

INSTITUTE FOR ECONOMIC RESEARCH AND POLICY CONSULTING
IN PARTNERSHIP WITH EQUAL RIGHTS & INDEPENDENT MEDIA



SUCCESS STORIES BOOK

Emergency support for civil society and media
in response to the war in Ukraine

Success stories book



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The collection features success stories gathered by the grantees of the project "Emergency Support for Civil Society and Media in Response to the War in Ukraine," implemented by the Institute for Economic Research and Policy Consulting in partnership with the French non-governmental organization ERIM, funded by the European Union.

The book tells the stories of the grantees of the project "Emergency Support for Civil Society and Media in Response to the War in Ukraine": NGOs such as "SUVIATO", "CNOD South", "Another Woman", "Safety and Welfare", "Women Hearts of Zarichne", "Rise of Ukraine", "Students of Dnipro", "Zmist Poltava", "Law and Democracy", "Against Corruption", "Institute of Analysis and Advocacy", "Ukrainian Marketing Association", "Association of Responsible Citizens", "European Dialogue", and "Zmist Analytical Center".

This publication was prepared within the project "Emergency Support for Civil Society and Media in Response to the War in Ukraine," in partnership with the non-governmental organization ERIM, supported by the European Union and implemented by the w. The mission of the Institute is to propose and promote solutions for prosperity and sustainable development based on principles of market economy, freedom, and open dialogue.

The content of this publication does not reflect the views of the European Union in no way.

The collection is released the both Ukrainian and English languages in electronic and printed formats. The electronic version is available on the IER website at <http://www.ier.com.ua>. IER allows dissemination of texts with reference to the source. We welcome feedback on the materials included in IER publications.

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for civil society and media in response
to the war in Ukraine

Kyiv 2024

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Foreword

This collection presents success stories of the winners of four grant competitions conducted within the project "Emergency Support for Civil Society and Media in Response to the War in Ukraine." The project was implemented by the Institute for Economic Research and Policy Consulting in partnership with the non-governmental organization ERIM, with financial support from the European Union.

The Institute for Economic Research and Policy Consulting (IER) is an independent Ukrainian analytical center founded in 1999, specializing in economic analysis, developing recommendations, and fostering civil society development in Ukraine.

IER's mission is to propose and promote solutions for sustainable development based on principles of market economy, freedom, and open dialogue.

The project "Emergency Support for Civil Society and Media in Response to the War in Ukraine" began in 2022. Its purpose is to provide emergency support and development the short-term and medium-term capacity building of Ukrainian NGOs and analytical centers affected by the Russian invasion of Ukraine.

This collection features success stories of grantees dedicated to projects on various topics: psychological support for people during the war, training courses on providing pre-medical assistance, support for internally displaced persons and facilitating their integration into host communities, extracurricular education for IDP's children who left occupied territories of Ukraine, support for civilians in frontline communities and those on the front lines, humanitarian hub support, conducting surveys on the social and economic situation of IDPs and condition of infrastructure reconstruction damaged due to Russian invasion.

This collection is the result of the work of 15 grantees. The stories cover socially significant projects which are ensuring the resilience of Ukrainian society during the war.

*Project coordinator
of "Emergency Support for Civil Society
and Media in Response to the War in Ukraine"*

Tetiana Blyzniuk

Meeting the urgent needs of those who affected by the war

Establishing a circle of mutual support



With a sharp increase in volunteer initiatives in Vinnytsia region the women who are leaders in their communities was led the local movement as a response to the armed aggression of the Russian Federation. They were able to organize groups of concerned citizens to help both civilians, IDPs, and the military. The emotional exhaustion of women-volunteers and their lack of skills to recover their own

resources became visible after a year of intensive work helping the military on the front line, providing humanitarian aid to internally displaced persons, and supporting low-income families.

At the same time, the number of soldiers gradually returning after participation in hostilities or undergoing treatment in the Vinnytsia region has increased dramatically, and there was a great need to understand the specifics of interaction with them, create effective communication and the search of high quality solutions for their further support.

«The Union of ATO Participants, Veterans, and Disabled Veterans» public organisation since 2014 has been providing social adaptation services to combatants and members of their families. The team has organized training for volunteers and professionals to conduct classes with



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Project manager of the “Support for Women Leaders of Volunteer Initiatives in Vinnytsia Region. Psychoeducation Course” **Olha**

Kharkina says: «For women who are the leaders of volunteer initiatives is important to learn how to prevent emotional burnout, because after a year of intensive work, we ourselves felt that there was a need for knowledge on how to restore our own resources, as well as a demand for competent advice on effective interaction with the military and communication skills with them,”



this target group, so they were aware of the specifics and peculiarities of interaction.

The main target group of the project submitted for the grant were women leaders of local volunteer initiatives in the Vinnytsia region and the groups they lead or coordinate (also mostly women, including militarys' wives).

Project manager of the "Support for Women Leaders of Volunteer Initiatives in Vinnytsia Region. Psychoeducation Course" **Olha Kharkina** says: «For women who are the leaders of volunteer initiatives is important to learn

how to prevent emotional burnout, because after a year of intensive work, we ourselves felt that there was a need for knowledge on how to restore our own resources, as well as a demand for competent advice on effective interaction with the military and communication skills with them,"

With the help of the received grant for "Support for Women Leaders of Volunteer Initiatives in Vinnytsia Region» project the «SUVIATO» Public organisation» was able to hold a series of psychoeducational events consisted of 3 offline trainings for 25 women

who are the leaders in Vinnytsia community and 6 online lectures available to the general public.

"We raised the issue of psycho-emotional burnout among those who help. We believe that for the development of society, it is necessary to create a working circle where every citizen: the one who is fighting, the volunteer, the internally displaced person and other civilians can provide support and assistance to each other. This can be achieved through such educational and practical activities that provide tools for communication, self-help and self-defence," — Olga Kharkina considers.

According to Olga Kharkina, the involvement of every citizen in a circle of mutual support is the key to the sustainability and growth of our society. Support and cooperation is the same force that helps our society to go through all the trials of today war. ■

Teach to save lives

Residents of frontline and de-occupied communities in the Mykolaiv region face numerous serious security issues related to full-scale war: the closeness of settlements to combat zones, living near mined areas. The risk of sustaining physical injuries or being present during others' injuries unfortunately is much higher next to the frontline communities than in communities far from the front lines.

The idea behind establishing "The South" Adult Education and Training Center was to involve more people residing in frontline and de-occupied communities in acquiring knowledge and skills

in pre-medical assistance from professional trainers.

Before the full-scale war, the organization had already implemented educational courses on pre-medical assistance and formed an informal training club

within the NGO consisting of representatives from medical institutions, police, and pharmaceutical companies. Since the beginning of the full-scale war, CNOD "South" started to conduct training programs for





the residents of Mykolaiv city and territorial communities of Mykolaiv region.

The project manager of "Providing Pre-medical Assistance to Victims in Combat Zones" at NGO "CNOD South", **Iryna Bayeva**, tells that at the beginning of the major war, the team felt confused and unsure in properly assistance to people who stayed in a war zone. However, they started receiving requests for pre-

medical assistance courses. Since the organization already had experience with such courses, they decided to focus precisely on this direction.

