



UNITED NATIONS
UKRAINE
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Annual Recovery Results Report

2023



This document is consolidated by the United Nations (UN) Resident Coordinator Office on behalf of the UN Country Team in Ukraine.

Front Cover:

Kurakhove, Donetsk Oblast

1 January 2024

Destroyed and abandoned streets of the city. Since the New Year, shelling has intensified in eastern Ukraine. The humanitarian situation in frontline areas is becoming increasingly difficult. Every day, families in the Kharkivska, Donetsk, and Zaporizhzhska regions are forced to leave their homes, heading towards uncertainty. Supporting displaced people is one of the priorities for the UN in Ukraine.

Photo: UNICEF / Oleksii Filippov

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1. Foreword by the Resident Coordinator

In the third year of the full-scale Russia's invasion, the scourge of war is still bringing untold suffering and sorrow to the people of Ukraine. The invasion, launched in violation of the UN Charter and international law, has left thousands of civilians killed and injured, caused massive destruction of infrastructure, including hundreds of thousands of homes, hospitals and schools, and deeply traumatized people regardless of proximity to the front line. The war has shattered the Ukrainian economy; rolling back development gains made over the past years and plunging nearly 25 per cent of people into poverty.

The people of Ukraine are taking upon themselves the monumental task to recover from the devastation caused by the invasion. With remarkable and inspiring determination, and no matter if they are close to the front line or in communities where they have found safety and security, Ukrainians are supporting one another to ensure their communities are functioning, small shops are running, schools are repaired and rebuilt with shelters so children can attend in-person, hospitals and clinics reconstructed, roads and bridges repaired and agricultural land and critical and social infrastructure demined.

The UN, the humanitarian community and our development partners continue to work non-stop to ensure people enduring the horrors of the war receive the support they need to address their most immediate needs and also create the conditions for their recovery. In 2023, more than 11 million people received life-saving humanitarian assistance. This achievement was made possible thanks to the efforts of over 500 organizations – nearly 70 per cent of them Ukrainian NGOs - our close collaboration with the authorities, and the timely support of our donors.

We have also scaled up our efforts to support recovery, with more and more activities that provide people with durable solutions and ensure they can get back on their feet. The UN made significant contributions to Ukraine's journey towards a prosperous future: supporting strong data collection and analysis to inform recovery priorities – including the third

Rapid Damage and Needs Assessment (RDNA) and the Post-Disaster Needs Assessment (PDNA) of the Kakhovka Dam's destruction; creating platforms to engage communities in the decision-making and forums to bring together Government, donors and civil society; supporting small businesses; repairing vital infrastructure; and contributing to demining efforts and beyond.

The UN –our 3,000 employees and 24 agencies – is determined to continue supporting the Government's recovery priorities with investments in Ukraine's communities, human capital and national systems, and ensure recovery takes into consideration the specific needs of women, people with disabilities and marginalized groups.

Despite the progress, these efforts are not enough to stop the suffering and devastating consequences of Russia's invasion of Ukraine. The world – and the international community – cannot accept war as the new reality. Living under constant bombardment, constant fear, is not normal. For this reason, war as a state of existence for people in Ukraine, must not be normalized. Every effort must continue towards a just peace in line with the UN Charter.

Denise Brown

Resident Coordinator
United Nations in Ukraine



2. UN Country Team

Resident



Non-Resident



3. Key Developments in 2023

Russia’s war on Ukraine, which dramatically escalated in February 2022, continued to intensify throughout 2023, causing widespread death, destruction, displacement, loss and suffering.

The invasion, which started in the east of the country in 2014, reaches its 10-year mark in 2024, with a steady pattern of violations that shattered critical, social and economic infrastructure, strained essential services, and triggered a massive shock to the economy. The dire consequences in terms of humanitarian, recovery and reconstruction needs continue to deepen.

During 2023, Ukraine experienced a steady stream of missile and drone attacks country-wide; heavy fighting along the front line; and major incidents, such as the destruction of the Kakhovka Dam, that added to the already severe human, social, and economic toll of the war.

The year started with massive waves of airstrikes on heating and electricity infrastructure, leaving Ukrainians in the cold and the dark in middle of the harsh winter. Although the attacks on energy infrastructure decreased towards spring, homes, schools, water systems and hospitals continued to be damaged, and civilians killed and injured daily. In mid-2023, attacks on port and grain infrastructure following the termination of the Black Sea Initiative by the Russian Federation created additional challenges for agricultural exports from Ukraine, further impacting farmers already struggling due to heavy contamination of mines and unexploded ordnance. The year ended with a spike in indiscriminate attacks and aerial assaults on populated areas, highlighting Russia’s persistent pattern of civilian deaths and violations of international humanitarian law.

While the real figure is likely much larger, the UN has to date verified the killing or injury of more than 30,000 civilians, including 1,822 children, with the number growing every day. There have been more than 1,600 attacks on health care since the escalation of the war in February 2023. In the same period, more than 3,800 educational institutions and more than 2 million homes have been damaged or destroyed. As of January 2024, 14.6 million people need humanitarian assistance, 3.6 million people are internally displaced, and 6.34 million Ukrainians became refugees across Europe.

Russia’s invasion has reversed 15 years of poverty reduction efforts in Ukraine, especially for households with children. A staggering 80 percent of children in Ukraine are now estimated to live in poverty. More than 25 percent of households buy fewer types of food due to lack of income; 14 percent have to borrow to cover basic needs and 12 percent cannot pay utilities.

Despite the war, Ukraine’s economy continues to demonstrate some resilience. There has been a gradual decrease in the unemployment rate, however loss of jobs and household income remain significant. Unemployment and underemployment are more prevalent among internally displaced people, with only 30 percent of displaced households having a salary as their primary source of income, and 24 percent relying on government transfers for income. As of April 2023, 72 percent of people registered as unemployed were women. The long-term impacts of displacement outside of Ukraine on human capital, demography, and growth are still to be assessed.



\$486 billion

of total recovery and reconstruction needs



\$152 billion

direct damage to buildings and infrastructure



1,600

attacks on health care



3.6 million

people are internally displaced



Lezhynе, Zaporizka Oblast

October 2023

Constant bombardment and hostilities have repeatedly caused damage to water systems in Zaporizka Oblast. In Lezhynе, Valentyna and her neighbours face constant interruptions. The situation in the oblast worsened in June 2023, following the destruction of the Kakhovka Dam, which used to be the source of drinking water for over 700,000 people in southern Ukraine. The UN is working with the authorities to support rehabilitation of damaged infrastructure, including in Lezhynе.

Photo: UNICEF / Kate Klochko

With the war raging on, the recovery and reconstruction needs continue to grow with each passing day. As documented in the third Rapid Damage and Needs Assessment, by the end of December 2023, there had been US\$152 billion in direct damage to buildings and infrastructure. The most affected sectors are housing (almost US\$56 billion, or 37 percent of total damage), transport, commerce and industry, energy and agriculture. Environmental damages remain a challenge to quantify and will affect Ukraine for generations. As of 31 December 2023, recovery and reconstruction needs are estimated at US\$486 billion.

Although Russia's invasion continues to have far-reaching consequences across Ukraine, communities have been impacted in different ways. Some are hosting a large number of displaced people who may not have a safe and suitable place to return to in the near future due to ongoing hostilities. These communities need significant support to provide housing, service and livelihoods, while maintaining social cohesion.

Other communities in areas no longer under Russian occupation are ready to scale up recovery and reconstruction efforts, creating conditions for voluntary returns, both of displaced people within the country and also of refugees from abroad.

Meanwhile, communities in the eastern and southern regions of the country, closest to the frontlines, continue to struggle directly under the weight of hostilities and attacks and require substantial humanitarian assistance.



