



INCEPTION REPORT

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in Crisis-affected Communities of Ukraine**

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ACRONYMS

ATH	Amalgamated Territorial Hromadas (Communities)
CME	Community Mobilization for Empowerment
CSO	Civil Society Organization
EIB	European Investment Bank
EPTATF	Eastern Partnership Technical Assistance Trust Fund
EU	European Union
GBV	Gender-Based Violence
GCA	Government Controlled Area
GRB	Gender Responsive Budgeting
IDP	Internally Displaced Person
JP	Joint Project
NAP 1325	National Action Plan 1325
NGO	Non-governmental Organization
PETS	Public Expenditure Tracking Survey
RDA	Regional Development Agency
SCORE	Social Cohesion and Reconciliation Index
SDC	Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation
SIDA	Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency
SIVA	Sector Integrity Vulnerability Assessments
TA	Technical Assistance
ToR	Terms of Reference
TsNAP	Centre for Provision of Administrative Services
UN Women	United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNSCR	United Nations Security Council Resolution
UWF	Ukrainian Women's Fund
VA	Vulnerability Assessment
WIC	Women's Information Centre
WPS	Women, Peace and Security

1. CONTEXT

Despite many efforts at the highest diplomatic levels, the conflict in Donetsk and Luhansk Oblasts has not been settled as the implementation of the Minsk Agreements has stalled. Only in September 2016 did a renewed fragile ceasefire open the possibility for genuine stabilization and relief for the 6.5 million people of both Donetsk and Luhansk Oblasts. Meanwhile, the situation on the government-controlled sides of both Oblasts has allowed a consolidation of governance structures and stabilized; providing a good basis for socio-economic recovery. This has also allowed these areas to participate in Ukraine-wide reforms, in particular in the areas of administrative reform and transparency. There has been some success in implementing the decentralization reform agenda, with its key components of territorial amalgamation and fiscal decentralization, as the key prerequisite and the basis for implementation of a whole spectrum of sectoral reforms in Ukraine. This has led to the empowerment of local authorities, particularly of the newly formed amalgamated hromadas. This aims at bringing new opportunities for socio-economic development of these amalgamated hromadas, while at the same time, imposing greater responsibilities on them.

However, at the political level, the progress on the decentralization reform agenda has been delayed. The project was initially designed in 2015 to target support for all new bodies and institutions that 'would be' created following the amendments to the Constitution. On 31 August 2015, the constitutional amendments on the chapter on Decentralization were passed by a simple majority in the parliament. However, this was followed immediately by violent protests outside the Parliament in Kyiv. ***Subsequently, the governing coalition in Ukraine collapsed, resulting in the lack of a majority in the parliament, which has further delayed the constitutional and related decentralization reform process.*** Therefore, the expected constitutional amendments that would create Prefect offices and Executive Rayon Councils have not been adopted. These amendments are essential for fundamentally reconfiguring the functions of local governance institutions, which was the primary (Objective 1) of the project. Presently, both Oblasts continue to function under special legislation that designates them as civil-military administrations.

Nonetheless, both Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts have successfully implemented the creation of three and two amalgamated hromadas, respectively. Inclusive public consultations regarding regional recovery and development planning, including the restructuring of local governance were held, including the engagement of representatives of local authorities and community members. The impact of the conflict has continued to have severe effects on the local population, due to protracted displacement, inaccessibility of large parts of the regions along the contact line, and constrained growth of the local economy. However, there are signs of stabilization that allow for some guarded optimism for socio-economic recovery and further development of responsive and effective governance institutions.

1.1 Donetsk Oblast

Structural Departments of Donetsk Oblast State Administrations with the support of the Office of Reforms compiled profiles of prospective hromadas to be amalgamated. Based on this, the Prospective plan of territorial formation of amalgamated hromadas in Donetsk oblast was developed.

According to the Prospective plan approved by the Donetsk Oblast State Administration in July 2015 and approved by the Cabinet of Ministers in September 2015, **thirty eight amalgamated territorial hromadas (ATH) are to be established in Donetsk oblast.** Three hromadas – i.e., Lyman, Cherkaske and Oktyabrsk - have been already formed and are functioning, and have direct budget relations with the State Budget of Ukraine. The amalgamation process takes into consideration established local economic ties and infrastructure.

As of September 2016, eight additional ATHs (Ocheretyno, Andriivka, Bakhmut, Soledar, Mykolaivka, Kramatorsk, Bilozerske and Illinivka) are ready to complete the amalgamation process. Currently, these communities are waiting for the official permission from the Central Election Commission to hold local elections. As some of these hromadas did not fully follow the boundaries suggested by the original

Prospective Plan, additional amendments to the administrative and territorial system should be introduced in order to announce elections in these communities. For this purpose, the Donetsk Oblast State Administration submitted the relevant proposals to the Verkhovna Rada, which took the relevant decisions¹ on 8 September 2016 that allow the newly amalgamated hromadas of Bakhmut, Mykolaivka and Illinivka to hold local elections.

In the city of Kramatorsk, the amalgamation process is delayed due to a court ruling. The documentation for amalgamation was drafted with mistakes and therefore it should be re-approved by a resolution of the local councils concerned. Seven more ATHs are expected to be formalized in Donetsk oblast by the end of 2016: Druzhkivka, Kostyantynivka, Chasiv Yar, Bilytske, Komarske, Vugledar, Volnovaha, and Volodarske. This level of progress puts Donetsk Oblast well among the leading regions in Ukraine, in terms of completing the amalgamation process. As amalgamation will lead to greater availability of local financial resources, both in the form of higher own revenues and fiscal transfers, this bodes well for local self-government bodies to play a lead role in socio-economic development, as well as improving community security and social cohesion within their respective jurisdictions.

1.2 Luhansk Oblast

The Prospective Plan for ATHs in Luhansk oblast was approved by the Luhansk Oblast State Administration on 10 June 2015, and subsequently endorsed by the Cabinet of Ministers on 5 August 2015. According to the Plan, **twenty four amalgamated hromadas are to be established in Luhansk oblast.**

Two hromadas – Bilokurakhyne and Novoposkovsk - have been formed and are functioning, having direct budget relations with the State Budget of Ukraine. Local elections in both hromadas were held on 25 October 2015.

Moreover, there have been some discussions on changes to the prospective plan in Luhansk, which eventually led to some changes in the map according to which hromadas are to be formed. The new limits of Girske community have thus been established², following a parliamentary resolution adopted on 8 September 2016, but no active amalgamation process is currently taking place.

No additional amalgamated communities are expected to be formed in Luhansk oblast by the end of 2016. This means that Luhansk lags far behind not only Donetsk Oblast, but also most other regions in Ukraine and is likely to have negative consequences for the overall development in the region. It also means that the gap between Donetsk and Luhansk Oblasts, already pronounced before the conflict starting in 2014, will be further deepened.

1.3 Project Inception

The project inception phase began on 27 May 2016 with the official signing of the Agreement between EU, UNDP and UN-Women in Kramatorsk, Donetsk oblast, on the Restoration of Governance project, under UNDP's umbrella, Recovery and Peacebuilding Programme framework. The signing ceremony was held at the premises of Donetsk Oblast State Administration with participation of the Governor of Donetsk and First Deputy Governor of Luhansk oblasts.

¹ According to its Resolutions #1518-VIII 'Changes to the administrative and territorial system in Donetsk oblast, changes and establishment of borders of the city of Slovyansk and Slovyansk rayon, Donetsk oblast' and #1520-VIII 'Changes in the administrative and territorial system in Donetsk oblast, changes and establishment of borders of the city Gorlivka and Bakhmut rayon, Donetsk oblast' adopted on 8 September 2016

² according to the Resolution of Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine #1517-VIII 'Regarding changes to administrative and territorial system in Luhansk oblast, changes and establishment of borders of the towns of Zolote and Girske of Popasnaya district, Luhansk oblast'



2. TARGET HROMADAS

A series of planning meetings have been held with the management of Donetsk and Luhansk Oblast State Administrations, regarding the selection of 20 target communities (hromadas) - i.e., 10 hromadas per each oblast - including scope and feasibility on implementing initially planned project outputs and activities; particularly on decentralization reform. **Based on the feedback received, some project outputs and activities require redesign to refocus and address emerging priorities, as well as to ensure complementarity and synergies with other programming interventions implemented by UNDP and other actors in the region.**

The target communities were selected based on the Prospective Plans of both Donetsk and Luhansk Oblasts as listed in the following table below (see Annexes 1 and 2 for Maps of targeted Hromadas in Donetsk and Luhansk, respectively):

No	Donetsk Oblast	Luhansk Oblast
1	Lyman (ATH)	Bilokurakyne (ATH)
2	Cherkaske (ATH)	Bilovodsk
3	Mykolaivka	Zolote
4	Bakhmut	Krasnorichenske
5	Slovyansk	Markivka
6	Kramatorsk	Milove
7	Druzhkivka	Novoaydar
8	Mariupol	Novopskovsk (ATH)
9	Vuhledar	Popasna
10	Velyka Novosilka	Severodonetsk

Two out of ten target hromadas in Donetsk Oblast (Lyman and Cherkaske) have been amalgamated as well as two target hromadas in Luhansk oblast (Bilokurakyne and Novopskovsk). Nine hromadas in Donetsk oblast and six hromadas in Luhansk oblast are currently being supported under the Restoration of Governance programme funded by SIDA and SDC, as follows:

No	Donetsk Oblast	Luhansk Oblast
1	Lyman amalgamated hromada	Bilokurakine amalgamated hromada
2	Cherkas'ka amalgamated hromada	Novopskov amalgamated hromada
3	Bakhmut City Council	Lysychansk City Council
4	Druzhkivka City Council	Popasne City Council
5	Kostyantynivka City Council	Schastye City Council
6	Kramatorsk City Council	Svatove City Council
7	Mariupol City Council	
8	Slovyansk City Council	
9	Vugledar City Council	

3. PROJECT STAFFING

The key challenge experienced during the inception period were recruiting qualified experts/specialists in the areas of anti-corruption and decentralization (administrative, fiscal and territorial amalgamation).

