



UKRAINE



2021 RESULTS REPORT

United Nations Country Team in Ukraine

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Acronyms and Abbreviations

CCA	Common Country Assessment
CF	Cooperation Framework
CMHT	Community Mental Health Team
CSO	Civil society organization
DPM	Deputy Prime Minister for European and Euro Atlantic Integration
EnMS	Energy Management System
EPIC	Equal Pay International Coalition
ETF	European Training Foundation
EU	European Union
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
FLoD	First Line of Defence
GBV	Gender-based violence
GCA	Government-controlled area
GCT	Government-controlled territories
GDP	Gross domestic product
IDP	Internally displaced person
ILO	International Labour Organization
IOM	International Organization for Migration
LEP	Local employment partnership
LNOB	Leave no one behind
NACS	National Agency of Civil Service
NCD	Non-communicable disease
NGCA	Non-government-controlled area
NGO	Non-governmental organization
NHS	National Health Strategy
OHCHR	Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights
PHC	Primary healthcare
RC	Resident Coordinator
RCO	Resident Coordinator's Office
SES	State Employment Service
SME	Small and medium-sized enterprise
SSSU	State Statistics Service of Ukraine
STEM	Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics
ToT	Trainer of trainers
TVET	Technical and vocational education and training
UNAIDS	Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS
UNCT	United Nations Country Team
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNFPA	United Nations Population Fund
UNHCR	United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
UNSCR	United Nations Security Council resolution
UNODC	United Nations Office of Drugs and Crime
UNOPS	United Nations Office for Project Services
UNSDCF	United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework
UNV	United Nations Volunteers
UNWGM	United Nations Working Group on Migration
UPHC	Public Health Centre of Ukraine
WHO	World Health Organization
WPS	Women, Peace and Security
YWBI	Youth Wellbeing Index

Foreword by the Resident Coordinator

At time of drafting this 2021 report, the war in Ukraine was in its third month, ravaging cities and towns, killing and maiming thousands of civilian children, women and men, displacing a quarter of the country's population, destroying private and public infrastructure, and causing grave violations of human rights and international humanitarian law. Looking ahead, United Nations is called upon to significantly scale up and reorient its work to respond to a nation-wide humanitarian crisis while prioritizing, wherever and as early as possible, recovery, reconstruction and sustainable development.

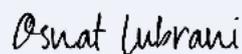
2021 was a challenging year for Ukraine and the United Nations Country Team. COVID-19 still significantly affected everyday life, slowing progress for reforms and achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals. It also added even great strain on the population in eastern Ukraine, who were impacted by almost eight years of armed conflict.

Nevertheless, the United Nations was able to accomplish noteworthy results. Throughout the year, as this 2021 report recounts, the United Nations worked jointly with the Government and multiple stakeholders at both the central and local levels to advance implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in Ukraine, including strengthened Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) monitoring, SDG financing, embedding the SDGs within existing and new development strategies, and using various platforms to promote and advocate for investments to accelerate progress. We continued to provide expert policy advice and programmatic support in key reform priority areas, including good governance, education, and health, among others, with sustained focus on the COVID-19 emergency response and recovery.

Human rights remained core to our work, as an area of focus for monitoring, reporting and advocacy, as well as mainstreaming human rights across all work of the United Nations work, prioritizing our focus on the most vulnerable and marginalized, ensuring their inclusion and amplifying their voices. The United Nations demonstrated its fast ready commitment to promote gender equality and women's empowerment and migration management. It also advocates for the climate change agenda by, *inter alia*, supporting Ukraine's application for the United Nations Partnership for Action on Green Economy and participation in the Climate Conference in Glasgow.

Towards the closure of 2021, the United Nations was nearing completion of a rich, inclusive process to develop a new joint Ukraine-United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSCDF) for 2023–2027. Extensive consultations were held with the Government, diverse civil society groups, including women, human rights defenders, youth, as well as the private sector and development partners. Disrupted by the devastating war, the United Nations is intent on formulating an interim Ukraine-United Nations framework that will focus on response to new humanitarian needs, preserving development gains, and investing in early recovery.

As the United Nations reaffirms its commitment to stay and deliver the strongest possible support to Ukrainians in these most challenging times, we draw strength, inspiration and hope from our joint achievements in 2021, the lessons we learned from the response to the COVID-19 health emergency, and importantly, from our increasingly strong and close strategic partnership with the Government of Ukraine, as well as with Ukraine's international development partners.



Osnat Lubrani
UN Resident Coordinator
Humanitarian Coordinator

The United Nations Country Team in Ukraine

The United Nations in Ukraine consists of 17 United Nations entities present in the country and an additional 8 non-resident United Nations agencies. The United Nations is led by the United Nations Resident Coordinator (RC), who is the designated representative of the Secretary-General. In Ukraine, the United Nations RC is also designated as Humanitarian Coordinator to lead the humanitarian response to the conflict in eastern Ukraine, which is being implemented jointly by the United Nations and international and national non-governmental organizations (NGOs).

The United Nations seeks to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of all its operations by ensuring inter-agency coordination and collaboration for the delivery of tangible results in support of the development priorities of the Government of Ukraine. The United Nations is guided by the United Nations Partnership Framework (UNPF) 2018–2022, which is anchored in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Addressing the needs of those who are most vulnerable or at risk of social exclusion, and ensuring that human rights and gender equality are central to the work of the United Nations across humanitarian, recovery and sustainable development.

Resident UN Agencies



Non-resident UN Agencies



2018-2022 GoU-UN Partnership Framework Priority areas



In Ukraine, the United Nations Country Team (UNCT) consists of United Nations entities accredited and active in Ukraine, namely the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), International Labour Organization (ILO), International Organization for Migration (IOM), Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), United Nations Office of Drugs and Crime (UNODC), United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS), United Nations Department of Safety and Security (UNDSS),

United Nations Volunteers (UNV), United Nations Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs (DPPA), United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN Women) and World Health Organization (WHO). The non-resident United Nations entities that are also actively engaged in country programmes and operations are International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), International Trade Centre (ITC), International Telecommunication Union (ITU), United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR), United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE), United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) and United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO).

Key development partners of the United Nations Development System in the country

Key partners of the United Nations are the Government of Ukraine, regional and local governments, development partners, CSOs, academia and the private sector.

The implementation of the UNPF has benefited from the generous support (close to 95 percent of UNPF available funds) of the Government of Ukraine, as well as the Governments of Canada, Denmark, Germany, the Netherlands, Norway, Sweden, Switzerland, United Kingdom, United States of America and Japan. The European Union (EU) is also a significant contributor as are the Global Fund, the Global Environment Facility (GEF) and the Joint Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) Fund. In addition to these development partners, several private sector entities also provided important support to the United Nations in 2021.

The United Nations, the Government and development partners continued to regularly meet and coordinate operations throughout 2021 within the framework of the **International Technical Assistance (ITA) coordination mechanism**. In May 2021, the middle tier of the ITA coordination mechanism, chaired by the Vice-Prime Minister for European and Euro-Atlantic Integration and co-chaired by the United Nations and the EU, held ongoing strategic discussions with development partners and representatives of the Government. In October 2021, the United Nations together with the EU co-organized the second annual Development

Cooperation Forum with the Government and development partners chaired by the Prime Minister of Ukraine. This annual Forum served as a platform for a candid exchange between the parties on progress in key reform areas as well as an opportunity to improve the effectiveness and policy alignment of international technical assistance to Ukraine. The Forum built on the outcomes of the previous Development Partnership Forum held in October 2020, and the fourth Ukraine Reform Conference held in Vilnius, Lithuania, held in July 2021. The Government and the development partners adopted a joint statement to strengthen cooperation. The working-level tier, composed of 22 sectoral working groups co-chaired by relevant line ministries and development partners, further continued its work. The United Nations was represented in nearly all sectoral working groups and continued to co-chair the groups on health, social policy, education, recovery and reintegration, and youth and sports.

In addition to being actively involved in the ITA mechanism, the United Nations continued to also closely engage bilaterally on policy, advocacy, as well as strategic planning and programming with the EU Delegation, EU Member States and international financial institutions such as the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund, the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development, and the European Investments Bank.

Chapter 1 Key developments in the country and regional context in 2021

In 2021, Ukraine's development continued to be influenced by the effects of the conflict in eastern Ukraine and socio-economic implications of the COVID-19 pandemic. Additionally, the country's regional context was affected by the volatile relationships between key regional players, including the Russian Federation, the United State of America, North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) and the EU. Deteriorated security situation, affected by the recurring tensions around Ukraine caused by the Russian Federation's military activities along the borders of Ukraine attracted significant international concern and impinged on Ukraine's socioeconomic development and domestic political process.

The political environment in Ukraine remained stable with some technical changes in the Cabinet of Ministers taking place upon the initiative of the President who remained the key determinant of Ukraine's domestic dynamics. Following the major steps taken by the Government on its reform agenda in 2020, the process remained on track although no significant new reforms had been initiated by the Government since its reforms agenda was influenced by political imperatives. These imperatives consisted in preserving macroeconomic stability and increasing budget revenues, promoting infrastructural development, and deoligarchization. As a result, some of the reform processes saw little outcome, e.g. 'tax amnesty'; others achieved moderate progress, e.g. the judicial reform, whereas still others, like the security sector reform, were postponed for 2022.

Ukraine's reforms continued to receive significant international support, both in terms of funding and direct advocacy led by the G7 countries. And yet, due to the geopolitical and regional volatility around Ukraine, the emphasis of this support was drawn away from Ukraine's reforms to focus on security. As a result, reforms became less sustainable, which may put at risk obtaining further international assistance, thus leading to potential setbacks in the reform agenda. This was evidenced by developments that eroded the independence of the national anti-corruption infrastructure and undermined the completion of judicial reform, which faced resistance at various levels, which. In sum, interests of political stability and security interacting with the national reform agenda increased

risks for and vulnerabilities of the sustainability of Ukraine's reforms.

The conflict in eastern Ukraine continued to impact on Ukraine's stability, and its political and sustainable socio-economic development. Despite violence at the contact line remaining at relatively lower levels compared to previous years, the conflict remained a constant source of threat for the country's stability, limiting the prospects for its economic development, undermining social cohesion and contributing to an impasse in Ukraine's Euro-Atlantic aspirations. The continuing isolation of the non-government-controlled area (NGCA) in eastern Ukraine from the rest of the country brought about by the politicization of the pandemic mitigation measures fuelled more divisions in Ukrainian society and facilitated the absorption of the NGCA by the Russian Federation. The consolidation of divisive lines in eastern Ukraine was mirrored by the consolidation of national public opinion, which increasingly interpreted the problem of reintegration through the government concept of deoccupation. The Government's initiatives aimed at eliminating isolation by reaching out to targeted population in NGCA residents had limited effect in imposing its political agenda and also due to the continued stalemate in all negotiations on eastern Ukraine.

Due to the deterioration of Ukraine's regional security, the Government had to seek stronger international support in the form of commitments and guarantees as well as more security assistance against a backdrop of a complete lack of bilateral diplomatic dialogue with the Russian Federation. This situation led Ukraine to adopt a more assertive foreign and security policy. This policy aimed at positioning the country to take on a more active role in regional politics, gaining more leverage in its relations with key international partners, enhancing security, and delinking security policy goals from reform commitments. All of these served to strengthen the political agenda of preserving the national sovereignty and restoring territorial integrity. The launch of the Crimean Platform became one of the main results of foreign policy assertiveness, bringing the issue of Crimea back on the international agenda and formalising diplomatic support from Ukraine's international partners. Other important innovations of Ukraine's foreign policy in 2021 included a greater

emphasis on regional cooperation frameworks similar to the Association Trio, Lublin Triangle and the Quadriga, seeking to promote Ukraine's Euro-Atlantic integration, which remains the key goal of the national foreign policy. The renewal of the US-Ukraine Charter on Strategic Partnership and the mobilization of wide political and diplomatic support to the country's sovereignty and security in the face of military escalation crises have become the largest achievement of Ukraine's foreign policy.

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development remained a critical part of Ukraine's key long-term development framework, together with the EU Association Agreement. In March 2021, the Government approved the National Economic Strategy 2030 (NES 2030), which became the central strategy for long-term strategic planning and monitoring in Ukraine. The NES 2030 set ambitious goals of: doubling Ukraine's GDP by 2030; creating an enabling environment for business and economic

development; winning the competition for capital; developing key sectors; and ensuring equal human development. However, economic performance remains structurally constrained by uncompleted reforms and transformations in key sectors of the economy. There was still a key concern in 2021 regarding energy security and energy poverty, which led the Government to tighten regulations of the gas market, not only for the population, but also for industries. Market price distortions are expected to further increase and remain a burden on the state budget and the private sector.

In 2021, the GDP was estimated to grow by 3.4 percent (WB), with similar moderate growth rates in the next two years. Economic performance was further impacted by the COVID-19 situation, the slow increase of vaccination rates and new adaptive lockdowns since November 2021, as well as the market reaction to the military build-up and escalation near Ukrainian borders.

Figure 1. Key development opportunities. United Nations CCA, November 2021



Note: LNOB = leave no one behind

In July 2021, the Government of Ukraine updated its Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) to the Paris Agreement, committing to an economy-wide net reduction of 65 percent in greenhouse gas emissions by 2030 compared to 1990, leading to net zero by 2060. The NDC is therefore an ambitious commitment by the Government that needs to be transformed into concrete actions and a related investment plan, which will require significant national and international financing. In October 2021, Ukraine submitted its application to the United Nations Partnership for Action

on Green Economy (PAGE), which support countries in reframing their economic policies by creating an enabling environment to finance the green economy transition.

The [United Nations Common Country Analysis](#), updated in December 2021, further outlined key Ukraine's development challenges and opportunities guiding United Nations actions and programming interventions in the coming years under the new Ukraine-United Nations Cooperation Framework.

Chapter 2 United Nations Development System support to national development priorities through the Cooperation Framework

2.1. Overview of Cooperation Framework Results

In 2021, the United Nations continued to cooperate and partner with the Government, civil society and international development partners to promote sustainable development and achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) along four pillars of the Ukraine-United Nations Partnership Framework 2018–2022:

- 1 Sustainable economic growth, environment and employment
- 2 Equitable access to quality and inclusive services and social protection
- 3 Democratic governance, rule of law and civic participation
- 4 Human security, social cohesion and recovery with a particular focus on eastern Ukraine.

Table 1. Complementarity between the United Nations, International and Ukraine's strategic documents

AGENDA 2030 FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT	PEOPLE	PLANET	PROSPERITY	PEACE	PARTNERSHIP
SG Common Agenda	Leave no one behind (LNOB) Gender Youth Human Rights	Zero emissions Adaptation Resilience	Renewed social contract	Peace Trust	Partnerships (a) Digital Cooperation (b) Financing
Ukraine National Economic Strategy 2030	Human development Health Social Protection	The environment	Rule of law	Reintegration	The EU and North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO)
United Nations Partnership Framework 2018–2022	Inclusive services Social protection	The environment	Sustainable growth Employment Governance	Human security Recovery	Civic participation
EU 2021–2027	Resilient society Human capital	Green economy	Inclusive economy Connectivity	Response to conflict	Digital transformation
G7 Ambassadors	Human development	Economic growth Green transition	Rule of law Governance Anti-corruption	Security Defence	
World Bank 2022–2025	Social resilience Protecting poor	Green growth	Institutions The private sector Investment	Safety nets, incl. for conflict-affected	
United Nations Common Country assessment	Human rights Leave No One Behind (LNOB) Gender Human capital development	Green transition Resilience Adaptation	Good governance Rebuilding trust	Address conflict Peacebuilding Humanitarian-Development-Peace Nexus	Migration Partnerships for the Sustainable Development Goals

In March 2021, the Government approved the National Economic Strategy 2030 (NES 2030), which the United Nations has commented on and contributed to ensure that it is inclusive and consultative, designed bottom-up, and outcomes-oriented, supported by a proper monitoring system, and largely owned and accepted by the Ukrainian people. Systematic tracking of vulnerability, ensuring that principles of 'leaving no one behind', human rights, gender equality and the empowerment of women, resilience, sustainability and accountability guide NES 2030 implementation. The United Nations considered NES 2030 and other international strategies during the development of the new Cooperation Framework (Table 1).

Several other strategies received significant advisory and normative support from the United Nations, including:

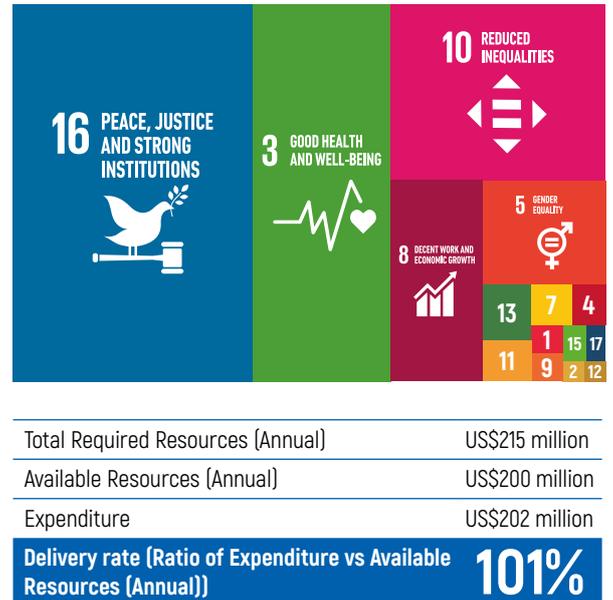
- The National Human Rights Strategy and Action Plan for 2021–2023
- The Roma Action Plan, 2023
- The Environmental Security and Climate Change Adaptation Strategy of Ukraine up to 2030
- The National Strategy for Barrier-free Space in Ukraine 2030 and Action Plan
- The National Health Strategy
- Other.

In addition to technical and substantive support provided by the United Nations to achieve the SDGs, the United Nations continued to actively support capacity development and awareness-raising activities by holding numerous learning and capacity development activities, including with the State Statistics Service of Ukraine (SSSU), webinars and courses to promote Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development.

Implementation of the UNPF in 2021 aimed at a budget of US\$215 million, with almost 95 percent provided by the Government and development partners in the country, including national, regional and global partners. By the end of 2021, the UNPF delivery rate was 101 percent (over US\$202 million), with the balance carried over to 2022. For detailed information, see section *Financial Overview and Resource Mobilization*.

All United Nations interventions in 2021 were assessed and matched against the SDGs and its targets. Almost 81 percent of the US\$202 million invested in 2021 is focused on driving progress towards achieving three SDGs: 40 percent is focused on SDG 16 "Peace and Justice – Strong Institutions"; 23 percent on SDG 3 "Good Health and Well-Being"; and 17 percent on SDG 10 "Reduced Inequalities".