80%

of children in Ukraine are now estimated to live in poverty



2 million

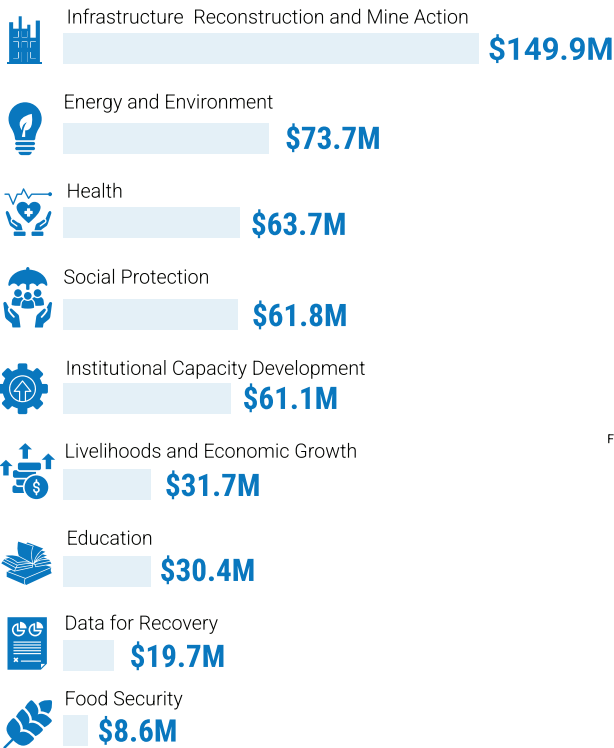
home units have been damaged

4. Overview of Key Achievements

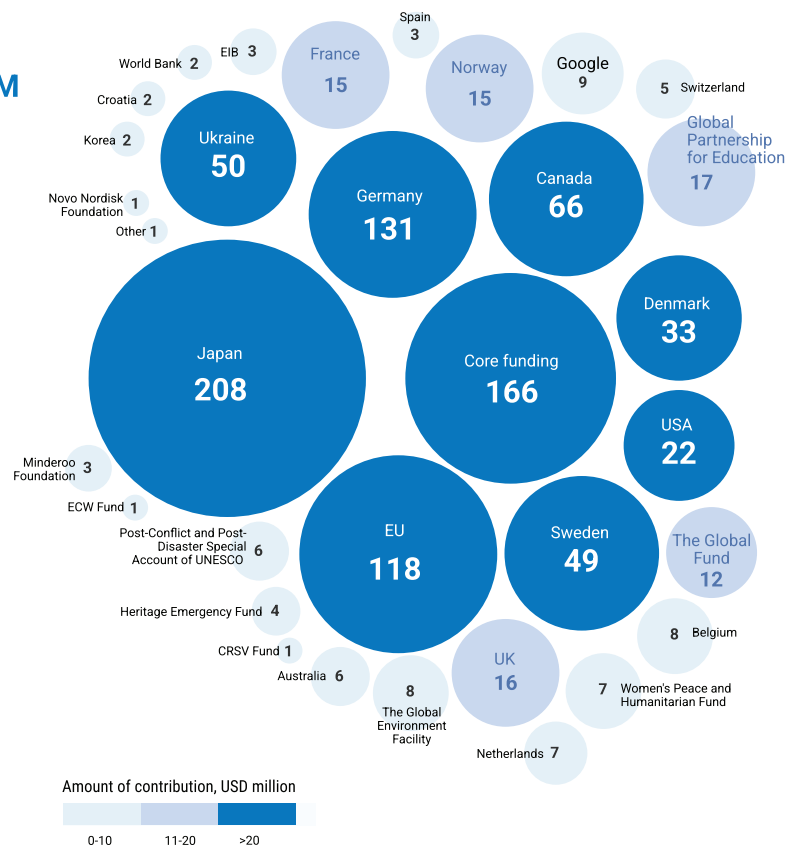
Financial Overview 2022-2024



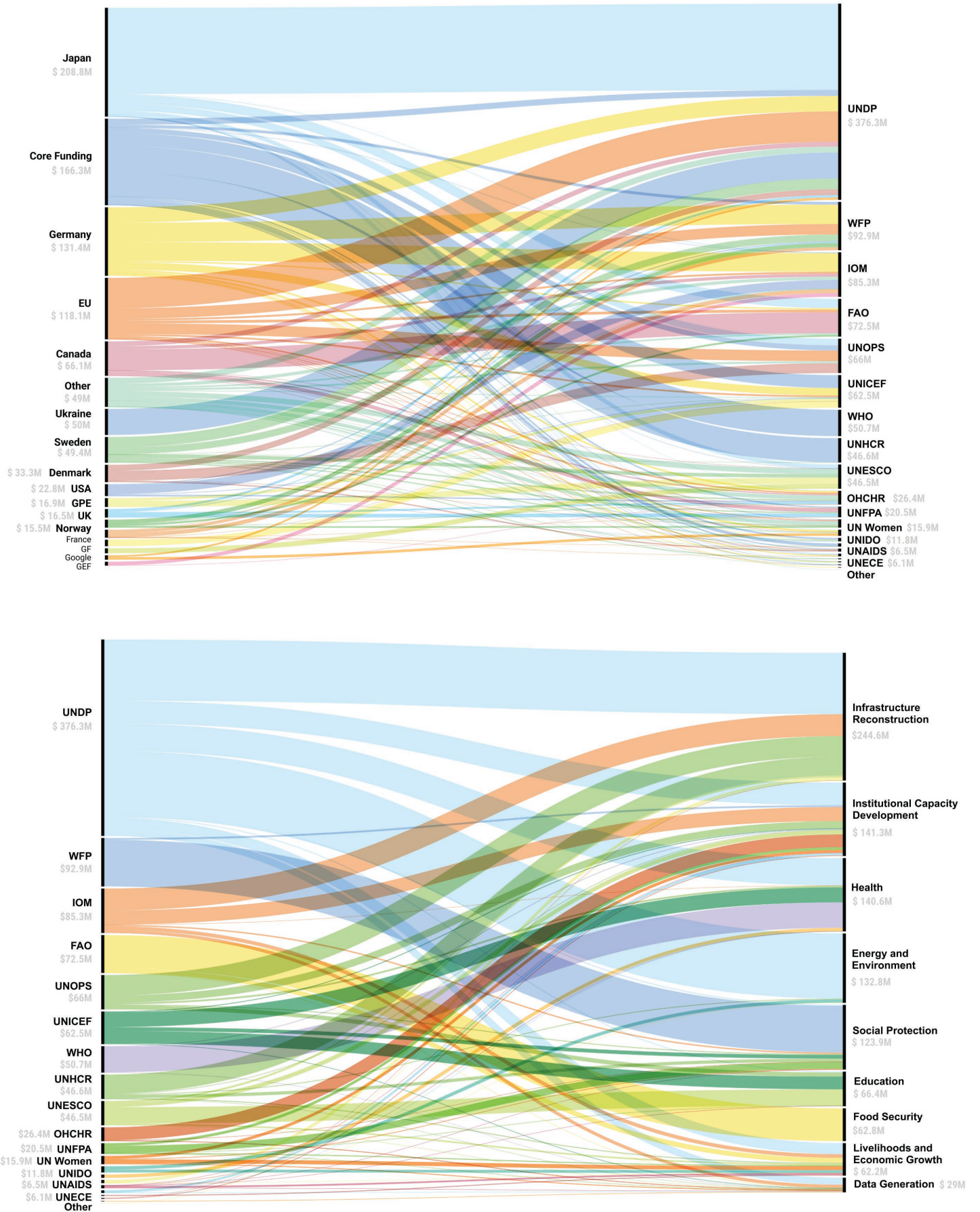
Expenditures 2023



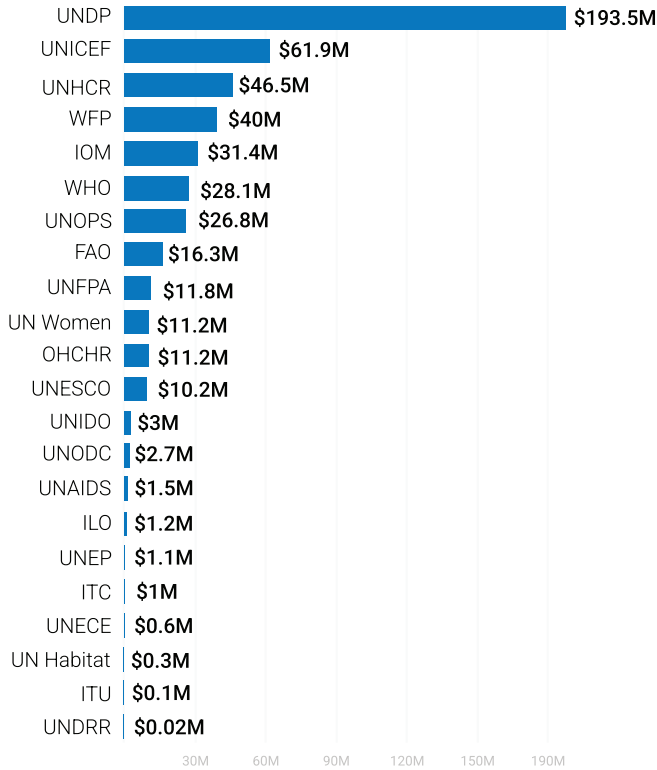
Contributions 2022-2024, USD Million



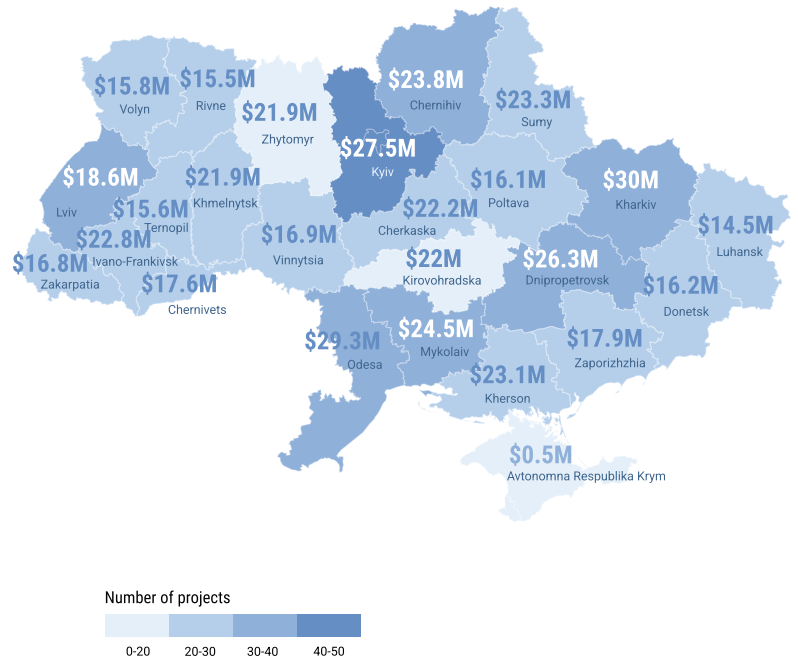
Funding Flows



Expenditures 2023



Programmes and Expenditure by Region, 2023



Core Funding and Multi-Partner Trust Funds

The UN in Ukraine thanks its partners who supported its work through contributions to core funds and multi-partner trust funds and embraced the key principles of the Funding Compact in line with UN development system reform. In 2023, core funds increased from 10 percent of funds implemented to 15 percent. Core funds, for example, were a key resource for the UN to be able to rapidly and flexibly respond to emergencies in 2023 such as the destruction of the Kakhovka Dam.



*Top core donors for UN entities in Ukraine



Private Giving: Funds originating from the private sector, foundations and individuals are a key contribution to the UN's core funds.

The launch of the new Ukraine Community Recovery Fund in 2023 was made possible through the first contribution of Denmark, followed by generous contributions from Luxembourg and Republic of Korea.



Results Overview

2



new autotransformers (330kV, 220MVA) delivered and installed

44



municipal heat departments modernized and upgraded

13



co-generation electricity and heating plants constructed

10



decentralized gas heating plants constructed

6 million



people supported through installation of new energy infrastructure

2,145



small and medium sized businesses supported

175,332



rural households supported with seeds and livestock feed

6,000



agricultural producers provided with seeds to produce 94,000 metric tons of grain

6 million



metric tons of grain and oilseeds in new or rehabilitated storage

318,353



individuals received new job skills training

1,105



jobs created or retained

33,000



applications for 16 new digital services in Diia

104,000



smart screens, laptops and tablets provided to teachers and students

5.1 million



mothers and children accessed primary health-care services

2,110



health-care facilities received equipment and supplies

105,576



children received routine early childhood immunizations

186,951 M²



of land cleared of debris and/or UXO items

1.7 million



people supported through reparation and reconstruction of social infrastructure

995



schools repaired or refurbished

1.3 million



million children accessing safe and secure learning

400



hromadas supported with recovery planning and budgeting

Data for Recovery Planning

During 2023, the UN in Ukraine supported a range of critical data collection exercises that played a key role in shaping the Government's recovery priorities and plans. The second RDNA, launched in March 2023, was a joint exercise between the World Bank, the Government of Ukraine, the European Union and the United Nations in Ukraine. Experts from more than ten UN agencies provided the data and analysis for key chapters, with a focus on the human impact of the war. The process and results informed the UN's approach to inclusive community recovery throughout 2023, including the launch of the Ukraine Community Recovery Fund.

