



FSLC MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

ISSUE NO (02) | OCTOBER 2023 | VOLUME (01)



Subnational partners meeting in Kharkiv, 24 October 2023
@Relief Coordination Center

ABOUT FSL CLUSTER

The Food Security and Livelihoods Cluster (FSLC) in Ukraine has been operational since December 2014. Cluster engages with hundreds of implementing partners, advocating for improved coordination and information flow, and matches requests from oblasts for the most vulnerable population groups affected by the ongoing conflict in Ukraine. The FSLC is led by the United Nations World Food Programme (WFP) and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) in Ukraine.

SUMMARY

FSL Cluster partners provided food assistance to over **2.9 million people** in October 2023 under Cluster Objective (CO) 1, achieving 80% of the monthly target. In October, FSLC supported **19,109 persons** with **livelihood assistance**, CO 2, reaching **cumulatively 625,249 persons** during 2023, to date, which is **21% out of the 3 million people** targeted for livelihoods. 81% of people assisted with food were in five oblasts: Kharkivska, Donetsk, Khersonska, Zaporizka, and Dnipropetrovska. For more information, here is the [link](#) to the FSL cluster interactive dashboard.

To support partners, **two livelihood guidance documents** were **developed** and **published** under the umbrella of FSLC: "A Comprehensive Guidance Note for Winterization Response," and the "Good Practice Guide for Emergency Support to Business in Ukraine," which intends to inform and establish a shared understanding for partners operating in Ukraine on good practices to enable, protect, and restore business activities in an emergency context. The cluster also developed a scope of activities to support off-farm livelihoods.

The FSLC has estimated **7.3 million people in need** (PiN) of food and livelihood assistance in 2024, a 34% decrease from 2023. The methodology is highlighted on page 3.

On October 26, the FSLC held its monthly [national partner meeting](#) in Dnipro at WFP's field office, bringing together nearly 130 people from 70 organizations, the **highest level of participation**, reflecting a growing level of interest and engagement among national and international partners.

Two subnational clusters were established in Chernihivska and Kyivska Oblasts in October. The cluster has established 12 sub-national clusters in Ukraine.

Find the case study from ZOA as evidence of emergency livelihood response through grants provided to a vulnerable household in Chernihivska. See page four.

PARTNERS RESPONSE IN OCTOBER 2023



Our partners reached over 2.9 million people in October, achieving 75% of the FSLC target. Since January 2023, partners have assisted over 2.4 million people monthly.

The partners assisted 19,109 people with livelihood assistance in October, primarily through off-farm support. During nine months, partners cumulatively assisted 625,240 people, or 21% of the 3 million people targeted in 2023.

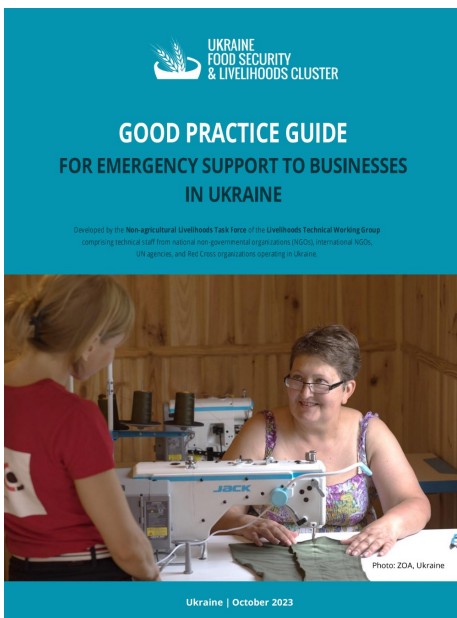
LIVELIHOODS GUIDANCE DOCUMENTS

FSLC has developed three key documents to support and strengthen partners' capacities to respond within CO2. All documents can be accessed by clicking on the picture.