Figure 2. The United Nations contribution to the SDGs in 2021 according to UN INFO data



According to the assessment of SDG implementation, despite some progress in general for the entire population, certain groups remain disadvantaged and are still far from achieving the SDGs. After 2015, Ukraine significantly reduced the level of absolute poverty. However, its level (47.2 percent) significantly exceeds the SDG target (30 percent). The most vulnerable groups are households with children (53.6 percent), large families (81.9 percent), rural population (55.5 percent), households with unemployed (58.9 percent) and people over 60 years old (58.0 percent). Social assistance coverage of the low-income strata of the population is decreasing. Social assistance is inadequate, because by using the official minimum subsistence level as the benchmark for social assistance benefits, the amount of assistance for beneficiaries is too low. In addition, strict admission rules, complex procedures for collecting and submitting documents, and lack of understanding by certain groups of the population become barriers to receiving assistance. Poverty of the elderly (60 years and over) is associated with a low level of pension coverage. The rapid and severe economic downturn in 2014 caused a multiple increase in the prices of services and food; in 2015, the food price index was 144 percent. This has led to the low purchasing power of the poorest families, most of whom have children. Particular attention should be paid to the problem of energy poverty in Ukraine, which significantly affects socio-demographic groups with low incomes. In 2019, the share of households that did not pay for housing and communal services, gas supply, and heat supply on time and in full was around 22.9 percent; in rural areas, 31.6 percent; for women over 60 years old living in rural areas, 34.8 percent.

The United Nations continued to place the leave no one behind (LNOB) principle at the centre of its actions and interventions, as shown below:

- Using the United Nations Operationalizing Leaving No One Behind methodology, the United Nations Resident Coordinator's Office (RCO) conducted the first study on LNOB operationalization in Ukraine. The study assessed the efficiency of key social programmes regarding the vulnerability of selected groups, and was the first effort in prioritizing them based on five factors of the LNOB Guide (discrimination, geography, vulnerability to shocks, governance and socio-economic status). Findings of the assessment and its recommendations will inform the UNCT's approach in addressing patterns of exclusion and structural constraints.
- Based on the [United Nations Policy Paper on GBV](#), and United Nations awareness-raising efforts, specifically the United Nations-supported ["The Matter is 2.0"](#) campaign, the Government of Ukraine expressed its commitment to ratify the Istanbul Convention in 2022.
- In 2021, the Open Day on Women, Peace and Security was organized in Ukraine for the first time. The United Nations has been supporting women's groups, especially at the local level, through humanitarian and development actions in close cooperation with national and local partners since the beginning of the conflict. These interventions were crucial for strengthening women's resilience, especially during the COVID-19 pandemic, preventing and addressing gender-based violence (GBV), supporting women's engagement and participation in local decision-making, and improving overall community safety and security.
- A United Nations-supported study identified key challenges and provides solutions for accelerating the implementation of United Nations Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights in Ukraine. For the first time, the new National Human Rights Strategy, adopted in March 2021, included a chapter on promoting human rights principles in business in line with the United Nations Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights.
- As a part of the United Nations work on LNOB, OHCHR has been working on the issue of homelessness, including by documenting services provided to homeless people. Advocacy with state and local authorities facilitated the opening in 2021 of two shelters in Zaporizhzhia region (cities of Zaporizhzhia and Melitopol).
- OHCHR monitored the extent to which persons with intellectual and psychosocial disabilities, residing in long-term care facilities, enjoy their basic human rights. As a result of OHCHR advocacy, Lviv Regional Council voted to create a supported living residence for persons with psychosocial disabilities, facilitating their right to independent living, rather than build another long-term care facility. Furthermore, following OHCHR advocacy and a referral to the Ombudsperson's Office, a court restored the legal capacity of a man who had previously been denied such benefit due to an 'incurable intellectual illness'.
- In April 2021, OHCHR published a briefing note on the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on frontline healthcare workers in Ukraine, 80 percent of whom female. Using the Briefing Note findings, further follow-up action is planned to assess violence against healthcare workers.
- OHCHR and UN Women have been working together to strengthen a network of women human rights defenders, building their capacity and enhancing their visibility and participation in civic space. The network includes 80 women, who worked with the United Nations to implement a plan for supporting their work on safety and security, visibility, and participation in decision-making.
- OHCHR has been working on human rights budgeting for social protection for vulnerable groups at the local level by producing a study that analyses social protection spending in selected local communities and assesses public participation. The study found that there is a lack of legislation and mechanisms for ensuring participation in budgeting processes and policymaking, and a lack of disaggregated data and performance indicators in budgeting documents.
- To improve access to SDG data, the United Nations supported the launch of the Open SDG Platform in Ukraine – an open-source reporting platform for managing and publishing data and statistics related to the SDGs.

The inter-agency **Action Plan on Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women Scorecard Assessment** Team (SWAP Assessment Team) was established under the leadership of UN Women to analyse 15 indicators across seven dimensions of the UNCT's work on the Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment (GEWE), in line with the latest United Nations guidelines. According to the assessment, the UNCT exceeded two indicators related to partnerships, achieved nine indicators, and almost achieved three indicators. The only one indicator that was not achieved was related to gender parity in United Nations staffing. As a result, the UNCT's Action Plan on Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (SWAP) action plan was developed and approved in June.

The UNCT effectively mainstreamed youth issues and the **Youth 2030 Strategy** in its strategic programming, planning and implemented activities in 2021. The Ukraine **Common Country Assessment** (CCA) includes a youth situation analysis with disaggregated data and evidence on youth, including vulnerable groups, and gaps in policies and programme coverage. Youth networks and organizations were actively engaged in implementing United Nations programmes and activities during the year, including consultations and the design of the new Cooperation Framework 2023–2027. The consolidated United Nations position on youth-related policies and development activities was presented at the meetings of the Government-United Nations-led Sectoral Working Group on Youth and Sports, which were held regularly in 2021, uniting government and international development partners engaged in

and supporting youth-related developments and country strategies.

For the second year, the UNCT implemented the **Disability Inclusion Scorecard and developed its Action Plan** under the leadership of UNICEF. The 2021 assessment demonstrated an improvement of the UNCT's results compared to the previous year. Specifically, the UNCT effectively mainstreamed disability inclusion United Nations advocacy and communications, analysed the situation of people with disabilities in the new CCA, consulted with the organizations of people with disability during strategic planning, and conducted inter-agency capacity development activities on disability inclusive communication and language. The most challenging aspect of the UNCT's work on disability inclusion are requirements in operations, such as procurement, accessibility of buildings, as well as joint programming and data.

2.2. Cooperation Framework priorities, outcomes and outputs

Strategic pillar 1.

SUSTAINABLE ECONOMIC GROWTH, ENVIRONMENT AND EMPLOYMENT

AGENCIES: UNDP, ILO, UNIDO, UNFPA, UNHCR, FAO, UNICEF, WHO, IOM

Figure 3. The proportion of the United Nations financial contribution to SDGs within Pillar 1



Outcome 1.1

BY 2022, ALL WOMEN AND MEN, ESPECIALLY YOUTH, EQUALLY BENEFIT FROM AN ENABLING ENVIRONMENT THAT INCLUDES LABOUR MARKET, ACCESS TO DECENT JOBS AND ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES.

The United Nations supported the modernization of the labour market governance through policy dialogue, the design of programmes and institutional reforms, and the introduction of enhanced tools.

This support pronounced in helping of the State Employment Service (SES) introduce a new delivery model which followed ILO's advice and was enacted by the Government Decree no. 1121. The new model implies more tailor-made support to the SES clients, including employers, on profiling of individual needs, individual employment planning, and case management approaches.

Progress was made in the introduction of the Labour Market Information System (LMIS): ILO helped the Government identify 150 indicators to be used for the future LMIS and provided technical comments on the Government Decree, defining the legal framework (inter-institutional arrangements) for LMIS functioning.

The United Nations continued to provide support at all levels of social dialogue. This aimed at promoting collective bargaining and improving concluded collective agreements, including specific provisions related to occupational safety and health at work, salary increases, incentive schemes, annual and other types of leave, etc. ILO continued to provide its support to strengthen tripartite cooperation within the National Tripartite Social and Economic Council (e.g. capacity development, contribution to the working groups, policy advice).

In 2021, the United Nations supported key national constituents in reforming of legislation, regulating labour relations and developing 15 draft legal acts on occupational safety and health (OSH). In addition, some aspects of labour relations, the protection of wages, collective bargaining, employment, and labour inspection have been commented on the modalities for their alignment with the ILO and EU standards.

The State Labour Service (SLS) adopted and implemented the National Action Plan to reduce undeclared work. Developed with the United Nations support, it is based on an action plan drafted in consultation with a number of state authorities and social partners. Since January 2020 until September 2021, 455,547 undeclared workers were regularized following labour inspectors' visits.

Moreover, 32 sector and activity specific tools and 8 universal toolkits on mitigation risks during the COVID-19 pandemic were provided to employers and workers for practical measures at the workplace to help sustain business activity and protect workers.

United Nations supported the Government and civil society in Ukraine in joining the **Equal Pay International Coalition**, chaired by ILO, UN Women and the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD). As a multi-stakeholder platform, the Equal Pay International Coalition (EPIC) unites governments, employers' organizations, trade unions, civil society organizations (CSOs) and academia in achieving equal remuneration for work of equal value. Government of Ukraine has identified compliance with all eligibility criteria (4 out of 11 remaining non-compliant) as a priority on the path to achieve equal remuneration.

The gender pay gap (measured as the difference in average wages among officially employed) continued to decrease in 2021 and reached 1.21 as of February 2021. According to the official data, the average gender pay gap in 2021 was 18.58 percent, i.e. 1.87 percent lower than the same indicator in 2020, at 20.45 percent. The findings from the study, *Women and Men in Leadership Positions in Ukraine 2017–2020*, commissioned by UNDP in Ukraine, indicated some positive correlation between the share of women among legal entities in an industry, and the level of women's wages (relative to men's wages) in this industry.

In 2021, through its project-specific initiatives, UNDP contributed to the economic empowerment of women in various geographical and thematic areas. **Around 130 new jobs were created as a result of socio-economic recovery measures implemented in Cherkasy, Dnipropetrovsk, Lviv, Rivne, Ternopil and Zhytomyr**

oblasts. Additionally, during the reporting period, **new jobs were created for 77,296 conflict-affected people (38,651 women), who also benefited from improved livelihoods.** They received training and consultancy services provided through a network of regional offices of the SES. In Rivne and Sumy oblasts, the United Nations supported four territorial communities in reviewing their development documents to ensure gender alignment and responsiveness to the problems faced by women-led businesses, with a specific focus on gender-responsive budgeting.

Moreover, 201 (86 percent women, 14 percent men) representatives of public servants and local government officials in the targeted oblasts were provided with a short-term training programme, "Leadership in economic development". The training programme was approved by the National Agency of Ukraine for Civil Service to ensure replication and scaling up of the results. ILO and UNDP partnered to promote women's economic empowerment. In particular, UNDP provided 85 women in Rivne and Sumy oblasts with in-depth, online training on e-commerce and consultancy support, making their own businesses more resilient: 60 women completed the training, including 18 who belong to vulnerable groups and 4 IDPs. An innovative tool to help business membership organizations apply gender-responsive business practices called "**WE-Check**" was implemented in the Confederation of Employers of Ukraine and the Ukrainian Women's Professional League. Working in the pilot regions of Rivne and Sumy, ILO trained 170 women entrepreneurs under the world's largest entrepreneurship training programme, "**Start and Improve Your Business**".

Around 54,315 people (56 percent women, 44 percent men) were covered by United Nations-supported local initiatives aimed at enhancing access to economic opportunities with a specific focus on women's economic empowerment, quality public services and infrastructure. An additional 68,000 people (of whom 37,128 women, 19,413 elderly people, and 12,382 youth) benefited from challenge-driven initiatives implemented through a multi-stakeholder partnership and focused on improved economic opportunities, access to services and municipal infrastructure.

The United Nations continued supporting reintegration and development of economic opportunities for victims of trafficking. Comprehensive reintegration assistance was provided to 1,010 identified victims of trafficking (psychological and legal support, medical treatment, family assistance, job-related training sessions, income-generating equipment, etc.). With United Nations support, 35 former victims of trafficking completed micro-enterprise development training, 22

of whom received business start-up grants. In addition, 58 individuals vulnerable to trafficking from Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts received professional equipment for self-employment and/or income-generating activities. Furthermore, 40 returned labour migrants completed business development training sessions, 10 of whom received business start-up grants.

The United Nations continued supporting trade facilitation and the National Trade Facilitation Committee in Ukraine to enhance trade facilitation, agricultural quality standards and regulatory and trade-related economic cooperation for the transition to sustainable economic growth and sustainable production and consumption. The United Nations promoted the digitalization of data and document sharing in multimodal transport using international (United Nations Centre for Trade Facilitation and Electronic Business) standards.

Figure 4. "To move forward, you should see obstacles as opportunities", Oleksandr Koptsov [38, city of Chasiv Yar, Donetsk Oblast]



During 2020–2021, ILO successfully piloted a local employment partnership in Kherson and Rivne. This activity became possible with the participation of local employers, the local SES, educational institutions and NGOs that created a mechanism to effectively address labour market problems at the local level. Local employment partnership (LEP) is a voluntary union, designed to improve the labour market situation in the local community by merging efforts of the local employment service, local employers, NGOs and educational institutions.

In Sarny, Rivne region, ILO equipped a Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) Centre of Automobile Technologies, "North", to provide practical training and re-training sessions on "Auto Body Repair" and "Diagnostics and Repair of Auto Electrical Equipment" for 260 TVET students and unemployed

persons per year. The Centre will also be used for upskilling those who are currently employed in the car industry. In Kherson, the successful LEP became a laboratory for developing the occupational standard for the cook trade, which was adopted by the Ministry of Economy, and later, this standard was adopted by the Ministry of Education and Science. In 2021, the new LEP pilots started in Sumy, Rivne, Zaporizhzhya and Kherson regions.

In 2021, UNFPA successfully continued its work and expanded its partnership with Ukrainian municipalities within the **Youth Well-Being Index Project**. The Project's new cycle was launched, receiving project applications from 33 new municipalities from different parts of Ukraine. As a result of the selection process, partnership agreements with ten new municipalities (Chernivtsi, Nova Odesa, Poltava, Khmelnytskyi, Kovel, Nizhyn, Ivano-Frankivsk, Fastiv, Smila and Vinnytsia) were signed to work jointly in these cities to conduct the Youth Wellbeing Index (YWBI) survey among youth in order to monitor and assess their well-being in each city, determine priority areas of investment in youth development and to identify inequalities among and vulnerabilities of youth that require targeted interventions through the implementation of special programs and projects. A total of 18 municipalities conducted the YWBI survey in 2021, engaging a total of almost 5,000 youth respondents. To build the capacities of municipality partners, a YWBI Forum and training programme were organized. Partnerships with 94 local business companies were established to support the YWBI in new municipalities.

The **Ukrainian Pact for Youth 2025** continued to be a successful platform for constructive and continuous collaboration of all partners who have embraced and shared responsibilities to offer youth various opportunities in developing their skills and abilities for their professional and social future. In 2021, 32 companies and 24 regional youth organizations became new signatories of the Pact for Youth 2025, amplifying partnerships to prepare youth for quality jobs and responsible citizenship.

In June 2021, mentorship remained a strong focus of Pact for Youth 2025. As part of the ongoing efforts, the online mentorship platform – Mentorplace.in.ua – was developed and launched. It aims to open access to mentoring opportunities from leading professionals-employees of different companies and organizations for young people across the country. A total of five mentorship programmes were conducted covering topics such as IT, the media and communications, medicine and pharmaceuticals, and project management, and engaging 187 mentors and 325 youth.

Figure 5. Pact for Youth 2025



Outcome 1.2

BY 2022, NATIONAL INSTITUTIONS, PRIVATE BUSINESS AND COMMUNITIES WILL HAVE IMPLEMENTED GENDER-RESPONSIVE POLICIES AND PRACTICES TO SUSTAINABLY MANAGE THE NATURAL RESOURCES, PRESERVE ECOSYSTEMS, MITIGATE AND ADAPT TO CLIMATE CHANGE, AND GENERATE GREEN JOBS.

The United Nations successfully produced the **Ukraine disaster risk reduction national profile**, which analysed existing hazards and disaster risks for Ukraine and offered recommendations to national authorities, civil society and development partners. The risk profile was drafted by UNDRR and enjoyed significant inputs from other United Nations agencies. The risks profile will serve all relevant stakeholders, including government institutions responsible for disaster risk reduction as a baseline for policymaking and implementation of the Sendai Framework.

Through advisory support for the development of **the Environmental Security and Climate Change Adaptation Strategy and the Adaptation Action Plan**, the United Nations contributed to the alignment of the strategic approaches for climate change adaptation. The national stakeholders were provided with extensive technical assistance by UNDP on integration of the nature-based solution (NBS) concept into national and local policies, in particular the Strategy on Biodiversity Conservation by 2030.

The United Nations contributed to a green transition and a sustainable transformation of industrial energy usage practices in Ukraine. The organization provided support in updating **Ukraine's Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) to the Paris Agreement**, by, *inter alia*, including gender equality considerations, and organized and implemented a nationwide communications campaign in support of Ukraine

legislation to reduce plastic pollution. The NDC will guide the country's economic and social transformation, across all sectors, groups of populations and regions. Climate and energy action is a significant opportunity for Ukraine's economic development and competitiveness, as well as for the improved well-being of its population. The United Nations conducted a review of the quality of the draft of Ukraine's updated NDC in general, and specifically on the contribution of the agriculture, land use and land use change and forestry sector, and provided recommendations to the Government of Ukraine on the NDC Implementation process.

The United Nations supported the establishment, and promoted the concepts of, the **Energy Management System (EnMS) and Energy Systems Optimization (ESO)**, together with the introduction and promotion of the ISO50000 Energy Management Standard series. EnMS provides structured and systematic approach for integration of energy efficiency concept into enterprise management culture and day-to-day practices. EnMS delivers: (i) a framework for understanding significant energy uses; (ii) action plans for continuous improvement of energy use performance; and (iii) documentation to sustain and demonstrate energy performance improvements over time. It also establishes a proper linkage between energy management business practices and core industrial values, such as cost reduction, increased productivity, environmental compliance and competitiveness. Practical experience demonstrates that for companies that are completely new to energy management concepts, average energy efficiency gains through the adoption of EnMS in the first several years range between 10 and 20 percent, and with minimal investment costs.

