance the influence of the region's civil society institutions, which represent a collective voice at the grassroots level, as well as contribute to connectivity between diverse civil society organizations and local institutions.

The Project took notable steps towards empowering young people to implement and promote a network of peacebuilding initiatives in the conflict-affected areas of eastern Ukraine. An innovative online platform called “[FUNdraiser](#)” for young people in the Project's target regions is now available to help young people build fundraising strategies to implement initiatives

related to community security and social cohesion, and to contribute to connectivity between young people and local stakeholders. During the reporting period, 154 young people (112 girls) submitted applications via the platform, and 25 teams registered to raise money for their projects. At the final of the Fundraising Challenge, held on 6 August 2021, five initiatives on public safety and social cohesion were selected to receive further funding and mentorship support.<sup>57</sup>

The Electronic Citizen Assembly – a new form of e-participation – has been introduced to bring the authorities and the public closer at the regional level. The main goal of the e-Assembly is to create a representative body in each oblast that will work as an additional channel for monitoring public opinion and conducting regular public consultations on the most important issues for residents of the region. Importantly, it will allow all community members, including vulnerable groups and people living in remote rural areas, to be engaged in the decision-making process. Notably, during the reporting period a memorandum between the CSWG Network in Luhansk Oblast and Luhansk Oblast State Administration was signed.

The Project is supporting the engagement of persons with disabilities in local social activities and decision-making. Twenty-seven (23 women) members of a network of inclusive advisors regularly participate in conflict resolution activities on the rights of persons with disabilities, provide recommendations to local self-government bodies on universal design principles<sup>58</sup>, conduct accessibility assessments of public places, monitor local policies on social protection, and so on. The World Without Limits festival 2021 engaged over 2,000 people in various sport activities, master classes, competitions, and roundtable discussions on the most pressing issues of inclusive development in the region. Moreover, two dedicated sets of guidelines on establishing inclusive groups at kindergartens and inclusive classes at

schools were developed for the local authorities and managers of educational institutions in Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts.

To develop civic activism among young people, the Project supported a self-governance development programme called “School of Change”, targeting school parliaments in 10 schools of Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts. During the reporting period, over 200 adolescents improved their knowledge about democratic mechanisms, civic participation, leadership and self-governance. Over the course of the programme, each school team developed at least two projects, which were then put to the vote in the school. The most popular initiatives, such as the creation of public spaces for students at schools, were later supported through the Project’s SGF, benefitting over 4,000 people in total.

Sets of computer equipment for three schools in rural settlements in Donetsk Oblast (Valerianivske, in Volnovakha raion) and Luhansk Oblast (Shchastia and Krasnorichenske) were provided to support the digitalization of schools. The equipment has benefitted more than 1,000 school students (including 200 from NGCAs) and some 50 teachers by increasing their access to education and communications under the quarantine restrictions through the implementation of IT solutions.

Over 63 events were organised by the network of “Ambassadors of Peace”<sup>59</sup>, engaging some 6,000 (65% girls) conflict-affected boys and girls. The network currently comprises 73 (69 women) active citizens – mostly teachers, youth NGO members, and school administrators – to promote the application of non-violent communication methods, human rights, gender equality, and the building of an inclusive, tolerant and non-discriminatory society.

To raise the quality of media content about the cultural and social life of communities, the Project supported the organization of independent community-based newsrooms, bloggers, websites, and YouTube channels. Within this initiative,

57 This activity is co-funded by the Government of the Netherlands.

58 Results of the accessibility monitoring visits, conducted by the network of inclusive advisors.

59 This activity is co-funded by the EU and the Government of the Netherlands.



10 mini-projects were developed by local active community journalists in nine target communities of Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts. Furthermore, an innovative project called “Mobile Media Centre” was launched to provide young people with theoretical and practical tools for working with journalists. In total, 60 (36 girls) young people from six communities in Donetsk Oblast<sup>60</sup> increased their knowledge of journalism and news coverage, and implemented 24 media mini-initiatives to develop stories about their communities. In

addition, a set of equipment for local media offices was supplied for the creation of more professional and high-quality media content, which will raise interest among other young activists.

The Project, under its SGF, enabled 38 CSOs in conflict-affected communities to implement initiatives aimed at enhancing community security and social cohesion, improving access to justice, and building the capacities of local media, which benefitted more than 3,000 (54% women) local citizens.

## Sub-output 4.1. Increased conflict-sensitive dialogue for territorial community development between well-informed citizens and local self-governments

### Activity 4.1.1.

To support the set-up of effective local Open Dialogue platforms (which will complement the traditional and less interactive public hearing system).

The Project is supporting activities in Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts to enhance civic participation, increase the openness of local authorities, and improve interaction and cooperation between all stakeholders. Based on the results of research conducted during the first reporting year<sup>61</sup>, and in order to implement e-participation practices through cooperation between local authorities and citizens, the Project initiated the development of official websites for target communities, which will have embedded interactive interfaces and e-participation tools. Currently, the two websites for Sartana community in Donetsk Oblast and Shchastia community in Luhansk Oblast are being prepared for launch. The websites will provide various interactive tools (including ones for e-information, e-consultation,

and e-cooperation) to inform citizens and involve them in local decision-making and the development of local government. The websites will reflect the structure of newly created territorial communities, and systematically present information on their corresponding activities and on the e-participation tools available, while at the same time meeting the requirements set for sites representing official municipal authorities.

Currently, 32 Community Security Working Groups (CSWGs) are active in Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts<sup>62</sup>. During the reporting period, these groups served as dialogue platforms to build trust and enhance social cohesion, coordinate the community security activities of all stakeholders, advocate for and empower vulnerable groups in the community, fundraise to implement security initiatives and projects, and develop leadership among active community members. As of today, 787 (60% women) representatives of the local authorities and self-government bodies, community

<sup>60</sup> Avdiivka, Toretsk, Dobropillia, Krasnohorivka, Pokrovsk, and Kramatorsk.

<sup>61</sup> <https://www.ua.undp.org/content/ukraine/uk/home/library/recovery-and-peacebuilding/e-participation-book-un-rpp.html>

<sup>62</sup> Donetsk Oblast: Dobropillia, Druzhkivka, Krasnohorivka, Manhush, Myrnohrad, Novhorodske, Pokrovsk, Sartana, Siversk, Slovyansk, Soledar, Svitlodarsk, Velyka Novosilka (raion), Volnovakha, Vuhledar. Luhansk Oblast: Bilovodsk, Krasnorichenske, Kreminna, Lozno-Oleksandrivka, Lysychansk, Milove, Novoaidar, Nyzhnia Duvanka, Popasna, Pryvillia, Shchastia, Sievierodonetsk, Stanytsia Luhanska, Troitske, Zolote. Zaporizhzhia Oblast: Melitopol, Nove, Semenivka, Berdiansk, Pryazovsk, Berdiansk raion, Prymorsk, Yakymivka, Kyrylivka. Kherson Oblast: Chaplynka, Henichesk, Novotroitske, Prysyvaske TC.

service providers, NGOs and community leaders, and representatives of the education, culture, social services sectors, as well as of the private sector, are actively participating in regular meetings of the working groups. A network of CSWGs is active in both oblasts to facilitate dialogue and exchange best practices between the groups with regard to community mobilization and tackling numerous challenges related to community security, social cohesion, and project development and implementation. During the reporting year, the members of the CSWG network held a number of strategic planning sessions and identified the key priorities of their work for the next year – namely gender mainstreaming into local policies and programmes, the implementation of innovative solutions to local security problems, and engaging vulnerable groups in CSWG activities. Notably, it is also planned to strengthen the role of the CSWGs at the regional level by signing a Memorandum of Intention on the establishment of a CSWG Association. It is expected that the association will enhance the role of CSWGs not only as dialogue platforms, but also as advocacy tools that improve the quality of life in local communities.

Moreover, 32 community profiles, developed on a participatory basis by the CSWG association members, are being actively used to advocate for solutions to security issues identified at the local level. To ensure further enhancement of the accessibility, systematization and comparability of the information collected, and to increase the level of stakeholder awareness, a dedicated website has been developed to present the achievements and best practices of community profiling to a wider audience. The [website](https://severodonetsk.partnercommunities.in.ua/) presents statistics on the social, economic, civil and community security spheres, security threats identified, initiatives proposed, and the results of public opinion surveys on social, legal and security services. Importantly, each community is provided with the opportunity to create its own online profile<sup>63</sup> on this platform – the profile being owned and managed by the community itself. In the medium term, the portal could become a comprehensive dialogue platform for each community and include separate pages for the CSWGs,

gender profiles, self-help groups, local newspapers, local youth groups, etc.

Non-violent conflict resolution mechanisms, including the facilitation of dialogue and mediation, can be valuable tools for communities for resolving local issues peacefully and finding common ground among residents to achieve social cohesion. However, at the moment, communities lack mechanisms to formally initiate these kinds of activities. To address this issue, the Project has initiated the introduction of dialogue mechanisms into community statutes in five pilot locations in Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts (Sartana, Myrnohrad, Svitlodarsk, Nyzhnia Duvanka, and Kreminna). As an initial step, the Project facilitated dialogue between civil society leaders and members of local self-government bodies to identify causes of conflict that could be resolved with a non-violent conflict resolution approach. Afterwards, each community selected one issue to be worked on (a conflict over a traffic regulation scheme in Sartana, a conflict over a new waste management facility in Kreminna, etc.) and drew up potential solutions to it. As a result, the communities of Sartana, Nyzhnia Duvanka and Kreminna developed provisions for dialogue mechanisms to be included in their community development strategies, and Myrnohrad developed amendments to include such provisions into its community statute. To further support the institutionalization of the mediation tool, the Project will provide the target communities with the necessary capacity-building support in applying non-violent conflict resolution mechanisms.

#### **Activity 4.1.2.** **To increase the level of awareness and information of territorial communities' members.**

Enhancing community security in conflict-affected communities, taking into account the needs of vulnerable and marginalized groups, remains a key priority for the Project. At present, there is an insufficient level of civic activity of people with disabilities, IDPs, the elderly, and young people, especially in communities along the 'contact line'. Therefore, it is important to ensure

63 <https://severodonetsk.partnercommunities.in.ua/>

there is continuous capacity building of the community members so as to promote their active participation in community life and increase their media literacy and knowledge about human rights, gender equality, and other issues.