In July 2016, the following interim team was established by the UNDP Recovery and Stabilization Advisor/Head of Project Office in Kramatorsk:

- international Senior Anti-corruption Consultant (Kiev based);
- national Area Manager (Kramatorsk);
- national Governance and Social Cohesion Advisors (Kramatorsk & Severodonetsk);
- national Communications Associate (Kramatorsk);
- national Finance & Procurement Associate (Kramatorsk);
- national Administrative Associate (Kramatorsk).

Job descriptions of key UNDP specialists and other project support positions were prepared and advertised in August 2016. The number of qualified candidates that applied for the eight national technical specialist positions on anti-corruption, administrative decentralization, fiscal decentralization and territorial amalgamation (two each to be based in Donetsk and Luhansk, respectively) was severely limited. In order to expedite the recruitment and deployment of the key specialists, the UNDP Senior Management team initiated the fast-track recruitment procedure, as well as rapid contracting and deployment of short-term consultants to fill these vacancies. Project stakeholders, national and international experts were closely involved throughout the recruitment process. In particular, two national experts on territorial amalgamation and fiscal decentralization were identified and recommended by the Deputy Governor of Luhansk Oblast, and national consultant contracts have been issued by UNDP accordingly. A national consultant on Anticorruption for Kramatorsk was identified by the international Senior Anticorruption Consultant and deployed as of 30 September 2016. ***The recruitment status of the key UNDP project staff positions are listed in Annex 3.***

UN Women had finalized recruitment of an International Programme Specialist on Gender Equality and Governance (Kiev), national Programme Analyst (in Kramatorsk) and national Programme Associate (Kiev) as of 1 July 2016. A national Programme Coordinator was recruited as of 1 August in Kiev, and national driver will be on board as of 1 October 2016 in Kramatorsk.

4. COMMUNICATIONS & VISIBILITY

Both UNDP and UN Women engaged in a series of consultations to revise and finalize the communication and visibility plan of the programme. The focus of these consultations aimed to ascertain how to reach key audiences on a timely basis and by the most effective means possible, as well as ensure consistent and coherent messaging on decentralization reform, including ensuring synergies with other ongoing programming in this area. The project will implement a region-wide awareness and advocacy campaign on the need for and benefits of gender-responsive decentralization and territorial amalgamation, restoring and improving public service delivery, ensuring communities' security and strengthening social cohesion and trust towards authorities. The project will support a community awareness campaign on Gender-Based Violence (GBV) by focusing on preventive measures and sensitizing target communities accordingly. Local TV and radio outlets and social networks are considered the most effective media channels for public outreach and awareness raising campaigns. Other means of popular communication and advocacy, such as National Comic and Cartoon Competition on Gender Equality, are covered under the Project's Communication Plan.

To operationalize the plan, the project organized commemoration of the International Peace Day in Slovyansk city. The event brought together 40 representatives of regional administrations of Luhansk and Donetsk oblasts, CSOs and line ministries with an aim to support the process of localization of the National Action Plan 1325 and its integration in the oblasts/local development plans. The project's Communication Plan will leverage the internationally and nationally commemorated dates, such as Europe day, International Women's Day, International Rural Women's Day, International Day of Peace to highlight the centrality of gender equality and women's human rights to the governance, reconciliation and peace building.

5. REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT AGENCY

The Governor of Donetsk has requested UNDP's support with the establishment and operationalization of the new Regional Development Agency (RDA), as foreseen in legislation. A Steering Committee has been established for the Donetsk-RDA and international partners, including the EC and UNDP, have been invited to participate as members. It is envisaged that the RDA will procure and monitor implementation of infrastructure projects across the region in a manner that effectively mitigates potential risks of corruption. The Donetsk Oblast is facing challenges related to deficiencies of the current procurement system at the regional level, limited human and organizational capacities and high fiduciary and corruption risks. The Donetsk Regional Administration has approved a list of over 800 social and engineering infrastructure facilities to be reconstructed. The establishment of effective and transparent procurement and integrity management systems in both Donetsk and Luhansk Oblasts would facilitate and expedite implementation of public funds for infrastructure development, as well as complement the implementation and monitoring of projects funded through Ukraine's portfolio of international loans that specifically target early recovery and infrastructure development in both regions. ***It is therefore recommended that development partners consider working closely with the representatives of Regional Administrations and civil society, on the institutional setup and operations of the RDAs in both oblasts. This support – particularly on public procurement and related anticorruption measures - would contribute to ensuring public resources are efficiently and effectively utilized and delivered for the development of both oblasts, as well as improve accountability and transparency through a community based monitoring system as currently planned under the project.***

UNDP has the operational presence and expertise to rapidly procure the requisite technical assistance through short-term national consultants to expedite support on public procurement, and concurrently, build the institutional capacity of the RDA. Technical assistance in the regard would entail the deployment of various technical experts, as follows:

- Legal experts - to support development of the relevant institutional frameworks of the RDA in line with prevailing legislation;
- Economists or other specialized institutions/think tanks – to conduct socio-economic assessments (as required);
- Management/Organizational Development experts – to support the development of the RDA’s organogram, planning frameworks, as well as provide technical assistance on recruitments as well as organizational business processes, drafting SOPs - to ensure the effective operations of the RDA. Provide training on strategic planning, project cycle and results based management and monitoring;
- Procurement experts – to support implementation of PROZORRO, the online e-governance procurement system introduced in Ukraine by Transparency International, as well as train designated RDA staff as well as other local government officials;
- Engineering experts/firms – to support and provide training on preparation of relevant technical specifications/BOQs and tender documentations. Technical design of larger or more complex infrastructure projects could also be outsourced to specialized engineering firms;
- Anti-corruption experts – to provide technical guidance on implementation of anticorruption tools and methodologies for monitoring and mitigating potential risks of corruption;
- Environment and Energy Efficiency experts – to conduct environmental impact assessments and introduce energy efficient technology in the tender documentation for selected infrastructure projects.
- Information Technology experts to design and implement e-governance solutions for effective document/records management and website design of RDA.

This support would ensure that the RDA is equipped with the relevant skills and capacities to plan, manage, coordinate and monitor the overall procurement process - from development of technical specifications/BOQs and tender documentation, management of procurement processes through PROZORRO, evaluation of tender documents for potential conflict of interest, and mitigation of integrity vulnerabilities, as well as contracting selected bidders.

6. TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE ON EIB EARLY RECOVERY LOAN

The European Investment Bank (EIB) intends to provide financing support through its Early Recovery Framework loan for Ukraine in line with the following, phased approach:

- Phase 1:** A first multi-sector framework loan targeting early recovery investments on critical infrastructure in affected areas, and basic needs to ensure decent living conditions for displaced people and host communities; which was signed between EIB and the Government of Ukraine in December 2014;
- Phase 2:** A follow-up multi-sector framework operation or dedicated loans for infrastructure rehabilitation scaling-up EIB support once the full needs assessment will be completed.

To support the proper implementation of its Early Recovery Framework loan, under the auspices of the Ministry of Regional Development, the EIB has engaged UNDP in negotiations to provide technical assistance (TA) to final beneficiaries – i.e., regional and municipal administrations and publicly owned enterprises - in five target oblasts of eastern Ukraine, including Donetsk and Luhansk. The overall objective of the Technical Assistance (TA) is to support the proper implementation of the Ukraine Early Recovery framework loan, and to enhance the capacities of the central, regional and municipal governments to effectively plan, operate and monitor the sub-projects to be financed under the loan. The TA is also required to support social mitigation issues and local governance support in programme monitoring. More specifically, the TA operation is required to deliver the following summary of key activities, *amongst others*:

- Support regions and final beneficiaries (municipalities, other public bodies) to fine-tune needs assessment, establish priorities and identify specific early recovery projects;
- Provide support, as required, to municipalities and other public bodies (particularly those lacking proper construction and procurement sections) on project design and engineering, due diligence (social and environmental compliance), procurement, etc.;
- Strengthened local governance capacities for project preparation and implementation under the EIB framework loan;
- Identify and screen community-based projects, provide support to local communities for its preparation;
- Verify and ensure civil society participation in close coordination with EIB consultants, and ensure that stakeholder engagement and management plans are implemented;
- Improved project compliance, progress evaluation and monitoring for effectiveness and efficiency of loan implementation:
- Provide advisory support on recovery options: repair, rehabilitation, reconstruction, upgrading, etc.;
- Provide project monitoring, as required.

