

## PROTECTION FOR DEVELOPMENT ACTORS IN UKRAINE



### HUMANITARIAN AND DEVELOPMENT NEXUS

As the conflict in eastern Ukraine continues, humanitarian and development actors need to work closely together to support IDPs and the conflict-affected population in order to promote durable solutions, maximize resources, build upon a wide range of expertise, and ensure that their programmes are complementary and sustainable.

This note aims to encourage humanitarian and development actors to work closely together to ensure a right's based approach to assistance in their programs.

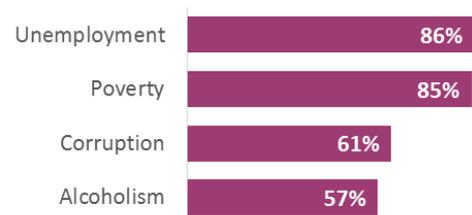
This "New Way of Working" for humanitarian and development actors was highlighted in Secretary-General Ban's [Agenda for Humanity](#), prepared for the [World Humanitarian Summit](#) and reflected in a joint [Commitment to Action](#). It is included in the [United Nations Development Assistance Framework Guidance](#) that takes into account the [2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development](#), which incorporates more integrated and interconnected programming by bringing closer development, humanitarian, human rights and peacebuilding agendas.

### ENSURING A RIGHT'S BASED APPROACH TO DEVELOPMENT

Protection has been at the centre of the humanitarian response in Ukraine and it is important that a right's based approach is integrated into the early recovery and development response as well.

Many protection issues inform development response and are integral to **durable solutions**. The need for sustainable livelihoods, employment opportunities, affordable housing and security of tenure, non-discriminatory access to social services, public transport and access to education and health care, are all areas where the development community can play an active role. The need to rebuild and repair essential infrastructure including hospitals, schools, water and energy supply systems, which have been targeted by shelling, is another area where there is a need for development and humanitarian actors to work closely together.

### Key issues contributing to feelings of insecurity in Donetsk oblast



Source: "Security and Justice in Ukraine"; UNDP, 2017

### Unemployment in Eastern Ukraine: 2010-2016



Source: "The Impact of Conflict..."; FSC/UCSR, ILO, 2017

**Peacebuilding and reconciliation** is also an area where humanitarian and development actors need to work closely together in order to strengthen social cohesion. A growing number of internally displaced people report an increase in discrimination<sup>1</sup> as IDPs and host communities compete for resources within a fragile economy.

A sharp **increase in poverty levels** in eastern Ukraine (20% to 74% in Luhansk and from 22% to 65% in Donetsk) highlights how the conflict, coupled with a deteriorating economic situation and high levels of unemployment, has further heightened the vulnerability of conflict-affected and displaced people. Unemployment and poverty are the issues most frequently cited by people in Luhansk and Donetsk oblasts as contributing to feelings of insecurity – above shelling and mines.<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> National Monitoring System Report 'On the Situation of IDPs', April 2017, P. 18. Available at: <http://www.iom.org.ua/>

<sup>2</sup> UNDP, 'Security and Justice in Ukraine – Perspectives from Communities in Three Oblasts,' 2017

## PROTECTION MAINSTREAMING

One of the ways of aligning humanitarian mechanisms with development principles is to ensure that protection principles are mainstreamed through development response. Protection mainstreaming is the process of integrating protection principles and promoting meaningful access, safety and dignity throughout all the programming<sup>3</sup>. It also requires ensuring accountability mechanisms are built in to programme design so that communities are empowered and participate in the decision-making processes.

### Protection mainstreaming means:

- Including protection considerations in all aspects and at all stages of the project cycle (Assessment, Design, Implementation, Monitoring and Evaluation).
- Reflecting whether people are safe and their rights respected.
- Making sure that vulnerability is taken into account in all programs and projects.
- Ensuring that all groups can equitably participate in programs and projects.
- Measuring potential protection risks in programs and projects.
- Maximizing the positive effects of existing programs and projects on safety, dignity and rights of the people of concern<sup>4</sup>.

### Why should development actors mainstream protection?

Mainstreaming protection ensures that the protective effects of the programming are maximized. Through the integration of protection principles into projects, development actors can ensure that their activities do not create new or aggravate existing protection risks for the people affected by the conflict; that they include people with specific needs and those who are already marginalized, and that they improve safety and dignity.

### ADDITIONAL GUIDANCE

For more information and guidance on how to mainstream protection, please see:

- Global Protection Cluster **Training Package on Protection Mainstreaming**. The training can be accessed at: <http://www.globalprotectioncluster.org>
- An annotated **reference list** of protection mainstreaming guidance, tools, and manuals. The list can be accessed at: <http://www.alnap.org>
- **Minimum Inter-Agency Standards for Protection Mainstreaming** developed by Word Vision. The list can be accessed at: <http://www.refworld.org>
- IASC **Humanitarian Development Nexus Mapping** that can be accessed at: <http://www.interagencystandingcommittee.org>
- Protection Cluster **Guidance Note on Vulnerability** that can be accessed at: <https://www.humanitarianresponse.info>

## RECOMMENDATIONS

### **Prioritize safety and dignity, avoiding causing harm**

*Prioritize safety and dignity of the individuals for whom the programme is intended. Consider if any potential harm may arise because of the development programme, whether intended or unintended. Where possible and relevant, agencies can undertake the [Do No Harm Assessment](#) in order to check how the programme can affect the community. Avoid aggravating existing vulnerabilities.*

### **Ensure that the affected population has equitable and non-discriminatory access to programs**

*Make sure that people have equitable access to assistance and services, being sensitive to the vulnerabilities and additional challenges that some groups might be facing. Conduct an assessment to make sure the programme is not discriminatory in its aim, design, conduct or analysis. Ensure that different groups have access to the services (e.g. people with disabilities, elderly people, parents with small children, Roma people etc.) in relation to the time, location and format of the event/service. Consider using [Minimum Inter-Agency Standards for Protection Mainstreaming](#) that have been developed by Word Vision, as they can serve as a useful tool in this process.*

### **Accountability**

*Implement appropriate mechanisms through which affected populations can measure the adequacy of interventions, as well as address their concerns and complaints, including in regards to protection. Consider IASC Guidance Note on [“Protection and Accountability to Affected Populations in the Humanitarian Programme Cycle”](#), also translated into [Ukrainian](#) and [Russian](#) by the Ukraine Protection Cluster. Establish an effective feedback and complaints mechanism.*

### **Participation and empowerment**

*Support the development of self-protection capacities and assist people to claim their rights, including – not exclusively – the rights to shelter, food, water and sanitation, health, and education. Build capacity of civil society and especially NGOs represent marginalized groups.*

### **Respect confidentiality**

*Ensure that there is space for confidentiality, which is especially important if some case-management element is included in the programme. Establish data protection mechanisms.*

<sup>3</sup> Global Protection Cluster “Brief on Protection Mainstreaming”, P.1. Available at: <http://www.globalprotectioncluster.org>

<sup>4</sup>Global Protection Cluster [Training Package on Protection Mainstreaming](#), P.64. Available at: <http://www.globalprotectioncluster.org>