UNHCR The UN Refugee Agency Ukraine

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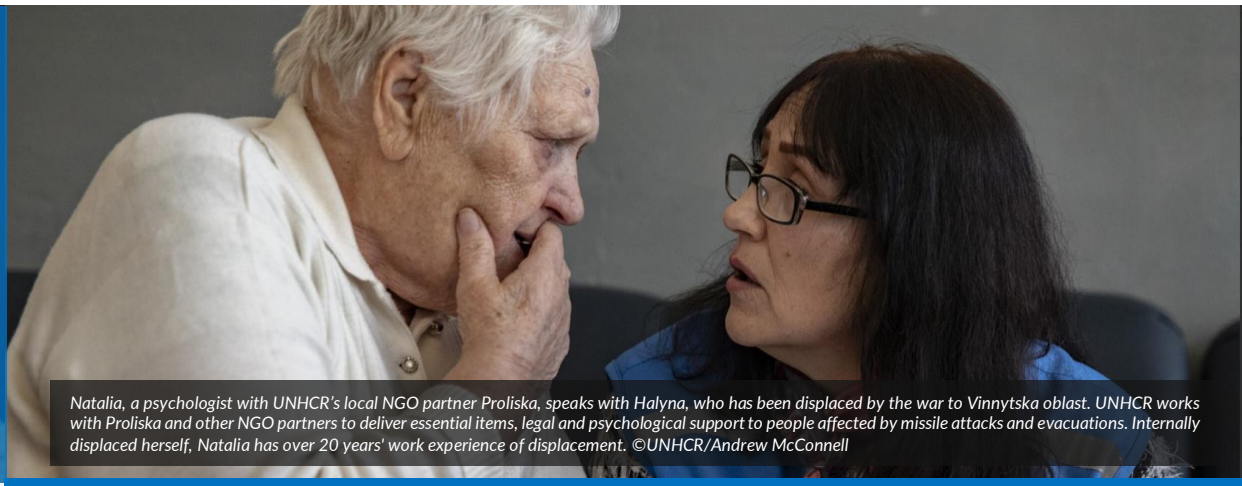
# UKRAINE OPERATION LOCALIZATION FACTSHEET



*Natalia, a psychologist with UNHCR's local NGO partner Proliska, speaks with Halyna, who has been displaced by the war to Vinnytska oblast. UNHCR works with Proliska and other NGO partners to deliver essential items, legal and psychological support to people affected by missile attacks and evacuations. Internally displaced herself, Natalia has over 20 years' work experience of displacement. ©UNHCR/Andrew McConnell*

Since the start of the humanitarian emergency in Ukraine, UNHCR has strived to design and deliver its programmes in a way that helps address an immediate need, while simultaneously strengthening and reinforcing the national and local capacity, to support sustainability, national leadership and community ownership. Localization entails prioritizing a protection and solutions strategy centred around partnerships with Government authorities, national NGOs and community-based organizations led by affected communities. By doing so, UNHCR builds on and harnesses local expertise, experience, outreach capacity and fosters community participation, whilst also increasing cost effectiveness. UNHCR Ukraine will continue to support national partners not only to enhance UNHCR's impact in the short-term but also to facilitate the responsible hand-over of the work of international organizations to national and local partners.

## KEY FIGURES

**In 2025: 13 of 14** partner organizations of UNHCR Ukraine are local.

**In 2025: 99%** of partner funding is going directly to national organizations (compared to 90% in 2024).

**In 2024: 99%** of UNHCR's procurement was done through Ukrainian suppliers. Over $100 million was channelled through local suppliers in 2023 and 2024.

**As of 2025**, UNHCR has **five active Memoranda of Understanding** with Government ministries, as well as with the Ukrainian Parliament Commissioner for Human Rights, the Olena Zelenska Foundation, and **20** regional oblast authorities.