"The war and shelling have deeply affected us. The community where I lived is located between the Mykolaiv and Kherson regions, and Russian troops passed directly through it. Then my village became the first front line. So even though we

returned to Mykolaiv, I can't move back home," **Iryna Bayeva** shared. "There was a great demand from communities that were occupied or are near the front lines for getting knowledge on how to behave, how to provide first aid to the injured during active combat operations near Mykolaiv in 2023."

Implementation of the project helped the organization to continue its educational and humanitarian activities for civilians in communities that are in close proximity to combat zones, as well as in de-occupied communities.

Thanks to the grant funding, the NGO "Adult Education and Training Center South" improved its material, technical, and methodological base, and acquired equipment for independent conduct of pre-medical assistance courses. The organization's trainers

developed three educational programs for the course.

As a result of CNOD "The South" project successfully conducted 20 training courses, and 224 residents from nine communities in the Mykolaiv region mastered the methods of providing pre-medical assistance in combat situations. In difficult situations, they

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*The project manager of "Providing Pre-medical Assistance to Victims in Combat Zones" at NGO "CNOD South", **Iryna Bayeva**, tells that at the beginning of the major war, the team felt confused and unsure in properly assistance to people who stayed in a war zone.*



will be able to react correctly to personal physical injuries or injuries of others. The organization has created effective channels of interaction for further collaboration between the public and local government bodies regarding the organization of training for the civilian population in frontline communities. Most importantly, more people have gained valuable knowledge that can save the lives of our fellow citizens. ■

To be close when it is necessary

After the prolonged occupation of communities in the Kherson region, the destruction of infrastructure, roads, and



residential buildings, the population in these areas remains without full access to food, medication, and essential items. People often find themselves under shelling. Children who continue to live there require necessary educational tools and development resources, such as school supplies, books, educational games, etc. While most organizations and funds providing aid are active in the city of Kherson, assistance barely reaches the areas under partial shelling. However, civilian populations still reside there, so supporting people in these territories is vital.

The "RAISE OF UKRAINE Foundation" has organized a team and developed the necessary resources to conduct humanitarian missions into the liberated regions, mapping out logistical routes to reach the most heavily impacted communities in the Kherson region.

"We traveled to the de-occupied territories, and it was difficult and harrowing. Besides providing direct aid to the local residents, for us was the another crucial aspect of this project to showcase the world the issues existing in the de-occupied areas, to tell the story of what is happening there, and to witness



the reality of the people striving to survive," Timur Hirman the project manager of "Strangers in Familiar Lands" shared.

The humanitarian mission reinforcement "the Familiar Strangers" project enabled the NGO to reach more families from the most affected areas. Involving additional funding for individual food and medical kits, hygiene items,

and other necessary supplies, the project was able to assist approximately 1600 residents of the territorial communities of Berislav, Velykooleksandrivka, Vysokopillia, Tiahynka, Kalynivka, Novooleksandrivka, and Mylivka.

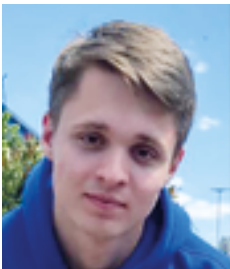
Another aspect of the project was assisting internally displaced persons (IDPs) in the city of Dnipro. People residing in shelters

in Dnipro were forced to leave their homes. To start a new life, these families need both humanitarian aid and other forms of support (psychological, legal, assistance with employment, etc.).

Most charitable foundations take care of individual IDP families, shelters where people continue to live since the beginning of the war, without permanent support and assistance. In the

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"We traveled to the de-occupied territories, and it was difficult and harrowing. Besides providing direct aid to the local residents, for us was the another crucial aspect of this project to showcase the world the issues existing in the de-occupied areas, to tell the story of what is happening there, and to witness the reality of the people striving to survive," **Timur Hirman** *the project manager of "Strangers in Familiar Lands"* shared.



Timur Hirman



project implementation process, the team provided not only assistance but also maintained communication with each family and identified their individual needs. In particular, 72 internally displaced persons received free legal and medical consultations.

"People displaced from eastern and southern regions

of Ukraine reside in shelters in the city of Dnipro. Our project provided them with medical and consulting assistance. Mostly, these are people with truly difficult personal stories. They all needed not only therapeutic or specialized medical care according to their health conditions, but in most cases, they also required

psychological support to share their experiences and talk to those who are ready to listen," **Timur Hirman** shared.

The main value of this project was that the team identified and found opportunities to help those people who often do not come into the spotlight of charitable foundations and organizations. By organizing humanitarian missions to the hard-to-reach, de-occupied communities in the Kherson region or assisting internally displaced persons in shelters in Dnipro, the project team gave these individuals the opportunity to feel that they have not been forgotten, that someone cares about them, and wants to help. Such collective support and assistance are the foundation for building a better, stronger, and more genuine society, where every citizen is important. ■

A new life for IDPs

The NGO "Another Woman" is one of the largest gender-oriented civil society organizations in Ukraine, with its own network consisted with eight branches inside the country and one of which is in Estonia also. Participants of the projects communicate and exchange experiences with women from the organization's branches across Ukraine at training sessions and often become mentors and trainers for new projects of the organization.

After the start of military actions in February 2024, "Another Woman" NGO's team in Poltava reoriented its activities to assist internally displaced persons. Organization's

volunteers carried out humanitarian, informational, educational, sports, and communication projects for IDPs and the local population during entire period of the full-scale invasion.

One of the primary non-material challenges for IDPs in the



NGO "Another Woman" was the need to establish sustainable and productive relationships between IDPs and local residents, as well as successful integration IDPs into the community's economy to which they were forced to relocate. Due to long-term stress and personal losses IDPs as usual have passive social adaptation to their new residence and have weak internal motivation due to the indefinite "temporary" duration of stay in new community. They attend events that do not touch upon their personal interests reluctantly.

However, the NGO "Another Woman" proposed an unconventional approach to addressing

this problem through a variety of event formats that cover all spheres of women's lives and needs, fostering deeper interest in building social connections.

"Every other of ten internally displaced women (IDPs) we interviewed after organizing events for them agreed that they

are missed for unifying, sporting, interesting atmospheric events that would allow them to distract themselves, overcome emotional stress, find support in groups, get in a positive mood, and acquire new skills for modern life under new conditions," project manager of "Women's Leadership

and Consolidation — Tools for Transformation in Ukraine" Hanna Demianenko, said. "People are confident that their success equals the average success of five individuals in their environment. That's why we proposed to create series of useful events of various thematic orientations to attract



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"Every other of ten internally displaced women (IDPs) we interviewed after organizing events for them agreed that they are missed for unifying, sporting, interesting atmospheric events that would allow them to distract themselves, overcome emotional stress, find support in groups, get in a positive mood, and acquire new skills for modern life under new conditions," *project manager of "Women's Leadership and Consolidation — Tools for Transformation in Ukraine"* **Hanna Demianenko**, said.



