

Building strong hromadas for a secure country

Partner: Ministry for Communities and Territories Development of Ukraine (MinRegion)

Supported by: European Union and its member states Germany, Sweden, Poland, Denmark, Estonia and Slovenia

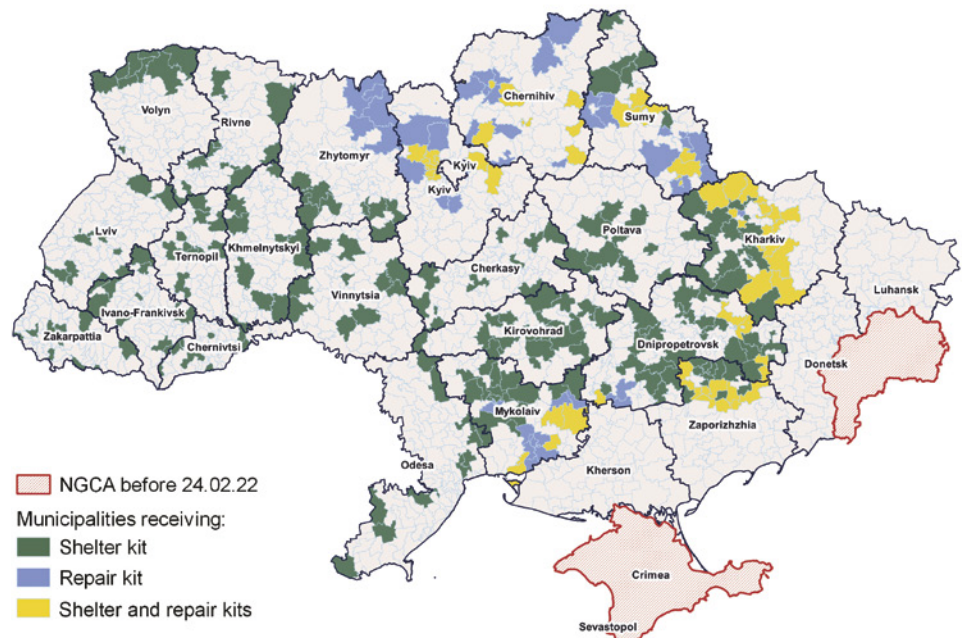
Budget spent on the emergency response: EUR 15 million

After the onset of the war, U-LEAD with Europe adjusted its activities to support municipalities in their crucial efforts to prevent, mitigate and counteract the negative effects of the war. This emergency response is structured along three main areas: namely Empowering Municipalities, U-LEAD Consults, and Bridges of Trust.

Empowering Municipalities

Between April and June 2022, U-LEAD provided assistance to two types of municipalities: those close to the frontline directly affected by fighting and shelling and suffering from destruction caused by the war and those in the rear hosting many internally displaced persons (IDPs).

- Depending on their needs, the municipalities received different emergency support packages.
- The emergency support packages were procured and delivered to 333 most affected municipalities throughout Ukraine including severely affected municipalities such as Bucha, Hostomel and Trostianets.
- In total, these municipalities received the equipment through 576 shippings brought to Ukraine in 155 trucks. Immediately upon delivery, municipalities start applying them in urgent repairs, clearing of the streets and accommodating IDPs.



Three types of kits were delivered

Shelter Kits comprised essentials such as tents, camp beds and mats, sleeping bags, blankets, service water tanks, generators and basic IDP backpacks with personal items, meals, medical and hygiene products. This helps hosting municipalities to provide better conditions for accommodating IDPs.

Repair Kits contained generators, wheel loaders, cut-off machines, cutting wheels, chain saws and cutting chains to help the affected municipalities to remove debris, clear streets and restore their critical infrastructure.

Lighting Kits comprised generators and light poles allowing the municipalities to conduct restoration works at night time.