On 21 June 2016, the Committee of the Eastern Partnership Technical Assistance Trust Fund (EPTATF)³ approved a technical assistance operation of Euro 3 million in support to the EIB's Early Recovery Framework Loan for Ukraine. However, the budget ceiling of Euro 3 million for 5 oblasts including their respective *municipal administrations and 'other public bodies'* - over a 3 year period - has been considered insufficient to effectively implement the full scope of the TA operation in Donetsk, Luhansk, Kharkiv, Dnipropetrovsk and Zaporizhia, respectively. ***It is recommended that the current project results framework, work plan and budget be reviewed, to consider the feasibility of reprogramming and reallocation of funds to complement the TA Operation that is currently under negotiation with the EIB. This recommendation is based on the view to balance the challenge of current delays on the decentralization reform agenda at the political level, with the opportunity to address pressing priorities for strengthening accountability and transparency in public procurement to expedite implementation of infrastructure projects (under the regional governments' budget as well as through phase 1 of the EIB loan). Accordingly, this would further complement technical assistance requested to setup the Regional Development Agencies and related procurement capacities in both Donetsk and Luhansk, respectively.***

³ EPTATF aims to enhance the quality and development impact of EIB operations in the Eastern Partnership Countries. It is a multi-donor, multi-sector trust fund established by the Bank in December 2010 in response to the need for specific technical advisory support to its lending activities in the Eastern Partnership Countries.

7. KEY ISSUES & RECOMMENDATIONS

Following consultations with regional stakeholders a number of issues have been identified that need to be addressed under the current project to update and streamline implementation of decentralization reform as well as community security and social cohesion activities in Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts. ***Practical solutions and recommendations to refocus some of the project activities are described below, whereby feasibility of agreed revisions to be jointly addressed through further review of the project’s results framework, work plan and budget.***

Objective 1. Improved regional and local government capacity in recovery planning and service delivery, that is gender-responsive, participatory and in line with decentralization and local government reform agenda.		
Activity/Sub-Activity	Issue	Recommendation
Sub-activity 1.1.1.1. Budget analysis	This activity is currently being implemented by PriceWaterhouseCoopers (PWC), via contributions from SDC and SIDA.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Cost share this activity equally between SDC, SIDA and EU contributions, and extend contract with PWC to cover additional hromadas. ii. Recruit and deploy an international expert/consultant on local governance to oversee and quality assure provision of technical assistance by contractors.
Sub-activity 1.1.1.2. Analysis for local and regional socio-economic development and recovery	An updated labour and market assessment for Donetsk and Luhansk is essential for economic recovery planning. This would contribute to the “Elaboration of Local Social Economic Development Strategies for the new Hromadas” (Sub-activity 1.2.1.2).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> iii. Conduct labour and market assessment for Donetsk and Luhansk, with a focus on amalgamated hromadas (including those planned for amalgamation as per the each Oblasts prospective plan).
Sub-activity 1.1.2.1. Support to Prefect Offices. Assist in the creation of the position of Prefect for Donetsk and Luhansk Oblasts, as well as for a yet-to-be determined number (est. 6) of Rayons in Donetsk and Luhansk Oblasts, including their administrative offices.	The expected constitutional amendments that would create Prefect offices and would fundamentally reconfigure the functions of local governance institutions have not been adopted, and both Oblasts continue to function under	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> iv. Recruit and deploy a senior international expert/consultant on Decentralization to analyze policy environment on the decentralization reform process, and provide strategic guidance on planning, implementation and monitoring of project activities, as well as

Objective 1. Improved regional and local government capacity in recovery planning and service delivery, that is gender-responsive, participatory and in line with decentralization and local government reform agenda.

Activity/Sub-Activity	Issue	Recommendation
	special legislation that designates them as civil-military administrations.	train, mentor and quality assure work of decentralization specialists. Deployment should follow successful recruitment of key specialist positions in this regard.
Sub-activity 1.1.2.2. Support to Rayon Councils to establish the Executive Offices of Rayons. Assist in the creation of newly amalgamated Rayon Councils (3 in each Oblast) and the establishment of Executive Offices of Rayons. The action will support this process with analytical studies and technical assistance for the implementation of the new arrangements.	Following feedback from Luhansk Deputy Governor, further analysis, consultation and clarification is required on the sustainability of the Executive Offices of the Rayon Councils with respect following the amalgamation process.	v. Consider reprogramming support for Prefect Office and Executive Offices of Rayons for supporting the RDA as well as complementing TA operations under negotiation for supporting implementation of EIB Early Recovery framework loan.
Activity 1.1.3. Provide capacity development support and technical assistance in managing the territorial amalgamation process.	A key issue identified is the absence of a registry of land that is essential for territorial amalgamation in Luhansk.	vi. Recruit a senior national consultant to serve as Legal Advisor, working under the Senior Rule of Law Advisor (funded by Netherlands). The consultant will provide legal advice on issues related to both decentralization and judicial reform. vii. Conduct assessment and provide technical assistance on land inventory.
Sub-activity 1.2.1.1. Elaboration of Regional Development and Recovery Strategies.	Updating and elaboration of the Luhansk Development Strategy is currently in process, via contributions from SDC and SIDA. However, insufficient funds available for conducting public consultations on the strategy.	viii. Cost-share publication consultations and development of Luhansk Development Strategy with EC-IcSP contribution.
Sub-activity 1.2.3.4. Training and technical assistance for efficient local financial management and transparent budgeting and procurement.	This activity entails training on capital investment planning and procurement, amongst other areas, for city and town officials. However, revision of this activity may need to be considered, following	ix. Consider request from Donetsk Administration to provide technical assistance to the RDA on procurement of civil works for infrastructure rehabilitation in the region, and consider the

Objective 1. Improved regional and local government capacity in recovery planning and service delivery, that is gender-responsive, participatory and in line with decentralization and local government reform agenda.

Activity/Sub-Activity	Issue	Recommendation
	the request by the Donetsk Administration to support procurement through the Regional Development Agency.	same for Luhansk Oblast (if requested), as well as EIB TA Operation.
Sub-activity 1.2.3.8. Provision of grants for local service improvement and preparation for infrastructure development.	Disbursement of grants for infrastructure development may need to be reconsidered with respect to the need for establishing Centres for Provision of Administrative Services (TsNAPs) as well as refurbish local government administrative facilities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> x. Conduct procurement of civil works and other assets to establish and equip TsNAPs in amalgamated Hromadas. xi. Pilot rehabilitation of select local governance infrastructure in Donetsk and Luhansk through grants and co-financing in line with UNDP's Community Based Approach to Local Development project and methodology.

Objective 2: Enhanced community security for people in conflict-affected areas, with a focus on IDPs and host communities.

Activity/Sub-Activity	Issue	Recommendation
Sub-activity 2.1.2. Strengthen Citizens' Advice Bureaus (CABs)	Service delivery through CABs was an essential stabilization intervention in the immediate aftermath of the conflict. However, a more sustainable approach is required for transferring capacity and ensuring ownership and accountability in service delivery by public administrations. Moreover, as the government has hugely increased the availability of legal aid, with the opening of 17 new centres in Donetsk and similar numbers in Luhansk, a more sustainable model for providing legal advice and support has emerged.	<p>Redesign this activity and allocated budget to focus on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> xii. Provision of capacity development support to establishment of TsNAPs in Donetsk and Luhansk; xiii. Support establishment and operations of Regional Development Agencies in Donetsk and Luhansk, and/or xiv. Provide small grants to local NGOs in delivering services not covered by TsNAPs, but on the basis of colocation within premises of TsNAP facilities when established/rehabilitated.

Objective 2: Enhanced community security for people in conflict-affected areas, with a focus on IDPs and host communities.

Activity/Sub-Activity	Issue	Recommendation
<p>Sub-activity 2.2.1. Organize community security working groups (20) with regular activity (meetings, planning, and feed-back) to bring together law enforcement bodies and local authorities, and community representatives. At the oblast level the activity can be based on the already created working group for the elaboration of the Regional Development strategy.</p>	<p>This activity is also planned under UNDP’s Rule of Law and Community Security project funded by the Netherlands. Funding in this regard is only sufficient for Community Security working groups in four Amalgamated Hromadas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Donetsk Oblast: Lyman and Cherkaske; • Luhansk Oblast: Bilokurakyne and Novopetrovsk. 	<p>xv. Apply contribution from EU IcSP to organize Community Security Working Groups in the remaining 16 Hromadas and at oblast level, to complement and ensure synergy with similar activities funded by the Netherlands.</p> <p>xvi. Implementation and coordination of community security working groups and related project activities to be facilitated and monitored through recruitment of national UNVs from within each targeted amalgamated hromada.</p>

Objective 3: Social cohesion restored and strengthened between local authorities and communities, including IDPs.