Hanna Demianenko

as many IDP women as possible, diverse in age, profession, and financial status."

As a result of implementing the project "Women's Leadership and Consolidation — Tools for Transformation in Ukraine," fifty IDP women participated in activities that promoted women's leadership and their involvement in decision-making at the local government level. A significant portion of the training focused on improving self-reliance in all areas of women's lives, from addressing household issues to boosting their self-confidence, including through enhancing their appearance. The engaging them to sport activities was found like one of the most effective methods for stress overcoming.

Within the project, both group and individual sessions with psychologists and coaches were conducted to enhance



self-presentation in the new environment. Women were engaged in training sessions covering topics such as financial security and literacy, career orientation, identifying external and internal resources, job search techniques, resume writing, self-employment opportunities, social entrepreneurship, and grant proposal writing.

Additionally, thanks to, the NGO "Another Women project" was able to carry out two advocacy campaigns titled "I Influence"

to involve representatives of internally displaced persons (IDP) organizations in shaping regional-level programs and policies to aid internally displaced persons.

The main value of this project lies in the fact that the women participants gained confidence in their own abilities and potential. Through active participation in various programs and trainings, they felt like more than just beneficiaries of charitable aid; they felt like active members of the community, ready to contribute to building a better future. This support enabled them to transition from the status of displaced persons to active participants in the social and economic life of their new place of residence, strengthening their belief in their own capabilities and the importance of contributing to community development. ■

Embrace those who have left their homes

Most of Zaporizhzhia region is currently occupied. A significant number of families from this area have moved to Zaporizhzhia. Adapting to a new life has become a great challenge for many of them. all this like New circumstances, solving household issues, finding

a job have become a burden on the shoulders of adults. However, children suffer no less than their parents. Uprooted from their familiar surroundings, far from their homes and friends, they also find it difficult to adapt to new living conditions. These families

often need psychological support and rehabilitation from that they have seen and experienced.

The Warm Palms Children's Hub was established in Zaporizhzhia by the NGO Health and Wellbeing as a response to the needs of displaced children from the occupied communities of Zaporizhzhia Oblast and their families. This hub has become a place of psychological recovery and development for more than fifty children aged 4 to 12, and their mothers, who need support and assistance. The grant we received for this project allowed us to extend the work of the children's hub for four months.



The project provided psychological support, group and individual sessions with children and their parents. The specialists of the Warm Palms children's hub carried out rehabilitation and educational activities: classes with a psychologist, preparing future first-graders for school, teaching them English and Ukrainian in a playful way, and involving them in sports activities. The children were able to renew communication with their peers and feel part of a community that understands their difficulties.

"We set the goal to create comfortable living conditions for the residents of our community. And this work was started thanks to our partners. The grant we received allowed us to continue our work. We created a dialogue platform for children and their mothers. During the playful lessons, children were

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At the same time, their mothers were overcoming psychological stress with the help of art therapy in another room. And they returned home cheerful and happy” — *Warm Palms Children's Hub project manager Oleksandr Panchenko told.*

distracted from the problems that surrounded them, communicated with each other, with new, interesting teachers, learned languages, and played sports. At the same time, their mothers were overcoming psychological stress with the help of art therapy in another room. And they returned home cheerful and happy” - Warm Palms Children's Hub project manager Oleksandr Panchenko told.

Thanks to support and a grant, the Warm Palms project turned

to a refuge for children and their families, where they could gain the strength to rebuild their lives in a new way and survive the departure from the occupation. Animators, teachers, and psychologists not only wrapped the children with their care, but also embraced the hearts of those who felt lost and are devastated after their homes' lost. This hub became a place where families found support from the community, felt understanding and hope that life would go on no matter what. ■

In unison with the community



Since the beginning of Russia's full-scale invasion into Ukraine, Komyshuvaska community of Zaporizhzhia district in Zaporizhzhia region found itself in a conflict zone. The civilian population, especially

its vulnerable groups, urgently needed humanitarian assistance.

The NGO "Women's Hearts of Zarychne," founded in 2019 with the purpose to support decentralization and improving the work of local self-government,

redirected its activities to provide urgent assistance to people in critical situations. Needs were monitored daily, recorded, and actively sought ways to help. Initially, they relied on their own resources, but when those were depleted, they sought support from international and Ukrainian funds.

"Here was our room until the building was bombed," Victoria Paleha, the head of the NGO "Women's Hearts of Zarychne," points to the ruined house. "We remain the only non-governmental organization that helps people in the conflict zone, and it is crucial for us to have a steady resource for

stable operations, quick response, and timely assistance to those in need. We realized that if we couldn't meet the needs, it could lead to a humanitarian crisis, where people wouldn't receive life-saving things. So, our main task was to respond quickly to challenges. And when our own resources ran out, we sought help," Victoria explained the motivation to initiate the "New Opportunities" project.

One of the main challenges for the organization's further activities was the acute need for resources: finances, fuel, vehicle repair and maintenance, expendable materials, office equipment renewal, staff salaries, and so on. The remoteness of community in 40 km far from the nearest post office, and the inability to cover postal expenses exacerbated the problem of delivering humanitarian aid.

The initiative of the organization to obtain a grant for the "New Opportunities" project was a significant step in ensuring stable provision of the most essential support for those who needed it the most. Thanks to the raised funds, the organization managed to assist around 3500 residents of the community. Medicines, medical equipment, bandaging materials, hygiene products, and food kits were purchased. About a hundred people received legal assistance. The purchase of a generator and diesel fuel enabled electricity provision approximately 200



people, including a child who was on a lung ventilation machine.

"This project not only allowed us to purchase necessary aid for residents of our community, but we also traveled to the children



"Here was our room until the building was bombed," **Victoria Paleha**, the head of the NGO *"Women's Hearts of Zarychne,"* points to the ruined house.



inclusive center in Zaporizhzhia city and to neighboring Vasilykiv community. We initially planned to assist around 2000 residents, but as a result we helped to greater amount of people nearly up to

3500. And the most important, we were able to deliver supplies and products to remote areas for elderly residents and those who couldn't come to the distribution point themselves. The funds

were enough to refuel and repair the vehicle. Additionally, the grant supported our institutional capacity, as we were able to receive minimal salaries, but now we've been working on a volunteer basis for the past four months," Victoria explained.

Continuing to work in the conflict zone with those who need the help most, the NGO "Women's Hearts of Zarychne" has become a pillar of support for its community. The organization's work is not only a testament to its willingness to assist but also a demonstration of deep dedication and responsibility to the community, which is under threat due to the ongoing conflict. The activities of the NGO "Women's Hearts of Zarychne" provide hope and support to those who need it most. ■

Aspire, act, change

In the Dnipropetrovsk region, there are more than 135,000 internally displaced persons. The region has welcomed Ukrainians who have left their homes in the Luhansk, Donetsk, and Kherson regions.

