

Community-Based Protection

IDP and Community-led Groups supported by UNHCR in Zakarpatska and Ivano-Frankivska Oblasts

Community-based protection (CBP) is a continuous process that seeks to engage communities meaningfully and substantively in all aspects of protection programming, as analysts, evaluators, and implementers. It involves adopting a rights-based approach that recognizes that all IDPs and war-affected people are rights holders. Engaging IDP and war-affected communities in the response promotes decision-making, makes programmes more responsive to needs identified by communities themselves and helps to achieve durable solutions.

While continuing to provide emergency assistance to those living close to the frontline, UNHCR will prioritize interventions that support **durable solutions using community-based protection** as the starting point. Building on localization efforts promoted in 2022, UNHCR will continue **working with local partners and communities**, to support their capacity, engagement and response. In 2023, UNHCR has increased its local partnerships to 4 national NGOs and is engaging with 16 IDP and Community-led organizations (CBOs) in Zakarpatska and Ivano-Frankivska Oblasts.



Strategy and Support to Community-Based Organizations



Empower and strengthen communities' resilience, capacity for self-protection and participation in the decisions impacting them (using IDP councils, Outreach Facilitators, and other tools)



Capacity Building of community groups based on their skills and objectives (organizational, leadership, advocacy, analytical skills; protection topics; project design; business development, etc.)



Identification of Protection Risks and People with Specific Needs for further referral or direct provision of protection services (psychological first aid, individual counselling)



Members of the community group **create a safe environment** and deliver community activities to **improve access to rights and social cohesion** of community members



Promote **IDP Councils** as consultative and advisory boards at local authorities, so that IDPs can participate in public affairs, ensuring **their specific needs and concerns are considered in local policy development and decision-making processes**



Support to Community Centres - safe and public places where members of the community can meet for social events, recreation, education and livelihood programmes, information exchange etc.

IDP & Community-based Organisations supported by UNHCR (Zakarpatska and Ivano-Frankivska Oblasts)

Svalyava Sivik (Свалява Сівік)

Link: [Svalyava Sivik \(Свалява Сівік\)](#)

Location: Svaliava, Mukachivskiy, Zakarpatska

Leadership/membership: Women IDPs/Host community

This Community-Based Organization (CBO) was created jointly by a group of women who became IDPs as a result of the full-scale invasion in February 2022, and a member of the local community, with the support of UNHCR's partner NEEKA. In 2022, UNHCR and the CBO launched a project “*Legal education of internally displaced women and children during the war*”, which aims at (a) promoting IDP women and children’s awareness of their rights in the context of the war, and (b) promoting local integration and social cohesion with their host community. Activities include sessions on awareness-raising on rights through recreation.



Nadiia (Надія)

Location: Mukachevo, Mukachivskiy, Zakarpatska

Leadership/membership: Women IDPs/Host community

This CBO, led by IDP women, focuses on support to IDP women and their children and access to livelihoods. UNHCR and partner NEEKA, jointly with the Mukachevo National University, supported the CBO to launch sewing classes to meet the local demand for qualified tailors in Zakarpatska oblast. At the end of 2022, the group had registered as an NGO and developed a programme of training skills for women in 2023. Among their key activities are those aimed at integration, access to livelihoods, empowerment of women, and support of children and youth initiatives.

Mariupol Youth Union

(Маріупольська спілка молоді)

Link: [Маріупольська Спілка Молоді - Home](#) | [Facebook](#)

Location: Mukachevo, Mukachivskiy, Zakarpatska

Leadership/membership: IDPs/Host Community

In 2022, UNHCR and Mariupol Youth Union launched the project “*New wave – new profession*” which aims to promote the development of IDP and host community youth in Mukachevo (the second largest IDP-hosting city in the oblast). Activities include professional development sessions in journalism, communications and the creation of audio and video content. A dedicated recording studio will be created for this purpose, situated in a cultural centre, funded by both UNDP and UNHCR.