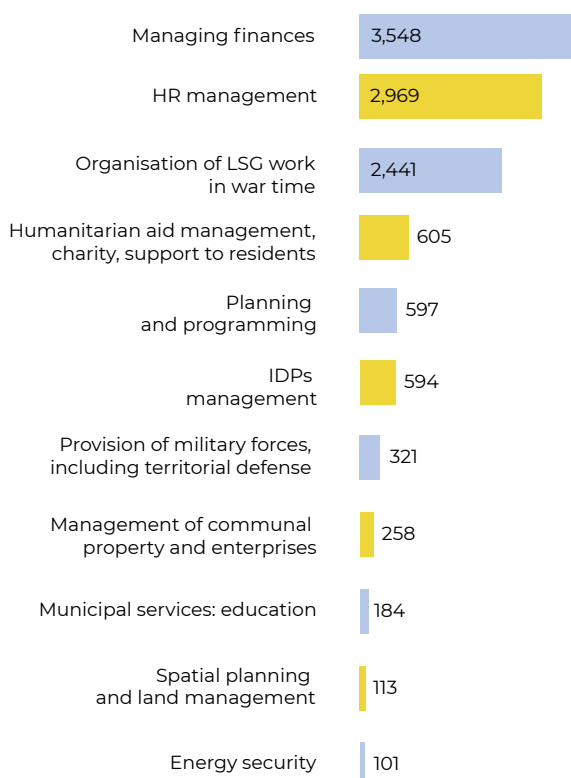


- 500 Shelter kits
- 201 Repair kits
- 250 Lighting kits
- 16 Additional support kits (generators, chain saws)
- 167 Pallets of Hygiene kits (60 boxes each)
- 56 Pallets of canned food

U-LEAD Consults

Technical Advice to Municipalities

- To help Ukrainian municipalities adapt to the conditions of martial law, U-LEAD with Europe **continues to provide high-quality expert support and targeted consultations** on the new regulations, proper management of local budgets under new circumstances and in terms of the management of IDPs.
- Since the beginning of the Russian military invasion **11,524 events** were conducted with the participation of **1,348 municipalities**.
- The most popular topics were managing finances, HR and organisation of LSG work.



- The most important messages from the info-sessions are often shared with the local and national media.** This helps to spread the legal advice even to those local self-government officials who missed an event.
- Also, to provide consulting in a more flexible way, **additional channels of communication were launched.** Among them – a telephone hot line, a Telegram channel and a group in Facebook. All three work for different audiences because each oblast and each municipality have different situations with the availability of internet connection and cellphone coverage.

Bridges of Trust

Strengthening Solidarity, Trust and Cooperation between Municipalities from EU Member States and Ukraine

- U-LEAD brings together municipalities from Ukraine and the EU. Through these Bridges of Trust, international partnerships assist Ukrainian municipalities in meeting immediate needs with emergency assistance and contribute to developing capacity among Ukrainian municipalities through experience exchange, peer learning and collaboration on joint projects. Trusting relationships will continue to flourish and create ever-stronger bonds between Ukraine and the EU as local self-government takes a leading role in the recovery and development process. During this period the activities are focused on three main areas:

- Emergency Support to Ukrainian Municipalities** – facilitating donations from partner EU municipalities and other actors in the EU. For example, Slovenian municipalities, supported by local businesses and private donations have collected and donated 3 trucks filled with food, hygienic items and tools for partner municipalities in Ukraine that have severely suffered from the Russian invasion – among them Bucha in Kyiv Oblast in partnership with Kočevje and Drohobych in Lviv Oblast in partnership with Hrastnik. The Danish municipality of Guldborgsund delivered 6.7 tons of long-term food products for 9 partner municipalities in Chernivtsi, Ivano-Frankivsk and Zakarpattia Oblasts.



- Building Network and Trust** – organising Solidarity Forums, where Ukrainian partners and their EU counterparts can share and discuss important questions of municipal development and promote social, cultural and technical experience exchanges such as summer camps in the EU for children affected by war. Other actors, such as LSG associations, civil society groups from Ukraine and the EU and others will also be involved.
- Future Hromada** – providing support for municipalities to be the driving force of the recovery efforts in Ukraine. This entails a dual focus on both the context of recovery as well as the tangible joint projects that will bring about change. Firstly, a systematic approach will focus on expanding partnerships across the EU and Ukraine, developing methods and approaches for municipal twinning and engaging institutional partners. Secondly, tangible projects will be developed, targeted at strengthening Ukrainian LSG resilience and capacities for analysing, organising and managing recovery efforts.