



## MPTF OFFICE GENERIC ANNUAL PROGRAMME NARRATIVE PROGRESS REPORT

REPORTING PERIOD: 15 AUGUST – 31 DECEMBER 2024

<b>Programme Title &amp; Project Number</b>  Mine Action & IDP Return in Southern Ukraine (MPTF_00318_00005)	<b>Country, Locality(s), Priority Area(s) / Strategic Results<sup>1</sup></b>  Ukraine, Mykolaiv and Kherson Oblasts
<b>Participating Organization(s)</b> UNDP (United Nations Development Programme), UNHCR (United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees)	<b>Priority area / strategic results:</b> UN Transitional Framework Outcome 2.1: “Community recovery interventions and nexus approaches in key sectors address displacement and strengthen individual and community resilience”.  <b>Implementing Partners</b> NGO “The Tenth of April (TTA)” CF “Gorenie”
<b>Programme/Project Cost (US\$)</b>  Total approved budget as per project document: MPTF /JP Contribution <sup>2</sup> : <b>USD 4,915,176</b> UNDP: USD 2,465,176 UNHCR: USD 2,450,000	<b>Programme Duration</b>  Overall Duration - 12 months  Start Date <sup>3</sup> - 15.08.2024 Original End Date <sup>4</sup> - 15.08.2025 Current End date <sup>5</sup> - 15.08.2025
<b>Programme Assessment/Review/Mid-Term Eval.</b> Assessment/Review - if applicable <i>please attach</i> <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No Date: <i>dd.mm.yyyy</i> Mid-Term Evaluation Report – <i>if applicable please attach</i> <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No Date: <i>dd.mm.yyyy</i>	<b>Report Submitted By</b>  Federica Dispenza, Specialist, Community Security and Social Cohesion, UNDP ( <a href="mailto:federica.dispenza@undp.org">federica.dispenza@undp.org</a> )

<sup>1</sup> Strategic Results, as formulated in the Strategic UN Planning Framework (e.g. UNDAF) or project document;

<sup>2</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>3</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>4</sup> As per approval of the original project document by the relevant decision-making body/Steering Committee.

<sup>5</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.

<b>CSO</b>	Civil Society Organization
<b>CPSS</b>	Centre for the Provision of Social Services
<b>CSR WG</b>	Community Security and Recovery Working Group
<b>EORE</b>	Explosive Ordnance Risk Education
<b>FLAS</b>	Free Legal Aid System
<b>HCF</b>	Healthcare Facility
<b>HLP</b>	House, Land and Property
<b>IDP</b>	Internally Displaced People
<b>LVG</b>	Low Value Grant
<b>MPTF</b>	Multi Partner Trust Fund
<b>NGO</b>	Non – Governmental Organization
<b>NTS</b>	Non-Technical Survey
<b>PSEA</b>	Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse
<b>SDG</b>	Sustainable Development Goal
<b>UNDAF</b>	United Nations Development Assistance Framework
<b>UNDP</b>	United Nations Development Programme
<b>UNHCR</b>	United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
<b>WHO</b>	World Health Organization

Since Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine in February 2022, the war has resulted in immense loss of life, unprecedented internal and cross-border displacement, and widespread devastation of Ukraine's infrastructure. As of December 2024, an estimated 6.3 million people were recorded as refugees across Europe<sup>6</sup>, while over 4.6 million people were officially registered as internally displaced people by the Ministry of Social Policy of Ukraine. Access to and delivery of essential social services, as well as employment and livelihoods, for people in the most war-affected regions, especially residents of the frontline communities and vulnerable groups, continue to remain a challenge.

The recovery and reconstruction needs over the next decade are estimated at almost US\$524 billion<sup>7</sup>; this includes needs in both the public and private sectors. These priorities encompass urgent recovery needs in nine key sectoral priority areas, grouped into three categories: social sector, infrastructure reconstruction, and demining and civil protection. A significant portion of Ukraine's critical infrastructure has suffered damage or destruction. Losses in frontline oblasts, including Kherson and Mykolaiv, amount to US\$182 billion, accounting for 31% of the national total. Kherson has experienced one of the highest loss rates, with nearly 722 health facilities - equivalent to 7.3% of public health infrastructure - either damaged or destroyed.<sup>8</sup>

Between 15 August and 31 December 2024, the Mine Action & IDP Return in Southern Ukraine project made a gradual progress towards supporting IDP returns, improving community safety, restoring essential infrastructure, and enhancing legal assistance and livelihood opportunities in Mykolaiv and Kherson oblasts.

- **Enhanced Safety and Security for IDPs:** Mine Action – both Explosive Ordnance Risk Education (EORE) and Non-Technical Survey (NTS) activities – is the key enabler of the project and the preconditions to support safe and dignified returns to the project's partner communities. Over the course of Q4 2024, the project team conducted a number of assessments and consultations with local authorities at regional and community level, to assess the progress of Government-led mine action work, the level of residents' understanding of the dangers posed by unexploded ordnances, and the most urgent needs for NTS in each settlement. Project activities (commenced in February 2025 and concluded in March 2025 through a local commercial demining operator) have thus been designed to provide tailored support to the two oblasts, in line with local priorities and identified risks.

