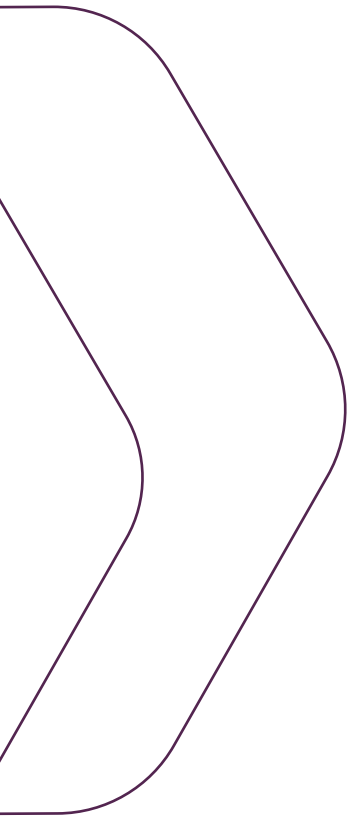


# A STUDY OF RECOVERY INITIATIVES: THE SHORT VERSION



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Conducted within the framework of a comprehensive research project, which was initiated by ISAR Ednannia and carried out as part of the USAID Ukraine Civil Society Sectoral Support Activity, which is being implemented by ISAR Ednannia in a consortium of the Ukrainian Center for Independent Political Research (UCIPR) and the Centre for Democracy and Rule of Law (CEDEM), thanks to the sincere support of the American people, provided through the United States Agency for International Development.



## RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

«A study of recovery initiatives» was carried out in April-May 2023 by the Kyiv International Institute of Sociology at the request of ISAR Ednannia. The following research components were implemented:

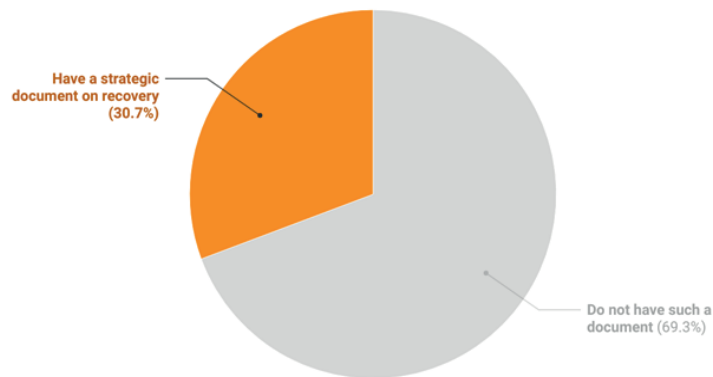
- A telephone/online expert survey with community leaders and other representatives of local authorities (101 communities)
- In-depth interviews with representatives of central authorities (4), oblast/district state administrations (10), local self-government bodies (10), donor organisations (10) and civil society organisations (20)
- Focus groups with representatives of local civil society organisations (CSOs) (5)
- Desk research

### Review of existing recovery plans

As of June 2023, no single national recovery plan for Ukraine developed by the authorities has legal force or is used by other recovery actors as a strategic document. The recovery plan designed for last year's Lugano conference did not become a roadmap for recovery actors, did not receive legal status, and is hardly used or mentioned by recovery actors (government officials, donors, local authorities, CSOs). Ukrainian civil society representatives are critical of the process for preparing this plan and do not believe it is effective. The National Reconstruction Council, which was supposed to be the primary coordination platform for reconstruction stakeholders, must start carrying out this function. The content of the Recovery Plan has been critically assessed by both representatives of Ukrainian CSOs (including environmental ones) and Western think tanks. The short-term Fast Recovery Plan presented by the Office of the President of Ukraine in the summer of 2022 is also rarely mentioned in open sources or the responses of the survey participants in 2023. After personnel changes in the government in early 2023, this plan cannot be considered a strategy that will be used in the reconstruction process either.

Regional recovery plans currently exist most often as community recovery plans. The survey of community leaders conducted during the study showed that only one-third of communities now have a specific recovery strategy document.

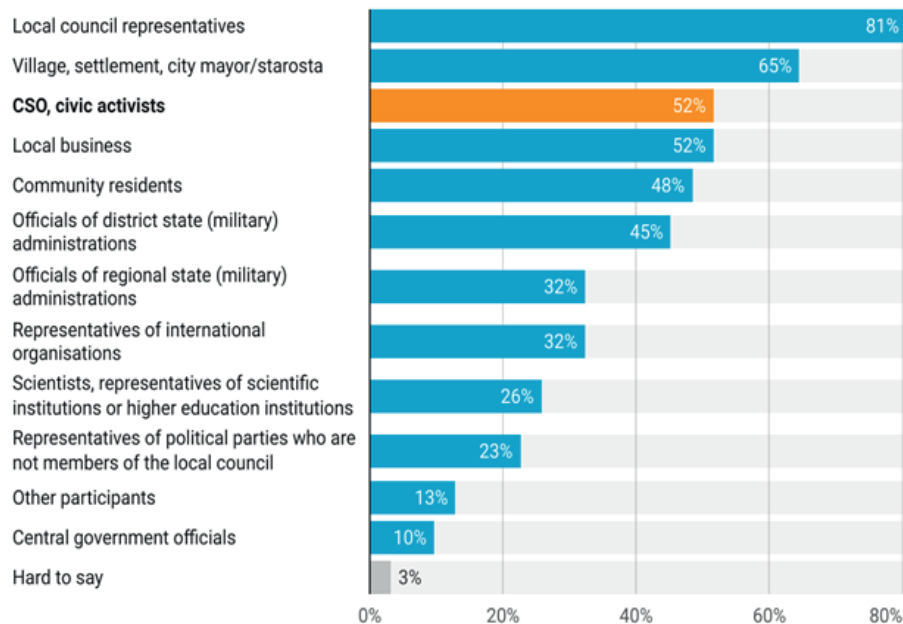
## Only one third of Ukrainian communities have a strategic document on recovery



Source: KIIS survey • Created with Datawrapper

However, even those communities that have developed such documents indicate they still need to be finalised (6.1 on a 10-point scale). Representatives of local councils are most often involved in developing community recovery plans. In about half of cases, civil society representatives are involved in creating a recovery plan.