"Youth Hub Dnipro" is the One of the volunteer centers where IDPs and affected people or people who were in difficult situations due to the war can receive humanitarian assistance. The hub operates under the auspices of "Dnipro Student Community" the public organization which actively engages enthusiastic youth to volunteer activities.



The direction of assistance provided by the volunteer hub is to meet the urgent needs of people like food, hygiene products, clothing, childcare items, medicines though forming packages according to needs. This enables targeted assistance to everyone in need and reaches as many people as it is possible.

"It is extremely important that we also help those who have stayed in their homes near the front lines and take care of relatives who

cannot or do not want to leave. They remain at home in grave danger," Rafael Kizhner, project manager of "Youth Hub Dnipro" said. "Our task as volunteers and as a student community is to help these people survive and maintain their faith and hope. In this way, we remind them that they are not forgotten, that every Ukrainian is important for us. And it is important for them to feel like a part of Ukraine and to feel supported. Thanks to communication efforts, we even

manage to persuade many of them to evacuate."

The main problem in the operation of the "Youth Hub Dnipro" center was the insufficient number of people consistently and actively engaged in the work. Students worked at the hub on a voluntary basis, making it challenging to forecast the volume of work that needed to be completed within a certain timeframe, as the number of people involved to the work varied daily. This led to a decrease in the overall productivity of the volunteer hub's work and a reduction in the number of packages distributed, thus reducing the number of people receiving assistance.

The solution of this problem consisted in supporting the sustainability of the volunteer hub and ensuring the presence of permanent hired staff who work

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"It is extremely important that we also help those who have stayed in their homes near the front lines and take care of relatives who cannot or do not want to leave. They remain at home in grave danger," **Rafael Kizhner**, *project manager of "Youth Hub Dnipro" said.*

on a schedule and carry out tasks within setted time frames.

Youth'consolidation from different regions of Ukraine and experience exchange between the generations was also one of the purpose of this project because people of different ages are bring to volunteering.

"The hub has become a center for integrating volunteers into the life of the city and exchanging experiences between local residents and visitors. It is important for us to instal in young people a sense of helping others and to develop values that they will carry with them into adulthood, so they feel like significant contributors to this story," Rafael Kizhner emphasized.

The received grant helped the "Youth Hub Dnipro" center to recruit six volunteers for permanent work. This enabled



the volunteer hub to increase its efficiency and provide 15 tons of humanitarian aid to at least 9,000 internally displaced persons or civilians in need of assistance.

The slogan of the NGO "Dnipro Student Community" — "Aspire, Change, Act, Do Everything You Can" — reminds us of the importance of our own actions in shaping positive changes in

society. Even our seemingly small help can play a crucial role in the lives of people affected by war. This phrase is not just about our civic stance; it's about action and influence on events around us and reminds us of our strength and responsibility to society. Let's strive for the better, act for change, and do everything we can, and even more! ■

Help to find oneself

Since the beginning of the full-scale invasion of Ukraine by the Russian Federation, over 200,000 internally displaced persons have moved from the occupied territories and combat

zones to Poltava region (20-25% of the region's total population). Many of them have encountered difficulties in adapting to their new environment due to the challenges of finding their place in the social and economic environmental of their new communities. As a result, IDPs often experience psychological issues which interfere their rapid adaptation and integration.

The project "Internally Displaced Persons Adaptation Center," implemented by the NGO "Zmist Poltava," aims to enhance the integration opportunities for internally displaced persons (IDPs) in Poltava region.



Alexander Skrypai, the Executive Director of "Zmist Poltava," who possesses extensive experience in implementing social projects, is both the co-author of the idea behind the "IDPs Adaptation Center" project and the leader of it.

"At the end of spring 2022, our organization began to get involved in assisting internally displaced persons (IDPs). We realized that the three main problems for this category of our fellow citizens are the lack of funds, housing and employment. Additionally, during our work, we concluded that the psychological well-being of IDPs also needs improvement. This led to the idea of providing psychological counseling. Ultimately, a structured project emerged, with its own strategy and vision of activities, which was named the "Internally Displaced Persons Adaptation Center,"



This led to the idea of providing psychological counseling. Ultimately, a structured project emerged, with its own strategy and vision of activities, which was named the *"Internally Displaced Persons Adaptation Center,"* shared Alexander Skrypai.

shared Alexander Skrypai. "The grant for this project allowed us to cover partially the expenses of the Center's operation, while the other part was provided by the non-governmental organization independently. The received funds allowed us to strengthen the project's resilience and ensure its sustainable functioning."

The project operated in two components: economic and social integration. In the economic integration

component, the Center assisted with employment placement and retraining of internally displaced persons (IDPs) for job sectors relevant to Poltava and the region. For those interested in starting their own business, appropriate training was provided. In the social integration component, the Center provided psychological counseling-both group and individual. Project specialists actively engaged in recreational activities for IDPs.



Having worked in the regional Center for over half a year, the project leaders realized that there is demand for such assistance in small communities in Poltava. "We developed an algorithm for ourselves-started actively engaging with those people whom we know, those recommended by local authorities, or even the IDPs themselves, and worked with them as our ambassadors and friends. We expanded our work to those communities where such services

were lacking, and it is really important for them," was noted by Skrypai.

The success of the project was facilitated by cooperation with numerous civil and international organizations, local government bodies, state authorities, and local businesses. During the operation of the "Internal Displacement Adaptation Center," within the framework of the economic adaptation and integration component, over 500 interviews

were conducted with internally displaced persons (IDPs), and approximately a hundred of them were successfully employed. Around 20 training sessions were conducted on freelancing, selling on OLX, resume writing, and more.

Within the framework of the social adaptation and integration component, ten health school sessions were conducted, along with 80 individual counseling sessions with psychologists, five group therapy sessions, and over 100 legal consultations.

The project provided an opportunity for a larger number of internally displaced persons (IDPs) to adapt and integrate quicker into the social and economic processes of the communities where they reside, thereby reducing social tensions and enhancing opportunities for development for both the IDPs and the communities of Poltava region. ■

Analysis of the provision of socio-economic rights for IDPs in regions

Ensuring the socio-economic rights of internally displaced persons in Lviv Region

The "European Dialogue" non-governmental organization has been operating since 1998. The idea behind its establishment was based on the necessity of support the initiatives aimed at strengthening tolerance and fostering a better understanding of European integration' processes, establishing partnerships between civil society organizations both in Ukraine and beyond its borders. Today, the NGO "European Dialogue" serves as a center of competence for systemic changes towards sustainable regional development through the advancement of civic initiatives.

Since the beginning of the full-scale war, the organization has transformed into an analytical center that continuously monitors and researches the needs of IDPs (internally displaced persons) and ensures the observance of their rights and freedoms. Thus, the European Dialogue, gradually accumulating information in this field, is forming its own database, which enables tracking dynamics, key trends, and making corresponding forecasts.

"After the beginning of the full-scale invasion, the 'Dialogue' abandoned everything it was doing and started distributing humanitarian aid throughout

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"After the beginning of the full-scale invasion, the 'Dialogue' abandoned everything it was doing and started distributing humanitarian aid throughout Lviv region," *head of the analytical group* of the NGO "European Dialogue" **Oleksandr Sofiy** explained.