This exercise was complemented by the launch of the Human Impact Assessment (HIA) by 12 agencies in June 2023 to support the Government in the process of developing policies to safeguard additional losses of human capital, and the release, in October 2023, of the Post-Disaster Needs Assessment (PDNA) of the Destruction of the Kakhovka Dam, carried out the UN, the Government of Ukraine and the Kyiv School of Economics. The PDNA highlighted the long-term devastating consequences of the war on the environment and agriculture and piloted innovative remote sensing methodology for determining destruction of housing and culture sector.

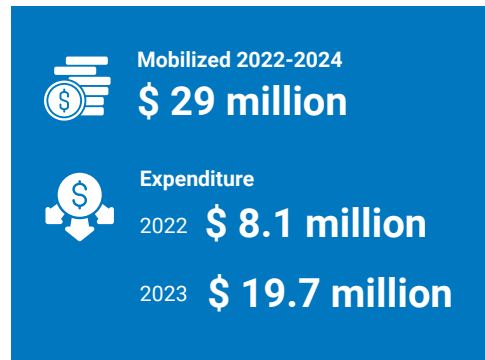
Lessons of the RDNA2, the PDNA, and the HIA included the importance of the engagement of subnational authorities in data collection and identification of needs and priorities in order to ensure Government recovery policies are evidence based and reflect the experiences of communities and people in Ukraine; and the importance of improving the analysis needed for stronger gender-responsive recovery policies. The UN used the assessments to highlight the stories of the people behind the infrastructure and buildings destroyed and develop with the Government policies and programmes that directly address the needs of those impacted by the devastation, including displaced people; doctors, nurses and patients; teachers and pupils; and rural households. The RDNA3 data collection process, launched at the end of 2023, included the first consultative gender sub-chapter that includes important disaggregated data and analysis to inform recovery policies and planning in 2024. The UN also continues to nurture an independent platform for verified damage to culture.

These assessments and data played a critical role in shaping the UN's advocacy for the continued support to the decentralization process, the importance of sub-national authorities' engagement in recovery, and the Ministry of Restoration's focus on situating the five RDNA emergency recovery priorities (housing, energy, demining, private sector and social/critical infrastructure) within the context of community-level recovery. The Ministry created a Community Support Team in 2023, launched the updating of the State Strategy for Regional Development; and created a Coordination Council on Regional Policy.



253

assessments conducted that directly informed national response, recovery and reconstruction planning and implementation



TRENDS

Major gaps in socio-economic data are caused by limited Government capacity and resources for collection, as well as limitations imposed by martial law.

CHALLENGES

As long as the war and destruction continue, relevant baselines and targets will continue to be difficult to define.

The UN's focus on damage and destruction in communities was complemented by efforts to improve data collection on human development and impact of the war on socio-economic indicators. As part of the process of data collection to inform the Humanitarian Needs and Response Plan (HNRP) 2024, in mid-2023 the UN partnered with national experts to develop an innovative methodology for a population estimate in a context such as Ukraine, where there has been no census since 2001; martial law may limit the collection and distribution of data; there has been significant population movement since 2022; and there is limited physical access for data collection in communities along the frontline and those occupied by Russia.

To produce a humanitarian population estimate with sub-national sex and age disaggregation, the UN assessed and utilized the best available sources, from various national administrative systems and historical records of population trends to nationwide mobile phone user data and humanitarian population displacement tracking data. This dataset, built for short-term humanitarian decision-making, was then shared with the Government, the State Statistics Service and sub-national authorities to inform recovery planning and ensure humanitarian and recovery stakeholders are both using joint data and analysis to design their interventions. In 2024, the UN will share its lessons, expertise and modeling with the State Statistics Service and the Institute of Demography to improve and enhance national modelling for a population estimate and inform the development of the National Demographic Strategy in 2024.

FOCUS IN 2024:

- Data-driven policy approach to inclusive community recovery and human capital development.
- Development of a new national list of SDG indicators.

Data-Driven Inclusive Community Recovery

Throughout 2023, the UN supported communities through layered humanitarian, development, and social cohesion interventions. A joint analytical framework was developed by the UN, local authorities and civil society partners, through the Community Planning for Durable Solutions and Recovery Working Group, for use in the development of evidence-based inclusive community recovery plans. These plans reflect the needs and include the voices of marginalized populations including internally displaced people, returnees and host communities to contribute towards a more inclusive recovery.

Examples of joint UN action for community recovery include Iziium in the Kharkiv region and Ivankiv in the Kyiv region where the UN's efforts were combined with local authorities and civil society organizations. These have contributed to debris removal, humanitarian demining, reconstruction of housing and social infrastructure, basic service provision, mental health and psycho-social support, legal support to obtain or replace civil status or housing, land and property documentation, livelihoods, and employment generation.

In Iziium, and by the end of 2023, approximately 55 percent of 111,259 hectares of mine-contaminated land was released as safe for cultivation, with the remaining 45 percent in progress. Grants were distributed to 1,000 small-scale farmers for agricultural inputs, and 15,000 people received multi-purpose cash assistance targeting livelihood support. In addition, repairs of 425 housing units were completed, with an additional 800 units in progress. Nearly 6,000 people received emergency shelter kits while 110 households

were provided with building materials. Assessments for the reconstruction of the regional hospital and schools in Balakliia were completed and rehabilitation works started. Furthermore, repairs of water, sewage, and heating systems were completed in Balakliia and Borivska. Mental health and psychosocial support were also provided to 1,400 women, girls, men, and boys.

In Ivankiv, grants and material support were provided to small and medium-sized enterprises to restart operations, and skills training was provided to IDPs supporting them to access the local job market. Debris removal and rehabilitation of infrastructure including the school, as well as repairs on 350 housing and apartment units, was completed and 18 families were provided with prefabricated homes procured from local businesses. Two collective centres were repaired, which included improvements for accessibility for people with disabilities, children's recreational spaces, kitchen upgrades and winterization. A modular administrative service centre was established, offering birth certificates, social benefits, pension assistance and other public services. The reconstruction of the Ivankiv Municipal Water Supply Grid which serves over 10,000 residents is ongoing, and three cultural and youth centres have been restored.

Institutional Capacity Strengthening for National Partners

During 2023 the UN continued joint efforts on institutional capacity development and provision of integrated policy advice on key issues such as inclusive community recovery, conflict-related sexual violence, gender equality, housing policy, protection of cultural heritage and digital service delivery.

Building on the operational footprint of the UN, a particular focus was on leveraging partnerships and capacity with sub-national authorities to enhance the provision of services at the local level and capacity for recovery planning and implementation. Support was provided to the establishment of six new Regional Recovery Offices; four Regional Development Agencies received capacity strengthening; and more than 400 hromadas received support on recovery budgeting and planning. The Government adopted Resolution 812 in 2023, establishing 24 regional IDP Councils (including Kyiv City Administration), with the UN's support. These councils are playing a key role in identifying IDP needs for integration in recovery planning and supporting access to housing.

At the national level, the Ministry for Restoration was supported to develop and adopt a new Anti-Corruption Policy, that identifies over 50 specific risk areas and mitigation measures. UN entities were also members of the Housing Policy Working Group chaired by the Ministry to develop a new housing policy and facilitate compensation and urgent reconstruction of the housing stock. Lack of housing remains the key issue affecting protracted displacement of the population.

Another significant focus of joint UN efforts in 2023 was on the Framework of Cooperation with the Government on conflict-related sexual violence (CRSV). Significant new policy frameworks and legislation are required to investigate, prosecute and provide services and reparations to survivors. UN agencies supported the Office of the Prosecutor General, relevant ministries, police, civil society organizations, service providers and other stakeholders to establish an inclusive and participatory CRSV decision-making mechanism that includes civil society and UN agency technical experts. This working group prepared a draft law on Urgent Interim Reparative Measures to CRSV Survivors that was submitted to Parliament.

In January 2023, the historic city centre of Odesa was added to the list of World Heritage in Danger. More than 50 cultural heritage properties inside the site were damaged by Russian missile strikes in the summer of 2023 and the UN supported documentation of the destruction at the World Heritage site and conducted stabilizations and urgent repairs.



98,197

people from the Government, local authorities, service providers, civil society, community organizations, women's organizations, private sector and others participated in capacity-strengthening interventions



361

new, or amended, policies/laws/regulations adopted and implemented to promote recovery and aligned to international standards



Mobilized 2022-2024

\$ 141.3 million



Expenditure

2022 **\$ 40.7 million**

2023 **\$ 61.1 million**

TRENDS

- In the context of a roll-back of previous SDG achievements and a renewed focus on EU ambitions, the Government has demonstrated significant commitment to policy reform and systems strengthening.
- Decentralization reform continues and local authorities need continued support to strengthen recovery planning and service delivery.

CHALLENGES

High vacancy rates in ministries, regional administrations, and hromada authorities.

The delivery of administrative services through digital tools continues to be a priority to better meet the needs of a population on the move. During 2023, the UN supported 16 new digital e-services in Diia, including application for a child benefit for a single parent, application for a benefit for people with a disability, application for a benefit for a parent caring for a sick child, termination of IDP status, and application for benefits for veterans with a disability. More than 33,000 applications for these digital services were submitted through Diia in 2023. Other digital service delivery modalities were

supported for the State Border Management Service such as an automated biometric identification system to reduce waiting time at borders; digitalization of key MFA consular services to improve accessibility for Ukrainian refugees and provision of benefits to farmers through the digital system of the State Agrarian Service. In an innovative approach, the UN has supported the State Border Guard Service to develop a new digital recruitment system to identify a new pool of employees and officials.