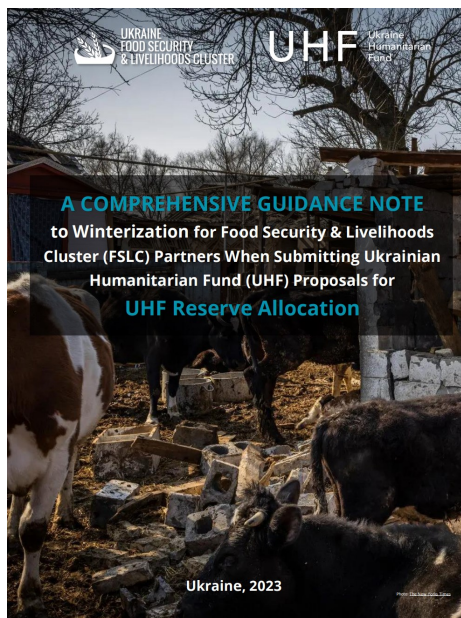
[Good Practice Guide for Emergency Support to Business in Ukraine](#)

[Winterization 2023: FSLC Guidance Note for UHF Reserve Allocation](#)

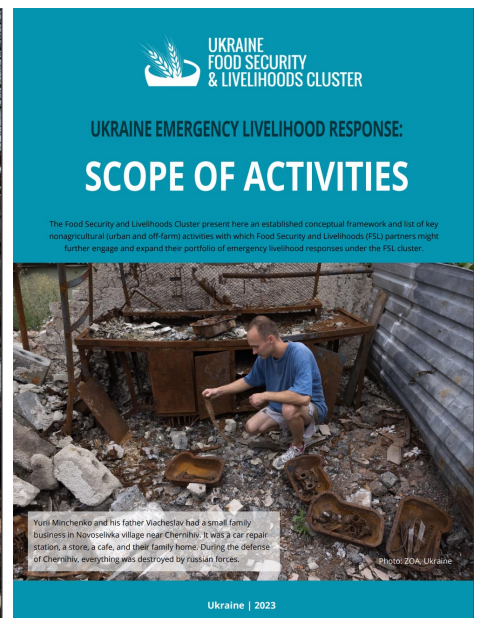
[Ukraine Emergency Livelihood Response: Scope of Activities](#)



The guide intends to inform and establish a shared understanding for partners operating in Ukraine on good practices to enable, protect, and restore business activities in an emergency context.

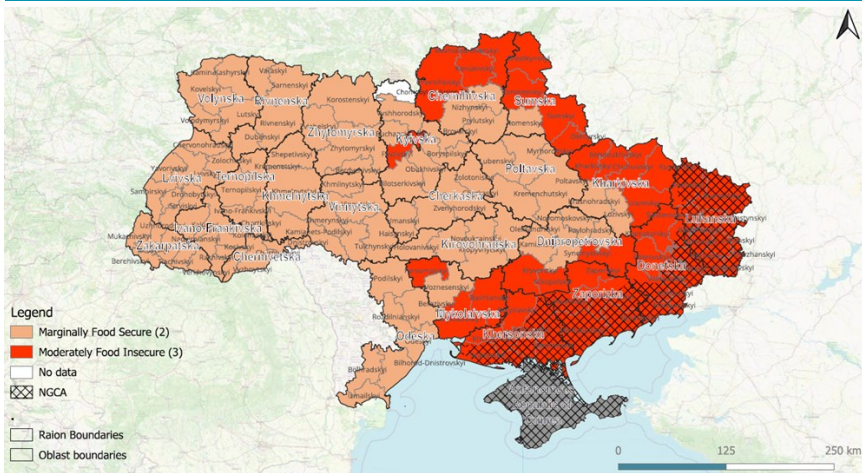


A practical information to FSLC partners who plan to submit a Ukrainian Humanitarian Fund (UHF) Reserve Allocation application aimed at supporting livestock and poultry farmers' livelihoods throughout the winter.



An established conceptual framework and list of key nonagricultural (urban and off-farm) activities with which FSLC partners might further engage and expand their portfolio of emergency livelihood responses under the FSL cluster.

2024 PEOPLE IN NEED UPDATE



The 2024 FSLC PiN was estimated using the Consolidated Approach for Reporting Indicators (CARI) methodology, with a **7.3 million** estimated population of people who are food insecure. The PiN has **decreased by 34%** from 11.1 million in 2023. Food insecurity in CARI is divided into secure, marginally secure, moderately insecure, and severely insecure phases. Winter saw an upward trend, adjusting PIN estimates using multisectorial needs assessment data.

