UNHCR The UN Refugee Agency Ukraine

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

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FAO & UNHCR

Joint Note



On 9 September 2026, Dnipro in Dnipropetrovsk region was hit by a drone attack, causing civilian casualties and damage to more than 50 private houses and a two-storey apartment building. © UNHCR/Viktoriia Tiutiunnyk

FAO-UNHCR Collaboration Framework

Building on their respective mandates and comparative advantages, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and the United Nations Refugee Agency (UNHCR) are joining forces to support durable solutions for internally displaced persons (IDPs), returnees, and other war-affected communities across Ukraine.

The partnership combines UNHCR's expertise in protection, housing, and durable solutions with FAO's leadership in agrifood systems, livelihoods, and rural resilience. Together, the two agencies promote an integrated approach that addresses key barriers to sustainable recovery, including access to housing, livelihood opportunities, and essential services.

The collaboration follows a Humanitarian – Development – Peace Nexus approach, supporting displaced and host communities through coordinated, area-based interventions that strengthen community resilience, self-reliance, and social cohesion. Interventions will be informed by UNHCR's forecasting model on return dynamics and displacement trends and complemented by FAO's data on the impact of the war and the status of farming households and small-scale producers, helping ensure that investments and activities respond to anticipated population movements, local recovery needs, and the evolving priorities of displaced and returning populations. Targeting will be informed by joint needs-based assessments and criteria, ensuring that interventions respond to differentiated needs while contributing to shared outcomes. Key elements of the collaboration include:

- Supporting durable solutions for displaced and war-affected population
- Strengthening housing, livelihoods, and access to essential services
- Promoting self-reliance, economic inclusion and local recovery
- Enhancing community resilience and social cohesion
- Supporting local authorities and community-based structures to deliver sustainable solutions
- Applying evidence-based planning and forecasting to inform recovery and durable solutions programming

Programme Summary

Ukraine continues to face significant displacement and recovery challenges, while host communities continue to absorb social and economic pressures associated with prolonged war and displacement.

According to the FAO Ukraine Food Security and Agricultural Livelihoods report (2026), rural recovery remains heavily constrained by frontline disruptions, high input costs, and widespread land contamination. The report highlights that a significant percentage of small-scale farmers and rural households face severe livelihood degradation, making coordinated assistance a critical prerequisite to preventing deeper food insecurity.

Evidence across Ukraine demonstrates that returns and local integration depend not only on access to housing, but also on opportunities to restore livelihoods, rebuild self-reliance and participate meaningfully in community life. Recent UNHCR analysis on return dynamics (Forecasting Model) further indicates that access to housing, services and economic opportunities are among the most important factors influencing where displaced and returning populations choose to settle and rebuild their lives. This highlights the need for integrated interventions that strengthen both household resilience and the absorptive capacity of host communities.

The FAO–UNHCR partnership addresses these interconnected challenges through integrated interventions that combine housing support, agriculture and livestock livelihoods, community-based protection and local recovery initiatives. Interventions will align with Ukraine's Humanitarian National Response Plan (HNRP) and the UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSCDF) for Ukraine. By investing in people, communities and local systems, and by using evidence from UNHCR's forecasting model to inform planning and implementation, the initiative supports displaced and war-affected populations to rebuild their lives while strengthening community resilience and supporting Ukraine's broader recovery efforts.

ACTIVITES UNDER THE JOINT PROGRAMME

1. Housing and community-based solutions: foundations for durable solutions

Lead agency: UNHCR

Access to safe and adequate housing is a key prerequisite for sustainable returns, local integration, and recovery. Building on its protection and durable solutions mandate, UNHCR supports displaced and war-affected populations through an integrated housing and community-based approach that helps people rebuild their lives while strengthening the resilience of host communities.

Activities include:

- House repairs, including social housing
- Limited interventions in collective site for accessibility improvements, while support transitioning to sustainable accommodation
- Rehabilitation of critical community and social infrastructure facilities
- Housing, Land and Property (HLP) assistance and legal counselling
- Community-based protection and social inclusion activities
- Support and complement access to the Government's eVidnovlennia compensation programme through UNHCR's Complementarity to Compensation (CtC) approach, including legal aid, strategic advocacy, technical guidance, and targeted shelter support for vulnerable households

Target:

Forcibly displaced and war-affected populations have improved access to safe housing, basic and essential services as well as community-based support, enabling sustainable solutions and stronger community resilience.

2. Livelihoods and agrifood recovery: from assistance to self-reliance and economic inclusion

Lead agency: FAO

Livelihood opportunities and economic inclusion are critical enabler of durable solutions and sustainable recovery. Through its expertise in emergency agriculture, agrifood systems, rural development and natural resource management, FAO supports displaced and war-affected populations to restore productive capacities, strengthen food security, access income-generating opportunities and rebuild self-reliance, while contributing to local economic recovery and community resilience. Working with relevant partners, FAO will further strengthen self-reliance and economic inclusion by connecting displaced and war-affected populations with local labour and agrifood markets, income-generating opportunities and community support systems, enabling them to contribute actively to local recovery and development.
In alignment with the findings from FAO (2026) regarding the steep decline in livestock populations, lack of access to quality seeds and other agricultural inputs, and diminished purchasing power among rural IDPs, the following targeted interventions will be prioritized:

- Agricultural grants, voucher and cash-based support to restore and strengthen livelihoods
- Greenhouse, crop and vegetable production support
- Livestock and poultry production assistance
- Provision of agricultural inputs, tools and equipment

- Capacity-building and technical training for small-scale farmers and rural households
- Support to small-scale agribusinesses and value chain development
- Vocational and business-development training for small-scale farmers, rural households and displaced populations
- Linkages to agricultural employment, local labour markets and other income-generating opportunities
- Strengthening the capacity of community-based and civil society organizations to support livelihood recovery and economic inclusion
- Strengthening partnerships with local authorities, the private sector and other relevant actors
- Supporting pathways towards sustainable local integration and eventual return

Target:

Displaced and war-affected populations have restored productive capacities, improved access to livelihood opportunities, improved food security and access to sustainable livelihood opportunities, strengthened their self-reliance, and increased participation in local economies, thereby contributing to the recovery and resilience of their communities.

3. Community resilience and social cohesion: stronger communities for sustainable recovery

Lead agencies: FAO and UNHCR

Sustainable recovery depends on resilient communities where displaced and host populations can live, work, and thrive together. FAO and UNHCR support community-based and war-sensitive approaches that strengthen local capacities, promote participation, and foster peaceful co-existence between displaced and host communities, contributing to inclusive local recovery.

Activities include:

- Community-based initiatives that bring together displaced and host populations
- Support to community centres and shared community spaces
- Capacity strengthening of local authorities, community-based organizations, and IDP Councils
- Community engagement, participation, and volunteer initiatives
- Awareness-raising and social cohesion activities

Target:

Forcibly displaced and host communities are better connected, more resilient, and actively engaged in shaping inclusive and sustainable local recovery.