FOCUS IN 2024:

- National capacity strengthening on the SDG targets, especially those that underpin EU integration standards in the “Fundamentals” areas - human rights, gender equality, justice, rule of law, statistics and strong institutions.

Sumy Regional Administration and the UN Community Recovery Fund

During 2023 several UN agencies supported Sumy Regional Administration in its recovery efforts. In 2022, immediately following liberation, Sumy developed a two-year regional recovery strategy. The focus was on shifting from humanitarian assistance to community recovery interventions. The Regional Administration, with support of the UN, hosted a Recovery Forum in July 2023 that convened international development partners, UN agencies, civil society, private sector and hromadas to build partnerships and a coordination platform for recovery. As a result of the Forum and the new partnerships it initiated, the Regional Development Agency received additional support from the UN to strengthen its data management and coordination capacities and establish a Recovery Coordination Council. This Council convenes both humanitarian and recovery partners implementing projects in the region to ensure alignment, prioritization, effectiveness, and transparency.

The presence of a clear strategy, a functioning coordination system and the leadership of the Regional Administration were key factors in communities in Sumy being selected in December 2023 for the first strategic allocation of the Ukraine Community Recovery Fund targeting local economic growth and agribusinesses.

The Ukraine Community Recovery Fund invests in reconstruction of housing, energy, social infrastructure, humanitarian demining, and support to livelihoods and local economic development. These interventions are combined with targeted capacity strengthening for essential service provision and community mobilization. The Fund invests in a holistic package of support designed to create conducive conditions for people impacted by the war to recover and rebuild their lives.

Infrastructure Reconstruction, Debris Removal, Mine Action

Ukraine is one of the most mine-contaminated countries globally, with more than 174,000 km² of area contaminated with explosive ordnances. During 2023 the UN prioritized the provision of technical expertise to support the Government's shift towards an outcome-driven approach to mine action. This included the establishment of an elevated and coherent national mine action coordination architecture and the drafting of a new National Strategy on Mine Action. A new sector working group was established in September 2023, co-chaired by the First Deputy Prime Minister, the Ambassador of Japan and the UN Resident Coordinator, in order to convene senior national and international partners and stakeholders around a vision of outcome-driven mine action. This approach focuses on safe returns and economic recovery by prioritizing the demining of utilities, housing, other critical infrastructure, and economic assets such as agricultural land.

In partnership with the Ministry of Economy and the State Emergency Services of Ukraine, the UN used innovative technology such as remote sensing, uncrewed aerial systems, satellite imagery, artificial intelligence and advanced computer algorithms to conduct the rapid release and cancellation of suspected hazardous areas.

An additional innovation, given Ukraine's reliance on the agricultural sector, was a series of food safety-oriented field assessments to determine potential warfare-related chemical contamination of the soil. This assessment aims to utilize gathered data to develop a contamination prediction model based on the distribution patterns of craters in agricultural fields. This will allow the UN and Government to prioritize demining of arable land that has been assessed as presenting no evidence of chemical contamination.

In addition to mines, the widespread presence of debris and damaged/unstable infrastructure impedes returns and reconstruction. The presence of asbestos, chemicals and hazardous waste pollutes the natural environment. The UN has supported a business model of comprehensive debris management, comprised of damage assessment, debris removal, transport, recycling, equipment provision and safe disposal, including proper treatment for dangerous and hazardous materials, such as mines, UXOs, and asbestos. The UN has also supported the review of the regulatory framework of debris removal in Ukraine to align to the new context.

In 2023, the UN cleared 114,237 m³ of debris and rubble in 681 locations, that included the demolition of 621 buildings. This equals approximately 170,000 tons of debris, 2,172 m³ of hazardous waste (1,650 m³ of asbestos and 522 m³ of other hazardous debris and waste). More than 81,593 m² of debris removal sites were assessed by Non-Technical Survey for safety.



186,951 M²

of land cleared of debris and/or UXO items



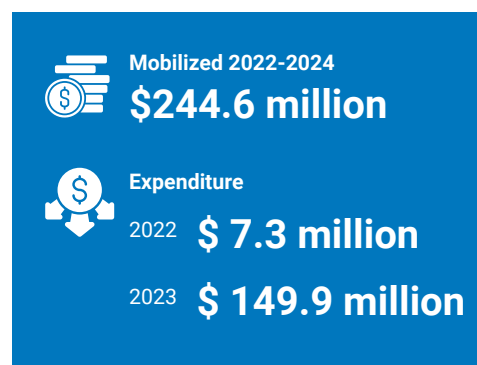
1,726,029

people benefited from rehabilitated infrastructure



29,141

people benefited from sustainable housing solutions





Zhytomyrska Oblast

October 2023

A Ukrainian developer presents its innovative technology for mine action, during a test organized by UNDP, in collaboration with the Ministry of Economy and the Kyiv School of Economics. The UN and partners are testing a range of robotic technologies for demining, to support Ukraine to clear its heavy contaminated territory as soon as possible. Mine contamination threatens both people's safety and the economy, and poses enormous obstacles for Ukraine's recovery from the devastation caused by Russia's invasion.

Photo: UNDP /
Yelyzaveta Parubtsova

House and apartment repairs continued, including the installation of 100 prefabricated homes and the launch of reconstruction of multi-story residential buildings and transportation networks, railway stock, mobile bridges and specialized vehicles. Construction and repairs of medical and educational facilities were accompanied by the development of standardized inclusive facility designs.

The UN worked on repair and rehabilitation of damaged and destroyed water and sanitation infrastructure. As a result, more than 542,000 people in Cherkasy, Chernihiv, Kyiv and Zhytomyr regions benefited from re-established access to safe water and reliable sanitation services.

The funding mobilised in 2022-2023 has been intended as multiyear programme and will therefore also support activities and expenditure through 2024.

FOCUS IN 2024:

- Continued adoption of advanced technologies, digital tools, big data and AI in mine action.
- Addressing infrastructure needs in vulnerable communities, including those in closer proximity to the frontline, where people have remained in their homes.

TRENDS

- Infrastructure reconstruction, debris removal and mine action will continue to be key sectors requiring significant long-term investment by both public and private financing.
- There are significant opportunities for the Ukrainian economy to establish national production, manufacturing, maintenance and supply chains.

CHALLENGES

- National "build back better" standards and updated policies are still missing in many sectors directly related to reconstruction, debris removal and mine action.
- Insufficient local suppliers and skilled workers serve as a bottleneck to reconstruction.

Social Protection

A key area of focus for the UN and the Government in 2023 continued to be the analysis and design of policy reforms to facilitate a transition from large-scale humanitarian multi-purpose cash assistance (US\$660 million to 3.9 million people in 2023) towards a strengthened national social protection system better able to prioritize social benefits and assistance. The PeReHID Initiative, an innovative partnership between Government, UN and humanitarian and development stakeholders, was formalized through a legislative decree in May 2023 and by the end of the year completed a situation analysis and recommendations for policy reforms.

The PeReHID efforts were complemented by a partnership between the UN, the Ministry of Social Policy and the Pension Fund of Ukraine to support the most vulnerable. Top-ups were provided to 374,000 pensioners residing in communities close to the frontline enabling them to reach a pension threshold of 3,250 UAH/month in order to ensure a minimum standard of living in the face of aggravated need caused by the war.

The UN supported the establishment of the Social Protection Reform Office in the Ministry of Social Policy as an investment in capacity for policy reforms and programmes at national and local levels. The office includes experts in social policy and economic analysis, legislation, digitalization, and monitoring. An important social protection reform in 2023 was the establishment of multidisciplinary teams in all healthcare facilities providing rehabilitation services. This new model of integration of social workers and services led to the Resolution of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine No. 1285 adopted in December 2023, mandating the inclusion of social workers in in-patient and out-patient settings and defining their specific functions in the rehabilitation process.

Another important reform effort was the Better Care initiative focused on child welfare. Better Care is a partnership of the UN and the Government designed to prevent family separation, increase alternative care options, and transform institutions to ensure that all children can grow up in family-based care. During 2023 interventions focused on community-based child and family support services including early intervention for children with delays and disabilities, children subjected to or witnessing violence and neglect and those at risk of separation. In addition, the UN supported the Government to conduct large-scale monitoring of 2,429 children who were in institutions in Ukraine before the escalation of war in 2022 but were internally displaced by war or made refugees abroad and whose cases require ongoing tracing and follow-up.

Sector-specific challenges included severe shortage of skilled professionals, in particular social workers, who play a crucial role in delivering essential services. Programme design and implementation modalities had to be adapted to the new context. In 2024, the UN will continue investing in systems strengthening and reconstruction efforts.



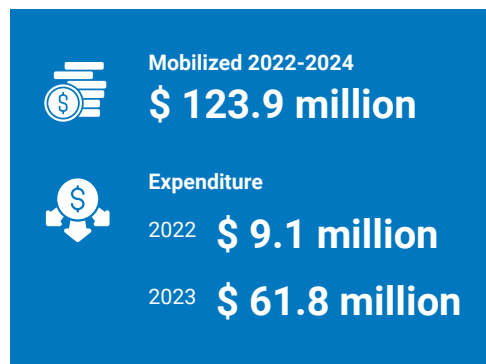
726,564

individuals supported to access social protection assistance



2,692,661

individuals received services for gender-based violence, conflict-related sexual violence, exploitation, abuse, human trafficking, mine victim assistance



TRENDS

- Strengthening human capital will rely on the reform of the national social protection system.

CHALLENGES

- Impact of national budget gap on the delivery of social services and benefits.
- Ensuring delivery and quality of social services in rural areas.
- Continued risk for vulnerable children of family separation.



Odesa, Odeska Oblast

July 2023

In Odesa, children who had to flee the horrors of the war find some respite in activities organized by the UN's Mental Health and Psychosocial Support teams, including from IOM. Russia's invasion has led to unimaginable level of trauma, affecting millions of Ukraine. Psychological services are key to ensure Ukrainian can recover and rebuild their lives.

