



Photo credit: UNDP Ukraine

# UNDP Ukraine ANNUAL REPORT • 2025

Resilient Recovery and Inclusive Development



Rebuilding systems, restoring opportunity, and strengthening resilience for communities across Ukraine

# A year in which Ukraine first stood its ground – and then moved forward

The year 2025 was one of profound challenges for Ukraine – and one in which it showed extraordinary resolve. Under relentless pressure, communities restored essential services, local institutions kept delivering, and partners across the multilateral system stood with Ukraine to protect development gains and open pathways to a more resilient future. I am deeply proud of what we achieved together: from decentralizing energy and expanding green generation, to advancing recovery planning, mine action, livelihoods, and inclusive digital governance that brings the state closer to people – even in the most difficult circumstances.

As the full-scale invasion entered its fourth year, Ukrainians endured another winter of attacks on the energy system, intermittent blackouts, and disrupted public services. The scale of destruction remained vast, and the needs for recovery and modernization daunting – over half a trillion dollars. Yet across oblasts and hromadas, a more hopeful storyline unfolded: communities rebuilding to higher standards, institutions delivering under fire, women leading solutions, and clean energy taking root where centralized grids struggled. UNDP worked side-by-side with central government, local authorities, civil society, and UN partners to turn emergency response into lasting resilience – aligning recovery with EU integration and the 2030 Agenda.

These results were only possible because of the trust and solidarity of our partners – national and local authorities, civil society and communities, international financial institutions, bilateral partners, the private sector, and the UN family. Your support for sustainable development and multilateral



**Auke Lootsma,**  
UNDP Resident Representative  
in Ukraine

Photo credit: UNDP Ukraine

cooperation has strengthened Ukrainian institutions and systems so that services reach those who need them most. In a protracted crisis, this systems-first approach is not only the right thing to do – it is also the smartest investment we can make.

Why is investment in development smart? Because it reduces future humanitarian need by embedding resilience into core services; crowds in capital by de-risking public investment and enabling private initiative; accelerates reform and EU alignment through greater transparency and regulatory quality; and restores trust by making the state more capable, open, and responsive. Every facility rebuilt to “Build Back Better” standards, every community recovery plan co-created with citizens, every user-centred e-service that saves time and cuts red tape – these are durable assets for the future that are being delivered today.

Looking ahead, UNDP’s focus is clear: supporting a **transparent, accountable, and EU-aligned recovery** by embedding integrity and anti-corruption across all recovery pipelines – from open planning and competitive procurement to strong oversight and grievance mechanisms – so every hryvnia delivers maximum public value. At the same time, UNDP will continue to advance **Ukraine’s EU accession process**, strengthening institutional capacity, transparency, and regulatory frameworks across governance, energy, environment, and public administration so

that recovery and reform progress hand in hand. Recognizing the scale of need, UNDP will help **mobilize recovery financing at scale**, supporting access to concessional lending and innovative instruments, while strengthening public investment management to turn financing into high-quality projects on the ground. This will be complemented by **innovation-driven, digital, and green transformation**, including decentralized energy solutions, expanded renewables, improved energy efficiency, and digital public infrastructure that enables more resilient and inclusive services – particularly for veterans, internally displaced people, women, youth, and persons with disabilities. Anchored in **human rights and democratic governance**, UNDP will continue to promote access to justice, support national human rights institutions, and strengthen meaningful civic participation. Above all, recovery efforts will remain **people-centred**, ensuring frontline communities and the most vulnerable are reached first, dignity is restored, and livelihoods rebuilt.

Ukraine’s recovery is a long-term endeavour, but its direction is unmistakable: toward a greener, more inclusive, and more accountable future. On behalf of UNDP, I extend heartfelt thanks to all partners for your steadfast commitment to the Ukrainian people and to the principles of multilateralism. I invite you to stay with us – to sustain and scale investment in development, to keep pushing innovation and integrity, and to ensure that the benefits of recovery reach every community.

