



## UKRAINE COMMUNITY RECOVERY FUND MPTF OFFICE GENERIC ANNUAL PROGRAMME<sup>1</sup> NARRATIVE PROGRESS REPORT REPORTING PERIOD: 01 MARCH – 31 DECEMBER 2024

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<sup>1</sup> The term “programme” is used for programmes, joint programmes and projects.  
<sup>2</sup> Strategic Results, as formulated in the Strategic UN Planning Framework (e.g. UNDAF) or project document;  
<sup>3</sup> The MPTF Office Project Reference Number is the same number as the one on the Notification message. It is also referred to as “Project ID” on the project’s factsheet page the [MPTF Office GATEWAY](#)  
<sup>4</sup> The MPTF or JP Contribution, refers to the amount transferred to the Participating UN Organizations, which is available on the [MPTF Office GATEWAY](#)  
<sup>5</sup> The start date is the date of the first transfer of the funds from the MPTF Office as Administrative Agent. Transfer date is available on the [MPTF Office GATEWAY](#)  
<sup>6</sup> As per approval of the original project document by the relevant decision-making body/Steering Committee.  
<sup>7</sup> If there has been an extension, then the revised, approved end date should be reflected here. If there has been no extension approved, then the current end date is the same as the original end date. The end date is the same as the operational closure date which is when all activities for which a Participating Organization is responsible under an approved MPTF / JP have been completed. As per the MOU, agencies are to notify the MPTF Office when a programme completes its operational activities.

## Programme Assessment/Review/Mid-Term Eval.

Assessment/Review - if applicable *please attach*

Yes  No Date: *dd.mm.yyyy*

Mid-Term Evaluation Report – if applicable *please attach*

Yes  No Date: *dd.mm.yyyy*

## Report Submitted By

- Name: Alessia SCHIAVON
- Title: Chief of Mission
- Participating Organization (Lead): IOM
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## ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS

AAP	Principles of Accountability to Affected Population
BMZ	German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development
BNF	Beneficiary
CCM	Community Consultancy Meeting
CSM	Community Service Mapping
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nation
FSL	Food Security and Livelihoods
GIZ	German International Cooperation Society
HH	Households
IDP	Internally Displaced Persons
IOM	International Organization for Migration
KfW	German Development Bank
KSE	Kyiv School of Economics
LMA	Livelihoods Market Assessments
MCTD	Ministry of Communities and Territories Development of Ukraine
MSME	Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises
MoE	Ministry of Economy of Ukraine
NGO	Non-governmental organization
PSEA	Prevention of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse
RNA	Rapid Needs Assessment
SDG	Sustainable Development Goal
SOP	Standard Operating Procedure
UCRF	Ukraine Community Recovery Fund
USAID	United States Agency for International Development

## NARRATIVE REPORT FORMAT

### **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

The Russian war on Ukraine has caused a severe humanitarian crisis, with a devastating impact on Ukraine both at the national and community levels, deteriorating an already fragile economy and social cohesion affected by multiple crises. To address the challenges and stimulate community recovery by ensuring conducive economic and agriculture environments, IOM is conducting recovery and livelihoods interventions in Sumska oblast with funds from the Ukraine Community Recovery Fund (UCRF). Some of the key project achievements during the reporting period that are contributing to the realization of the project's overall objective include:

- Provision of localized livelihood assistance to 711 rural households/farms, including 471 women-led (66 %) and 83 with disabilities (11%) to increase their resilience and engagement in local market systems;
- One rural facility was rehabilitated, and ten businesses — including 30 per cent that are women-led — were selected to receive voucher-based support aimed at strengthening value chains;
- 44 businesses were selected for grants, of which 24 are women led (30 micro, 13 small-sized enterprises and one business cluster), to improve the business eco-system, enhance cooperation, integration and overall competitiveness - the grants distribution is ongoing;
- 63 people were assisted, of whom 49 (78%) are women, through skills building initiatives.

IOM complements these interventions with communications and visibility actions to support the overall project objective (see Annex 1).

