

WORKING GROUPS ON COMMUNITY SECURITY AND SOCIAL COHESION

In 2017, UNDP, under the UN Recovery and Peacebuilding Programme launched a new community mobilisation tool, namely the Community Security and Social Cohesion Working Groups (CSWGs). The purpose of the working groups was to combine efforts in improving community security and social cohesion in areas affected by the armed conflict.



The Community Security and Social Cohesion Working Group is more than just an open dialogue platform in the community.

UNDP designed the CSWGs using a multi-sectoral programming Community Security and Social Cohesion (CSSC) approach. The CSSC approach operationalises human security, human development and state-building paradigms at the local level.

It focuses on ensuring that communities and their members are "free from fear" while also taking action on a wider range of social and economic issues that may impact on physical security to ensure "freedom from need". It emphasises participatory assessments, planning and accountability and seeks to improve service delivery, reduce social exclusion and strengthen democratic governance.

A CSWG is also an advisory body that enables community decisions to be taken. It is a democracy tool that helps to build community dialogue, and which can evanesce the line between "we" and "they" in community and increase trust.

The working groups are transforming the relationship and dynamics between local authorities and local population, enabling a better engagement in the life of the community.

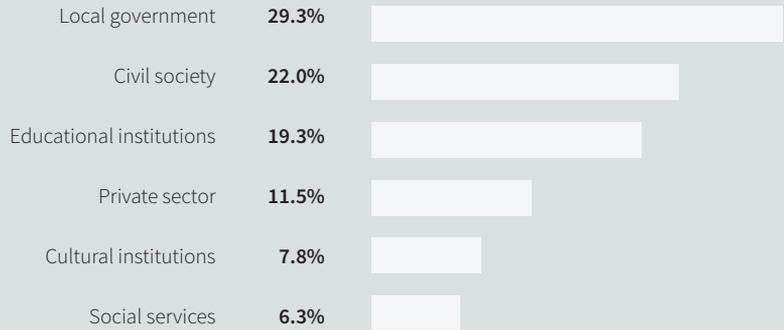
A CSWG is a community level construct around which the inhabitants can gather and which mobilises them to create a safe environment, allowing it to:

- conduct participatory assessments of community resources and needs
- build trust and community cohesion
- participate in local decision-making
- coordinate the activities of all stakeholders on security and cohesion issues
- advocate for and empower vulnerable groups in the community
- fundraise for the implementation of security initiatives and projects
- develop community capacity for a systematic approach in building a safe environment
- develop leadership and its potential in the security area.

The Working Groups include:

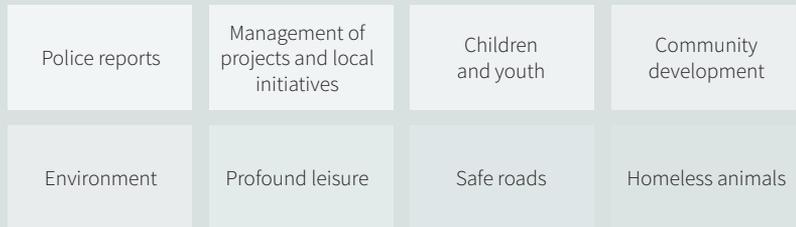
- community service providers
- NGOs and leaders of initiative groups (including the most vulnerable groups in the community)
- representatives of local authorities and self-government bodies
- representatives of education, culture, social services
- private sector (business) representatives

The composition of the Working Groups



The most popular topics

A survey of 410 respondents covering 30 communities of Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts was performed in 2019



The Main Results of the Working Groups in 2019:

A participatory assessment of resources and needs in communities was conducted; 30 community profiles were created.

Druzhkivka



Vuhledar



A strong partnership has been established with the police in each community. Once a month, the police reports to the community at a working group meeting and they promptly respond to requests and enlist the support of citizens.

A comprehensive study of the CSOs effectiveness in 30 partner communities of Donetsk and Luhansk regions has been done.



19 roadmaps and strategic guidelines for the development of e-participation services in the communities of Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts during 2020-2024 have been developed.



A comprehensive study of the effectiveness of CSOs in 30 partner communities of Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts was carried out.



In cooperation with the implementing partner "Gurt", 37 self-help groups were created and continue operating in 10 communities of Donetsk and Lugansk oblasts. 16 mini-initiatives were supported endeavoured at the empowerment of the most vulnerable groups in the community.

A network of CSWGs on community security and social cohesion has been established. It has significantly influenced the organisational capacity of the working groups, the dissemination of information on network activities, the establishment of partnerships and the implementation of joint initiatives and projects.