Photo: IOM / Stanislav Kalach

During 2023 the national police registered 291,248 cases of domestic violence. Different forms of gender-based violence are an issue of significant concern in the context of war, shifting gender roles and norms, increasing poverty and significant mental health challenges. The UN system has collaborated closely with stakeholders to expand municipal gender-based violence services across 45 municipalities and communities throughout Ukraine, in order to strengthen availability in closer proximity to places of residence. This includes the establishment of a comprehensive network of specialized support services such as women and girls' safe spaces, mobile teams, crisis rooms, shelters, and day centres providing counseling, legal, and health services. In 2023, with UN support, 1,239,045 individuals accessed essential GBV prevention, response and risk mitigation services.

FOCUS IN 2024:

- Government implementation of the recommended PeReHID Initiative policy reforms.
- Investment in local authorities' capacity to effectively plan, budget, implement and monitor social protection services and assistance.
- Strengthening the care system.



Poltava

September 2023

In Poltava, survivors of conflict-related sexual violence and gender-based violence can find medical and psychological support, in addition to social and legal services. The UN, through UNFPA, helped the Government to establish at least 11 Survivor Centres like the Poltava one across different regions of Ukraine.

Photo: UNFPA / Hanna Siminko

Education

Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine has caused widespread destruction of universities, schools and kindergartens. In addition to the destruction of education infrastructure, the constant air raids and lack of shelters in schools prevent children from regularly attending classes.

Responding to the challenges of the war, UN agencies together with partners worked to ensure children's access to learning in both online and in-person modes. To improve quality online distance learning teachers and students were provided with 104,000 digital devices, such as smart screens, laptops and tablets. The provision of new digital technology was also achieved through the Global Education Coalition where the UN and Government partnered to successfully leverage considerable support also from private sector companies. The provision of digital devices was accompanied by capacity building of teachers and students in the effective use of technology for online learning. As a result, the enrollment of the All-Ukrainian School Online platform increased from 300,000 in 2022 to 700,000 in 2023.

To improve safe in-person learning the UN supported the elaboration of inclusive school facilities and shelter designs. In 2023, 995 schools and kindergartens were refurbished and equipped, including with shelters, and in total over 80,000 children benefited from rehabilitated education infrastructure. In addition to investing in rehabilitation of infrastructure the UN continued to provide support to development and delivery of mental health and well-being interventions for students and teachers. This included the development of accredited courses for schoolteachers and psychologists. 50,000 teachers received training in digital pedagogy and 13,000 enrolled in a Community of Practice to exchange knowledge and experience.

In 2023 UN agencies, in partnership with the Ministry of Education and Science and hromada authorities, expanded their efforts to provide meals for school children in war-affected communities, reaching 50,000 children through targeted cash assistance for buying food in local markets. School meals are powerful, cost-effective ways to provide vulnerable children with nutritious meals, while supporting local economic development. These efforts were complemented by support to the development of guidelines for implementation of the National School Feeding Strategy 2023-2027 and the implementation of social and behavior change interventions with children, youth and caregivers for healthy nutrition.

The UN supported the Ministry of Education and Science to establish a Partnership Coordination platform and a Recovery Support Office, both of which contributed to the development of a National Education Vision and Strategy 2024-2027, outlining nine strategic priorities for recovery and reform in the education and science sector.



1,328,602

children accessing safe and secure learning



995

Schools upgraded to enable safe learning benefitting 80,000 children



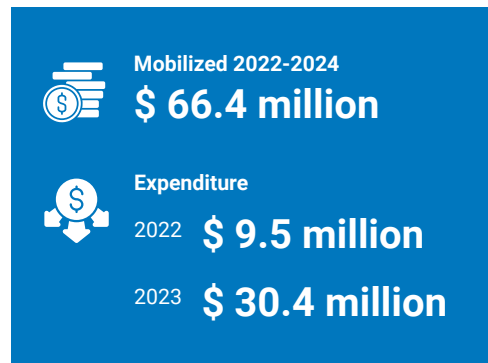
104,000

students and teachers provided with digital devices to support distance education



700,000

students and teachers registered on All-Ukrainian School Online Platform





Kharkiv, Kharkivska Oblast

February 2024

Children attend class in one of the metro stations of Kharkiv, supported by the UN. UNICEF, for examples, provides a comprehensive range of services through several Sulpino Centres, including psychosocial support, educational activities, and co-working spaces for parents.

Photo: UNICEF / Oleksii Filippov

TRENDS

- In-person learning continues to be impossible in many regions of Ukraine due to hostilities. Learning losses are substantial, with girls' scores declining more rapidly than boys and the gap between rural and urban areas substantially widening.

CHALLENGES

- Integration of Ukrainian refugee and IDP children and teachers into the education system and recognition of international qualifications.
- Significant numbers of education facilities do not have shelters, without which they cannot formally re-open for in-person learning.

FOCUS IN 2024:

- Implementation of the national education strategy, with a particular focus on comprehensively addressing learning and skills gaps caused by the war.
- Refurbishing and equipping shelters in schools in order to support in-person learning.
- Strengthening the capacities of teachers and psychologists to provide MHPSS services to children in the education system.

Health

In addition to widespread damage to health care infrastructure, the war has had a devastating impact on the health and well-being of people in Ukraine. In 2023, UN agencies worked with the Government to improve systems and with providers to enhance services and capacities ensuring their continued functioning, focus on recovery and reforms, and addressing non-communicable diseases.

The UN supported the Government of Ukraine to develop and implement national policies for quality mental health services. An important document, the National Roadmap for Mental Health and Psychosocial Support, was developed and adopted by the Government in a cross-ministerial approach with the UN's support. The Roadmap outlines priority actions in the field of mental health and psychosocial support, and focuses on specific vulnerable groups such as veterans, IDPs, people with disabilities, survivors of gender-based violence and people affected by landmines.

In addition, UN agencies and partners worked to enhance community-based mental health services and promoted de-institutionalization of care through the support for Community Mental Health Teams. Over 20,000 primary health care workers were trained in the management of common mental health disorders; 5,700 health care providers completed the in-person Mental Health Gap Action Programme training; and almost 33,000 children and adults accessed psychological support in their communities. UN agencies used innovative methods for incorporating mental health services into livelihoods interventions, such youth skills-building programmes that integrated stress coping mechanisms and mental health awareness.

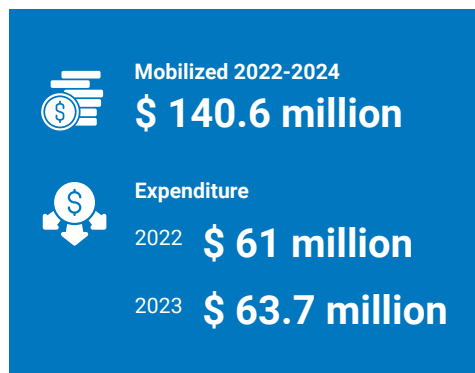
The UN worked with providers to restore the capacities of hospitals to provide essential care. In 2023 over 2,000 medical facilities received healthcare equipment and supplies. Over five million mothers and children accessed primary healthcare services through UN programmes. The UN also supported immunization (including closing polio outbreak) and infectious disease outbreak prevention as well as cancer and non-communicable disease response. During this time, the Ministry of Health was supported to increase immunization coverage among IDPs. UN support was provided to five laboratories for obtaining polio response equipment and strengthening diagnostic capabilities in response to the 2023 polio emergency.

The UN also supported innovations in health services and health technologies for Ukraine. With the emergence of many private sector start-up groups who work on innovative solutions in prosthetics, there is a need for increased quality control and assurance. The UN provides the Government with technical expertise in vetting and decision-making in this new technology space. UN agencies are also supporting 3-D printing and manufacturing of artificial limb prosthetics.

 **2,110**
health care facilities received equipment and supplies

 **105,576**
children received routine early childhood immunizations

 **5,067,901**
mothers and children accessed primary health care services



Dnipro, Dnipropetrovska Oblast

September 2023

Olha Maltseva, Deputy Medical Director for Quality of Care is showing the premises of the bomb shelter at the Regional Medical Center for Family Health in Dnipro, which was repaired with the support of UNICEF.

Photo: UNICEF / Ihor Kozinskyi



In an important step for the improvement of sexual and reproductive health as well as morbidity from cervical cancers the HPV vaccine was included into the national immunization calendar. The review of the National Cancer Strategy and National Cancer Plan is underway, and procurement of pharmaceuticals for cancer treatments was supported by the UN to improve cancer care in Ukraine.

TRENDS

- Increase in the availability of community-based mental health services, which must be matched with strong quality assurance mechanisms.
- A 7.4 percent increase in the number of people with a disability from 2022 to 2023, while services, accessibility and stigma remain unaddressed.

CHALLENGES

- Impact of national budget gap on the delivery of health care.
- Difficult to maintain focus on non-communicable diseases, HIV/AIDS and tuberculosis in absence of funds and move of many health personnel to military sector.

FOCUS IN 2024:

- Implementation of the Health Sector Reform Strategy, with a particular focus on health financing and sustaining essential services.
- Identifying new programmatic approaches to address the linkages between disability inclusion, mental health and reintegration of veterans.
- Improving the availability and use of data on vulnerable groups to improve the national health system's planning and budgeting.

Food Security

Rural households across Ukraine have been forced to abandon or scale down their agricultural activities in 2023 due to the consequences of the war. The UN continued to provide support to farmers and rural households to try and sustain food security and self-sufficiency, especially in communities within 50 kilometres of the frontline.

Support was provided to small and medium-sized agribusinesses. More than 6,000 producers were provided with 5,744 metric tons of cereal seeds (maize, sunflower, pea, spring barley, and spring wheat) that resulted in more than 26,000 hectares cultivated with the potential to produce 94,000 metric tons of wheat, which is sufficient to meet the annual consumption needs of more than 888,000 people.

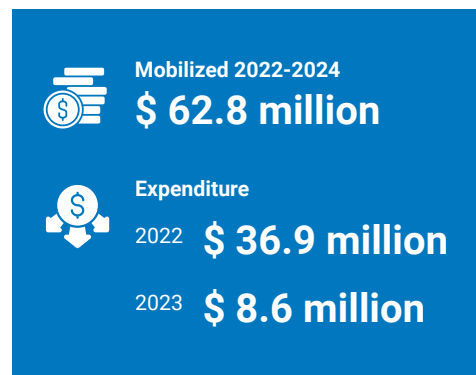
The UN provided 78 agribusinesses with generators in nine regions to ensure food processing could continue during the extensive energy cuts experienced in 2023. Ensuring stable energy supply in the fish farming, aquaculture, animal and vegetable processing sectors and bakeries in rural communities ensured continued production, safeguarded food security, employment and incomes. In communities close to the frontline the continued functioning of these small businesses was critical to ensuring a food supply to the most vulnerable.