### **I. Purpose**

The overarching objective of the project is **to contribute to strengthening Livelihoods and Agriculture support in Sumska Oblast.**

To achieve this, the project initiatives were coordinated with the Sumska Oblast Administration and local stakeholders, and are in full alignment with the priorities of the Sumy Regional Economic Recovery Strategy (2022-2024). Interventions especially contribute to #3 “Agricultural Sector”, #4 “Human Potential” and #5 “Economic Innovations”.

The project is fully in line with the **IOM Global Crisis Response Plan for 2024** which focuses on social resilience, sustainable development and effective solutions for economic and social recovery. The project was conceptualized together with FAO to ensure complementarity with FAO’s proposed intervention to support livestock (dairy) and honey production, as well as the fisheries sector. The expected outcomes directly contribute to Strategic Priority # 2 ‘Community Recovery and Nexus Approaches’ of the **Ukraine Transitional Framework 2024**. Moreover, the project’s planned achievements are in line with the commitments of the Government of Ukraine as well as Ukraine Community Recovery Fund to the prioritized Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), particularly SDG 1 – ‘No poverty’, SDG 5 – ‘Gender Equality’, SDG 8 – ‘Decent Work and Economic Growth’, SDG 10 – ‘Reduce inequalities’, SDG 11 – ‘Sustainable Cities and Communities’ and SDG 17 – ‘Partnership for Sustainable Development’.

This will be achieved through the following results:

**Outcome 1. Community recovery interventions and nexus approaches in key sectors address displacement and strengthen individual and community resilience.**

**Output 1.1 (Livelihood) Women, youth, IDPs, veterans, persons with disabilities, and other vulnerable groups among affected rural households/farms have improved access to livelihood assistance in support of their self-sustenance and recovery**

- *Activity 1.1.1: Selection of rural households/farms and provision of livelihood assistance to increase resilience and engage in local market systems*

**Output 1.2 (Value Chain) Local value chains are strengthened by rehabilitation of local marketplaces /rural infrastructure.**

- *Activity 1.2.1: Provide small rural businesses with vouchers for rehabilitation of stores to enable them to procure construction material and undertake repairs.*
- *Activity 1.2.2: Based on participatory community approach, identify and rehabilitate rural economic infrastructure.*

**Output 1.3 (Grants for MSMEs and Clusters) Enterprises led by women, persons with a disability, or/and war-affected enterprises resume and sustain their operations, generating new employment for women, youth, IDPs and other vulnerable groups**

- *Activity 1.3.1: Conduct outreach/communication to raise awareness among relevant businesses of opportunities to receive financial grants.*
- *Activity 1.3.2: Select micro and small businesses, issue and manage financial grants*
- *Activity 1.3.3: Select a cluster, cooperative or an association of businesses with potential for growth and provide financial grant to support cluster development and engage in local market systems.*

**Output 1.4 (Vocational Trainings) IDPs, and other host community members gain technical skills that are better aligned to the needs of the local labour market and improve livelihood opportunities**

- *Activity 1.4.1: In cooperation with local technical and vocational training centers, design and implement short-term training programmes to provide local and IDP population (prioritizing women, youth, persons with a disability, and other vulnerable groups) with the skills (including soft-skills) required to be competitive in the local labour market.*
- *Activity 1.4.2: Provide beneficiaries of technical and vocational training courses with equipment or vouchers to purchase equipment of relevance to their chosen occupation and training programme.*

## II. Results

### i) Narrative reporting on results:

#### **Outcome 1. Community recovery interventions and nexus approaches in key sectors address displacement and strengthen individual and community resilience.**

The survey and final assessment of direct beneficiaries have yet to be completed following the conclusion of project activities. However, the outputs achieved under Outputs 1.1, 1.2, and 1.3, are strongly aligned with this Outcome and, based on the evidence thus far, IOM is confident in achieving or exceeding the target of 60 per cent of direct beneficiaries indicating that the assistance from the project has contributed to improving their businesses/capacities and livelihoods. This is based on IOM's implementation, ongoing learning, and its overall close coordination of the activities through the project period.