- **Community Mobilization and Engagement:** participation of the whole of the community is a cornerstone of the project's design and implementation processes, in line with the area-based nature of the activities and in order to achieve fully locally owned sustainable results. While in Vysokopillia and Velyka Oleksandrivka of Kherson Oblast the project has been able to leverage the existing and planned Community Security and Recovery Working Groups (CSR WG) supported by UNDP, in the two partner communities in Mykolaiv Oblast, community mobilization started during Q4 2024 by identifying and assessing the capacities of local civil society organizations, introducing the participatory approaches to local authorities, and paving the way to the capacity development initiatives in Q1 2025. These community mobilization tools are introduced to train, support networking, and bringing together entrepreneurs, IDPs, and active citizens to foster grassroots resilience and inclusive recovery.

- **Infrastructure Rehabilitation:** 6 key social infrastructure facilities in Mykolaiv and Kherson oblasts were selected for repairs, following the receipt of an extensive list from the local authorities, including centres for social protection, legal aid, and community engagement, benefiting thousands of IDPs and returnees. The selection/prioritization was done through a participatory approach with the hromada leadership and key departments, including the Departments of Social Policy;

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<sup>6</sup> UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), [Operational Data Portal](#)

<sup>7</sup> [Ukraine, RDNA4](#)

<sup>8</sup> Ibid

received assistance

rehabilitation of common spaces, and housing solutions, complementing the Ukrainian government's eVidnovlennia compensation programme;

- **Legal Aid and Protection:** Following consultation with local authorities and legal service providers in the two oblasts and four partner communities over the course of the last quarter of 2024, the need to enhance both the outreach and the capacities of the local tolls for free legal aid provisions emerged as an urgent priority, over the implementation of national-level initiatives such as the operationalization of the e-damages platform. In consideration of the above, the project team initiated an assessment of concrete needs of the local offices of the Free Legal Aid System (in terms of outreach and continued operations) and the selection of a civil society partner for the operationalization of a network of trained paralegals to complement and facilitate the work done by these offices in the communities. Furthermore, in parallel direct on-site legal aid services were carried out, assisting 106 people with legal counseling and support, including on housing, land, and property (HLP) issues;

- **Community Health:** over the course of Q4 2024, the project team completed the needs assessment of the six health facilities initially identified for support in Kherson and Mykolaiv oblasts. Following the assessment, three of the facilities – the Regional Hospital of Rehabilitation Treatment of Kherson City Council; the Regional Kherson Children's Clinical Hospital of Kherson City Council; and the Bashtanska Multi-cluster Hospital of Bashtanka City Council were confirmed for support and the technical specifications of the equipment to be procured prepared. The criteria for prioritization took into account the existing capacities to assist and the basin of users of these facilities. Quality assurance of the medical equipment specifications was initiated in February 2025).

- **Livelihood and Vocational Training:** employability concerns have been identified in all four partner communities as one of the key barriers discouraging return to both Kherson and Mykolaiv Oblasts. Engagement with local authorities, private sector representatives, and educational facilities, have also highlighted that, together with agriculture, construction will be the driving sector for the recovery of local economic recovery. In light of this, the project has reached an agreement with local authorities and educational leadership to initiate the design of a modular facility to enable educational work at the Arkhangelsk Training Centre, by addressing the shortage of educational space. The centre has a capacity of approximately 200 square meters, with the potential to accommodate up to 60 students. In parallel, consultations with the stakeholders have led to the identification of what short professional courses will be conducted in 2025 for the re-skilling of the workforce.

## PURPOSE

The “Mine Action & IDP Return in Southern Ukraine” project is a collaborative initiative of UNDP and UNHCR in Ukraine aimed at implementing durable solutions for displaced populations. The Project focuses on enhancing government capacities for crisis response and inclusive recovery, while progressively decreasing the reliance of Ukraine on humanitarian aid.

Guided by the principles of the Humanitarian-Development Nexus, this joint project supports war-affected communities through a set of interconnected interventions, designed to enable and sustain safe and dignified returns and support the transition of war-affected communities to the reconstruction/recovery phase.

The project aligns with the Ukraine Community Recovery Fund (UCRF) and the broader UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), particularly SDG 1 (No Poverty), SDG 3 (Good Health and Well-being), SDG 4 (Quality Education), SDG 5 (Gender Equality), SDG 11 (Sustainable Cities and Communities), and SDG 16 (Peace, Justice, and Strong Institutions). It is also embedded in the strategic programme documents of both Implementing Agencies (UNDP and UNHCR) and aligned with the UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework and the relevant sectoral working groups.

Building on both agencies’ comparative advantages, UNHCR focuses on repairing social infrastructure and private housing, and on protecting IDP rights, while UNDP leads in debris removal, mine action, and expanding local capacities for provision of legal, health, and vocational training services.

The project is implemented through an area-based approach that goes beyond Agency mandate to focus on the evolving priorities of project partner communities and oblasts, promoting the use of adaptive management tools to ensure the adherence of the project’s theory of change to the local needs.