FIELD MISSION TO EAST

FSL Cluster held its first National Partners Meeting in Dnipro, focusing on Eastern Hub assistance. Around 35 partners from Dnipropetrovska, Donetsk, Kharkivska, and Zaporizka Oblasts attended, while over 90 people connected online, **representing 70 organizations**. The link to the meeting recording and minutes can be found [here](#).



The cluster team visited partners in Kharkiv and Zaporizhzhia, where they participated in a subnational meeting prior to the national partners meeting in Dnipro.

FSLC OBLAST-LEVEL COORDINATION



The FSL Cluster has an established subnational coordination system with two **coordination focal points (CFPs)** elected in **Chernihivska and Kyivska oblasts** in October. **ZOA Ukraine** will lead coordination in **Chernihivska**, while the charity fund **"Goodwill"** won the highest vote in **Kyivska**. Nine FSLC coordination meetings were held in October, with 12 CFPs elected and endorsed in various hubs.

FSLC TECHNICAL WORKING GROUPS

Over 60 participants attended the **Food Assistance Working Group (FAWG)** meeting on **October 19**. FSLC provided an overview of September food assistance, discussed operational experiences transitioning from in-kind to sectoral cash, and discussed partners' winterization activities. **On October 31**, over 40 cluster partners met (**ad hoc FAWG meeting**) to discuss a case study on Ukraine's food balances during times of uncertainty. This included the impact of Black Sea grain initiative abandonment and infrastructure destruction.

On October 23, the **Livelihoods Technical Working Group (LTWG)** reviewed the latest FSLC documents, "Good Practice Guide for Emergency Support to Business in Ukraine" and "Ukraine Emergency Livelihood Response and Scope of Activities."

PARTNER'S STORY

The story of 55-year-old Tetiana Petryk from the village of Kyinka, near Chernihiv, is very difficult, but also encouraging. It is a shining example of courage and resilience. An example of how people find hope and continue their lives thanks to the help and support of international organizations.

Petryk family's house was located in the epicenter of the Chernihiv defense line. In March 2022, the house was completely destroyed by shelling. Tetiana's husband, who was inside the house at the time, was killed. Tetiana had to rebuild her life from scratch. She lost her husband, her house, and her livelihood. According to the woman, she was in complete despair and saw no point in going on with her life. Tetiana was psychologically supported by her two adult daughters and by the birth of her grandson. During autumn and winter of 2022, she was living together with her newborn grandson and his mother in a small trailer provided by benefactors. An international organization learned about her grief and, together with other benefactors, helped Tetiana to build a new home. It is smaller, but sufficient for her to live comfortably. According to Tetiana, it was not just a help with the construction, it was much more.



ZOA is guided by a principle in its work: "From relief to recovery." Tetiana's case is an interesting one because the organization's assistance was not limited to the reconstruction of the house. Tetiana Petryk took part in a pilot microgrant project. The woman received EUR 3,000 to purchase sewing equipment, bought three industrial sewing machines and other equipment and materials. Prior to that, Tetiana wrote a business plan, which she successfully presented to the benefactors. She set up her small production facility in a trailer on her garden plot, where she spent the winter of 2022. Products she produces vary from women's skirts to men's jackets.

Tetiana currently employs three women, two of whom are disabled. It is hard to recognize Tetiana as the woman who was broken by grief and despair. She is now busy with other things: she takes orders over the phone, buys fabrics, sells her products to large garment factories, and manages the production process. Tetiana's meetings with ZOA representatives are never without hugs. Thanks to the support of the organization, Tetiana got a new home, a stable livelihood, and most importantly, she has regained a sense of life.

«Thanks to ZOA, I gained hope. This hope helped me to live, to overcome difficulties. I started building a new house step by step. And it gave me strength and optimism.»

Tetiana

CONTACT INFORMATION

FSLC Mailing List
(click here to join)

FSLC Assessment

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