The **circular economy (CE)** became a firmly established and well-embraced concept among small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) in Ukraine. At its core, the CE

focuses on extending the lifespan of resources and products (for as long as possible), and re-introducing them in the production cycles. Accordingly, all resources and products is either reused, re-manufactured, recycled back into a raw material or, as a last resort, used as a source of energy. In Ukraine, the CE concept started to be established in correlation with resource efficiency. The United Nations organized an annual national conference, which gathered over 170 participants from various sectors of activity (industry and private sector, government agencies, national and international organizations, academia and civil society) who joined to learn more about the role, actions, and green paths that national industries can take towards sustainable development. The virtual event, “Circular Economy for Business Development within the EU-funded EU4Environment Action”, took place on 15 December 2021.

Eight Ukrainian companies supported by the United Nations have successfully implemented the **Resource Efficient and Cleaner Production** (RECP) options to improve their efficiency and reduce waste and pollution. RECP is the integrated and continuous application of preventive environmental strategies to processes, products and services to increase efficiency and reduce risks to humans and the environment.

The United Nations improved capacity in Ukraine to support the CE in e-mobility and sustainable resource management using a nexus approach of **Mobility and Resource as a Service model** (M-RaaS). This aimed to improve sustainable inland transport by making it safer, cleaner, more efficient and more affordable, for both freight transport and personal mobility, ensure access to affordable and clean energy for all, and reduce greenhouse gas emissions and the carbon footprint of the energy sector in the region. The United Nations contributed to improved knowledge of Ukrainian stakeholders on policies in place and best practices supporting the CE in e-mobility and sustainable resource management, and improved capacities to develop Ukraine’s own policy framework is based on policy recommendations on progressing towards a CE in e-mobility and sustainable resource management using M-RaaS.

Women in Ukraine make up a large proportion of the agricultural labour force, form the majority of food producers, play key roles in the management of natural resources, and also contribute significantly to the care of their households. However, rural women are limited in their capacity to contribute to agricultural production and take advantage of new opportunities because they are concentrated in informal jobs and overloaded with unpaid work on family farms. These rural women include women with disabilities, women from ethnic minority groups, such as Roma women, women who have been

internally displaced, and many more. [The National Gender Profile of Agriculture and Rural Livelihoods](#) published in 2021, the first **FAO Country Gender Assessment in Ukraine**, will serve as an advocacy tool to provide greater visibility to rural women’s contributions to agricultural productivity and food security.

The United Nations provided support to the Dniester Commission in the development and endorsement of the Strategic Action Program (SAP) and in implementing measures on transboundary climate change adaptation. This aimed to improve environmental governance and performance throughout the East-Central Europe ECE region for safeguarding the environment and human health.

To ensure access to affordable and clean energy for all and reduce greenhouse gas emissions and the carbon footprint of the energy sector in the region, the United Nations supported adapting the previously developed Guidelines and Best Practices for Micro, Small, and Medium-sized Enterprises to assure resiliency and progress towards a CE in sustainable resources management and critical raw material supply chain solutions for Ukraine. The United Nations supported the development of an integrated management and monitoring tool focused on interconnecting energy and water systems. It also helped manage the impact of energy production on water systems, build capacities on data collection related to sustainable energy and water resources management and monitoring, and strengthened the national capacity of economies in transition to develop policy recommendations for integrated energy and water resources management, applicable nationally.

At the sub-national level, UNDP facilitated the creation of **288 new homeowners’ associations (HOAs), with a total of 6,000 HOAs supported to plan viable energy efficiency solutions**. Partly due to UNDP efforts, starting from its roll out, the Energy Efficiency Fund received over 849 grant applications from HOAs with an estimated total budget of more than UAH 7 billion (\$233 million) (an energy saving of 398.7 million kW, and a reduction of 106,400 tons of CO₂ per year). Around 256 HOAs trained by UNDP applied to the Energy Efficiency Fund for energy efficiency retrofit. In addition, 45 partner municipalities developed and launched local programmes for support to energy efficiency and HOAs.

The United Nations continued to implement the **Global Eco-Industrial Programme in Ukraine** and six other countries to demonstrate the viability and benefits of Eco-Industrial Park approaches in scaling up resource productivity and improving economic, environmental and social performances of businesses, thus contributing to inclusive and sustainable industrial development.

Strategic pillar 2.

EQUITABLE ACCESS TO QUALITY AND INCLUSIVE SERVICES AND SOCIAL PROTECTION

AGENCIES: UNICEF, UNFPA, WHO, UNDP, ILO, IOM, UNHCR, UNODC, UNAIDS, UNOPS, OHCHR

Figure 6. The proportion of the United Nations financial contribution to SDGs within Pillar 2



Outcome 2

BY 2022, WOMEN AND MEN, GIRLS AND BOYS EQUITABLY BENEFIT FROM INTEGRATED SOCIAL PROTECTION, UNIVERSAL HEALTH SERVICES AND QUALITY EDUCATION

SOCIAL PROTECTION

In February 2021, the Cabinet of Ministers signed the State Social Programme, “On Preventing and Combating Domestic Violence and Gender-Based Violence by 2025”, developed with expert support provided by the United Nations.

In 2021, the United Nations helped establish **26 specialized services for GBV survivors – 7 shelters; 8 crisis rooms (4 crisis rooms under the EMBRACE project and 4 under the Equality Springboard project), 1 primary psychosocial counselling service in Kharkiv, 1 centre for working with perpetrators, and 4 health service delivery points.**

Also, 20 shelters (Kharkiv, Berdiansk, Kryvyi Rih, Mariupol, Slovyansk, Krasnopavlivka, Vinnytsia, Kherson, Odesa, Rubizhne, Lviv, Myrnohrad, Melitopol, Kreminna, Popasna, Dnipro, Truskavets, Mykolaiv (region), Manhush, Kyiv) ensured safe space and psychosocial support to **720 GBV survivors (318 women, 206 girls and 196 boys), including 23 internally displaced persons (IDPs).**

In addition, 11 daycare centres (Slovyansk, Odesa, Kharkiv, Berdiansk, Kherson, Mariupol, Vinnytsia, Kreminna, Mykolaiv (city), Pokrovsk, Poltava) provided informational support and psychosocial counselling to 5,005 GBV survivors (4,219 women, 441 girls and 345 boys).

Figure 7. 120 shelters ensured safe space and psychosocial support to 720 GBV survivors



Moreover, 11 crisis rooms provided urgent placement and counselling to 415 GBV survivors (257 women, 98 girls and 60 boys).

Through the national toll-free hotline for GBV survivors, **over 16,500 GBV survivors (83.1 percent women, 16.9 percent men) received vital informational, psychological and legal consultations.**

With the financial support of the European Union (EU), UNFPA issued capacity-building grants to 14 CSOs that provide services to GBV survivors and those at-risk of violence. During the six-month grant implementation period, CSOs from Lviv, Ivano-Frankivsk, Odesa, Mykolaiv, Poltava, Zhytomyr, Kharkiv, and Kyiv regions improved their capacity to provide GBV-related social services, including but not limited to psychological and legal counselling, and different forms of therapy to a wider range of beneficiaries. Furthermore, the built capacity enabled CSOs to strengthen their relations with local authorities and also to compete for municipal funding in the future.

To further strengthen CSOs capacities, the United Nations, in partnership with the Ukrainian Foundation for Public Health, provided grantees with individual consultations with GBV experts, organizational development and local budgets to specifically adapt capacity development plans to their needs and local

context. Moreover, the grantees went through two extensive workshops on governmental and municipal funding of social services. The workshops equipped CSOs with the legislative background necessary to compete in public procurement opportunities for social services.

The Career Hub “Break the Circle” aimed to develop the professional potential and financial capacity of survivors or women at-risk of GBV and helped them build their lives free from violence. The online career hub enabled women to receive tailored employability support from career counsellors with preparing CVs, developing a career plan and determining professional priorities. Career counsellors can also guide them through the initial steps with a new job and steer them on a stable employment path while in the role. Hub participants were offered vocational and professional courses, training sessions and webinars to develop professional and communication skills. The platform contains career advice, a list of vacancies and event announcements. Since January 2021, the Hub provided employability support to over 2,100 women.

The United Nations delivered 33 training sessions of trainers on **safe migration and prevention of trafficking**, 10 training sessions for officials responsible with granting the formal status as trafficking victims, training for Ukrainian consular staff before deployment, 1 training session of use of modern information and communication technologies to enhance screening and identification of vulnerable individuals, 3 training sessions for communities frontline practitioners on trafficking, and 1 training session for non-governmental experts on trafficking and labour-related sustainability issues.

HEALTH

The United Nations worked closely with the Ministry of Health in health governance to improve transparency, accountability, responsiveness, and community empowerment. The United Nations continued to support the Ministry of Health to develop the **National Health Strategy 2030 (NHS 2030)**, which is built on the recent success of healthcare reform in Ukraine while considering implementing of lessons learned. The United Nations supported the work of the Intersectoral Working Group for NHS 2030 development and its thematic subgroups, ensuring coordination and inputs from international development partners. The strategy is expected to be approved in early 2022.

The United Nations continued to support and maintain its focus on **health financing reform** in

Ukraine, specifically on policy dialogue, budget space analysis, and partner coordination with respect to the reform process. WHO developed a policy brief, **Co-payment Policy: Considerations for Ukraine (2021)**, describing the ways in which people currently pay **out-of-pocket expenses** for healthcare, comparing this with the international evidence on co-payments as a policy instrument, and discussing policy considerations for Ukraine. The brief was shared with national stakeholders to contribute to technical discussion and public consultations on co-payment policy, all aimed at reducing out-of-pocket, health-related expenses. WHO further contributed to high-level policy dialogues on health financing reform, strengthening the capacity of government actors in health financing.

The United Nations supported the development of the first organizational strategy of the National Health Service of Ukraine (NHSU), including developing standard operating procedures aimed at improving governance and performance. WHO conducted two rapid assessments of capacity-building needs for the Ministry of Health and the NHSU. These key health authorities are vital in developing sound policies to steer and coordinate the health system towards achieving universal health coverage. The results of these assessments are being used to improve both costing and governance, and will be used to strategically plan further NHSU capacity-building activities for 2022–2023.

The United Nations continued to support the institutionalization of a new public health legal framework in Ukraine. This included the development of the country’s first Public Health System Law. The law is a crucial step towards framing public health system reform and building further institutional and operational capacities to achieve better health outcomes across the country.

The procurement and supply management (PSM) practices of the Central Procurement Agency (CPA) were supported and strengthened through capacity-building programmes. In August 2021, a series of training sessions were launched for CPA employees, on licensing and certification of importers and distributors, validation of pharmaceutical warehouses, and other important topics to promote WHO norms and standards.

In 2021, more than 7,555,746 people (53 percent women, 47 percent men) were able to access quality and affordable medicines, healthcare and social services with UNDP’s support. At the request of the Government, the United Nations continued to procure medical products for the seventh consecutive year.

UNDP implemented a total of 125 State Procurement Programmes in 2015–2021, with a total budget of over \$621 million.

ACCESS TO SERVICES

The United Nations facilitated the development of a **national primary healthcare (PHC) strategy and implementation plan in Ukraine**. In March 2021, virtual consultations with the Ukrainian PHC Working Group and the WHO European Centre for PHC took place to support the working group with insights from international experiences. Moreover, under the Ministry of Health and WHO leadership, the strategy and action plan were updated involving continuous dialogue and exchange between these groups.

Figure 8. The United Nations supported the Ministry of Health of Ukraine in introducing management of common mental health conditions at the primary healthcare level using resources of the WHO Mental Health Gap Action Programme (mhGAP)



The United Nations supported the Ministry of Health of Ukraine in introducing the **management of common mental health conditions at the primary healthcare level using resources of the WHO Mental Health Gap Action Programme (mhGAP)**. This was achieved through actions such as supporting national universities to introduce mhGAP-IG 2.0 into the medical students' curricula. These activities took place under the WHO RO's flagship initiative, **the Mental Health Coalition**, aiming to eliminate stigma and discrimination by increasing mental health literacy, including among the health workforce. WHO extended its support to transform specialist mental health services, in line with a person-centred and rights-based approach. WHO ran a successful pilot programme establishing Community Mental Health Teams (CMHTs) during 2015–2021. As a result of this initiative, in 2021, the CMHTs were scaled up by the Ministry of Health and

NHSU across the country, and integrated into the national funding system, the Programme of Medical Guarantees. From 1 July, 61 CMHTs from various oblasts applied for a newly established service package, providing services to 4,000 people with severe mental disorders.

Under the WHO RO's four-year initiative on rehabilitation (2018–2022), the WHO Country Office in 2021 supported Ukraine through technical guidance and recommendations to strengthen, improve and scale up rehabilitation and AT services. Assistive products such as wheelchairs, hearing aids, walking frames, reading glasses and prosthetic limbs are essential to enable people with functional limitations to live productive and dignified lives. Without these technologies, people with disabilities, older people and others in need are often excluded and isolated.

The United Nations developed a framework to assess the national performance using eHealth data while taking into consideration eHealth capacity in Ukraine. WHO created indicators and dashboards that have the potential to provide periodic, relevant and timely evidence to policymakers on the most essential PHC needs in the country. This initiative contributed towards WHO RO's flagship initiative Empowerment through Digital Health to improving health system performance and strengthening critical public health functions.

The United Nations advocated for recognizing the essential role that nurses play in healthcare service delivery. A WHO report released in 2021 provided analytical insight on their role at the primary healthcare level and raised awareness of their critical role in COVID-19 response and in providing ongoing care for those in need of essential services, identified areas for enhanced responsibilities.

Moreover, **57,174 people in Ukraine (28,662 women, 28,512 men) have already accessed eight new e-services on the national web platform of Diia Centres portal**, launched with UNDP assistance and developed in line with Web content accessibility guidance recommendations to ensure access for people with disabilities. Among the public services are application for a state-run reduced interest mortgage programme for IDPs, pension services (allocation and recalculation of pension and certificates from the Insured person register) and housing subsidies service. An additional 966,053 people (53 percent women) now have improved access to administrative services through equipped administrative service centres, mobile service units, or remote administrative service centres' workspaces in remote and rural communities.

IMMUNIZATION

In 2020–2021, the United Nations supported the government of Ukraine to develop and implement **the National Deployment and Vaccination Plan (NDVP)** to combat COVID-19. By the end of 2021, over 27 million doses of COVID-19 vaccine had been provided to the population. WHO also conducted a review to assess the impact of the pandemic on routine immunization practices.

In 2021, WHO and UNICEF were fully engaged in the **polio response**. This included participating in field investigations together with the Ukrainian response team, providing inputs for acute flaccid paralysis (AFP) surveillance activity for weekly situation reports, and monitoring key surveillance data. The team provides support on data compilation and analysis as requested by the response team.

In 2015–2021, a total of 125 health-related State Procurement Programmes were implemented by UNDP with a total budget of over US\$621 million. In 2021, more than 7,555,746 people (53 percent women, 47 percent) were able to access quality and affordable medicines, healthcare and social services with UNDP's direct support. Additionally, UNDP supported the Government of Ukraine with its operational response to the COVID-19 pandemic by procuring and supplying medical equipment (60 refrigerators and 60 freezers), as requested by the Ukrainian Ministry of Health.

HIV/AIDS

The UN Joint Team on AIDS provided technical assistance and mentoring at the regional and facility levels on the systematic collection and analysis of standardized HIV (testing and treatment) data, jointly with the Public Health Centre of Ukraine and U.S. Government Centre for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)/President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR). HIV service providers from the district and city levels increasingly participated in remote site assessments, mentoring and support visits (webinars), as well as individualized support calls with United Nations experts in 2021. These measures provide invaluable intelligence and data from the local level. Better data have enabled a more nuanced understanding of HIV testing and treatment, improved forecasting, and assisted in tackling issues of procurement of antiretroviral medicines' at the facility level, amidst the ongoing impacts of COVID-19 and changes during the health reform process. Data have facilitated site-specific recommendations. The UNAIDS Secretariat and co-sponsors have provided evidence-based recommendations on expanding access and optimizing HIV testing, ART treatment and patient pathways.

The United Nations developed an IT tool for mapping national HIV/TB medical and human rights counselling services, which was integrated in the portal of the UPHC and enabled different stakeholders to find information on types of available HIV/TB services.

Within the framework of an agreement, "Strengthening public health capacity, strategic information systems and community engagement", the UNAIDS Secretariat supported the development of a sustainable institutionalized mechanism for community-led monitoring by strengthening the capacity of local organizations of people living with HIV (PLHIV) and networks of key populations. The aim was to gather quantitative and qualitative data on HIV services and use them to improve programme effectiveness, and close the gaps and inequalities in HIV response.

In 2021, the UNAIDS Secretariat successfully advocated for Mariupol and Kryvyi Rig to sign the Paris Declaration on Fast-Track Cities. Technical support was provided to the Kyiv healthcare administration to develop the municipal Public Health Programme for 2022–2025, and to the local team to generate strategic information, including the PLHIV Stigma Index to inform programming tailored to S&D response in Kyiv and Odesa. Technical support was also provided to Dnipro city administration to implement the Human Rights and Healthy City Action Plans.

In addition, the United Nations in Ukraine piloted a project aimed at integrating the HIV/GBV service provision model at the municipal level in Odessa, a Fast-Track City. A total of 1,417 GBV victims, including 28 persons with disabilities, benefited from an integrated psychosocial support and HIV screening services, 1 percent of whom were diagnosed HIV positive. The expansion of the network of service providers in 2021 ensured greater access to HIV screening services of individuals at-risk and validated data on HIV prevalence among GBV survivors. This also ensured the protection of their health rights and improved awareness and access to healthcare services. HIV counselling and screening services were also offered to family members of GBV survivors, and individuals at risk of infection. The tested model proved to be one of the most efficient ways to reduce gaps in access to information and services on HIV, allowing to empower GBV survivors to obtain the services they need, as well as the referral to relevant service providers in case of a positive status.

The United Nations in Ukraine distributed 5,000 sanitary kits to female healthcare workers working in COVID-19 designated teams across seven regions of Ukraine. During the pandemic, medical workers, especially those working on the COVID-19 frontlines,

have had unbearable working conditions: prolonged shifts, wearing personal protection equipment (PPE), no breaks and witnessing and working under stressful situations and environments. These working conditions pose challenges to female workers in devoting time and attention to their personal hygiene. Their health risk also increases during their menstruation. The distributed kits contain essential items allowing female medical workers to take care of their health.

Figure 9. The United Nations in Ukraine distributed 5,000 sanitary kits to female healthcare workers working in COVID-19 designated teams in Ukraine



Several achievements were secured in **tobacco control, physical activity and non-communicable disease (NCD) surveillance**. In December 2021, the Parliament of Ukraine adopted the bill, 'Amendments to Certain Laws of Ukraine on the Protection of Public Health from the Harmful Effects of Tobacco'. WHO support in collaboration with civil society led to this effective advocacy action to reduce NCD risk factors in Ukraine. The new legislation is a significant step forward in the implementation the WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control and the approximation of the EU Tobacco Product Directive. More importantly, the new legal framework creates an effective basis to reduce smoking prevalence, protect youth from tobacco and nicotine product marketing, and impose control measures on novel tobacco products, thus improving health outcomes and saving lives.