## RESULTS

The overall objective of the Project is: “Community recovery interventions and nexus approaches in key sectors address displacement and strengthen individual and community resilience.”

The Project supports the safe and sustainable return of internally displaced people to four hromadas in southern Ukraine: Shyrokye and Pervomaiske (Mykolaiv Oblast) and Velyka Oleksandrivka and Vysokopillia (Kherson Oblast). Through integrated, multisectoral interventions, it addresses critical protection gaps, enhances local governance, and improves access to housing, healthcare, education, and livelihoods.

Aligned with the priorities of the Government of Ukraine, the initiative fosters resilient communities, strengthens social cohesion, and establishes durable conditions for long-term recovery. By ensuring IDP reintegration contributes to sustainable development, the Project advances broader recovery efforts.

To achieve this outcome, the Project encompasses five key outputs, detailed below.

During the reporting period, the Project encountered both programmatic and administrative challenges, including delays in Project registration and budgetary constraints, which led to delays in implementation of some project activities. Nevertheless, the project teams proactively addressed these obstacles by finalizing all preparatory steps, such as establishing partnership with local authorities, coordinating stakeholder engagements, conducting field assessments and contractor negotiations to ensure operational readiness once approvals were secured.

**Output 1.1 IDPs able to return safely to their homes in four hromada of southern Ukraine (Mykolaiv and Kherson Oblasts).**

*With support from UNDP:*

In consideration of the action and debris removal

enabling character of the mine component of the project to enable safe and dignified returns to project partner communities, the first priority of the project team was conducting assessment missions to all partner communities to assess:

- a) The progress and effectiveness of mine action activities conducted through the Government of Ukraine or international partners;
- b) The key priorities of local hromadas in terms of Non-Technical Survey operations;
- c) The priorities of local hromadas in terms of demolition, debris management, and the existence of the necessary paperwork, safe debris disposal sites, and local regulations for sorting, disposal, recycling of materials.

Following assessment, engagement and tasking of external contractors was completed for work to be initiated in early 2025.

Furthermore, to enhance community participation in the process of enhancing security and civic engagement, the Project team collaborates with local governments and civil society organizations to provide training, networking opportunities, and support for entrepreneurs, initiative groups, IDPs, and active community members, including returnees.

To support these efforts in Kherson Oblast, a Community Security and Recovery Working Group (CSR WG) has been recently established in Velyka Oleksandrivka. The Project is also supporting a CSR WG in Vysokopillia (Kherson Oblast), established within another UNDP project. In Mykolaiv Oblast, where formal community engagement platform had not been present, the project team conducted a series of conversations with local authorities on how to operationalize participatory approaches to enable sustainable returns, a mapping of existing civil society actors, and an assessment of local capacities of said actors. Capacity development initiatives are planned to start in Q2 2025 for two communities in Kherson and two communities in Mykolaiv oblasts in the shape of training sessions on project management and civic activism.

Complementing the above, an operational activity plan for 2025, informed by the needs assessment conducted, has been developed.

As part of the Project activities, two quick impact projects are planned in communities of Mykolaiv Oblast (thematic direction is still under discussion), while two more, focused on creating safe spaces for civic activism through multifunctional hubs (coworking spaces) in communities of Kherson Oblast, are expected to launch in April 2025.

*With support from UNHCR:*

After completing surveys and clearing immediate threats and debris, the Project team will conduct light to medium repair works to enable people to stay in or return to their homes. These house repair activities are designed to complement the Government's Housing Compensation Scheme (eVidnovlennia) by ensuring equitable opportunities for Ukrainians to restore their homes. The focus is on supporting households unable to complete their repairs through eVidnovlennia, including:

- a) **Households unable to initiate claims due to damage to common spaces (communal property)** including common areas in multi-storey buildings, allowing individual apartment owners to apply for support. This is a prerequisite for eligibility under government compensation schemes.
- b) **Vulnerable households whose claims were processed between May and September 2023, when compensation was capped at 200,000 UAH (now increased to 500,000 UAH)**



In 2023, fluctuations in Programme's ceiling led under Resolution No. 478 receiving the lowest cap of 200,000 UAH, often insufficient for full home restoration.

c) **Vulnerable households affected by incorrect damage assessments, resulting in inadequate compensation:** the list of potential beneficiaries, with a focus on vulnerable households, will be defined in coordination with the local authorities. Compensation discrepancies will be verified through on-site assessments.

Moreover, the Project is addressing the housing needs of vulnerable households whose state compensation claims were rejected due to HLP issues and is complementing this support with legal assistance to facilitate access to government support schemes.

a) Vulnerable households who did not complete the works for valid reasons, such as being victims of fraud or corruption: the Project is providing support to vulnerable households who were victims of fraud or corruption during the repair process.

b) Vulnerable households whose damage is critical and, unless repaired immediately, will deteriorate further due to weather conditions: These households face a heightened risk of worsening living conditions, which could create unsafe environments or render their homes uninhabitable.