Joint Action Platform (Платформа спільних дій)

Location: Poliana, Mukachivskiyi, Zakarpatska

Leadership/membership: Women IDPs/Host community

This NGO, relocated from Donetsk oblast, promotes IDP women's and children's awareness of their rights in the context of the war, as well as promoting local integration and social cohesion with the host community. Activities include awareness raising sessions on rights through recreation, information sessions for the prevention of Gender-Based Violence, trainings for parents on practical knowledge for psychological support for their children and conflict resolution skills. The NGO is a longstanding UNHCR partner and its expertise on the Humanitarian-Development Nexus is an asset for the response and search for solutions to IDPs in the oblast. The CBO is supported through NEEMIA's grant programme for community-based initiatives. Materials and equipment for arts and crafts and stationery were provided. NEEMIA complemented the CBO's activities for children with animator's services.



Plidne Zerno - Roma Hub (Плідне зерно)

Location: Uzhhorod, Uzhhorodskiyi, Zakarpatska

Leadership/membership: Women/Roma/Host Community

This local NGO led by the Roma community targets both Roma IDPs and the local Roma population in Uzhhorod, focusing on access to accommodation, education and documentation, as well as non-discrimination-related activities. UNHCR and its local partner NEEMIA supported the refurbishment of a community centre where the Roma Hub was established. The Roma Hub now serves as a safe space for women and girls, including child-friendly spaces, an education centre, and a place for learning new skills (such as hairdresser training) and the provision of social services in coordination with local authorities.

Volunteers of Uzhhorod (Волонтери Ужгороду)

Location: Uzhhorod, Uzhhorodskiyi, Zakarpatska

Leadership/membership: Women/IDPs

This women-IDP led NGO aims to protect and empower girls and women of reproductive age, pregnant women and women with newly born children. Their activities include providing protection information to women, information sessions on women's healthcare, courses on positive parenting and childcare, offering professional skills and requalification courses (in coordination with the local employment centre), and sessions on digital literacy and e-commerce. The CBO also contributes to mapping services available for women in Uzhhorod, as well as referrals between IDPs and service providers. The CBO is supported through NEEMIA's grant programme for community-based initiatives. As part of the programme, equipment for digital literacy classes and some office equipment was provided.



Stavne's Hromada (Ставненська громада)

Link: [Stavne's Hromada \(Громада Ставного\)](#)

Location: Stavne, Uzhhorodskyi, Zakarpatska

Leadership/membership: Women/ IDPs/Host Community

Stavenska hromada is located in the remote mountain area of Zakarpatska oblast. When the Stavne local community faced the challenge of hosting IDPs they prioritized IDP integration and identified the Stavne Culture Centre as a new Community Centre. UNHCR helped to improve the premises and provided equipment to the centre. Thanks to this support, the CBO is able to organize information and awareness-raising sessions for the community. The CBO also serves as a mini cinema for the community. Jointly with the IDP population, local authorities implemented information sessions, community mobilization events, and recreational activities for children, youth, and adults.



Ya Dopomozhu (Я допоможу)

Location: Uzhhorod, Uzhhorodskyi, Zakarpatska

Leadership/membership: Women/Host Community

This CBO organizes photography master classes for IDPs and hosts photo exhibitions to raise awareness on problems and protection risks IDPs face, telling their stories through the photographs and collecting human stories from IDPs. The CBO is supported by way of photography equipment through NEEMIA's grant programme for community-based initiatives.

Magic Beads (Магічні намистини)

Location: Nyzhni Vorota, Mukachivskyi, Zakarpatska

Leadership/membership: Women/Roma/IDPs

This CBO is led by IDP women. With the support of UNHCR and NEEMIA, to help integration and local cohesion, the CBO organizes craft classes for both IDP and locals. Their priorities include developing women's skills in e-commerce, guiding and supervising their social media presence and participation in international sales acceleration platforms. The group is also involved in the activities of the children's club working in the hromada.



Healing Knitting (Цілюще в'язання)

Location: Uzhhorod, Uzhhorodskiyi, Zakarpatska

Leadership/membership: Women/ IDPs

The CBO is led by 20 IDP women including older women. With UNHCR's and NEEMIA's support, it developed a community-based initiative for knitting warm winter hats, scarves, gloves, and socks for vulnerable displaced and local people, including those staying in mountainous areas. The group created a safe space for them and expanded their networks of mutual support. Now, its members travel around Zakarpatska Oblast and distribute their handmade accessories, sharing their experiences of displacement and inspiring joint efforts to grow the resilience and strength of spirit of IDPs during the war.