In 2021, WHO launched the third round of **the WHO Global Adult Tobacco Survey (GATS) in Ukraine**, which will be fully implemented in 2022. GATS is a nationally representative household survey of adults aged 15 years and over. It enhances the capacity of countries to design, implement and evaluate tobacco control interventions. WHO also provided technical assistance, training and working with partners (Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation Act for Health project) to launch **the European Childhood**

Obesity Surveillance Initiative (COSI) in Ukraine. The strength of COSI is that it is widely used in the WHO European Region and provides comparable and replicable data. For the first time in Ukraine, valuable and trusted data on children's health with respect to nutrition and physical activities will be available. In 2020, **The STEPwise Approach to Surveillance survey** for Ukraine was released, providing invaluable data on NCD risk factors. For example, in 2021, WHO conducted **a gender analysis of these data** to better identify the specific needs of women and men. The same year, WHO supported the Ministry of Health and other stakeholders to promote trans fats elimination policies, by conducting a policy dialogue on current legislative initiatives, in cooperation with the Parliamentary Committee on Agrarian and Land Policy. A comprehensive pack of documents was produced for the event, both in Ukrainian and English, based on the WHO REPLACE action programme to eliminate industrially produced trans fats from national food supplies.

EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS AND THE COVID-19 RESPONSE

WHO supported the Government of Ukraine in conducting an International Health Regulation (IHR) Joint External Evaluation (JEE), completed in December 2021. Ukraine's capabilities in 19 areas were evaluated over the course of a year through a peer-to-peer process, bringing Ukrainian experts together with members of the WHO JEE team. The technical areas covered ranged from legislative mechanisms to immunization coverage and emergency response operations. Through this process, in which the country evaluates its status together with international experts, consensus was reached on 75 priority action points.

Figure 10. Efforts by the government, WHO and a wide range of health partners have substantially strengthened the response to COVID-19 in Ukraine over 2021.



Infection Protection and Control (IPC)



1.5 million PPE items delivered to hospitals



7460 frontline health care providers received WHO IPC training



More than 800 hand-hygiene stations established in COVID-19 hospitals



More than 40 technical support visits to COVID-19 designated hospitals and onsite trainings for IPC in 2021



More than 30,000 views of 12 joint webinars on IPC with UPHC, UNICEF and MOH in 2021



70% of all hospitals in Ukraine supported by WHO for IPC by 2021

Clinical Management



471 Covid-19 hospitals' oxygen supplies audited



255 hospitals supported with equipment modernization



5800 specialist have benefited from clinical management trainings, webinars and on-site visits



9 Ukrainian-developed PPE products passed WHO quality standards

Laboratories



x100 testing capacity increase in Ukraine for COVID-19 PCR testing in public labs



28 Laboratories supported with lab-supplies



133 laboratories in the participating Proficiency Testing Programme for the Detection of SARS-CoV-2 by PCR



500+ lab specialist attended online workshops on the WHO Lab Biosafety Manual

Surveillance

25

Oblasts monitored for adherence to public health measures

424

Epidemiologists trained in contact tracing

500+

More than 500 daily situation reports disseminated

Mental health

352

Health care workers received COVID-19 focused mental health training

7

Penitentiary facilities reached with MHPSS support

114

Online mental health trainings conducted

Coordination



An Intra Action review for COVID-19 was conducted in January 2021, identifying best practices, gaps and lessons learned thus far. The results were incorporated into the revised CPRP



4 CPRP strategic updates and 15 Health Cluster COVID-19 meetings involving a growing number of some 70 health partners



8 oblasts involved in WHO's social cohesion and peace-building project, involving localized conflict analysis, community-based dialogue, mediation and trust building



24 UN medical meetings held with UN partners to build a complex and multi-partnered health response

Risk Communication



WHO reaches 6 million people through digital information packages (15 video animation and 10 digital packages) addressing safe individual behaviours, understanding of the virus, and COVID-19 risk perception



WHO conducted a 2020 study to understand the behavioural trends towards COVID-19 and trust dynamics among Ukrainians. By 2021, WHO had completed 14 waves of this study



More than 20 video instructions designed and delivered with biomedical equipment to explain proper handling to medical workers

COVID-19 Vaccinations



WHO supported the government of Ukraine to develop a national deployment and vaccination plan against COVID-19 and to complete all required documents for COVAX registration and support



In 2021, 9 million people were fully vaccinated via support from WHO



Over 19,000 health care workers trained to deliver COVID-19 vaccines by 350 regional trainers working in 28 regional training hubs

Maintaining essential health service



25 oblasts and 4 cities monitored to assess impact of COVID-19 on HIV treatment and testing service delivery



250 PHC facilities assessed online and 21 assessed physically as part of a review of the primary health care service package for 2021



WHO conducted a review on routine immunization practice during COVID-19 pandemic situation

WHO visited **18 points of entry into Ukraine** to assess the implementation of the IHRs at the local level. WHO's Country Preparedness and International Health Regulation (IHR) team conducted these assessments to provide advice to the Ministry of Health and the Public Health Centre of Ukraine (UPHC) on improving the implementation of the IHRs at land, sea and air crossings, assisting the UPHC in developing a detailed plan for 2022.

COVID-19 continued to significantly impact Ukraine, and managing the pandemic remained a key health priority in the country. Efforts by the Government, WHO and a wide range of health partners substantially strengthened the response to COVID-19 in Ukraine over 2021. Key achievements in Ukraine's response to COVID-19 include a 100-times capacity increase for PCR testing in public laboratories, four strategic updates to the Covid-19 Preparedness and Response Plan (CPRP), and over 27 million doses of COVID-19 vaccine provided to the population.

OTHER KEY SUCCESSES

Ukraine still has one of the lowest vaccination rates in Europe, largely due to widespread anti-vaccine narratives and disinformation. The United Nations addressed this issue by conducting a novel research project (UNDP in partnership with UNICEF), **investigating a set of COVID-19 indicators through nation-wide score survey (United Nations Recovery and Peacebuilding Programme) and joining efforts with the line ministries, local authorities, CSOs and medical professionals in delivering evidence-based messages on vaccination with an estimated coverage of over 80,000 people.**

EDUCATION

In 2021, the Government of Ukraine, driven by the Biarritz Partnership's commitments, re-confirmed its own commitment to develop an inclusive and discrimination-free education system. Accordingly, the United Nations provided targeted assistance to the Office of the DPM, the Ministry of Education, the Ministry of Youth and Sports, the Institute of Education Content Modernization, the State Service of Education Quality of Ukraine, the Ukrainian Institute for Education Development. The United Nations also provided assistance to regional departments of education and regional professional development centres for educators in the following areas: (i) building anti-discrimination expertise of the education content creators and experts; (ii) supporting young women and girls for stereotype-free career choices, specifically in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) professions; and (iii) promoting zero tolerance to violence.

Throughout 2021, in order to ensure a sustainable and catalytic effect in promoting an anti-discrimination approach in education, in cooperation with the NGO EdCamp, the United Nations conducted 28 comprehensive online training sessions for 1,734 state educational-content experts and representatives of government agencies including the Institute of Education Content Modernization, the State Service of Education Quality of Ukraine, and the Ukrainian Institute of Education Development.

At a functional level, UNFPA developed an institutional partnership with the largest textbook publishing house of Ukraine, Ranok, which certified 43 textbook authors and experts following their completion of a training programme on the creation of a discrimination-free content, and issued a guide for educators on non-discriminatory teaching. UNFPA also started the development of a detailed online course, 'Education without Discrimination', which will provide solid multidimensional instruction to educators on the harmful impact of stereotypes, as well as the means for creating a safe, diverse and tolerant educational environment.

Figure 11. The United Nations continued its long-standing effort to promote gender equality in STEM professions



Aligned with the recently approved National Strategy for the Development of Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) Education, the United Nations continued its long-standing effort to promote gender equality in the STEM professions, ensuring career choices free from discrimination and advancing more equitable conditions for women and girls in the technology sector. The national survey on stereotypes in career choices conducted by UNFPA in February 2021, revealed that most respondents (56 percent) still support gender divisions of professions into female and male, and that 79 percent of Ukrainians explain these divisions due to girls' and boys' different upbringing (29 percent) as well as different professional

orientations at schools (25 percent). The findings were conducted in particular for the vocational education teachers from Donetsk and Zaporizhzhya to increase their skills in applying gender-sensitive approaches in their work.

During 2021, the United Nations ensured that **more than 10,000 girls had the opportunity to practice STEM and improve their opportunities for gaining a profession in the tech or IT sphere.** The United Nations organized the national virtual celebration of the Day of Girls in Information and Communications Technology (ICT), the National Day of Girls in technology, supporting STEM Camps, the Hackathon “Hack4Good” for female high school students as well as STEM challenges.

Partnership memorandums were signed with 40 new partners (Youth NGOs and Youth Centres) that provided 15 **Skills Lab programmes** (Skills Lab: Successful Career; Skills Lab: Self-Employment; and Skills Lab: Own Business) for 548 young people and career counselling service for 400 people in different regions of Ukraine.



Figure 12. 229 new ProSkills trainers were trained in a series of trainings of trainers for specialists who work with adolescents in Donetsk, Luhansk, Zaporizhzhia and Kherson regions

In 2021, a total of 229 new ProSkills trainers were trained in a series of training of trainers (ToTs) for specialists who work with adolescents in Donetsk, Luhansk, Zaporizhzhia and Kherson regions. Out of them, 175 trainers were trained in the Institutes of Postgraduate Pedagogical Education. Specialists

of those institutions participated in the ProSkills ToTs in March 2021 and incorporated ProSkills training programme in the educational courses of the Institutes. This approach has significantly strengthened the sustainability of the ProSkills training programme and its extension. Moreover, it boosted the engagement of motivated and talented specialists who work with adolescents in these regions and has allowed the network of ProSkills trainers to grow and reach more young people across the country. At least 400 adolescents aged 14–17 participated in the ProSkills programme in 2021 during summer camps, youth centres and other institutions in the four regions.

In 2021, 72 TVET teachers and trainers took the International Trade Centre (ITC)/ILO e-learning course, “Modular Content Creation and Digital TVET for Ukraine”, of whom 5 were trained in teaching and administering the course. Ten trained teachers from the four pilot TVET schools in Rivne (automotive mechanics), Sumy (electrician), Kherson (cook) and Zaporizhzhia (tailor) who took the course then created digital interactive lessons based on four syllabi for these occupations. ILO complemented these lessons with four augmented reality simulators and 31 educational videos developed for each occupation, together with the pilot schools and tested by these schools. Additionally, 415 people participated in three complementary webinars on skills expectations and skills matching (ILO/ European Training Foundation), learner-centred approach (ILO/ UNICEF) and the development of digital skills. The digital contents and tools were presented to the teachers and trainers of the TVET institutions. The presentation was attended by 200 people and viewed by over 700 people, and received many queries about the digital products.

In partnership with employers’ and workers organizations, ILO developed several digital interactive learning tools: “Induction course for new unionists”, “Employment without filters” and “Guidance on Gender Equality and Non-discrimination for Employers”.

In collaboration with the Ministry of Education and Science of Ukraine, ILO developed a website as a part of the All-Ukrainian School Online. This website will enable distant learning for the TVET students and teachers. All digital products and contents will be available at this website.

Strategic pillar 3.

DEMOCRATIC GOVERNANCE, RULE OF LAW AND CIVIC PARTICIPATION

AGENCIES: UNICEF, UNFPA, UNDP, ILO, UN WOMEN, UNOPS, UNHCR, IOM, OHCHR, UNV

Figure 13. The proportion of the United Nations financial contribution to SDGs within the Pillar 3



Outcome 3

BY 2022, WOMEN AND MEN, GIRLS AND BOYS PARTICIPATE IN DECISION-MAKING AND ENJOY HUMAN RIGHTS, GENDER EQUALITY, EFFECTIVE, TRANSPARENT AND NON-DISCRIMINATORY PUBLIC SERVICES.

GOVERNANCE

The United Nations continued to provide help to improve strategic planning and budgeting at the national and local levels contributing to strengthening transparency and effectiveness of the governance institutions. Three Policy Advisory Units established with UNDP support under the Prime Minister’s Office, Ministries of Foreign Affairs, Culture and Information Policy facilitated longer-term, resilience-driven transformation of Ukraine’s crisis decision-making and adaptation to extraordinary circumstances, including COVID-19-related ones.

Two more regions (Sumy and Kherson) integrated the gender dimension to their regional strategies 2027, and the Volyn region prioritized women’s entrepreneurship as a result of gender mainstreaming of the policy framework on regional development. Moreover, 13 pilot communities in Chernivtsi, Kherson, Sumy and Volyn regions adopted 32 gender-sensitive programmes and budgets benefiting vulnerable women. These results stem from the United Nations support in: building the capacities of over 300 public and municipal servants based on the recommendations of the first-ever institutional assessment on the implementation of gender mainstreaming and the human-rights-based approach conducted in pilot regions in line with UN Women methodology; facilitating gender-responsive planning and budgeting and developing

gender profiles of pilot regions and communities; and conducting an advocacy campaign on addressing the needs of women facing multiple forms of discrimination in the context of decentralization, conducted by women’s CSOs.

The United Nations supported the expansion of public services to the most remote parts of the country. Around 57,174 people in Ukraine (50.1 percent women, 49.9 percent men) used eight new e-services on the national Diia e-services portal launched with United Nations’ support. Among the public services are an application for a state-run reduced-interest mortgage programme for IDPs, pension services (allocation of pension and certificates from the Insured person register) and a housing subsidies service. New services were created in line with Web Content Accessibility Guidelines recommendations to ensure accessibility.

A United Nations-supported CSO, VoxUkraine, contributed to building the capacity of the SSSU in producing high quality statistics as well as advocating for improved legislation. To align Ukraine’s law on statistics with EU norms and United Nations model law, civil society expert groups in cooperation with the SSSU organized a series of discussions on the draft law, which received positive feedback from the United Nations Statistics Commission and was approved by the Government. Further civil society advocacy efforts for the adoption of the law are ongoing.

A total of 15 CSO hubs improved their internal governance systems and financial sustainability with United Nations’ support. In 2021, United Nations-supported CSOs were empowered to advocate for the implementation of the innovative All-Ukrainian Public Budget instrument. The Government has allocated UAH18.2 million (US\$674,000) for implementation of three winning projects of the pilot phase. The United Nations supported the SSSU to develop an open online platform for monitoring SDG indicators. The SDG Open Platform will collect, disseminate and track national data on SDG indicators in Ukraine disaggregated by sex, age and other social identifiers, identifying data gaps and improving access to official statistics and metadata. The platform will be administered by the SSSU.

The United Nations continued to build the capacity of Ukraine’s public servants, training functionaries in areas such as public policy and human rights. The United Nations continued to provide support to the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine (VRU) in the legislative process,

oversight and representation. A draft law on legislative activity, developed in close cooperation with the United Nations, was adopted by VRU in the first reading. Once passed, the “end to end” legislative process will be fully regulated. Moreover, with the United Nations’ support, the Ukrainian Parliament received a number of analytical documents and recommendations to improve its work, including on the legislative process, i.e. assessing the effectiveness of legislation, planning and monitoring legislative activity. Also, the capacities of 115 VRU staff were strengthened through a newly developed online training course on legislative drafting. The course has been uploaded to the online Training Platform.

According to the Law on Corruption Prevention, all public officials are annually submitting asset declarations to the open registry. This is evidence of the long-term viability of the asset declaration and verification system developed and institutionalized under UNDP’s integrity and transparency initiative (now closed). The United Nations contributed to enhancing the transparency and integrity of public institutions by supporting digitalization of public services aimed at: minimizing corruption risks; strengthening mobile service centres and Diia platform, national institutions responsible for corruption-free procurement of medicines and medical products; and supporting civil society engagement in designing and monitoring the implementation of public policy in different areas.

The United Nations continued supporting the **National Agency on Corruption Prevention (NACP)** on integrity action at the local level, namely, capacity development for local public officials and compliance officers; the development of methodological guidelines on anti-corruption for local governments; and the development of sectoral digital solutions (Your Right mobile app, eCourt, rescue 101, IT solutions centres).

The United Nations supported two stages of the nation-wide testing among the **State Customs Service** officers, in which 9,300 persons were tested. A recruitment campaign for the leadership positions in the State Customs Service Regional Offices and the Central Office was supported.

In March, the Government of Ukraine adopted the by-law, “On some issues of recognition as a stateless person”, aimed at facilitating the introduction of the Statelessness Determination Procedure (SDP) in Ukraine. Ukraine acceded to both United Nations statelessness conventions in March 2013. After nine years of United Nations advocacy, the SDP law is due to be implemented in 2021. The procedure will help to regularize the legal status of stateless persons who

arrived in Ukraine after November 1991 when the Ukrainian citizenship law came into force.

The United Nations with partners successfully advocated for the exclusion of the requirement of mandatory registration of asylum seekers’ place of residence from Draft Law no. 5463 on the Registration and Declaration of Residence in Ukraine, adopted by the Ukrainian Parliament on 5 November. As a result of this advocacy, asylum-seekers will not be subjected to fines for failing to register their place of residence within 30 days after receiving their asylum certificates.

In March 2021, the law enabling the use of biometric visas for foreigners applying for Ukrainian visas was adopted; the development of the law was supported by the United Nations.

HUMAN RIGHTS

In 2021, over 3,232 persons (49 percent women, 51 percent men) were able to address human rights violations through the network of 24 regional Ombudsperson Office representatives supported by UNDP. The regional network and human rights monitors performed 193 field visits and consultations for rural communities, as well as 289 online consultations for 1,839 individuals (52 percent women, 48 percent men). Over 207 places of detention and 27 court trials were monitored by the Office of the Ombudsperson representatives.

The United Nations supported the adoption of the new **National Human Rights Strategy** by the President of Ukraine on 24 March 2021 and the related Action Plan 2021–2023 on 23 June 2021. The Strategy was developed in an inclusive manner, thorough consultations with authorities, civil society and international organizations, and incorporates most of the recommendations provided by the United Nations in Ukraine. The United Nations’ support allowed for the inclusion of critical issues, such as remedy and reparations for civilian victims of the conflict, ensuring: non-discrimination, including against lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex (LGBTI), Roma and persons with disabilities; the right to a free trial and accountability; the rights of detainees, IDPs and residents of armed groups-controlled territory; and freedom of the media; and the right to freedom of peaceful assembly. These inclusions are expected to increase the protection of individuals in the most vulnerable situations and ensure gender mainstreaming in all spheres of life of the new Strategy. Furthermore, per United Nations recommendation, the Ministry of Justice established a working group to monitor and evaluate the implementation of the Strategy and Action Plan.