## Who was involved in the development of this strategic document?



*n=31 communities that have a strategic document on recovery, % of responses, the sum can be more than 100%*

Source: KIIS survey • Created with Datawrapper

In the public space of Ukraine, there are already plans for the restoration of communities that have been prepared with the active participation of CSOs and with their technical and expert assistance.

Thus, at the two main levels of government - central and local - there are significant difficulties for recovery plans. The country needs a joint, legally enshrined and coherent recovery framework. At the community level, the situation is better, but this is only the beginning of a long journey, and its success will depend on the coordination of actions by the main actors (primarily

central government and donors). An additional problem for communities is conflicts in legislation: different laws provide for the creation of various documents for community recovery plans but are not legally coordinated with each other.

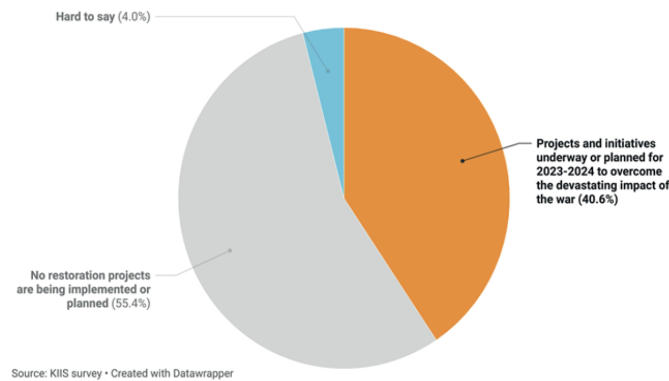
The absence of a strategic plan for the state and the difficulties this causes in the recovery process are the common themes in the responses of the vast majority of actors who participated in the study - donors, community representatives, local executive authorities and civil society.

## Post-war recovery initiatives and projects for 2022-2024

### Recovery in communities

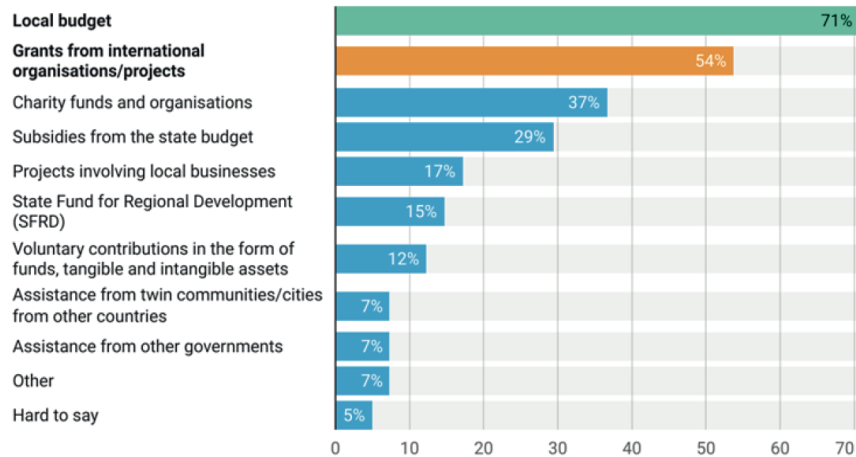
The study showed that approximately 41% of Ukrainian communities (hromadas) are currently implementing projects and initiatives to overcome the devastating impact of the war or are planning to do so in 2023-2024.

**Only 41% of Ukrainian hromadas have started or planned restoration projects**



These initiatives mainly focus on rebuilding and repairing educational institutions and restoring critical community infrastructure, roads and bridges. Local budgets or grants from international organisations/projects often fund this physical reconstruction in communities.

### The local budget and grants from international organisations/projects are the main sources of funding for community recovery projects



% of responses, the sum can be more than 100%, n=41 communities that have restoration projects already implemented or planned for 2023-2024

Source: KIIS survey • Created with Datawrapper

# Civil society participation in the reconstruction of Ukraine

In the study, we identified 20 areas of recovery in which civil society is involved.

## Areas of recovery in which civil society is involved

Assessment of the extent of damage and needs
Establishment of GIS systems/GIS registers required for recovery
Development of digital products/information systems
Establishment of think tanks
Creation of manifestos or concepts for recovery
Creation of training programmes for recovery actors
Development of analytical recovery plans
Support CSOs to participate in recovery
Support for entrepreneurs and businesses
Reconstruction and repair of housing
Assistance in restoring critical infrastructure
Rebuilding and repairing energy infrastructure
Expert support to the central government and local authorities during the recovery process
Mine clearance
Promoting and advocating for green recovery
Establishing mechanisms to control spending and fight corruption during recovery
Advocating for access and use of open data for recovery
Involving community residents in planning and participating in recovery
Advocacy for Ukraine at the international level
Psychological support for the population

Created with Datawrapper

**Several coalitions of actors are assessing the scale of damage and needs of Ukraine as a result of the war:** the central authorities (the Presidential Office, ministries) in cooperation with civil society representatives of the KSE Institute; leading international organisations (the World Bank, the European Commission, the UN). Specialised international organisations produce estimates of losses by economic sector: telecommunications, agriculture, etc. At the level of civil society, in addition to the KSE Institute mentioned above, many projects document and assess the losses of Ukraine's housing stock, monitor environmental damage, and record the destruction of educational and medical infrastructure.