In this regard, the Project, jointly with the UNHCR and the local authorities, is supporting the establishment of a Media, Eurointegration and Methodological Centre in Mariinka community, which is located close to the

‘contact line’. With the new centre, over 30,000 citizens will be able to interact and discuss civic initiatives, as well as participate in educational, awareness raising and other social activities. In addition, the centre will also ensure comprehensive assistance (psychological, social, informational, legal and other services) is provided to SGBV/DV survivors. Work to set up the centre includes renovating the premises, supplying furniture, installing equipment, and training personnel. It is planned to open the centre by the end of 2021.

## Sub-output 4.2. Capacities for conflict and gender-sensitive community development strategies/projects planning, implementation and monitoring strengthened

### Activity 4.2.1.

**To increase the capacities of citizens’ groups, CSOs and Community Security Working Groups (CSWG) to effectively initiate, plan and implement Human Rights Based community development and community security strategies and projects.**

To enable people from rural areas to take an active part in the work of the CSWGs and local decision-making, 14 Centres of Local Activism were created in rural communities in eastern Ukraine (seven centres each in Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts). The centres also serve as community spaces for training sessions on project management, youth engagement, organizational development for NGOs, holding advocacy campaigns, etc. During the reporting period, 54 training activities were held at these centres to increase the leadership capacity of local civic activists. Moreover, 80 meetings of active citizens of villages were held in these centres, engaging a total of 347 people (234 women). The Centres of Local Activism provide opportunities for people from remote villages to enhance their capacities in civic activism, providing them with access to decision-making at the local level and the ability to participate in community life. With the active involvement of local community leaders, the centres also become methodological and educational platforms for the

creation of new CSOs in these locations.

Furthermore, the Project has launched a capacity-building programme called “Local Innovation Laboratory” aimed at promoting the use of innovative approaches and tools in local development. The laboratory’s activities are focused on awareness raising and capacity building of civic activists so that they can use effectively innovative methodologies and tools – such as design thinking, user research, crowdsourcing and experimentation – to implement innovative and practical solutions for community development, based on the participatory approach. During the reporting year, 96 (78 women) from the target communities formed 12 teams (seven from Donetsk Oblast and five from Luhansk Oblast), and 40 participants (34 women) underwent a two-day training session on innovative ecosystems for community development. The laboratory will further continue its capacity-building programme, followed by a final pitching event. This activity will support local NGOs and CSWGs in finding new solutions to address current security and development issues in the local communities through active civic engagement and co-creation.

The low level of knowledge and skill in project management among local civic activists affects the quality of the project proposals they submit to competitions. Due to a lack of understanding of project management logic, it is difficult to plan long-term projects, anticipate



Final pitching of the “Local Innovation Laboratory” project, aimed at promoting the use of innovative approaches and tools in local development. Photo credit: Antonina Poluhina / UNDP in Ukraine

risks and systemic changes in communities, estimate the impact of their activities, and ultimately achieve systemic changes and development. The results of a CSO study conducted in Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts<sup>64</sup> confirmed the need for local NGOs to improve their skills in applying for grants and planning systematic work in communities. Therefore, to enhance the capacities of community activists and civil society representatives from the target communities of Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts, a total of 17 two-day training sessions on project management and civic activism were conducted during the reporting year. The training programme enabled 186 (149 women) community leaders to discuss issues related to the functions and forms of citizens' associations, analysing community problems, and developing and implementing civic initiatives. It also gave them valuable knowledge about identifying community security priorities and drafting project proposals. In addition, the participants had an opportunity to learn about and discuss examples of successful projects already implemented by other

initiative groups and public associations in the areas of community security and social cohesion. As a result, 54 community-based initiatives were developed by the participants, of which 20 received grant support from the Project. Importantly, the trained NGO teams are continuing to work in the target communities to strengthen the level of community security, based on the experience they have gained.

To develop the capacity of the Association of CSOs of Luhansk Oblast, which was established in the previous reporting year, the Project provided the organization with the necessary equipment (laptop, video projector and screen) to conduct online meetings with all its members to shape the internal policies of the association. The 25-member (21 women) association is a platform for mutual learning and the exchange of knowledge and experience between CSOs and institutions involved in the development and implementation of local policies, programmes and projects. The association

64 <https://bit.ly/3meQNF5>





Participants of the Fundraising Challenge, held on 6 August 2021 in Sviatohirsk. Photo credit: International Agency of Change

strives to continuously improve the quality, efficiency, productivity and impact of its available resources to support Luhansk Oblast's citizens and the sustainable development of the region. It is increasing its human and social capital to achieve this goal, combining different competencies, professional skills, qualifications and connections.

#### Activity 4.2.2.

To develop CSOs and CSWGs' competence to monitor the fulfilment of local development projects and strategies in relation to community security, access to justice and social cohesion.

During the reporting year, the Project took notable steps towards empowering young people to implement and promote a network for peacebuilding initiatives in the conflict-affected areas of eastern Ukraine. An innovative online platform "[FUNdraiser](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCd8KPTly0yGkMp5lqKOePxQ/videos)" for young people from the Project's target regions has been launched, based on the

edutainment technique – a combination of education and entertainment. The platform helps young people build fundraising strategies to implement community security and social cohesion initiatives, and contributes to connectivity between youth and local stakeholders<sup>65</sup>. The platform contains a set of game tools and over 120 useful educational and informational resources for young activists, youth organisations and other stakeholders, and is designed to achieve the following objectives:

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

65 FUNdraiser – YouTube channel. URL: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCd8KPTly0yGkMp5lqKOePxQ/videos>

community-based initiatives, raise resources for them, and implement them.

The first result of the work of the platform was the Fundraising Challenge. A total of 154 young people (112 girls) submitted applications via the FUNdraiser platform, and 25 project teams registered to raise money for their projects. At the final of the Fundraising Challenge, which was held on 6 August 2021 in Sviatohirsk, five winning teams out of 13 were selected to present their public safety and social cohesion projects. Among the winning projects were ones to improve the public spaces and landscaping of the village of Rozdolne, and to provide pre-owned laptops and computers for education to teachers and children from low-income families in Mariinka, both in Donetsk Oblast. These teams were provided with grant funding and mentorship support to implement their projects.

With support from the project and in coordination with the Department of Social Protection of Donetsk Oblast State Administration, a series of monitoring visits to social infrastructure facilities was conducted in Donetsk Oblast. Monitoring of the accessibility of these facilities for people with disabilities and for other vulnerable groups was conducted by UN RPP inclusiveness counsellors in 10 target communities<sup>66</sup>. Based on the results of the visits, a list of recommendations was drawn up on possible joint actions with the local authorities and public facility employees to increase the level of inclusiveness of the community and certain of its facilities. As an outcome, the data from the monitoring report was used to form technical solutions for the coastal inclusive zone in Berdiansk and provided justifications for the need to acquire technical equipment for the Toretsk Territorial Centre for the Elderly and People with Disabilities, and for the procurement of equipment for other facilities.

The general level of e-participation in the target communities of eastern Ukraine remains low, despite the many opportunities it could bring to citizens –

especially those from vulnerable groups or those living in remote rural settlements. In this regard, the Electronic Citizen Assembly – a new form of e-participation – could bring the authorities and the public closer at the regional level. The main goal of the e-Assembly is to create a representative body in each oblast that will work as an additional channel for monitoring public opinion and conducting regular public consultations on the most important issues for residents of the region. This type of consultation could complement other dialogue mechanisms, such as those available on the national E-dem platform, and the Public Council mechanism. Importantly, it will allow to engage all the community members, including vulnerable groups and people living in remote rural areas, into the decision-making process. To introduce this pilot mechanism, the representatives of the Luhansk CSWG Network were engaged in the process of designing the Assembly's model and establishing cooperation with the Oblast State Administration. Notably, with advocacy efforts from the CSWGs in Luhansk Oblast, the e-Assembly, which has been registered as an NGO, is now working on engaging members of Luhansk Oblast communities. Importantly, a memorandum between Citizens' Assembly and Luhansk Regional State Administration has been signed recently and the agenda of the first pilot survey on humanitarian issues is drawn up.

In 2020, the UN RPP undertook the designing of the Community Security and Social Cohesion (CSSC) Capacity Assessment Methodology, which builds a community's capacities in participatory strategic planning and targeted budgeting in the field of community security. To support citizens in developing local security strategies and advocating for cohesive security initiatives based on the CSSC Capacity Assessment Methodology, 34 focus groups and 85 in-depth interviews were conducted during the reporting period (in total, 50 women and 35 men were interviewed).<sup>67</sup> The results of the security assessments will be used in the development of local mid-term and long-term security programmes, which will lead to the

66 Sviatohirsk, Svitlodarsk, Toretsk, Manhush, Kramatorsk, Kostiantynivka, Chasiv Yar, Novodonetsk, Udachne, and Mariupol.

67 In eight pilot target communities of Donetsk Oblast (GCA), in particular: Volnovakha CMA, Avdiivka CMA, Soledar ATC, Manhush ATC, Myrnohrad ATC, Sloviansk ATC, Vuhledar ATC, Svitlodarsk CMA, and nine pilot target communities of Luhansk Oblast (GCA), in particular: Popasna CMA, Zolote (Hirske CMA), Shchastia CMA, Stanitsa Luhanska Military Civil Administration, Milove ATC, Bilovodsk ATC, Lozno-Oleksandrivka ATC, Nyzhnia Duvanka ATC, and Krasnorichenske ATC.

sustainability and efficiency of community security activities. In future, the Project plans to assist the target communities in monitoring the funding of the security programmes' activities, as well as in advocating for their implementation.

To consolidate the experience and best practices of the pilot communities in implementing methodology to monitor local budgets and programmes, the Project developed a dedicated manual for local activists and CSWG members ([Annex 12](#)). The manual helps activists and CSWG members assess the current state of the community budget process and the effectiveness of targeted programmes and improve the capacity of local governments in the target communities to increase efficiency and transparency in budget planning and implementation with regard to public safety, access to justice, and social cohesion. The manual will help disseminate the methodology among other communities in Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts and across the country. In addition, a dedicated knowledge portal is being developed to include a set of practical materials, such as 10 educational videos<sup>68</sup> on key aspects of the monitoring methodology, along with an online simulator and 10 document templates (monitoring forms).

