

# Subnational partners Meeting in Zaporizska oblast

Minutes | 21 February, 2024



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- Venue:** 11, Mayakovskoho ave., office of RCC, Zaporizhzhia
- Chaired by:** Viktoriia Davydova, FSLC Coordination Focal Point in Zaporizska oblast
- Co-presenters** Vitalii Razzhyvin, Coordination and Information Management Officer, FSLC East Hub.

- Agenda:**
1. Introduction of the Participants;
  2. Presentation from Ukrainian Humanitarian Fond (UHF).
  3. Presentation of the work of the cluster partner, Charitable Foundation "Posmishka UA" in the area of livelihoods;
  4. Partners' updates
  5. AOB.

**Participants:** 100% Life Zaporizhzhia, CARE, CO CF Posmishka IOA, CF Yednist ta syla, NGO Yes, People in Need, CO CF Dobri Diyannya, CO CF named after Petro Kalnyshevskiy, NGO Sayivo Nadii, CO CF YOC Mazal Tof, Ukrainian Red Cross Society in Zaporizhzhia (URCS), CF Dopomoha spravoyu, CO Soyuz Mylosrdya, CO CF I am Nation, NGO Khvylya Dopomohy, NGO EM 42, CO CF Caritas Zaporizhzhia, CO CF Diy zarady dobra, TSOD Pershui, CF CCC, NGO Office of Perspective Development, NGO UkrProstir, NGO Sontce UA, CO CF Crazy People, CO CF VC Narodna Dopomoga, Care, Ukrainian Humanitarian Fond (UHF), Relief Coordination Center (RCC).

## Introduction of Participants

The meeting was attended by 60 representatives of 27 organizations operating in Zaporizhzhia Oblast and regular partners of the FSL Cluster, as well as a representative of the Department of Social Protection. For the first time, the international organization Care.

## Presentation from Ukrainian Humanitarian Fond (UHF).

The Cluster meeting was attended by a representative of the Ukrainian Humanitarian Foundation (UHF). The presentation covered aspects and areas of the Foundation's activities and important criteria for selecting local organizations to become UHF partners.

The first point of discussion was the eligibility assessment process for partnership with UHF. Every organization seeking to become a direct partner of the Ukrainian Humanitarian Foundation goes through this stage. This procedure includes several steps. First, an email requesting partnership. Second, registration in the GMS. Third, a preliminary check. The last step is the compliance check. This stage is characterized by the fact that only those organizations that have passed the eligibility process are eligible to participate in the allocated funds and submit project applications to the GMS. Those foundations that have not passed this stage can become a sub-partner through organizations that are already direct partners of UHF.

Every organization that wants to become a partner of the Ukrainian Humanitarian Foundation must meet the requirements set by the UHF itself. These requirements are minimal, but they touch upon all aspects and directions of organizing the process in the foundation's public activities. Thus, the main requirement is to provide assistance in accordance with the Core Humanitarian Standard. The second link is the official registration and actual operating activities in Ukraine. An important aspect without which no organization can become a direct partner is active participation and reporting to humanitarian clusters in Ukraine. When applying for partnership with UHF, an organization must have a profile from the Cluster to which it reports. To highlight its activities, the applying charitable foundation must have documented experience of partnership with donors, UN agencies and/or international organizations.

Taking into account the financial aspect, UHF has the following requirement: a clearly defined organizational and financial structure and proven experience in managing funds.

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Minutes | 21 February, 2024



Based on the requirements, UHF has developed the following eligibility criteria covering governance and organizational capacity, programmatic capacity and partner experience, operational and financial capacity, and prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse. Each of the criteria has a specific set of documents that are required to complete the application. According to the representative, documentation templates can be found freely available on the Ukrainian Red Cross Society official website.

At the end of the presentation, the Cluster partners actively communicated with the UHF representative. Thus, Victoria Davydova, a representative of the Humanitarian Coordination Center, spoke about the experience of obtaining a partnership and writing an application. In particular, the Cluster partners learned that if you write a project that does not meet certain criteria, you receive a package of recommendations, OCHA provides meaningful comments that help not only improve the project, but also make it multi-sectoral. Another relevant issue was the opening date for the next call for proposals. According to a representative of the Humanitarian Foundation for Ukraine, the next call for applications will begin by early summer 2024. An issue that interested several foundations, including the Action for Good Foundation and the Petro Kalnyshevsky Foundation, was the possibility of sub-partnership. Thus, thanks to the informative answer of the UHF representative, the Cluster partners learned about the system of financial distribution among partners to sub-partners. The audience was interested in the fact that the Humanitarian Foundation provides 7% of the grant implemented by a local organization for the further development of the partner and sub-partner's activities.