Many initiatives focus on creating **geographic information systems (GIS) and services needed for recovery**: new systems are being created by the government as part of the eReconstruction system, as well as by donors, CSOs and local authorities. These projects often focus on documenting destruction and have similar functionality. This is an area where projects overlap. This recommendation requires additional expert verification, but we note that the usefulness of GIS projects would be higher if users (government officials, donors, analysts) had access to the complete set of data, not just the maps themselves.

Creating digital products/information systems is the "heart" of the reconstruction process. This will allow reconstruction to be managed effectively and make it transparent to society, donors and international partners. The leading digital product of the government, which the government is developing with CSOs and international donors, and which should be the main platform for reconstruction projects, is DREAM (Digital Restoration Ecosystem for Accountable Management). With the help of donors, the government is developing other, more specialised digital products, such as a service for compensating for destroyed housing. Civil society is implementing community digitalisation projects. There are examples of both small pilot projects and large-scale initiatives. CSOs are also developing digital monitoring services, especially in environmental protection.

**Creating think tanks and coordination/expert platforms to support the recovery** is the prerogative of civil society, both within Ukraine and internationally (at least two think tanks have been established abroad).

Ukrainian civil society has been active **in creating manifestos and concepts for reconstruction**: for example, more than 100 civil society organisations signed the Lugano Declaration before last year's Lugano conference. Many vision documents have been created with varying degrees of detail about reconstruction. It is difficult to assess how much they have influenced the government's position.

Civil society can be instrumental in creating training programmes for reconstruction actors, especially at the community level. In Ukraine, due to decentralisation, the newly formed communities have taken on new powers and responsibilities, which they have acquired without sufficient financial resources, experience, infrastructure or personnel. The problem is transferring powers from the central to the local level without transferring the corresponding financial resources to the authorities on the ground. The war and the need for reconstruction have made this situation even more acute. Therefore, training of local authorities in such complex areas as engineering protection of territories, updating urban planning documentation, development of housing and communal services, etc., should be much more extensive than now.

One of the areas where Ukrainian civil society has been very active and productive is the development of analytical recovery plans. Think tanks publish their original results and critical professional analyses of the government's plans (most often, recovery plans were prepared for the Lugano conference). The products of environmental CSOs are comprehensive. Many CSOs with various specialisations, from architecture to economics, are involved in creating community recovery plans (we recall that according to our survey, CSOs were involved in creating about half of the community recovery plans). Large donors such as USAID and GIZ also focus a lot of

attention on this type of assistance.

Several leading civil society coordinating organisations are implementing large-scale support programmes for Ukrainian CSOs to participate in reconstruction. These are primarily ISAR UNITED, the Eastern Europe Foundation, and the International Renaissance Foundation.

**Support for entrepreneurs and businesses** is most often provided by the Ukrainian government, global actors (such as the European Union or Germany) and large international donors (such as USAID). Programmes are most often focused on helping small and medium-sized businesses or private entrepreneurs (small farmers). The agricultural sector is the focus of business support projects. There does not appear to be large-scale funding for business support programmes, considering the complexity of the task and the number of people (and therefore businesses) in Ukraine: from \$1 million to \$15.5 million in projects where the total budget is known. Government programmes are larger, such as eRobota, which has issued grants worth \$82 million (UAH 3 billion) in the nearly one year since it was established. However, the scale of government programmes seems insufficient. At the level of civil society, the projects that are most frequently implemented are small-scale ones that support creative entrepreneurs, IDPs, and women entrepreneurs.

The state is an active and influential player in the **reconstruction and repair of housing, medical, educational and social infrastructure**, but the processes it coordinates or initiates could be faster. For example, the Fund for the Elimination of the Consequences of Armed Aggression was yet to become operational as of April 2023, and the first allocation of funds took place only on 17 May 2023. In addition to the state, international organisations, such as the European Investment Bank, the EBRD, and the World Bank, and actors like the European Union are important players. At the same time, civil society was involved in rebuilding and repairing housing and infrastructure much earlier and is active in several areas. There are four main areas of CSO activity and volunteer initiatives in this area: 1) physical repairs and reconstruction of damaged and destroyed homes 2) planning new spaces in war-affected settlements 3) training of mayors, architects, specialists, mentoring and creation of manuals for reconstruction participants 4) professional engineering support for construction projects. These are mostly volunteer projects with a certain core of specialists around whom those who want to participate in the initiatives coalesce in various ways: physical work at the sites, provision of building materials, creation of educational content and work with humanitarian aid. Ukrainian CSOs and international actors such as the European Union and UNDP play an important role in the reconstruction of schools.

**The restoration of critical infrastructure** is where state and international partners (Japan, Denmark, Germany) play a substantial part, but CSOs also play an important role. The leading players in energy reconstruction are the government, private companies and large international donors. The role of CSOs in this area is primarily to advocate for the principles of "green recovery": energy efficiency, decarbonisation, use of renewable energy sources and decentralisation of energy infrastructure. The same CSOs directly addressing the consequences of the shelling are more often engaged in supplying small energy sources for communities - solar panels, generators, etc.



An essential area of CSO involvement in reconstruction is **providing expert support to the central government and local authorities** during reconstruction. One example is the RISE coalition of CSOs, which is involved, among other things, in the creation of the DREAM recovery management system. Given the different scale and capacity levels of communities in Ukraine, CSO assistance to the authorities at the community level is valuable, especially in the preparation of recovery plans.