#### **Output 1.1 (Livelihood) Women, youth, IDPs, veterans, persons with disabilities, and other vulnerable groups among affected rural households/farms have improved access to livelihood assistance in support of their self-sustenance and recovery.**

##### Coordination with local authority and location selection:

IOM prioritized community ownership from the project's outset, coordinating closely with local authorities to ensure their active involvement. During the reporting period, IOM, in coordination with FAO, selected seven hromadas (Popivska, Mykolaivska, Stepanivska, Sadivska, Lebedynska, Trostianetska, Nedryhailivska) in Sumy oblast to target assistance. Following that, IOM started coordination with the hromada representatives to conduct a Rapid Needs Assessment (RNA) in order to assess the needs in the mentioned hromadas and evaluate whether the situation in the locations is in line with the project goals. The RNA included various categories of questions such as, inter alia, accessibility, the role of the agriculture sector, presence of rural agricultural households and their engagement in agriculture and livestock, and presence of damaged or destroyed businesses and economic infrastructure.

Based on the RNA findings, all seven hromadas met the criteria and were selected for the next step: conducting Livelihoods Market Assessments (LMA) at the settlements level. These assessments aimed to gain clearer and deeper information about the economic context, market dynamics, and potential challenges faced by beneficiaries.

Based on results of the LMA, three hromadas and specific settlements within these hromadas were selected as follows:

Region	Hromada	Settlement
Sumska	Nedryhailivska	Khoruzhivka (including the villages of Bizh, Lavrova, Darahanove, Spartak, Omelkove)
		Vikhove
	Lebedynska	Riabushky (including the villages of Vilshanka, Kurylivka, Pivnichne, Kostiv)
		Borovenka (including the villages of Semenivka and Burivka)

		Kamiane (including the villages of Bobrove and Zelenyi Hai, Chernyshky)
	Mykolaivska	Lutsykvka (including of the villages Ptychne, Bolotyshyne)
		Markivka (including the villages Rudka, Pershe Travnia)
		Verkhosulka (including the villages of Valiivka, Lokhniia, Mukiiivka, Sulske, Korosove, Mashari)

Table 1: The list of hromadas and settlements selected (based on LMA)

**Beneficiaries' selection and training:**

To enhance community engagement, IOM adopted a new approach for beneficiary registration, where Community Consultancy Meetings (CCMs) were conducted prior to conducting centralized registration.

During the CCMs, IOM presented the main objectives of the project, the selection criteria, and key timelines, in addition to addressing any questions or concerns from the community. It is worth mentioning that the CCMs were announced through posters in the communities as well as communicated through the communication channels such as Facebook, Viber etc. of the local authorities three to five days in advance to ensure information reached all stakeholders. Accordingly, eight CCM sessions were organized, hosting 287 individuals in the main locations in three hromadas in Sumska oblast.

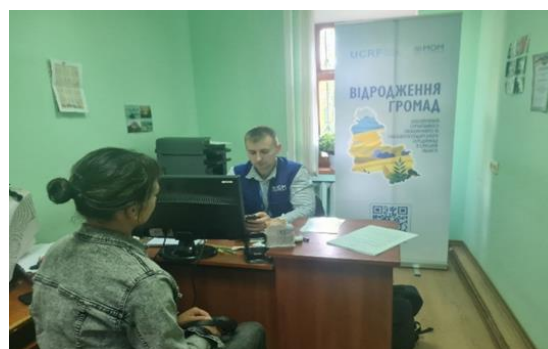


Photo 1 and 2: (left) Community Consultancy meeting in Khoruzhivka, Sumska region (right) Registration process in Khoruzhivka, Sumska region

Beneficiary registration took place after the CCMs session in each location between 8<sup>th</sup> September and 10<sup>th</sup> October to register a total of 811 applicants across the three hromadas.

To identify eligible beneficiaries for this project, applicants who did not meet at least one of the following criteria were excluded: households engaged in agricultural and/or livestock activities; households having access to a plot of land suitable for agricultural and/or livestock activities; agricultural and/or livestock are one of the main income sources for the households; acceptance to attend the conditional training provided by IOM, households have not been supported by other livelihood programmes in the last 12 months.