Activity/Sub-Activity	Issue	Recommendation
<p>Activity 3.1. Adapt Community Mobilization for Empowerment (CME) methodology and conduct CME programmes.</p>	<p>A more decentralized operational presence within each amalgamated hromada, potentially collocated within local government administration offices may prove more effective for community mobilization as well as coordination, implementation and monitoring of project activities.</p>	<p>xvii. Consider reallocating funds under UNDP Output 3 (Civic mobilization and community empowerment), for recruiting national UNVs from within each of the targeted 20 hromadas.</p>
<p>Sub-activity 3.3.1. Support to Public Councils.</p>	<p>This activity is funded by SDC and SIDA.</p>	<p>xviii. Cost-share this equally with contribution from EC IcSP.</p>
<p>Sub-activity 3.4.2. Local media development.</p>	<p>As an alternative to disbursing grants to local government media outlets and training of journalists, this activity could be covered through</p>	<p>xix. Consider reallocating funds to recruit national UNVs from within each of the targeted 20 hromadas to support community mobilization</p>

Objective 3: Social cohesion restored and strengthened between local authorities and communities, including IDPs.

Activity/Sub-Activity	Issue	Recommendation
	public outreach and communication campaigns for the entire action targeting amalgamated hromadas.	and facilitate public outreach and communications activities.

Objective 4: Gender advocates and women affected by conflict participate in local decision-making, including about public spending, and benefit equitably from governance reforms and recovery efforts.

Activity/Sub-Activity	Issue	Recommendation
<p>Activity 4.4. Expanding access to information and raising public awareness of community security related issues (contributes to output 2: 2.3.1. communication and awareness raising plan):</p> <p>Sub-activity 4.4.1. To support the sensitization campaign on GBV through local TV and radio outlets together with UNDP communications campaigns planned under task 1.6.8. & 2.2.4.</p>	<p>After consultations with the stakeholders and especially with UNFPA as the lead agency of the Gender Based Violence (GBV) sub-cluster under the UN Humanitarian Country Team, it was identified that information awareness and sensitization is one of the critical issues while working on community security and preventing and responding to GBV. In order to develop and implement a comprehensive communication and outreach campaign on GBV, the project needs to seek and share experiences of GBV campaigns from other UN Women offices where similar campaigns were already piloted successfully such as: SheforHe campaign, Violence Against Women etc.</p>	<p>xx. Consider reallocating funds for recruiting national UNVs from within each of the targeted 20 hromadas. The international Communications Specialist will work together with the national recruited consultant and assist to develop and launch the GBV campaign within the Detailed Assignment, afterwards the national consultant will lead the implementation and finalization of the campaign.</p> <p>xxi. This activity could also be cost-shared with the GBV activities planned under UNDP's Rule of Law and Community Security components funded by the Netherlands.</p>

8. PROGRESS UPDATE

8.1 Anti-Corruption

Anti-corruption measures are key for the successful implementation of socio-economic recovery and decentralization reform efforts in Donbas. These measures include:

- Understanding the risks or vulnerabilities for corruption within public sector operations;
- Developing and implementing a system of third party or community-based monitoring of publicly funded projects;
- Using additional diagnostic and analytical tools to follow the flow of fiscal resources to the end beneficiary, and
- Build the capacity of local authorities to implement integrity measures that ensure the proper use and monitoring of resources.



To support implementation of anti-corruption activities, a series of training were organized for government officials in both Oblasts. Upon several consultations with Oblast Administrations, a comprehensive action plan and methodology for detecting and addressing corruption in a proactive manner has been designed.

Step 1: Conduct Sector Integrity Vulnerability Assessment methodology for the Donbas Recovery and identify what operations are vulnerable to corruption. Sector Integrity Vulnerabilities Assessments (SIVAs) are a third-generation risk assessment methodology for identifying where opportunities for corruption and system weaknesses exist within sectors and public sector institutions. It moves on from the formal procedures of submitting questionnaire-based corruption risk assessments that rely on participation from the institutions that suffer vulnerabilities, to the use of individual discussions with key informants (experts). SIVAs examine the lapses in the system that allow corruption to occur without direct accusations on the interviewee by focusing on how the current system of operations could allow lapses in integrity rather than focusing on personal liability.

Step 2: Implement other diagnostic and monitoring instruments (such as public expenditure tracking surveys, establishing beneficial ownership of firms, financial monitoring and analysis of

investigative journalism stories) to ‘follow the money’ to the final service delivery at the local level.

Step 3: Establish Community based monitoring of the recovery operations through collection of data from locally based monitors and the analysis of the data to accurately indicate any potential misuse of resources.

Step 4: Develop the capacity of local authorities and CSOs to effectively monitor the use of resources. Specifically through specialized training of local authorities on the detection and mitigation of corruption vulnerabilities, and awareness raising of local CSOs on the current legislation and institutional framework on the national efforts against corruption.

8.1.1 Sector Integrity Vulnerability Assessments

UNDP initiated implementation of Sector Integrity of Vulnerability Assessments (SIVA) for Donetsk and Luhansk Oblasts during the inception period. For example, five SIVA interviews with the Heads of CSOs in Kiev were conducted in July, 2016. Twenty SIVA interviews were conducted with the Heads of Departments of Donetsk Oblast Administration and their Deputies on 15-16 October 2016 in Kramatorsk, and with the Heads of Departments of Luhansk Oblast Administration and their Deputies on 21-22 October 2016. SIVAs for both oblasts will be finalized during October 2016, and a summary of key findings will be circulated to project stakeholders.

8.1.2 Public Expenditure Tracking Survey

Another key anticorruption measure was launching a new survey to better document expenditure on service delivery and supply. This survey mirrors the Public Expenditure Tracking Survey (PETS) utilized by the World Bank for the health sector in Ukraine. PETS is a qualitative and quantitative diagnostic tool that seeks to document expenditures on service delivery on the supply side, and has proven effective in increasing both accountability and effectiveness of public service providers. The World Bank has initiated the PETS for the Health Sector in Ukraine, and UNDP is complementing this initiative by funding implementation of the survey in Donetsk and Luhansk. ***The tendering process for implementing the PETS in Donetsk and Luhansk has been finalized, and a contract award to the Kyiv School of Economics is expected during the week of 3 October 2016.***

In Ukraine, the majority of health care facilities are funded through state funds. The health budgets are allocated to local authorities according to a formula based on population size. Each local government is responsible for approving the health budget for its respective jurisdiction. De jure legislative procedure provide oblasts and other local governments some room to allocate resources according to their needs; de facto the opportunities are limited given permanent budgetary constraints and strict regulations on allocation of resources. In practice, budgetary rules, staffing norms and other essential regulations are subject to central level decisions, although oblasts do have an opportunity to address local needs by development and funding of their own regional health programs, as well as decision-making authority on key managerial appointments, and addressing quality of care issues at the level of facilities. Nonetheless, scarce resources allocated against approved budgets are often not reaching the health facilities leaving them underfunded in several cases.

To address this, PETS allows for identification of various sources of malfunctions in service delivery, constraints to effective and efficient allocation and use of resources within existing institutional arrangements, and inequity in resource allocation. A single source of information on expenditures and resources allocation in Ukraine is likely to be subject to manipulation, measurement error, recall bias or other deficiencies. Hence, data triangulation techniques will be applied to multiple data sources. In this way, the PETS will be able to identify areas of convergence and divergence in order to proper account for inefficiencies and leakages.

Accordingly, **key focus areas** of the survey are:

- Problems of leakages and/or delays;
- Effective use of human capital;
- Resource allocation within locations and type of health service (general and specialized);
- Distortions generated by various financing practices (i.e. user fees) and (de)centralization.

The PETS **methodology** entails:

- In-depth, semi-structured interviews will be conducted through four distinct questionnaires at four levels:
 - i. Oblast Health department management,
 - ii. Rayon/municipality Health department management,
 - iii. Medical facility management,
 - iv. Medical facility personnel.
- Supported by data collection on public expenditures at all four levels (*where and if it can be collected*).

The study will be organized as follows:

1. Preliminary analysis of institutional arrangements and specifics in Donetsk and Luhansk Oblasts, respectively;
2. Sample construction and calibration;
3. Survey of representatives of district/municipality management teams, oblast top managers, health facilities management and personnel;
4. Administrative and statistical data collection from health facilities, Treasury, and rayon/oblast administration;
5. Cost accounting;
6. Analysis and preparation of the final report.