## WORKING WITH THE GOVERNMENT

To underpin this **sustainability** and **national and local-ownership** approach and ensure that UNHCR's programmes complement and reinforce national priorities and programmes, UNHCR has five active Memoranda of Understanding (MOU) with Government ministries as well as with the Ukrainian Parliament Commissioner for Human Rights and the Olena Zelenska Foundation, with more MOUs in the pipeline. In addition, UNHCR has signed MOUs with 20 regional oblast administrations, which outline the areas in which UNHCR provides humanitarian assistance, protection services and supports durable solutions for internally displaced people (IDPs), returnees and war-affected communities in close cooperation with the oblast and hromada authorities. At national level, UNHCR, contributes to several national programmes and initiatives benefitting IDPs and other war-affected people, including:

- The '**Perehid Initiative**', aimed at guiding the transition of humanitarian cash assistance programmes into an inclusive national shock-responsive social protection system.
- The winter cash assistance programmes implemented together with the former Ministry of Reintegration **and with the** Ministry of Social Policy and the Pension Fund of Ukraine help particularly vulnerable households cover additional costs for solid fuel and utilities.

## WORKING WITH LOCAL NGO PARTNERS

UNHCR prioritizes partnerships with local partners, including national NGOs and community-based organizations led by affected communities. UNHCR implements several of its programs through a network of 14 partner organizations, of which 13 are Ukrainian NGOs. These partners are key to the effectiveness and reach of UNHCR's programmes, including legal aid and access to social services, psychosocial support, humanitarian assistance to people living in frontline communities and victims of aerial attacks, and community based protection. **Legal aid partners** provide advice and legal representation in cases concerning identity and civil status documents and housing, land and property rights. **Social partners** help vulnerable people with limited mobility to access social services and provide advice on social protection assistance available from the state and humanitarian partners.

**LOCAL PROCUREMENT:** Local suppliers are vital to the work of UNHCR in Ukraine, allowing for timely and cost-efficient supply of assistance and the material delivered by UNHCR in its response, while boosting local economy and businesses negatively impacted by the war. One such example is the supply of Core Homes (prefabricated houses) to war-affected communities across Ukraine. The company producing the Core Homes is a family-run business that was established in 2016 and specializes in manufacturing modern, energy-efficient, and durable modular houses. In 2023, in cooperation with UNHCR, the company installed 100 Core Homes in Kyvska and Chernihivska oblasts on land plots where the house was fully destroyed, allowing families to return to their own land. The programme continued in 2024, where 150 core homes were delivered in central, eastern and southern Ukraine. A further 150 units will be delivered in 2025.

*A Core Home being fabricated by a local Ukrainian company in Kyivska oblast. ©UNHCR/Oleksii Barkov*

*Liubov runs a cooking initiative – a local community-led business, supported by Neemia, one of UNHCR's local partner organizations, providing an opportunity to upskill and enter the labour market. ©UNHCR/Artur Ulianytskyi*

**SUPPORTING COMMUNITY-BASED ORGANIZATIONS:** UNHCR and partners support a growing network of some 550 community-based organizations (CBOs) and local initiative groups, of which 69% are women-led. This engagement aims to strengthen the institutional capacity of displaced and war-affected communities to advocate for their rights and needs, and to facilitate the integration of displaced people in host communities. UNHCR with partners provide material support to CBOs and train them on fundraising and accounting, establishing a social media presence, as well as strategic planning. Mini-grants (direct financial support) and community-based initiatives (in-kind support) are distributed based on priority protection areas, including fostering social cohesion and inclusion, and the protection of persons with disabilities, older people, youth and children.

**WORKING WITH IDP COUNCILS:** UNHCR and its local NGO partners, notably Stabilization Support Services (SSS), have been actively engaged in the development of Cabinet of Ministers Resolution #812 on IDP Councils. Before Russia's full-scale invasion, the Councils existed primarily in Donetska and Luhanska oblasts. These consultative bodies, composed of local authorities, IDPs and civil society representatives, exist at oblast and local levels to serve as a link between IDP communities and the local authorities to facilitate IDPs active participation in public decision-making. They are tasked with developing recommendations to ensure that IDPs are included in local policies and programmes supporting durable solutions, particularly on housing and livelihood opportunities. The Resolution received strong support from the former Ministry of Reintegration of the Temporarily Occupied Territories. So far, UNHCR and its NGO partners, most notably Stabilization Support Services (SSS), have supported the establishment of and provided capacity development to over 100 IDP Councils. Read more about their work here.

*In August 2024, UNHCR and partners held the second All-Ukrainian Forum of IDP Councils in Kyiv, focusing on developing joint strategic plans for enhancing support to internally displaced people and inclusion in their host communities. © Stabilization Support Services*

## Working with partners

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