**Mine clearance** is one of the most critical recovery areas, without which it is impossible to move forward. The government, aware of the need to coordinate donors providing financial and technical assistance, has established the Humanitarian Demining Centre, which is responsible for these tasks, among other things. It is worth noting that this crucial area, according to some of the participants in our study, is already suffering from corruption. Information and awareness-raising projects on mine safety and logistical assistance to demining units are mainly implemented at the level of civil society.

**Green recovery advocacy** - CSOs are almost entirely responsible for this area of activity. Since the spring of 2022, CSOs have been forming coalitions to draw the attention of society, the government, international partners and donors to the need to make the recovery green. Civil society advocacy for green recovery is not limited to domestic Ukrainian discussions: representatives of the Ukrainian environmental community also convey their position to the leaders of the European Parliament and the European Commission. It is crucial that CSOs not only draw attention to this problem but also provide specific analyses and monitor the recovery plans developed by the authorities for compliance with "green" principles. Practical work by environmental CSOs also takes place at the local level, namely developing "green" post-war recovery plans for specific communities.

**Establishing mechanisms to control spending and fight corruption during the reconstruction process** is where international organisations and civil society are taking the lead.

**A prerequisite for effective control over public spending is access to data.** The role of civil society organisations, think tanks, and researchers in advocating for the return of access to open data that has become inaccessible due to the war is vital. Civil society is drawing attention to this problem, pointing out that with this data, it will be easier to fight corruption, and officials will not feel they enjoy impunity in work to rebuild the country.

**Participatory projects** involving community residents in developing recovery plans and processes are also mainly implemented by civil society. CSOs and international organisations are also implementing projects to increase social cohesion.

Alongside government officials, athletes and cultural figures, CSOs are actively involved in Ukraine's advocacy at the international level: representatives of Ukrainian civil society give presentations to the European Parliament, advocate for aid to Ukraine in the US Congress, and so on.

**Psychological support for civilians and helping veterans adapt** were the focus of CSOs even before the outbreak of the full-scale war. In 2022-23, work in this area became even more intensive. It is worth noting that, as in other areas, Ukrainian CSOs are creating successful coalitions of organisations and productive cooperation with the authorities.

## KEY PLAYERS IN POST-WAR RECONSTRUCTION IN THE PERIOD 2022-2024.

### Major donors to Ukraine

Since the outbreak of full-scale war, Ukraine's continued functioning as a state and its ability to rebuild have depended mainly on international and donor assistance. In 2022, the United States was the largest donor to Ukraine (according to Ukraine Support Tracker, it provided aid worth €71.3 billion), followed by the European Union (€35.4 billion) and the EU member states (€26.4 billion). Regarding plans for 2023, analysts predict that the US will remain the largest donor to Ukraine (approximately \$45 billion in aid), and the EU will be in second place (about €19 billion in support). The EBRD is expected to make a significant contribution of about €3 billion. The assistance of individual countries is also important: for example, Denmark has set up a €1 billion fund to help Ukraine and Japan will provide a \$170 million grant for Ukraine's reconstruction.

### Key government actors: responsible for coordination and planning

The main body coordinating the recovery was the **National Council for the Reconstruction of Ukraine from the Consequences of War**, established on 21 April 2022. However, its work was limited to preparing the **Recovery Plan** for the Lugano conference last summer. There is almost no publicly available information on the work of the **National Council** after October 2022, which may indicate that the Council is no longer performing its functions. On 23 December 2022, **the Cabinet of Ministers established a new Governmental Committee for the Restoration of Ukraine**, headed by the Minister of Community Development, Territories and Infrastructure, Oleksandr Kubrakov. However, there was also little publicly available information on the activities of this committee. On 26 January 2023, the inaugural meeting of the **Supervisory Board of the Donor Coordination Platform** was held: this initiative was launched to coordinate existing and new mechanisms to support Ukraine's budget, as well as rapid recovery and reconstruction. The platform is co-chaired by Serhii Marchenko, Minister of Finance of Ukraine; Michael Pyle, the White House Deputy National Security Advisor for International Economics; and Gert-Jan Koopman, Director-General for Neighbourhood and Enlargement Negotiations of the European Commission. The platform is attended by high-ranking officials from Ukraine, the EU, representatives of the G7 countries, the European Commission and international financial institutions (the European Investment Bank, the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development, the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank). According to analysts, the Donor Coordination Platform will become a key player in the recovery process. Some political analysts and journalists note that the Office of the President of Ukraine plays a significant role in planning and coordinating the recovery process.

## "Specialised" authorities

Two structures - the **Ministry for Communities, Territories and Infrastructure Development of Ukraine** and the **State Agency for Reconstruction and Infrastructure Projects** - play the most important role in the recovery process. The Ministry for Communities, Territories and Infrastructure Development has been unofficially named the **Ministry of Reconstruction**. The **Minister for Communities, Territories and Infrastructure Development**, Oleksandr Kubrakov, holds the position of Deputy Prime Minister for Reconstruction of Ukraine. **The Ministry of Reconstruction** is the central executive body implementing the state policy to restore regions, territories and infrastructure affected by Russia's aggression.

Some analysts and participants in our research believe that there is a risk that the **Ministry of Reconstruction** will focus its efforts and attention on physical reconstruction, while the development of regional policy itself may slow significantly. This could lead to a centralisation of the post-war reconstruction process and a curtailment of decentralisation.

**The Ministry of Reconstruction** is currently collecting requests from local authorities and assessing the needs of the regions, identifying priority projects in line with the government's strategic priorities. **The State Agency for Reconstruction and Infrastructure Projects** was established in early 2023 and reports to the Ministry of Communities, Territories and Infrastructure. Interviews conducted in the study with representatives of central and regional executive authorities show that the **Agency** is one of the main actors involved in the recovery process and the one they interact with most often. The **Interagency Commission for Recovery, chaired by the Deputy Prime Minister**, is a vital body that links local authorities (executive and governing) with central government and is the leading player in deciding on state funding for local projects.