The UN's work on grain storage continued from the adoption of the national strategy in 2022. In 2023, 1,947 grain sleeves capable of storing 389,400 metric tons of grain were distributed to 83 farmers. Furthermore, 64 service operators were supported with 102 sets of equipment comprising one loader, one unloader, and one bunker for loading and unloading grain into and out of sleeves. Each set is intended to service 292 grain sleeves beneficiaries.

With the support mobilized since 2022, it was agreed with the Government of Ukraine to continue the deployment of temporal solutions of storage for smallholder farmers in Ukraine until December 2024. For this reason, planned interventions such as distribution of Modular Storage Units and increased capacity building of the crop and veterinary laboratory networks will continue in 2024, complementing government efforts to improve production, logistics, food safety and trade capacities. Such support is essential to facilitate improved access of producers and traders to national and international markets.

Under the Grain from Ukraine initiative, 130,000 metric tons of Ukrainian grain was donated to UN humanitarian operations in Ethiopia, Somalia and Yemen, including 86,000 metric tons of grain directly contributed by the Government of Ukraine. The initiative allowed much needed humanitarian food assistance to reach countries in severe food crisis despite the export challenges caused by the war. The UN also supported refurbishment and modernization of the river port of Izmail in order to increase export of Ukrainian food products through the Danube River and support the agribusiness value chain.

 **5,959,200**
metric tons of grain and oilseeds in new or rehabilitated storage



UNOPS

UNECE



TRENDS

- The agricultural sector continues to be amongst the most significantly affected by war damage and losses. This impacts not only Ukraine's food security but also global food security.

CHALLENGES

- There are severe long-term negative ramifications for agricultural production caused by occupation of arable land, mine contamination, decreasing quality of grain, increase in logistics and transport costs, lack of access to export routes and loss of profitability for agribusinesses.



Kamyanka, Kharkivska Oblast

September 2023

Russia's invasion forced Tetiana's to flee her home and leave behind her farm in March 2022. She managed to return one year later just to find out that her land was contaminated by mines and other explosive remnants of the war. She could produce some fruits, but not enough. She was selected to receive support from WFP and FAO to safely resume work on her farm, and she is optimistic that her village will come back to life.

Photo: WFP / Antoine Vallas

FOCUS IN 2024:

- Scale up support to farmers, rural households, and small and medium size agribusiness, including with grants, agricultural inputs and new technology.
- Support transport and logistics to bring Ukrainian agricultural products to global markets.

Livelihoods and Private Sector Support

During 2023 the UN focused on continued support to small and medium sized enterprises as key factors for local economic development and community recovery. UN entities supported the private sector with financial grants, business trainings, coaching and mentoring; technical assistance related to exports, logistics, e-commerce, and quality certifications; and diaspora engagement to access new markets and foster trade with Ukraine.

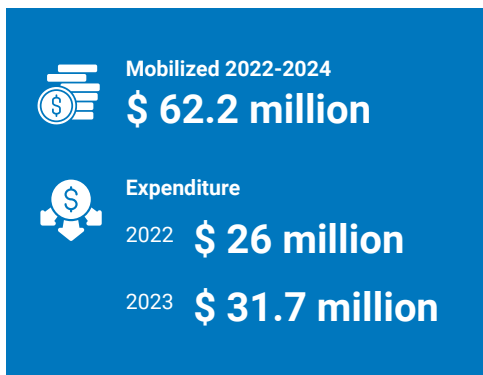
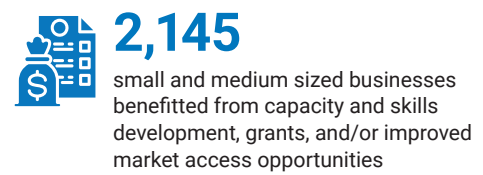
In Lviv, a Centre for Relocated Businesses was established, and support was provided to two producers of prosthetics and rehabilitation equipment that had relocated from war-affected regions. These businesses now support the National Rehabilitation Centre “Nezlamni/Unbroken” and provide rapid adjustment services to patients.

Businesses that had been previously supported in early 2022 to relocate from the east of Ukraine were also supported in 2023 to re-establish their presence and operations in the east, and supply goods and services to communities that would otherwise not be served. A significant constraint for the private sector in 2023 was reliable access to energy given Russia’s widespread attacks on critical infrastructure. The UN provided small and medium businesses in frontline communities with generators so that they could continue working.

Developing human capital, including skills training and entrepreneurship training and job fairs scaled up in 2023 with a focus on women, IDPs and people with disabilities. One example was a vocational retraining program that created a network of 30 Vocational Education and Training (VET) institutions in 20 cities across six regions that mobilized 57 mentors from 50 enterprises. There were 506 participants in the programme, of whom 45 percent were women. The participants gained new skills in 23 different professions and 65 percent of the graduates went on to new employment.

Media businesses in frontline communities were also supported to continue functioning and serve their communities as important sources of local information. More than 100 print and digital media outlets were provided with business management support, grants and generators. Cultural livelihoods also continued with 55 displaced artists hosted in 13 institutions to continue their work.

6 media solidarity centres throughout the country (Kharkiv, Dnipro, Zaporizhzhia, Kyiv, Lviv, Ivano-Frankivsk) supported and 200 journalists were provided with cash grants to support their livelihood and their ability to continue working.



TRENDS

- The private sector demonstrated impressive resilience in 2023 in the face of energy constraints and population displacement.

CHALLENGES

- The mismatch between available jobs and existing skillsets continues and will have a negative impact if not addressed as part of a holistic human capital strategy.
- Women’s unpaid burden in the care sector is a key factor negatively affecting their labor force participation.



FOCUS IN 2024:

- Human capital development and increasing labour productivity, inclusivity and social cohesion, with particular focus on youth, women, IDPs, people with disabilities and reintegration of veterans.
- Developing the care sector and the accessibility of workplaces.

UN Procurement in Support of Local Economic Growth

The scale of destruction in Ukraine is so large that reconstruction and recovery cannot rely on national and international public funds alone. Supporting the private sector in Ukraine while also attracting international private investments continues to be critical. In 2022 the UN spent more than US\$300 million through national businesses in Ukraine and in 2023 this increased to more than US\$585 million.

In order to increase the share of procurement through national businesses, during 2023 the UN organized two vendor fairs in Kyiv and Odesa in order to raise awareness among Ukrainian small and medium sized businesses of how to apply to UN tenders and procurement bids. More than 1,000 Ukrainian businesses participated in these fairs, including targeted women-owned small businesses.

A bakery owner in Mykolaiv, Alyona, participated in the fair and shared her experience and lessons with other Ukrainian businesses of how to prepare technical and financial proposals for UN procurement tenders, as she had successfully won a contract with the UN for bread production. At the end of 2022 her bakery was barely surviving due to the lack of electricity caused by Russia's attacks on energy infrastructure and the reduced demand caused by the population displacement away from

the region. The new contract with the UN significantly increased her production and helped the bakery stay in business, expand production and create new job opportunities.

The bread from this bakery in Mykolaiv was a critical element of the supply chain providing lifesaving food assistance to residents of Mykolaiv and Kherson regions, where many families during 2022 and 2023 did not have access to electricity or gas to cook. In June 2023, when tens of thousands of Ukrainians were displaced and affected by the destruction of the Kakhovka dam and the resulting massive flooding, the bakery was able to increase production for the UN to be able to distribute food to the new affected population.

Alyona's bakery has now grown to employ 300 employees, 60 percent of whom are women.

Looking forward, the UN is working to contract an increased number of small businesses closer to frontline communities to improve provision of goods and services to vulnerable communities, stimulate job creation, and move assistance closer to where it is needed. Vendor fairs are planned in 2024 in Dnipro and Kharkiv.


Energy and Environment


The UN was a key partner to the Government in 2023 for the rehabilitation of damaged energy infrastructure and preparations for the new heating season. Russian missile strikes on energy infrastructure during the winter season 2022-2023 left many communities with limited electricity and heating. The UN supported the reconstruction, decentralization and modernization of the energy and heating grid. This included the provision of 39 biofuel heat boilers for critical infrastructure sites, such as schools, hospitals, community centres, municipal and government buildings. These boilers significantly contribute to Ukraine’s renewable energy portfolio by utilizing waste from crops common in Ukraine (grain, sunflowers, rapeseed, timber). Biomass has been used to produce 20,000 kW of thermal energy in seven regions.


The UN is also supporting the Government to modernize district heating by moving away from large centralized municipal gas heating plants and towards smaller, decentralized, modern and energy efficient systems located in communities. 10 decentralized gas heating plants were constructed providing 19.6 MW of thermal energy. The UN also constructed 13 new decentralized district level co-generation heating and electricity plants. Cogeneration is the use of a power station to generate electricity and useful heat simultaneously. Benefits include lower operational costs, increased self-sufficiency, and a 30 percent reduction in CO2 emissions. Cogeneration plants also produced winter heating for schools and hospitals through the same power system that delivered drinking water. The energy efficiency of these district co-generation plants is 95 percent, as opposed to the old plants they replaced, that were only 35 percent efficient.


The UN also procured and transported to Ukraine two new autotransformers (330kV, 220MVA) to ensure the delivery of electricity from high-voltage lines to the local distribution networks; repaired cabling to connect high-capacity generators to local networks; piloted eight new solar panel renewable energy drinking water plants; and supported the modernization and upgrading of 44 old municipal heat departments to create energy savings. In total more than six million people benefited from new energy infrastructure.


Significant institutional capacity strengthening on ISO standards for energy management systems was provided to the State Agency for Energy Efficiency and Energy Savings and technical assistance was provided to support the operationalization of the State Decarbonization and Energy Efficiency Transformation Fund. This fund will be an important mechanism in the future for increasing energy savings and efficiency, economic competitiveness and green recovery.