The United Nations supported the development of the 2030 Strategy on promoting human rights of the Roma people in Ukrainian society adopted by the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine and approved on 28 July 2021. According to the Strategy, about 4 to 8 percent of Roma people in Ukraine lack identity documents, which prevents them from accessing free legal aid and employment., the Strategy aims to, *inter alia*, facilitate the acquisition of birth registration and identity documents by Roma people and create procedures conducive to accessing free legal aid by undocumented persons. The Strategy also emphasizes the importance of collecting disaggregated data and building the capacities of government authorities on the principle of non-discrimination. It also includes a state-wide awareness campaign promoting Roma rights and an information campaign to encourage the Roma population to participate in the upcoming census.

The United Nations provided recommendations to the draft law, “**On the principles of State policy for transitional period**”. On 18 October, the Venice Commission issued its opinion on the draft law, which reflected the main concerns raised by the United Nations with the authorities. In particular, the Venice Commission found that several crucial provisions of the draft law are not in line with international standards, including on the definition of transitional justice, on the right to truth, and on remedy and reparations. The Venice Commission also noted that many provisions are vague and inconsistent with existing legislation and that the draft law does not sufficiently integrate a gender perspective. As advocated by the United Nations and other international actors, the draft law was withdrawn from Parliament in January 2022, which will allow it to undergo a significant review to bring it into compliance with international standards.

The United Nations provided the National School of Judges of Ukraine with training on the use of international labour standards in the judiciary. Ukraine, as an ILO member state, has ratified 71 ILO Conventions, of which 63 are binding, including all 8 Fundamental Conventions and all 4 Governance Conventions, which are now a part of domestic law. The course serves as a reference for interpreting international labour standards and ILO supervisory bodies’ conclusions for judges in decision-making.

The United Nations continued implementing the **Hate Speech Action Plan**, adopted in 2020. The UNCT’s Ukraine Action Plan on Hate Speech is based on three key pillars: monitoring and analysing hate speech; addressing root causes, drivers and actors of hate speech; engaging and supporting

the victims of hate speech. Proactive advocacy on the prevention of hate speech is being conducted regularly by the United Nations through high-level meetings and the submission of advocacy letters to relevant state bodies. Furthermore, OHCHR helped build the capacity of the Ombudsperson’s Office to monitor hate speech incidents, which should lead to enhanced investigation and prosecution of such incidents. Good collaboration has been established with the Office of Genocide Prevention and Responsibility to Protect (OSAPG), which is constantly supporting and guiding the workstream. The Ukraine Action Plan on Hate Speech is used by OSAPG as a model for the United Nations Country Teams, which have not yet developed the respective plans. In response to the Secretary General’s call, the United Nations in Ukraine developed its internal **Human Rights Due Diligence Policy on Support for Non-United Nations Security Forces in Ukraine** (consisting of Standard Operating Procedures and the General and Preliminary Risk Assessment Framework), which was endorsed by the UNCT in June 2021. Nine United Nations agencies working with security forces have been actively involved in the work of the task group and collaborated on the preparation of the policy. In October 2021, the United Nations held a dedicated briefing for all the relevant ministries, services and security forces of Ukraine on the newly adopted the Human Rights Due Diligence Policy on United Nations support to non-United Nations security forces to transparently inform on all of the implications that this new policy may hold. By the end of 2021, individual United Nations agencies had started drafting respective individual risk assessments, which are expected to be finished in 2022.

The United Nations continued to monitor the situation concerning **civic space**, including freedoms of opinion and expression, peaceful assembly and association, and the situation of human rights defenders in government-controlled area (GCA), NGCA and the Autonomous Republic of Crimea and the city of Sevastopol, occupied by the Russian Federation. According to OHCHR, human rights defenders working on issues such as prevention of corruption, protection of the environment, and promotion of gender equality and rights of minorities (including LGBTI) continued to be targeted by attacks, threats, acts of intimidation and hate speech. In most cases, the perpetrators remain unidentified, contributing to a sense of impunity and fuelling further attacks. Women human rights defenders faced additional gendered risks due to their professional activities. In NGCA, OHCHR continued to document developments indicating a further shrinking of civic space. Many human rights groups and activists have left this territory, either due to insurmountable

restrictions on their work, or persecution for carrying out their legitimate human rights work. Those who remained and continued their work, in particular women human rights defenders, face a high degree of insecurity.

The COVID-19 crisis continued to exacerbate inequalities and vulnerabilities, including among healthcare workers, negatively affecting the public's right to health. Increased reports of domestic violence due to the pandemic, disproportionately affecting women, were also of concern. In particular, women living in conflict-affected areas on both sides of the contact line have been found to be at higher risk of domestic violence due to lack of security, high military presence, virtual impunity for perpetrators and economic hardship. Moreover, in areas controlled by armed groups, there is a severe shortage of shelters and support services for survivors of domestic violence.

The United Nations continued monitoring the human rights impact of the COVID-19 pandemic as well as the Ukrainian authorities' response, with a focus on individuals and groups in marginalized and vulnerable situations, in line with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the United Nations' commitment to leave no one behind. Freedom of movement in the conflict zone was severely restricted due to COVID-19 measures, which negatively impacted the civilian population's rights to family life, health, work, social security, and an adequate standard of living. Improving freedom of movement would contribute to maintaining inter-connectivity across the contact line, strengthen social and family links, and decrease the negative impact of the conflict on the civilian population. The COVID-19 crisis has exacerbated human rights concerns faced by healthcare workers in Ukraine, including a lack of adequate remuneration that would provide for a decent living. It has also created new vulnerabilities related to their working conditions and social protection. Degrading working conditions contribute to the shortage of healthcare staff in Ukraine, which negatively impacts on the population's right to health. The Government's response to the COVID-19 health crisis needs to place healthcare workers front and centre, and to guarantee, in close consultation with them, their right to just and decent working conditions. This must include fair wages and equal remuneration for work of equal value, and occupational safety and health, including mental health and psychosocial support services, and an improvement of their social protection.

To strengthen civil society response to the violations of human rights of vulnerable groups of women and men during the COVID-19 outbreak in Ukraine,

seven local initiatives were implemented in Dnipro, Kharkiv, Khmelnytskyi, Kyiv, Lviv, Poltava and Rivne oblasts. Supported initiatives include coordinating efforts of key stakeholders at the subnational level, advocacy for funding allocation for a women's shelter, a rehabilitation programme for the perpetrators, and educational and media activities aimed at different audiences and decision-makers, such as women who suffer from domestic violence, including Roma women. Over 900 survivors of domestic violence received necessary psychosocial and legal support as well as referral. The communications campaign, implemented in partnership with Kyiv TV channel and CSOs, aimed at promoting zero tolerance towards intimate partner violence and fostering healthy partnerships without violence and manipulation. It has reached over 1 million viewers.

EQUALITY AND NON-DISCRIMINATION

Following longstanding United Nations advocacy in coordination with other stakeholders, on 1 July, the Parliament of Ukraine repealed legislation that had assigned 'non-resident taxpayer' status to persons originating from Crimea and residents of mainland Ukraine with a Crimean address in their passport. The repeal took effect on 21 November 2021. By treating those whose passport-registered address was in Crimea as 'non-residents', the legislation had contributed to discriminatory exclusion of Crimean residents from the full spectrum of banking services in mainland Ukraine. This created significant obstacles for maintaining bank accounts and conducting financial transactions, such as transferring funds to a different account, withdrawals, and opening savings accounts. The cancellation of non-resident taxpayer status has a significant effect on the equal access of people originating from Crimea to public services. It follows improvements in 2020, when the National Bank of Ukraine, after long-standing OHCHR advocacy, amended its resolution on non-residential status, thus alleviating some of these issues.

GENDER EQUALITY

The Office of the Deputy Prime Minister for European and Euro Atlantic Integration (DPM), as head of the National Women's Machinery (NWM), benefited from continuous policy advice and technical support from the United Nations to ensure government-wide coordination, monitoring and implementation of gender equality and Women, Peace and Security (WPS) commitments at the national and regional levels. Regular meetings of the Government Commission for the Coordination of State Policy on Equal Rights and Opportunities of Women and Men, led by the DPM, and supported by UN

Women, ensured a coordination and accountability mechanism for gender monitoring these gender equality commitments as the National Action Plan on United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325 on WPS (NAP 1325), the Biarritz Partnership for Gender Equality, the Equal Pay International Coalition (EPIC) and the State Programme on Preventing and Combating Gender-based Violence. Furthermore, the Government contributed to the NAP 1325 monitoring by organizing participatory national Forum initiated by women's CSOs with technical support from UN Women.

The Sectoral Working Group on Gender Equality within the new International Technical Assistance Coordination Architecture, co-led by the DPM Office, the Government Commissioner for Gender Equality Policy and donors, enhanced synergies with development partners through its regular coordination meetings, also supported by the United Nations. Gender equality focal points in the sectoral working groups within the new International Technical Assistance Coordination Architecture gained knowledge and tools and learned approaches to integrate Gender Equality in plans, policies and budgets. The capacity development training was conducted by UN Women in partnership with Government Commissioner on Gender Equality Policy.

The **DPM Office and the Government Commissioner for Gender Equality Policy** received support from a United Nations expert in advocating for gender-responsive finance monitoring and tracking in Ukraine. In partnership with the Directorate on International Technical Assistance of the Secretariat of Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine, a roadmap for the Implementation of a Monitoring System to Track and Report on Gender-Responsive Finance was developed and submitted to the Government. More than 90 representatives of central executive bodies and development partners gained advanced knowledge on the methodology of gender markers at a dedicated webinar, held by an international expert on development finance from UN Women.

To implement **United Nations Security Council Resolution (UNSCR) 1325 commitments**, and in partnership with the DPM and the Government Commissioner for Gender Equality Policy, the United Nations finalized the Guidelines on gender mainstreaming into the Curricula of Security and Defence Sector. 28 higher educational institutions of the sector institutionalized the Guidelines, and more than 900 professors and teachers of the institutions enhanced their knowledge skills on gender mainstreaming to the educational process of the

security and defence sector with the technical support from the United Nations.

The national gender mechanism, namely the Office of Government Commissioner for Gender Equality Policy and the Office of Parliament Commissioner on Human Rights, strengthened the monitoring of the implementation of the national gender equality policy at the regional levels and the impact of decentralization reform to vulnerable women based on data and analysis. The United Nations contributed to this result by conducting the first-ever comprehensive analysis of the implementation of the national gender equality policy at the regional levels, and of the gender and human-rights impact of the decentralization reform, and of capacity development of regional representatives of the Office of the Ombudsperson. It also contributed by facilitating multi-stakeholder dialogue. The findings of the analyses were validated by the national gender mechanism with more than 300 representatives of central executive bodies, all regional administrations, associations of local self-governments, local communities, women's CSOs and development partners. These findings inform legislation and policy measures on gender-responsive decentralization and regional development.

The regional staff of the Office of the Ombudsperson in Kherson, Sumy, Volyn and Chernivtsi strengthened their capacity to perform pro-active anti-discrimination monitoring and analysis with a focus on intersecting gender discrimination at the local level in a series of workshops organized by the United Nations.

The Ministry of Social Policy developed and submitted to the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine the first-ever Strategy on Equal Rights and Opportunities for Women and Men by 2030 and the State Social Programme on its Implementation in 2022–2024 with expert and facilitation support of UN Women and in consultations with civil society.

The **Parliament Equal Opportunities Caucus** benefited from expert support on gender analysis of legislation and the development of the new initiatives. As a result, Parliament adopted the Law on Ensuring Equal Opportunities for Mothers and Fathers in Child Care. Draft Law No. 2689, "On Amendments to Legislative Acts of Ukraine on the Implementation of the Provisions of International Criminal Law and Humanitarian Law", adopted by Parliament, is pending signature by the President. UN Women together with OHCHR supported the Parliamentary Committee on Human Rights with expert advice on the Draft Law. UN Women and UNDP contributed to the documentary on the role of Parliament in advancing the gender equality policy in Ukraine over 30 years of independence.

Figure 14. United Nations supported implementations of the Biarritz Partnership Framework in Ukraine



The **National Agency of Civil Service (NACS)** with expert support of the United Nations, amended the Code of Ethical Conduct of Civil Servants and Officials of Local Self-Governance with gender-responsive provisions to prohibit gender-based discrimination, including sexual harassment at a workplace. A new e-course on prevention and response to sexual harassment was developed and launched by the NACS and UN Women at the online learning platform of the Ukrainian School of Governance. In addition, NACS applied the training curriculum on gender-responsive human resources management, developed and piloted with UN Women support in 2020. As a result of dedicated training, 424 civil servants and local self-governance officials gained advanced skills on how to mainstream gender equality in human resources policies. This support was expanded to prioritize gender equality issues during the All-Ukrainian Youth Competition of Creative Works and also at the side event of the NACS Annual Forum, “Civil Service for New Era”.

Following the adoption of a list of 226 national indicators for the monitoring of gender equality in 2020, the SSSU effectively collected data produced by central executive bodies and research institutions, compiled the statistics on the website (section “**Gender Equality**”) and in the new Statistics Collection, which would be used for evidence-based gender equality

policy planning and monitoring. The SSSU benefited from expert advice and technical support provided by UN Women in determining the list of indicators. The United Nations also contributed to a better dissemination of gender-sensitive data on the SSSU official website and supported the production of a new statistical publication. Furthermore, the members of the Inter-Agency Working Group on Harmonization of National Indicators of Gender Equality to the International Standards under the SSSU, representatives of central and regional executive authorities, CSOs and development partners raised their awareness on the new statistics database as a tool to monitor the implementation of gender equality commitments.

In 2021, UNFPA expanded its business coalition in support of gender equality and zero tolerance to violence, by including nine new companies, for a total of 40 companies. One of these new companies includes one of the largest state-owned enterprises *UkrZaliznytsya* – the Ukrainian Railways. To support them, UNFPA conducted a review of *UkrZaliznytsya*’s gender equality, GBV prevention and family-friendly practices, and provided recommendations on a further gender assessment to be completed in 2022.

Following the hackathon, UNFPA supported five outstanding projects aimed at countering gender stereotypes in sports, educating retired sportswomen with disabilities on professions in the media, and also providing sportswomen in general with financial management skills, and increasing the visibility of women leaders in sports.

During 2021, Ukraine significantly accelerated the achievement of equality in ensuring rights and opportunities for men and women. Bolstered by **the Biarritz Partnership Framework**, the United Nations expertise and advocacy contributed to Parliament’s adoption of Law No. 1401-IX to ensure equal opportunities for mothers and fathers to care for their children. The law sets the basis for improving men’s caregiving practices and removing legislative gaps, which previously restricted a man’s right to parental leave. The law provides for, inter alia, the introduction of mandatory 14-day paid paternity leave for fathers at the birth of a child, as well as the equal right of each parent to childcare leave until the child reaches the age of three, and additional leave in case of a child’s illness or disability.

Employers’ organizations in Ukraine, supported by ILO, have widely implemented the Code of Conduct for Employers, focusing on implementation of policies to mainstream gender equality and prevent violence and harassment in the world of work. The Code of Conduct provides recommendations stemming from the national legislation and the international

labour standards, which are not yet ratified by Ukraine (in particular, covering the standards proposed on maternity protection and prevention of violence and harassment in the world of work).

Figure 15. United Nations facilitated the establishment of five new tatomubs (dad-clubs) in Kyiv, Poltava, Zaporizhzhia, Kherson and Nova Kakhovka



Having leveraged the political commitment of communities and municipalities, UNFPA facilitated the establishment of five new **tatomubs** (dad-clubs) in Kyiv, Poltava, Zaporizhzhia, Kherson and Nova Kakhovka in partnership with local NGOs. Furthermore, UNFPA created a joint network of 12 new and already functioning tatomubs in Odesa, Vinnytsia, Berdiansk (Zaporizhzhia region), Troitsk and Rubizhne (Luhansk region), Kramatorsk and Myrnohrad (Donetsk region) to catalyse a shift of traditional gender stereotypes on child upbringing, partner relations, sharing of domestic chores and the prevention of domestic violence. The opening of these tatomubs was facilitated through a number of donor funded projects.

Figure 16. Tatomubs in Kramators and Odesa successfully generated political support to ensure sustainability of men's engagement initiatives



With respect to institutionalization, tatomubs in Kramators and Odesa successfully generated political support to ensure sustainability of men's engagement

initiatives. As a result, activities on responsible fatherhood were incorporated into adopted Donetsk regional and Odesa municipality target programmes on the development of family and gender policy, and countering human trafficking, respectively, and tatomub spaces were established with allocated funds.

Following the previous success of its innovative design-thinking hackathons aimed at advancing the state of gender equality, the United Nations brought together 19 female diplomats and sportswomen to further develop projects on advancing women's leadership in professional and public diplomacy. Bringing together participants from different professional sectors and giving them an opportunity to work in pairs proved to be an effective methodology, as professionals could share a wide variety of thoughts, ideas and solutions. As a result of the hackathon, UNFPA supported five outstanding projects aimed at countering gender stereotypes in sports, educating retired sports women with disabilities on media professions, equipping female athletes with financial management skills, and increasing the visibility of women leaders in sports.

YOUTH POLICY

The United Nations was influential in the design and adoption of all major youth policy documents, including the Law on Basic Principles of Youth Policy (adopted on 27 April 2021); **the 2030 National Youth Policy Strategy** (adopted in May 2021) and the State Target Social Programme, **"Youth of Ukraine" 2025** (approved in June 2021).

In 2021, UNFPA continued to work closely with the Government of Ukraine, in particular with the Ministry of Youth and Sports of Ukraine in scaling up the implementation of the newly adopted Law No. 3718, "On Basic Principles of Youth Policy", by providing technical and expert support to the Ministry. The work of the Sectoral Working Group on the Coordination of International Technical Assistance in the Spheres of Youth and Sports continued with three meetings organized jointly with the Ministry and under UNFPA co-chairmanship to amplify development partners' support in scaling up the implementation of the law and respective reforms in the areas of youth and sports. Moreover, expert support was provided to develop the Terms of Reference for the Communications Strategy of the Ministry of Youth and Sports of Ukraine.

In addition, the UNDP-sponsored Youth Worker Programme further contributed to civic youth engagement and youth participation in decision-making at all levels, as well as the establishment of an informal professional community. Following the United Nations technical and advocacy efforts, the

Youth Worker Programme is now an integral part of the State Targeted Social Programme, “Youth of Ukraine” for 2021–2025, and has become a sustainable framework for youth civic engagement since it is now funded by the State and co-funded by local budgets.

