



Kingdom of the Netherlands



# REPORT SUMMARY

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**The institutional capacity on addressing  
gender-based and domestic violence  
in Luhansk Region**

The study was conducted from 03 September to 30 November 2018 within the framework of the UNDP Project “Rule of Law and Community Justice for Conflict-Affected Areas in Ukraine”.

## STUDY OBJECTIVES:

1. To review the national legislation in the area of prevention and fight against gender-based and domestic violence.
2. To review the current operational framework of Luhansk Regional State Administration and executive bodies on prevention and fight against gender-based and domestic violence.
3. To review the institutional capacity of the project pilot communities: Bilovodska, Chmyrivska, Krasnorichenska, Bilokurakynska, Troitska, Novopskovska Amalgamated Territorial Communities (ATG), as well as the communities under amalgamation: Novoaidarska, Kreminska, Popasnianska, Markivska in ensuring operations on prevention and fight against gender-based and domestic violence.
4. To develop recommendations for improved work on prevention and fight against gender-based and domestic violence.

## FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

**Based on the findings of the study on the institutional capacity of the executive and local self-government bodies in Luhansk Region to ensure operations on prevention and addressing gender-based and domestic violence, the conclusions can be drawn as follows:**

### REGIONAL LEVEL

The Department for Social Protection of Luhansk Regional State Administration carries out methodical work on coordination of measures on prevention and addressing gender-based and domestic violence, namely:

- ensures that the Coordination Council on the Family, Gender Equality, Demographic Development, Prevention of Domestic Violence and Fight against Trafficking in Human Beings is operational;
- regularly holds community-based awareness-raising activities;
- encourages the public to respond to gender-based and domestic violence, especially in the areas close to the contact line through training and supervisory support for coordinators working on a voluntary basis with the population;
- ensures that the regional “hot” telephone line for psychological support for victims of violence is operational;
- facilitates the introduction of psychosocial services for victims of violence across communities;
- develops a local system of qualitative redirection of victims from the entity which revealed the fact of violence to the entity providing comprehensive support;
- facilitates the creation of shelters for victims of violence and ensures that Luhansk Regional Centre for Psychosocial Support is operational;
- contributes to the operation of private counselling rooms for women affected by sexual violence and accommodated in local hospitals;
- together with international partners, promotes the introduction of psychosocial services in the community to correct the behaviour of offenders committing violence by training specialists to carry out such work;
- executes a Regional Activity Plan towards Implementation of the National Action Plan for the Exercise of UN Security Council Resolution 1325 “Women. Peace. Security” for the Period Up to 2020 and the Regional Target Program “Care” for Improvement and Development of the Social Service Scheme in Luhansk Region for 2016-2019.

## LOCAL LEVEL

According to the review of the institutional capacity of local self-government bodies on enabling operations for prevention and fight against gender-based and domestic violence, the communities covered by the study are sufficiently capable of carrying out such activities and have sufficient own resources to ensure this work to be done.

### **According to the review, the following can be concluded:**

- prevention and fight against gender-based and domestic violence is a challenge relevant to all communities;
- the rate of citizen appeals and statistical data of the entities performing measures towards fight against violence have testified to an upward trend.