To meet the primary conditions for repairs linked to adequate housing, the Project has supported a total of **38 households** with home repairs during the reporting period. This comprehensive approach is based on three key types of shelter interventions: **durable repairs** of war-damaged private houses, **rehabilitation of common spaces** (such as roofs and staircases) in multi-storey buildings, and **installation of prefabricated and pre-assembled core homes** (prefabricated houses).

## **Output 1.2 Legal assistance and community-based protection services in places to support smooth IDP returns and ensure access to justice for all people.**

*With support from UNDP:*

To enhance access to effective and qualified primary legal aid, the Project is working with the Free Legal Aid System (FLAS) and civil society organizations to strengthen the capacities of paralegals and improve legal awareness among returnees and community residents.

The initiative aims to train 40 paralegals to provide consultations and referrals to FLAS while also conducting advocacy and awareness-raising activities to inform the public about their legal rights and available avenues for legal assistance. Particular emphasis is placed on training paralegals from groups requiring specialist support and attention including, for example, veterans, people with disabilities, survivors of domestic or gender-based violence, and women advocates, ensuring they are well-prepared to address the specific legal challenges these communities face.

After coordination and preparation, a decision was made to implement these activities through grant modality and a local NGO with national outreach capacities. The grant agreement was signed in February 2025 and will run until July 2025, covering geographically four communities: Shyroky and Pervomaisk in Mykolaiv Oblast, and Chornobaivka and Vysokopillia in Kherson Oblast. This collaboration will ensure the systematic development of paralegals' skills while providing timely and effective legal support to returnees and other priority groups. This network of practitioners will also engage with local authorities to support the revision and strengthening of community level regulatory documents connected with recovery and reconstruction.

Complementing this initiative, to strengthen capacity development the capacity of FLAS offices serving the targeted communities, office equipment will be procured to enhance operational efficiency and improve service delivery for war-affected residents and returnees. Additionally, awareness-raising materials will be developed and distributed to inform these communities about their legal rights and available assistance.

Several capacity-building events will be organized to equip FLAS lawyers with the necessary knowledge and skills needed to effectively address the specific challenges faced while delivering legal services in Mykolaiv and Kherson oblasts. This intervention, planned in Q4 2024, has been delayed to an extent, due to the unstable security situation in the regions – however the project team is actively engaged to support acceleration of project activities in this area.

*With support from UNHCR:*

To better meet the urgent needs of the affected communities, the legal assistance programme was expanded, replacing the initially proposed e-damages platform with direct legal aid services on site. In total, **107 people** were supported with legal assistance during the reporting period, including in obtaining housing, land, and property (HLP) documentation.

In addition, mobile and static protection teams provided case management, psychosocial support, and legal counseling in all Project locations, with a total of **265 people** supported through these services. Importantly, these services are transitional protection interventions that will scale back once social, legal and administrative services are reestablished and strengthened through the repairs to essential social infrastructure. These interventions are not a replacement for social services. Rather they are a transitional arrangement to backstop hromada services.

### **Output 1.3 Critical social infrastructure facilities in the target areas are cleared of debris and ERW, repaired and re-equipped.**

*With support from UNDP:*

The assessment of the waste management situation in the target areas started in 2024, together with the identification of the necessary regulatory documentation to support the initiation of waste removal and management activities. As of the beginning of 2025, four objects (two in Mykolaiv Oblast – Shyroky and Pervomaiske; and two in Visokopillya hromada) have been identified for demolition and waste removal. While work in Mykolaiv started as of March 2025, activities in Kherson are expected to begin in mid-April 2025 due to delays in compiling the required documentation. It is worth noting that the Project support is not only focusing on the removal of debris, rather aims to develop targeted solutions for improving waste management infrastructure and services in target hromadas.

*With support from UNHCR:*

In collaboration with four hromadas, a comprehensive list of essential social infrastructure facilities requiring potential repairs was compiled. From this initial list, a prioritized shortlist of eligible facilities was developed based on several interrelated criteria. These criteria included economic viability, the complexity of required repairs (with particular consideration for war-damaged buildings), and the intended purpose of the facility.

The Project's strategy focuses on supporting infrastructure that enhances access to essential services, particularly social services, and on restoring civic spaces that foster social cohesion.

As a result, 19 critical social infrastructure facilities were shortlisted for repairs, of which **six were selected** for UNHCR support. In Mykolaiv Oblast, support will focus on Pervomaiska hromada with the renovation of a combined TsNAP (Administrative Service Centre) and Centre for the Provision of Social Services (CPSS),



along with a Village Space, while Skyroke

Council Building and a Civic hromada will receive a

combined CPSS and civic space. In Kherson Oblast, Vysokopillya will benefit from a combined CPSS and a civic space, whereas Velyka Oleksandrivka will see the development of a combined CPSS and FLAS, as well as a civic space. For shortlisted structures beyond these priorities, UNHCR will seek additional partners and donors to support the restoration of essential services.

**Output 1.4 Improved access to mental and physical health services for mine victims, military veterans and civilians, and people with disabilities.**

*With support from UNDP:*

From August to December 2024, the Project focused on identifying and prioritizing the rehabilitation equipment needs of healthcare facilities (HCFs) within the Project's target areas. Utilizing the Rehabilitation Service Provider Assessment Checklist (a tested tool aligned with Ukrainian healthcare regulations and WHO recommendations), the team conducted a thorough needs assessment.