ILO provided young people with guidance for exploring self-employment options and understanding the steps involved in starting a business. This is achieved through delivering the Biz-UP entrepreneurship training specifically tailored to vulnerable youth, such as youth not in employment, education or training (NEETs), early school leavers, youth with disabilities, or youth residing in rural areas.

The ILO Biz-Up methodology was adapted to the Ukrainian context, including case studies of young Ukrainian entrepreneurs. The training is available online,

through ILO’s International Training Centre. Due to a high demand for ToT, this Biz-UP training was extended to other staff members of the SES and TVET teachers. In total, 101 trainers were trained as trainers. The first group of 782 young people have already been trained in the Biz-UP course.

In 2021, UNV continued promoting volunteerism. In close collaboration with the Ministry of Youth and Sports, UNV advocated for developing a volunteer culture among youth as a second main priority of the State Targeted Programme, “Youth of Ukraine 2021–2025”. The Programme aims at creating opportunities for self-realisation and development of youth potential in Ukraine, as well as for integration of youth into the social life of the country. The State Programme was adopted by the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine on 2 June 2021.

Strategic pillar 4.

HUMAN SECURITY, SOCIAL COHESION AND RECOVERY, WITH A PARTICULAR FOCUS ON EASTERN UKRAINE

AGENCIES: UNICEF, UNFPA, UNDP, OHCHR, UN WOMEN, UNOPS, UNHCR, IOM, OHCHR

Figure 17. The proportion of the United Nations financial contribution to SDGs within the Pillar 4



Outcome 4

BY 2022, COMMUNITIES, INCLUDING VULNERABLE PEOPLE AND IDPS, ARE MORE RESILIENT AND EQUITABLY BENEFIT FROM GREATER SOCIAL COHESION, QUALITY SERVICES AND RECOVERY SUPPORT.

The Humanitarian-Development-Peace nexus.

The United Nations in Ukraine further operationalized Humanitarian-Development-Peace nexus (“nexus”) in Ukraine. A joint RCO-Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) multi-stakeholder workshop on HDP nexus operationalization in Ukraine was held on 9–10 June uniting over 300 people from the Government of Ukraine, local governments,

international organizations and NGOs to identify actionable outcomes, which will also inform the development of the new Ukraine-United Nations Cooperation Framework.

Human security and human rights. The United Nations continued **monitoring of human rights violations in the context of the armed conflict in eastern Ukraine, including in GCA and NGCA.** The conflict continued to impact over 3.4 million civilians, including due to COVID-19-related movement restrictions. Restrictions on freedom of movement also affected the rights to education, family life, health, work, social security, an adequate standard of living, and access to judicial and civil documentation. The number of ceasefire violations in the conflict zone considerably increased in 2021 compared with the last six months of 2020, resulting in increased civilian casualties and damage to civilian objects. To facilitate protection of civilians in conflict, OHCHR maintained a comprehensive record of conflict-related civilian casualties in Ukraine, with relevant data disaggregated by sex, age, place of the event, which side has control over the location of the event, by weapon/type of incident, and kept national and international partners informed on the human cost of the conflict through public reports and briefings.

To facilitate the **prevention of and accountability for torture and ill-treatment**, OHCHR released a thematic report, “Arbitrary Detention, Torture and Ill-Treatment

in the Context of Armed Conflict in Eastern Ukraine". The report, which covers 14 April 2014 to 30 April 2021, examines the scale of detention in the context of the armed conflict in eastern Ukraine by government actors, armed groups, and other actors in territory controlled by the self-proclaimed 'Donetsk People's Republic' and the self-proclaimed 'Luhansk People's Republic'. It also examines the prevalence and patterns of conflict-related arbitrary detention, including secret and incommunicado detention, conflict-related torture and ill-treatment, including conflict-related sexual violence, as well as accountability for these violations, including remedy and reparation to victims. The report aims to promote the eradication of current practices of conflict-related arbitrary detention, torture and ill-treatment, to prevent future human rights violations, and to stimulate further efforts to bring perpetrators to justice and provide victims with remedy and reparation.

Despite the lack of physical access, OHCHR continued **monitoring the human rights** situation in the Autonomous Republic of Crimea and the city of Sevastopol, Ukraine, occupied by the Russian Federation ("Crimea"). In 2021, the information on violations of international humanitarian law and international human rights law in Crimea was included in three OHCHR periodic reports (see Reports on the Human Rights Situation in Ukraine, 1 August 2020 – 31 January 2021; 1 February – 31 July 2021; and 1 August 2021 – 31 January 2022) and two updates on the human rights situation in Ukraine (see Updates on the Human Rights Situation in Ukraine, 1 February – 30 April 2021; and 1 August – 31 October 2021). Furthermore, OHCHR has been the main contributor to two United Nations Secretary-General reports on the human rights situation in Crimea.

The United Nations supported the Government of Ukraine in aligning its legislation with international standards in a number of ways. OHCHR advocacy and technical support led to the adoption of a law that aimed to harmonize Ukrainian criminal law with international criminal and humanitarian law. It aims to bring provisions on criminal liability for genocide, crimes against humanity, war crimes and the crime of aggression in line with the Rome Statute and customary international law. Furthermore, following OHCHR advocacy, Parliament registered a draft law on amending the criminal code on responsibility for the crime of torture, increasing penalties, and bringing the definition in line with Convention against torture. These improvements will increase the likelihood of ensuring accountability for these egregious human rights violations.

OHCHR regularly visited detention facilities where conflict-related detainees were held in government-controlled territory, interviewing detainees and referring their cases to duty bearers when human rights

concerns arose. In 2021, for the first time in years, the United Nations was allowed confidential access to several detainees in armed group-controlled territory, allowing the gathering of information on the situation of individuals in custody in territory controlled by the self-proclaimed 'Republics'.

In 2021, OHCHR persisted its advocacy with the Ukrainian authorities for a comprehensive system of remedy and reparation to civilian victims of the conflict, which contributed to increased attention to the issue by the Government, Parliament and the public. OHCHR provided technical assistance in drafting laws on remedy and reparation for the loss of life and health, and compensation for lost property, which have not yet been tabled in Parliament.

UNHCR and UNDP decided to support a joint project aimed at supporting the local centre for the rehabilitation of persons with disabilities, "Leleka". UNDP renovated two rooms at the facility; the local authorities rehabilitated common areas; and UNHCR provided non-food items (NFIs). At the rehabilitated centre, persons with disabilities will be able to participate in socializing activities and access therapy sessions. UNHCR inaugurated its Community Support Project (CSP) in the town of Chermalyk in Donetsk oblast. Through this CSP, UNHCR and UNDP supported the community's initiative to launch sewing classes. UNDP repaired premises of the community centre and UNHCR provided sewing equipment. Twelve women activists have already engaged in sewing classes and started producing shopping bags for sale.

UNHCR coordinated a final, in-person workshop for 12 activists in Luhanska oblast who completed online training to become legal volunteers in 2020. During the event, the volunteers signed an agreement with the local Free Legal Aid Centres (FLACs) and received their certificates. In March, a similar workshop was held for participants from Donetsk oblast. This project was jointly implemented by UNHCR and UNDP to expand the network of legal volunteers in eastern Ukraine. FLAC launched the country-wide project, "FLAC Volunteer", aimed at creating a network of legal volunteers across Ukraine. UNHCR, UNDP and the Council of Europe support this project through the provision of material assistance and contributions to the training modules.

SOCIAL SECURITY AND SERVICE PROVISION

Crossing the 'contact line' remained restricted in eastern Ukraine, with only two entry-exist checkpoints (EECPs) functioning on both sides of it: in Stanytsia Luhanska (operating daily) and Novotroitske (operating on Mondays and Fridays only). In January 2021, the State Border Guard Service of Ukraine recorded

28,724 crossings across the 'contact line' (see [UNHCR's dashboard "Checkpoint Crossing" here](#)); i.e. a 40 percent decrease compared to December and was linked to the harsh winter conditions in eastern Ukraine, which also affected the functioning of the crossing points.

On 29 June, following United Nations advocacy, the Parliament of Ukraine temporarily froze penalties for residents of NGCA when they travel from NGCA to GCA through the Russian Federation. Crossing the state border in areas not controlled by the Government violates Ukrainian law. The new draft law lifted administrative liability, including fines for violation of this rule when entry-exit checkpoints (EECPs) are closed, if civilians travel for specific humanitarian reasons. This has helped to alleviate the financial burden on civilians, especially since the majority of NGCA residents crossing the border are older women pensioners with low incomes. Following United Nations advocacy, the self-proclaimed 'Donetsk People's Republic' also cancelled the requirement to have a 'DPR' passport to cross the contact line. This requirement positively impacted 14–18-year-old children from NGCA who want to study in GCA. In recent years, an average of 1,600 children from AGCT enter GCT universities annually, and would have had significant difficulties to do so without this amendment. At the beginning of 2021, the United Nations began strengthening its protection monitoring system in conflict-affected areas in eastern Ukraine. To document protection gaps and context developments, UNHCR developed and piloted its Protection Monitoring Tool – a comprehensive mechanism that will cover over 100 localities along the 'contact line'. The United Nations started 2021 by strengthening its protection monitoring system in conflict-affected areas in eastern Ukraine. To document protection gaps and context developments, UNHCR developed and piloted its Protection Monitoring Tool – a comprehensive mechanism which will cover over a hundred localities along the 'contact line'.

Forty-five Community Security Working Groups are active in the target communities of Donetsk, Luhansk, Zaporizhzhia and Kherson oblasts, providing space for police-community dialogue and information exchanges, addressing identified security issues, and interaction among local authorities, security providers and community members. The groups involve over 920 active participants (76 percent women). A network of CSWGs has also been established in each oblast to coordinate activities and facilitate the sharing of best practices between the working groups.

The second hackathon, "**Hack for Locals 2.0: Safer Communities**", attracted more than 360 participants from throughout Ukraine and produced a variety of ideas, from a range of inclusive projects to support

persons with disabilities, promote waste management and support physical and mental wellbeing, to projects on coordinated safety services, evacuation plan development, and training and alerting the population during emergencies. The hackathon's two winning teams received financial and mentoring support to implement their innovative ideas in eastern Ukraine, and another four projects are mentored by the United Nations and partner IT companies.

Overall, 506 (483 women) members of the SHGs and community leaders from Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts increased their knowledge about anti-discrimination, human rights, gender equality, women's leadership, applying the CME methodology, public participation and advocacy. Due to the mobilization efforts employed by the United Nations, more women now participate in regional and local decision-making. Overall, 64 women from SHGs are now members of the existing and newly established mechanisms, such as the Local Gender Coordination Councils (22 women) and CSWGs (42 women), contributing to the promotion of gender equality and the enhancement of community security and social cohesion.

To advance the implementation of the WPS Agenda, 157 women, including 76 representatives of local authorities in Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts were mobilized to participate in the development of the second NAP on the implementation of UNSCR 1325, through data collection and the provision of recommendations on their safety and security needs and priorities. Notably, half of the recommendations provided by the SHG members were reflected in the second NAP on the implementation of the UNSCR 1325 on WPS (NAP 1325) adopted in October 2020.

As a result of the capacity development and expert support from the Programme, two new Regional Action Plans on the implementation of the NAP 1325 were adopted in Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts, as well as seven Local Action Plans at the community level. In addition, 41 NGOs and SHGs from Donetsk Oblast established the Donetsk Oblast Coalition of Civil Society Organizations promoting the implementation of the WPS Agenda.

Two rounds of the **Food Security Assessment (FSA)** were conducted in Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts, which helped identify the food security needs and gaps of the population, carry out evidence-based analysis for informed decisions and prioritization of the response, and provide better targeting of the affected population and thus better programming. According to the FSA results, around 38 percent of population rely on pension as the primary income source, and 29 percent, on humanitarian assistance. It can be observed that own non-agricultural

and agriculture are also among the principal sources of income, by just 5 percent and 3 percent, respectively. The assessment underscores that income vulnerability is a concern with the vast majority of respondents relying on paid work (35.9 percent) or only one source of income as paid work (36.5 percent). Moreover, households are overstretching their coping mechanism to meet their food and essential non-food needs: over one-fourth (28 percent) took on debt during the last three months. Inflation and increasing prices of basic commodities, loss of employment and asset damage due to indiscriminate shelling have further exposed vulnerable household to shocks.

The United Nations agencies in Ukraine unified their approaches to solving the IDP housing issue. As a result, a number of high-level meetings chaired by the Vice Prime Minister of Ukraine were held, a unified algorithm agreed internally and with government counterparts. This approach is currently being tested in a few cities in Ukraine that are large IDP populations.

Moreover, new jobs were created for 77,296 conflict-affected people (38,651 women, 38,645 men) and their livelihoods improved. They were provided with training and consultancy services through a network of regional SES. The business exhibition, “**East Expo 2021**” provided an opportunity for 93 MSMEs from Donetsk, Luhansk, Kherson, and Zaporizhzhia oblasts to promote their businesses at the national level. In addition, 68 (34 women, 34 men) entrepreneurs found new clients and partners from throughout Ukraine and abroad at Business-to-Business meetings during the Expo. As a result, over 92 percent of businesses confirmed the high quality of event organization.

Overall, 35 online stores were launched with the United Nations support to help MSMEs from the conflict-affected region to overcome the negative consequences of the COVID-19 lockdown and boost their economic activity. To advance the digitalization of commercial activities, 171 local entrepreneurs (134 women, 37 men) increased their knowledge and skills in e-commerce and online marketing. The “Start a business” online platform, developed by UNDP, was upgraded to include an online marketplace, as well as five new courses on e-commerce, design, starting a business in the specific industries, and cooperation with business service providers. The number of active users of the platform has increased by 50 percent since the start of the year.

Four new strategies on the development of clusters and MSME groups within the prioritized value chains in eastern Ukraine were designed with UNDP support and are expected to benefit over 6,600 local businesses from the hospitality, engineering, textile and food processing industries.

Over 910,000 conflict-affected women and men benefited from improved infrastructure and quality public services provided with United Nations support, including innovative digital and mobile service provision schemes.

The pandemic triggered a spike in domestic violence against women and girls. To address this, the United Nations, together with partner agencies, helped set up three shelters and two day-centres for GBV survivors in Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts. As a result, 686 conflict-affected residents (88 percent women) accessed these services in 2021. Moreover, UNDP also strengthened the capacity of mobile GBV response teams in Mariupol and Sievierodonetsk by providing them with new vehicles and training.

Despite the COVID-19 pandemic, perceptions on the quality of service provision plateaued but did not show a steep decline, demonstrating a level of resilience.

According to SCORE, the most remarkable changes include improvements in the quality of justice (+1), healthcare (+1), and administrative services (+0.4). Perceptions of personal safety have also improved, especially among women, following United Nations’ extensive support to the rule of law institutions and implementation of local community security projects. Moreover, 27 new public facilities were renovated within the Ukraine Early Recovery Programme.

The United Nations community mobilization and dialogue efforts resulted in the improvement of community cooperation (+1), the sense of agency (+0.7), the gender equality mindset (+0.6) and social tolerance towards various vulnerable and marginalized groups (over 1 point on the 0–10 SCORE scale).

With United Nations support, the Mariupol Sea Rescue Operations Centre, a specialized unit providing services to around 400,000 people living along the Sea of Azov coastline, is now able to fulfil a wide range of specific rescue functions, such as clearing the sea surface and coastal areas of dangerous objects and rescuing people at sea. Emergency service providers can now provide first aid to, and conduct training for, over 200,000 conflict-affected women and men living in hard-to-reach areas along the ‘contact line’. Sixteen police stations in rural areas were renovated with United Nations support.

Over **40,000 conflict-affected women and men received quality free legal aid advice** through the United Nations-supported network of service providers. A mobile application “eCourt” is now available to ensure equal access to court services for all citizens, including residents of remote and non-government-controlled areas.

As a result of the United Nations' civic engagement efforts, the proportion of conflict-affected women and men who actively participate in civic activities is growing: from 14 percent in 2017 to 28 percent in 2021 in Donetsk Oblast, and from 20 percent in 2017 to 28 percent in 2021 in Luhansk Oblast. There is a significant increase across all five different dimensions of civic participation in the community life, including attending events organized by local authorities (from 14 percent to 18 percent) or NGOs (from 25 percent to 32 percent), signing petitions (from 20 percent to 40 percent), volunteering, or donating money (from 25 percent to 33 percent), and participating in demonstrations (from 8 percent to 18 percent).

Over 2,500 (83 percent women, 17 percent men) representatives of local authorities and civil society from the target communities increased their knowledge on good governance, participatory decision-making, public finance, interactions between local authorities and community members, and public monitoring.

A network of supported service providers increased to 24 administrative and social centres, 23 fully equipped mobile service units, and 130 remote administrative service centres workspaces in remote and rural communities. Over 630,000 conflict-affected women and men benefited from their services. To further advance the digital agenda, UNDP has supported the creation of a unified Diia Centres Platform in partnership with the Ministry of Digital Transformation. Two IT Solutions Centres were established to prepare a new cohort of qualified digital officers for the conflict-affected communities.

Figure 18. Overall, 90 young people took part in 'Skills Lab Business Platform', 30 people from each of the three cities



Following successful implementation of the Skills Lab Self-Employment initiative in 2020, in 2021, the new upgraded programme was launched to support

entrepreneurial skills of youth in the Azov region, the Skills Lab Business Platform. Overall, 90 young people took part in the programme, 30 people from each of the three cities.

In the framework of Skills Lab Business Platform 2021, a survey on youth entrepreneurship was conducted, aimed to study and analyse the risks of setting up, expanding and running a microbusiness by young people in the Azov region. The survey included a competition in which all graduates of the Skills Lab Business Platform could participate. Twenty-four business ideas were submitted in the competition, of which 16 were awarded up to US\$2,200.00.

The Skills Lab Employment Platform launched in April 2021, was a continuation of the **Skills Lab Career to Success**, an intensive online training programme introduced last year for youth of Azov region in Donetsk and Zaporizhzhia oblasts.

The United Nations continued to support women's leadership and advocacy initiatives at the local and regional levels in 2021. Particularly, the third Regional Forum "Women's Voice for Peace, Equal and Inclusive Local Development" united 456 participants (275 online and 181 at 28 offline sites in their communities) with 98 percent of women participants. The final Regional Forum brought together 112 participants (101 women, 11 men) – representatives of local and regional authorities, public organizations, and self-help groups from more than 25 communities of Donetsk and Luhansk regions. The Forums enabled participants to share experience on the application of the community mobilization for empowerment methodology; analyse and discuss the impact of implemented activities on community development and on advancing gender equality; and assess challenges and lessons learned. The Forums were organized by UN Women in partnership with the Ukrainian Women's Fund. The participants detailed their overall recommendations for ensuring the sustainable development of already established community-based organizations and on ways for strengthening cooperation of different actors towards community development, taking into consideration gender equality priorities.

