



UKRAINE COMMUNITY RECOVERY FUND

Annual Progress Report 2024



UNITED NATIONS
UKRAINE



UCRF Ukraine
Community
Recovery Fund

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1. Key Results 2024

EMPOWERING COMMUNITIES IN SUMY OBLAST



711 Households

Received livelihood grants (~\$1,000 each) to restart income-generating activities



44 MSMEs Supported

including 24 women-led enterprises strengthened through business support



775 People Trained

Skills-building programs boosting local resilience and employment

REVIVING AGRICULTURE, STRENGTHENING FOOD SECURITY



431 Beekeepers supported

+32% knowledge gain in sustainable practices



1,060 Dairy Farmers supported

+35% improvement in farming techniques and productivity



\$1.57Million Disbursed

Direct support to 1,568 rural households for recovery and resilience

BUILDING BACK SAFER COMMUNITIES THROUGH MINE ACTION



6 Infrastructure Facilities Rehabilitated

Enabling public service delivery and stimulating returns



38 Homes Repaired

Providing safe shelter for vulnerable families



Logistics Base (Phase 1 Complete)

Foundation laid for expanded demining operations throughout Ukraine



\$15Million Secured

For a **gender-responsive mine action strategy** supporting inclusive recovery

All figures are as of December 2024 and based on agency reports submitted to UCRF and published on the MPTFO Gateway. Images: Flaticon.com.

2. About the Ukraine Community Recovery Fund

The Ukraine Community Recovery Fund (UCRF) was established in response to the humanitarian and developmental consequences of the Russian Federation's full-scale invasion of Ukraine in 2022. As the war caused extensive destruction to infrastructure, disrupted livelihoods, and displaced millions, the international community recognized the need for a coordinated and flexible financing mechanism to support early recovery and resilience-building interventions across affected regions.

The UCRF is a multi-partner trust fund designed to support community-centered recovery, local governance, and area-based interventions. It operates under the strategic priorities of the Government of Ukraine and United Nations and is aligned with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), focusing particularly on livelihoods, agriculture, social infrastructure rehabilitation, and mine action.

UCRF supports the implementation of durable solutions for Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs), promotes economic revitalization in war-affected areas, and facilitates inclusive recovery processes that empower local communities and institutions. The Fund emphasizes collaboration between UN agencies, national and local governments, civil society, and international donors to maximize the effectiveness and sustainability of recovery efforts.

Initially focused on addressing urgent needs in highly impacted oblasts such as Sumy, Kherson, and Mykolaiv, the Fund has evolved to foster integrated programming. It plays a **unique and essential role** as one of the few dedicated instruments for supporting **community-level recovery** in Ukraine. By channeling flexible, multi-partner resources directly to interventions at the local level, the UCRF fills a critical gap between humanitarian relief and long-term development support.

UCRF's emphasis on area-based programming, locally led implementation, and cross-sectoral integration ensures that recovery interventions are context-responsive and community-owned. This positions the Fund as a cornerstone of the international community's pilot efforts to build forward better in Ukraine's most vulnerable and war-affected regions.

Through joint planning, monitoring, and reporting mechanisms, UCRF ensures that funded interventions respond to the evolving context and contribute meaningfully to Ukraine's path toward recovery and reconstruction.

Implementing partners



Food and Agriculture Organization
of the United Nations



Агентство ООН у справах біженців



Donors



Denmark



Luxembourg



Republic of Korea

3. List of ongoing projects

Title	Start Date	End Date	Implementer	Budget, USD
Community Recovery: Ensuring Conducive Economic and Agriculture Environments in Sumska oblast	01-03-2024	30/06/2025	IOM (International Organization for Migration)	2.300.000
Promoting community-based recovery of agricultural livelihoods and strengthening of agri-food value chains in war-affected areas of Sumska Oblast	01-03-2024	01/06/2025	FAO (Food and Agriculture Organization)	2.300.000
Support to Community Driven Mine Action in Ukraine	01-03-2024	30/06/2025	UNDP (United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)), UN Mine Action Service, UNOPS (United Nations Office for Project Services)	1.751.630
Mine Action & IDP Return in Southern Ukraine	15-08-2024	15/08/2025	UNDP (United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)), UNHCR (United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees)	4.915.176

