



FOOD SECURITY AND LIVELIHOODS

BACKGROUND

The war in Ukraine, which escalated in February 2022 led to massive displacement of the population and departure of the population abroad. Wars destroy human and physical capital including agricultural assets, shift resources to less efficient uses, divert international trade and capital flows, and disrupt global supply chains. Thousands of people struggle to make ends meet. The economic instability caused by the Russian Federation's invasion has had a severe impact on the livelihoods of many Ukrainians. The Food Security and Livelihoods (FSL) cluster reports 11.1 million people in need of assistance, while this number is likely to increase with disruptions to irrigation systems caused by

the damage of the Kakhovka dam and the emptying of the Kakhovka Reservoir. Sixty-two per cent of non-displaced individuals reported losing their jobs due to the war, and this figure was even higher among returnees (74%) and IDPs (90%). It is imperative that we prioritize support for livelihoods as part of any humanitarian response to the crisis in Ukraine.

Supporting food security and livelihoods is crucial to ensure that people can meet their basic needs and maintain their dignity. Supporting community-based livelihoods interventions can also help to promote long-term stability and resilience in the affected communities.

LIVELIHOOD INTERVENTION

1. Sustenance grants in rural communities

Prior to February 2022, the International Organization for Migration (IOM) was providing agricultural kits and food security packages to the most vulnerable populations in areas not under the control of the Government of Ukraine. Building on its existing activities and in a war-torn context, IOM provided agricultural grants to micro-farmers in conflict-affected areas to help them restore sustainable income, generate opportunities and enhance their sustenance means. The grants were targeted to vulnerable populations, including internally displaced people (IDPs), returnees, and host community members,

who were in urgent need of support to overcome the effects of the war economy.

The grants were used to purchase agricultural inputs, such as greenhouses, irrigation systems, generators, seeds, and fertilizers for crop production, animal shelters, livestock feed, and other agricultural inputs in priority areas, with a focus on rural locations. They also helped to cover the costs of transportation, irrigation, and other expenses. Beneficiaries were selected based on their vulnerability and needs.

The agricultural sustenance grants are part of IOM's wider efforts to support food security and livelihoods in war-affected areas through community-based approaches. This support attends to help to:

- Meet the basic needs of vulnerable populations.
- Rebuild lives and improve resilience.
- Overcome the effects of the war economy.
- Ensure a sufficient supply of food for family consumption.
- Enhance household income.

Based on assessments and engagement with communities during previous livelihood interventions and evidence from the various surveys conducted by IOM, the need to scale up interventions became evident to address the living requirements of newly accessible war-affected areas and assist in linking the supply chain. These interventions include:



Vasyl's garden is a vital source of fresh food for his family. Kopyliv, Kyiv region. Photo: IOM / Alisa Kyrpychova



A farmer from Kherson region using a cultivator donated by IOM. Photo: IOM / Stanislav Kalach

- Rehabilitation and equipping of micro-businesses, especially those related to people's daily needs, such as bread makers and grocery stores.
- Combining grants with business support to help businesses adapt to new technologies and learn alternative business approaches during wartime.
- These interventions are designed to help people in war-affected areas rebuild their lives and livelihoods and meet their basic needs. They are also designed to be flexible and adaptable to the changing needs of the community.
- Community-based participatory approaches to Livelihoods – targeting rural and peri-urban locations with the aim to adapt community-based approaches to assist in strengthening the sustenance means of communities.
- Market rehabilitations, in particular in affected rural locations where smallholders are able to produce more and to link local supply chains to the market.
- Participatory approaches under IOM Livelihood interventions ensure the design and implementation of services in collaboration with the local community and responsive to their needs and priorities.

2. Livelihoods Capacity Building for Community Social Organizations

IOM delivered capacity development activities to civil society organizations (CSOs) in seven target oblasts in Ukraine. The goal of the activities was to enhance the CSOs' capacity and performance in the areas of livelihood programmes, as well as to foster the reintegration of returnees, integration of IDPs, and implementation of livelihood activities.

The activities included training on project management, livelihood assets, monitoring and evaluation, and value chains.

The capacity development activities are part of IOM's wider efforts to support CSOs in Ukraine. IOM is also providing funding and technical assistance to CSOs to help them deliver essential services to vulnerable populations. Following the capacity-building initiatives, IOM will focus on encouraging community engagement. This includes conducting community needs assessments, encouraging stakeholder collaborations, and facilitating participatory planning. Skill development workshops will empower the community, enabling them to drive their own initiatives. Regular monitoring and evaluation, coupled with advocacy for supportive policies, will ensure sustainability and foster a network of empowered communities achieving lasting impact.

ACHIEVEMENTS BY SEPTEMBER 2023

Sustenance Grants

In partnership with the Ukrainian Red Cross Society, IOM distributed sustenance grants to 1,495 families in rural communities in war-affected oblasts of Ukraine.

The grants were targeted at vulnerable micro-farmers, including both local residents and IDPs with access to land.

Prior to 2023, IOM supported over 70,000 people with in-kind agricultural tools.

IOM worked in coordination with local authorities and implementing partners to conduct community outreach and registration. Applicants were prioritized based on vulnerability criteria, such as the number of children, pregnant women, and people with disabilities affected by the war, access to land, and intent to revive or sustain their agricultural activities to support family food consumption and income.

The sustenance grants included in-kind agricultural inputs valued at USD 700. Beneficiaries could select from a package of options, including greenhouses, motoblocks, submersible pumps with irrigation systems, or generators.

They also received an additional USD 300 in cash to purchase other agricultural supplies, such as seeds, fertilizers, and tools.