Hromada Velykadobron

(Громада Великої Доброні)

Location: Velyka Dobron, Uzhhorodskiyi, Zakarpatska

Leadership/membership: Women/ IDPs/Host Community

The CBO received support from UNHCR and partners to promote local integration and social cohesion through a project targeting IDPs and vulnerable populations (including 100 non-IDP orphan children). The CBO organized hairdressing skills training, sports activities (Fly Yoga) and recreational activities, which are an opportunity for IDPs to make new connections with the local population.

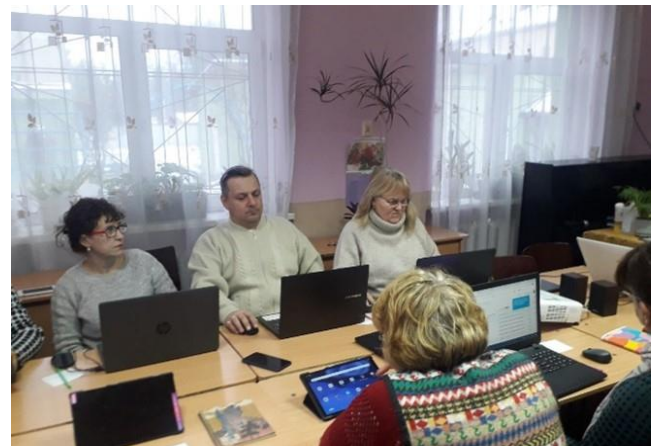
Ruka Dopomogy (Рука допомоги)

Link: [Ruka Dopomogy \(Рука допомоги\)](#)

Location: Uzhhorod, Uzhhorodskiyi, Zakarpatska

Leadership/membership: Roma/ Host Community

This local NGO started its activities in 2011 to promote community engagement in the area of education, targeting Roma children, youth and illiterate adults. In 2014 Ruka Dopomogy expanded their activities to support IDPs in Zakarpatska Oblast with psychosocial support, recreational activities for children, integration projects and information and awareness raising sessions for the people they assist. The CBO was supported through the CrimeaSOS grant programme for community-based initiatives.



Simeine Kolo (Сімейне коло)

Link: [Simeine Kolo \(Сімейне коло\)](#)

Location: Deliatyn, Nadvirnianskyi, Ivano-Frankivska

Leadership/membership: Women/IDPs/Host Community

This NGO established an information centre for IDPs to receive information on access to services and assistance. The NGO established good cooperation with local authorities and the centre operates in the village council building. The NGO's key activities for IDPs include hosting individual and collective classes on psychological support legal seminars and operating a legal assistance hotline. The CBO was supported through the CrimeaSOS grant programme for community-based initiatives. Equipment for informational activities and some office equipment was provided.



Students of Uzhhorod (Студенти Ужгороду)

Location: Uzhhorod, Uzhhorodskyi, Zakarpatska

Leadership/membership: IDPs/Host Community

Students of Uzhhorod National University, a youth-led organization, in cooperation with professors of the Department of Psychology, initiated activities that provide psychosocial support to IDPs. Students complement NEEMIA's child protection activities providing support to child-friendly spaces and recreational activities for children, preventing bullying and cyber bullying through information and awareness-raising sessions, working with the older IDP population on digital literacy, organizing groups of support and participating in activities of Vona-Hub. The CBO was supported through the CrimeaSOS grant programme for community-based initiatives. Equipment for informational and educational activities was provided.

PORT (ПОРТ)

Link: [PORT \(ПОРТ\)](#)

Location: Horodenka, Kolomyiskyi, Ivano-Frankivska

Leadership/membership: IDPs/Host Community

The project established a centre for youth in a local museum. This youth-led project also integrates IDP youth into their activities. Activities to the Horodenka community include group excursions, board game evenings, and movie nights.

The CBO is supported through the CrimeaSOS grant programme for community-based initiatives. Equipment for informational, educational and recreational activities was provided.