Furthermore, a brochure has been developed with practical advice and step-by-step instructions for the development of participatory budget projects. It also gives examples of initiatives successfully implemented in Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts ([Annex 13](#)). The participatory budget, as one of the tools of participatory democracy, helps ensure equal access for all stakeholders to the community development process to ensure citizen participation in decision-making. The brochure also provides guidelines to representatives of local authorities and CSOs, potential project authors, active citizens, and anyone with a stake in the development of their communities.

The previous reporting period was marked by the development of an online learning course called

"Management of volunteers' programmes" and a ToT toolkit for building the capacities of high school professionals, youth workers and the staff of youth NGOs, to manage volunteer programmes in their communities of Donetsk and Luhansk oblast ([Annex 14](#)). As of 2021, 65 youth leaders and youth workers have successfully finished the online course and series of practical webinars (80% women). Moreover, 38 volunteers' programmes and initiatives have been developed, of which 19 have been supported and are being implemented in 16 communities in Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts. Overall, 633 young people have become the members of volunteers' groups (54% women). Information about successfully implemented volunteer initiatives are available in an online guide "[Good stories. How volunteer programmes are being implemented](#)". Among such projects are, for example, the "Tree House" creative workshop for children with disabilities in Kramatorsk, an online hub for volunteering in Sloviansk, a school for volunteers to work with children in conflict with the law in Sievierodonetsk, and a volunteer centre for supporting firefighters and environmental protection in Myrne.

### Activity 4.2.3.

**To strengthen capacities of regional and local CSOs/CSWGs and other relevant regional and local actors to analyse specific factors and issues of division or social disconnectedness and prepare concept notes and strategies to address them.**

The Project is supporting the engagement of persons with disabilities in local social activities and decision-making through the creation of a network of inclusive advisors in eastern Ukraine. The network consists of 27 activists (23 women) who are either members of organisations of persons with disabilities, or who are willing to advocate for the rights of persons with disabilities and for inclusive society values in their communities. The members of the network regularly participate in conflict resolution activities related

68 <https://youtu.be/yjSSpC-4coA>, [https://youtu.be/Mgwl\\_GfxJrY](https://youtu.be/Mgwl_GfxJrY), <https://youtu.be/aajFvt9EPsk>, <https://youtu.be/TTJr842Nnxw>, <https://youtu.be/Qnz-Ulj-xng>, <https://youtu.be/JGs4EqcQPcg>, [https://youtu.be/dB0xY8aC\\_l4](https://youtu.be/dB0xY8aC_l4), <https://youtu.be/Zz3XQaE8r2k>, [https://youtu.be/CuOZ\\_bgdfGU](https://youtu.be/CuOZ_bgdfGU), <https://youtu.be/-thtK5fXagc>





Participants of the World Without Limits 2021 festival in Sievierodonetsk.  
Photo credit: Oleksandr Simonenko / UNDP in Ukraine

to the rights of persons with disabilities, providing recommendations to local self-government bodies on universal design principles<sup>69</sup>, conducting accessibility assessments of public places, monitoring local policies on social protection, etc. The network of inclusive advisors has contributed to the development of a new Regional Target Programme titled “Turbota”, aimed at extending social and legal support to vulnerable groups, including persons with disabilities. Moreover, substantial recommendations were provided to the Regional Strategy for Gender Equality and Regional Action Plans on the implementation of the National Action Plan on UNSCR 1325 Women, Peace and Security. The capacities of the network are being further developed through a comprehensive training course entitled “School of inclusive advisors”. During the reporting year, 25 (22 women) inclusive advisors increased their knowledge of how to promote social

cohesion and the development of an inclusive society, and to advocate for the rights and needs of vulnerable groups.

As part of the work to promote the values of an inclusive society, the Project supported a series of awareness-raising activities within the World Without Limits festival on 13-20 August 2021. The event, conducted in cooperation with the local authorities, is another step towards overcoming stereotypes in society about the lives of people with disabilities, and promoting an inclusive society, tolerance, dialogue and non-violent communication. This year’s festival included various sports activities, master classes and competitions, as well as roundtable discussions on the most pressing issues of inclusive development in the region<sup>70</sup>. In total, over 2,000 people visited the seven-day event, online and in-person.

69 Results of accessibility monitoring visits conducted by the network of inclusive advisors.

70 <https://acmc.ua/13-serpnya-12-00-prezentacziya-seriyi-mizhregionalnyh-zahodiv-svit-bez-obmezhen/>



The advocacy efforts of the network of inclusive advisors and awareness-raising activities such as the World Without Limits festival have contributed greatly to the development of an inclusive society. For example, during the festival the allocation of new premises for a relocated regional children's rehabilitation centre was announced by representatives of the local authorities. Moreover, under a decision of the Ministry of Social Policy of Ukraine, the Donbas Rehabilitation Centre will receive additional staff (47 people) to organize the work of the children's rehabilitation department.

In spite of the fact that inclusive education has been rapidly developing across Ukraine (the number of inclusive classes has increased by seven times over the past five years), a study on inclusive education conducted in 2020<sup>71</sup> indicated that there are still communities, especially in Luhansk Oblast, that are not covered by inclusive resource centres or inclusive classes. Considering the complexity of the process, communities require capacity-building support to properly plan and set up inclusive groups in local educational facilities. With this goal in view, the Project held two national roundtables with representatives of the Ministry of Education and Science of Ukraine,

regional educational departments, schools, and kindergartens to identify the structure of guidelines, issues that need to be addressed, positive examples, etc. Based on the consultations conducted, two dedicated sets of guidelines on establishing inclusive groups at kindergartens and inclusive classes at schools were developed for the local authorities and managers of educational institutions in Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts.

In order to strengthen the capacities of local NGOs and initiative groups to monitor and analyse their activities, as well as to communicate their best practices and improve their project activity to ensure the further effectiveness and sustainability of results, a manual with methodology for monitoring and evaluating the implemented mini-initiatives was developed. The manual will instruct civic activists and NGOs on the dissemination of good practices, as well as on assessing the challenges and obstacles faced by the teams during the implementation of their initiatives. Moreover, within this assignment, 34 initiative groups received recommendations on the effectiveness of the implemented activities, which will help them in planning and increasing the effectiveness of their future projects.

## Sub-output 4.3. Strengthened civic activism and volunteering that effectively promote social cohesion and peacebuilding

### Activity 4.3.1. To develop civic activism among young people.

School parliaments and other forms of school self-governance could be an effective tool for engaging young people, building connections between them and local civil society organizations, promoting volunteerism, and developing project management skills and teamwork. However, in most cases, school self-governance is underutilized, as it is often deemed by

the administration merely to be an additional resource to help organize compulsory school events, impose discipline, etc. As a result, students are not encouraged to participate in self-governance and do not get valuable experience of civic activism at school. To address this issue, the Project supported the development of a self-governance development programme called "School of Change", targeting school parliaments in 10 schools of Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts (five schools in each oblast). During the reporting period, more than 200 adolescents (65% girls) improved their knowledge of

<sup>71</sup> <https://www.ua.undp.org/content/ukraine/uk/home/library/recovery-and-peacebuilding/inclusive-education-in-donetsk-and-luhansk-oblasts.html>

democratic mechanisms, civic participation, leadership, and self-governance. Over the course of the programme, the school team developed in total 20 projects, which were then put to the vote in the school. The 10 most popular initiatives, such as school radio, school video studio, sports equipment for aerobics classes, creation of public spaces for students at schools, etc., were later supported through the Project's SGF, benefitting a total of over 4,000 people. Based on the results of this activity, a guidebook on developing school self-governance systems was prepared, which is tabled for further endorsement by the Ministry of Education and Science of Ukraine.

As part of its comprehensive work towards creating a cohesive society, the Project is taking steps to promote ICT solutions in the education sphere. The restrictions imposed by the COVID-19 pandemic have created significant barriers to accessing education for children, especially those from rural and remote areas. Moreover, the lockdowns have significantly reduced the opportunities for direct communications and interaction between adolescents. As a result, there is an urgent, rapidly growing demand for the implementation of remote learning solutions. However, most schools in communities located near the 'contact line' have limited financial capacities to implement ICT solutions for their educational needs and to address technical and social barriers that might significantly affect groups already at risk of being left behind. Therefore, to support school digitalization in Donetsk and Luhansk oblast, the Project has provided computer equipment to three schools in rural settlements in Donetsk Oblast (Valerianivske, in Volnovakha raion) and Luhansk Oblast (Shchastia and Krasnorichenske). The equipment provided (notebooks, computers, interactive boards, projectors, etc) has benefitted more than 1,000 school students (including 200 from NGCAs) and some 50 teachers by increasing their access to education and communication, in spite of the quarantine restrictions, through the implementation of IT solutions. The learning process can be now conducted remotely via the "New Knowledge" portal. Notably, students and teachers at the supported schools are actively promoting environmental values by completely giving up the use of paper-based class journals and diaries.

### Activity 4.3.2.

#### To support the activities of social, cultural, volunteer networks and informal interest groups at the community level.

During the previous reporting period, the Project supported 15 local NGOs in enhancing their communications activities and organising effective information and advocacy campaigns. As an outcome of this capacity-building support, the representatives of these NGOs also created a Network of Public Communicators. As many representatives of other public organizations expressed interest in joining the Network, in 2021 another round of the training programme was conducted for 24 NGOs from eastern Ukraine. The learning programme engaged 151 (109 women) participants and covered such issues as storytelling, creative writing, using social networks (Instagram, Facebook) and YouTube for NGO outreach and advocacy work, developing business card websites on the Tilda platform, fundraising, and encouraging equal involvement of men and women in civil participation. Importantly, the vast majority of the new members of the Network were representatives of public organizations working with or being created and led by vulnerable groups – parents of children with autism and other disabilities, ex-combatants, elderly people, etc. Moreover, new members of the Network received mentorship support from current members in developing their strategic documents. Participants learned how to develop communications strategies for their NGOs, and how to use digital instruments and tools for remote work in order to implement their strategies. Each organization also prepared a draft of its communications strategy, which included its mission, vision, communication goals and key audiences, as well as main messages and communication channels for them.