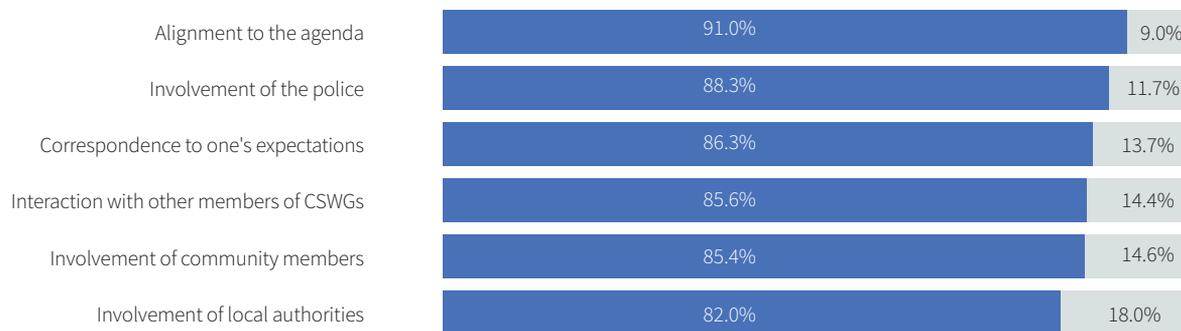
With the support of the UN RPP, 100 projects worth a total of **USD 613,000** and 26 mini-initiatives with a total value of **USD 53,000** were implemented.

The co-financing of projects and civic initiatives from local budgets amounted to almost **USD 70,110**.

100
projects

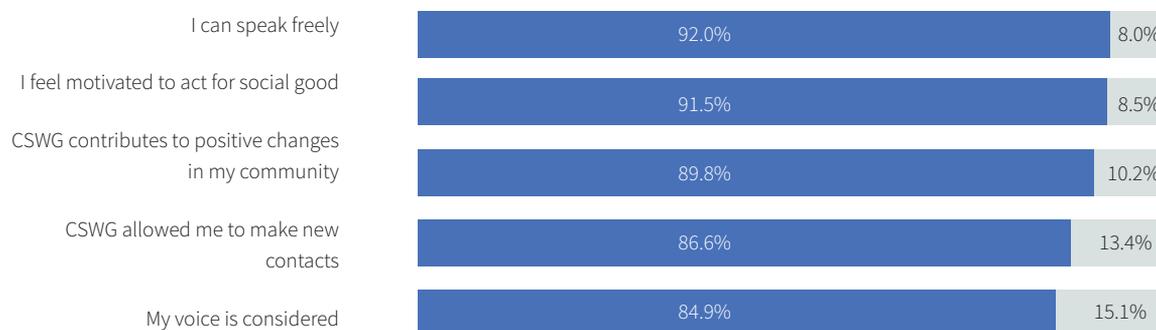
Evaluation of Working Groups Meetings

● Agree
● Disagree



Evaluation of the Effectiveness of the Working Groups

● Agree
● Disagree



Challenges and recommendations. What needs to be done in 2020-2021?

- Continue working on inclusiveness of Working Groups.
- Attract more participants, especially from vulnerable groups in the community.
- Improve external communications to better inform the public about the role of the working groups and the impact of their decisions on community life.
- Support the exchange of experience and work together to find solutions to similar problems in partner communities.



**Sartana ATC,
a young Roma woman,
leader of the Roma initiative group:**

This is my second visit to a CSWG. But before I decided to come the first time, I was worried about how they'd treat me. A neighbour advised me to join; she always visits it, and says she learned a lot of useful things there, and her ideas and questions were listened to and answered. I also decided to join the group because it's not a secret that Roma people are mostly stereotyped. The hardest thing for me was to express my opinion, but now I'm happy that I'm here. On many issues, I immediately received a bit of advice or a hint. Everyone is here, from the heads of educational, cultural, health care institutions, to local authorities, police and residents from all settlements. Active NGOs advised me to create my own CSO. I returned home all excited as I had so much inspiration! Both my husband and relatives were also interested. And now I am a permanent member of a working group that has become an advisory body of the community! I've never felt like a part of our community before, but now I was heard, and the Roma people are being listened to.

**Sartana ATC,
farmer, Chermalyk village**

I never thought that I'd be interested in attending such events. I've always considered this a waste of time, as I'm a rural person. I've been working the soil, and with animals too, since my childhood, and not having empty talks. I had a lot of questions, so one day, I agreed to visit the local community

security working group. I was a bit wary, but from the first minute I was surprised by the number of people who wanted to attend this meeting. I saw a lot of people like me. This meeting was a revelation for me — people were discussing questions and solving them. This is very good. I always come when I have the time, and these meetings really help. And the most important thing is that now I know how to develop my business further, as I received both tips and support.

**Dobropillya CSWG,
a woman with a child with a disability**

When I visited the community security and social cohesion working group for the first time, I didn't understand why I needed it or how it could solve my problems. In real life, the situation is difficult; there are a lot of difficulties with the recovery, education, rehabilitation and development of my child, who has a disability. It's like constantly running around in circles, from one service to another. But at the second and third meetings of the working group, I was able to ask about things that worried me to all the service providers at the same time, and they agreed among themselves about my problems right there in the room.

Then I realised that the working group was a very useful form of close dialogue for vulnerable people. It must be an informal communication. In the working group, I also met other parents who have children with disabilities. We talked, found common problems and took a decision to work together. I'm going to be attending these working groups all the time!