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ANNEX

Neighbourhood, Development and International Cooperation Instrument (NDICI) – Global Europe

Exceptional Assistance Measure regarding Ukraine

1. IDENTIFICATION

Action: Targeted support to build a more conducive environment for psychosocial well-being and resilience of war-affected and vulnerable communities, and geospatial intelligence for civilian conflict monitoring

Action Reference: NDICI CR 2024 / 06

Cost: EUR 15 700 000 (European Union (EU) contribution).

Budget Line: 14 02 03 10

Duration: Maximum 18 months. The authorising officer responsible may decide to extend this period twice by a further period of up to six months, up to a total maximum duration of 30 months, under the conditions laid down in Article 23(6) of Regulation (EU) 2021/947.

Lead service: FPI

2. ACTION SUMMARY

This 18-month exceptional assistance measure will provide targeted support to improve resilience and psychosocial well-being of vulnerable communities while also assisting Ukraine in civilian conflict monitoring. The measure will be carried out in an inclusive approach, bearing in mind the differentiated needs according to gender, age and disability. In a first component, the measure will provide assistance to improve municipal services and infrastructures for community resilience and psychosocial well-being. It will support authorities identified as serving the most vulnerable communities in Ukraine by enabling them to facilitate access for veterans and their families as well as the families of fallen soldiers to urgent physical and mental-health support and other social services. It will also assist selected pilot municipalities in front line regions to strengthen the role of local authorities in the coordination and provision of public services. This will include initiatives to improve infrastructures for community life and safety, for example refurbishing public squares, playgrounds, and shelters, making them safer, welcoming and multi-purpose, and accessible for all. The second component will make further support available for the provision of geo-spatial intelligence products for civilian conflict monitoring, including to assess damage to civilian infrastructure and the environment, or to trace organised criminal activities, such as grain smuggling.

3. BACKGROUND AND RATIONALE

3.1 BACKGROUND

Two years after the start of Russia's full-scale war of aggression on Ukraine and amidst continued attacks on its territory, Ukrainians are working on repairing and reconstructing houses and public infrastructure, while also dealing with massive societal challenges. Some 3.7 million people have been displaced from their homes and many have joined the Ukrainian Armed Forces to defend their country and the numbers of veterans and civilians with disability have increased due to the war. Local authorities continue to aid citizens in front-line communities but elderly, war veterans, internally displaced persons, persons with disabilities, minorities such as Roma and other vulnerable persons and physically impaired individuals may face challenges in accessing this support. Further away from the front-line, internally displaced people (IDPs) and their host communities also need to adjust to the changed community structures and local authorities need to manage support services for increased populations in often precarious circumstances. Active community members across the country assist war affected families and returning veterans, while also dealing with personal injuries and losses. After two years of war, citizens nationwide are grappling with significant pressures on their psychosocial well-being.

3.2 RATIONALE FOR CRISIS RESPONSE ACTIONS UNDER THE RAPID RESPONSE PILLAR OF THE NEIGHBOURHOOD, DEVELOPMENT AND INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION INSTRUMENT

The strain on Ukrainian communities' resilience and psychosocial well-being and continued damage to civilian infrastructure as a result of Russia's illegal and unjustified war of aggression against Ukraine, constitute an exceptional and unforeseen situation in the sense of Article 4(4) (a) of the NDICI Regulation. An adequate response cannot be provided under any other European Union Instrument due to the urgency with which the funds are required and due to available resources already being firmly committed.

Annex IV, paragraph 1, second paragraph, points (a), (f), (g), (h) and (p) Regulation (EU) 2021/947 specifically provides for the use of the NDICI rapid response pillar to (a) support, through the provision of technical and logistical assistance, for the efforts undertaken by international, regional and local organisations and by State and civil society actors in promoting confidence-building, mediation, dialogue and reconciliation, transitional justice, women's and youth empowerment, in particular with regard to community tensions and protracted conflicts; (f) support for reinforcement of State capacity - in the face of significant pressures to rapidly build, maintain or restore its core functions, and basic social and political cohesion; (g) support for measures necessary to start the rehabilitation and reconstruction of key infrastructure, housing, public buildings and economic assets, and essential productive capacity, as well as other measures for the re-starting of economic activity, the generation of employment and the establishment of the minimum conditions necessary for sustainable social development; (h) support for civilian measures related to the demobilisation and reintegration of former combatants and their families into civil society, and where appropriate their repatriation, as well as measures to address the situation of child soldiers and female combatants, and (p) support for measures to address the potential impact of sudden population movements with relevance

to the political and security situation, including measures addressing the needs of host communities.

3.3 RISKS AND ASSUMPTIONS

Risk	Risk level H/M/L	Mitigation measures
In the context of the rapidly changing developments in Ukraine resulting from Russia’s war of aggression, the situation in affected communities might change drastically.	H	The implementing partners to be selected will be required to have experience with project implementation in volatile conditions and to quickly adjust activities according to changing needs.
Lack of coordination among donors resulting in duplication of efforts or inefficient allocation of resources.	M	Continued coordination among EU actors will be pursued and the action will specifically include provisions for improved donor coordination with the EU Member States and other partners.

4. OBJECTIVES

4.1 OVERALL OBJECTIVE

The overall objective of the action is to build a more conducive environment for the psychosocial well-being and social cohesion of vulnerable communities and to reinforce civilian conflict monitoring in Ukraine.