### **Due to this increasing rate in the number of citizen appeals, the communities have responded accordingly:**

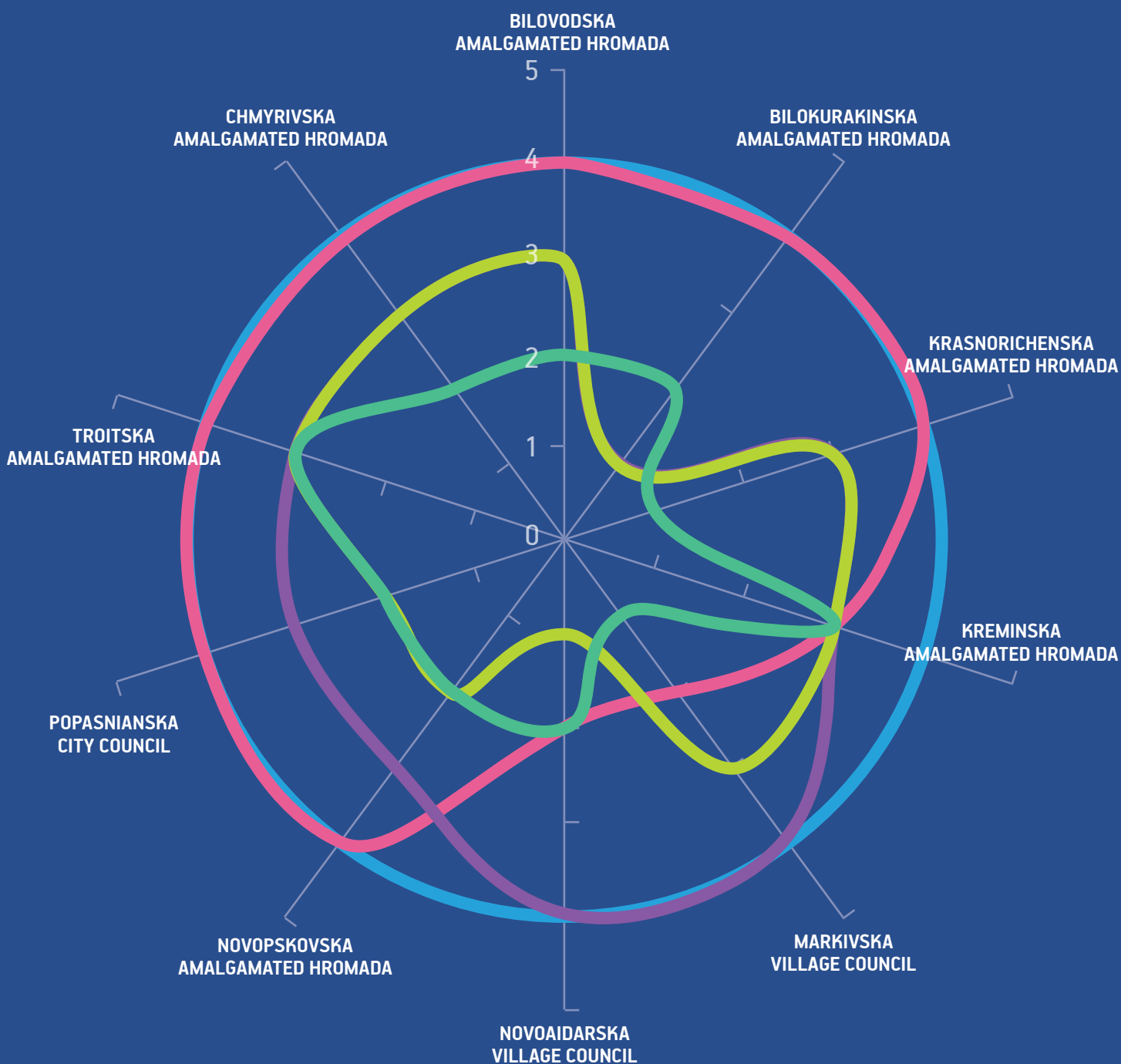
- each pilot community has Coordination Councils on the Family, Gender Equality, Demographic Development, Prevention of Domestic Violence and Combat against Trafficking in Human Beings in place, and there are well-developed interaction mechanisms between actors involved in prevention and fight against violence;
- workshops, in particular, organised by international organisations are delivered regularly for managers and specialists of respective services at all levels;
- awareness-raising events on gender-based and domestic violence are held regularly for communities;

- communities have Social Service Centres/ Centres for Social Services for Families, Children and Youth in place;
- communities have territorial police units fully staffed by district police officers in place;
- local social service bodies and territorial units of the Chief Directorate of the National Police in Luhansk Region systematically keeps records of identified cases of gender-based and domestic violence;
- communities provide for victims of violence accessible services: psychosocial, social-medical, informational and “Mobile Psychosocial Support Team” service;
- communities have experience of cooperation with international organisations in the implementation and development of a social service scheme to combat violence;
- communities have non-governmental organisations in place, that work in this direction and are able to attract social investment in the community to address prevention and fight against gender-based and domestic violence;
- local self-government bodies have a potential opportunity to purchase services of the Mobile Psychosocial Support Team for victims of violence from other local self-government bodies through inter-municipal cooperation or intergovernmental transfers (subventions).

The capacity of state bodies and local self-government bodies in Luhansk region is summarised in Figure 1.

### INSTITUTIONAL CAPACITY OF HROMADAS IN LUHANSK OBLAST TO WORK ON SGBV PREVENTION

- Relevance of the issue
- Personnel provision of social services
- Funds of local budget
- Conscious attitude of the management
- Personnel provision of police



# RECOMMENDATIONS

## FOR LUHANSK REGIONAL STATE ADMINISTRATION AND LOCAL COUNCILS ACROSS THE REGION ON PREVENTION AND RESPONSE TO GENDER-BASED AND DOMESTIC VIOLENCE THROUGH DEVELOPMENT OF GENDER RESPONSIVE PROGRAMMES AND BUDGETS