Furthermore, in July 2021, 35 (21 women) representatives of the NGOs that joined the Network took part in a five-day study tour to Kropyvnytskyi. The study tour included meetings with the local authorities, and experience exchanges with local NGOs, TV channels and newspaper offices, etc. Among the activities were, for example:



Representatives of NGOs from Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts visiting the editorial office of the newspaper “Narodne Slovo” in Kropyvnytskyi.  
Photo credit: Vita Bantash / UNDP in Ukraine

- A visit to Kropyvnytskyi city council, during which the participants learned how to organize communications in the community in order to promote the tourist brand of the city;
- An experience exchange with “Krop.Hub”, created by ex-combatants and members of their families, on effective engagement of volunteers in NGO activities;
- A masterclass at local television station UA: Kropyvnytskyi, at which gave participants studied practical experiences of cooperation between the media and public organizations in charitable projects.

Based on the experience gained during the study tour, the participants have already undertaken some communications activities in their communities in Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts. For instance, a YouTube channel for CSOs of eastern Ukraine called “Spilnobachennyya” (“Joint Vision”) has been created to share the best practices and success stories of civic initiatives implemented in eastern Ukraine. Another

example is a collaboration of public reporters from eastern Ukraine with a weekly newspaper called “Narodne Slovo” (“The People’s Word”), which has a regular column on veterans’ activities, to share positive experiences of NGOs in Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts with their colleagues and general audience in Kropyvnytskyi.

The Project is further contributing to the prevention of conflict and sustaining peace by engaging conflict-affected young people in local educational and capacity-building initiatives aimed at increasing their knowledge of conflict management and civic activism. During the reporting period, in total 63 events were held by the “Ambassadors of Peace” network, and 109 locations for the network were set up in Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts. Over 6,000 people (65% women) took part in these events, among which were the Laboratory of Ambassadors for Peace on Conflict Transformation, the Laboratory of Tolerance, the dialogue action “Culture of peace as the basis for the development





A discussion about social cohesion and cultural life in communities along the 'contact line' is held in Druzhba, Donetsk Oblast.  
Photo credit: Oleksandr Simonenko / UNDP in Ukraine

of civil society in Ukraine”, the Peace Workshop for Children, the Debate4HumanRights; “Youth Human Rights and COVID-19” short training sessions, and more. In addition, a series of events lasting a whole week were dedicated specifically to the International Day of Peace on 21 September 2021. During these events, participants increased their understanding and awareness of issues of non-violent communication, dialogue facilitation, inclusion, volunteering, development of tolerance, promoting sustainable development and the SDGs, gender equality, climate change prevention, and other issues. A dedicated booklet was created to summarise the experience of the network and consolidate best practices of the activity of Ambassadors of Peace. The booklet includes the history of the creation and development of the network, and describes the principles, goals, and success stories of network members in Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts. Moreover, in August-September 2021 four discussions on social cohesion and cultural life

in communities along the ‘contact line’ were held – in Verkhniotoretske and Druzhba in Donetsk Oblast, and in Hirske and Shchastia in Luhansk Oblast. The objective of the discussions was to advocate for and promote initiatives aimed at developing cultural inclusion, taking into account the needs of young people, the elderly and persons with disabilities. During the event, cultural workers from other communities in Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts as well as ones from Kyiv, shared their experience and vision with the local authorities and community members about how to increase social cohesion in local settlements through various arts, theatre, music and other cultural activities. In addition, a theatrical performance “A night on the meadow” by the Luhansk Oblast Music Drama Theatre was put on for all the citizens of the four settlements to highlight that theatre and culture in general should be accessible to all people regardless of age, disability, or place of residence.





A theatrical performance "A night on the meadow" was organized for the discussions on social cohesion and cultural life in communities along the 'contact line'. Photo credit: Oleksandr Simonenko / UNDP in Ukraine

### Activity 4.3.3.

To train CSOs to report, in a clear and effective manner, to local governance institutions, service providers and community members on their activities, funding levels and results achieved.

Building on work carried out during the previous year, the Project continued its capacity-building activities for CSOs and initiative groups working with vulnerable groups. During the reporting period, three CSOs were established by parents of children affected by autism. At the same time, members of these organizations required special training support to help them improve their communication skills with such children.

With the support from the Project, a total of 18 mothers enhanced their skills during three training sessions on the following issues:

- Mom therapy. Non-violent communication skills;
- Kinesiology in the correction of child speech disorders;
- Natural stimulation of the speech development of a child with autism.

Moreover, 148 (139 women) representatives of rehabilitation centres and specialized CSOs took part in the International Conference on Autism, during which participants exchanged experience in resolving local problems, conducting lobbying campaigns, and getting together with similar organizations to plan joint projects to support parents with children with autism.

In addition, the organizations were also provided with grant support to implement six mini-initiatives, among which were a hippotherapy session for children with autism, sports events, culinary classes, and the development of a learning game for speech therapy.

**Activity 4.3.4.**

To organise and carry out regular regional and local consultations on social cohesion with the Social Cohesion Advisory Groups in GCA of Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts, and prepare and publish regular analytical reports.

The Project continues to support the work of the Advisory Council on Social Cohesion, which promotes in-depth engagement and collaboration between CSOs, local authorities and law enforcement bodies to promote peacebuilding and social cohesion in Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts. The 33 (19 women) members of the Advisory Council participate regularly in informational and capacity-building events, studies, the development of analytical documents and recommendations, and public discussions about various policies, strategies, and programmes. The following activities were implemented during the reporting year with the support of the Advisory Council:

- analysis of eight regional and 20 local programmes in Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts in the field of

youth, social, cultural and communications policy;

- organization of more than 20 public discussions about programmes and strategies at various levels with the participation of members of the Advisory Groups, including the Strategy of Ukraine's independence, the Strategy of Gender Equality of Ukraine, and the Regulation on the development of new digital tools (IncNet – an emergency notification system for dealing with conflicts, and INCMONITOR – an electronic public monitoring and rating system on the availability of popular institutions, etc.).

Moreover, 11 members of the Council (six women) are regularly involved in monitoring and voting on the priority of conflicts in the Geoinformation system, which monitors, analyses and evaluates conflicts. Five members of the Council (two women) are included in the network of mediators, and nine other members of the Council (all women) are analysts for the Geoinformation system. The analysts cross-check reports of conflicts received on the [web platform](#), and constantly analyse various sources of information, media, and social networks.

## Sub-output 4.4. Strengthened capacities of regional and local mass media, and enhanced policy making for conflict affected regions

**Activity 4.4.1.**

To design and deliver dedicated capacity building events to regional and local mass media representatives

A lack of independent media and quality analytical content can lead to public mistrust and low confidence in the local authorities' activities. To address this issue, the Project supported local authorities and

civic activists in eastern Ukraine in creating conditions for raising the quality of media content about the cultural and social life of their communities through organising independent community-based newsrooms, bloggers, websites, and YouTube channels. With active support from CSWs, 10 mini-projects were developed by local active community journalists in nine target communities in Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts<sup>72</sup>. As part of these projects, weekly

72 Four in Luhansk Oblast – Novoaidar, Sievierodonetsk, Milove, and Krasnorichenske, and five in Donetsk Oblast – Druzhkivka, Vuhledar, Sartana, Pokrovsk, and Kramatorsk.

videos about news and events will be created and broadcasted, in particular, to publicise the activities of various local institutions, and to create and disseminate quality media content on human and civil rights protection through several accessible websites. This content will include videos; social advertising; materials for improving media literacy, content for people with special educational needs, and more. Moreover, 25 participants (17 women) from the nine target communities enhanced their knowledge about basic concepts of community journalism during the learning sessions conducted by six trainers from national-level media.

Furthermore, an innovative project called “Mobile Media Centre” was launched to provide young people with theoretical and practical tools for working with journalists. In total, during April-June 2021, 60 (36 girls) young people from six communities in Donetsk Oblast<sup>73</sup> increased their knowledge about shooting, editing, and directing videos; media literacy and professional journalistic ethics; radio broadcasting, speaking skills; photo reporting, and the basics of taking quality photographs. The learning sessions, which were conducted at youth community centres, were followed by practical exercises at which participants developed media stories that highlighted events and issues in their communities. Overall, with methodological support recommendations from the team of mentors, 24 media mini-initiatives were implemented by the participants. In addition, sets of equipment for local media offices, namely video cameras, microphones, computers, and software for video editing, were supplied. The equipment will allow more professional and high-quality media content to be created, which will raise interest among other young activists.

#### Activity 4.4.2.

**To cooperate with the Kramatorsk Anti-Crisis Media Centre in the production of a series of blogs focused on issues of IDPs and citizens residing in NGCA and contribute to the Donbass Media Forum.**

The media working in eastern Ukraine do not always have sufficient resources and capacities to convey their messages to wider audiences – even at the local level. Thus, the problems of the conflict-affected population as well as success stories and results achieved by the local communities in recent years, can unintentionally slip out of the public eye.

Therefore, during the reporting year, a partnership was established with the Kramatorsk Anti-Crisis Media Centre, as well as with five more local media (namely, the Eastern Variant, Bakhmut Fortress, the Agency for Media Growth, the Media Space Ukraine and the Svatove.City) under the small grants programme for the production of articles featuring the stories of conflict-affected people and communities. With the support provided, the Project helped boost the capacities of local media, which will allow them to disseminate positive stories about the conflict-affected people and the changes occurring in their communities, reaching out to wider audiences, and creating a positive image of the region.

So far, the aforementioned media are regularly releasing various materials showcasing not only the work done under the UN RPP<sup>74</sup>, but also showing the progress made by conflict-affected communities on their websites and social media platforms. The ongoing partnerships with the six media outlets will not only help them develop their capacities but will serve as an illustrative example

<sup>73</sup> Avdiivka, Toretsk, Dobropillia, Krasnohorivka, Pokrovsk, and Kramatorsk.

