

Kherson and Mykolaiv FSL Sub-Cluster Coordination Meeting



Minutes | December 26, 2023

Chaired by: Nataliia Horbenko, Coordination Focal Point for Mykolaivska oblast, CF Shchedryk

Co-chaired by: Tetyana Vetskur, FSLC Southern Hub Lead

Agenda:	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Report of the representative of Mykolaiv Regional Military Administration on the humanitarian situation in the region and issues that require the greatest humanitarian response.2. New cycle of project funding by the Ukrainian Humanitarian Foundation - requirements, priorities, timeframes (T. Vetskur).3. Implementation of livelihoods projects (Mykolaiv organization of the Ukrainian Red Cross Society).4. Organization and collection of information on Livelihood projects implemented in Kherson and Mykolaiv regions, planned for 2024. Using the Activity Info planning module (S. Kolesnyk).5. News from the Cluster partners.5. Discussion.
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Participants: Danish Refugee Council (DRC), Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC), Save the Children, CO Shchedryk, URC, Charity Foundation Laska, Estonian Refugee Council (ERC), Action Against Hunger, NGO Poruch, Charity Foundation Voices of Children, CF Fund of Kindness and Love, ADRA, OCHA, World Food Programme (WFP), NGO Union of Mothers and Wives of Ukrainian Defenders, CF We Are from Ukraine, Blue Crescent Ukraine, CF Support Kherson, ICRC.

The meeting was attended by 30 representatives of 19 organizations active in Khersonska and Mykolaivska oblast. We thank all our partners for their engagement, productive discussions and active participation in the meeting. The representative of Mykolaiv Regional Administration provided the update on needs and priorities:

- Recovery projects
- Self-employment in rural hromadas, creation of jobs and shelter kits provision
- Rehabilitation of vocational schools. While Denmark is supporting Mykolaivska oblast with construction and repair works, the equipment for schools such as sewing machines, tractors, etc. is much needed (Note: the detailed list of needs will be shared with the partners).
- Development of cash programmes, moving away from in-kind assistance.

It was mentioned that the most severe needs are in villages, in agrarian sector. Several projects were brought up as success story: distribution of broiler chickens (Shchedryk), distribution of chickens and rabbits (ZOA), school feeding (WFP). Answering ACF representative's question about priority hromadas, the administration representative answered that needs are so high everywhere that all hromadas in Mykolaivska oblast can be considered high priority.

The FSLC representative provided the update on the UHF 1st standard allocation 2024 – the extended timeline, the geography of the projects, eligibility of all IDP collective centers for project proposals (under priority No. 2), the focus on livelihoods, irrigation for agriculture in particular. It was stressed that project proposals should have a strong intersectoral profile. The attendees did not know whether their respective organizations were going to apply for the UHF funding, perhaps due to the level of representation. The local NGOs were encouraged to enter into partnership with UHF eligible partners.

Ukrainian Red Cross Regional Coordinator (livelihoods) presented the employment project implemented in Mykolaivska oblast together with the Spanish Red Cross and supported by the Danish Red Cross. The project targets 9 priority categories of beneficiaries and offers vocational training (max. duration 3 months), consultations, individual support and trainings. The trainings include cross-cutting skills such as building up self-esteem and being prepared for possible disappointments in job search. In April 2024 micro grants for business will be awarded. The project coordinator serves as an intermediary between the potential candidates and local businesses. To support women's employment, the project offers a children's space where children aged 4-18 can be left under supervision.

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The presentation (attached to the minutes) also included analysis of the labour market in Mykolaivska oblast. The challenges:

- State vocational schools have good training bases but cannot produce invoices, therefore for the project private educational and training centers were contracted;
- Lack of interest in employment programmes from the IDP community. For example, out of 120 IDPs residing at the collective center in Myshkovo-Pohorilove, only 10 came to the URC info session, four of them refused to give their consent to the collection of personal information and only two people in their 70s were interested and prepared CVs. It was emphasized that IDPs at collective centers are a difficult category to target with livelihoods because of their fear and psychological condition.
- Psychological and mental condition of IDPs – lack of certainty, not being properly settled in the area, i.e. either planning to return to their homes or waiting for visas to leave abroad.

It should be noted that the FSLC partners are supporting each other in employment projects, for instance, CF Shchedryk referred some beneficiaries to the URC. NGO Union of Mothers and Wives of Ukrainian Defenders also expressed their interest in the project.

The Fund of Kindness and Love asked whether IDP place of registration in another oblast will exclude them from participation in this project. URC replied that to be eligible for the project, an IDP has to physically reside in Mykolaivska oblast, regardless of where they have been registered as IDP.

Participants also brought up the problem of Mykolaiv Aluminium plant which has not been operating since 24 February, leaving thousands of its workers without any means.

FSLC coordination focal point for Khersonska oblast demonstrated to the participants the Cluster interactive dashboard and stressed the importance of timely reporting via ActivityInfo as it gives a good understanding of partner presence and operations in the area. In addition, active participation in the Cluster and Cluster recommendation is crucial for UHF project proposal success.

URC Livelihoods Coordinator raised the issue of duplication in Parutyne village, Kutsurubaska hromada, Mykolaivska oblast which occurred when the same beneficiaries were registered by the URC and CF Shchedryk, implementing partner of ZOA winterization project. FSLC will look into it.

Action points:

1. To share the technical documents and guidance on UHF allocation.
2. To share the list of needs from Mykolaiv Regional Administration and keep track of the progress.
3. To provide the ongoing support with reporting to FSLC partners.
4. To share the onboarding materials with the new partners.
5. To follow up on Shchedryk/URC duplication case.

Next sub-cluster coordination meeting is planned on 31 January 2024. The date of the monthly meeting will be fixed – last Wednesday of each month.

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