### I. COORDINATION AND OPERATIONAL MANAGEMENT

1. Heads of local councils need to more actively initiate measures aimed at ensuring that quality work on prevention and fight against gender-based and domestic violence is done.
2. It is necessary to develop a regional Gender Equality Strategy and an Action Plan as general strategic documents outlining measures on prevention and response to gender-based and domestic violence.
3. Through the involvement of local leaders and gender equality advocates, to create regional advisory civil society groups to strengthen civic engagement in the prevention of violence against women and girls.
4. To ensure that psychosocial services are provided to victims of gender-based and domestic violence in each community, in particular through the commissioning of social services.
5. To make an operational analysis of the Coordination Councils on the Family, Gender Equality, Prevention of Domestic Violence and Fight against Trafficking in Human Beings and develop a Roadmap for Inter-Sectoral Cooperation.
6. To ensure that meetings of the above-mentioned Coordination Councils are held on a quarterly basis to improve interaction among all relevant actors for rapid response to gender-based and domestic violence.
7. To include representatives of local non-governmental and women's organizations in the above-mentioned Coordination Councils at all levels for monitoring and evaluation of coordination activities in this area.
8. To develop long-term regional and local programmes to prevent and combat gender-based and domestic violence, providing for annual budgeting for them.
9. To facilitate regular joint meetings of the police and the population to discuss community security issues, as well as implement joint projects: "Safe City", "Neighbourhood Watch", "Safe House", etc.
10. To involve a socially oriented business to fund awareness-raising events on gender-based and domestic violence, as well as develop a service scheme for victims of violence and abusers committing it.
11. To invite non-governmental organisations, active citizens and representatives of women's organisations to join working groups elaborating social and economic development programmes at the local level.

12. To hold roundtables for representatives of local self-government bodies, executive authorities and civil society to discuss whether it is possible for the state to commission social services provided by local non-governmental organisations, their terms and funding from local and regional budgets.
13. To initiate allocation of funds from regional and local budgets to support targeted grants for local NGOs providing services and targeted assistance for victims of violence and abusers committing it.
14. To facilitate public involvement in support of public order and security (for example, through creation of community groups for joint police patrols).

## II. STAFF CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT

15. To launch a module “Prevention and Fight against Gender-Based and Domestic Violence” for training specialists at Luhansk Regional Centre for Social Services for Families, Children and Youth.
16. To ensure that heads of structural units of local authorities are regularly trained on effective management and concerted action for prevention and fight against gender-based and domestic violence.
17. To reinstate the positions of social work specialists in the staffing plan of the amalgamated territorial community/municipal social services with the allocation of budgeting for their maintenance.
18. To add responsibilities to identify and refer victims of violence, as well as execute preventive measures in the job descriptions of social work specialists.

## III. AWARENESS-RAISING ACTIVITIES

19. To regularly carry out community-based awareness-raising activities, in particular in educational institutions, on gender-based and domestic violence in order to raise awareness among community members, especially among men: flash mobs, street theatres, volunteer actions on prevention and fight against violence, etc.
20. To activate outreach activities on gender-based and domestic violence based on the “peer to peer” principle and involve representatives of local youth associations and youth hubs into such work.

21. To ensure that rural women are trained in understanding of their rights, promotion of self-esteem and strengthening of their capacities to fight against violence.
22. To facilitate the development of informational materials: posters, diaries, information stands, etc.
23. To promote that regional and local media allocate free air time to inform the public about gender-based and domestic violence and feature stories of women who have successfully overcome their own violence-related situation.
24. To facilitate that space for social advertising is developed (roadside billboards, street light boxes, variable message display on administrative buildings, LED screens, etc.).
25. To ensure that Internet resources to increase public awareness of gender-based and domestic violence (interest groups in social networks, theme-based websites, regional and local Internet newspapers, Internet radio, etc.) are operational.

#### **IV. SOCIAL SERVICE SCHEME DEVELOPMENT**

26. To facilitate that the mobile psychosocial support teams run by the International Charitable Fund "Ukrainian Foundation for Public Health" and funded by the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) and the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) are transferred under the management and financial support of territorial communities or regional subventions are allocated to local budgets to maintain the aforementioned service.
27. To develop a local system of qualitative redirection of victims of violence from the entity which revealed the fact of violence to the entity providing comprehensive support.
28. To create and ensure that day care centres for individual and group psychological counselling for community members are operational on a regular basis.
29. To provide motor vehicles for social workers in the countryside remote from the district centre at the expense of the local budget.
30. To create shelters/ safe havens for victims of violence, including children: day care centres for women in difficult living conditions, social hotels for temporary stay, etc.
31. To facilitate the operation of private counselling rooms for women affected by sexual violence, funded with support from the United Nations Population Fund.
32. To introduce psychosocial services in communities on correction of the behaviour of abusers committing violence and ensure their availability and regular delivery at the local level.
33. To support psychological counselling services, family support centres and ensure that active activities for family rest are implemented, and art, play and education spaces for children and youth, recreation areas, etc. are operational.