4. Ukraine Community Recovery Fund governance

Following a new generous contribution from Denmark received in May 2024 the UCRF Steering Committee approved the Second Strategic Allocation earmarked for mine action for community recovery, at the amount of USD 5,820,517.64. Following a Call for proposal, the Mine Action & IDP Return in Southern Ukraine project has been approved by the Steering Committee through virtual endorsement by non-objection on 12 July 2024.

Regrettably, the leadership changes in the Co-Chair of the UCRF Ministry for Development of Communities and Territories of Ukraine prevented an offline meeting of the UCRF Steering Committee pending nomination of the relevant governmental representative.

The UCRF Secretariat and the United Nations Resident Coordinator as Co-chair is working to restore the full governance mechanism with full representation of the Government of Ukraine to be able to further allocate available resources for critical mine action activities.

In particular, as of December 2024 a new contribution is anticipated from the Government of Canada earmarked to the Mine Action window of the Fund in the amount of CAD 15,000,000 (USD 10,441,262). Along with the Fund's balance, the **total financial allocation of USD 11,175,204 is expected to be available early 2025 to be distributed for critical mine action activities.**

The UCRF Secretariat anticipates a new call for proposals for mine action by mid-2025, providing the UCRF Steering Committee is effectively reestablished by the Ministry for Development of Communities and Territories of Ukraine.

5. Achievements of the Ukraine Community Recovery Fund in 2024

The Ukraine Community Recovery Fund (UCRF) supported coordinated, multi-agency recovery interventions across two critical thematic areas: **Mine Action** and **Livelihoods and Agriculture Support in Sumy Region**. The Fund responded to urgent humanitarian and recovery challenges stemming from the Russian Federation's full-scale invasion of Ukraine, which resulted in massive internal displacement, widespread contamination by mines and explosive remnants of war (ERW), and the breakdown of local economies and agricultural systems.

Despite volatile operating environments and ongoing conflict-related constraints, the projects demonstrated tangible results in improving safety, enhancing the resilience of affected populations, restoring local infrastructure, and revitalizing rural livelihoods in targeted oblasts, including Sumy, Mykolaiv, and Kherson.

Pillar 1: Mine Action

The Mine Action window of the Ukraine Community Recovery Fund plays a vital role in enabling safe returns, restoring access to livelihoods, and facilitating reconstruction in some of Ukraine's most heavily contaminated areas.

With Ukraine among the most mine-affected countries globally, mine action is not only a life-saving intervention – it is also a foundational pillar of community recovery. By supporting national and local capacities for survey, clearance, risk education, and coordination, the UCRF's Mine Action window helps reduce civilian casualties, restore productive land, and create the conditions necessary for safe returns and broader recovery and development efforts.

To address these critical challenges, the Mine Action programmes under UCRF, led by UNOPS-UNMAS and UNDP-UNHCR, aim to build national mine action capacity, improve coordination, and enable safe and dignified return of IDPs. The interventions were also designed to strengthen community-based recovery systems and restore access to social services through area-based approaches.

Notably, Fund supported activities are led in close proximity to the frontline, and faced a significant challenges due to the unstable security situation in the target areas, marked by frequent shelling and the mass displacement of community residents.

