

Ukraine Community Recovery Fund

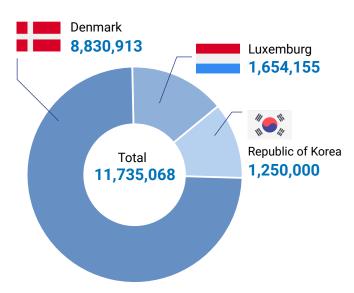
Annual narrative report

November 2023 - May 2024

Responding to the community level impact of Russia's war against Ukraine, the United Nations in Ukraine, in coordination with the Government of Ukraine, have established a flexible Ukraine Community Recovery Fund (UCRF). The Fund makes targeted community-level investments in reconstruction of housing, energy, social infrastructure, demining, and support to livelihoods and local economic development.

The work of the Ukraine Community Recovery Fund is possible thanks to the generous contributions of Denmark, Luxembourg and the Republic of Korea.





Participating UN organizations:









UCRF milestones:



1. Fund's establishment

The UN in Ukraine presented the <u>Concept of the Fund</u> for the Ukraine Recovery Conference in June 2023 in London in support of the recovery needs at the local level and building on the success and lessons of the Ukraine Humanitarian Fund.

The initial phase of the Fund will support and complement the five emergency early recovery priorities as identified in the second Rapid Damage and Needs Assessment (RDNA2); these are: housing, mine action, energy, critical and social infrastructure and services, and support to the private sector, through a people-centered, human rights-based approach.











Enablers

Initial allocations were provided by Denmark, Luxemburg and the Republic of Korea. <u>The UCRF First Strategic Allocation</u> was agreed by the Fund's Steering Committee in December 2023 with two strategic objectives:



Objective 1

Livelihoods and agriculture support in de-occupied communities in Sumy region

US\$ 4.6 Million

Thematic focus:

- 1. **Agriculture** (support to agricultural communities and small and medium sized agribusinesses and value chains).
- 2. Local economic development (support to small and medium sized businesses to re-establish operations in de-occupied communities and reconstruction of community market infrastructure).



Objective 2

Strengthen capacity for mine action and community recovery

US\$ 1.25 Million

Thematic focus:

Launch of first phase of construction of SESU's logistics base and establishment of a technical advisor on mine action with a focus on community impact.

The UCRF Secretariat is based in the UN Resident Coordinator's Office in Kyiv and manages the administration of the UCRF and the work of the Steering Committee.

2. First Call for Proposals

In line with the decision of the Steering Committee on the first strategic allocation for available funding, the UCRF Secretariat developed the first call for proposal announced on 02 January 2024. The Secretariat disseminated the call to the eligible UN organisations and supported the assessment and selection process in line with the Terms of Reference of the Ukraine Community Recovery Fund.

Three proposals detailed below were received, evaluated for compliance with minimum criteria by the Fund Secretariat. Proposals were then reviewed by the Technical Review committee against quality and relevance criteria indicated in the Fund's ToR.

Based on the results of the evaluation the Fund's Secretariat recommended the three proposals for funding. The Steering Committee approved funding of the initial three proposals on 22 February 2024.

The implementation of the projects started on 1 March 2024 with the funds transferred to the implementing organisations and duration of projects is 12 months, until March 2025.

Promoting community-based recovery of agricultural livelihoods and strengthening of agrifood value chains in war-affected areas of Sumska oblast (PERAL Sumska)

Implementer:



Budget: 2,300,000 USD

Key expected results:



quaculture producing families to receive USD 1,000 cash transfer for productive assets



Beekeeping producing families to receive a USD 1.000 cash transfer for resume/improve honey production



Dairy farming families to receive a USD 1,000 cash transfer for farming inputs



Development of a Genetic Resources **Enhancement Strategic Plan for** Sumska Oblast (dairy value chain).



Provision of technical assistance and extension support to relevant stakeholders and rural households to improve sustainable production capacity

Community Recovery: Ensuring Conducive Economic and Agriculture Environments in Sumska oblast



Budget: 2,300,000 USD

Key expected results:



Rural households/farmers to receive grants to support their livelihoods



Number of micro and small rural business es assisted with vouchers to procure construction materials to resume and sustain their operations, generating new employment for women, youth, IDPs and other vulnerable groups



Local value chains are strengthened by rehabilitation of local marketplaces /rural infrastructure.



Rural economic infrastructure rehabilitated benefitting 1000 people



beneficiaries who successfully complete vocational studies will be supported with vouchers or equipment (estimated equivalent of USD 1,000) of relevance to their chosen occupation and training programme for self-employment, such as IT and other tools.

Support to Community Driven Mine Action in Ukraine





Budget: 1,175,815 USD

Key expected results:

- Launch construction of a logistics base for humanitarian demining in Ukraine. This activity will cover a first phase (feasibility study and designs) of all required works and preparation of the sites (fencing and other works). With separate funding of a second phase, construction could be completed by Q2 2025. This facility will significantly enhance the efficiency and effectiveness of SESU demining operations across Ukraine, and make it better at clearing explosive threats in affected communities. It will improve asset management and maintenance and prolong the useful life of most equipment types, reducing the need for further assistance to SESU.
- Establish a Senior Mine Action Advisor for Mine Action and Community Recovery to advise all stakeholders on increasing impact of mine action efforts for impacted communities.





3. Next steps

The operational activities under the selected projects began preparation in March and April 2024, and implementation in May 2024. The UCRF Secretariat will ensure coordination and monitoring of the projects, providing quarterly updates to stakeholders, Government of Ukraine and the donors.

As the Government of Denmark generously provided a new allocation for the Mine Action Window of the UCRF in the amount of DKK 40,000,000 (US\$ 5,755,396), a second call for proposals is expected to be launched in May 2024 focused on mine action for community recovery.

The UN in Ukraine and the UCRF Secretariat will continue mobilizing resources and advocacy for community recovery, including through showcasing community recovery results in the Ukraine Inclusive Community Recovery Forum in Kyiv (10 May 2024) and the upcoming Ukraine Recovery Conference in Berlin (11-12 June 2024).