# The Situation



**4.7 million** internally displaced people  
**6 million** displaced (Europe)



**US\$195 billion** in total direct damage  
**\$588 billion** in total recovery needs



The most affected sectors in terms of damage are housing, transport and energy



Funding Gap: Ukraine needs **\$15.25B** for 2026 priority recovery. With 34% secured, a **\$9.5B** gap remains



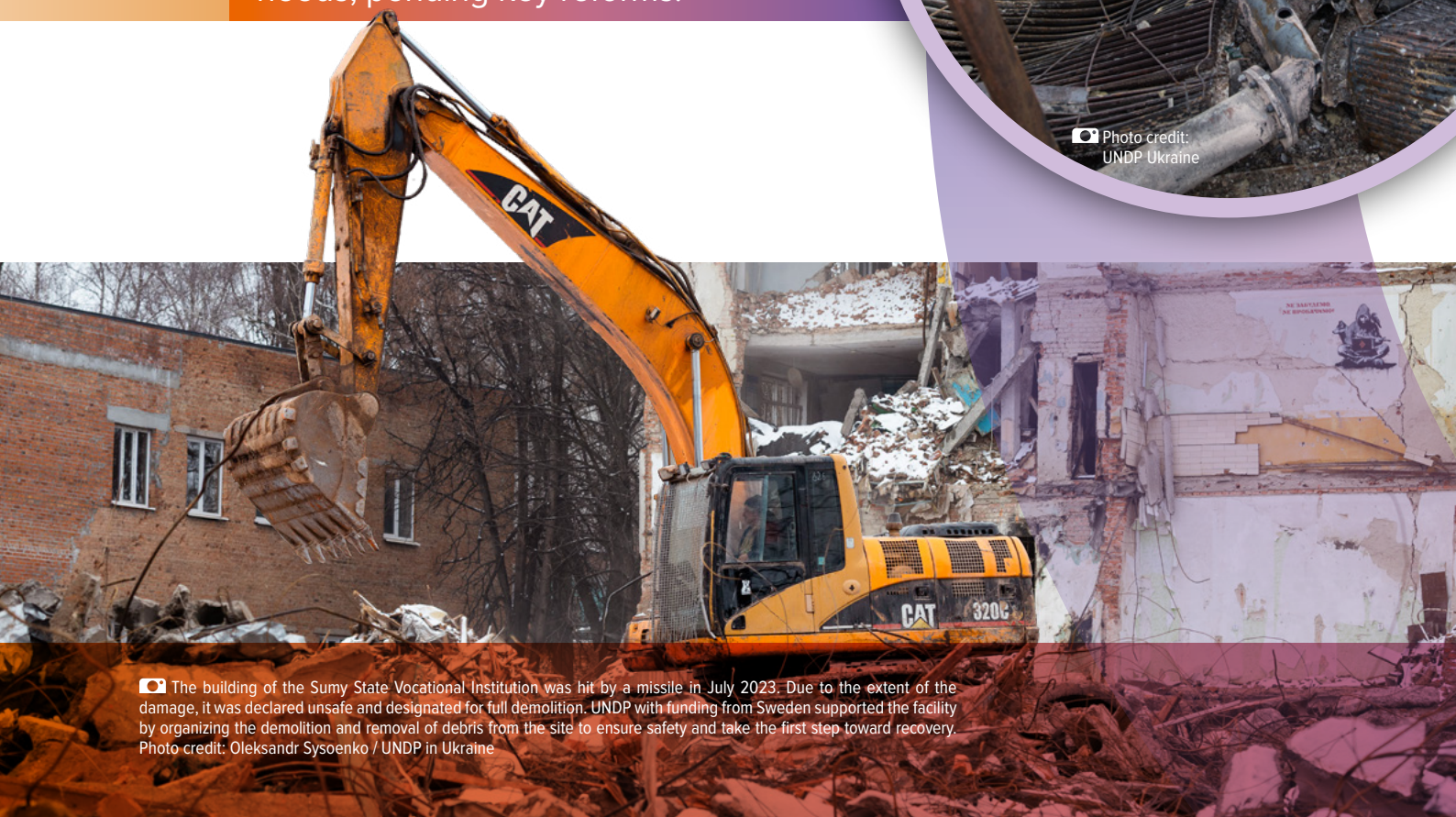
Private Sector Role: Private investment could cover 40% of long-term recovery needs, pending key reforms.