<sup>74</sup> <https://acmc.ua/svoyi-sheryfy-yak-na-shodi-ukrayiny-zyavylsya-policzejski-oficzery-gromady/>  
<https://acmc.ua/yak-na-shodi-ukrayiny-byudzheth-uchasti-pokrashhuye-zhyttya-v-gromadah/>  
<https://troyitske.city/articles/167113/troickij-ritmiks-dovodit-scho-povazhnij-vik-ce-novi-mozhливosti-dlya-osobistogo-rozvitku>  
<https://v-variant.com.ua/uk/article/mriya-slavyansk/>  
<https://v-variant.com.ua/uk/article/dostupnyy-slavyansk/>  
<https://acmc.ua/pochuvaty-sebe-zahyshhenymy-yak-na-donechchyni-funkcionuyut-czentry-bezpeky/>

for other media platforms in the region, so that they can replicate this format as well.

### Activity 4.4.3.

To organise exchange visits for journalists and bloggers from different regions of Ukraine to Donetsk and Luhansk regions.

Conflict-affected populations in Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts quite often see Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts being portrayed in a negative light in local and national media. These negative perceptions are usually associated with the protracted armed conflict and lack of positive developments in the region. Journalists and bloggers have a powerful public voice to change this situation for the better and promote positive narratives about the region that go beyond the conflict. Thus, the Project is facilitating the exchange visits by journalists and bloggers from other oblasts of the country to eastern Ukraine, so that they can see the many positive developments and advances being made in the region.

In this regard, during 24 November – 2 December, 15 journalists from different regions of Ukraine will visit Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts to learn about best practices of cooperation of local self-government bodies, civil society and business in the communities located close to the ‘contact line’. It is planned that the participants will visit 13 partner communities<sup>75</sup> where they will be introduced to the work of the CSWGs and the Network of Ambassadors of Peace, implementation of community development projects and successful cooperation between civil society, business and the local authorities to ensure the sustainability of the joint initiatives. Moreover, the visit will provide an opportunity to establishing partnership between the journalistic community of different regions of Ukraine.

The event helped not only advance the positive image of the conflict-affected region, but also create a solid network of journalists from across Ukraine, strengthening sustainable partnerships among media outlets. This activity will also help amplify the voices of those who need the support of the public and will better articulate the needs of vulnerable groups in conflict-affected

communities, helping to map out areas for future possible interventions by the UN RPP in its work with the media.

### Activity 4.4.4.

To support the design and implementation of relevant national and regional policies and action plans.

The level of civil society participation in local decision-making remains insufficient. Supporting inclusive, effective, well-coordinated and sustainable associations of civil society organizations helps ensure there is meaningful civil society engagement, with a wide range of actors at the local level, providing citizen-driven solutions with long-lasting effects.

In this regard, comprehensive support has been provided to the Association of NGOs of Luhansk Oblast in organizational development and internal policymaking. Using an online survey, an expert assessment was conducted on the level of organizational development of the newly created association. The assessment identified capacity gaps and outlined required interventions to strengthen the institutional development of the organization. To this end, the Project engaged 27 representatives of public organizations from Luhansk Oblast (23 women) in developing the policy package of the newly established association. In total, five online and in-person strategic sessions, a presentation, and a training session were held to shape the common vision, goals and priorities of the organization. As a result, the Development Strategy of the Association for 2022-2025, an Implementation Plan, a Conflict of interest Policy and Finance Regulations were duly designed and presented. In addition, the Project intends to continue strengthening the advocacy capacity of the association, the capacity of its team, and supporting the development of its communications and fundraising capabilities. With the support provided, the Association will consolidate its organizational structure and consequently be better placed to boost the influence of the region’s civil society institutions, which represent a collective voice at the grassroots level, and to contribute to creating new and enhancing existing linkages between diverse CSOs and local institutions.

75 Mariupol, Volnovakha, Avdiivka, Kostiantynivka, Bakhmut, Soledar, New York (former Novgorodske), Sievierodonetsk, Popasna, Stanytsia Luhanska, Svatove, Shchastia, Sloviansk.



# The project’s small grants programme to support community-based initiatives

During the reporting period, the Project continued implementing the small grants scheme as an effective instrument for engaging and empowering local communities to participate in their own development, through supporting local initiatives aimed at enhancing security and social cohesion. In total, 38 community-based initiatives were supported by the SGF, covering a wide range of thematic areas and benefitting over 44,000 (56% women) people (Annex 15 – List of projects supported within the SGF).

Moreover, the Project supported



22 civil society mini-initiatives in Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts.

Detailed information is provided in Annex 16 (List of the supported mini-initiatives).

## The numbers and thematic areas of the supported projects were:

- 

19 Social cohesion
- 

7 Community policing
- 

6 Support to local media
- 

2 Access to justice
- 

2 Volunteering
- 

1 ICT solutions
- 

1 Monitoring of mini-initiatives implementation
- 

8 Community journalism
- 

6 Community security
- 

4 Social cohesion
- 

3 HDPN initiatives
- 

1 Gender equality

# Lessons learned

- 1 Analysis of the implementation of decentralisation reform in eastern Ukraine has shown that the recently amalgamated communities lack experience and capacity to adequately enhance local governance compared to communities that were amalgamated at the beginning of the reform in 2015. At the same time, the latter can share their knowledge and best practices with the newly created communities. Inter-municipal cooperation should therefore become an important tool for experience sharing and serve as a basis for the creation of various inter-municipal institutions.
- 2 Synergies among communities should be further encouraged through study visits and exchanges of best practices. Community members as well as representatives of local authorities learn better from their peers and can make use of the experience and advice of their neighbours, who face similar problems in comparable contexts.
- 3 Enhanced communication, cooperation and partnership between local authorities and communities should continue to be fostered via the established dialogue platforms and formats such as PCs, CSWGs, Public Platforms Influencing Decision-Making, and other dialogue meetings. These mechanisms will enable local decision-makers to capture the different needs of all community members and tailor into their local policies more gender-responsive and inclusive responses to identified community issues. It is therefore necessary to ensure that more people, especially ones from vulnerable groups, are aware of and involved in the existing dialogue platforms and other instruments of participatory decision-making.
- 4 Access to justice in remote settlements remains significantly limited, especially in the context of the ongoing protracted armed conflict and quarantine restrictions. In view of this, tailored initiatives should be implemented, including technical assistance, to enable free legal aid lawyers to render services to all conflict-affected people and, including through digital communication means, reaching the most vulnerable people.
- 5 An analysis of environmental risks in the heavily industrialised Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts, and the process of developing ways to reduced them – including the analysis of indicators of mining enterprise activity and their influence on the environment – has revealed the need for further support for disaster risk reduction activities. Such a requirement is also confirmed by reports of anthropogenic earthquakes occurring in the region in recent years. It is also worth noting that the development and capacity of disaster risk reduction infrastructure in the two oblasts is still at the low level.

6

The National Waste Management Strategy, adopted in 2017, sets ambitious goals for the country. For example, the level of municipal waste disposal should be reduced from 94% to 35% by 2030. This means that in 13 years Ukraine needs to achieve the same results as other countries in almost half the time. Therefore, the target communities should be supported in their efforts to implement extended producer responsibility, which is an environmental protection strategy that makes the manufacturer of a product responsible for its entire life cycle, and especially for the collection, recycling, and final disposal of the product.

7

According to a recent analysis conducted by the UN RPP of deforestation, the intensive exploitation of forest, land and water resources has created significant areas of degraded forestland in the region. Understanding and effectively addressing deforestation and degradation in a particular area or landscape is key to any successful forest restoration or rehabilitation plan. The decentralisation reform made it possible for communities to manage the natural resources within the borders of their communities. With this in view, the local authorities need to be supported with capacity development and effective instruments for the sustainable management of these territories.

8

Significant informational and educational activities are also important in raising the awareness of local citizens, first of all, about the existence of e-democracy tools, as well as the opportunities and methods for using them. It is therefore important to educate citizens through webinars, training, and distance learning courses to develop the skills needed to use electronic tools, as well as enhance the general digital skills and competences of community members.

# Risk analysis

- 1 The quarantine measures to contain the spread of COVID-19 in Ukraine may be extended in 2022, leading, unfortunately, to a worsening of the economic situation and a further deterioration in the quality of people's lives – primarily among the most vulnerable groups. In addition, infection risk mitigation measures (while being necessary and desirable) can have a negative impact on the overall economic situation in smaller communities, with serious consequences on people's wellbeing and mental health, and significantly affecting the most vulnerable community members.
- 2 Freedom of movement across the 'contact line' in eastern Ukraine may continue to be restricted. This will affect the rights of conflict-affected people, including their right to healthcare services and the right to social security, namely pensions. New measures to support the re-opening and operation of the remaining EECs have to be put in place, and opportunities for remote service provision and interpersonal dialogue must be further strengthened.
- 3 The varied legal statuses of the Project's target communities will have a negative impact on the roll-out of decentralisation reform in the region, as well as limiting opportunities for local government engagement in the areas where local elections were not held. The territorial communities where no local elections were held entered a legal situation in which local self-government bodies could not fully exercise their rights, such as budget approval, treasury account management, etc. The local authorities in these communities will thus have a different legal status and will be represented by civil-military administrations, which further slows the implementation of decentralisation reforms, economic development, and the provision of services there.
- 4 Although a ceasefire and an outline for a political settlement were drawn up in the Minsk agreements, no effective ceasefire has taken hold for any significant period. A deterioration of the security situation in Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts could mean the minimal security conditions necessary for programming in areas close to the 'contact line' are not met. Moreover, a potential escalation of conflict could lead to weaker interaction with community groups as well as unstable cooperation with the local authorities. To tackle this risk, the Project will use electronic means of communication, which proved effective during the COVID-19 pandemic lockdown, to reach out to both community groups and local authorities, maintaining continual contact and advancing cooperation with local stakeholders.