Key Results:

- Deployment of a **Senior Mine Action Advisor** facilitated coordination across UN agencies and the Government of Ukraine, accelerating the **adoption of a National Mine Action Strategy**. Humanitarian demining is at the forefront of UN efforts to support national actors to bring back economic stability and restore livelihoods in the communities decimated by the war. **The Senior Mine Action Advisor** provided strategic advice to the RC, with the focus of the UN demining in 2024 on integrating innovative technologies, enhancing land clearance, building local expertise, and supporting survivors.
- Establishing a coordinated and inclusive **One UN approach to mine action in Ukraine**. 11 (eleven) UN agencies are providing various aspects on mine action support to Ukraine. The One UN approach to mine action in Ukraine is built upon seven outputs: Land released for safe and productive use; Enhanced capacity of local mine action implementers; Enhanced capacity of national authorities; Increased access to and delivery of medical services, mental health and psycho-social support (MHPSS), and socio-economic inclusion opportunities to explosive ordnance victims; Increased awareness of the risks of explosive ordnance; Increased collaboration with humanitarian, peace, stabilisation, development and environment actors; Reduced stockpiles of explosive ordnance.

- Integration of **gender-responsive planning** helped secure **USD 15 million** in funding for a joint programme with UN Women to promote women's participation in mine action. The programme has been facilitated and designed by the Senior Mine Action Advisor financed by the Fund, in cooperation with UN Women. The programme will be funded and implemented outside the Fund. This programme aims to challenge gender stereotypes, use social and media outreach to normalize women's roles in demining, provide training and mentoring, and offer social and psychological support to encourage women's entry and retention in the sector.
- The Mine Action Sectoral Working Group, a key donor coordination platform in the sector, was supported through technical inputs, fostering a coherent One UN approach.
- UNOPS led the **establishment of a State Emergency Service of Ukraine (SESU) Logistics Base** in Lviv. Phase 1 included site preparation, fencing, installation of modern surveillance and lighting systems, and access control points. These efforts enhanced SESU's capacity to coordinate national demining efforts securely and efficiently. UNOPS plans to finalise the set of tender documents for the Construction of the Logistics Hub in Phase 2 of the project, pending availability of funding.
- **UNDP–UNHCR** activities focused on demining, debris removal, and rehabilitation of essential infrastructure improving community safety, restoring essential infrastructure, and enhancing legal assistance and livelihood opportunities in Mykolaiv and Kherson oblasts. Key results included:
 - Clearance and rehabilitation of **6 key social infrastructure facilities**, including administrative centers and social service hubs, legal aid, and community engagement, benefiting thousands of IDPs and returnees.
 - Support for the repair of **38 war-damaged homes**, complementing government compensation schemes.
 - Direct on-site **legal aid** services were carried out, assisting 106 people with legal counselling and support, including on housing, land, and property (HLP) issues.
 - Design of a modular facility to enable educational work at the Arkhangelsk Training Centre for **60 students**, to address employability concerns discouraging return to both Kherson and Mykolaiv Oblasts.
 - Conducted **Non-Technical Surveys (NTS)** and risk education (EORE) assessments, paving the way for localized demining operations in early 2025.
 - Supported the establishment of **Community Security and Recovery Working Groups (CSR WGs)** to promote local ownership of recovery in Vysokopillia and Velyka Oleksandrivka of Kherson Oblast.

These achievements collectively created safer conditions for the return of displaced populations and the restoration of essential services.



Demining works in an agricultural field in Mykolaiv region



Destroyed farmer houses in a liberated area of Mykolaiv region

Pillar 2: Livelihoods and Agriculture Support in Sumy Region

The war has devastated local economies, especially in border regions like Sumy Oblast, where hostilities and displacement have disrupted agriculture and employment. Many rural households, including IDPs, veterans, and vulnerable groups, face high risks of poverty and exclusion from market systems.

IOM and FAO, in collaboration with local authorities, launched recovery-focused livelihood interventions to rebuild income-generating capacities, strengthen local value chains, and reinforce community resilience in rural areas. The efforts were aligned with the Sumy Regional Economic Recovery Strategy and national development goals. The joint assistance targeted selected seven hromadas (Popivska, Mykolaivska, Stepanivska, Sadivska, Lebedynska, Trostianetska, Nedryhailivska) in Sumy oblast.