Photo credit:  
UNDP Ukraine



Photo credit:  
UNDP Ukraine



The building of the Sumy State Vocational Institution was hit by a missile in July 2023. Due to the extent of the damage, it was declared unsafe and designated for full demolition. UNDP with funding from Sweden supported the facility by organizing the demolition and removal of debris from the site to ensure safety and take the first step toward recovery. Photo credit: Oleksandr Sysoenko / UNDP in Ukraine

# The Vision

UNDP's vision is a **green, inclusive, and resilient recovery** that strengthens Ukraine's institutions, revitalizes its economy, empowers communities, and accelerates EU-aligned reforms.

Our integrated approach supports Ukraine across three core pathways:

## 1

### Structural Transformation

Rebuilding systems and institutions that deliver reliable services, enable evidence-based planning, expand renewable energy, and drive transparent, accountable governance.

## 2

### Leaving No One Behind

Ensuring internally displaced people, veterans, women, young people, and frontline communities benefit from recovery and have equitable access to services, livelihoods, and participation.

## 3

### Building National Resilience

Investing in energy security, mine action, digital transformation, community recovery, and environmental restoration – strengthening Ukraine's resilience to ongoing shocks.

This approach connects emergency stabilization with long-term recovery and aligns with Ukraine's EU integration priorities, national development goals, and the Sustainable Development Goals.



*We repair and bring back into service everything destroyed by the shelling."*

**Denys Rusnak**, energy sector specialist



Photo credit: UNDP Ukraine



# Programme Portfolio at glance



## Democratic Governance

- ✓ **Digital transformation** to modernize public services and expand e-governance
- ✓ **Effective multi-level governance** to support transparency, integrity, and recovery planning
- ✓ **Democratic participation** and strengthened civic engagement mechanisms
- ✓ **Human rights & access to justice**, including expanded Free Legal Aid and NHRI support
- ✓ **Social inclusion**, ensuring services reach IDPs, veterans, persons with disabilities, and vulnerable groups

📹 UNDP in Ukraine, in partnership with the State Emergency Service of Ukraine and the Japan International Cooperation Agency, organized a two-day demonstration session of cutting-edge mine action technologies, showcasing innovations developed in both Japan and Ukraine. The event provided an opportunity for national stakeholders to explore and test advanced tools, including ground penetrating radar (GPR), drones, and systems using artificial intelligence. Photo credit: Kseniia Nevenchenko / UNDP in Ukraine





📹 During the AI Data Jam hackathon at Unit.City (Kyiv), the team of IT engineers and data analysts “Mine Watch AI” developed an AI model capable of detecting explosive hazards in drone imagery. As their model proved to be the most accurate and effective, the team received \$2,000 in funding from UNDP in Ukraine and the Government of Luxembourg, and will continue their work in collaboration with humanitarian demining experts. Photo credit: Serhiy Piriev / UNDP Ukraine



## Inclusive Economic Growth

- ✓ **Mine action** to release land, restore safety, and enable community recovery and livelihoods
- ✓ **Infrastructure rehabilitation** applying “Build Back Better” standards for social facilities and public services
- ✓ **Economic revitalization** through MSME support, entrepreneurship development, and export readiness
- ✓ **Policy and regulatory reforms** improving business environments and institutional capacity
- ✓ **Reskilling and employment** programmes for women, young people, and veterans



## Energy and Environment

- ✓ **Energy security and transition**, including decentralized renewables and emergency power solutions
- ✓ **Climate action** and alignment with EU climate and green-transition legislation
- ✓ **Environmental protection**, including debris management, environmental damage assessment, and ecosystem restoration



📹 UNDP announced the graduation of 15 specialists who have completed a pioneering Training of Trainers course for underwater Remotely Operated Vehicle operations – a critical milestone in scaling Ukraine’s capacity to clear explosive hazards from its vast waterways. Photo credit: Oleksii Ushakov / UNDP Ukraine

# 2025 ACHIEVEMENTS

## People at the centre of recovery



### REBUILDING ESSENTIAL SERVICES, CLOSER TO PEOPLE

From supporting modular and mobile Administrative Service Centres to procuring ambulances and rehabilitation equipment, UNDP helped restore vital services for 47,150 people (including 30,648 women) while strengthening providers in 56 communities with practical training and tools. Community Engagement Working Groups in 74 communities connected authorities, security actors and citizens – ensuring that 466,101 internally displaced people (IDPs) were reached with targeted, integrated support.



