

Stories of Impact

A series highlighting achievements in disaster risk management

Shaping Ukraine's Recovery

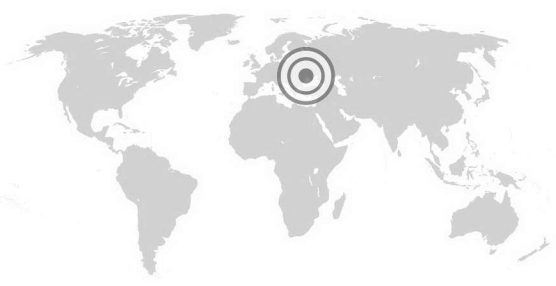


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REGION: EUROPE AND CENTRAL ASIA
FOCUS: RESILIENT RECOVERY
COUNTRY: UKRAINE



RESULTS:

- The first phase of the Eastern Ukraine Recovery and Peacebuilding Assessment was conducted by over 90 experts in just six weeks.
- The assessment identified \$1.5 billion in initial recovery, reconstruction, and peacebuilding needs, and provided recommendations in three areas: restoring critical infrastructure and services; improving access to economic livelihoods; and strengthening social resilience, initiating reconciliation, and peacebuilding.
- GFDRR's Rapid Assessment Methodology was used, leveraging an initial \$150,000 programmatic approach for recovery, with the potential for larger World Bank recovery projects to commence once conflict concludes.

The ongoing conflict in Eastern Ukraine has resulted in instability and insecurity, heavily impacting the Ukrainian people with devastating social and economic consequences. Beyond the significant losses of life, physical and human capital have suffered severe damage, leading to large-scale population displacement.

After the unrest escalated beginning in early 2014, the Government of Ukraine sought to better understand its impact and how to recover. At the government's request, GFDRR, in partnership with the World Bank, the European Union (EU) and United Nations (UN), helped assess the damage of Ukraine's conflict-affected areas. Work began in late 2014 and consisted of a joint needs assessment for recovery and peacebuilding undertaken by these institutions. GFDRR's support of the assessment builds on recent engagements in other fragile and conflict situations, including Iraq, Syria, Nigeria, Lebanon, Yemen, and the West Bank and Gaza.

CONTEXT:

The devastating conflict in eastern of Ukraine has been ongoing since early 2014. Spurred by pro-Russian separatists, who have seized control of parts of the eastern oblasts of Donetsk and Luhansk, the conflict has resulted in more than 7,000 casualties, with 18,000 wounded, and more than two million people displaced. Its outcome remains unclear.

Responding to a request from the Government of Ukraine, GFDRR supported the World Bank, the EU, and the UN in surveying the damage and applying key lessons drawn from experience responding to natural disasters.

APPROACH:

GFDRR provided technical input to the Recovery and Peacebuilding Assessment, leading in the area of infrastructure and social services. In this area GFDRR helped identify \$1.26 billion in recovery needs directly resulting from the conflict in Ukraine. The sectors in greatest need were transportation, health, and energy.

This work was based on both post-conflict and post-disaster methodologies, including the Rapid Assessment Methodology, an analytical tool developed by GFDRR for assessing damage in immediate post-disaster scenarios. This methodology made use of remote sensing, social media, triangulation of data sources, and other techniques to accurately assess the extent of the damage within a constrained time frame.

The full assessment was a highly collaborative effort: additional input on economic recovery was carried out by the EU, and the UN led on social cohesion and peacebuilding.

Now completed, this rapid assessment provides a framework for recovery and reconstruction of eastern Ukraine's conflict-affected areas. Lessons from GFDRR's Disaster Recovery Framework Guide and related case studies are expected to factor into eventual conflict recovery plans.

NEXT STEPS:

The ongoing crisis in Ukraine demands that the assessment be a "living document," with mechanisms built-in for ongoing adjustment and refinement as the conflict continues to evolve. It is hoped to make an important contribution to recovery in eastern Ukraine, for the benefit of all Ukrainians.

More broadly, GFDRR will continue to leverage its expertise in responding to natural disasters to support reconstruction and recovery efforts in conflict zones.

Contact

Shaela Rahman
srahman@worldbank.org
www.gfdr.org

*ALL MONETARY VALUES IN USD



LESSONS LEARNED:

A conflict situation constricts the scope of assessment.

Because of the ongoing conflict, some areas remained inaccessible, significantly limiting the amount of data available. Moving beyond traditional "static" assessments, a key priority will be to institutionalize the phased approach of the Recovery and Peacebuilding Assessment, and use it as a basis for iterative assessments and inputs into policy and programming.

Political developments can provide unique challenges.

The government was not able to engage fully in the assessment, given parliamentary elections in October 2014 and the changeover of the government following the elections. In the absence of an inter-governmental coordination structure, the assessment teams had to instead work directly with line ministries and technical agencies, leading to inefficiencies in carrying out the assessment. Moving forward, it will be important to ensure strong government leadership and coordinating capacity.