Oleksandr Sofiy

Lviv region," head of the analytical group of the NGO "European Dialogue" Oleksandr Sofiy explained. "This is what we were engaged in throughout 2022. We became very familiar with the communities as we delivered humanitarian aid to each of them. We knew who, where, and what IDPs were living there. Consequently, when our organization was supported in 2023 with a project on IDP integration, we already knew the communities, and it was quite easy for us to cooperate with them. The integration of IDPs in our region was at a fairly high level, I think, partly because these programs were supported by international organizations. Many events were financed, and perhaps this had an impact on the results. In this study, we found that the biggest problems related to the coordination of assistance for IDPs. Therefore, in our work, we focus on creating a coalition of civil society organizations involved in the integration of IDPs in communities, because we believe that civil society organizations can demonstrate their effectiveness at this working area".

As part of the study to assess the needs and improve the provision of socio-economic rights for internally displaced persons (IDPs) in the Lviv region, a survey of IDPs was conducted. In total, 122 surveys were completed in 10 communities in

the Lviv region. The survey was conducted face-to-face in September and October. A significant achievement of the study was the analytical report on stakeholders (mapping) providing support to IDPs in the socio-economic field in the Lviv region.

According to the results of the conducted research within the project, it was found that the majority of internally displaced persons (IDPs) who moved to Lviv region came from Donetsk and Kharkiv regions, with 95% of them officially registered as IDPs. Officially, in Lviv region, according to the registry as of October 2023, there were 230,000 internally displaced persons. Compared to the beginning of the full-scale invasion, the number of IDPs in the communities of Lviv region has significantly decreased. The nature of the needs and problems of those IDPs who have remained in the region has also changed.

In contrast to 2022, when the main problems were basic needs for safety, food, and shelter, in October-November 2023, the issues shifted to the lack of permanent housing, insufficient job opportunities, problems with education, healthcare, and legal assistance.

The loss of the resource potential of internally displaced persons (IDPs) — their social status,

employment, income, housing, property, and sometimes even their close relationships — is caused by drastic changes in the social environment, difficult conditions, and worsened livelihood opportunities, putting them in dependence on social benefits. Despite the fact that food and basic goods remained accessible, a significant number of people faced difficulties in purchasing necessary items without financial assistance (in 2022, over 6 million individuals received financial aid). 36% of respondents were engaged in active economic activities (employees, freelancers, entrepreneurs), while 55% relied on social benefits (pensioners, unemployed individuals, those on maternity leave).

Only 30% of the respondents managed to find employment in their new location after evacuating from the conflict zone. Among those who found employment, only 8% had actually approached the employment service. The main reason for this was cited by IDPs as the mismatch between the professions offered by the employment centers and the qualifications of those seeking assistance. Mostly, these were manual labor or service sector vacancies. Additionally, the problem lay in the fact that most

vacancies were aimed at young people, making it very difficult for older individuals to find work. There were cases of discrimination in the labor market, where employers were unwilling to hire IDPs. One reason for this phenomenon was employers' fear that hired IDPs might leave the community at any moment, taking their belongings with them.

One of the acute problems for internally displaced persons (IDPs) remained the issue of housing affordability, especially social housing, which is severely lacking in the regions where IDPs have found refuge. Therefore, an important aspect of ensuring the socio-economic rights of IDPs is the construction of housing, as the majority of them live in rented accommodations.

Based on the research findings, conclusions and recommendations have been formulated to improve the observance of socio-economic rights of internally displaced persons (IDPs) in the Lviv region. The organization plans to continue this analytical work. Among the future research topics are strengthening the involvement of IDPs in the life of local communities and the possibility of influencing decision-making, as well as possible measures to overcome obstacles in the process of IDP integration. ■

Analysis of the fulfillment of socio-economic rights for internally displaced persons in Dnipropetrovsk Region

NGO "Union of Responsible Citizens" was founded on November 21, 2014, by concerned residents of Kryvyi Rih (Dnipropetrovsk region), who brought together representatives of business, media, the public sector, science, and many other fields for the sake of increasing civic, environmental, and cultural awareness, societal responsibility, and to provide assistance to the city's residents.

With the start of Russia's full-scale invasion on February 24, 2022, the organization directed its activities towards supporting the Armed Forces of

Ukraine and vulnerable populations. "If during the first year of the war we addressed all the needs we saw, in 2023 we began to slightly change our approaches. We, of course, continued to respond to the urgent needs of people in the military, especially those we know well and trust, but tried to act more focused. Besides projects that help people here and now, we increased the potential of our organization so that we could act effectively and professionally, helping many people affected by the war to rehabilitate physically, psychologically and socially" **Yuliy Morozov**,

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Besides projects that help people here and now, we increased the potential of our organization so that we could act effectively and professionally, helping many people affected by the war to rehabilitate physically, psychologically and socially" **Yuliy Morozov**, *co-founder of the NGO "Union of Responsible Citizens" said.*



Yuliy Morozov

co-founder of the NGO "Union of Responsible Citizens" said.

The problem of the second year of the war was that the intensive phase of the war's beginning transitioned into a positional one, the flow of refugees decreased, and the issue of meeting the needs of internally displaced persons (IDPs) lost its priority on the agenda of authorities, businesses, and so on. However, as of October 2023, according to the Dnipropetrovsk Regional Council, the number of internally displaced persons who arrived in the Dnipropetrovsk region was 403,000 people. More than half of them relocated from the Donetsk region, accounting for 56.3%.

Therefore, researching and advocating for the rights of internally displaced persons (IDPs) has been and remains extremely necessary. With the help of a grant obtained within the project "Emergency Support for Civil Society and Media in Response to the War in Ukraine," supported by the Institute for Economic Research and Policy Consulting and financially supported by the European Union, the NGO "Union of Responsible Citizens" conducted an analysis of the provision of socio-economic rights of IDPs in the Dnipropetrovsk region. The research

part of the project was carried out by the company "Operative Sociology."

Municipal Council, and the partner organization NGO "Local Strategies" (Dnipro city) to engage as many stakeholders as possible (businesses, other organizations, contacts of IDPs for surveys, etc.).

Within the study, the needs of internally displaced persons (IDPs) were investigated. The results obtained from the comprehensive research outlined a range of socio-economic problems related to the adaptation and integration of IDPs, the resolution of which is directly linked to the further direction of work of the governmental bodies of the Dnipropetrovsk region.

The majority of respondents, namely 82%, identified financial support as the most crucial assistance. Other important needs for internally displaced persons (IDPs) included medical services (78.5%) and food (77.3%). The primary source of assistance for IDPs was state financial support. The research revealed that over 70% of the displaced individuals were not actively seeking employment, and over 80% had not approached employment centers. Nearly 53% of respondents indicated that they were pensioners, and only about 20% reported being employed. Consequently, state financial

assistance and active use of humanitarian aid incentivized some IDPs to adapt rather than integrate into their new community. People did not attempt to improve their lives but merely relied on what the government and humanitarian organizations provided, thus fostering a sense of dependency that hindered adaptation and integration. Even the active involvement of employers, representatives of humanitarian organizations, and local government bodies cannot facilitate the inclusion of IDPs in adaptation and integration processes without their active willingness. Therefore, the analysis of the comprehensive research results suggested the

necessity of establishing specialized departments in each district of the city to develop a strategy and plan for the Adaptation and Integration Program for internally displaced persons, taking into account the specifics of each district.