### SUPPORTING THOSE WHO SERVED – VETERAN REINTEGRATION

UNDP strengthened Ukraine's community-based reintegration model by connecting local services and systems. With UNDP assistance, 22 veteran spaces were established across ten oblasts, providing integrated support to **more than 3,000 veterans** and **5,500 family members**. UNDP also supported the launch of six veteran-focused e-services, including the Veteran PRO section in the Diia e-governance website and app, simplifying access to benefits nationwide. Complementing this, UNDP expanded economic opportunities by equipping 1,052 veterans with entrepreneurial skills and supporting specialized vocational training, including programmes for veterans with disabilities to operate mechanized demining equipment.



UNDP and partners transfer vehicles for National Police to strengthen mobile teams to combat domestic and gender-based violence. Photo: Danylo Pavlov / UNDP in Ukraine

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📹 Since 2016, Iryna Matiushenko, Head of the Mobile Service Section at the “Viza” Administrative Service Centre in Kryvyi Rih, has been dedicated to public service, and in her current role, she continues to prioritize direct engagement with residents, especially those who face barriers to accessing essential services.

In 2024, with support from the EU and UNDP, the centre received a new minibuss and service kit, enhancing its capacity to serve more clients efficiently and comfortably. Photo credit: Viacheslav Ratynskiy / Reporters / UNDP in Ukraine



## MAKING JUSTICE AND RIGHTS ACCESSIBLE

With sustained support from UNDP, Ukraine’s Free Legal Aid system has modernised its front-line, human-centred services. In 2025, the system addressed 644,000 legal claims nationwide. Of these, more than 316,000 involved the provision of improved legal assistance (through written consultations and hotline services) delivered by Free Legal Aid lawyers trained with UNDP support. The National Human Rights Institution expanded its regional presence and case-handling – up approximately 24 percent year-on-year to 152,592 applications – while a sixth national Judicial Forum convened the sector around priorities under martial law.



*People shouldn’t be in a rush to dismiss us. We can still do something truly meaningful. Recently, we made a series of plates for people with upper-limb amputations.”*

**Serhii Railian**, participant of the “Pottery in the Dark” course, war veteran



📹 Pottery in the Dark combines art and rehabilitation to support veterans’ reintegration into civilian life. The programme, supported by Sweden and UNDP, has trained 10 war veterans who lost their sight in combat, helping them process trauma while learning a potential profession. Photo credit: Amid Askerov / UNDP in Ukraine

# Reviving Local Economies, Rehabilitating Infrastructure



## CLEARING THE WAY, SAFELY

UNDP helped release 20.5 million square meters of mine-suspected land, restoring safe access for 9,000 people and unblocking agriculture, services, and infrastructure projects.



## BUILDING BACK BETTER

Applying BBB standards, 48 social facilities were rehabilitated, improving access to essential services for 239,000 people (including 14,305 IDPs). Beyond construction, UNDP strengthened local capacity to prepare, procure and manage projects transparently, accelerating future pipelines.





📷 With support from the Government of Germany, UNDP has finalized repair works at Preschool No. 60 in Kremenchuk, ensuring a safer space for 100 children and 35 staff members. Photo credit: Pavlo Malovanyi / UNDP in Ukraine



## LIVELIHOODS, SKILLS AND MSMEs

Through inclusive initiatives, reskilling and business support, 223,684 people expanded their economic opportunities – 17,980 private entities improved their competitiveness and export readiness via Made in Ukraine offices, Resilient Business Hubs, and training. To help strengthen Ukrainians' entrepreneurial skills, 1,368 women entrepreneurs were provided with training to enhance their digital capabilities, and 688 local actors learned to integrate gender equality and social inclusion (GESI) into local economic planning.