8.2 Social Cohesion and Reconciliation (SCORE) Index

UNDP has been actively involved in developing the Social Cohesion and Reconciliation (SCORE) Index⁴ and methodology for Ukraine, based on its successful pilot and implementation in Cyprus with funding from USAID. It is expected that the results of the SCORE survey will provide information on the quality of inter-group relations, as well as citizen-state relations, with an emphasis on human security, institutional trust, perceptions of state efficiency and corruption. It will particularly enable measurement of potential and latent conflicts via increased contextual and geographical understanding. This in turn would provide a baseline for planning and monitoring changing in perceptions over time, as well as provide an evidence based for further policy dialogue, advocacy and strategic planning at national, regional and local levels. Accordingly, SCORE will strengthen Oblast Administration as well as other development partners and stakeholders to better plan thematic and geographical programmatic interventions through a more robust evidence base that in turn would contribute to leveraging meaningful development changes and thereby, demonstrate greater programmatic impact.

During this inception phase, UNDP has undertaken several measures to rollout SCORE in a coordinated, participatory and inclusive manner. First, UNDP has supported the establishment of a UN inter-agency, technical working group on SCORE, given that a number of UN agencies are involved in peacebuilding activities in the conflict-affected areas; particularly the International Organization for Migration (IOM) and United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF). Therefore, an inter-agency UN Technical Working Group on SCORE (STG) was established by the UN agencies participating on SCORE, which is facilitated by the Peace and Development Unit of the UN Resident Coordinator’s Office. IOM, UNDP and UNICEF joined the STG in order to collaborate on the implementation of SCORE. The STG is meant to become the main forum for

⁴ For more information on SCORE Index, visit the following website: <http://www.scoreforpeace.org/>

coordination, quality assurance and providing technical recommendations to inform decision-making by the UN Heads of Agencies of the three participating agencies.

Second, UNDP supported a series of broad-based stakeholder consultations to ground-truth and adapt the SCORE methodology to the Ukrainian context. Between 15-22 August 2016, UNDP conducted 14 SCORE consultations in the cities of Kyiv, Sieverodonetsk, Kramatorsk, Kharkiv, Dnipro, Mariupol and Zaporizhia. The SCORE team engaged regional administrations (deputy governors, heads of departments and advisors) and a wide range of local civil society organizations - about 60 participants in total.



The purpose of the consultations was to inform the participants of the SCORE plans and process, and more importantly to receive their views, opinions and comments to further calibrate the SCORE conceptual model to fit the eastern Ukrainian context. The consultation discussions revolved around the following key themes:

- Unifying and dividing factors;
- Issues of disagreement;
- Quality of relations between different groups;
- Resources and skills needed to overcome daily challenges, and
- Role of government representative and other persons of authority in contributing to social cohesion in their respective regions.

The consultations resulted in 14 reports summarizing the key outcomes, which informed the finalization of the SCORE conceptual model.

A series of questionnaires on SCORE have been completed and will be finalized by 15 October 2016, after consultations within the STG. SCORE fieldwork is expected to be completed by the end of 2016. Key issues emerging from such consultations include:

1. IDPs, ex-combatants, people living in the non-government controlled area (NGCA) and the grey zone, including commuters, were named as the most vulnerable groups in society;
2. Eradicating corruption, protecting human rights, ensuring good education, and ensuring an even income distribution are topics potentially uniting people;
3. Opinions tend to diverge over such issues as the role and importance of patriotism in every-day life, pro-Russian and pro-EU policies, presence of military personnel, integration of IDPs, and the role of the Russian language;
4. Resources are needed to mobilize those groups of people who are not fully engaged in civic life, which makes them either marginalized and or easily manipulated;

5. There is a wide range of grass root level interventions contributing to greater unity. However, cooperation between the regional/local authorities, CSOs and other stakeholders is largely of an ad-hoc nature.

Currently, UNDP is finalizing the recruitment of two experts on quantitative and qualitative research methods or methodological experts (international and national), who will provide direct supervision and technical guidance on the implementation of SCORE surveys, including sampling, data collection, etc. - with a focus on ensuring coherence and quality throughout all the stages of the study. The tenders for procuring professional services to undertake the first wave of the SCORE survey have been advertised by UNDP during the last week of September 2016. It is expected that the survey will be finalized by December 2016, and data will be aggregated and analysed during the first quarter of 2017.

To ensure national ownership and policy relevance of the SCORE process, UNDP will aim to hold another round of consultations in Kyiv and in the five eastern oblasts in February 2017 to share the results of the first wave and refine the analysis. The SCORE report will subsequently be finalized on the basis of these consultations and will be presented at a public event (date to be determined). With regard to presentation of the results of the first SCORE wave and subsequent actions, UNDP will prepare a note on operationalizing the SCORE, including a multi-year work plan, proposals for co-funding subsequent waves of the SCORE survey and dissemination activities.

8.3 Vulnerability Assessment

The project launched the Vulnerability Assessment (VA) with the overall objective to identify and describe the types of vulnerability in Donbas, characteristics of vulnerable groups from human rights perspective and to inform oblast and local decision making and planning.

The assessment methodology was developed and consist of several levels of analysis focusing on national, regional and local levels, and on sources and types of vulnerability - such as living environment, access to services and decision-making and social capital. According to the proposed methodology, the VA will combine quantitative (e.g. using quantifiable characteristics from official data & surveys) and qualitative (e.g. analysing vulnerability based on feedback from authorities, civil society and community at large) methods, incorporating community perspectives of vulnerability via participative methods. This VA will follow an approach that looks at vulnerability in its complexity and will ask both 'what' and 'why' types of questions. This VA will draw on interviews, group discussions, and direct observations and involve community members in the identification of the issues. Data collection will take place in October 2016. The Vulnerability Assessment aims at understanding who the vulnerable in Donbas are, where they live and what vulnerabilities they experience.

The findings of the vulnerability assessment will also serve as a guiding document for mainstreaming the human rights based approach and gender equality, particularly aspects of equity and non-discrimination, across project activities. In particular, the results of the VA will inform elaboration and implementation of the Regional Development and Recovery Strategies described below.

8.4 Luhansk Regional Development Strategy

UNDP assisted the Donetsk State Administration in updating and launching its Regional Development Strategy in 2016, and is applying the same methodology in supporting the process for updating the Regional Development Strategy 2020 for Luhansk Oblast as well. For the first time, similar to the process in Donetsk, the Luhansk Regional Development Strategy is being developed through an inclusive and participatory process, involving representatives of all groups and local communities in formulation the region's vision, goals and objectives. A regional Committee and five working groups focusing on specific development areas were established and worked intensively starting from July 2016 to consolidate ideas and reflect opinions of all regional and local stakeholders. As a result, the first draft of updated Strategy

was prepared in September 2016. UNDP provided methodological support to the process, including organization and facilitation of working groups' meetings and expert support in consolidating the document.

A series of public consultations will be conducted with the stakeholders at all levels to further refine the Strategy. Planned activities and timelines in this regard are listed in the table below.

No	Activity	Output	Start Date	End Date
1	Presentation and discussion of zero draft of updated Luhansk Strategy 2020 at OSA Collegium	First draft of updated Luhansk Strategy 2020 recommended for public discussion	29.09.16	29.09.16
2	To disseminate the first draft of updated Luhansk oblast Strategy 2020 among stakeholders for feedback and inputs <i>(including official authorities, NGOs, and international organizations, in particular – UN agencies)</i>	First draft of updated Luhansk Strategy 2020 widely disseminated for discussion	30.09.16	03.10.16
3	To collect and analyze feedback and inputs to updated Luhansk Strategy 2020 received from stakeholders	Feedback received and analyzed	10/10/2016	21/10/2016
4	To organize a series of public discussions of the updated Luhansk oblast Strategy 2020 with local communities	Feedback received and analyzed	10/10/2016	21/10/2016
5	Finalization of the draft updated Luhansk Strategy 2020 (by integrating the feedback/ inputs received from all stakeholders)	Final draft of updated Luhansk Strategy 2020		
6	Presentation of final draft of updated Luhansk oblast Strategy 2020 for approval at Extended Meeting of OSA Collegium <i>(with invited representatives of local communities and key stakeholders)</i>	Updated Luhansk Strategy 2020 approved and officially launched	28/10/2016	28/10/2016
7	Presentation(s) of the updated Luhansk Strategy 2020 to all potential implementation partners <i>(including official authorities, NGOs, international organizations, etc.)</i>	Potential partners engaged in implementation of the updated Luhansk Strategy 2020	01/11/2016	30/11/2016

Upon approval the updated Strategy 2020 will be presented to all potential implementing partners (authorities, NGOs, international organizations, etc.) to engage them in the process of strategy implementation.

8.5 East-West Knowledge and Experience Sharing within Ukraine



Following a request from the Donetsk Oblast State Administration to support administrative decentralization reform, UNDP supported an exchange visit to Vinnytsia for 32 Heads of Departments of Social Protection of all cities and rayons of Donetsk oblast, including the Deputy Governor of Donetsk oblast, from 15th to 17th September 2016. The visit was hosted by Vinnytsia City Council and accompanied by the Minister of Social Policy of Ukraine.

