

IOM – Hromada Reconstruction Facility (HREF)

As of: September 2026

Community-based reconstruction in Ukraine

Project partner	International Organization for Migration (IOM)
Description	The Project contributes to reconstruction processes at the level of the Hromada (administrative unit in Ukraine, comparable to the <i>Verbandsgemeinde</i> in Germany). The aim is to strengthen the resilience of conflict-affected communities in Ukraine. The Project combines the reconstruction of public utilities with community-based activities, so that the restoration of infrastructure and the stabilization of social structures can be promoted in a participatory manner.
Donor	Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ)
Financial volume	EUR 48m

Starting Point

The ongoing war in Ukraine has resulted in massive humanitarian consequences, including a large number of displaced persons and significant suffering among the civilian population. At the same time, it is evident that Ukrainian municipalities (Hromada) often are not able to maintain or rapidly restore the essential public service systems and service delivery on their own. Particularly relevant are the sectors of healthcare, education and training, water and wastewater management, waste disposal, and energy supply. Poor access to such services constitutes a major obstacle to sustainable return and local integration.

The infrastructural damage is an additional exacerbation: even before the war, very large parts of the population had no access to safe water supply and/or no access to centralized wastewater treatment. Power outages caused by attacks further exacerbate the situation, as many affected services are highly dependent on continuous electricity supply. This results in an immediate link between infrastructure failures, service disruptions, and the associated risks for health, participation, and stabilization at the local level.

In addition to infrastructure-related challenges, displacement places additional burdens on public services and leads to resource scarcity, alongside a markedly increased demand for housing, jobs, and humanitarian assistance. This can cause tensions between different population groups to emerge or intensify, thereby making the conditions for sustainable integration more difficult.



Construction site of a new building, taken in the Chernivtsi region, Ukraine 2024

Approach

The Project supports the reconstruction at the level of the Hromada. It is centered on a participatory planning and implementation approach: The municipality prioritizes needs and translates them into concrete reconstruction projects.

To this end, Recovery Councils are established or strengthened at Hromada level. These serve as the platform where local authorities and other local stakeholders jointly plan and prepare decisions.

During planning, strong emphasis is placed on a data-driven approach. The outputs of the planning process are planning documents adopted by the Hromada, which include the prioritization of infrastructure investments. Based on this, the Project finances an average of two investments per Hromada, for example the construction of new facilities, rehabilitation, or improvements to municipal infrastructure (depending on needs, e.g., in the sectors of health, education, WASH, energy or waste management).

In addition, capacity-building support is provided to local civil society organizations (CSOs). CSOs are supported financially and through advisory services on topics such as resource mobilization, project management, and sustainability planning, so that they can meaningfully contribute to and accompany the process.

The Project will be implemented in two war-affected Hromadas in the following regions (oblasts): Chernihiv, Kiev, Sumy, Kirovohrad, Poltava, Vinnytsia, Lviv, Ivano-Frankivsk, Zakarpattia, Chernivtsi and Kharkiv.

Impact and future perspective

The Project aims to initiate and support reconstruction in such a way that it is steered by the Hromadas. This is intended to enable the municipalities to plan and implement their own priorities for the reconstruction and for the provision of services to the population in a structured manner. As a result, the resilience of the Hromadas is strengthened, i.e. their ability to better cope with future shocks and to reliably rebuild and maintain essential services.

A central component of the expected impact is that the rehabilitation and reconstruction plans developed under the Project not only serve as a short-term basis for implementation but are integrated into the municipal planning of the Hromadas. Concretely, this means that the plans should be taken into account in the municipalities' five-year planning strategies. This ensures that the results can continue to be pursued after the end of the Project within the existing administrative and planning framework. In addition, the Project supports an integrative and sustainable solution for conflict-affected communities. This includes not only the restoration of infrastructure and services, but also the conditions under which people can return in the long term or remain in the area. Where infrastructure measures are implemented, the "build-back-better" principle should support durability and longevity.

Publisher

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