## Local government

Communities are the direct implementers of recovery. They are responsible for creating comprehensive recovery plans for their territories; their executive bodies set up commissions that decide on compensation for destroyed real estate; and the recovery projects already under way, according to our research, are most often funded from community budgets. Some analysts point to the risk of "centralisation" of recovery, which entails the dependence of communities on regional executive authorities to allocate funds for recovery projects. The central government (**Ministry of Reconstruction**) rejects this fear. It points out that the main instrument for selecting projects is the **Interagency Commission, chaired by the Deputy Prime Minister for Reconstruction**, and that projects from communities are only "accumulated" at the level of regional executive authorities. Associations that unite communities in Ukraine are also actively involved in the country's recovery process.

## Donors and international partners

The central government is actively cooperating in the recovery process with the **World Bank, the International Monetary Fund, USAID, UN agencies, the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development, the European Investment Bank and the International**

## Finance Corporation.

The representatives of regional executive authorities who took part in the study most often talk about cooperation with major international organisations, such as the **UN World Food Programme, the UN International Organization for Migration, UNICEF, the UN Refugee Agency, the UN Development Programme, Médecins Sans Frontières and the International Red Cross.**

## HOW CIVIL SOCIETY SEES ITS ROLE IN RECONSTRUCTION

According to the CSOs surveyed, civil society should play an active role in recovery, not only as a watchdog but also as an active initiator of projects on the ground. This involvement can be ensured through quotas for CSOs in allocation commissions, recovery planning working groups and supervisory boards. This will help to reduce the risk of corruption and enable quick responses to problems. The following areas are a priority for national-level CSOs: anti-corruption activities, examining regulatory acts, protecting the environment and implementing energy-saving measures. Local-level CSOs prioritise the following areas for their participation: the environment, anti-corruption activities, digital security, communication activities, social support work, support for local government bodies in creating reconstruction strategies, psycho-social support for civilians, counteracting gender-based violence and rehabilitation of military personnel.

### Thematic areas that are sufficiently and insufficiently supported by projects and initiatives

#### Duplication

As of the spring of 2023, there was an issue of duplication of work on creating, maintaining and filling in the critical registers for the restoration of damaged property. Local government representatives were simultaneously preparing and submitting information to several state registers, which wasted a lot of working time. Registers of damaged property are also being created in parallel by local authorities and donors. It is clear that registers must be unified (e.g., based on the DREAM electronic reconstruction management system), and all other projects should provide open access to their data sets. Registers and GIS systems should communicate and share data.

There is often also duplication in the development of plans and concepts for the recovery of communities (especially those that suffered the most in the first phase of full-scale war and are widely known internationally).

Donors need to coordinate and provide humanitarian and logistical assistance to communities and regions, as this assistance is currently duplicated.

## Areas that are not sufficiently supported

According to study participants who represent regional authorities and civil society, insufficient attention is being paid to the following areas: demining; construction or purchase of new permanent housing for IDPs; addressing environmental problems caused by the war; physical and psychological rehabilitation of civilians and military personnel; support for budget-contributing sectors of the economy; and construction of quality shelters.

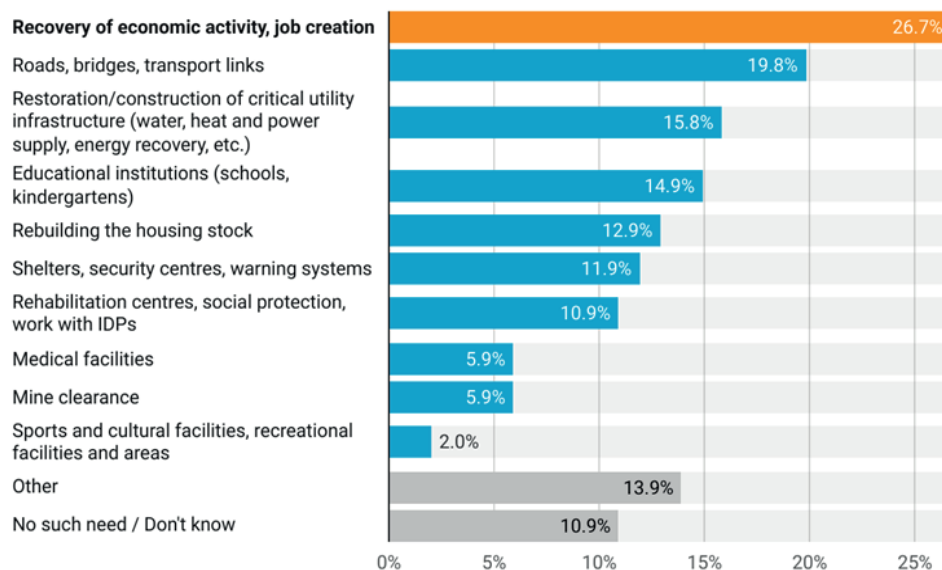
## TOP PRIORITY THEMATIC AREAS FOR PROJECTS IN THE FIELD OF POST-WAR RECOVERY

The **central government's** priorities are energy, humanitarian demining, housing, critical and social infrastructure, bridges and logistics infrastructure and business support.

The priorities of the **regional executive authorities** are restoring and modernising energy infrastructure and decentralising its management; housing for IDPs (especially permanent housing, the construction or purchase of which will stimulate the economy and promote social cohesion among IDPs and residents); psychological rehabilitation of citizens; and prevention of permanent migration abroad.