The Delegation attended three Centers for Provision of Administrative and Social Services (TsNAPs) in different districts of Vinnytsia, and participated in a tailored training-presentation on sharing successful experiences of administrative and social services provision and its potential adaptation in Donetsk oblast. The visit will be followed up by another learning exchange for Mayors of cities and Heads of rayons of Donetsk oblast to Vinnytsia in October, 2016.

8.6 Mapping of Women and Youth NGOs in Donetsk and Luhansk

In September 2016, UNDP finalized a preliminary mapping of Youth NGOs in Donetsk and Luhansk Oblasts, to complement the mapping of Women NGOs conducted by UNWOMEN (see Annex 4). These mapping exercises forms the basis for mobilizing civic actors in both regions on women and youth issues, to initiate public consultations and dialogue on social, economic, and security related issues, amongst others that may be identified during the consultation process.

The project is supporting joint advocacy initiatives between women IDPs and women from the host communities, as well as will link the local/regional advocacy initiatives to the national level with women-leaders from the other regions, women-Members of Parliament, gender advocates from the government and civil society, women-entrepreneurs etc. In order to establish the regional network of women's civil society organizations UN Women conducted the mapping of the women's and community based NGOs in Donetsk and Luhansk regions through field missions and meetings in August-September.

The meetings were held through field visits with NGOs in Sviatogorsk and Liman, Sloviansk, Kramatorsk, Sivierodonetsk, Starobilsk. The NGOs discussed and identified the key challenges for their full participation in the process of decentralization and obstacles to the ongoing reform. Women's groups emphasized that local communities lack the information and knowledge on the decentralization process, many people do not understand the new concept and require more education and awareness on the objectives of decentralization reform. Women expressed the concerns that due to the lack of understanding and

awareness the meaning of the social protection centers, which in many cases are substitute to shelters for the GBV survivors, might be closed down as a process of optimization of the local funds. Therefore, women underlined the needs to stay actively engaged in the local policy making processes and have more platforms for dialogues with communities as well as with authorities. Almost all women stated that there is big need to conduct the local context oriented sensitization and advocacy campaigns for GBV including domestic violence, as stereotypes are deeply rooted and people still need lots of education on these issues.

8.7 Launching the Community Mobilization for Empowerment Work

As a part of preparatory work, UN Women conducted the assessment of the local NGOs in order to select the national Responsible Party for the community mobilization for empowerment (CME) component of the project. The rapid capacity assessment of local eligible NGOs was conducted based on the technical qualifications described in the ToR. As a result of the preliminary assessment, three NGOs were included in the capacity assessment process who have already worked on Gender Equality projects with UNFPA in Ukraine. These NGOs were: International Charitable Foundation "Ukrainian Women's Fund" (UWF), International Charitable Foundation "Ukrainian Foundation for Public Health" (UFPH) and "La Strada Ukraine".

During the period of 13-24 July 2016, capacity assessment were conducted using the UN Women's tool- Capacity Assessment Checklist, in order to assess the organization's: a) technical capacity; b) governance and management structure; and c) financial and administrative management. Based on the comparative capacity assessment UN Women has selected the International Charitable Foundation "Ukrainian Women's Fund" (UWF) as it's Implementing Partner. The results showed that all three NGOs had good records, sound experience, effective financial and management systems in place and solid organization and administrative capacities. However, the selected UWF showed the most relevance with the selection criteria in line with the ToR. The UWF represents the only one women's fund among the assessed NGOs that can provide small grants and has strong capacity of supporting the women's groups and organizations including those based in rural and remote communities since 2000. UWF is the most experienced in community work and in grant giving and relevant to implement the community mobilization for empowerment component of the Joint Programme. UN Women signed the Project Cooperation Agreement with UWF on 16 September 2016, covering the period till 31 October 2017.

The project focuses on supporting mobilization of local women's groups in 20 target Hromadas. For this purpose, as mentioned above UN Women selected the responsible party – *Ukrainian Women's Fund*. UWF has developed a detailed work plan and implementation plan. The project manager and accountant were hired by UWF to implement the assignment, and recruitment of M&E specialists are in process. UWF is in the process of selection the social mobilization workers in Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts (four persons per each Oblasts and one person for Mariupol). Priority tasks of the UWF is to facilitate the formation of women's self-help groups, strengthening their capacities and providing them with small grants.

To successfully implement the community mobilization component, the local capacity of the national Responsible Party will be strengthened first, prior to launching the community mobilization work. The project has established partnership with Georgian NGO, Women's Information Centre (WIC) that has successfully applied community mobilization approach in Georgia in partnership with UN Women Georgia Office and has extensive experience working with grassroots women's groups and local government, especially with IDPs and conflict affected women. The main task of the WIC is to share and exchange experience with the UWF that will apply the CME methodology and guide them in fieldwork with developed manuals and tools. The WIC team will arrive to Kyiv in October 2016, to conduct a 5-days capacity building workshop for UWF and newly hired social mobilization workers on community mobilization methodology and its practical application. Following this, WIC will conduct two separate field trainings in Donetsk and Luhansk regions for mobilized women's groups and UWF. To facilitate the learning and exchange a study tour for UWF to Georgia will be organized in early 2017.

8.8 Building Capacity on Gender-responsive Planning, Budgeting and Community Security

In order to build capacity on **gender-responsive planning and budgeting** and provide the knowledge and tools to regional and local authorities and service-providers, UN Women announced Request for Proposals and selected the national NGO – Bureau of gender strategy and budgeting (BGSP). The BGSP will provide capacity-building trainings on GRB for regional and local authorities of amalgamated hromadas as well as for mobilized local women’s groups (both IDPs and conflict-affected women). The project will support the interaction and issue-based cooperation between the local authorities and service providers and mobilized women’s groups on local spending and budgets, this will ground the foundation to plan and implement the local joint community-governmental initiatives. Workshops and coaching sessions will be organized for regional and local authorities in 20 target Hromadas in gender analysis and budgeting and assist them to implement the GRB principles into the practice during the working on regional development strategies, local plans and budgets. The work will start from October, the first step will be to hold the consultations stakeholders and conduct the Training Needs Analysis with the regional administrations and local councils in amalgamated Hromadas.

On 2 September 2016, UN Women announced a Request for Proposals for a national organization to strengthen the capacities of local authorities and service providers in prevention and response to GBV in Donetsk and Luhansk regions of Ukraine. The partner will be selected in October to initiate work in November. The Action will include gender community safety analysis, trainings for security and law enforcement bodies, local authorities, women and men of the communities as well as will contribute to establishment of the GBV referral network and will raise awareness on GBV among the local population for prevention.

8.9 Gender Advocates and Women’s Groups Participated in Local Consultations



UN Women conducted a series of field visits both in Donetsk and Luhansk Oblasts to meet with the representatives of 16 civil society, women’s organizations and active women’s groups. The project team met with women leaders in local administrations ,particularly with Olga Lyshyk, Vice-chairman of the Luhansk Regional Military and Civil Administration, Elena Nijelskaya elected member of the

Sivierodonetsk City Council, and Llyla Kislytsina, Kramatorsk City Councilor discussing the strategic partnership and joint actions for advocacy.

The project together with Ministry of Social Policy conducted the local consultations with the representatives of Luhansk and Donetsk oblast administrations, national government, civil society organizations and women's groups in Donbas, with the aim to support the gender advocates and women's groups increased participation and influence of women on local decision making over recovery, planning and budgeting and community security.

The consultation was organized on the occasion of the International Peace Day 21 September and focused



on women's rights and gender equality – the key building blocks for peace - in the context of the decentralization, recovery and development process in eastern Ukraine. The objective of the local consultations was to promote women's participation in local decentralization process and create the venue for exchange of information on results, challenges and ways forwards related to the local implementation of the National Action Plan on the implementation of the UN SCR

1325 that Ukraine adopted in February 2016.

The event was attended by 40 participants from Donetsk and Luhansk Oblasts including representatives of the newly amalgamated Hromadas, women's civil society organizations and grassroots groups. The participants jointly looked into the concerns faced by internally displaced women and men from the conflict-affected communities. Among the key challenges raised were a lack of human and economic security, increased risks for Gender - Based Violence, limited access to services and information, insufficient focus of the local policies and budgets on gender equality priorities. The



The participants agreed on the importance of inter-agency cooperation and establishment of the regional gender coordination mechanisms that will enhance the women's participation in local decision making and will support the implementation of the NAP 1325 in the context of decentralization.