## **Presentation of the work of the Cluster partner, Charitable Foundation "Posmishka UA" in the area of Livelihoods.**

Today, projects that help vulnerable populations acquire certain skills, implement their own activities, and gain knowledge that will help them meet their own needs in the future have become relevant.

Kateryna, a representative of the CO Charity Foundation Smile UA, project manager, shared her experience in implementing the Livelihoods project called the Economic Resilience Program of Ukraine. This project is implemented with the support of the Joint Emergency Response in Ukraine (JERU), and aims to stabilize the livelihoods of IDPs and conflict-affected populations, as well as reduce dependence on cash and in-kind assistance. The economic resilience program was implemented in Zaporizhzhia, Mykolaiv, Ternopil and Khmelnytskyi regions. The main activities implemented were: soft skills training - this activity allows people to gradually integrate into society and gain effective communication skills. One of the activities was the provision of business grants for small and medium-sized enterprises and small businesses. Also during the project implementation, a Job Fair was held, where representatives of businesses and enterprises provided employment advice to vulnerable categories.

After the presentation of the Economic Resilience Program of Ukraine, the Cluster partners shared the implementation of their own livelihoods projects. Thus, Mykola Kolodyazhnyi, a representative of the Impulse.UA Charitable Foundation, spoke about the implementation of the Women's Protection program. The activities carried out were aimed at protecting women from economic violence and providing them with a development tool to meet their own needs. The grants issued for the development of their own enterprises ranged from UAH 20,000 to 80,000, and allowed beneficiaries to start their own business from scratch or retrain. As the head of the foundation noted: "Mentoring is important in the implementation of such projects, because it is a tool that remains for the implementation of your own business at any time.

Tetiana Odnoroh, a representative of the First Adult Center, spoke about her experience in implementing a similar project, the donor, UN Women, and current activities. The Foundation implemented a program based on providing skills for starting a business, running a business, and learning SMM tools. Currently, the First Adult Center conducts many online trainings for vulnerable populations. For example, there are trainings on accounting, documentation when starting a business, financing opportunities, and retraining courses available to the public. The audience was interested in the cases of providing vulnerable people with the opportunity to acquire massage therapy skills, as well as seamstress courses for women.

Thus, this area is relevant for writing quality projects that will be actively supported by the donor. Based on the experience of livelihoods programs implemented by local organizations, we can conclude that aid is now moving to the sector of providing not just food packages, but skills that will help vulnerable populations to meet their own needs in the future.

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## Partners Update.

The Food Security and Livelihoods Cluster in Zaporizhzhia Oblast updates all the latest activities and news carried out by the partners in a monthly newsletter. [FSLC Newsletter](#) for November and December can be found on the official website of FSL Ukraine.

The information about the training to be conducted by the International Humanitarian Initiative REACH became relevant for the Cluster partners. The training consists of two parts, the main topics of which are Using international humanitarian data and evidence in planning and delivering humanitarian assistance and Strengthening proposal planning using international humanitarian data and evidence.

Additionally, Food Security and Livelihoods Cluster partners were invited to attend the Food Assistance Working Group meeting on February 22 from 15.00 to 16.30 and the Livelihoods Working Group meeting on February 21 from 15.00 to 16.30. In addition, a national coordination meeting of the Euromaidan partners was announced to be held on February 29 from 15.00 to 17.00.

At the end of the meeting, the partners updated the needs by settlements and territorial communities, referring to the Interactive Map of Humanitarian Aid Delivered by the Humanitarian Coordination Center.

## AOB.

The partners agreed to hold a meeting on the March 20, 2024, at 11 Mayakovskoho Avenue, Zaporizhzhia. The approved agenda of the next oblast coordination meeting will be announced shortly before the meeting. In addition, partners are invited to join the groups in the following messengers [FSLC East Group](#) in Signal [join Telegram Group for Zaporizhzhia oblast](#).

Photos from the Coordination Meeting are available [by the link](#).

[FSL Cluster - Google Диск](#) where you may find photos from previous meetings.