📷 UNDP, in partnership with the Ministry of Defence in Ukraine and with funding from the Government of the Republic of Korea, has held Ukraine's first national conference dedicated to underwater demining. A key outcome of the conference was the formation of five specialized interagency working groups tasked with jointly tackling the main challenges of the underwater demining sector. Photo credit: Kseniia Nevenchenko / UNDP in Ukraine



*Finding work right now is really tough – there's almost none.*

By mastering a traditionally “male profession,” woman farmer **Natalia Steshyna** proved that new realities can unlock hidden potential.

📷 Photo credit: Ivan Antypenko / Reporters / UNDP in Ukraine



# Energy resilience and a greener recovery




## KEEPING THE LIGHTS AND HEAT ON

In 2025, with support from international partners, UNDP helped restore and maintain energy services for over 6.6 million people by delivering critical equipment, including cogeneration units, autotransformers, and gas-boosting compressors. Ongoing attacks on the energy system delayed the commissioning of several units, but the deployed assets significantly strengthened the resilience of essential services. Decentralized generation has proved to be vital in reducing system vulnerability and limiting the impact of strikes, helping to create more stable operating conditions for communities and businesses.




## SCALING CLEAN, DISTRIBUTED POWER

UNDP facilitated 30 ESCO-based solar contracts across 22 cities, deploying around 5.1 MW of solar and strengthening access to clean, resilient energy for approximately 541,000 people, while simultaneously generating more than 5.7 million kWh in energy savings. By easing pressure on damaged grids, distributed renewables helped communities keep services running through attacks and outages.

 The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in Ukraine, with support from the Government of Sweden, has provided the Department of Environmental Policy of the Dnipro City Council with equipment for processing wood waste and producing fuel briquettes. The provided tools will reduce the burden on landfills and contribute to the development of a sustainable energy system. Photo credit: Ivan Lavrenko / UNDP in Ukraine



 Demolition of multistory buildings in Kharkiv. Photo: Christina Pashkina / UNDP in Ukraine



## CLEARING DEBRIS AND HAZARDS, ENABLING SAFE RECONSTRUCTION

UNDP supported the removal and sorting of about 600,000 tons of debris, including hazardous waste, with tens of thousands of tons being recycled and repurposed for road and landfill works. UNDP also advanced national standards for asbestos and hazardous materials management.



## POLICY PATHWAYS TO DECARBONIZATION

UNDP contributed to the National Emission Reduction Plan, advanced a Guarantee of Origin framework for hydrogen and the Long-Term Low Emission Development Strategy, supported the Foundations of Green Recovery draft law, and backed Ukraine's EU Chapter 27 screening, helping to consolidate the regulatory groundwork for climate-aligned reconstruction and long-term green investment.

📍 UNDP in Ukraine, in close cooperation with the Ministry of Energy of Ukraine, has delivered three high-power autotransformers to the National Power Company "Ukrenergo" — two units funded by the Government of Japan and one by the Government of Sweden. This equipment will not only help stabilize the national grid, but also ensure that millions of Ukrainians have more reliable access to electricity, heating, and essential services. Photo credit: UNDP in Ukraine



*We bring people heat,  
and that brings us joy."*

**Olena** has worked at a boiler plant in Odesa for 24 years, ensuring there is heat for 250,000 residents – even during blackouts and missile attacks.



# Governance and digital transformation – trust by design



## INTEGRITY, INCLUSION, AND DATA-DRIVEN PLANNING

UNDP supported updates to the State Regional Development Strategy, helped 20 communities advance their local development strategies, and trained 3,500 officials in public investment management. To reinforce local integrity systems, UNDP assisted 20 communities in developing anti-corruption programmes and, drawing on this experience, launched a Model Anti-Corruption Programme for local governments. UNDP also supported the National Agency on Corruption Prevention in drafting the whistleblower provisions of the 2026 – 2030 National Anti-Corruption Strategy, informed by a UNDP-supported study. The digital readiness of regional recovery offices was boosted, enabling more transparent, evidence-based coordination.



## E-SERVICES PEOPLE ACTUALLY USE

Since 2021, UNDP has supported the launch of 74 e-services. In 2025 alone, 23 new services went live (six for veterans; four social; five demining; eight for employee reservation), which were used more than two million times over the last year and 59.8 million times cumulatively. User uptake of public e-services rose from 55 percent to 59 percent, with satisfaction at 85 percent – a testament to the success of human-centred design, even under wartime pressure.