Accordingly, 793 eligible beneficiaries were identified and invited to attend the training which took place between 30<sup>th</sup> October and 8<sup>th</sup> November 2024. Notably, 775 out of 793 beneficiaries attended the training and were eligible to proceed to the next step where IOM applied the vulnerability criteria

to select the final list of beneficiaries. The vulnerability criteria included, inter alia: monthly income, number of family members, family members with disabilities, displacement, veterans, elderly, gender, families with children, and families that include pregnant and lactating women.

As a result, 711 beneficiaries were selected to receive the livelihoods grants. The table below indicates the numbers and registration process flow per hromada:

Hromada	# of registered applicants	# of eligible BNFs invited for training	# of BNFs attended the training	# of selected BNFs for grant
<b>Lebedynska</b>	335	322	319	298
<b>Mykolaivska</b>	292	290	279	256
<b>Nedryhailivska</b>	184	181	177	157
<b>Total</b>	811	793	775	711

Table 2: Distribution of BNFs during registration process flow

To avoid overlapping with FAO, both IOM and FAO conducted an exercise in coordination with the Food Security and Livelihoods (FSL) Cluster to avoid targeting the same families twice. This was especially necessary, as IOM and FAO were working in the same target hromadas. Following the de-duplication exercise at the end of December 2024, 711 households received financial grants of approximately USD 1,000 to be utilized for agricultural goods and services. The remaining beneficiaries to be targeted will be reached in the next round of grants which will be distributed in the next reporting period.

**Output 1.2 (Value Chain) Local value chains are strengthened by rehabilitation of local marketplaces /rural infrastructure.**

Following the RNA indicated in the previous section, IOM conducted a Community Service Mapping Assessment (CSM) to gain clarity about the agricultural infrastructure in six selected hromadas in targeted locations. A total of 56 locations within these hromadas were covered by the CSM focusing on areas where the war had significantly impacted livelihoods, necessitating rehabilitation. Special attention was given to locations where rehabilitation efforts could support women currently engaged in agricultural production or those needing to be integrated into the sector.

However, to ensure a broader outreach and maximize participation, the program committee, comprising members of the program management team, decided to extend the call for interest to businesses across all seven originally identified hromadas in Sumska oblast to avoid any shortages in application numbers. Consequently, a call for interest for all businesses was opened and published on 31<sup>st</sup> July via [IOM Ukraine website](#), IOM Ukraine Telegram Channels, and social media sites such as Facebook. To further enhance accessibility and outreach, the announcement was disseminated through hromada representatives.

The main criteria published in the call were as follows:

- Officially registered micro- or small enterprises

- Businesses providing services to communities
- Businesses in need of rehabilitation
- Enterprises capable of expanding or continuing their activities after receiving the grant
- Businesses requiring building materials for restoration

The Call for Interest was closed on 11<sup>th</sup> August, with a total of 15 applications received, including 10 eligible applications from Lebedynska, Trostianetska, Popivska, Nedryhailivska hromadas in Sumska oblast.

IOM conducted in-depth due diligence through technical on-site assessments. The technical and cost analysis revealed that the initial USD 2,500 voucher amount was inadequate to cover beneficiaries' essential rehabilitation expenses. Consequently, the voucher was increased to USD 3,000, ensuring beneficiaries could fully execute their planned activities.

To avoid conducting the rehabilitation in winter and after clear communication with beneficiaries, the rehabilitation activities were rescheduled for the Spring season.

Following the CSM indicated in the previous section, IOM collaborated closely with local authorities to map the critical infrastructure that was affected by the war and in need for rehabilitation in the targeted hromadas in Sumska oblast. Accordingly, a few potential objects were identified, and the budget of rehabilitation, access, and impactfulness of the intervention were considered in the final selection. A grocery shop in Buimer, Trostianetska hromada in Sumska oblast was eventually selected, given the appropriate scale of the project and noting it was the only grocery store within the target settlement, thus of key importance to the well-being and resilience of the inhabitants.

Upon selection, a structural assessment revealed extensive damage to the grocery shop, primarily from missile attacks in early 2024. Critical restoration needs included the near-total replacement of the roof, repairs to walls and ceilings, and full replacement of windows and doors. All the needs were included in the technical assessments conducted by IOM.

