

# Mykolaiv and Kherson FSL Sub-Cluster Coordination Meeting



Minutes | February 22, 2024

**Chaired by:** Nataliia Horbenko, Sub-National Coordinator for Mykolaivska oblast, CF Shchedryk

<b>Agenda:</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Update from the FSLC</li><li>2. Caritas Mykolaiv UGCC – implementation of livelihood projects</li><li>3. NGO Dobrobat – introduction of a new Cluster partner</li><li>4. Updates from the FSLC partners</li><li>5. Miscellaneous</li></ol>
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**Participants:** Danish Refugee Council (DRC), Save the Children, CO Shchedryk, Estonian Refugee Council (ERC), Action Against Hunger (ACF), World Food Programme (WFP), Solidarites International (SI), CF Children of Heroes, International Rescue Committee (IRC), NGO Misto Syly.

The meeting was attended by 16 representatives of 10 organizations operating in Mykolaivska and Khersonska oblasts. We thank all our partners for their interest, engagement and active participation in the meeting.

## Update from the FSLC.

- Reporting for January and February 2024 will be done in early March 2024. Then a traditional reporting cycle will be resumes (for each month separately). Training on the updated ActivityInfo modules, reporting requirements and beneficiary counting was conducted by the FSLC on 6 February (Ukrainian) and 7 February (English). The partners were encouraged to reach out to the Cluster IMOs in case they experience technical challenges with ActivityInfo reporting.
- Announcement was made that Cluster partners can request detailed maps of their area of operation free of charge (the maps are provided by OCHA). ACF and NGO Lighthouse of Revival made the request.
- The FSLC Hub Lead provided update on the access for humanitarian organizations in Khersonska oblast, with 53 settlements inaccessible for international staff members. Humanitarian Notification System shall be used to request access for those organizations that are using it. Other partners have to wait for the procedure to be finalized by Kherson Military Administration.

The partners in attendance were affected by the restriction of access to varying degrees. Save the Children have 0-10 km designated as the red zone closed for staff, missions there required the HQ approval, 10-20 km from the frontline have internal restrictions on movement, time and staff. This poses challenge for MEAL teams and last mile distribution which is done either through partners or local authorities.

ACF reported no obstacles in their movement in Chornobaivska and Muzykivska hromadas.

Solidarites International had no challenges in reaching Sukhanove village in Mylivska hromada.

## Presentations of the FSLC partners.

New FSLC partner CF Children of Heroes made a presentation of their activities. The organization supports over 8000 children nationwide, with more than 500 children in Mykolaivska and Khersonska oblasts. These are the children who lost their parent or parents in the conflict and children who currently live with their foster parents or caregivers. FSLC partners Save the Children, Solidarites International and DRC expressed interest in cooperation with Children of Heroes. SI were interested in the addresses of children in hromadas to include them into their programmes. DRC offered protection support, coordination, partnership and cases referral.

Unfortunately, partners Caritas Mykolaiv UGCC and NGO Dobrobat were unable to attend and make their presentations.

## Updates from the FSLC partners.

**Save the Children** informed that they are at the final stage of their winterization project. Since some funds were saved, they will be able to target 30 additional households. Monitoring visits were made to 80% of the

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targeted households. The challenge they encountered is the absence of receipts which beneficiaries had to produce after spending money on animal shelter repair and animal feed. The reason is that it is often bought from the individuals not registered as businesses.

Save the Children have no plans to distribute food kits, focusing on cash assistance instead. They are also making contingency plans.

In spring 2024, Save the Children are going to launch an online platform for business plans writing.

**ACF** finished cash assistance distribution on Halytsynivska hromada. They continue their activities in Khersonska oblast. In 2024, the organization will move from food kits to cash assistance. Their PDM showed that in-kind beneficiaries are not satisfied with food kits as they have different food preferences and tend to be choosy about products in the kit. Cash was chosen as a better modality but additional assessment is needed for its implementation.

**DRC** have an economic recovery programme consisting of 3 components:

- sectoral cash for subsistence farmers in 6 raions of Mykolaivska and Khersonska oblasts (225\$ to be paid to 4860 farmers). The payments to start in March and continue through the summer.
- Vocational training in Mykolaivska and Khersonska oblasts to cover 326 beneficiaries and train them in such professions as electricians, plumbers, drivers, tailors and cooks. The program duration is 3 months and it includes training itself, provision of tools and linkage with employers.
- Livelihoods restoration offering 225 business grants in the amount of 1,000-5,000USD for the existing micro, small and medium enterprises. The beneficiary shall submit a business plan and supporting documents to receive this grant.

**CF Shchedryk** currently have 3 projects:

- Winterization. Registration completed, waiting for payments. Next step – monitoring.
- Food assistance under WFP programme: GFD distribution in 14 hromadas of Mykolaivska oblast and institutional feeding programme in Mykolaivska and Khersonska oblasts.
- Grant and reskilling programme funded by Oxfam – 60 candidates enrolled in the training programme at Mykolaiv National Black Sea University. After completion of the training, they will compete for 38 business grants (2,500-4,500 USD). Four groups of beneficiaries are enrolled in the reskilling programme (WEB designers, bakers, dress-makers and manicurists). CF Shchedryk has the MoU signed with the Regional Employment Center for referrals and linkage with potential employers.

**NGO Misto Syl** (Kherson) is currently distributing RtE food kits and emergency shelter kits in Dariivska, Tiahynska and Khersonska hromadas. The project is supported by Mercy Corps. They also have a voucher programme – 60 vouchers (UAH 1600) for food, hygiene and household goods at the Aurora shop.

**ERC** is implementing winterization projects in the area, targeting 235 beneficiaries in Korabelnyi neighbourhood of Kherson city. They receive cash assistance in the amount of 680\$.

ERC also conduct food assistance intervention – the first round of food kits distribution was in December 2023-January 2024. Two more rounds of distribution are planned, starting from April 2024, in Khersonska, Zaporizka, Donetska and Kharkivska oblasts. The payments of cash assistance under winterization response have started. This programme covers veterinary services, animal shelter repair and animal feed.

**Solidarites International** finished their winterization programme, supporting 900 households with hard fuel and briquettes. The challenge they faced in this process: poor coordination with other humanitarian organizations that were distributing fuel in the locations previously designated to other partners at the cluster level. The iNGO stopped their food assistance as hromadas often refused from it. They keep distributing hygiene kits and serving people with special needs (adult diapers) at the frontline villages in Khersonska oblast. Their plans include finding new partners in the area and planning next winter interventions.

CF Shchedryk shared this approach, stating that plans for winterization should be made now to provide timely response. They also requested an update on the results of the UHF First Standard Allocation.

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Save the Children representative suggested organizing a team-building activity for FSLC partners in Mykolaiv. He also suggested advocating for the creation and funding of an online platform for the Ukrainian businessmen creating handmade products and producing organic food to market their products globally.

## Action points:

1. To request the maps from OCHA;
2. To conduct the survey among the FSLC partners on humanitarian access in Khersonska oblast;
3. To provide the update on UHF allocation at the next subnational partner meeting;
4. To include the presentations of Caritas Mykolaiv UGCC and NGO Dobrobat for the next partner meeting.

**Next FSLC partner meeting for Mykolaivska and Khersonska oblasts is scheduled 3 April 2024.**