Through this assessment, the Project identified three out of five HCFs operating at the oblast and rayon levels as priority recipients. For these facilities, the Project will ensure that their needs are met and that they comply with the basic equipment standards mandated by the Ministry of Health of Ukraine. This targeted approach optimizes resource allocation while aligning with national priorities to enhance rehabilitation capacities in communities most affected by warfare and heavily contaminated with explosive remnants of war. The equipment is expected to be delivered in Q3 2025.

In line with a comprehensive strategy to enhance rehabilitation capacities, the Project will organize training sessions for medical personnel at the target facilities, ensuring the effective use of procured equipment and devices.

**Output 1.5 Mine action victims and/or their family members, and other people with disabilities in the target areas, are supported to access a range of vocational training options to improve their employability.**

*With support from UNDP:*

During the reporting period, the Project team held a series of coordination sessions with local authorities to plan and develop educational programmes. In response to their request, vocational training for three construction professions will commence in Q2 2025.

Furthermore, as a result of the collaborative efforts of the Project, local authorities, and the Ministry of Education, an agreement was reached to begin the construction of a flexible solution to provide temporary training and education space for the Arkhanhelske Training Center. This modular facility is designed to address the shortage of educational spaces and has a capacity of around 200 square meters, with the ability to accommodate up to 60 students. The initiative is currently in the site assessment phase with UNDP engineers reconfirming the technical designs for the project.

Over the period December 2024- January 2025 the Project team also concluded the identification of the professional courses that, in alignment with job market needs, will be most conducive to support employability in the partner communities. The consultations with the local communities elicited that, together with agriculture, the construction sector will be the most likely to drive the economic recovery in both regions. For these reasons, the Project initiated the development of three short-term retraining courses curricula for these three professions (tiler, plasterer, and painter). In addition to be responding to concrete job market needs, these courses are deemed to be attractive for women as well as men, thus supporting the inclusion of a higher

number of women in the  
fighting stereotypical

workforce and contributing to  
assumptions around women's

engagement in traditionally male-dominated sectors. In April – June 2025 three training courses will be conducted at Snihurivka Professional Lyceums for 30 individuals, reaching out to potential trainees from partner communities in Kherson Oblast.

At the same time, by the end of 2024, UNDP has prepared the contracts for Training for Trainers on Mine Safety and Hazardous Materials Handling for 48 engineers (which was conducted in February 2025), covering essential safety protocols, risk mitigation strategies, and emergency response procedures related to explosive ordnance, hazardous materials, and Prevention of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA) compliance.

**Output 1.1 IDPs able to return safely to their homes in four hromada of Southern Ukraine (Mykolaiv and Kherson Oblasts).**

The Project faced a significant challenge due to the unstable security situation in the target areas, marked by frequent shelling and the mass displacement of community residents. To address this, the team conducted an assessment, which highlighted a critical need for safe public social infrastructure. Such spaces would serve as hubs for work, learning, networking, and entrepreneurial support.

Additionally, due to the nature of the services provided, procurement procedures and contract preparation with NTS and EORE contractors were time-consuming, extending from August to December 2024. It is worth noting that the limited duration of the project (running over 12 months) is in itself a challenge for the implementation of complex and multi-sectoral support in line with the humanitarian-development-peace nexus. This is not only related to the extensive inception time needed to ensure the project interventions are fully co-designed with the communities and flexible enough to address evolving needs including rapidly changing security situations, but also with reference to the extensive timelines needed to identify, mobilize, and demobilize the mine action contractor teams.

**Output 1.2 Legal assistance and community- based protection services in places to support smooth IDP returns and ensure access to justice for all people.**

Amid the volatile security situation, access to justice has been further impacted by understaffing at the Southern Interregional Centre for Free Legal Aid Provision, which is the Government-led entity tasked with operating the networks of the Free Legal Aid offices in the Project's partner hromadas. These challenges have delayed the timely implementation of project activities; however, efforts are ongoing to address these issues and ensure progress toward the planned intervention, and the Project has identified procurement pathways, that will allow speeding up of the delivery of project support.

**Output 1.3 Critical social infrastructure facilities in the target areas are cleared of debris and ERW, repaired and re-equipped.**

Security constraints in newly identified project areas required adjustments to mine action operations and community access strategies. Ongoing security risks delayed infrastructure rehabilitation, slowing the restoration of essential services. Additionally, assessments of war-damaged structures intended for social infrastructure were postponed ensuring their structural integrity, as these buildings require thorough evaluations to guarantee long-term public safety.

Direct legal assistance has proven to be more effective than digital platforms within the context of the Project. Flexible programming has been essential, given Ukraine's rapidly evolving situation, with adjustments to geographic focus and activities helping to sustain impact despite shifting realities on the ground. Additionally, mine clearance remains a critical prerequisite for return, and prioritizing safety in the sequence of interventions is key to ensuring a sustainable recovery process.

