The United Nations (UN) in Ukraine, in coordination with the Government, is establishing a flexible community-level recovery fund. It aims at supporting an inclusive, area-based approach that is in full synergy to the early recovery priorities as identified in the UN Transitional Framework (2022-2024) and the second Rapid Damage and Needs Assessment. Community-level investments in reconstruction of housing, energy, social infrastructure, humanitarian demining, and support to livelihoods and local economic development are combined with targeted capacity strengthening for essential service provision and community mobilization. These interventions as a holistic package create conducive conditions for people impacted by the war to recover and rebuild their lives.

The Ukraine Community Recovery Fund (UCRF) is a tool through which the UN will catalyze strategic recovery efforts, bridge gaps in recovery needs in targeted communities and pilot innovative recovery initiatives. It mirrors the success of the Ukraine Humanitarian Fund (UHF), overseen by the Resident Coordinator/Humanitarian Coordinator. The UHF is a flexible and strategic tool for the provision of humanitarian life-saving assistance to individuals. Since February 2022, it has received more than US$350 million in contributions from 31 donors and reaches millions of people with rapid, flexible, and reliable support. These two funds are complementary and coordinated and allow for humanitarian and recovery interventions to be planned, layered and sequenced with goal of reducing humanitarian needs in the future and laying a robust foundation for sustainable development efforts aligned to Agenda 2030 in coming years.

On the development cooperation side, the Ukraine Community Recovery Fund will leverage the Funding Compact of the Member States to mobilize unearmarked contributions to a pooled fund. Aligned with the Funding Compact between Members States and the UN Development System, this allows the UN in Ukraine to plan strategically, act quickly, and implement holistic recovery solutions. The Fund is also in full complementarity with the existing recovery and development programmes of the UN entities in Ukraine, which currently amount to more than US$1 billion implemented by 24 UN entities with 3,000 personnel country-wide.
The Fund is similarly based on the extensive experience of the UN system in establishing and managing multi-partner trust funds in large scale recovery contexts. This includes robust risk management and monitoring systems in a well-staffed Fund Secretariat hosted by the Resident Coordinator Office, to ensure transparency and accountability. It leverages the UN’s track record in implementation, monitoring, and consolidated reporting with a view to strengthening the capacity of key government bodies and local communities to smoothly shift from humanitarian assistance to a human rights-based and people-centered approach to recovery and sustainable development.

UN-implemented recovery and reconstruction efforts are rooted in supporting communities to mobilize and articulate their needs and building the capacity of local authorities. The Fund is also uniquely positioned through the UN’s strong focus on the inclusion of marginalized groups, to ensure the recovery process benefits those farthest behind, reduces inequalities and promotes social cohesion. The Fund will set the foundations for the future scale up of sustainable development efforts by collecting data and evidence from the community level for policy advocacy and capacity strengthening at the national level.

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