*Youth are not ‘extras.’”*

A youth exchange brings together young people in Korshiv village, Volyn Oblast as part of the VidNOVA:UA programme.

Photo credit: UNDP Ukraine / Yuriy Yevtushko



## YOUNG PEOPLE AND WOMEN SHAPING POLICY

UNDP supported the development of the “Youth of Ukraine 2026–2030” Programme, ensuring inclusive participation by facilitating input from 601 young people across the country. In parallel, UNDP supported 216 women-led initiatives, strengthening local leadership and civic participation.




Photo credit: Kseniia Nevenchenko / UNDP in Ukraine

With support from the Government of Japan, UNDP facilitated the launch of a new rehabilitation programme for people with visual impairments at the “Comprehensive Rehabilitation Centre for People with Disabilities.”



# At-a-Glance: 2025 Key Achievements

Number of people who regained/had improved access to essential services	<b>6.6 million</b>
Amount of solar power generating capacity installed via ESCO contracts	<b>~5.1 MW across 22 cities</b>
Area cleared of debris and hazardous waste	<b>~508,365 m<sup>2</sup></b>
Amount of land released from mine suspicion	<b>20.5 million m<sup>2</sup></b>
Number of social facilities rebuilt	<b>48 facilities for 239,148 people</b>
Number of people who advanced their livelihoods and skills	<b>223,684</b>
Number of MSMEs that improved competitiveness	<b>17,980</b>
Number of E-services launched since 2021	<b>74 (23 new in 2025)</b>
Number of Free Legal Aid beneficiaries	<b>~644,000</b>
Amount of EIB loans de-risked for recovery	<b>EUR 976 million</b>

 For seven years, Olha Benda has shown that life continues after amputation. A former soldier and mother, she returned to sports and co-founded Ukraine's first women's amputee football team. In an interview with BigKyiv, she shares her rehabilitation journey and experience of getting a prosthesis. The material was produced as part of a UNDP information campaign raising awareness of rehabilitation services and support available to those affected by explosive ordnance. Photo: BigKyiv / UNDP Ukraine



## WHY UNDP?

### Nationwide coverage and long-term presence

UNDP has worked in Ukraine since 1993, and has built deep partnerships across ministries, local governments, civil society, and communities.

### An integrated, multisectoral recovery model

Energy, governance, mine action, environment, and economic recovery are delivered as one coherent system – not standalone interventions.

### Leadership in recovery planning

UNDP co-led sections of the Ukraine's Fourth Rapid and Damage Needs Assessment (RDNA4), contributed to 10 thematic areas, and supports evidence-driven policy and strategic planning across sectors.

### Strong support to EU integration

UNDP's policy work aligns with EU *acquis* chapters, green transition standards, governance reforms, and digital transformation priorities.

### Local ownership and participation

UNDP supports community-based recovery, integrity systems, anti-corruption, and inclusive planning to ensure transparency and citizen trust.

### Commitment to gender equality and inclusion

From women's entrepreneurship to accessible digital services and gender-responsive energy design, gender equality is fully integrated into UNDP's programming.

## PARTNERSHIPS

In 2025, UNDP delivered one of its strongest recovery portfolios in Ukraine, made possible through the collective commitment of a broad and diverse community of partners. Together, we mobilized and delivered **over US\$ 200 million** in support for Ukraine's recovery, drawing on generous contributions from long-standing donors as well as engaging new partners. This joint effort produced impactful programming across energy resilience, economic revitalization, mine action, governance, and community-based recovery. UNDP also provided technical assistance that allowed the Government of Ukraine to access

**EUR 976 million** in EIB financing for recovery and energy efficiency.

We extend our sincere appreciation to all our partners, whose trust and solidarity made these results possible. As Ukraine's recovery needs continue to grow, we call on the international community to sustain and expand its support. **Investing through UNDP is an investment in stability, resilience, and long-term recovery for millions of people across Ukraine.**

## UNDP PARTNERS



## UNDP'S COMMITMENT

UNDP remains committed to supporting Ukraine's people and institutions as they navigate conflict, manage recovery, and build toward a greener, more inclusive, and more resilient future.

**Together, we're helping communities recover today – and rebuild a better tomorrow.**