**Local government priorities** are to restore economic activity; create jobs; rebuild roads, bridges, and transport links; and restore critical infrastructure (power, water and heat provision). Community leaders believe that a purely physical recovery, without reviving the economy and creating jobs, will not encourage people to come home, and they may be lost to the communities and the country.

### What do you consider to be the highest priority thematic areas of post-war recovery projects in your community?



*n=101 communities, the sum of answers can be more than 100%*

Source: KIIS survey · Created with Datawrapper

The issue of children's safety and the possibility of returning them to offline learning in schools is important for hromadas (communities).

A fundamental practical problem for the authorities at all levels, without which neither housing reconstruction nor the economy (especially the agricultural sector) can be restored, is demining. This is an area in which the Ukrainian authorities have a dire need for assistance from international players.

## **KEY DEMANDS AND NEEDS OF POST-WAR RECOVERY ACTORS**

### **A common need for all recovery actors**

All survey participants, from representatives of ministries and international donors to community leaders and local CSOs, indicate that they urgently need a portal (register, map, website, etc.) to aggregate existing and planned recovery initiatives, projects and opportunities.

### **Local government bodies**

Local government bodies need assistance from the state or international donors to implement large-scale recovery projects. Communities face a "problem of scale", when they have many obligations but the community's size and income do not allow them to fulfil them. During recovery, communities may face similar challenges. Local governments can provide a specific set of services to the population. Still, infrastructure projects such as road repairs, land reclamation and environmental issues may not be affordable at the community level. 54% of the community leaders interviewed said that grants from international organisations/projects are one of the sources of funding for recovery projects that are already under way or planned.

### **Executive authorities in the regions**

The primary need of the executive authorities at the regional level is a clear, well-thought-out and legally enshrined strategy for rebuilding the state that they can implement in their regions. This currently does not exist.

### **Donors**

A clear national recovery strategy is necessary for donor planning and prioritisation. The lack of a conceptualised approach to recovery, lack of a clear national strategy and insufficient mapping of initiatives complicate donor activities.

### **Civil society organisations**

CSO representatives have the same basic need as the regional executive authorities, donors, and local authorities - a clear structure for the reconstruction process. This national recovery strategy will allow for coordinated recovery in various areas, ensuring synergies in the activities of the leaders of different branches with other reconstruction actors. At the level of regions and communities, CSOs need a mapping of existing projects, beneficiaries and existing organisations to avoid duplication of efforts (donors do not have this mapping either). Local CSOs need more flexibility from donors and reduced bureaucracy when interacting with national CSOs.

One of the primary needs of CSOs is specialists (there is a "staff shortage" in the country due to the war and migration) and improving their competencies and knowledge, as the recovery needs pose tough challenges for all actors, including CSOs.

### **The common need of the government and CSOs: "localisation of recovery"**

It is necessary that the reconstruction be economically localised, i.e. use Ukrainian enterprises, workers and other domestic resources, rather than relying on foreign companies to supply finished materials, equipment and goods. The CSOs that participated in the study suggest the following tools: business risk insurance and preferential lending to businesses in the de-occupied and border areas; support for IDP and returning businesses (retraining, training, financial aid - micro/mini-grants, support from local authorities for this category); a focus on supporting construction companies; support for local businesses, including when purchasing humanitarian aid:

Localisation is also needed at the level of non-governmental organisations: the first months of the full-scale crisis showed the slowness of large international humanitarian organisations, which could have responded more effectively. There is a need to rely more on Ukrainian CSOs and, in turn, to actively engage new local CSOs, not just well-known national structures.

At the moment, donors and large international and national CSOs need to pay more attention to genuinely considering the participation of local CSOs in strategic decision-making in their projects - most often, they act only as executors.

## **MECHANISMS AND INITIATIVES TO COORDINATE POST-WAR RECOVERY PROJECTS**

**The Donor Interagency Coordination Platform** has become the primary coordination tool in Ukraine's post-war recovery at the level of the Ukrainian authorities and international partners. An essential tool for coordination between the central government of Ukraine and communities is the **Interagency Commission on Recovery, chaired by the Deputy Prime Minister**, which prioritises recovery projects submitted by communities. The most common coordination mechanisms among donors are clusters and working groups: the former is more often used for coordination with the central government, while the latter is used for inter-donor coordination and includes both donor and CSO representatives. An essential example of the government establishing a coordination body is the newly created **Humanitarian Demining Centre**, which aims to "organise proper interaction between donors funding humanitarian demining and international technical assistance, mine action operators and local governments".

**Associations of local government bodies** are also actively involved in coordination on recovery issues in the following areas: communities with the authorities, communities with each other, and communities with donors. Communities interact with each other directly and without intermediaries, communicating and assisting each other. Our survey results confirm that this direct channel of cooperation is known and important to communities. Most community leaders (88%) understand the need to cooperate with other communities to address recovery issues, and two-thirds (66%) have already worked together in this way. CSOs have been actively forming

coalitions since February 2022. One example of such collaboration is the **RISE Ukraine coalition**, which unites more than 30 powerful CSOs in the recovery field and is an important partner to the authorities in the recovery process. The forms of association can be as follows: jointly creating vision or analytical documents; making joint appeals on specific fundamental issues; common implementation of projects; and locating together in the humanitarian headquarters of regional authorities. Regions and communities for which support in post-war reconstruction is most critical.

The study analysed the losses sustained by the regions and the need for recovery by the following parameters: the number of destroyed and damaged schools,<sup>1</sup> the number of attacks on medical facilities<sup>2</sup> and energy infrastructure facilities,<sup>3</sup> the number of attacks that pose a risk of environmental disaster,<sup>4</sup> the number of damaged or destroyed houses<sup>5</sup> and the integral losses by the regions in terms of money.<sup>6</sup>

The ten regions that suffered the most significant losses and need the most support in the recovery process are: Donetsk, Kharkiv, Luhansk, Zaporizhzhia, Kyiv, Kherson, Chernihiv, Mykolaiv, Sumy and Dnipro.