Overall, the outcome of the project resulted in the development of recommendations to improve the situation of internally displaced persons (IDPs) in the region. The research report was handed over to community administrations, giving them the opportunity to make adjustments to their plans and assistance programs for IDPs and to properly manage affairs within their communities. ■

Study of the socio-economic status and needs of internally displaced persons in Vinnytsia Region

The project "Research on the Socio-Economic Situation and Needs of Internally Displaced Persons in Vinnytsia and Vinnytsia Oblast" was implemented by the Vinnytsia branch of the NGO "Ukrainian Marketing Association" in partnership with the NGO "Network of Civil Society Organizations Supporting Internally Displaced Persons in Ukraine" and Vinnytsia Trade and Economic Institute of DTEU.

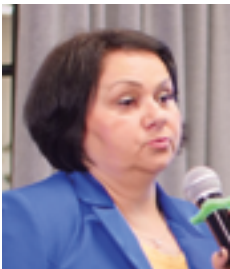
Vinnytsia region has become a host region for internally displaced persons (IDPs). As of September 30, 2023, according to the Department of Social

and Youth Policy of Vinnytsia Regional Military Administration, 167,367 internally displaced persons or 114,697 families from various regions of Ukraine, where there has been and continues to be danger since the beginning of the full-scale invasion by the Russian Federation into Ukrainian territory, have been registered.

"In February-March 2022, Vinnytsia became a transit region through which everyone seeking a safe place passed, so the opportunity to communicate with IDPs and various categories of people was

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"In February-March 2022, Vinnytsia became a transit region through which everyone seeking a safe place passed, so the opportunity to communicate with IDPs and various categories of people was available to us from the very beginning of the full-scale invasion," **Aliona Tanasiychuk**, project manager of the *"Research on the Socio-Economic Situation and Needs of Internally Displaced Persons in Vinnytsia and Vinnytsia Oblast"* said.



Aliona Tanasiychuk

available to us from the very beginning of the full-scale invasion," **Aliona Tanasiychuk**, project manager of the *"Research on the Socio-Economic Situation and Needs of Internally Displaced Persons in Vinnytsia and Vinnytsia Oblast"* said. "This experience and understanding that we can be useful to those who have suffered more from the war than we have turned into our activity. Together with the Ukrainian Marketing Association, we began to create a separate platform for IDPs and all possible experts. And in 2023, communication with IDPs was already taking place on the basis of the new organization, the 'Network of Civil Society Organizations Supporting Internally Displaced Persons in Ukraine.' We work in seven regions of Ukraine: Kyiv, Vinnytsia, Khmelnytskyi, Ivano-Frankivsk, Ternopil, Rivne, and Poltava. We have coordinators in each region. For IDPs, we are close people, and they openly talk to us about all their pains."

The aim of the research was to analyze the socio-economic situation of internally displaced persons (IDPs) in Vinnytsia Oblast, identify their needs, and highlight existing problems in ensuring the socio-economic rights of IDPs in the region, with the goal of enhancing the effectiveness of

assistance from the government, donors, and communities.

According to the findings of the research, the majority of surveyed IDPs are not inclined to relocate further. In Vinnytsia Oblast, the percentage of those planning to relocate in the near future is the lowest among four regions — only 3.4% of respondents, whereas in Dnipropetrovsk Oblast, 18.3% plan to return within six months, 17.5% in Poltava Oblast, and 15.1% in Lviv Oblast. People primarily link their decision to return home to their subjective sense of security: 51.2% of respondents in Poltava Oblast, 47.9% in Vinnytsia Oblast, 30.3% in Lviv Oblast, and 19.5% in Dnipropetrovsk Oblast stated they would be guided by this factor.

Thirty-four percent of internally displaced persons (IDPs) in Vinnytsia Oblast have lost their housing due to destruction caused by the war. Therefore, one of the pressing issues in the region has been and remains the temporary accommodation and living arrangements for those who were forced to leave their own homes. The majority of IDPs surveyed (79.7%) reside in rented accommodation under long-term lease conditions.

Seventy-five percent of surveyed IDPs mentioned that they independently pay for their accommodation. Sixteen point nine percent receive compensation for rental housing. Twenty-nine point five percent of respondents hesitated about being satisfied with their living conditions, while 25.7% of IDPs are dissatisfied with their current housing. All IDPs in the survey confirmed experiencing problems with high rental payments for housing. However, 18% noted that their rent was often increased, hinting that they are receiving material compensation as IDPs and therefore able to afford the higher price.

The proportion of unemployed among surveyed internally displaced persons (IDPs) in Vinnytsia Oblast is the highest at 26.4%, compared to the other three regions that participated in the study (Dnipropetrovsk Oblast - 16.5%, Lviv Oblast - 16.4%, Poltava Oblast — 11.9%).

The main problem in finding employment mentioned by respondents was the reluctance of employers to hire IDPs, insufficient professional skills and work experience, low wages compared to the level of pay in the areas they had to leave, and

the lack of vacancies for a number of professions, including accountants, managers, and economists.

Representatives of the local business community emphasized that there is currently a shortage of skilled workers, despite many available job vacancies, due to the lack of qualified personnel. Therefore, they identified the lack of need or desire to seek employment as the sole obstacle to the employment of internally displaced persons by other domestic enterprises.

The outcome of the study was an analytical report containing information on the socio-economic situation of internally displaced persons in the Vinnytsia region based on official data, the results of surveys, focus groups with internally displaced persons of various profiles, in-depth interviews with stakeholders regarding the implementation of the socio-economic rights of internally displaced persons, a map of stakeholders providing support to internally displaced persons in the Vinnytsia region, as well as conclusions and recommendations for improving the provision of socio-economic rights to internally displaced persons in the region. ■

Analysis of the provision of socio-economic rights for internally displaced persons in the Poltava Region

The team of analysts at NGO "AC ZMIST" conducted a study on the current socio-economic situation of internally displaced persons (IDPs) temporarily residing in the Poltava region. The project aimed to investigate the socio-economic situation and needs of IDPs in the Poltava region, including an analysis of the support they receive from government authorities, international and non-governmental organizations, and volunteer initiatives, as well as to examine existing problems in ensuring the socio-economic rights of IDPs.

Since the beginning of the full-scale invasion of Ukraine by the Russian Federation, more than 200,000 internally displaced persons (IDPs) have moved to the Poltava region from occupied territories and combat zones — 25% of the total population of the region. The longer the new residents stay in the region, the more problems arise in ensuring the socio-economic rights of IDPs in Poltava, because, although they receive support from government authorities, international and non-governmental organizations, and volunteer

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«Before starting our work, first of all, we had to collect updated, relevant information on the number of registered IDPs in Poltava, as these figures have been constantly changing since the beginning of the full-scale invasion,» **Oleksandr Skrypai**, *senior project analyst* said



Oleksandr Skrypai

initiatives, there is no comprehensive analysis to determine the level of their needs.