The grants were designed to enhance the capacity of small farm owners to increase the production of their own plant or animal products, and thus, the family income. This will enable the targeted beneficiaries to be self-sufficient and meet their basic needs.

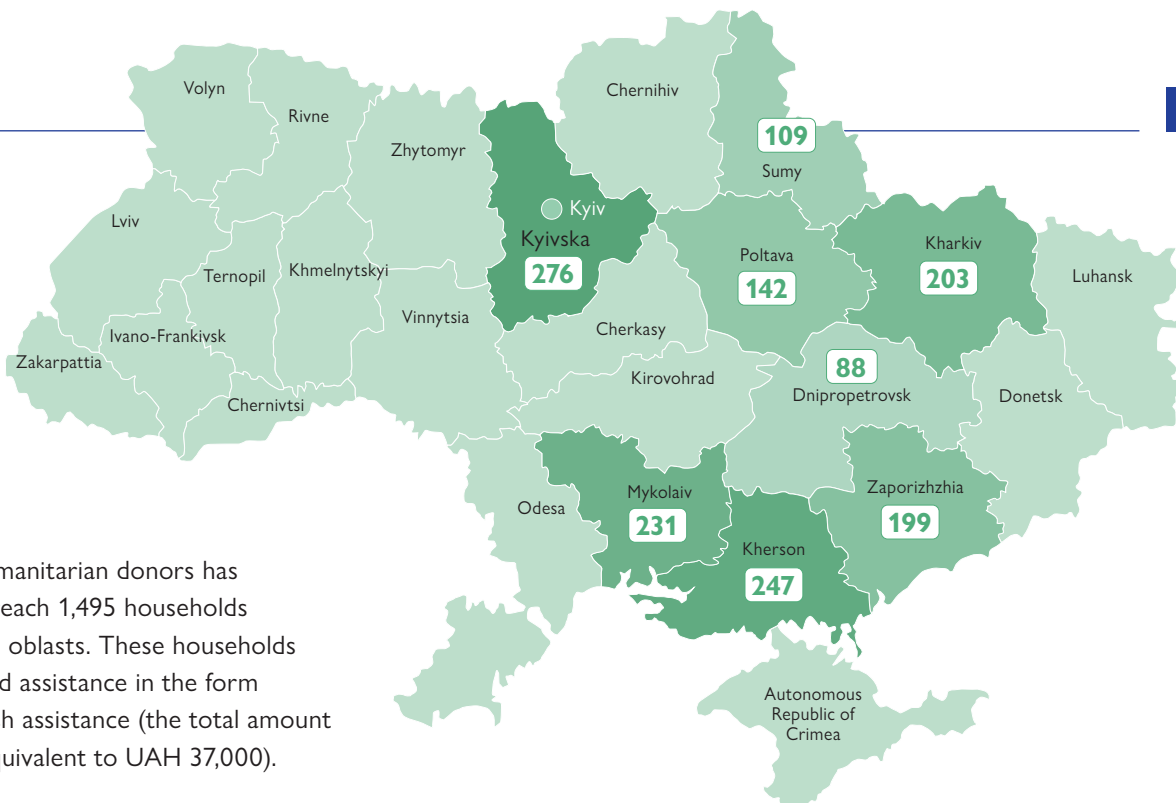
The project targets families whose livelihood sources were affected or destroyed by the war.

From the post-distribution monitoring, beneficiaries expressed positive feedback and gratitude for receiving much-needed support. However, a significant observation was that, in a few instances, beneficiaries received equipment different from their expectations. This included unexpected equipment models with higher fuel consumption, raising concerns about operational costs. This highlights a pressing need to explore alternative, more flexible grant modalities, such as vouchers or cash, to ensure better alignment with beneficiaries' needs and expectations.



Residents of a Kyiv region village with a greenhouse they received as a grant from IOM. Photo: IOM / Maryna Orekhova





GRANTS COVERAGE

Support from humanitarian donors has enabled IOM to reach 1,495 households in eight Ukrainian oblasts. These households received livelihood assistance in the form of in-kind and cash assistance (the total amount of one grant is equivalent to UAH 37,000).

Capacity Building for CSOs

IOM conducted a training of trainers (ToT) for its staff on livelihood fundamentals. The ToT was followed by seven capacity-building sessions for 175 participants from non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and civil society active members in Dnipro, Poltava, Zaporizhzhia, Mykolaiv, Kherson, Kharkiv and Sumy. The capacity-building sessions focused on livelihood basics, project management, and value chains.

The ToT and capacity-building sessions were designed to enhance the capacity of IOM staff and NGOs to support livelihood recovery and resilience in Ukraine. The sessions covered topics such as:

- The definition of livelihoods and their importance
- The different types of livelihoods

- The factors that affect livelihoods
- The principles of livelihood programming
- Project management and implementation
- Value chain analysis and development

The sessions were delivered by experienced trainers and included a mix of theoretical and practical exercises to allow the participants to apply the knowledge and skills they learned to their own work.

The ToT and capacity-building sessions were a valuable contribution to IOM's efforts to support livelihood recovery and resilience in Ukraine. They helped to ensure that IOM staff and CSOs have the knowledge and skills they need to design and implement effective livelihood programmes, and in support of the localization approach in Ukraine.



Community social organizations engaged in an IOM training session in Mykolaiv, September 2023. Photo: IOM

IOM Ukraine's food security and livelihoods interventions have been supported by:

UHF Ukraine Humanitarian Fund



MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF DENMARK



Co-funded by the European Union



UKaid
from the British people



german humanitarian assistance
DEUTSCHE HUMANITÄRE HILFE