**Output 1.4 Improved access to mental and physical health services for mine victims, military veterans and civilians, and people with disabilities.**

The main challenge in implementation was the limited availability of qualified personnel in the targeted HCFs, posing a risk that the procured equipment might go unused. To address this, the prioritization of facilities was refined, ensuring that only those with adequate staffing were selected.

Key lessons learned emphasize the importance of conducting early assessments of HCFs' capacity to maximize the usability and impact of equipment procurement. An updated risk analysis confirms that the

staffing shortage remains an additional risk of staff turnover emerging in conflict-affected areas. This challenge was a key factor in refining the list of rehabilitation equipment recipients, representing the primary programmatic adjustment.

**Output 1.5 Mine action victims and/or their family members, and other people with disabilities in the target areas, are supported to access a range of vocational training options to improve their employability.**

Regarding vocational training options, the primary challenge was addressing the needs of Arkhanhelske Professional Agrarian Lyceum in Vysokopillia (Kherson Oblast), whose educational building and dormitory suffered severe damage.

Given budget constraints, the Project team sought a durable solution within the allocated funds. In Q4 2024, the team carried out preparatory work, engaged in negotiations with stakeholders, and collaborated with local and regional authorities. To compensate for the shortage of educational space, it was agreed to construct a modular educational facility.

**Output 1.1 IDPs able to return safely to their homes in four hromada of southern Ukraine (Mykolaiv and Kherson Oblasts).**

The programme has made progress in expanding access to methodological materials, with strong partnerships involving local authorities, police, the State Emergency Service, and activists, including IDPs. These collaborations have been key in addressing community security and recovery issues. Despite delays due to the security situation in Mykolaiv and Kherson oblasts, the establishment of community activity resource centres is still planned. Cross-cutting issues such as security and inclusion of vulnerable groups, particularly IDPs, have shaped the programme's approach, with UN coordination playing a crucial role in aligning efforts and achieving results.

**Output 1.2 Legal assistance and community- based protection services in places to support smooth IDP returns and ensure access to justice for all people.**

The Project has created conditions needed to implement support to improved access to primary legal aid through key partnerships with FLAS and CF "Gorenje." These partnerships, which build on long standing collaborations created across different projects and programmes, have proven ability to expand outreach and strengthen the capacity of paralegals, particularly from vulnerable groups. Despite challenges due to security instability in Mykolaiv and Kherson oblasts, efforts to support FLAS offices and raise awareness continue, ensuring better legal assistance for war-affected residents and returnees. UN coordination has been vital in aligning resources and enhancing the Project's impact, enabling a comprehensive approach to legal aid and effective service delivery in the targeted hromadas – and to ensure seamless transition and complementarity between the specialized support offered by UNHCR's implementing partners and UNDP's support to systems building.

While UNHCR's partner, TTA, did not initially have dedicated mobile teams covering the specific hromadas at the start of the project, it began deploying them as the implementation modality shifted from online E-Damage Direct to Direct Legal Aid. This approach proved more effective given the prevailing situation in Ukraine. However, several challenges emerged, including issues related to conscription and the ability of team members to travel to remote locations. In Mykolaiv Oblast, this challenge was mitigated by deploying a facilitator to be stationed in one of the communities, while in Kherson Oblast, mobile teams are being expanded to enhance outreach.

**Output 1.3 Critical social infrastructure facilities in the target areas are cleared of debris and ERW, repaired and re-equipped.**

The Project has made progress towards its core objectives, including safer returns, improved access to services, and increased local resilience, despite necessary revisions. Key partnerships with local stakeholders and humanitarian organizations have been instrumental in achieving these results, particularly in mine action, infrastructure rehabilitation, and legal aid. In terms of cross-cutting issues, the Project has integrated gender sensitivity and inclusion throughout its activities, ensuring that the needs of vulnerable populations, including women, children, and persons with disabilities, are addressed.

Future efforts will focus on scaling up mine action, strengthening legal aid and community protection, and expanding livelihood programmes to enhance self-sufficiency among returnees. UN coordination through the joint programme has been essential in achieving these results, ensuring comprehensive and harmonized responses to the needs of affected communities.

**Output 1.4 Improved access to mental and physical health services for mine victims, military veterans and civilians, and people with disabilities.**

Progress has been made in completion of the preparation phase between August and December 2024. During this period, UNDP assessed five healthcare facilities, prioritized three based on staffing capacity and needs, and initiated procurement processes aligned with quality assurance standards. Key partnerships, particularly with the Heads of Healthcare Departments in Mykolaiv and Kherson oblast military administrations, helped to shape a needs-driven approach by identifying contextual risks and operational priorities, ensuring equipment allocation aligned with regional needs, existing resources and capacities, and the facilities' catchment areas. A notable decision to enhance local partnerships was advancing the reconstruction of Bashtanka Hospital's rehabilitation unit through a low-value grant component, creating funding opportunities for local civil society organizations and transferring UNDP's expertise in transparency, anti-corruption, and quality assurance. Additionally, the Project maintains a strong focus on inclusivity, providing specialized physiotherapy equipment for both adults and children, addressing the rehabilitation needs of mine victims, veterans, and civilians of all ages, while prioritizing people with disabilities and aligning with Output's objectives.