«Before starting our work, first of all, we had to collect updated, relevant information on the number of registered IDPs in Poltava, as these figures have been constantly changing since the beginning of the full-scale invasion,» **Oleksandr Skrypai**, *senior project analyst* said. «We obtained data on the distribution of displaced persons by districts, urban/rural distribution, demographic composition, the number of employed individuals, the number of children attending local educational institutions, and the number of IDPs receiving financial and other assistance. We have been working with IDPs since May 2022, and now we can say that Poltava has one of the lowest employment rates for IDPs. Our region is not as industrially developed as Kharkiv or Donetsk, so it is harder for people with industrial specialties who previously worked in manufacturing to find jobs. One of the ways to overcome unemployment is to retrain IDPs according to the labor market demands of Poltava».

After obtaining the statistics, ZMIST Analytical Center collected and analyzed the

necessary data to create a comprehensive assessment of the situation of IDPs, which included:

- — processing and systematizing information about stakeholders (mapping) providing support to IDPs in the socio-economic field in Poltava, including government authorities and local self-government, international humanitarian organizations, national and local non-governmental organizations, and volunteer initiatives.

- — preparing an overview of the general situation regarding the realization of the socio-economic rights of IDPs (provision of housing, employment, access to medical and educational services, etc.);

- — collecting assessments of the satisfaction of IDPs' needs and identifying problematic issues in the socio-economic sphere through a survey of IDPs. 100 questionnaires were processed, formed evenly by age, gender, and territorial principles;

- — conducting two focus groups with IDPs of different profiles (mothers with minor children; unemployed; IDPs living in small towns or rural

areas; entrepreneurs who have relocated/started their business, etc.);

- — collecting assessments of the realization of IDPs' socio-economic rights through in-depth interviews with stakeholders from government authorities and organizations that provide assistance.

After conducting the surveys, focus groups, and interviews, the analytical center prepared reports and infographics that reflect the current situation of IDPs. Based on this data, the center developed recommendations for improving the provision of socio-economic rights for IDPs.

Yes, the study showed that more than half of them are people of working age with higher

and secondary specialized education, but the employment rates are low, although there are positive trends and opportunities. The level of accessibility to educational services in schools is quite high, but there are certain problems in extracurricular educational institutions. The level of accessibility to primary medical care is also high.

The conducted research made it possible to propose a number of suggestions for improving the level of provision of socio-economic rights for IDPs in the Poltava region. The proposals were based on the experience of various stakeholders working with this category, as well as the experiences and wishes of the IDPs themselves. ■

Monitoring recovery: today's focus

Monitoring the funding of reconstruction in the Kyiv region

The NGO "Institute of Analytics and Advocacy" is an analytical center that works on the development of civil society, policy analysis, data analysis, and the development and implementation of innovative digital solutions.

With the onset of full-scale invasion, the organization reoriented its activities. In the initial months, they provided humanitarian assistance to six regions affected by the full-scale war and conducted legal consultations for internally displaced persons (IDPs). The NGO "Institute of Analytics and Advocacy" became a co-founder of the RISE Ukraine – Coalition for Reconstruction and joined

the RRR4U consortium. Additionally, they engaged in international advocacy efforts to increase financial assistance to Ukraine on preferential terms and analyzed the experiences of 20 rebuilding countries that have undergone destruction to use it for the reconstruction of our country.

As part of the project "Emergency Support for Civil Society and Media in Response to the War in Ukraine," the Institute of Analytics and Advocacy conducted monitoring of the financing for the reconstruction of Kyiv region and developed a specialized dashboard. This allowed to create a database of destroyed and financed objects,

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We worked on this project for four months from July to November 2023.

The creation of a reconstruction monitoring system will provide transparency in the reconstruction process, its civic monitoring, and ensure the effective use of funds,"

Victor Maziarchuk, an expert in data analysis said.



Victor Maziarchuk

facilitating monitoring of fund utilization for reconstruction projects. Furthermore, it helped formulate unified approaches to the restoration of damaged infrastructure.

"Expenses for the reconstruction of such objects funded by individuals, philanthropists, and international organizations are almost impossible to identify and quantify. However, expenditures for such purposes from state and local budgets must be accountable to society, including for every resident of a city, village, or settlement to know the financial assessment of the reconstruction. We worked on this project for four months from July to November 2023. The creation of a reconstruction monitoring system will provide transparency in the reconstruction process, its civic monitoring, and ensure the effective use of funds," **Victor Maziarchuk**, *an expert in data analysis* said. "We involved experts from the Center for Fiscal Policy Research and employees of the Kyiv Regional State Administration in the dashboard creation process".

During the implementation of the analytics project, the center collected information about destroyed or damaged objects in iKyiv region, surveyed government representatives about the challenges in the reconstruction process, the availability of resources,

capabilities, and needs for reconstruction. An analysis of regulatory acts regarding the allocation of funds for reconstruction and restoration of destroyed objects and procurement of restoration services for individual objects in Kyiv region was carried out, as well as funding for specific objects. With the collected information, a database of destroyed and damaged objects, as well as objects funded from various sources, was formed.

As a result, a dashboard was created, presenting information on expenditures for reconstruction objects in the Kyiv region. This important tool was publicly presented at the Institute for War and Peace Reporting (UK) forum "Government Accountability: Effective Tools for Regional Activists and Journalists," held on November 4, 2023. Another significant outcome of the project was the creation of two databases containing information about damaged objects in the Kyiv region, as well as information about the amount of expenditures for their reconstruction from the state budget.

The project experts became members of the Observation Council on Reconstruction Affairs of Kyiv Regional Administration, conducting commission inspections of reconstruction objects in Kyiv region. ■

Monitoring study of the state of destruction and reconstruction of social infrastructure facilities in Snihurivka community, Mykolaiv Region

During July to October 2023, "Rights and Democracy" the Regional Public Charitable Foundation implemented "Monitoring Study of the Destruction and Reconstruction of Social Infrastructure Objects in Snihurivska Community of Mykolaiv Region" project. Within the project, a study of the reconstruction status of 18 social infrastructure objects was conducted, along with surveys of 39 stakeholders.

The Foundation team conducted a comprehensive study of social infrastructure objects and surveyed key stakeholders regarding the reconstruction of the

destroyed objects. Based on the monitoring study results, a report with recommendations and proposals for the restoration of Snihurivska community was developed.

In the territory of Snihurivska municipal territorial community (the city of Snihurivka and 23 settlements) in Mykolaiv region, active combat operations persisted for a long time. Most settlements were effectively on the front line since the beginning of March 2022. From March 19 to November 10, 2022, Snihurivska municipal territorial community was under occupation. Many villages, as well as the city of Snihurivka, suffered significant destruction

due to devastating shelling. There was not a single undamaged settlement left in the community, and the village of Bezimenne was destroyed completely, down to the last house.