Annex 1: Map of Targeted Hromadas in Donetsk Oblast



Annex 2: Map of Targeted Hromadas in Luhansk Oblast



Annex 3: Recruitment Status of UNDP Project Team

Position	Duty station	Status	Expected start date
1. Anti-corruption Specialist	Kramatorsk	Recruited on consulting contract for 2 months	27.09.16
2. Anti-corruption Specialist	Severodonetsk	Recruitment ongoing	TBC
3. Admin Decentralization Specialist	Kramatorsk	Recruitment ongoing	TBC
4. Admin Decentralization Specialist	Severodonetsk	Candidate selected on Service Contract	11.10.16
5. Fiscal Decentralization Specialist	Kramatorsk	Recruited on consulting contract for 2 months	TBC
6. Fiscal Decentralization Specialist	Severodonetsk	Recruited on consulting contract for 2 months	27.09.16
7. Territorial Amalgamation Specialist	Kramatorsk	Candidate selected on Service Contract	11.10.16
8. Territorial Amalgamation Specialist	Severodonetsk	Recruited on consulting contract for 2 months	30.09.16
9. Strategic Planning Specialist	Kramatorsk	Candidate Selected	11.10.16
10. Social Development Specialist	Severodonetsk	On hold – potential change to consultancy	TBC
11. Field Operations Manager	Kramatorsk	Candidate selected	06.10.16
12. M&E Specialist	Kramatorsk	Recruitment ongoing	TBC
13. M&E Specialist	Severodonetsk	Recruitment ongoing	TBC
14. Small Grants Coordinator	Kramatorsk	On hold – assessment of need TBC	TBC
15. Communications Associate	Kramatorsk	On duty – position to be charged from EU IcSP budget on 1 Nov.	01.11.16
16. Information Management Associate	Severodonetsk	Candidate selected	20.10.16
17. Procurement Associate	Kramatorsk	Candidate selected	20.10.16
18. Finance Associate	Kramatorsk	Recruitment ongoing	TBC
19. Procurement Associate	Kramatorsk	Recruitment ongoing	TBC
20. Finance Associate	Kramatorsk	Recruitment ongoing	TBC
21. Driver	Kramatorsk	On duty – position to be charged from EU IcSP budget on 1 Nov.	01.11.16
22. Driver	Severodonetsk	Recruitment ongoing	TBC

Annex 4: Mapping of Civil Society and Women’s Organizations in Donbas (UN Women)

#	Organization	Oblast / location	Hromada / Amalgamation Status	Head/ Contact person	Contacts	Description of the organization
LUHANSK OBLAST						
1	Crisis media center "Severskyi Donets"	Luhansk / Sieverodonetsk	Sieverodonetska In process	Elena Nizhelskaya - Head	54 Gvardeyskiy avenue 099 756 23 46; sdcrisis@ukr.net http://sdcrisis.org/	<p>The NGO was founded in February 2015 in Severodonetsk. Initially the organization was established as an independent platform for information sharing within the oblast; documenting of human rights violations.</p> <p>For now, it is an active representative of civil society on cooperation with local city authorities, actively involved in budget forming process. The head of the NGO is a deputy of city Rada (council). The NGO has participated in the initiatives on anticorruption questions, activities on the decentralization process, development of open budget tools.</p> <p>The NGO has implemented the project "Ukrainian peacekeeping school" supported by the British Embassy in Ukraine and International Renascence foundation.</p> <p>Besides Severodonetsk the NGO has conducted events in Lisichansk, Novopskov, Starobelsk.</p> <p>The key team consists of 3 permanent staff members and 6 Board members.</p> <p>The invites different projects to conduct events, press conferences, trainings and other events on the basis of their office space and other facilities.</p>
2	Women of Luhanshyna	Luhansk / Sieverodonetsk	Sieverodonetska In process	Olga Lyshyk – Board Chairwoman / founder Nataliya Boguslavska	lishyk.olga@gmail.com 095 599 04 60 boguslavskayanataliya@gmail.com, 050 617 54 23	<p>The NGO was founded in February 2016 in Severodonetsk. It has a status of women’s NGO.</p> <p>The objectives of organization are women’s empowerment in the field of governance, participation in the social dialog with local (city, oblast) authorities, support to the vulnerable categories, advocacy for charity.</p>

#	Organization	Oblast / location	Hromada / Amalgamation Status	Head/ Contact person	Contacts	Description of the organization
				- Deputy Board Chairwoman / founder		Among latest activities are participation in the organizing of Mobile exhibition Ukrainian Philanthropists Forum "Charity through the prism of lens"; charity initiative on supporting women with children and pregnant women with hygiene items, food parcels in the locations along the contact line. The NGO functions mostly on the volunteer's approach. Now NGO is struggling to develop their capacity and to be engaged into the grant/project work. There are 4 key active members. NGO works in cooperation with other organizations in Severodonetsk.
3	Starobilsk rayon human rights women's "Viktoriya"	Luhansk / Starobilsk	Starobilska In process	Vira Fliat - Head	vera.flyat@gmail.com 066 295 31 47	The NGO provides legal counselling, is a member of the oblast public council of the Oblast Department of National police. Supports women GBV survivors.
4	Institute for development and social initiatives"	Luhansk / Sieverodonetsk	Sieverodonetska In process	Nataliia Valieva - Head Zoya Jadan - Project Coordinator	Centralniy avenue, 41 050 193 47 36 ngo.irsi@gmail.com 050 2277463	The NGO was founded in March 2011 in Luhansk. Main objectives of work were development of local hromada, improving of social services. For now, the NGO locates in Severodonetsk. Beginning with 2014 the NGO focus mostly on IDPs issues. The NGO provides legal aid, different types of trainings for IDPs. In 2015 the NGO implemented a project "Assistance in employment and retraining IDPs in Lugansk region ", funded by International Renaissance foundation. In 2016 the NGO implemented a project on prevention of violence against women, funded by Ukrainian Women's Fund. The key components of the project were awareness raising campaign "Stop Viiolence", legal and psychological counselling for GBV survivors. The NGO operates also in Kreminskoy rayon. Key staff and volunteers counts 12-15 people.

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5	Agency for regional development of Eastern Donbas	Luhansk / Sieverodonetsk	Sieverodonetska In process	Larysa Bychkova - head	larysabychkova@gmail.com 050 933 15 39 Gvardeiskiy, 30/1	<p>The NGO was founded in June 2015. It is the successor of the Public Institution "Agency for Local Economic Development Rovenki city".</p> <p>The objective of NGO activities is to improve the quality of life in the region through the creation of opportunities for social and business initiatives.</p> <p>The Agency is working on three main areas: support for community initiatives; development of the business environment; improving energy efficiency in the region. In its business initiatives the NGO focus a lot on agricultural sector.</p> <p>The NGO is engaged in the initiatives on decentralization issues. The head of the NGO is a member of the Coordination committee on the decentralization in Luhansk oblast. The NGO supported state administration and territorial hromadas on the developing of hromada IDs, documentation for amalgamation etc.</p> <p>In 2016 the NGO implemented the project "Improving the awareness of population and development analysis on the need for establishing an amalgamated Starobilskä territorial hromada ". These days nGO provide support on the same issue for prospective Shulginska hromada in Luhansk oblast.</p> <p>The key staff of the NGO counts 5 people.</p> <p>Before the displacement the NGO had projects on women empowerment and women business initiatives.</p> <p>It operates in several rayons of Luhansk oblast (Nyzhne-oduvanskiy, Svativskiy, Novopskovskiy, Troiskiy, Starobilskiy, Kreminskoy, Schastiinskiy, Novoaidarskiy, others).</p> <p>The NGO was a partner of IOM, UNDP, USAID.</p> <p>The NGO is open for social and community initiatives to conduct different activities (trainings, round tables etc.) on the base of their conference hall and facilities.</p>

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6	"Centre for Social Development "Effective Community"	Luhansk / Starobilsk	Starobilska In process	Oksana Ochkurova - head	ochcyrova@gmail.com 050 638 76 28	<p>The NGO was founded in February 2016. Initially there was a group of active women IDPs in Starobelsk, who participated on volunteer basis in the number of activities. The main direction of functioning is community mobilization raising activism of community members, integration of IDPs to the life of hosting community, defense of IDPs rights. The NGO used to be an organizer of events (festival, master class) in Strobelsk.</p> <p>The area of operation is Starobelsk city.</p> <p>The organization is newly founded. There are 7 active members, most of them are IDPs. For now, the NGO do not have own office.</p>
7	NGO "Volia"	Luhansk / Starobilsk	Starobilska In process	Nataliia Ponomareva - Head	066 555 00 09 lygstarpol@gmail.com Bazarna, 5	<p>The NGO was founded in August 2009. Initially the NGO was founded as human rights organization. After the beginning of the conflict, the NGO focused its activities on IDPs issues.</p> <p>The NGO operated a Centre for collective living of IDPs, conducted community mobilization and reconciliation activities of hosting community and IDPs.</p> <p>The NGO actively participate in decentralization process on local level, cooperates with local authorities; conducts events for hromada residents and IDPs.</p> <p>The NGO was a partner of IOM in project on self-employment; Foundation Renaissance; UNDP.</p> <p>It operates in Storobilsk rayon, cooperates with other bordering rayons of northern part of Luhansk oblast.</p> <p>The NGO has 12 active key members and a network of focal points in the towns and settlements of Starobilsk and bordering rayons. Also has partnership with the Regional organization of people with disabilities and Luhansk universal scientific library, which locates in Starobilsk.</p>