**Output 1.5 Mine action victims and/or their family members, and other people with disabilities in the target areas, are supported to access a range of vocational training options to improve their employability.**

Key partnerships with organizations specializing in vocational training for people with disabilities and with technical survey experts have been vital to achieving these results. Collaborative efforts have ensured the delivery of specialized training and knowledge transfer, ultimately improving the capacity of local communities to manage explosive hazards and enhance land safety. It is also essential to underline the linkages created by supporting TVET reskilling initiatives in those sectors that are a) expected to drive economic recovery (and thus conditions for return) and b) essential for the implementation of project initiatives, whether the rehabilitation of social infrastructure or the creation of local capacities for mine action.

In terms of cross-cutting issues, the programme's inclusive approach has helped integrate vulnerable groups, including people with disabilities, into critical roles within the humanitarian response.



## PROGRAMME RESULTS FRAMEWORK

	<b><u>Achieved</u> Indicator Targets</b>	<b>Reasons for Variance with Planned Target (if any)</b>	<b>Source of Verification</b>
<b>Output 1.1</b>			
<b>Indicator 1.1.1.</b> Intervention sites are identified in consultations with local authorities, Community Security Working Groups and prospective IDPs <b>Agency:</b> UNDP, UNHCR <b>Baseline:</b> No <b>Planned Target:</b> Yes	Yes	Prioritization of intervention sites with local authorities conducted in November 2024.	Project records, mission reports
<b>Indicator 1.1.2.</b> Number of trainees that completed EORE (disaggregated by sex, age, IDP status) <b>Agency:</b> UNDP <b>Baseline:</b> 0 <b>Planned Target:</b> 1,608	0 [preparatory phase in 2024]	As of March 2025, 1,608 trainees completed EORE (629 women, 469 men, 277 girls, 233 boys), including 119 IDPs and 23 people with disabilities.	Contractor reports; Quality assurance third party reports
<b>Indicator 1.1.3.</b> Number of households benefiting from land release (after NTS or spot clearance) <b>Agency:</b> UNDP <b>Baseline:</b> 0 <b>Planned Target:</b> 129 (Mykolaiv Oblast - 92; Kherson Oblast - 37)	0 [preparatory phase in 2024]	As of March 2025, 129 households benefited from land release.  (Mykolaiv Oblast - 92; Kherson Oblast - 37)	Contractor reports; Information System for Mine Action data; Quality assurance third part reports
<b>Indicator 1.1.4.</b> Number of buildings assessed and safely demolished due to war-related damage <b>Agency:</b> UNDP <b>Baseline:</b> 0 <b>Planned Target:</b> 5	0	Demolition and waste removal work is set to begin in March/April 2025.	Project records

<b>Indicator 1.1.5.</b> Total amount of war debris and hazardous materials safely removed from all identified locations (in tons) <b>Agency:</b> UNDP <b>Baseline:</b> 0 <b>Planned Target:</b> 13,000	0	Demolition and waste removal work is set to begin in March/April 2025.	Project records
<b>Indicator 1.1.6.</b> Number of houses rehabilitated to facilitate return <b>Agency:</b> UNHCR <b>Baseline:</b> 0 <b>Planned Target:</b> 165	38		Project records, mission reports
<b>Indicator 1.1.7.</b> Number of hromadas that received guidelines on establishing safe debris/EO clearance operations in the Ukrainian context. <b>Agency:</b> UNDP <b>Baseline:</b> 0 <b>Planned Target:</b> 6	0	Hromadas were shortlisted in 2024. Guidelines will be distributed in 2025.	Project records
<b>Output 1.2</b>			
<b>Indicator 1.2.1.</b> Number of people benefiting from legal aid and other community-based protection activities, including through mobile outreach teams. <b>Agency:</b> UNHCR <b>Baseline:</b> 0 <b>Planned Target:</b> 8,000	372		Partner's reported figures
<b>Indicator 1.2.2.</b> Number of trained paralegals (disaggregated sex, age, disability status). <b>Agency:</b> UNDP <b>Baseline:</b> 0 <b>Planned Target:</b> 20		As of March 2025, due to security situation in the project area, a large portion of the local population has fled. As a result, the project team faced challenges in identifying an implementing partner. Currently, the	Project records