Targeting youth aged 1–35 studying in pre-higher, vocational and technical educational institutions and universities, as well as youth seeking employment in Mariupol, Berdyansk and Melitopol, the Skills Lab Employment Platform provided two months of online lessons, where 90 participants learned how to address the challenges they may face in the labour market while seeking their first jobs, or resuming or changing their career path.

Figure 19. Two United Nations mobile clinics provided life-saving medical assistance and referral to specialised services for 8,413 people from 56 remote settlements and areas along the contact line



Two United Nations **mobile clinics** provided life-saving medical assistance and referral to specialized services for 8,413 people from 56 remote settlements and areas along 'the contact line', where there is no specialized healthcare assistance. Mobile clinics' specialists

identified 206 cases of GBV and referred patients to specialized service providers.

United Nations efforts and negotiations with engaged ministries and Peacebuilding Support Office led to the signing of the joint UNDP-UNFPA-OHCHR project funded by the Peacebuilding Fund on engaging youth from eastern Ukraine in the promotion of social cohesion, national unity and culture of dialogue.

The United Nations continues to operate its Emotional Support Hotline, which was launched in 2020. In 2021, IOM's psychologists and psychiatrist provided almost 4,600 consultations. An awareness-raising campaign focusing on the mental health needs of boys and men was carried out in September 2021.

The United Nations also organized MHPSS capacity-building training sessions for veterans, reaching 280 people, as well as cascade training sessions for 50 people, MHPSS sessions for a total of 612 people, and MHPSS counselling for almost 1,100 people. Furthermore, training sessions on psychological first aid and art therapy for staff members of territorial centres in Luhansk GCA were in preparation.

2.3. Support to Partnerships and Financing the 2030 Agenda

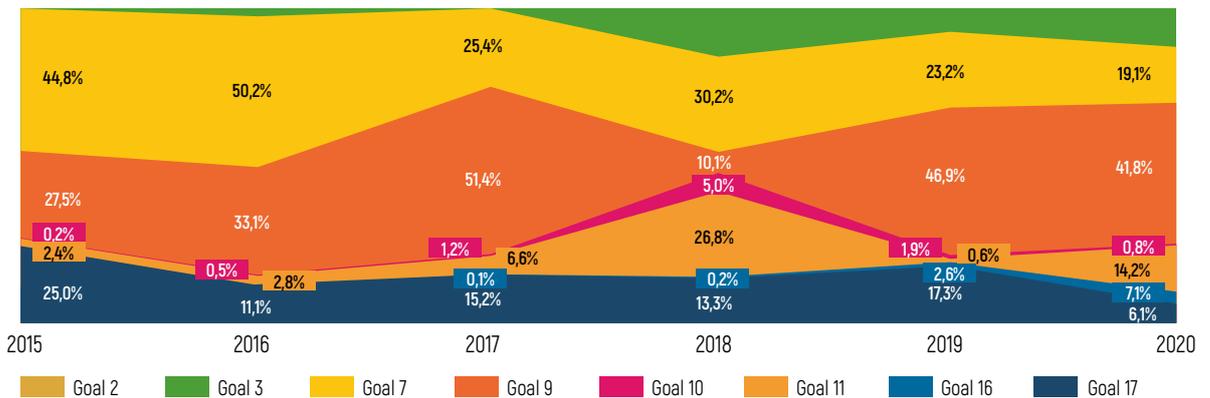
In 2021, the United Nations in Ukraine under the Joint Programme, "**Promoting strategic planning and financing for sustainable development on national and regional level**", established the Integrated National Financing Frameworks (INFF) Working Group under the Secretariat of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine to consolidate the INFF process, secure buy-in on the incorporation of the SDGs into budget declaration. To further develop this work, the United Nations carried out initial national and regional (for Donetsk and Kherson) Development Finance Assessments. Furthermore, the United Nations carried out the Rapid Integrated Assessment to enable Ukraine to assess the mainstreaming of the SDGs into strategic planning and budgeting, as well as led a budget tagging exercise of the Ukrainian budget system with the SDGs. Findings of these key actions will further support the localization and financing of the Agenda 2030.

The new budget tagging system will track the national priorities and the SDGs in the budget. In 2022, based on findings from the Development Finance Assessments, United Nations plans to lead a national debate on the priorities for public financing of the SDGs.

A recent budget tagging exercise of the Ukrainian budget system with the SDGs revealed a preliminary distribution of state budget and **official development assistance** (ODA) and financing the SDGs. Aggregating all SDG-related state programmes reveal that largest amounts of state funds are dedicated to SDG 16 because it encompasses national security, the court system, the police and institutions. The focus of national expenditures on the social sector, pensions and social security programmes can be observed through the concentration of 16.7 percent of national expenditures. Following the social sector, Ukraine focuses most on health (12 percent), investments and partnerships (11.4 percent), education and infrastructure (10 percent); SDGs 5 and 13 are highly underfinanced.

In terms of official development assistance (ODA), the allocation of the international aid was stable and followed a similar distribution. Only 8 out of the 17 SDGs were targeted by international aid in the last six years, due to, *inter alia*, long-term planning and inertness of the aid programming. One observation relates to innovations and infrastructure (SDG 9) programmes that have become a higher priority with the decrease of energy sector support (SDG 7).

Figure 20. Distribution of international aid programs by targeted SDGs from 2015 to 2020



The Government of Ukraine acknowledged the SDGs as a Key Performance Indicator for key institutions; the SDGs are now being integrated into the Government's Result-Based Management tool. The RBM system has a specific module that was developed to link national strategic priorities with the SDGs and EU association agreement (AA).

As part of IFI financing, the United Nations developed a United Nations-international financial institution (IFI) engagement paper, promoting human rights and vulnerability impact assessments of current and planned economic reform policies. However, practical implementation remains challenging and requires engagement on specific topics with the IFIs.

Within the **Global Food Systems Summit** initiated by the United Nations Secretary-General and held in autumn 2021, member states were encouraged to engage in national and sub-national consultations to strategize on the country's possible transformation of food systems that contributed towards the achievement of the SDGs. Under the coordination of the United Nations RCO and FAO, in total, 11 state institutions, more than 120 NGOs, 4 leading scientific centres as well as private sector representatives and business associations took part in the national dialogues. As a result of the national dialogues and other public and government consultations, the draft roadmap for the transformation of food systems in Ukraine was prepared. The document based on the Decree of the President of Ukraine, "On Sustainable Development Goals in Ukraine by 2030", (2019) and is related to strategic documents of various sectors due to the cross-sectoral nature of the issue. It is expected that the Government will finalize and approve the roadmap and an action plan for its implementation, which will accelerate SDG achievement. Having successfully partnered in this process with the private sector, Ukraine plans to globally share its experience and practice on how to involve business in transforming food systems.

Figure 21. Ukraine Reform Conference in Vilnius, Lithuania, July 2022



Ukraine was one of the few countries presenting its investment potential at the December 2021 SDG Investment Fair in New York. The **United Nations SDG Investment Fair** connects investors with sustainable development projects in various countries. Participating countries use this platform to present their projects as investors scout for lucrative investment opportunities that advance the SDGs. Ukrainian state institutions together with the United Nations prepared a valuable SDG investment portfolio whose potential has attracted a great deal of attention.

The UNCT was engaged in **Ukraine Reform Conference** in Vilnius, Lithuania, on 7–8 July, where the United Nations RC was engaged as a speaker at the "Good Governance – Improving Efficiency and Professionalism" panel, discussing the importance of effective and quality governance, and emphasizing that the Government needs to be inclusive, data-driven and gender-sensitive to achieve substantive and sustainable progress.

2.4. Results of the United Nations working more and better together: UNITEDNATIONS coherence, effectiveness and efficiency

The United Nations continued to strengthen its coherence, efficiency and effectiveness in line with the expectations set by United Nations Member States and ongoing United Nations Development System reform. This was achieved by operating internal coordination mechanisms and structures, and holding regular bi-weekly meetings at the strategic and programmatic levels (the UNCT and Programme Management Team). There were various events and platforms that aimed at building partnerships and ensuring open dialogue, as well as soliciting feedback and the sharing the vision of a wide variety of stakeholders and partners. These included multiple bilateral and joint United Nations meetings with representatives of local and central-level authorities, various stakeholders and vulnerable groups, issue-based events and meetings (Ukraine Reform Conference, Yalta European Strategy Forum, Kyiv Investment Forum, International Technical Assistance Forums, etc.), as well as missions to oblasts and cities of Ukraine. The UNCT maintained contacts and partnership with IFIs, international development partners, non-resident United Nations agencies and ensured their engagement in the common country programming and country development processes. Two UNCT retreats were held to further discuss the United Nations strategic positioning and role, as well as ways to increase development cooperation effectiveness. Meetings of Results Groups/UNPF Pillars were held, which contributed to effective monitoring, reporting and strategic guidance of UNPF implementation.

United Nations Ukraine cooperation results for 2020 and programmatic priorities for 2021 were jointly reviewed and discussed by the **United Nations and the Government during the Partnership Framework Steering Committee meeting in June 2021**, chaired by the United Nations RC and Prime Minister of Ukraine, as well as during strategic coordination meeting hosted by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and attended by over 20 line ministries and state services, and the United Nations. Official endorsement was secured for the following: PF evaluation objectives and timeline; engagement of government institutions in the evaluation process; the government's participation in the Partnership Framework Evaluation Management Group; and the UNSDCF 2023–2027 roadmap.

Under the RC's leadership, the UNCT embarked on **the development of new Ukraine-UN Cooperation Framework** (CF) 2023–2027, which included the

following key steps/milestones: (i) endorsement by the United Nations and the Government of the CF design roadmap; (ii) the updated Ukraine Common Country Analysis; (iii) UNPF evaluation and management response; (iv) identification of strategic priority areas and CF outcomes; and (v) extensive consultations with key stakeholders, such as the Government, CSOs and development partners. The CF was developed in participatory manner with the full commitment and engagement of the Government, which ensured the alignment of the CF and CPD development processes at the country level, thus demonstrating the good will of the UNCT and the RC.

The new CF development process began when in November 2021 during the UNCT's retreat, the United Nations agencies discussed the vision and priority areas for their work in Ukraine for the 2023 to 2027 period:

- **Area 1:** Democracy, Good and Just Governance, Rule of Law
- **Area 2:** Green and Inclusive Economy and Society
- **Area 3:** Social Protection and Human Capital Development.

To collect stakeholders' views, the United Nations conducted an online prioritization survey soliciting public feedback on priority areas of future United Nations work from over 1,000 of respondents, including CSOs, women, youth, people with disabilities, academia, the private sector, and other groups. Prioritization consultations with the Government, CSOs, development partners and vulnerable population are planned for early 2022 to inform the design of the new CF.

The Russian invasion and the war in Ukraine shifted the United Nations' focus in Ukraine to immediate humanitarian response and early recovery. Based on the draft CF, the United Nations plans to develop the United Nations interim transitional framework for Ukraine for a period of 18 months (July 2022 –December 2023).

With the support and inputs from the Peace and Development Team, the Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs and OHCHR, the UNCT continued to regularly monitor and assess country developments, emerging risks, and political and security development scenarios with a special emphasis on the protection of human rights and the well-being of the most vulnerable groups.

Figure 22. UN Resident Coordinator and UNICEF Resident Representative at the meeting with Lviv city mayor during the joint mission



The UNCT enjoyed improved access and partnership with the Government and strategic engagement with international partners facilitated by the RC. Courtesy call meetings were initiated and organized by the RC, and were held jointly between UNCT members, ministers and government representatives, representatives of the development cooperation community, and other partners to discuss cooperation opportunities and build partnership. In addition to bi-weekly UNCT meetings, ad hoc and thematically focused meetings were initiated and organized by the RC, including visits with United Nations agencies' officials and external guest speakers, etc.

Multiple coordination meetings were held in the capital, as well as joint United Nations missions to the east and other parts of Ukraine to solicit views of representatives of government authorities at the central and local levels, CSOs, academia and think tanks to gain a better sense and knowledge of country dynamics and the changing operating environment in Ukraine.

The RC-led efforts of the UNCT and the Humanitarian Country Team in identifying linkages between humanitarian and development programming towards enhanced and sustainable impact, and the implementation of the humanitarian-development-peace nexus. This resulted in a consolidated vision on operationalization of the nexus in eastern Ukraine to be fully integrated into the new CF.

THEMATIC COORDINATION BODIES

Several thematic working groups met regularly to further coordinate the United Nations' work including in the areas of gender, human rights, youth, HIV/AIDS, disability, migration, health response to COVID-19, United Nations operation and common services, and communication and advocacy. The work of some of the working groups is highlighted below.

Gender. Gender equality and women's empowerment actions were coordinated by the United Nations Gender Group chaired by the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN Women). The Group coordinated the provision of coherent United Nations' support to the Government in implementing policy recommendations provided by the United Nations Convention on the Elimination of All forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW), commitments made by Ukraine under the G7 Biarritz Partnership for Gender Equality and the Equal Pay International Coalition (EPIC),¹ led by UN Women, ILO and OECD, and organized capacity-building activities on future CEDAW reporting. The Gender SWAP Scorecard assessment was conducted by the inter-agency SWAP Scorecard Assessment Team (SSAT). The findings from the exercise became a basis for the SWAP action plan developed and approved by the UNCT in June. The Gender Thematic Group contributed collaboratively to joint communication activities on the Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment Project (GEWE).

HIV/AIDS. The United Nations joint team on AIDS in Ukraine brings together the expertise and resources of nine United Nations entities. In 2021, under the overall coordination of UNAIDS, the United Nations joint team on AIDS worked with a range of national and municipal stakeholders from both government and non-government sectors, to improve the provision of AIDS treatment and care, eliminate mother-to-child transmission of HIV, extend HIV prevention programmes to hard-to-reach populations of people who use drugs, integrate HIV testing into services working with survivors of GBV, develop municipal AIDS response plans, and support HIV awareness programmes at the workplace, among others. In December 2021, the UNAIDS Secretariat allocated US\$370,000 for the 2022 Ukraine joint programming on AIDS, whose activities will be jointly implemented by eight agencies (ILO, UNHCR, UNFPA, UNICEF, UNDP, UNODC, WHO and UN Women).

Human rights. The Human Rights Working Group, chaired by OHCHR, provided inputs into the Universal Periodic Review, engaged with the Human Rights Committee (International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights), the Special Rapporteur on Torture and Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of the right to freedom of expression and opinion. The group conducted human rights due diligence policy analysis and thematic human rights

¹ The Coalition's goal is to achieve equal pay for women and men everywhere. By bringing together a diverse set of actors with different areas of focus and expertise, EPIC supports governments, employers, workers and their organizations to make concrete and coordinated progress towards this goal. EPIC is currently the only multi-stakeholder partnership working to reduce the gender pay gap at the global, regional and national levels. For more detail, see www.equalpayinternationalcoalition.org

issue analysis. It also organized regular United Nations dialogues with CSOs on racism and discrimination. The Human Rights Working Group has supported implementation of the UNCT Hate Speech Action Plan, adopted in 2020, and the development of the UNCT internal Human Rights Due Diligence Policy on Support for Non-United Nations Security Forces in Ukraine, making Ukraine the first UNCT globally to develop its own Human Rights Due Diligence Policy Standard Operating Procedures.

Migration governance. The United Nations Working Group on Migration (UNWGM), led by IOM, provided inputs and held consultations with the Government of Ukraine on the new Action Plan of the State Migration Strategy 2022–2025. Furthermore, UNWGM was engaged in reviewing the migration governance assessment for Ukraine conducted in 2021 and in holding consultations with the Government on the findings and recommendations of the assessment report. The key highlights from the report were reflected in the CCA and will further guide the work of UNWGM in mainstreaming migration in the next United Nations Partnership Framework for Ukraine. UNWGM has provided extensive support to RCO to engage with government and non-government stakeholders in a dialogue for advancing migration governance in Ukraine.

Youth. Chaired by United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), the group served as technical, advisory and capacity-building support platform for the Government and other stakeholders to promote youth empowerment, engagement and participation in the public life, education, mobility, employment and volunteering, as well as healthy lifestyles.

Medical and health response to COVID-19. By the end of 2021, the WHO-led, 39th meeting of the United Nations Working Group on Medical and Health Response led served as effective inter-agency coordination platform for government outreach, procurement, medical waste disposal, pandemic/epidemic response – not only limited to covering COVID-19, but also polio outbreaks.

JOINT COMMUNICATION AND ADVOCACY

The UNCT strategically led joint United Nations communication and advocacy aligned with the United Nations' vision, values, priorities, and human rights and gender equality agenda, which includes the protection of the most vulnerable and those left behind. United Nations communication and advocacy efforts were coordinated and implemented according to the 2021 Communications Workplan approved by the UNCT.

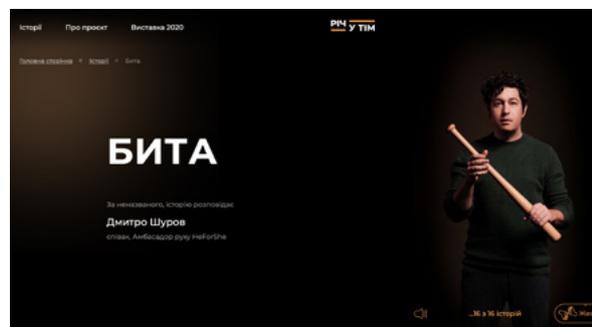
Figure 23. United Nations Day 2021



An innovative approach was applied in organizing the **United Nations Day** in the TED Talk format featuring 12 success stories from beneficiaries of United Nations agencies with topics varying from vaccination to gender equality and environment under the overall theme. “Recovery: becoming better through pandemic challenges”. Over 4,000 people watched the broadcast, and 30,000 people were reached by Facebook. In cooperation with UNESCO Artists for Peace, a symphonic orchestra concert, as a tribute to health workers, was organized in Odessa with WHO support, officially opened by the RC.

Other communication campaigns and events supported by or implemented with the engagement of the RC included the **16 Days of Activism against Gender-based Violence** campaign launched by the United Nations, the Government and the First Lady, International Humanitarian Day, International Human Rights Day, Immunization Week, the vaccination campaign on social media, and the UNESCO Alley, etc.

Figure 24. The Matter Is 2.0' information campaign



Implementation of **'The Matter Is 2.0'** information campaign, a social initiative campaign initiated in 2020 by the Ministry of Internal Affairs with the support from the Office of the Vice Prime Minister for European and Euro-Atlantic Integration, the First Lady of Ukraine and international partners, continued in 2021. It included an exhibition and an online video campaign presenting

16 items related to real cases of domestic violence. In 2021, 16 videos were created with the participation of celebrities: actors, presenters, musicians, scientists and athletes, who voiced stories of victims of domestic violence; 517 media outlets (of which 87 national media, including 33 from the top 100 most influential in Ukraine) covered the campaign and over 8,030 unique users (of whom 7,605 from Ukraine) visited the digital exhibition on the [website](#). Around 581,397 people were reached with messages against violence, and more than 30 cities in Ukraine held exhibitions locally in their cities.