Drawing from its extensive expertise, IOM implemented technical oversight and direct supervision throughout the rehabilitation activities including technical assessments and vendor contracting. Throughout implementation, IOM conducted monitoring visits to guarantee transparency and adherence to quality standards. As a result, by November 2024, the grocery shop in Buimer was fully rehabilitated, providing a tangible benefit to the local population, enhancing market access and economic resilience in the community.



Photo 3 and 4: Damaged (left) and rehabilitated (right) grocery shop in Buimer Trostianetska hromada in Sumska oblast

**Output 1.3 (Grants for MSMEs and Clusters) Enterprises led by women, persons with a disability, or/and war-affected enterprises resume and sustain their operations, generating new employment for women, youth, IDPs and other vulnerable groups**

In May 2024, IOM launched an open call for applications (<https://shorturl.at/76RJL>), widely publicized on platforms such as Diia Business, social media, and through local channels, including those in Sumy oblast, resulting in over 300 applications received. Following a rigorous, merit-based, multi-stage selection process, IOM carefully reviewed each application. Shortlisted applicants then presented their business plans in online sessions to the IOM selection committee throughout the first two weeks of August 2024 (Annex 2 Screenshots from on-line business plan presentation sessions). This thorough process allowed IOM to identify businesses with the greatest potential for positive impact. The evaluation focused on key criteria including: the ability to create and retain jobs and to generate added value, the degree to which the business was impacted by the war, and their potential for positive community impact.

By September 2024, IOM selected 30 micro (16 women-owned, 14 men-owned) and 13 small-sized enterprises (seven women-owned, six men-owned). By the beginning of December, IOM finalized Enterprise Development Agreements with all 43 selected businesses, allocating grants equivalent to USD 7,000 for micro-enterprises and USD 20,000 USD for small-sized enterprises. Furthermore, during this period, 26 out of the 43 businesses have successfully submitted their financial reports, confirming effective utilization of the grants and concluding IOM enterprise development agreements. These businesses represent a diverse range of sectors, including vital areas such as services, production, and agriculture:

- **Micro-sized enterprises** were represented by food processing (4), services/café (3), growing grain (2), poultry farm (1), wooden products production (1), sewing production (4), services/education for youth and children (4), beekeeping farm (1), recycling (1), services/atelier (1), construction and repair (1), food retail and catering (1), craft production/food (1), manufacturing of products and furniture from stone (1), craft production/décor, apparel (3), transportation and logistics services (1)
- **Small-sized enterprises** operate in metal processing (1), food processing (2), fruit-growing (1), grain growing (2), wood-processing (1), building materials production (1), machinery production (1), poultry farm (1), home décor production (1), production of plastic products (1), production of feed for farm animals (1).

See Annex 3 - SMEs brief overview for more information.

The financial assistance provided by IOM is being deployed to achieve several key strategic goals. First, it allows businesses to invest in essential tools and equipment, upgrading their capabilities and boosting their productivity. Second, it ensures a steady supply of raw materials crucial for maintaining operational capacity and fulfilling customer demand. Third, these funds facilitate the purchase of construction materials, enabling businesses to repair or refurbish damaged premises, ensuring a safe and functional workspace. Finally, financial support empowers businesses to pay wages to their employees, sustaining jobs and providing crucial stability within the workforce.

IOM projects that the supported businesses will not only retain 334 existing jobs, ensuring stability and security for those families, but will also generate an additional 79 new jobs. IOM's financial assistance is helping businesses not only stay afloat but also develop, which in turn creates new jobs. The support allows them to invest in tools, materials, and repairs that improve their business operations. As businesses recover and expand their capacity, they are better positioned to take on more work, leading to the creation of new employment opportunities.

To select suitable candidates for business cluster program support, IOM developed and followed a roadmap for the cluster selection process. The preparation phase took place from March to June 2024 and involved conducting market research on general cluster activities in Ukraine, holding meetings with key market players such as USAID (United States Agency for International Development), GIZ (German Agency for International Cooperation), Kyiv School of Economics (KSE), and the Ukrainian Cluster Alliance, identifying operational clusters in the Sumy region, and gathering preliminary information. Additionally, meetings were held with regional authorities to verify the status of existing clusters and their socio-economic contribution to the region's recovery and development.