A critical need voiced by CSO representatives during the study is differentiating territories according to the degree of damage and specific local recovery requirements. Although the legislation formally defines "recovery areas" among the functional types of territory, experts note that the method for defining them is unclear and leaves much room for subjective decisions. The differentiation criteria must be based on data and agreed upon by various key stakeholders: the state, local authorities, donors, and CSOs. Implementation of this approach into actual recovery policy should be a priority.

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<sup>1</sup> War and education: How a year of full-scale invasion has affected Ukrainian schools. [https://saved.foundation/reports/ua/yearofwar\\_report\\_ua.pdf](https://saved.foundation/reports/ua/yearofwar_report_ua.pdf)

<sup>2</sup> At least 707 attacks on the healthcare system in Ukraine during the year of Russian aggression against civilians: report. <https://uhc.org.ua/2023/02/21/russias-assault-ukraine-report-2/>

<sup>3</sup> Press conference of Andrii Kostin on the work of the Prosecutor's Office during the year of full-scale Russian aggression 22.02.2023. <https://www.gp.gov.ua/ua/posts/preskonferenciya-andriya-kostina-pro-roboti-prokuraturi-za-rik-povnomasstabnoyi-agresiyi-rf>

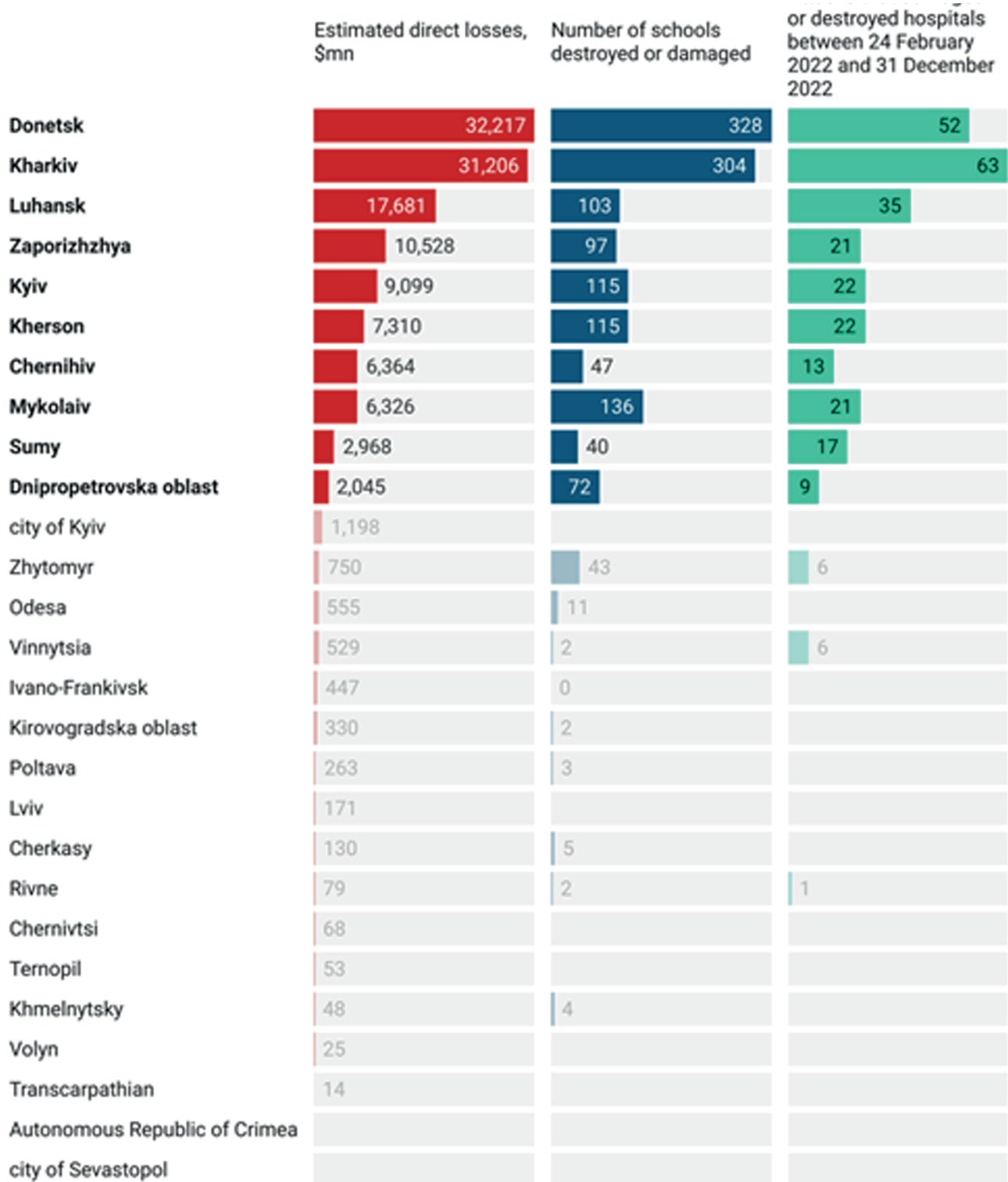
<sup>4</sup> CSO "Ecodia" "Cases of potential environmental damage caused by Russian aggression". Accessed on 25 May 2023. <https://ecoaction.org.ua/warmap.html>