Annex 1

# Results framework

**OF THE “GOOD GOVERNANCE AND  
CITIZENS ENGAGEMENT FOR JUSTICE,  
SECURITY, ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION  
AND SOCIAL COHESION IN EASTERN  
UKRAINE” PROJECT**

Indicators	Baseline	Target (2019)	Actual (2019)	Target (2020)	Actual (2020)	Target (2021)	Actual (2021)	Target (2022)	Means of verification	Comments
Output 1. Capable, inclusive and accountable local governance institutions contribute to conflict risks mitigation and peacebuilding (in territories covered by the Project in Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts)										
1.1. Increased percentage of residents of Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts, who actively participate in civic activities	14% [2017] – Donetsk Oblast	16% – Donetsk Oblast	24% – Donetsk Oblast	16% – Donetsk Oblast	24% – Donetsk Oblast	27% – Donetsk Oblast	28% – Donetsk Oblast	30% – Donetsk Oblast	SCORE	According to SCORE (2021), 28% of residents of Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts actively participate in civic activities such as events organized by local authorities or NGOs, signing petitions, volunteering, or donating money and other resources for good causes, and participating in demonstrations.
	20% [2017] – Luhansk Oblast	22% – Luhansk Oblast	28% – Luhansk Oblast	25% – Luhansk Oblast	28% – Luhansk Oblast	27% – Luhansk Oblast	28% – Luhansk Oblast	30% – Luhansk Oblast		
1.2. Percentage of surveyed population, in areas covered by the Project, claiming increased trust in regional and local state institutions	52.1% [2018] – Donetsk Oblast	55% – Donetsk Oblast	47% – Donetsk Oblast	60% – Donetsk Oblast	47% – Donetsk Oblast	65% – Donetsk Oblast	41% – Donetsk Oblast	70% – Donetsk Oblast	SCORE	According to SCORE (2021), 41% of residents of Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts trust in village and town administrations, including 42% of women and 47% of youth in Donetsk Oblast, and 42% of women and 44% of youth in Luhansk Oblast.
	49.2% [2018] – Luhansk Oblast	55% – Luhansk Oblast	34% – Luhansk Oblast	60% – Luhansk Oblast	34% – Luhansk Oblast	65% – Luhansk Oblast	41% – Luhansk Oblast	70% – Luhansk Oblast		
1.3. Number of newly amalgamated territorial communities in areas covered by the Project	2 [2018] – Donetsk Oblast	4 – Donetsk Oblast	2 – Donetsk Oblast	9 – Donetsk Oblast	4 – Donetsk Oblast	9 – Donetsk Oblast	4 – Donetsk Oblast	9 – Donetsk Oblast	The Ministry of Development of Communities and Territories records	As a result of local elections, 7 new territorial communities were formed in eastern Ukraine (from the list of project's target communities). Namely: Khlibodarivka, Kurakhove, Siversk and Soledar in Donetsk Oblast, Bilovodsk, Krasnorichenske and Novoaidar in Luhansk Oblast. At the same time, the elections were postponed in the following target communities: Mariinka, Ocheretyne, Olhynka, Toretsk and Volnovakha in Donetsk Oblast, Hirske, Popasna, Shchastia, Shyrokyi and Stanytsia Luhanska in Luhansk Oblast.
	2 [2018] – Luhansk Oblast	7 – Luhansk Oblast	3 – Luhansk Oblast	8 – Luhansk Oblast	3 – Luhansk Oblast	8 – Luhansk Oblast	3 – Luhansk Oblast	8 – Luhansk Oblast		
Sub-output 1.1. Institutional capacities strengthened to operate in a conflict sensitive manner and handle good governance requirements pre and post amalgamation										
1.1.1. Number of representatives of local authorities in non-amalgamated communities equipped with relevant new skills and competence	0 [2018]	200	1463 (1031 – women)	400	2322 (1684 –women)	800	3 650 (2848 – women)	1600	Project records, LSGBs websites	In 2021, the Project facilitated participation of some 1,328 (88% women) representatives of local authorities and civil society leaders from the target communities in Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts in dedicated offline and online training sessions on participatory decision-making, public finance, e-democracy principles, application of e-governance tools, effective interaction between local authorities and community members, public monitoring and anti-corruption control.

Indicators	Baseline	Target (2019)	Actual (2019)	Target (2020)	Actual (2020)	Target (2021)	Actual (2021)	Target (2022)	Means of verification	Comments
1.1.2. Percentage of territorial communities which have successfully tested and adopted new conflict and gender sensitive budgeting and finance management procedures including the elaboration of expenditure standards for different types of services	0 [2018]	20%	30%	30%	30%	40%	78%	50%	Project records, Administrative data from LSGBs	As a result of capacity development support provided by the Project, 14 target communities have successfully tested and adopted new conflict and gender sensitive budgeting and finance management procedures.
1.1.3. Percentage of LSGBs covered by the Project which have identified and confirm the use of citizens participation and citizens information & feedback mechanisms in their territories	0 [2018]	40%	30%	55%	58%	65%	85%	75%	LSGBs websites, Project records	To date, 17 target communities successfully piloted public participation mechanisms to ensure citizens' engagement in decision-making: Bakhmut, Dobropillia, Druzhkivka, Kurakhove, Mariinka (Mariinka and Krasnohorivka), Ocheretyne, Olhynka, Siversk, Sviatohirsk and Volnovakha in Donetsk Oblast, and Bilovodsk, Hirske (Hirske and Zolote), Markivka, Novoidar, Novopskov and Nyzhnia Duvanka, Svatove in Luhansk Oblast. This activity is co-funded by the Project 'EU Support to the East of Ukraine – Recovery, Peacebuilding and Governance'.
1.1.4. Percentage of active CSOs (among which women and youth CSOs) that use open data mechanisms and tools (e.g. Dozorro) to carry out regular anti-corruption and social inclusiveness monitoring of LSGBs activities and public procurement	TBD	30%	54%	40%	62.5%	50%	80%	60%	Project records, administrative data from CSOs	During the reporting period, 20 out of 25 CSOs implementing grant projects focused on the good governance and citizen engagement, used open data mechanisms and tools to carry out regular anti-corruption and social inclusiveness monitoring of LSGBs activities and public procurement.
Sub-output 1.2. New or improved institutions with effective reach-out facilities for citizens' administrative support in conflict affected areas and for state/civil society consultations are in place and operating										
1.2.1. Cumulative number of online universal platforms established in target communities to support local democracies	0 [2018]	0	0	6	0*	6	12	6	Project records, administrative data from TsNAPs	To date, the Programme had purchased the Electronic Voting System 'Holos' for its installation and launch in 12 target communities: Khibodariivka, Kurakhove, Ocheretyne, Siversk, Zvanivka in Donetsk Oblast, and Bilovodsk, Hirske, Kreminna, Popasna, Shchastia, Stanytsia Luhanska, Troitske in Luhansk Oblast.
1.2.2. Cumulative number of active users benefiting from online universal platforms established in target communities	0 [2018]	0	0	0	0	250 (60% – women)	0*	500 (60% – women)	Project records, administrative data from TsNAPs	The e-governance tools (Volis and Holos) were already established in Khibodariivka, Kurakhove, Ocheretyne, Siversk and Zvanivka in Donetsk Oblast, Bilovodsk, Hirske, Kreminna, Popasna, Shchastia, Stanytsia Luhanska and Troitske in Luhansk Oblast. The number of active users will be determined in early 2022 after the completion of the initial assessment.

Indicators	Baseline	Target (2019)	Actual (2019)	Target (2020)	Actual (2020)	Target (2021)	Actual (2021)	Target (2022)	Means of verification	Comments
1.2.3. Number of operating Public Councils (including PCs in areas along the contact line)	35 [2018]	10	34	18	34	26	34	35	Project records	To date, 34 PCs (23 in Donetsk Oblast and 11 in Luhansk Oblast) are fully operational and serve as consultative and advisory bodies to foster citizens' participation in the development, implementation and monitoring of public policies.
1.2.4. Number of Citizens' Advisory Bureaus (CABs) operating in areas along the contact line and in isolated communities	7 [2018]	9	9	13	11 (14)	17	24	20	Project records and administrative data from CABs	Currently, 24 CABs and local CSOs acting as service providers have the required capacities and are active in the conflict-affected communities of Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts.
<b>Output 2.</b> Enhanced conflict and gender sensitive community security, law enforcement and access to justice services that are closer to the people in conflict affected areas										
2.1. Increased percentage of residents of Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts trust justice and security institutions	Trust in Courts: 12% [2017] – Donetsk Oblast	15% – Donetsk Oblast	25% – Donetsk Oblast	25% – Donetsk Oblast	25% – Donetsk Oblast	30% – Donetsk Oblast	18% – Donetsk Oblast	Trust in Courts:	SCORE	According to SCORE (2021), 18% of residents of Donetsk Oblast and 20% of residents of Luhansk Oblasts trust in courts, including 19% of women and 22% of youth in Donetsk Oblast, and 20% of women and 33% of youth in Luhansk Oblast.
	18% [2017] – Luhansk Oblast	20% – Luhansk Oblast	24% – Luhansk Oblast	25% – Luhansk Oblast	24% – Luhansk Oblast	30% – Luhansk Oblast	20% – Luhansk Oblast	35% – Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts		
	Trust in Police: 33% [2017] – Donetsk Oblast  34% [2017] – Luhansk Oblast	35% – Donetsk Oblast  36% – Luhansk Oblast	32% – Donetsk Oblast  32% – Luhansk Oblast	40% – Donetsk Oblast  40% – Luhansk Oblast	32% – Donetsk Oblast  32% – Luhansk Oblast	45% – Donetsk Oblast  45% – Luhansk Oblast	29% – Donetsk Oblast  32% – Luhansk Oblast	Trust in Police:  50% – Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts		
2.2. Percentage of citizens, informed by the Project, benefiting from legal information, counselling and/or representation, in the context of their court cases (in areas covered by the Project)	0	45%	72.7%	50%	79%	60%	79%	60%	Baseline and annual surveys	Overall, 79% of surveyed court users benefitted from legal information, counselling and/or representation, in the context of their court cases.
2.3. Number of justice service providers, who gained new skills and knowledge on human rights and quality public service provision	0	80	87 (36 – women)	130	168 (96 women)	150	235 (149 women)	150	Baseline and annual surveys	During the reporting period, 67 lawyers (53 women) of the free legal aid system took part in the ToTs. Overall, 235 lawyers of the free legal aid system gained new skills and knowledge on human rights and quality public service provision.