Key results (IOM):

- Supported **711 households** with livelihood grants (USD 1,000 each), targeting **women-led (66%)** and **disability-affected households (11%)**.
- Carried out **Rapid Needs Assessments** and **Livelihoods Market Assessments** in 7 hromadas, followed by **Community Consultancy Meetings** to ensure participatory targeting.
- Delivered **775 conditional trainings** in rural entrepreneurship and farming practices.
- Rehabilitated a **grocery store in Buimer**, restoring access to food and essential goods, and ten businesses — including 30 per cent that are women-led — were selected to receive voucher-based support aimed at strengthening value chains.
- Selected **44 MSMEs** and 1 cluster for grant support (equivalent to USD 7,000 for micro-enterprises and USD 20,000 USD for small-sized enterprises), enhancing employment and market participation. Out of 44 businesses 24 are women led (30 micro, 13 small-sized enterprises and one business cluster). It is expected 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**.



Hemp textile cluster, Sumy oblast

Key Results (FAO):

- Provided a comprehensive value chain analysis on **Dairy, aquaculture, and apiculture honey bee production** in collaboration with Sumy National Agrarian University
- Reached **1,568 farming households** (54% male and 46% female beneficiaries) with business training (ca. 35% knowledge gain reported) and cash assistance (USD 1,000 each):
 - **1,060 dairy producers**
 - **431 beekeepers**
 - **77 aquaculture producers**
- Distributed **USD 1.57 million** in conditional cash transfers for productivity-enhancing investments.
- Promoted inclusive agricultural development: **54% female participation** in dairy.
- Developed a **Genetic Resources Enhancement Strategy** for preserving the native Lebedyn cattle breed, a critical genetic resource for local dairy production.
- Strengthened local institutions with advanced training and technical assistance, encouraging **State Agrarian Register registration** and sustainable practices, with businesses joining the formal agri-food system based on their value chains.

These interventions provided critical early recovery support to war-affected households, improving food security, rebuilding rural markets, and laying groundwork for long-term resilience.

Summary of Programmatic Revisions in 2024

- **FAO** revised its aquaculture beneficiary target from 242 to 121 due to reduced farmer availability; final outreach was **77 households**.
- **IOM** increased rehabilitation voucher value from USD 2,500 to USD 3,000 to meet actual repair costs based on technical assessments.
- **UNDP–UNHCR** replaced plans for a digital legal aid platform with **on-site legal aid delivery** and a **paralegal training program**, in response to community access needs.
- **FAO** scaled up beekeeping support to **431 households** using surplus funds from aquaculture, expanding access and coverage.



Photo (left) Community Consultancy meeting in Khoruzhivka, Sumy region; photo (right) rehabilitated grocery shop in Buimer Trostianetska hromada in Sumy region

6. Impact stories

1. Community infrastructure support in Sumy oblast in proximity of the frontline:

<https://www.facebook.com/watch/?v=2539809066351123>

2. Livelihoods and Agriculture Support in Sumy Region

Tetiana never imagined she would one day be hiding in a cellar, listening to the rumble of tanks outside her home in Sakny village, Sumska oblast. As war reached her village, she and her 90-year-old mother, who is disabled, could only wait in fear. For a week, their animals—50 chickens, ducks, two cows, and a calf—were left unfed, locked away in the darkness. “We barely dared to step outside. We’d rush to give them water and food, then hide again,” she recalls.

The occupation lasted for a week and a half, cutting them off from markets and supplies. With no access to feed, her small farm teetered on the edge of collapse. Yet, Tetiana refused to give up. “It was terrifying. I kept thinking—how can this be happening in the 21st century?” she say

Help came in the form of training and financial support from FAO, allowing her to resume activities, buy hay, straw, grain, sunflower meal, medicine, and supplements for her cows. Now, Tetiana is determined to rebuild. She dreams of expanding her poultry and even getting a piglet, ensuring that no matter what happens, her animals—and her family—will never go hungry again.



7. Ukraine Community Recovery Fund Contacts and data

Ukraine Community Recovery Fund Gateway: contributors, financials, projects, results

<https://mptf.undp.org/fund/ukr00>

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