 **335,272**
households benefited from repair and maintenance of central heating systems

 **520**
sustainable energy supply and savings solutions implemented

 **6 million**
individuals benefited from new, upgraded or repaired energy infrastructure

 **Mobilized 2022-2024**
\$ 132.8 million

 **Expenditure**

2022 **\$ 3.7 million**

2023 **\$ 73.7 million**



In the context of a fragile energy grid the UN supported business and industry to increase energy efficiency and savings in order to improve stability of limited energy reserves. More than 30 million kWh per year of energy savings were identified by industrial partners that received ISO energy management certification. The UN also partnered with Ukrgasbank to establish a Loan Guarantee Fund, which issued its first loans in 2023 to industrial enterprises to improve their energy efficiency.

Significant environmental damage was caused by the war during 2023 and monitored by the UN, including through the assessment of the impact of the destruction of the Kakhovka Dam. This includes irreversible damage to forests, soil, plants and animals that will have long term impacts on ecosystems and human health. The UN has partnered with an environmental civil society monitoring group to monitor the impact of the war. Data is shared by communities, experts, remote sensing and geospatial analysis. The online mapping shows damages to industrial sites, critical infrastructure and protected areas, tracks forest fires and flooded areas and identifies other impacts of war. This Ecodozor platform is public, with the goal of supporting a data driven approach to green recovery and reconstruction.

FOCUS IN 2024:

- Construction of decentralized and modern energy generation, improving energy efficiency and increasing the use of renewables, especially solar generation.
- Mainstreaming environmental considerations into national and sub-national recovery and reconstruction plans.

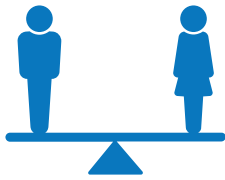
TRENDS

- Access to heating and electricity has stabilized in most parts of the country. Energy access still remains difficult in frontline communities.
- The environmental damage caused by the war continues to steadily climb and will have a generational impact.

CHALLENGES

- Gap in the needed human capital and skills for green recovery and modern energy solutions, especially at the sub-national level.

Gender Equality and Human Rights



Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment

During 2023, the UN supported the Government of Ukraine to adopt key policy and legislative documents on gender equality and women's empowerment. This included the Strategy on Closing the Gender Pay Gap (along with its Operational Plan of Action) and a number of legal amendments related to preventing and responding to gender-based violence as part of Ukraine's efforts to align its national legislation with the Istanbul Convention. The Government has also established a Gender-Responsive Recovery Platform to improve policy dialogue with women's civil society and gender equality advocates.

The UN engaged directly with women's civil society and Roma women's organizations to strengthen a gender perspective and non-discrimination efforts in recovery programming. The new Ukraine Community Recovery Fund includes gender equality as a cross cutting programmatic principle to guide all investments.

Through the UN's Women's Peace and Humanitarian Fund (WPHF), US\$8.5 million was allocated to 34 women-led civil society organizations, making WPHF one of the biggest feminist funds in Ukraine. Through this funding over 39,000 women and girls received hygiene kits, medication, legal aid, psychological support and referrals to other essential services. The WPHF also supported economic recovery and women's livelihoods, especially for IDP women and women from rural households.



Human Rights

In 2023, the UN actively promoted the integration of international human rights and humanitarian standards into Ukrainian legislation.

The UN contributed to the development of the amendments to the National Human Rights Strategy, which addressed the emerging challenges following the full-scale invasion. Following the President of Ukraine's adoption of the updated National Human Rights Strategy, the UN will continue to work with the Ministry of Justice to develop the new Human Rights Action Plan for 2024-2026.

In September and December, Parliament adopted legislative amendments on the rights of national minorities in Ukraine. The UN provided Parliament with an analysis of the compliance of Ukrainian legislation on national minorities with international human rights standards. Several recommendations issued by the UN significantly improved the linguistic rights of national minorities in Ukraine.

5. Partnerships and Financing for Recovery

Ukraine Recovery Conference 2023: The URC 2023 in London convened a range of stakeholders for substantive discussions and expressions of support for Ukraine's recovery and reforms. Many UN agencies participated in the conference and supported the co-organizers to include in the programme issues of inclusive community recovery and the human impact of the war. The UN agencies played convening roles in the business marketplace connecting private sector partners; supported civil society and hromada partners to travel to London and have their voices heard in the discussions; and organized side events on gender responsive recovery, transparency and accountability, and care for children.

Recovery Coordination: The development partners continued to convene during 2023 in the Heads of Cooperation format, co-chaired by the EU and the UN, to support the Government of Ukraine's efforts on reconstruction, recovery and reforms. A particular focus in 2023 for this group was advocacy for continuation of the decentralization reforms and the capacity strengthening of local authorities to lead community recovery initiatives. The Ministry for Restoration adopted by the end of the year a new Decentralization Roadmap and launched the updating of the State Strategy for Regional Development and partnered with the HOC through the Ministry Coordination Council on Regional Policy.

Ukraine Community Recovery Fund: In June 2023, at the London URC, the UN and the Ministry for Restoration presented a new Ukraine Community Recovery Fund to establish the conditions for Ukrainians to return to their homes and rebuild their lives.

Denmark was the first contributor to the Fund, followed by Luxembourg and South Korea. In December 2023, the Fund Steering Committee, chaired by the UN Resident Coordinator and the Vice Prime Minister for Restoration, made the first strategic allocations for almost US\$5 million to vulnerable communities in the Sumy region for interventions focused on agriculture and local economic development; while under the Mine Action window, US\$1.25 million was

allocated to supporting the infrastructure needs of the State Emergency Service of Ukraine in order to strengthen community demining.

The Community Recovery Fund invests in reconstruction of housing, energy, social infrastructure, demining, and support to livelihoods and local economic development, combined with targeted capacity strengthening for essential service provision and community mobilization. These interventions as a holistic package create conducive conditions for communities to recovery and people to rebuild their lives.

“The UN is not losing sight of humanitarian needs, challenges, and daily attacks that significantly affect the civilian population. At the same time, we are seeing that people want to return to their communities where that is possible. This is why the Recovery Fund has been launched – to provide an important push for housing and infrastructure reconstruction and demining, along with new livelihoods and support for the economic development of communities affected by the Russian invasion,” said UN Resident Coordinator in Ukraine **Denise Brown**. “I am grateful to the governments that have already contributed to the Fund, and I call on others to join this critical initiative.”

Denise Brown

Resident Coordinator
United Nations in Ukraine

6. Lessons Learned

Nexus Approach: The recovery process in Ukraine is not linear. While a pivotal shift was made in 2023 towards recovery the context continues to be unpredictable and challenging and flexibility is still required. Humanitarian, recovery, development and social cohesion efforts are all ongoing in parallel and need to be linked and planned jointly. This nexus approach came to the forefront in 2023 and will be central to the UN's efforts in 2024.

Policy Reforms: The Government of Ukraine is highly motivated to strengthen its systems and capacities and recognizes the UN as a key strategic partner for policy advice. There was significant cooperation with the Government in 2023 to achieve key policy reforms from a human rights-based approach and a "leave no one behind" approach. As the Government and EC plan to finalize the acquis negotiation framework in 2024, the UN's technical policy advice on achieving progress against SDG targets is more relevant than ever, even despite the ongoing war.

Civil Society: National civil society is a key constituency in advocating for inclusive recovery and development, as well as providing oversight and holding Government and other partners accountable. This includes a wide range of organizations such as women's rights organizations, IDP councils, youth organizations, organizations of people with disabilities, and many others. The UN's engagement with civil society is critical for strengthening their capacity to meaningfully participate in decision making, monitor and protect human rights, and engage in policy advocacy and organize as a constituency for inclusive recovery.

Coordination: An effective, nationally led, coordination architecture for recovery efforts is critical and must also take a strategic nexus approach. In the absence of a national recovery strategy, coordination structures are critical for maintaining coherence of recovery efforts by all development partners.

Sub-National Capacity: Ukraine's decentralization reform means that local-level partnerships are central to the recovery process. Hromada authorities, community-based organizations and local small businesses must all be engaged, and the development of local-level capacity is a key element to achieving inclusive community recovery. The UN is one of the only partners physically present in communities across the country and must leverage its presence in support of capacity strengthening of local partners.



Photo: Artem Poznanskyi / UNDP in Ukraine

7. UN in Ukraine Key Focus 2024

In 2024, the UN in Ukraine's focus continues to be on delivering the life-saving assistance outlined in the Humanitarian Needs and Response Plan 2024 and implementing priorities of community recovery, durable solutions and strengthening systems as outlined in the UN Ukraine Transitional Framework 2024 and in line with the recovery priorities of the Government of Ukraine.

During 2024, the UN will also work with the Government on a five-year Cooperation Framework 2025-2029 that aligns to the national priorities and the Sustainable Development Goals.

Specific focus for joint UN efforts in 2024 will be on inclusive community recovery and human capital.

Inclusive Community Recovery



Investments will be based on community-driven, evidence-based, inclusive planning processes, which identify the priorities and needs of all community members, including marginalized and/or vulnerable populations. Housing, energy, demining, social and critical infrastructure and local economic development initiatives will be underpinned by continued capacity strengthening of local authorities, community mobilization and support for decentralization reform. Given the extent of population displacement, the UN's efforts also put durable solutions at the heart of community recovery and promote social inclusion and cohesion.



Photo: UNDP in Ukraine

Human Capital



Ukraine's recovery depends on its people. Joint efforts of the UN in 2024 will focus on advancing a holistic view of human capital – investments towards human development with the goal of ensuring that all people in Ukraine can contribute to, and benefit from, recovery, reconstruction and reform efforts.

UN entities will strengthen their joint work in areas such as education, health, social protection, mental health, care, disability inclusion, integration of IDPs, returnees and veterans, gender equality and women's empowerment, reducing regional disparities and supporting rural households. All of these elements are critical in positioning Ukraine's human capital for economic growth, EU integration and progress on the Sustainable Development Goals.

Concrete investments include priority policy reforms to build resilient systems and ensure access to services; skills development to build an inclusive workforce with capacity and resources to advance recovery and reforms; and a national demographic strategy that addresses the realities of Ukraine's population displacement.

Key Results of Humanitarian Response 2023

In 2023, humanitarian needs in Ukraine continued to deepen across the country and especially in front-line communities, as the war caused further destruction, displacement and immense suffering. In response, the United Nations, with international and national humanitarian NGOs, the Ukrainian Government and local volunteer networks, continued scaling-up their operations to mount an effective coordinated humanitarian response.