Indicators	Baseline	Target (2019)	Actual (2019)	Target (2020)	Actual (2020)	Target (2021)	Actual (2021)	Target (2022)	Means of verification	Comments
2.4. Percentage of women feeling safe in their communities (day and night) (Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts)	72% of women feel safe during day, 34.9% after dark [2018] – Donetsk Oblast	75% of women feel safe during day, 39% after dark – Donetsk Oblast	82% of women feel safe during day, 41% after dark – Donetsk Oblast	77% of women feel safe during day, 45% after dark – Donetsk Oblast	82% of women feel safe during day, 41% after dark – Donetsk Oblast	79% of women feel safe during day, 55% after dark – Donetsk Oblast	81% of women feel safe during day, 44% after dark – Donetsk Oblast	No less than 80% during day, and no less than 60% at night – Donetsk Oblast	Security and Justice survey	According to the results of the Security and Justice survey (2021), 81% of women feel safe during day and 44% after dark in Donetsk Oblast, while 85% of women feel safe during day and 44% after dark in Luhansk Oblast.
	71.5% of women feel safe during day, 43.1% after dark [2018] – Luhansk Oblast	75% of women feel safe during day, 46% after dark – Luhansk Oblast	83% of women feel safe during day, 44% after dark – Luhansk Oblast	77% of women feel safe during day, 50% after dark – Luhansk Oblast	83% of women feel safe during day, 44% after dark – Luhansk Oblast	79% of women feel safe during day, 55% after dark – Luhansk Oblast	85% of women feel safe during day, 44% after dark – Luhansk Oblast	No less than 80% during day, and no less than 60% at night – Luhansk Oblast		
Sub-output 2.1. Strengthened conflict and gender sensitive planning capacities among duty bearers for services development and strategies for improved community security and access to justice designed and implemented										
2.1.1. Percentage of trained LSGB and SP representatives who confirm their understanding of human rights for effective service planning and delivery	0 [2018]	45%	52%	55%	60%	65%	83%	75%	Baseline and annual surveys	The results of post-training monitoring show that 83% of participants representing local authorities, service providers and civil society confirmed their understanding of human rights-based approach for effective service delivery and advocacy.
2.1.2. Cumulative number of local strategies aimed at improving services related to access to justice and community security which are designed, budgeted and implemented in a gender-sensitive and participatory manner	0 [2018]	2	2	5	6	10	23	15	LSGBs websites, project records	In 2021, 17 community-based security policies have been improved in Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts, particularly: Avdiivka, Manhush, Milove, Myrnohrad, Sloviansk, Soledar, Svitlodarsk, Volnovakha, Vuhledar in Donetsk Oblast; Bilovodsk, Krasnorichenske, Lozno-Oleksandriivka, Milove, Nyzhnia Duvanka, Popasna, Shchastia, Stanytsia Luhanska, Zolote in Luhansk Oblast.
2.1.3. Percentage of territorial communities (covered by the Project) which have adopted Gender Responsive Budgeting	0 [2018]	20%	23%	30%	31.2%	40%	100%	50%	LSGBs websites, project records	In total, 32 out of 32 target communities adopted specific gender-responsive budgets and programmes (joint result with the 'EU Support to the East of Ukraine' Project).
Sub-output 2.2. New or improved institutions for justice, law enforcement and security which have relevant knowledge and skills to effectively and efficiently serve and protect people in conflict-affected areas										
2.2.1. Cumulative number of Centres for Safety and Security in place and operating	6 [2018] – Donetsk Oblast	8	11	11	13	13	16	13	CSS records, Project records	To date, the following communities have fully operational Centres for Safety and Security: Andriivka, Bilozerske, Cherkaske, Illiniivka, Khibodarivka, Lyman, Mykolaivka, Novodonetske, Novohrodivka, Novotroitske, Ocheretyne, Sartana, Shakhove, Siversk, Soledar and Sviatohirsk in Donetsk Oblast.
	0 [2018] – Luhansk Oblast									

Indicators	Baseline	Target (2019)	Actual (2019)	Target (2020)	Actual (2020)	Target (2021)	Actual (2021)	Target (2022)	Means of verification	Comments
2.2.2. Cumulative number of local service providers with integrated legal aid and community policing functions in their service portfolios	0 [2018]	1	0	4	1	7	11	8	Administrative data from TsNAPs, project records, grant reporting	During the reporting period, renovated police stations were opened in Krasnorichenske, Triokhizbenka and Zolote in Luhansk Oblast. 'Open Police Hub' – police-owned centre for development and implementation of community policing initiatives was opened in Mariupol in Donetsk Oblast. Moreover, the Project supported the legal aid provision in the premises of the local administrative service centres (ASCs), local self-government bodies in 6 pilot communities, namely in Manhush, Mariinka and Volnovakha in Donetsk Oblast, Nyzhnioteple, Shchastia and Stanytsia Luhanska in Luhansk Oblast.
2.2.3. Cumulative number of community policing services (of which women community policing) in place and operating in rural areas and close to the contact line	0 [2018]	2	3	6	13	8	28	8	Project records, administrative data from LSGBs	To date, there are 28 community policing services in place that are operating in rural areas and close to the contact line.

### Output 3. Successfully decentralised and participatory environmental protection promotes a cleaner environment in the conflict affected areas

3.1. Number of territorial communities which have regained lands through demining and removal of unexploded remnants of war (in areas along the contact line covered by the Project)	0 [2018]	2	3	5	7	8	9	10	Project records, administrative data from LSGBs	The territories within the target communities of Bilovodsk, Krasnyi Derkul, Krasna Talivka, Popasna, Shchastia, Shyrokyi, Siversk, Stanytsia Luhanska and Zolote were inspected and cleared. The demining of these areas was carried out by the HALO Trust, DRC and FSD.
3.2. Number of municipalities and territorial communities in areas covered by the Project which are adopting concrete energy saving measures	0 [2018]	4	7	8	8	10	11	10	Project records, administrative data from TsNAPs	In total, 11 territorial communities have benefitted from improved energy saving measures at the local level: Khibodariivka, Kurakhove, Mariinka, Toretsk and Volnovakha in Donetsk Oblast; Bilovodsk, Krasnorichenske, Novoaidar, Rubizhne, Shchastia and Stanytsia Luhanska in Luhansk Oblast.
3.3. Number of municipalities and territorial communities which are recycling their domestic waste	0 [2018]	2	4	8	9	10	16	10	Project records, administrative data from LSGBs	To date, 16 municipalities and territorial communities benefitted from initiatives focused on domestic waste management: Bakhmut, Khibodariivka, Kramatorsk, Krasnohorivka, Kurakhove, Mariupol, Myrnohrad, Olhynka, Pokrovsk and Toretsk in Donetsk Oblast; Bilokurakynne, Hirske, Markivka, Milove, Sievierodonetsk and Stanytsia Luhanska in Luhansk Oblast.

Indicators	Baseline	Target (2019)	Actual (2019)	Target (2020)	Actual (2020)	Target (2021)	Actual (2021)	Target (2022)	Means of verification	Comments
<b>Output 3.1.</b> Strengthened analytical and planning capacities, and strategies for improved environmental protection in place										
3.1.1. Cumulative number of local (participatory) environmental assessments carried out in territories covered by the Project	0 [2018]	5	2	8	9	10	13	10	LSGBs websites, project records	The Project conducted a comprehensive assessment of the environmental situation in Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts which identified environmental data gaps, weak capacity and limited equipment available in the targeted communities to ensure accurate and timely monitoring of air and water quality, land conditions and waste management. In addition, the following communities have benefitted from their local-level environmental assessments: Kurakhove, Sartana, Siversk, Soledar and Toretsk in Donetsk Oblast; Bilovodsk, Krasnorichenske, Lysychansk, Novoiidar, Popasna and Shchastia in Luhansk Oblast.
3.1.2. Cumulative number of municipalities and territorial communities which have designed environment protection strategies and are implementing them	0 [2018]	5	0	8	7	10	10	10	LSGBs websites, project records	Local environmental protection strategies were designed based on the results of the participatory assessments (3.1.1). In total, 10 target communities benefitted from this work: Kurakhove, Sartana, Siversk, Soledar and Toretsk in Donetsk Oblast; Bilovodsk, Krasnorichenske, Novoiidar, Popasna and Shchastia in Luhansk Oblast.
3.1.3. Cumulative number of municipalities which carry out regular air pollution control and reporting	0 [2018]	5	0	10	20	15	20	15	Municipalities websites, project records	In total, 20 municipalities started to carry out regular air pollution control and reporting: Katerynivka, Khibodariivka, Krasnohorivka, Kurakhove, Mariinka, Ocheretyne, Olhynka, Pobeda, Soledar, Siversk, Toretsk, Velyka Novosilka and Volnovakha in Donetsk Oblast; Bilovodsk, Kreminna, Novoiidar, Popasna, Shchastia, Shyrokyi and Zolote in Luhansk Oblast.
<b>Output 3.2.</b> Mitigated conflict-related environmental risks and improved environmental protection of the conflict affected areas										
3.2.1. Percentage of territorial units where inventories of environmental hazards and environmental monitoring are regularly carried out	0 [2018]	20%	0%	30%	0*	40%	100%	40%	Project records, administrative data from LSGBs	The list of the most hazardous industrial enterprises was created and their environmental impact on the region assessed during the previous reporting period, which will serve as a basis for further development of roadmaps and related action plans for enterprises and the communities in emergency situations. Thus, in February 2021, a working group on the prevention of environmental hazards and environmental monitoring has been established under the Department of Ecology of the Donetsk Oblast State Administration, with the participation of the representatives of the local authorities of the target communities and relevant enterprises. The group will elaborate the first draft of the roadmap by March 2022.