Simultaneously, IOM focused on establishing a robust procedure to ensure a thorough cluster selection process. To achieve this, a Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) for the cluster selection process was developed, including a comprehensive list of eligibility and selection criteria. Additionally, templates for cluster application forms and business plans were created to facilitate the effective implementation of the SOP.

In July 2024, IOM launched an open call for business cluster applications in the Sumy region. IOM received seven applications, four of which were deemed eligible. After applying the evaluation criteria, it was determined that two applications were not business clusters but rather NGOs providing a range of services to businesses. Ultimately, two of the seven applications were identified as eligible business clusters: the Hemp Cluster and the Heavy Machinery Cluster.

After conducting online presentations, internal checks, and evaluations of the business and investment plans, the Hemp Cluster was selected for business grant support in the amount of USD 60,000. The Hemp Cluster (official name: "Slobozhanske Konopliarstvo") consists primarily of micro and small enterprises focused on hemp cultivation and processing in various sectors, from food production to construction, thus creating important added value to economic activity in the Sumy oblast.

The main focus areas of the investment plan include research and development, equipment, and marketing, all of which were fully aligned with IOM's requirements. The grant is distributed in three tranches; two tranches, for a total amount of USD 51,400 were disbursed by the end of 2024 with the final tranche to be issued once the final narrative and financial reports are received from the cluster.

### **Output 1.4 (Vocational Trainings) IDPs, and other host community members gain technical skills that are better aligned to the needs of the local labour market and improve livelihood opportunities**

In May 2024, meetings with Sumy Oblast Employment Center as well as local employment centers and community authorities were held to receive recommendations on the most in-demand jobs in the target communities. As a result, applicants were offered assistance for basic vocational training courses in the following occupations: accountant, truck driver, tractor driver, cook & confectioner, barista, UI/UX designer, QA specialist, Python and Java programmer, and webpage creator.

In August 2024, an open call for applications for these trainings was opened for residents of Popivska, Mykolaiivska, Sadiivska, Stepanivska, Lebedynska, Trostianetska, Nedryhailivska, and Sumska hromadas. A total of 250 candidates were registered, all of whom passed eligibility criteria (residence in a target community, intention to stay in the target community for at least one year, 16+ years of age, belonging to at least one vulnerable population group). Following the interviews and assessment based on vulnerability and selection criteria, 90 candidates were identified as priority group for support. Of them, 63 candidates (of whom 78% are women) eventually decided to partake in the programme. An additional call for applications will be announced during the next reporting period.

Provision of equipment or vouchers for beneficiaries of technical and vocational training courses to purchase relevant equipment for their chosen occupation and training programme is planned for April-May 2025.

### ***Progress Made towards Incorporating Cross-cutting Themes***

#### *Protection Mainstreaming:*

Protection concerns were considered and addressed across all stages of project implementation in line with principles of do no harm, meaningful access to assistance, empowerment and participation and accountability to affected population. For example, IOM staff members conducted regular risk assessments to identify potential protection risks and develop mitigation strategies. Additionally, the project prioritized the needs of vulnerable groups.

#### *Gender Inclusion and Mainstreaming:*

IOM's programming promotes the integration of gender equality considerations throughout program activities. As example, during the reporting period, IOM undertook a rigorous selection process, identifying 30 micro-enterprises — 16 owned by women and 14 by men—and 13 small-sized enterprises, with seven owned by women and six by men.

The project activities integrated aspects related to gender equality considerations. Sex- and age-disaggregated data was collected and analyzed whenever possible, as well as for monitoring of the activities. The primary data collected under this project, as well as the existing data and research, e.g., from various gender analyses done in Ukraine, was analyzed or summarized to inform programme implementation. SOPs elaborated by the programme were reviewed to ensure gender mainstreaming within the documents and activities.