Snihurivka community suffered for the second time following the explosion of the dam of the Kakhovka Hydroelectric Power Station, resulting in significant flooding. Thirteen settlements were affected by the flooding (including the city of Snihurivka). 4,886 households were affected. 351 houses were flooded, electricity was cut off in 9 settlements, and 4 were partially disconnected.

Representatives of the NGO "Right and Democracy" have been collaborating with Snihurivka community since April 2022, providing humanitarian assistance to residents and internally displaced persons from the community. Additionally, children from the community underwent rehabilitation in summer camps organized by the Foundation. Subsequently, the collaboration continued with the municipal education department and the municipal military administration, with these structures becoming the main partners in implementing the project.

"At the beginning of the project, the main problem that arose was the very low level of awareness about

the reconstruction processes among all target groups without exception. While the lack of awareness among average citizens was anticipated in advance, the extremely low informativeness among representatives of local self-government bodies and the deputy corps was quite surprising," **Dmytro Vitvitskyi**, the project manager said. "A considerable percentage of Snihurivka city council deputies simply distanced themselves from their activities, from the functioning and life of the community. The situation regarding the understanding of reconstruction processes among representatives of the municipal military administration is not the best either, but the main reason, in my opinion, is the workload and insufficiently high personnel potential."

Mr. Vitvitsky also noted that the main goal of the project was not just to showcase the ruined objects but try to develop a mechanism of involving all stakeholders into the reconstruction process, to find mechanisms for involving international donor organizations, businesses, volunteer associations, and non-governmental organizations.

The conducted monitoring revealed the actual lack of cooperation between the city council deputies and Snihurivka municipal military administration,

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Dmytro Vitvitskyi, the project manager said.



Dmytro Vitvitskyi

which absolutely does not contribute to joint efforts in community reconstruction. Another problem affecting the community's reconstruction is the socio-economic situation in Snihurivka. The main budget-forming enterprises of the community are either destroyed or damaged, and agricultural lands are mined. The community's population has effectively decreased by a third, and the loss of working-age population significantly exceeds average figures. The activities of several international organizations, which continued to provide various humanitarian and charitable assistance, did not contribute to improving economic processes in the community, but rather stimulated the growth of artificial unemployment.

During the project implementation, the NGO "Dobrobat," which is involved in housing reconstruction and social infrastructure projects in seven regions of Ukraine, was engaged. The main outcome was an agreement on cooperation between this organization and Kobzartsivskyi village council district. The leadership of Dobrobat agreed to participate in the restoration of Snihurivka Vocational Lyceum and social infrastructure facilities in several village council districts.

The highlighting of the issues has spurred the search for solutions, seeking pathways and

mechanisms for reconstruction in the villages of the community. Inviting the leaders of the NGO "Dobrobat" to collaborate facilitated constructive dialogue between the volunteers engaged in reconstruction and the leaders of the village council districts.

The main proposals formulated as a result of monitoring and subsequent discussions are as follows:

- Involving professional and experienced non-governmental organizations in the reconstruction processes of Snihurivka community.
- Strengthening the personnel and professional capacity of the municipal initiatives and investment sectors of the city council.
- Sharing experiences in reconstruction with other communities affected by occupation.
- Establishing communication and informational work between local self-government bodies, local executive authorities, and grassroots community initiatives regarding the processes of Snihurivka community reconstruction.
- Establishing a joint commission for the reconstruction of Snihurivka community, consisting of representatives from the community, media, municipal military administration, and city council deputies. ■

Rebuilding Together: Monitoring Reconstruction and Citizen Participation in Planning and Oversight of Recovery in Affected Communities of Basytanske District, Mykolaiv Region

The NGO "Against Corruption" is engaged in multiple endeavors, including fostering societal intolerance towards corruption across various sectors. Presently, the organization's specialists are actively scrutinizing the allocation of funds in reconstruction processes while advocating for legislative measures aimed at involving the public in reconstruction efforts at all levels of governance.

In July to September 2023, the NGO "Against Corruption" implemented "Rebuilding Together:

Monitoring Reconstruction and Citizen Engagement in Planning and Oversight of Recovery in Affected Communities of Bashtansky District, Mykolaiv Region" project.

The aim of the project was to improve the effectiveness of reconstruction projects. The team of the NGO "Against Corruption" was tasked with investigating the process of recovery and reconstruction in the communities of the district, tallying the number of implemented reconstruction

projects and their associated costs, analyzing their priority and feasibility, as well as identifying risks and potential shortcomings.

"Such research not only allows us to monitor citizens' involvement in the reconstruction process and their awareness of comprehensive recovery plans but also engages people in learning more and influencing the implementation process of changes in communities," **Yuriy Putrya**, the chairman of the NGO "Against Corruption" explained. "When we informed people about reconstruction programs, they became interested in the topic. Additionally, we discovered another crucial point: comprehensive recovery plans cannot be effective without public oversight, as residents of communities trust civil society the most. Specifically, 40% of people expressed a desire for oversight of funds expenditure by the civil sector. We see the need for the development of the civil sector and various communication platforms for quality interaction among all stakeholders involved."

The study revealed a low level of awareness among the population of Bashtansky district in Mykolaiv region about comprehensive recovery programs and opportunities for funding (although

people's awareness gradually increased over time). However, according to the expert, people feel the need for communication between the authorities and society and rely on activists to oversee the recovery process.

One of the key outcomes of the NGO "Against Corruption" team's work was the identification of flaws in the mechanism for calculating compensation for damaged real estate. A problem with the regional coefficient was identified, which did not reflect the real estate market accurately and required adjustment.

Based on the obtained results, two projects were developed: "Local Community Recovery Office" and "Analytical Study of Tools for Engaging Residents in Decision-Making Regarding the Recovery of Territorial Communities". The first project aimed to establish local community recovery offices in communities to ensure the effectiveness and transparency of the recovery process. The second project focused on analyzing the operation of tools and mechanisms for engaging residents in decision-making regarding the recovery of territorial communities, identifying opportunities and barriers for civil society representatives, and developing

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"Such research not only allows us to monitor citizens' involvement in the reconstruction process and their awareness of comprehensive recovery plans but also engages people in learning more and influencing the implementation process of changes in communities," ***Yuriy Putrya, the chairman of the NGO "Against Corruption" explained.***



Yuriy Putrya

recommendations to strengthen public participation in the recovery process.

The recommendations, based on the research conducted by the NGO "Against Corruption," were carefully reviewed by Beresneguvate Executive Committee of the village council and use to enhance the Comprehensive Recovery Plan of the territorial community of Beresneguvate district.

The memorandum signed between the NGO "Against Corruption" and Beresneguvate Executive

Committee of the village council significantly contributed to the formation of positive relations between the NGO and local government bodies. This document outlined the main areas of cooperation and the procedure for interaction. The memorandum stated that local government bodies would facilitate the implementation of recommendations provided by the civil society organization. ■



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