**Ukraine Community Recovery Fund**

**First Call for Proposals - 02 January 2024**

1. **Background**

Communities in Ukraine have been severely impacted by Russia’s ongoing war and full-scale invasion. Some are still contending with significant humanitarian needs as they host a large number of displaced individuals and struggle to provide housing and services while maintaining social cohesion. Others are ready to embark on recovery and reconstruction efforts, creating conditions for returns, both from within the country and abroad, to reintegrate and rebuild their lives. Meanwhile, communities in the eastern and southern regions of the country, closest to the frontline, continue to grapple directly with the consequences of the war, requiring a combination of humanitarian assistance and recovery support.

Overall, across the country there is a need to design and implement community recovery interventions that reconstruct destroyed infrastructure, strengthen the resilience of affected communities and build capacity of local authorities.

The United Nations (UN) in Ukraine, in coordination with the Government, have established a flexible community-level Recovery Fund. It aims at supporting an inclusive, area-based approach that is in full synergy to the early recovery priorities as identified in the UN Transitional Framework (2022-2024) and the priorities of the Government from the second Rapid Damage and Needs Assessment. Community-level investments in reconstruction of housing, energy, social infrastructure, humanitarian demining, and support to livelihoods and local economic development are combined with targeted capacity strengthening for essential service provision and community mobilization.

The Fund is managed by the UN in Ukraine, and priorities are set in cooperation with the Ministry for Communities, Territories and Infrastructure Development of Ukraine.

The current contributors to the Fund include Denmark, Luxembourg and the Republic of Korea.

The [first meeting of the Steering Committee for the Ukraine Community Recovery Fund](https://ukraine.un.org/en/256555-ukraine-community-recovery-fund-approves-first-strategic-allocation) took place on 22/12/2023. The Steering Committee agreed the first strategic allocation for available funding for the priorities detailed below.

This Call for Proposals is organized to implement the first strategic allocation.

1. **Priorities of the Call for Proposals**

In line with the [Terms of Reference of the Ukraine Community Recovery Fund](https://ukraine.un.org/en/256751-ukraine-community-recovery-fund-terms-reference) (Annex to this Call), the present Call for Proposals has the following two objectives:

**Objective 1** – **Livelihoods and Agriculture support in Sumy Region**

**Geographic focus**: Targeted communities in Sumy region.

**Thematic focus**: Agriculture (support to rural households, support to agribusiness value chain); local economic development and livelihoods (support to small and medium sized businesses in targeted communities).

**Objective 2 –National Capacity for Mine Action**

**Thematic focus**: Support to national capacity of the State Emergency Service of Ukraine (SESU) for community demining. Under this objective the proposal is expected to launch the first phase of construction of SESU’s logistics base and establish a technical advisor on mine action with a focus on community impact.

1. **Financial allocation**

The available financial allocation under this Call for Proposals is as follows:

Objective 1: US$ 4.6 Million

Objective 2: US$ 1.25 Million

For Objective 1 the *minimum amount* of the project proposal is set to US$ 2 Million. For Objective 2 the *minimum amount* of the project proposal is set to the currently maximum available funding (US$ 1.25 Million). The *maximum amount* is limited by the financial allocation per objective indicated above. Should more funds become available the ceiling for Objective 1 can be increased up to US$ 10 million.

1. **Eligibility criteria**

***Applicants***

Eligible applicants for the Call for Proposals are UN entities resident in Ukraine that fulfil the following criteria:

*For Objective 1:*

* Proven operational presence (field office, humanitarian and recovery activities) in Sumy region that can be leveraged for rapid delivery of proposed interventions.
* Mandate relevant to agriculture and/or local economic development.
* Proven experience in delivering community-based recovery interventions for agriculture, livelihood support, small and medium sized business support in recovery settings in Ukraine.

*For Objective 2:*

* Proven experience in reconstruction and procurement in mine action sector.

***Partnerships***

Under Objective 1, in line with the inclusive community recovery focus, the proposals must demonstrate alignment to priorities of the [Sumy Regional Economic Recovery Strategy](https://sm.gov.ua/images/docs/2023/strategy_2022-2024_eng.pdf), as well as consultation and partnerships with the regional administration, authorities of targeted hromadas, civil society representing vulnerable groups such as rural households, grassroots women, persons with disabilities, internally displaced persons and veterans associations. Proposals are not required to be joint but must demonstrate joint analysis and joint aligned planning and interventions in targeted communities among UN agencies. Before submission of the proposal the applicant must ensure UN agencies active in the area are consulted and UN activities are coherent.

Under Objective 2 the proposal must demonstrate consultation and alignment with SESU.

1. **Application procedure**

Project proposals in line with the call for proposals are submitted for consideration **latest by 1st February 2024, 23:59 Kyiv time**, to the Fund Secretariat, hosted in the UN Resident Coordinator Office. Project proposals should be submitted by email in MS Word format to ana.lukatela@un.org and aliaksei.vavokhin@un.org.

The applicant must use the attached **Ukraine CRF Project Document Template** with the following minimum elements: 1) project narrative including justification, alignment to regional priorities and other submitted proposals, description of activities demonstrating the inclusive community recovery approach, partnerships, gender marker description and score 2) budget in format of UNSDG budget categories, 3) results framework with clear link/contribution to the indicators in the Fund’s TOR.

**The maximum project duration is 12 months** from disbursement of the funds to the successful applicant.

**Note**: all projects must fulfil the minimum requirements indicated in the [Ukraine Community Recovery Fund Terms of Reference](https://ukraine.un.org/en/256751-ukraine-community-recovery-fund-terms-reference) (i.a. *Section 7 Programmatic arrangements*).

Targeted communities/hromada authorities / applicants must register the intervention in the DREAM system and the MPTFO Fund Management Platform after project approval.

1. **Evaluation, selection and award procedure**

Proposals will be evaluated for compliance by the Fund Secretariat in the UNRCO after which a Technical Review committee will review proposals and submit those recommended for approval to the Steering Committee. The Steering Committee will review and approve the recommendation via email on a no-objection basis.

The Technical Review Committee will review the proposals according to the procedure and against quality and relevance criteria indicated in the Fund’s ToR (Section 6 – Funding allocation process).

Funds will be released to the UN entity within five days of the SC approval and UN RC signature.

1. **Indicative timeline**

Deadline for submission of proposals: 01/02/2024

Deadline for proposal review by Technical Review Committee: 09/02/2024

Deadline for notification of results: 15/02/2024

**Annex 1**: [Ukraine Community Recovery Fund Terms of Reference](https://ukraine.un.org/en/256751-ukraine-community-recovery-fund-terms-reference).

**Annex 2**: Ukraine Community Recovery Fund Project Document Template.