#### *Prevention of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA)*

PSEA is mainstreamed throughout all IOM programming, with a dedicated PSEA team as well as PSEA champions (staff trained to provide further capacity building on PSEA, primarily to partners). IOM also has an online reporting platform, "We Are All In" that is available for beneficiaries and for staff to register complaints. Overall, IOM Ukraine conducts regular trainings to build the capacity of its personnel as well as that of partners on Ethics and SEA, conducts risk assessment, dissemination of information, awareness raising and feedback mechanism. The PSEA Champions Network within the mission was further strengthened through an additional Training of Trainers refresher session, aimed at enhancing the expertise and capacity of focal points across key units. Gender session and disability inclusion was part of the agenda. This initiative particularly benefited the programmes, equipping its staff with the necessary knowledge and skills to effectively integrate PSEA activities within their respective areas of responsibility.

*Principles of Accountability to Affected Population (AAP):*

As a signatory of the Grand Bargain, IOM has committed to mainstream accountability and participation across all its programming. This has been enshrined in IOM global policy and formally adopted practically in the IOM Ukraine mission through an AAP accountability SOP which embeds accountability, participation, and transparency throughout the programme cycle from design to final implementation and closeout.

This process starts with a participatory consultative needs assessment process as seen in Outcome 1, Activity 1.1. of the report, with a targeting and implementation plan that prioritizes vulnerable beneficiaries as seen in the results section of this report.

An early example of this approach involved a communications campaign created for support to micro-businesses (Output 1.3), as well as the vocational training activity (Output 1.4). The AAP team has created communication campaigns on IOM's official Telegram channel (the most used communication channel locally in Ukraine), as well as on the IOM Ukraine website, providing clear information on the eligibility criteria and timely updates to the potential beneficiaries. The campaign on Telegram has reached 5000+ potential beneficiaries, resulting in an increase of registrations and general awareness of IOM activities in Sumska oblast.

In the lifetime of this project the CFM processed 54,269 cases, with 60.59 per cent being female, 17.69 per cent being male (21.72% preferred not to disclose their gender). Just over two per cent of the cases related to Migration and Sustainable Development and Livelihoods activities and Transition and Recovery activities.

Thematically, the main issues addressed were the eligibility criteria, resulting in a communications campaign implemented on Telegram in order to maintain continuous engagement, communication and feedback throughout the project.

**ii) Indicator Based Performance Assessment:**

	<b><u>Achieved</u> Indicator Targets</b>	<b>Reasons for Variance with Planned Target (if any)</b>	<b>Source of Verification</b>
<b>Outcome 1<sup>8</sup></b> <b>Indicator: % of direct beneficiaries who report the assistance has contributed to improving their business/capacities and livelihoods</b> <b>Baseline: 0</b> <b>Planned Target: 60%</b>	Will be provided in the final report		Project records, IOM database
<b>Output 1.1</b> <b>Indicator 1.1.1: Number of rural households/farmers who have received grants to support their livelihoods (age/sex, disability disaggregated)</b> <b>Baseline: 0</b> <b>Planned Target: 730 (&gt; 60% women-led, &gt; 10% persons with disabilities)</b>	Total: 711 HHs while 471 HHs women-led (66 %) Out of 711 HHs, 83 HHs with disabilities (11%)	Additional households will be reached in the upcoming reporting period	Project records, IOM database
<b>Output 1.2</b> <b>Indicator 1.2.1: Number of micro and small rural businesses assisted with vouchers to procure construction material</b> <b>Baseline: 0</b> <b>Planned Target: 10 (&gt; 60% women-led)</b>	10 businesses have been selected to be supported with vouchers in March. 30% women-led businesses	Due to the number of businesses applying for vouchers being somewhat low, it was not possible to achieve the target of over 60% of businesses being women-led.	Project records, IOM database
<b>Indicator 1.2.2: Number of rural economic infrastructure rehabilitated</b> <b>Baseline: 0</b> <b>Planned Target: 1</b>	One infrastructure (Grocery Shop) has been rehabilitated		Project records, IOM database
<b>Indicator 1.2.3: Number of people benefiting from restored social and critical community infrastructure, including water, energy, transportation, etc. (age/sex disaggregated)</b> <b>Baseline: 0</b>	402 individuals (indirect BNFs)		Project records, IOM database

<sup>8</sup> Note: Outcomes, outputs, indicators and targets should be **as outlined in the Project Document** so that you report on your **actual achievements against planned targets**. Add rows as required for Outcome 2, 3 etc.