Indicators	Baseline	Target (2019)	Actual (2019)	Target (2020)	Actual (2020)	Target (2021)	Actual (2021)	Target (2022)	Means of verification	Comments
3.2.2. Extent to which dialogue takes place between LSGBs and large industrial enterprises production pollution reduction ([Scale 1-4]: 1-Low, 2-Very Partially, 3-Partially, 4-Fully)	0 [2018]	1	2	2	2	4	3	4	Yearly interviews with LSGBs and enterprises, project records	During 21-22 October 2021 the All-Ukrainian Forum on the Green Economy has been held in Kyiv, gathering 190 experts (112 women) to discuss current environmental issues, in particular balancing economic growth and protecting the environment, as well as ways to achieve decarbonisation and find effective measures to adapt to climate change.
<b>Output 3.3. Increased civil society's activism for improved environmental protection</b>										
3.3.1. Number of CSOs and citizens' groups (of which women and youth CSOs), in areas covered by the Project, whose activities are focused on environmental protection promotion and advocacy	0 [2018]	10	5	20	34	40	48	40	Project records, administrative data from CSOs, LSGBs data on CSOs activities	In total, the Project supported 48 environmental CSOs by improving their capacity in project management and providing financial support for implementation of micro-initiatives at the local level.
3.3.2. Cumulative number of territorial communities in which CSOs and citizens' groups have designed and are implementing environmentally friendly initiatives	0 [2018]	20	16	40	29	40	43	40	Project records, administrative data from CSOs	Environmentally friendly initiatives are currently implemented in 100% of target territorial communities (20 out of 20) and cover 43 different settlements.
<b>Output 4. Social cohesion and citizens' influence on local development decisions strengthened</b>										
4.1. Increased percentage of women and young people in territories covered by the Project who believe decision making is inclusive and responsive	39% - women [2020], 41% - youth [2020]	NA*	NA*	43% (women), 43% (youth)	39% - women, 41% - youth	45% (women), 45% (youth)	45% (women), 48% (youth)	No less than 50%	Security and Justice survey	According to the results of the Security and Justice survey (2021), 45% of women and 48% of youth believe that decision making is inclusive and responsive, and local authorities are effectively addressing the emerging priorities.
4.2. Increased SCORE Index on "tolerant and socially responsible citizenship"	5.0 [2017] – Donetsk Oblast	5.1 – Donetsk Oblast	5.1 – Donetsk Oblast	5.2 – Donetsk Oblast	5.1 – Donetsk Oblast	5.4 – Donetsk Oblast	6.1 – Donetsk Oblast	5.5 – Donetsk Oblast	SCORE	According to SCORE (2021), the overall levels of social tolerance towards different minority and marginalized groups in Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts are 6.1 and 6.5 respectively.
	4.8 [2017] – Luhansk Oblast	5.0 – Luhansk Oblast	5.4 – Luhansk Oblast	5.2 – Luhansk Oblast	5.4 – Luhansk Oblast	5.3 – Luhansk Oblast	6.5 – Luhansk Oblast	5.3 – Luhansk Oblast		
4.3. Increased SCORE Index on "social connectedness and belonging"	6.8 [2017] – Donetsk Oblast	7.0 – Donetsk Oblast	6.8 – Donetsk Oblast	7.1 – Donetsk Oblast	6.8 – Donetsk Oblast	7.2 – Donetsk Oblast	6.9 – Donetsk Oblast	7.3 – Donetsk Oblast	SCORE	According to SCORE (2021), the level of pluralistic Ukrainian identity, measured as a degree to which one believes that everyone despite their ethnic and cultural background is an integral part of Ukrainian society, in Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts are 6.9 and 7.3 respectively.
	6.7 [2017] – Luhansk Oblast	6.9 – Luhansk Oblast	6.7 – Luhansk Oblast	7.1 – Luhansk Oblast	6.7 – Luhansk Oblast	7.2 – Luhansk Oblast	7.3 – Luhansk Oblast	7.3 – Luhansk Oblast		



Indicators	Baseline	Target (2019)	Actual (2019)	Target (2020)	Actual (2020)	Target (2021)	Actual (2021)	Target (2022)	Means of verification	Comments
<b>Sub-Output 4.1. Increased dialogue for territorial community development between well-informed citizens and local self-governments</b>										
4.1.1. Percentage of territorial units covered by the Project with well-functioning Open Dialogue platforms	0 [2018]	10%	100%	15%	100%	90%	100%	90%	Project records	<p>Efficient and well-functioning open dialogue platforms (CSWGs) are established in all target communities of the project.</p> <p>Donetsk Oblast: Avdiivka, Dobropillia, Druzhkivka, Krasnohorivka, Manhush, Mariinka, Myrnohrad, Novhorodske, Pokrovsk, Sartana, Siversk, Sloviansk, Svitlodarsk, Velyka Novosilka, Volnovakha, Vuhledar.</p> <p>Luhansk Oblast: Bilovodsk, Katerynivka, Krasnorichenske, Kreminna, Lozno-Oleksandrivka, Lysychansk, Milove, Novoaidar, Nyzhnia Duvanka, Popasna, Pryvillia, Sievierodonetsk, Stanytsia Luhanska, Triokhizbenka, Troitske, Zolote.</p>
4.1.2. Number of territorial units with established system for insider mediation	0 [2018]	1	0	2	0	3	2	4	Project records, administrative data from LSGBs	The system for insider mediation was established in Myrnohrad in Donetsk Oblast and Kreminna in Luhansk Oblast, and currently is under elaboration in Avdiivka and Sartana communities of Donetsk Oblast.
4.1.3. Percentage of representatives of vulnerable groups in areas covered by the Project who confirm that their voice is heard in community dialogues	73.8%	45%	85%	55%	84%	65%	84%	75%	Baseline and annual surveys	Based on the results of the CSWGs survey conducted in 2021, the proportion of population who confirm that their voice is heard in community dialogues is 84% and 92% of them are convinced that these groups are making positive changes, as well as contributing to gender equality (88%), youth engagement (87%) and inclusivity (85%).
<b>Sub-Output 4.2. Capacities for conflict and gender sensitive community development strategies/project planning implementation strengthened</b>										
4.2.1. Percentage of citizens' groups and CSOs members in areas covered by the Project who understand and use human rights-based, conflict and gender sensitive approaches to plan new initiatives	0 [2018]	50%	53%	60%	63%	75%	73% (88% in 2021)	80%	Project records, desk review of grant proposals	According to the results of a desk review, over 73% of local citizens' groups and CSOs have a solid understanding of human rights-based, conflict and gender sensitive approaches and apply this knowledge while planning and implementing local service improvement projects.
4.2.2. Cumulative number of local services improvement projects planned in a conflict and gender sensitive manner and implemented by CSOs and citizens groups (including women and youth)	0 [2018]	30 realised by at least 30% women and 10% youth	96 (20.8% - by women, 35.4% - by youth)	60 – 30% women and 20% youth	246 (17.5% – by women, 28.5% – by youth)	90 – 30% women and 30% youth	306 (16.7% – by women, 29.4% – by youth)	120 – 30% women and 30% youth	Project records, administrative data from CSOs	During the reporting period, the project supported 60 local services improvement projects (out of which 22 are micro-initiatives) focused on access to justice, community security, social cohesion, community mobilization and other issues.

Indicators	Baseline	Target (2019)	Actual (2019)	Target (2020)	Actual (2020)	Target (2021)	Actual (2021)	Target (2022)	Means of verification	Comments
4.2.3. Cumulative number of CSOs and CSWGs (of which women and youth CSOs and CSWGs) which carry out analyses of social disconnectedness issues in their territories and plan their resolution	0 [2018]	8 realised by at least 30% women and 10% youth	20 – 40% women and 30% youth	12 – 30% women and 20% youth	36 – 36% women and 27% youth	16 – 30% women and 30% youth	53 – 28% women and 30% youth	20 – 30% women and 30% youth	Project records, administrative data from CSOs and CSWGs	During the reporting period, 17 CSOs carried out analyses of social disconnectedness issues in their communities. There were 2 women CSOs and 6 youth CSOs engaged into discussions and planning of recovery interventions at the local level.
<b>Sub-Output 4.3. Strengthened civic activism and volunteering that effectively promote social cohesion and peacebuilding</b>										
4.3.1. Cumulative number of volunteers/interest groups (of which youth and women groups) that are actively promoting dialogues on peacebuilding and political security	0 [2018]	5 groups with no less than 3 youth/ women groups	11 (6 youth and women groups)	8 (6)	25 (20 youth and women groups)	11 (8)	38 (30 youth and women groups)	15 (10)	Project records, administrative data from CSOs	During the reporting period, 13 new volunteers/ interest groups (10 of them are youth and women groups) started to actively promote dialogue on peacebuilding, tolerance and political security in their communities.
4.3.2. Cumulative number of social cohesion initiatives (projects) promoting tolerance and inclusivity planned and implemented by young citizens' groups and women's groups	0 [2018]	5	29	10 (5)	47 (12)	20 (10)	66 (26)	30	Project records, administrative data from CSOs and citizens' groups	In 2021, 14 out of 19 social cohesion initiatives (projects) promoting tolerance and inclusivity were planned and implemented by youth and women's groups.
<b>Sub-output 4.4. Strengthened capacities of regional and local mass media and enhanced policy making for conflict affected regions</b>										
4.4.1. Cumulative number of mass media representatives trained	0 [2018]	30	56 (32 – women)	50	76 (43 – women)	70	86 (51 – women)	70	Project records	During the reporting period, 10 representatives (8 women) of local media from Stanytsia Luhanska in Luhansk Oblast were trained within the project.
4.4.2.a. Donbas Media Forum supported (1 per year)	0 [2018]	1	1	2	1	3	1	3	Project records, Forum records	The project supported the conduct of the 5th Donbass Media Forum, that took place on 5-6 September 2019 in Kharkiv.
4.4.2.b. Cumulative number of blogs produced by the Kramatorsk Anti-Crisis Media Centre	0 [2018]	10	7	20	23	30	37	30	Desk review, Media analysis	
4.4.3. Cumulative number of journalists/bloggers who participated in exchange visits	0 [2018]	30	25 (11 – women)	50	25 (11 – women)	70	35 (18 – women)	70	Project records	In 2021, the UN RPP organised a study visit to Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts for 10 journalists (7 women) representing Ukrainian regional media.
4.4.4. Number of national and regional level policies and actions designed with direct support from the Project	0 [2018]	1	3	3	5	5	6	5	Project's records, national government sites	In 2021, development of the strategy for Association of NGOs of Luhansk Oblast has been supported by the Project.