To address the escalating needs, the UN and its partners launched the 2023 Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP). This plan was organized around two main strategic objectives: provide principled and timely multi-sectoral life-saving assistance to and to enable access to basic services for internally displaced people, non-displaced people and returnees ensuring their safety and dignity. Altogether, across clusters, the plan focused on providing life-saving assistance for 11.1 million people. Stemming from the HRP, the Winter Response Plan for 2023-2024 was issued in the second half of the year to support early interventions to ensure warm, safe and dignified living conditions for the affected people during the second winter since the Russian Federation's invasion of Ukraine.

Throughout the year, humanitarian partners provided aid which included repairs materials, water, hygiene and sanitation, food, warm clothing, fuel for heating, medical supplies, education services, legal services, psychosocial support and other protection services, including response to gender-based violence. The use of cash in the humanitarian response, including sectoral and multi-purpose cash assistance, has been a cornerstone of the humanitarian response strategy in Ukraine. By December 2023, the United Nations and humanitarian partners had reached 11 million people and raised nearly 70 per cent of the US\$3.9 billion funding required. The humanitarian response in 2023 remained agile

and flexible to respond to unforeseen emergencies such as the Kakhovka Dam destruction, in early June. Also, 1.7 million people received winter-specific aid, countering the effects of continuous attacks, including winter attacks on energy and critical infrastructure, when the temperatures across Ukraine drop below zero.

In addition to the provision of regular programming through a range of multisectoral activities in priority locations, inter-agency convoys were organized to reach people remaining in front-line areas. Throughout the year, the UN and its partners conducted a total of 107 such convoys, delivering essential supplies to nearly 400,000 people.

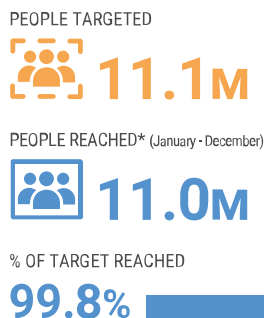
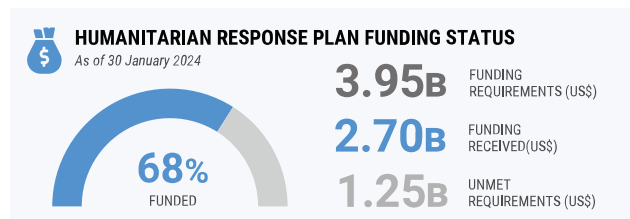
Despite increased collaboration, with nearly 600 organizations involved in the coordination of the humanitarian response in 2023, including more than 400 national NGOs, significant challenges hampered the humanitarian operations. In 2023, 227 incidents affected humanitarian activities, including violence against aid workers and damage to humanitarian facilities. At least 15 aid workers were killed and another 35 injured. Restrictions on humanitarian access further complicated the response, particularly in areas occupied by the Russian Federation.

The humanitarian response in Ukraine receiving approximately 70 per cent of the required US\$3.9 billion for the 2023 HRP thanks to the generosity of contributing donors. Furthermore, in 2023, the Ukraine Humanitarian Fund the world's largest Country-Based Pooled Fund (CBPF), was instrumental in funding time-sensitive interventions throughout the year. Notably, in response to the devastating consequences of the second year of the war, the Fund, under the leadership of the Humanitarian Coordinator, allocated \$181 million across three allocations.

The humanitarian community continued exploring ways to make the humanitarian response more agile, flexible and locally driven. Notably, the shift to developing a joint Humanitarian Needs and Response Plan (HNRP) in 2024, ensuring a robust assessment of humanitarian needs articulated with the response, represented a significant step. Efforts to deepen the participation of local actors and bring accountability to the affected people at the core of the response were among key priorities, as well as supporting the engagement with the development community through notably development in parallel of the 2024 HNRP with the second pillar of the Transition Framework.

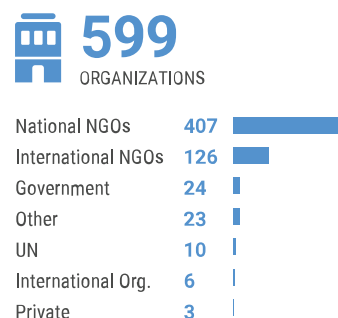
The collaborative efforts of the UN, partner organizations and volunteer groups, backed by significant funding, helped reach millions in need despite the war's complexities which continued to wreak havoc in Ukraine.

For further information, please refer to the [Ukraine Humanitarian Response and Funding Snapshot](#) for details on key achievements in 2023.



People Reached by Population Group

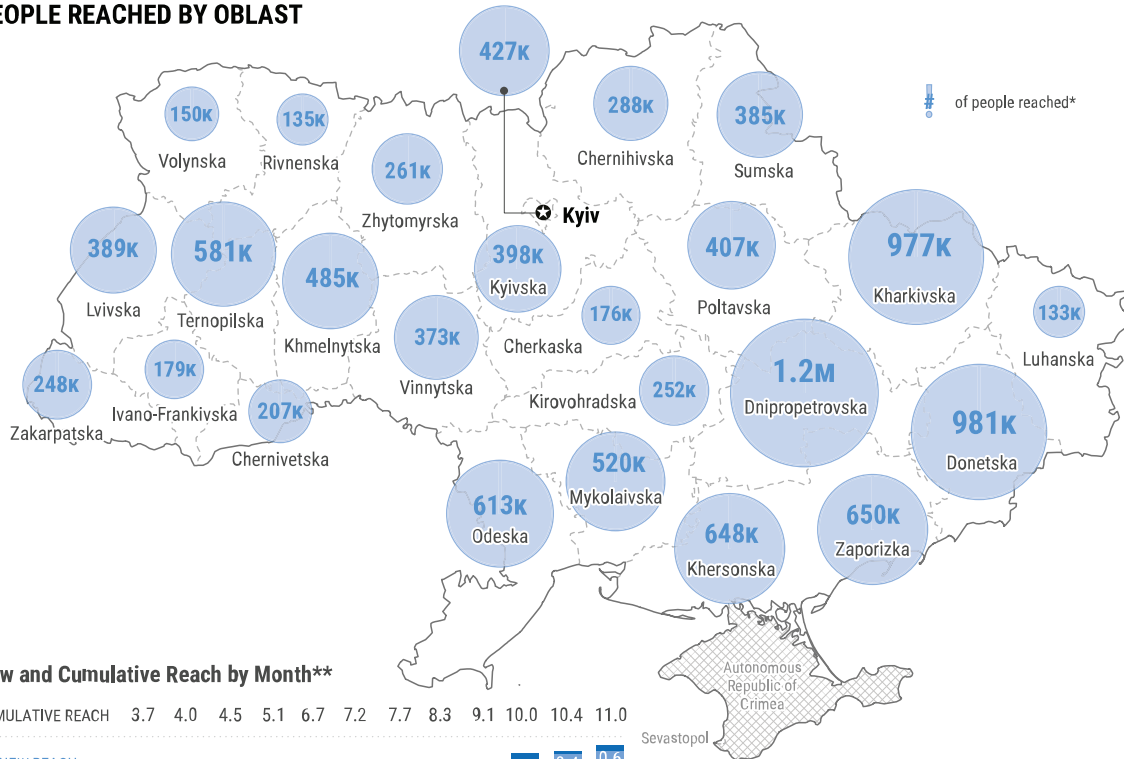
	PEOPLE TARGETED	PEOPLE REACHED	% OF TARGET REACHED
Internally Displaced People	3.8M	4.0M	>100%
Non-Displaced People	4.8M	5.2M	>100%
Returnees	2.5M	1.9M	75%



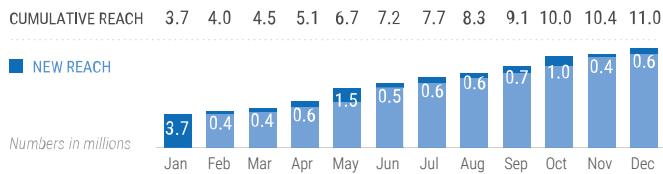
PEOPLE REACHED BY CLUSTER

CLUSTER/SECTOR	PEOPLE TARGETED	PEOPLE REACHED	TARGET	REACH	% OF TARGETED REACHED
Camp Coordination & Camp Management	0.4M	89K	22%		22%
Education	2.7M	2.5M	93%		93%
Food Security & Livelihoods	5.4M	4.1M	77%		77%
Health	7.8M	7.6M	97%		97%
General Protection	4.4M	2.2M	51%		51%
Child Protection	3.0M	3.0M	99%		99%
Gender-Based Violence	1.2M	1.6M	>100%		>100%
Mine Action	3.0M	1.2M	40%		40%
Shelter & Non-Food Items	3.3M	4.0M	>100%		>100%
Water, Sanitation & Hygiene	7.6M	6.8M	89%		89%
Multi-Purpose Cash Assistance	4.4M	3.9M	88%		88%

PEOPLE REACHED BY OBLAST



New and Cumulative Reach by Month**



HRP FUNDING OVERVIEW BY CLUSTER

Numbers in US\$

CLUSTER/SECTOR	REQUIREMENTS	FUNDING RECEIVED	% COVERAGE	FUNDING GAP
Camp Coordination & Camp Management	31.2M	\$2.1M	7%	\$29.2M
Education	154.5M	\$109.4M	71%	\$45.1M
Food Security & Livelihoods	993.9M	\$427.0M	43%	\$566.9M
Health	307.4M	\$236.6M	77%	\$70.8M
General Protection	165.6M	\$119.5M	72%	\$46.1M
Child Protection	165.1M	\$43.9M	27%	\$121.2M
Gender-Based Violence	64.9M	\$21.5M	33%	\$43.3M
Mine Action	99.6M	\$46.7M	47%	\$52.9M
Shelter & Non-Food Items	525.1M	\$234.3M	45%	\$290.8M
Water, Sanitation & Hygiene	452.4M	\$187.2M	41%	\$265.2M
Multi-Purpose Cash Assistance	958.6M	\$731.2M	76%	\$227.4M
Coordination/Logistics/Emergency Telecommunications	27.3M	\$38.9M	>100%	-
Multi-sector/Not Reported/Unspecified	-	\$500.9M	-	-



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