<b>Planned Target: 402 (50% of female beneficiaries)</b>			
<b>Output 1.3</b> <b>Indicator 1.3.1: Number of private enterprises, particularly SMEs, supported (management, financial grants etc.)</b> <b>Baseline: 0</b> <b>Planned Target: 44 (&gt; 60% women-led, 30 micro enterprises, 13 small-sized enterprises, 1 cluster/ cooperative or association of businesses)</b>	44 of which 24 women and 20 are men-owned enterprises (30 micro, 13 small-sized enterprises and one is the Hemp Business Cluster)		Project records, IOM database
<b>Output 1.4</b> <b>Indicator 1.4.1: Number of people who have benefited from skills building initiatives, including in entrepreneurship (age/sex/disability disaggregated)</b> <b>Baseline: 0</b> <b>Planned Target: 90 (&gt; 60% women, &gt;10% persons with disabilities)</b>	63, of whom 49 (78%) are women. Disaggregation on disability will be provided in the next report.  The assistance for the remaining 27 beneficiaries is planned to be provided in April 2025.		Project records, IOM database
<b>Indicator 1.4.2: Number of graduates of vocational trainings provided with equipment or vouchers (age/sex/disability disaggregated)</b> <b>Baseline: 0</b> <b>Planned Target: 90 (&gt; 60% women, &gt;10% persons with disabilities)</b>	The assistance for all 90 beneficiaries is planned to be provided in April-May 2025.		Project records, IOM database

### iii) A Specific Story (Optional)

**Problem / Challenge faced:** Describe the specific problem or challenge faced by the subject of your story (this could be a problem experienced by an individual, community or government).

IOM aimed to identify critical economic infrastructure in the targeted hromadas in Sumska oblast that were affected by the war and in need of rehabilitation. The infrastructure had to be relevant to the local economic recovery and improved outcomes for rural households. At the project development stage, and in collaboration with partners, IOM initially set a target to benefit 1,000 individuals through restored infrastructure. However, during the identification and assessment process it was found that the selected location had a smaller population than anticipated for this type of intervention. Nevertheless, it was deemed a worthy investment given that it was the only grocery store in a remote village.

**Programme Interventions:** How was the problem or challenges addressed through the Programme interventions?

IOM made significant outreach efforts with hromadas as well as site visits to identify an appropriate rehabilitation project. This included coordination with FAO to try to identify relevant infrastructure for rehabilitation. Based on criteria and budget, the most relevant and impactful project was one within a village of 402 persons. As the next step, IOM coordinated with the donor to confirm the proposed approach, reducing the budget for this activity and agreeing to a lower target number of beneficiaries. Savings from this activity were redirected to Livelihoods Grants.

**Result (if applicable):** Describe the observable *change* that occurred so far as a result of the Programme interventions. For example, how did community lives change or how was the government better able to deal with the initial problem?

In March, IOM published [an impact story on its Facebook page](#): highlighting how the inhabitants of the remote settlement, received improved access to essential goods and postal services (including pension and utility payments).

**Lessons Learned:** What did you (and/or other partners) learn from this situation that has helped inform and/or improve Programme (or other) interventions?

Maintaining strong and timely coordination efforts with partners and beneficiaries is essential for project implementation. If project funds and the donor's deadline allow it, introducing a project inception phase or extending the project development stage can allow for more in-depth assessments.

#### III. Other Assessments or Evaluations (if applicable)

No reports or studies beyond those noted in this narrative report, have been carried out.

#### IV. Programmatic Revisions (if applicable)

Due to challenges in implementation, rather than using an Implementing Partner to conduct the registration of beneficiaries for livelihoods grants, IOM implemented the registration directly.

#### V. Resources (Optional)

IOM is also conducting economic development activities in Sumska oblast through the Livelihoods Plus project, funded by KfW/BMZ. In the coming months, IOM will use remaining funding from the UCRF project as well as funding from the KfW project to provide a second grant to a business cluster based in Sumska; this will be the Heavy Machinery Cluster.