



# NEWSLETTER

## INCREASING RESILIENCE TO DISASTER RISK IN EASTERN UKRAINE



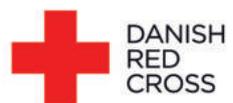
### ACTED

Climate change, the conflict itself, decaying utility infrastructures, and insufficient disaster preparedness has created a threat of 'cascading disasters' in eastern Ukraine.

It is to improve understanding, preparedness, and resilience to those hazards in conflict-affected eastern Ukraine these the 3P Consortium - a group of international and national non-governmental organizations - was formed in 2019. In 2021, and with the financial support of UK aid from the British people, the 3P Consortium implements a risk mitigation and environmental protection project in the Eastern Conflict and Azov Sea Areas of Ukraine.

To prepare communities and support disaster risk management, ACTED, in collaboration with local authorities, plans to develop disaster risk mitigation and environmental protection plans as well as provide materials to support those plans. During the first months of project implementation, ACTED held 17 meetings with local authorities and community leaders to identify potential work that could help address environmental issues, such as the restoration of reservoirs, the installation of additional treatment facilities, etc.

*"The restoration of the destroyed dam will help prevent flooding of the Kalmius River." - said Chief specialist of the Sartan Community Reform Department.*





A map highlighting the hromadas that are most exposed to droughts in the southern part of Donetsk oblast.

## IMPACT INITIATIVES

*“Drought is on the verge of becoming the next pandemic and there is no vaccine to cure it,” said Mami Mizutori, the UN secretary general’s special representative for disaster risk reduction, presenting the Global Assessment Report on Drought 2021.*

When not adequately managed, drought is one of the drivers of desertification and land degradation, which then increase the fragility of ecosystems and social instability, especially in rural communities, as stated in the report. Secondary data review, such as a socioeconomic survey undertaken across the Asov Sea Area by IMPACT in 2021, revealed that in Mariupol raion rural areas, 52% of interviewed households cited drought as one of their primary environmental concerns, and 34% faced crop yield losses due to extreme weather events including drought over the last three years.

To understand social-ecological vulnerability to drought in eastern Ukraine and current mitigation measures, best practices, as well as the challenges and barriers faced by private households that grow their own crops and small / medium farms in the area, IMPACT Initiatives has launched the Drought Risk Mitigation Assessment. Following data analysis of the completed survey, IMPACT Initiatives will develop a report to inform partners of potential interventions to reduce agricultural drought risk.

Maryna shows a well donated to the village of Voronovo to build a fire reservoir.



## DANISH RED CROSS

On the night of October 1st, 2020, Voronovo and Sirotino villages were caught in a fire ring caused by large forest fires. A strong wind rapidly pushed the fire inwards to the houses in the village. 166 out of the 250 houses were completely burned down and 12 people were injured. Among the destroyed houses was Maryna's mother's house. She quickly realized that the responsibility of her family was solely in her hands.

10 months after the fire, life in Voronovo is improving. Some have almost completely rebuilt their houses, and some are now able to clean up the rubble from their homes. Maryna and her husband cleared the yard of their parents'. Now there is a small chapel where locals can come and pray for a better future.

Maryna has devoted herself to helping the other villagers affected by the fires. She coordinates humanitarian aid that comes to the village and provides professional assistance to neighbors who want to rebuild their houses. Additionally, Maryna donated her family's well to the village in order for DRC/URCS to build a fire reservoir to support the entire area. Thanks to these coordinated efforts, if trouble knocks on the door of Voronovo village again, the people there are more resilient and the fire brigade is now able to respond quickly.

The fire reservoir is only the first of many forms of assistance planned by DRC within the project. Psychological first aid trainings for first responders, disaster risk reduction trainings for locals, and building of training center for the Mariupol citizens are also planned.

*"We had no time to grieve. We fed, dressed, treated people who suffered. In the first 20 days, we slept for 2-3 hours a night. When the fire was extinguished, we began building an out-house in our yard for our parents. There was no time for tears. It was much worse for many people in the village than for us - they had neither food nor water," - said Maryna, recalling the first days after the tragedy.*



## RIGHT TO PROTECTION

What is the Ukrainian version of “just transition?” How does it look? How can the decarbonisation process be implemented in eastern Ukraine? These questions look very general, but they are just the starting points for research on decarbonisation - a process of transformation of the economy and energy sector, aiming at a step-by-step transition away from traditional sources of energy and replacing them with renewable energy sources. These three questions are just the first steps of a long journey.

To dig deeper into the details, to bring the particularities into focus, we need to zoom in and to have a look at the Eastern Conflict Area of Ukraine through the lens of risks. What would be the consequences of mines closure in conflict-affected regions? What are the main scenarios? Which challenges might Ukraine come up against? What should be the coping strategy to overcome such challenges? A lot of questions... To find out the answers, R2P has commenced a decarbonisation study, which will consist of desk research and field consultations. R2P’s experts will conduct a thorough analysis of decarbonisation scenarios and further identify key risks for each scenario. Then, they will elaborate feasible solutions and communicate them to relevant public authorities at national level.

Why is looking at decarbonisation through “risks optics” a reasonable approach? Firstly, it allows more focus on the prevention of threats rather than responding to them after they’ve turned into reality. Secondly, it feeds into better preparedness against potential negative consequences. Finally, it gives more space to take into account groups most at risk and provide them protection.



To know more, watch the video →



# UKRAINIAN RED CROSS SOCIETY

URCS psychological first aid specialists support conflict-affected people facing difficulties. That is why, in July 2021, the Ukrainian Red Cross Society (URCS) conducted a 5-day training for 14 URCS volunteers who are now ready to provide psychological first aid to communities in the Mariupol municipality, Donetsk oblast.

In addition, an important component of reducing the risk of emergencies is a safe and comfortable environment in which training and communication activities with communities takes place. One of the facilities where such events will take place will be a training center in Mariupol, the construction of which has begun under the project.



*URCS specialists conducting a 5-day psychological first aid training*