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						The NGO could support with the space for project activities (trainings, round tables etc.) of interested partners.
DONETSK OBLAST						
8	"New Impulse"	Donetsk / Sloviansk	Slovianska In process	Aleksey Chernavin, Head	alekschernavin@gmail.com 050 734 83 97 Turnova Str. 22	The NGO was founded in July 2013 in Sloviansk. The NGO started its work on the volunteer bases and use the approach "from family to family". Conduct celebration of holidays, different events to make people know each other. The NGO main activities are support of IDPs, people living in Sloviansk and Northern part of Donetsk oblast; dissemination of humanitarian aid. Provide legal counseling; activities on the mobilization of the hromada of Sloviansk, all events are conducted on the approach of joining hosting community and IDPs. The NGO is a partner organization of the NGO "Slavic Heart" in operating of Family Support Centre in town Sloviansk. The NGO staff is about 5 people and it has a network of active people in Sloviansk and rayon, e.g.: settlement Cherkasske (the centre of one of the amalgamated hromadas in Donetsk oblast) – there is group of active women about 7 people; Nikolaevka (a centre of another amalgamated hromada); locations in neighbor rayons. The NGO has rented office space which could be shared for the needs of partner's activities (trainings, round tables etc.)
9	"Slavic Heart"	Donetsk / Sviatohirsk	Sviatohirska In process	Natali Kirkach – Board Chairwoman Anastasiia Gorbacheva	Svyatohirsk, 1st May natali.kirkach@gmail.com 099 905 09 70 gorbacheva.as@gmail.com 050 534 97 77	The NGO was founded in January 2015 in Sviatohirsk. The NGO main activities are support of IDPs and hosting communities, people living in locations close to contact line and in remote settlements, conducting trainings on Gender equality and GBV issues, dissemination of humanitarian aid; operation of the Family Support Centre and children and youth centre; legal and PSS counselling.

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				- Coordinator of Family support Centre in Sviatohirsk		The NGO works in cooperation with local authorities on the issues of local hromada life. Board Chairwoman is a Deputy of local Rada. Main area of operations is Sviatohirsk, Sloviansk Rayon, Lyman hromada. Also the NGO covers locations along the contact line through the dissemination of humanitarian aid. The NGO worked in partnership with UNCHR, UNICEF, UNDP. The general staff and active volunteers is about 20 people. The NGO could support interested partners with the space for activities (trainings, round tables etc.).
10	Family Support Centre of CF "Slavic Heart"	Donetsk / Lyman	Lymanska Amalgamated	Irina Petrakova - Coordinator	050 523 00 91	Family Support Centre of CF "Slavic Heart" in Lyman. The Centre provides social, legal and psychological services for hosting community and IDPs. There are two social workers in the centre, a lawyer and psychologist. provide council on a part time basis. The centre is kind of platform for community mobilization.
11	"Country of Free people"	Donetsk / Kramatorsk	Kramatorska In process	Nadejda Homenko, Director Olena Kozachenko - coordintor	Transportna Str., 20 hope.1@mail.ru 099 022 66 75 kozachenko.helen@gmail.com 095 167 03 71 http://kvl.org.ua	The NGO was founded in October 2014 in Kiev. The NGO was organized from the working group, that in April - June 2014 was engaged in the evacuation of citizens from Kramatorsk and Sloviansk. For now, the NGO main activities are support of IDPs, people living in locations close to contact line and in remote settlements in Donetsk and Luhansk oblast; dissemination of humanitarian aid (about 200 settlements along the contact line); youth development; social rehabilitation of children affected by armed conflict; operating of a child friendly space; community mobilization events, exchange visits to Western regions for women and children; partnership with State Employment Service to support people on the employment; facilitating of dialogue between IDPs and host communities, civil society and local authorities. During 2015 – middle 2016 the NGO ensured maintenance of centre for collective living of IDPs (70 beds).

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						<p>The NGO staff and volunteers is about 20 people and has a network of contact focal points in locations along the contact line, e.g. Women’s NGO “Women Batalion” in Novotoshkovka, Popasnyanskiy rayon, Luhansk oblast (a group of five active women who try to improve their hromada). The NGO has a branch in Lviv.</p> <p>Worked in partnership with FAO, Save the Children; UNCHR; Help Age; INGO People in Need.</p> <p>The NGO could support with the space for project activities (trainings, round tables etc.)</p>
12	"League of Professional and Business Women"	Donetsk / Kramatorsk	Kramatorska In process	Ludmila Gorovaya Head Kostninko Viktoria - assistant Head, project coordinator	Vasylya Stusa, Str. 45 050 575 46 46 050 575 46 46	<p>The NGO was founded in May 1996 in Donetsk. It is a women’s NGO, that was relocated form Donetsk, has an oblast status.</p> <p>Main projects are dedicated to the combating human trafficking; educational activities for police and social service providers on the related issues; training around rayon centres. The NGO is a member of coordination platform - “Regional Council for Family, Gender equality, economic development, domestic violence prevention and combating human trafficking”. The NGO is working in OSCE project now. The NGO has active branches in Pokrovsk, Bahmut, Lyman. The key staff is about 5 people and also there is a set of 5 trainers on the topic of combating human trafficking.</p>
13	'Open association of practical psychologists “Transfromation”	Donetsk / Kramatorsk	Kramatorska In process	Yuliia Romashko – President Tetiana Borozenceva - Vice President	30 Mashynostroitelei blv, 84313 club.nashedelo@gmail.com 050 558 05 48	<p>The NGO was founded in December 2014 in Kramatorsk. Initially the objective of NGO was to develop the psychological culture of people, overcoming negative attitude to the psychological counselling, raising the capacity of specialists in the related sphere.</p> <p>The NGO conducts events on awareness raising on psychological culture psychological services (group meetings, art-therapy, individual counselling). After the NGO has obtained a sub-grant form Ukrainian Foundation for Public Health, it began to provide psychological counselling for GBV</p>

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						<p>survivors. Also, the NGO implements initiatives on the piece building and reconciliation in Kramatorsk hromada.</p> <p>Beginning with 2015-2016 year the NGO engaged to the operation of advisory platforms established for dialog of civil society with local authorities. The Vice-president of the NGO is member of Oblast public council for coordination with Oblast state administration.</p> <p>The NGO operates mainly in Kramatorsk.</p> <p>The key staff count 4 people.</p>
14	Fund for Community Development	Donetsk / Kramatorsk	Kramatorska In process	Stanislav Chernogor - Head	Shkolna Str. 4 st.i@gmail.com 050 563 69 79 www.facebook.com/kmgo.frg / the link for the 2015-year Report http://bit.ly/AR_FCD	<p>The NGO was founded in March 2012 in Kramatorsk.</p> <p>The core aspects of work are regional development initiatives, development of NGOs' sector, development of charity and philanthropy; ecological problems of the region; fostering development of informal education and social animation in communities.</p> <p>After 2014 the NGO worked a lot on the IDPs issues and support of conflict affected population. The NGO implemented projects on dissemination of humanitarian aid in locations along the contact line, in Kramatorsk and other locations. In April 2014 the Coordination platform for support of IDPs "SOS-Kramatorsk" was launched on the basis of the NGO.</p> <p>In 2016 the NGO established a Citizens advise bureau, under the UNDP project.</p> <p>The NGO is keeping operation of the Community mobilization centre "Old City". Initially this centre targeted elderly people. Now it is a platform for conducting different types of events for local residents and IDPs.</p> <p>The NGO is an active actor from the side of civil society on the issue of cooperation with local city authorities. The members of NGO engaged in the work of the Oblast and City public council for coordination with authorities.</p>

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						The NGO had implemented projects funded by UNICEF, UNDP, British Council, Danish Refugee Council, International Renaissance Foundation and others. The key staff and volunteers counts about 8-10 people.
15	Community association Women's club Pani	Donetsk / Kramatorsk	Kramatorska In process	Liliya Kislitsyna, co-president	095 291 28 00 kislitsyna@scat.com.ua http://pani.dn.ua/	Mainly the operation area of the NGO is Kramatorsk. Key directions of work are advocacy, dialog with local city authorities, women empowerment. Several members of the NGO are the deputies of local town Council and the head of the NGO is a member of city public council. The NGO is active in empowerment of women business initiatives and in the sphere of governance. The NGO has about 15 members which participate in the activities mostly on the volunteer basis.
16	Women's Social Environmental and Legal Centre	Donetsk / Bahmut	Bahmutska In process	Oksana Kravec - Head	050 285 46 36 http://women-centre.ucoz.ru/ women-centre@yandex.ru	The NGO was founded in September 1999 in Artemivsk (Bahmut for now). The objective is to promote socio-legal protection of women and young people. Key directions of activities are personal development; professional orientation for youth; promotion of the reform of the penitentiary system; development of entrepreneurship; human rights; prevention of violence and human trafficking; HIV / AIDS – prophylaxis; free legal aid social assistance to vulnerable categories of people. A sustainable part of activities of the NGO targeted detained and released women and children. For now, the NGO is active on the support youth to get higher education in Ukraine and abroad. The NGO has implemented projects funded by International Renaissance Foundation, PRI, Peace Corps USA.