<sup>5</sup> A report on direct infrastructure damage from the destruction caused by Russia's military aggression against Ukraine one year after the start of the full-scale invasion. [https://kse.ua/wp-content/uploads/2023/03/UKR\\_Feb23\\_FINAL\\_Damages-Report-1.pdf](https://kse.ua/wp-content/uploads/2023/03/UKR_Feb23_FINAL_Damages-Report-1.pdf)

<sup>6</sup> A report on direct infrastructure damage from the destruction caused by Russia's military aggression against Ukraine one year after the start of the full-scale invasion. [https://kse.ua/wp-content/uploads/2023/03/UKR\\_Feb23\\_FINAL\\_Damages-Report-1.pdf](https://kse.ua/wp-content/uploads/2023/03/UKR_Feb23_FINAL_Damages-Report-1.pdf)

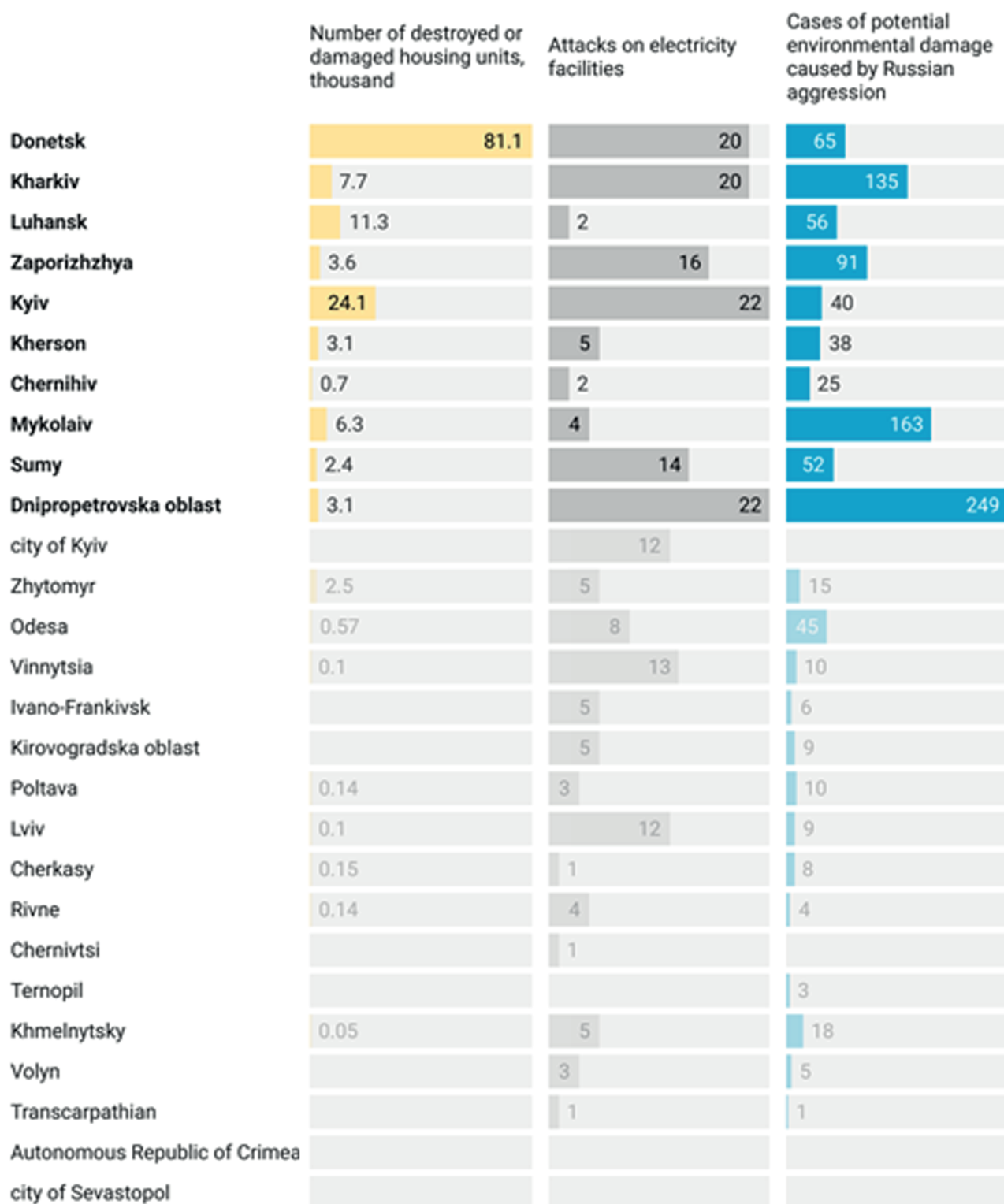


## Attacks, losses and damage in the regions of Ukraine during the full-scale invasion



Source: 1. Report on direct damage to infrastructure caused by Russia's military aggression against Ukraine one year after the start of the full-scale invasion 2. War and education: How a year of full-scale invasion has affected Ukrainian schools 3. At least 707 attacks on the healthcare system in Ukraine during the year of Russian aggression against civilians: report. 4. Report on direct damage to infrastructure caused by Russia's military aggression against Ukraine one year after the start of the full-scale invasion 5. Andrii Kostin's press conference on the work of the Prosecutor's Office during the year of full-scale Russian aggression 22.02.2023 6. NGO Ecodia «Cases of potential environmental damage caused by Russian aggression» · Created with Datawrapper

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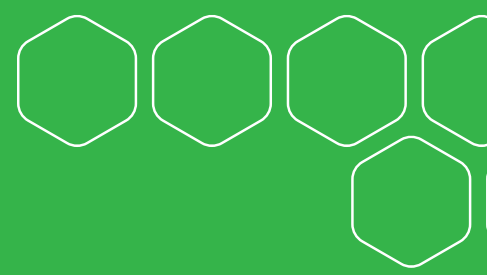


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