The [HeForShe](#) solidarity movement for gender equality mobilized a diverse range of over 50 partnerships in Ukraine – advocates from the private sector, youth, creative industries and the media. This was achieved through: the MediaForShe Congress (where three new media companies, i.e. StarLightssMedia, 1_1 and Film.ua, signed Women Empowerment Principles); HeForShe Arts Week 2021 which included 29 partner activities, with at least 5,220 participants); the Women in Arts Award 2021, a digital campaign that reach more than 4 million users; Women who play, a documentary watched by 10,000 people online; and the HeForShe University Tour, which reached over 800 students; the Stereotypes Don't Define You, which was viewed by 100,000 views online. The Campaign advocated for, inter alia, allocating resources, time and funds to gender equality and women's economic empowerment by the private sector and media. The total outreach of the HeForShe Ukraine Instagram page is 700,000 users.

The Communication campaign, "Women Defenders", conducted in partnership with the Ukrainian Women Veterans' Movement, the Ministry of Veterans' Affairs and the Public Broadcast "Hromadske", advocated for the meaningful participation of women in peacebuilding and post-conflict recovery. The initiative was supported by UN Women. Consisting of five stories about women veterans' contribution to the community and country development, the campaign reached 1,321,223 persons online.

Figure 25. "Even You" counter-trafficking information campaign



UNHCR and IOM organized a joint online event dedicated to International Women's Day "The Evolution of Women's Leadership: Before and After Displacement". Female leaders and activists of IDPs and refugee communities in Ukraine joined the event, which lighted the role of women's leadership during forced displacement. Among the speakers was Tetiana Barantsova, the 2020 Regional Winner of the Nansen Award.

In 2021, over 34,000 youth in 17 oblasts of Ukraine were informed on safe migration and employment as well as the prevention of human trafficking. The [EVEN YOU](#) counter-trafficking informational campaign was scaled up to Donetsk and Lugansk oblasts in February–March 2021, reaching over 840,000 people with trafficking prevention messages. In July–August 2021, it was implemented in Kyiv city, reaching an additional 80,000 people. In 2021, the National Toll-Free Counter-Trafficking and Migrant Advice Hotline 527 assisted 22,128 individual callers (49.5 percent women, 50.5 percent men) with 101,878 different consultations.

Figure 26. Online Dialogue "100 minutes for youth with youth"



UNFPA and UNV jointly organized an online Dialogue, "100 minutes for youth with youth", as part of the operations of the United Nations Youth Working Group. The key topic of this thematic dialogue was long-term volunteering. Eight speakers representing the civil society, charitable, volunteer organizations and the Government discussed key challenges and opportunities for developing volunteerism in Ukraine. More than 70 participants from all over Ukraine participated in the discussion.

From 18 to 25 June 2021, UNHCR and its NGO partners observed World Refugee Day (WRD) by organizing a

campaign of 30 events throughout Ukraine. The events were attended by the public and representatives of local governments and ranged from cultural and sporting events to workshops, discussions and flash mobs. The highlight of the WRD campaign was the launch on 18 June of an open-air photo exhibition: "Together we can achieve anything", in Kyiv city centre. It was accompanied by a press briefing attended by the representatives of the State Migration Service of Ukraine, ministries, embassies, non-governmental organizations, refugees and IDPs. The speakers presented the findings of the UNHCR's Global Trends: Forced Displacement in 2020 report and described the national context concerning the forcibly displaced persons. The WRD campaign was covered by more than 50 news pieces in local press and television.

Figure 27. "Go to light" campaign



In 2021, over 2 million people and since 2020 approx. 4 million people in total (workers, employers, youth) were reached by the information about the risks of undeclared work through the awareness raising campaign, "Go to light!" which was led by the SLS and supported by ILO.

United Nations policy papers. In 2021, the UNCT continued to produce and launch the United Nations Policy papers – brief advocacy documents that capture common United Nations position on issues corresponding to contemporary Ukrainian reform priorities and include policy recommendations based on global best practices. Considered a strong advocacy tool for multi-stakeholder engagement, five new United Nations policy papers – on in-out migration, social protection, GBV, population dynamics, and disability – were publicly launched during multi-stakeholder meetings, ensuring normative awareness raising and promoting required legislative changes (<https://ukraine.un.org/en/about/about-the-un>).

- **In-out migration.** The policy paper highlights several policy recommendations for the Government of Ukraine and other migration stakeholders such as civil society and the private sector, which need to be further examined and translated into concrete actions to reap the benefits of migration while minimizing the costs.
- **Social protection.** This policy paper underlined significant ways to improve Ukraine's social protection system, especially in times of COVID-19, which also revealed the limitations of the current social security system in place.
- **Gender-based violence.** The policy paper underlines that effective prevention and combating GBV requires transformation of socio-cultural barriers, behavioural patterns and attitudes towards GBV through awareness-raising campaigns and gender mainstreaming in national programmes and action plans.
- **Population dynamics.** Population dynamics is fundamental both to national development processes and to achieving the SDGs. The demographic situation in Ukraine is often characterized as a crisis due to a combination of their population decline and the deterioration of its 'demographic quality' – above all, the health and well-being of people, and opportunities for the full realization of their potential. The policy paper emphasizes that the most important step towards ensuring the country's demographic resilience is to conduct a full-fledged population census in compliance with international standards and recommendations.
- **Disability.** The policy paper presents a common United Nations in Ukraine position on the situation of people with disabilities in the country, and formulates specific policy recommendations for Ukraine to encourage policymaking in line with the global best practices.

OPERATING AS ONE

The UNCT oversaw and guided interagency efforts to advance measures for the promotion of the United Nations common business operations and the implementation of the Business Operations Strategy to generate cost efficiencies and quality gains in operational support to programme implementation. The UNCT initiated and held a number of meetings with government representatives to find solutions to United Nations operational challenges, including VAT reimbursement, and new accreditation procedures for the United Nations, etc.

The UNCT facilitated the continuous operation of the COVID-19 response coordination team, the establishment of effective safety and security arrangements, the strong duty of care system, including the First Line of Defence (FLoD) system of medical services as well as psychological support for United Nations personnel and dependents, back-to-office planning, and staff vaccination, etc.

The FLoD has again proven an effective tool for ensuring the wellbeing of United Nations personnel and dependents in Ukraine. In addition, 354 members of the United Nations staff and 142 of their dependents were provided with 599 direct clinical services, including 53 sessions of psychological support. In addition, 1,799 calls were processed by the FLoD call centre; and 1,930 participants visited 76 FLoD

healthcare and prophylactics webinars. Timely access to the vaccination against COVID-19 was ensured for all United Nations personnel and dependents, both through the efforts of the United Nations Vaccination Programme (1,850 doses provided) and the agreements made with the national government. The only remaining unvaccinated individuals are those unwilling and with medical exemptions.

2.5. Evaluations and Lessons Learned

The evaluation of the UNPF 2018–2022 was carried out as summative and formative, external, independent and system-wide exercise aimed at generating an independent assessment of the United Nations Development System's collective contribution at the country level and informing the development of the new Government of Ukraine –United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework for 2023–2027 (UNSDCF 2023–2027).

While Ukraine is on the path of Euro-Atlantic integration and is undertaking several critical reforms to align the with the Euro-Atlantic agenda, the United Nations is operating in a highly complex and sensitive environment marked by a prolonged and low intensity conflict in the east of the country, in which it must balance the support provided through its normative frameworks and principles with political savvy. Results from the UNPF results framework seem to indicate that the UNPF is still behind in reaching its 49 target indicators. Four of the indicators had already been achieved by the end of 2020, but 13 indicators are not available and/or there are issues regarding their data collection.

Different results have been obtained from a qualitative perspective. Based on key informant interview data and documentary evidence, the United Nations has good operational capacity across every agency implementing activities in Ukraine. Many individual agencies have been praised for their actions by the Government, development partners or CSOs, with virtually each of the UNCT agencies identified at some point as providing a valuable contribution to address the country's needs. The challenge lies in identifying the collective achievements of the United Nations over the past three years.

UNPF as an instrument for upwards accountability (to regional, headquarters and member states) does not, however, contribute to the United Nations focus on the key changes it wants to achieve in the specific context of Ukraine. The armed conflict in the east gives rise to

different interpretations of the United Nations' role in the country and challenges for the agencies that are not operating in the east. Some government respondents feel that the United Nations is not defending its normative role with its programming principles or in engaging entities in control of NGCA to respect International Humanitarian Law and Humanitarian Assistance principles, and that it is putting more pressure on the Government of Ukraine than on the other parties involved in the conflict. This indicates a divided vision within the Government, which is further supported by the different United Nations agencies having different positions on politically sensitive subjects. The country context is therefore delicate and highly sensitive to political interpretations. The UNCT has used the findings from the evaluation in developing the cooperation framework, and will continue to do so for the interim plan.

The United Nations has made great efforts in the development of the current UNPF to ensure inclusiveness and participation from the Government of Ukraine, but there is a general recognition that the buy-in was not there, and several key informant interviews indicated that the Government's ownership was lower than in other countries.

Despite the widely acclaimed role of the United Nations RC in development aid and United Nations coordination, additional efforts are needed in providing a coherent leadership and a coordinated common response of the United Nations in Ukraine. This can only be achieved through the commitment and participation from all United Nations entities in Ukraine.

The first challenge is that the UNPF requirements may not be decisive for fostering national ownership and commitment because this mechanism is designed for upward accountability but misses on the essential component of national ownership. There is a shortcoming in the UNPF structure: it lacks an intermediate level of results (or intermediate outcomes). The current Ukrainian UNPF is more

aspirational, maintaining a status quo even though the external evaluation of the previous UNPF already concluded what this evaluation confirms: the outcomes are too broad and ambitious to be realistically achieved in five years.

The second challenge is that the UNPF as a mechanism seems to be conceived for the United Nations by the United Nations – i.e. it uses a language that is much too conceptual, which undermines the quality of the analysis, with undefined terms that can be interpreted subjectively. The UNPF results framework aims to achieve the SDGs and related indicators, which are not fast moving and require time to be obtained, often extending beyond the period of the UNPF; hence, they may not be the most relevant type of tools to report on the collective United Nations Development System successes in a country under a UNPF.

The third challenge is based on the country context. In Ukraine, it has been recognized that United Nations RC provides critical value to the coordination efforts between the Government and development partners. In addition, there is widespread recognition of the Office of United Nations RC's efforts and progress made in the past three years, including in the challenging task of coordinating the UNCT and ensuring a coherent position of the UNCT in the country. The challenge of a common United Nations position and of United Nations coordination is largely in the hands of the UNCT and the United Nations RC, but one for which support from United Nations Headquarters is required. Provided that higher-level support can help address the first two challenges above, it will create the enabling conditions for the UNCT and the United Nations RC to develop an innovative CF at the country level that will offer a higher level of national ownership of the Government. And the CF is likely to be more strongly supported financially by

the development partners. It should better facilitate United Nations Development System coordination and support United Nations positioning.

Based on the evaluation results, the United Nations in Ukraine was recommended to: invest in more area-based integrated programmes where different actors can support a common outcome from different interventions and invest in further developing RBM skills and knowledge, in particular in terms of formulating results framework and identifying relevant indicators or other means of verification; ensure an improved information management system to better inform on the collective United Nations achievements; and support a solid communication strategy on the work of the United Nations in Ukraine. It is recommended to: clearly define the United Nations position in Ukraine regarding humanitarian aid, peace building, the nexus, and the assistance policy in NGCA; enhance linkages between the Humanitarian Response Plan and UNSDCF; and ensure that CF outcomes support the Humanitarian Response Plan strategy.

Recommendations regarding the future UNSDCF 2023–2027 were taken on board and the draft cooperation framework has been innovative and focused, with a strong nexus focus. These recommendations will still be applicable to the United Nations transitional framework for June 2022 – December 2023.

The UNCT endorsed the management response plan to the evaluation with 11 out of 14 recommendations accepted. Three recommendations contain some contradictions with the global CF guidance and hence have been only partially accepted. Action points for addressing recommendations are planned to be implemented in 2022 when the new UNSDCF is developed.

2.6. Financial Overview and Resource Mobilization

The implementation of the UNPF has benefited from generous support (close to 95 percent of UNPF available funds) from the Government of Ukraine, as well as the Governments of Canada, Denmark, Germany, the Netherlands, Norway, Sweden, Switzerland, United Kingdom, United States of America and Japan. The EU is also a significant contributor, as are the Global Fund, the Global Environment Facility (GEF) and the Joint Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) Fund. In addition to these development partners, several private sector entities

also provided important support to the United Nations in 2021.

TOTAL UNPF BUDGET 2021

Total Required Resources (Annual)	US\$214,692,608
Available Resources (Annual)	US\$200,025,419
Expenditure	US\$201,955,514
Delivery rate (Ratio of Expenditure vs Available Resources (Annual))	101%

In addition to the United Nations Partnership Framework (UNPF) budget, the Humanitarian Country Team (HCT), comprising United Nations agencies, funds and programmes, and national and international NGOs, in its Humanitarian Response Plan originally estimated that \$168 million would be required in 2021 and ultimately mobilized \$103 million through the Humanitarian Response Plan.

For 2022, the United Nations in Ukraine had a budget of US\$182,750,888 to provide technical

assistance to Ukraine. Due to the Russian invasion and the war in Ukraine, however, most of the existing funds have been repurposed for the immediate crisis response and support to the people in need. The HCT, the United Nations and its humanitarian partners are committed to staying and delivering in order to support people in Ukraine. The Flash Appeal 2022 produced by the United Nations in collaboration with humanitarian partners in support of the national Government of Ukraine requires US\$1.1 billion.

Chapter 3 UNCT's key focus for 2022

The United Nations in Ukraine had ambitious plans for 2022 to continue supporting Ukraine's achievement of the SDGs and the implementation of key reforms. With the development of the Ukraine-UNSDCF for 2023–2027, the UNCT was planning to upscale joint programming and enhance its effectiveness and results of joint work with HDPN approach in the centre, focusing on investment in human capital, resilient green economy and environment, good and just governance.

The Russian invasion and the war in Ukraine brought unprecedented damage and human suffering, disrupted development, and deeply changed Ukraine's immediate priorities. The UN responded from day one of the war to support the Government and people of Ukraine. Most of the existing funds have been repurposed for the immediate crisis response and support to the people in need. The United Nations and its humanitarian partners are committed to staying and delivering, to support people in Ukraine. Humanitarian organizations are deploying additional staff across the country and are working to move supplies to warehouses in different hubs to serve people in need.

This grave humanitarian crisis particularly affects the most vulnerable people, especially children, women and girls, the elderly and people with disabilities. We must prioritize vulnerable people and ensure that their health, rights and dignity are safeguarded. The war in Ukraine caused the fastest growing refugee crisis in Europe since World War II. As of March 2022, almost a quarter of the population of Ukraine – over 10 million people – have fled their homes. Almost

6.5 million people are internally displaced in Ukraine. Over 4.9 million refugees crossed into neighbouring countries. More than 186,000 third-country nationals have arrived in Poland, Slovakia and Moldova. More than half of the children in Ukraine – 4.3 million – have been displaced in the last months. Children without parental care are at a heightened risk of violence, abuse and exploitation. Measures to protect unaccompanied and separated children must be strengthened.

There are 2.7 million persons with disabilities registered in Ukraine. People with disabilities and the elderly who are caught up in the violence in Ukraine must be protected. They face heightened risk of injury and abuses, because they do not want or are unable to flee the hostilities.

The conflict puts women and girls at increased risk of sexual violence and GBV, especially refugees or those displaced from their homes. The United Nations with partners will ensure that the health, rights and dignity of women and girls are safeguarded. This includes their right to give birth safely and to live free from violence.

The United Nations is concerned by the far-reaching effects of the crisis on Ukraine's economy, which is already weakened by the COVID-19 pandemic. It will deepen vulnerabilities and inequalities across the region and beyond. UNDP's early projection indicates that up to 90 percent of the population could face poverty and extreme economic vulnerability should the war deepen. The United Nations will work to ensure that the hard-won progress that Ukraine has made on its sustainable development pathway is safeguarded.

The United Nations launched two coordinated United Nations emergency appeals calling for US\$4.1 billion to help people across Ukraine and outside the country:

- within Ukraine, \$2.25 billion to meet the escalating humanitarian needs;
- outside the country, \$1.85 billion to help Ukrainians who have fled across borders, principally to Poland, Hungary, Romania and Moldova.

Although neither the duration nor the outcome of the war is yet clear, the negative human impact and priority recovery needs are. These inform the UN Transitional Framework for Ukraine, will supersede the UN-Ukraine Partnership Framework expiring in 2022 and span over the next 18 months. The Transitional Framework will serve to support and complement Ukraine's response, recovery and reconstruction efforts and strategically

guide the UN response to the ongoing war and its consequences, from the immediate to the medium-term ones. Embracing the Humanitarian-Development-Peace (HDP) nexus, the Transitional Framework will provide the basis for integrated planning and action by the UN spanning the spectrum of its interventions in Ukraine to reduce humanitarian needs and protect development gains of the country.

The Transitional Framework will support Ukraine's national response and reconstruction plans and align the United Nations response to the ongoing war and its consequences, and complement and reinforce humanitarian assistance and peacebuilding efforts.

In operationalizing the HDP-nexus, the UN will build on its long-standing experience addressing the pre-existing crisis in country by early identifying, promoting and maximizing synergies across humanitarian response and development programmes, while enhancing opportunities for peace, towards the common objective of ensuring that risks, needs and vulnerabilities among the conflict affected population are addressed in a sustainable manner and the leadership, ownership and accountability of the Government at national and local level is reinforced.

To complement the humanitarian financing and operationalise the HDPN the UN will consider launching a new early recovery and development financing instrument – the HDPN Fund.

Driven by the protection imperative, the UN will promote the centrality of human rights in the totality of its response. The United Nations will continue to support human rights, gender equality and women's empowerment. Support will be provided to ensure Ukraine's compliance with its international human rights commitments, including by facilitating access to human rights mechanisms, knowledge and expertise, and ensuring that human rights and gender are mainstreamed into national response and recovery plans and policies.

The Transitional Framework will remain a flexible tool complementing the National Recovery Plan and seeking to lay the foundation for full scale UN development framework support by end 2023. The UN in Ukraine will direct all resources to promote and maintain multi-dimensional resilience of the Ukrainian society and economy, with maximum efforts to end the war soonest and mitigate its impacts.

UNITED NATIONS
COUNTRY TEAM
IN UKRAINE

2021 RESULTS REPORT



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