

# The Human Dimension – Social Recovery and Human Capital for the Future of Ukraine

## Ensuring a local approach to Ukraine’s social recovery

Ukraine's recovery, in particular its social dimension, should be locally-lead, and focus at all times on the human impacts of the war. High-level events such as the Ukrainian Recovery Conference (URC) will be most effective when prioritising the interests, needs and rights of those who continue to suffer from the armed aggression of the Russian Federation against Ukraine.

The apportionment of humanitarian aid versus long-term financing in Ukraine will depend on how well the main contributors (Ukrainian government and external actors, such as donor states, private sector and others) to the country’s future understand the transition of various regions from acute crisis to recovery. Ukraine's civil society, being closest to the affected communities, should continuously shape and inform this understanding. A high level of self-organization within civil society increases flexibility, efficiency and the speed of response to urgent problems during martial law. The voice of the Ukrainian Civil Society should be considered in the development of relevant policies and procedures, and it should have an influence on decision-making related to the social recovery of Ukraine.

A fair distribution of financial resources for recovery from donors and international organizations among civil society, the public sector, and the government, based on constructive dialogue among all actors involved in the crisis in Ukraine, will lead to more transparent fund usage. This approach will enhance interaction and co-operation between civil society, the public sector and authorities in the recovery process, and ensure that the needs of the affected population across Ukraine are comprehensively addressed. Transparent reporting on the implementation of social recovery programs and measures, as well as on spending of funds from the public sector and international partners, is critical. As representatives of the Ukrainian Civil Society, working with international funding, we have mechanisms in place for the monitoring, evaluation and learning (MEAL) of these funds, as well as robust systems for internal and external auditing, thus ascertaining the highest level of accountability.

Reforming the social sphere – including payments, social services and guarantees – to involve the Ukrainian Civil Society in addressing urgent social issues caused by the war and the significant deterioration of citizens’ social conditions should be a priority for Ukraine on its path to EU membership. The flexibility and efficiency of the non-state sector can help reduce the pressure on the state budget, facilitate adaptation to EU standards and apply the best Euro-Atlantic rehabilitation practices for reintegrating of all those most war-affected, including veterans. This sector will also improve access to social services and accelerate the social system's adaptation to the needs of society and the state. A nationwide audit of the social system's needs and capacities (including private, state, and civil society-based sectors), along with a review of support criteria and grounds for payments and services, is essential for efficient and cost-effective recovery. Social recovery should have a forward-looking perspective, beginning with restoring human capital by caring for those wounded in the war and creating an inclusive environment for all social groups, fully utilizing their skills and qualities.

The transition from emergency and humanitarian response to long-term social solutions must be gradual, balanced, and consider the actual situation on the front line, the evacuation needs of refugees, and the capabilities of host communities. The war's severe impact on vulnerable populations and the increasing number of people in this category necessitate prioritizing the social sphere in state and budget



policy. Ukrainian civil society is uniquely positioned to understand and adapt to the real needs of the affected population.

**Three concrete asks:**

- The support of the Ukrainian Government and the international community is critical to the recognition of the significant contribution of Ukrainian Civil Society in the recovery efforts of Ukraine. It is crucial for civil society actors to play a key role in formulating relevant strategies and reforms. Ensuring their involvement in complementarity with international organisations, local, regional and national state actors as well as commercial entities and institutions would foster a comprehensive approach to reconstruction and other measures.
- Legal frameworks should be established, to ensure equal access to quality, client-oriented social services for all individuals in need, regardless of their place of residence. Developing this framework based on a digitized financing approach would facilitate efficient and fair distribution of resources and services.
- The full implementation of existing and future central laws concerning the procurement of social service providers across all Ukrainian regions should be ensured. It is important that national laws are respected and adhered to by all official entities to promote consistency and fairness in the provision of social services.

This statement has been endorsed by:



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