		partner has been identified, and the activity is ongoing.	
<b>Indicator 1.2.3.</b> Number of beneficiaries supported thanks to the enhanced capacities of local Free Legal Aid System offices (disaggregated by sex) <b>Agency:</b> UNDP  <b>Baseline:</b> 0 <b>Planned Target:</b> 200 (including 100 women)	0	As of March 2025, due to security challenges, the project partner, the Southern Interregional Centre for Free Legal Aid Provision, needed extra time to finalize implementation locations and submit the requirements for FLAS remote office operations. The activity has since been launched and is currently ongoing.	Project records
<b>Output 1.3</b>			
<b>Indicator 1.3.1.</b> Number of social infrastructure facilities identified and rehabilitated. <b>Agency:</b> UNHCR <b>Baseline:</b> 0 <b>Planned Target:</b> 6	6	6 out of 19 facilities are shortlisted and undergoing structural survey	Project records
<b>Indicator 1.3.2.</b> Number of social infrastructure facilities surveyed and cleared for refurbishment. <b>Agency:</b> UNDP <b>Baseline:</b> 0 <b>Planned Target:</b> 6	0		Project records
<b>Output 1.4</b>			
<b>Indicator 1.4.1.</b> Completion of the design, contracting, and reconstruction of the Bashtanska hospital extension. <b>Agency:</b> UNDP <b>Baseline:</b> No <b>Planned Target:</b> Yes	No	The activity will be implemented using grant modality. Achievement of the target is planned for Q2 2025	

<b>Indicator 1.4.2.</b> Number of medical facilities in Mykolaiv and Kherson oblasts have benefited from supplies and specialized equipment <b>Agency:</b> UNDP <b>Baseline:</b> 0 <b>Planned Target:</b> 4	0 [Preparatory phase in 2024]		Project records
<b>Indicator 1.4.3.</b> Number of people benefiting from established community-based Mental Health and Psychosocial Support spaces (disaggregated by sex, age, disability) <b>Agency:</b> UNDP <b>Baseline:</b> 0 <b>Planned Target:</b> 386	0 [Preparatory phase in 2024]	The procurement of equipment for the spaces is ongoing.	
<b>Indicator 1.4.4.</b> Number of trainees graduated from the specialized training (disaggregated by sex) <b>Agency:</b> UNDP <b>Baseline:</b> 0 <b>Planned Target:</b> 75 (50 – w, 25 – m)	0 [Preparatory phase in 2024]	As of March 2025, 78 psychologists working with vulnerable groups were trained in trauma counselling (51 women, 27 men), including 14 IDPs and 18 people with disabilities	
<b>Output 1.5</b>			
<b>Indicator 1.5.1.</b> Number of vocational training opportunities defined during the consultations with communities <b>Agency:</b> UNDP <b>Baseline:</b> 0 <b>Planned Target:</b> 3	3	The three selected professional (re)skilling courses are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Tiler</li> <li>- Painter</li> <li>- Stucco worker</li> </ul>	
<b>Indicator 1.5.2.</b> Number of VET facilities renovated and equipped	0 [Preparatory phase in 2024]	As of March 2025, the project team is conducting a	Reports on consultations

<b>Agency:</b> UNDP <b>Baseline:</b> 0 <b>Planned Target:</b> 1		detailed assessment of the territory of the Arkhanhelske Vocational Lyceum and preparing the project design for the installation of the modular building with workshops and teaching classes. The Project has received the list of necessary equipment from the management of Arkhanhelske VET school and processes the list for further procurement.	
<b>Indicator 1.5.3.</b> Number of beneficiaries enrolled in vocational courses at Snihurivka Professional Lyceums (disaggregated by sex) <b>Agency:</b> UNDP <b>Baseline:</b> 0 <b>Planned Target:</b> 30	0 [Preparatory phase in 2024]	Courses will take place from mid-April 2025 for 3 months.	Project records
<b>Indicator 1.5.4.</b> Number of people who have benefited from skills building initiatives, including in entrepreneurship (disaggregated by sex, age, disability) <b>Agency:</b> UNDP <b>Baseline:</b> 0 <b>Planned Target:</b> 48	0 [preparatory phase in 2024]	As of March 2025, 48 engineers were trained within the Training of Trainers (ToT) on Mine Safety and Hazardous Materials Handling (February 2025)	Monitoring visits, local authorities and partners' feedback

## PROGRAMMATIC REVISIONS

Following the programmatic amendment outlined in the Project revision submitted on 1 February 2025, the Project has undergone key modifications in its geographical coverage and implementation strategy. These changes directly influence the results achieved and the overall progress toward the Project's intended outcomes.

1) Revised geographical scope and implementation adjustments, the Project continues to support four hromadas across the same initially proposed two oblasts:

### Mykolaiv Oblast

- Pervomaiska hromada (*unchanged*). Now includes Partyzanske and Pervomaiske settlements, replacing Blahodatne settlement.
- Shyrokivska hromada (*corrected from Shyriaieve*). Now includes Shyroke settlement and Chervona Dolyna.

### Kherson Oblast:

- Vysokopillya hromada (*unchanged*).
- Velyka Oleksandrivka hromada (*replacing Chornobaivka hromada*).

2) In response to feedback from affected communities and project partners, the initiative has discontinued the development of the E-damages platform in favor of direct, on-site legal assistance services. This adjustment enhances the Project's responsiveness by bringing legal support closer to the target communities, ensuring a more immediate and tangible impact on the communities served.

3) After a detailed engineering assessment of the damaged facilities of Arkhanhelske Professional Agrarian Lyceum, the Project found that the severity of the damage does not allow partial renovation of the lyceum's already existing premises within the available project budget. The project team selected the installation of the modular building with workshops and teaching classes as the most feasible solution for enabling the launch of the educational process in the VET school.