4.2 SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES

- 4.2.1 Building a more conducive environment for the resilience and psychosocial well-being of vulnerable communities, including veterans;
- 4.2.2 Reinforcing the civilian conflict monitoring capacities of Ukraine via the provision of geo-spatial intelligence services.

5. ACTION COMPONENTS AND EXPECTED RESULTS

The main expected results/outcomes include:

Expected Result (1): The capacity of Ukrainian authorities to build a more conducive environment for psychosocial well-being and cohesion of communities is enhanced.

Activities (indicative):

- 5.1.1 Support to services for reintegration of veterans into civilian life, including support to families of veterans and fallen soldiers and their livelihoods;

- 5.1.2 Provision of support to small-scale recovery and reconstruction initiatives as well as collective activities enhancing cohesion and resilience at community level;
- 5.1.3 Identification and targeting of support to local actors in communities with an enhanced risk for tensions.

Expected Result (2): Ukrainian civilian authorities in charge of conflict monitoring have access to enhanced monitoring capacities based on geo-spatial intelligence products.

Activities (indicative):

- 5.2.1 Provision of geo-spatial intelligence products based on satellite imagery for civilian purposes such as damage assessment and tracking criminal activities.

6. IMPLEMENTATION

6.1 IMPLEMENTATION MODALITIES

The Commission will ensure that the appropriate EU rules and procedures for providing financing to third parties are respected, including review procedures, where appropriate, and compliance of the action with EU restrictive measures¹.

6.1.1 Indirect management with a pillar assessed entity

This action may be implemented in indirect management with entities which will be selected by the Commission's services using the following criteria: ability to operate at scale in various regions across Ukraine; to engage with national and local stakeholders; access to capabilities to analyse conflict risks; ability to provide geo-spatial intelligence products based on satellite imagery (for the implementation of specific objective 4.2.2). The implementation by these entities entails the activities necessary to achieve objectives 4.2.1 and 4.2.2 as specified under the result areas in section 5, results 1 and 2.

6.1.2 Changes from indirect to direct management mode due to exceptional circumstances

If negotiations with an entrusted pillar assessed entity for the implementation as foreseen under 6.1.1 for components 1 and 2 or parts of the expected result areas fail, the achievement of objectives 4.2.1 and 4.2.2, as set out in detail in section 5 above, may be wholly or partially implemented in direct management, with the direct award of grants using the same selection criteria as for indirect management described in 6.1.1.

6.2 INDICATIVE BUDGET

The total European Union contribution under this Financing Decision **will not exceed EUR 15 700 000**. A breakdown among components is provided hereunder, and is indicative.

¹ www.sanctionsmap.eu Please note that the sanctions map is an IT tool for identifying the sanctions regimes. The source of the sanctions stems from legal acts published in the Official Journal (OJ). In case of discrepancy between the published legal acts and the updates on the website, it is the OJ version that prevails.

Indicative budget breakdown

Components	EU contribution (amount in EUR)	Indicative third-party contribution, in currency identified
Component 1: Support to vulnerable communities composed of		
6.1.1 – Indirect management with pillar assessed entities	12 000 000	N/A
Component 2: Strengthening civilian damage monitoring with geo-spatial intelligence products composed of		
6.1.1 – Indirect management with a pillar assessed entity	3 700 000	N/A
Total	15 700 000	

6.3 ORGANISATIONAL SET-UP AND RESPONSIBILITIES

The action shall be implemented under indirect management. It will be devolved and sub-delegated to the **European Union Delegation in Ukraine**, with the support of the Commission for the conclusion of the contracts implementing the action.

6.4 PERFORMANCE AND RESULTS MONITORING AND REPORTING

The day-to-day technical and financial monitoring of the implementation of this action will be a continuous process and part of the implementing partner's responsibilities. To this aim, the implementing partner shall establish a permanent internal, technical and financial monitoring system for the action and elaborate regular progress reports (not less than annual) and final report. Each report shall provide an accurate account of implementation of the action, difficulties encountered, changes introduced, as well as the degree of achievement of its results (outputs and outcomes) as measured by corresponding indicators, using as reference the Logframe matrix. The report shall be laid out in such a way as to allow monitoring of the means envisaged and employed and of the budget details for the action. The final report, narrative and financial, will cover the entire period of the action implementation.

The Commission may undertake additional project monitoring visits both through its own staff and through independent consultants recruited directly by the Commission for independent monitoring reviews (or recruited by the responsible agent contracted by the Commission for implementing such reviews).

6.5 EVALUATION

Having regard to the nature of the action, an evaluation will not be carried out for this action or its components.

The Commission may, during implementation, decide to undertake such an evaluation for duly justified reasons either on its own decision or on the initiative of the partner.

The financing of the evaluation shall be covered by another measure constituting a financing decision.

6.6 AUDIT

Without prejudice to the obligations applicable to contracts concluded for the implementation of this action, the Commission may, on the basis of a risk assessment, contract independent audits or expenditure verification assignments for one or several contracts or agreements.

The financing of the audit shall be covered by another measure constituting a financing decision.

6.7 COMMUNICATION AND VISIBILITY

The 2021-2027 programming cycle has adopted a new approach to pooling, programming and deploying strategic communication and public diplomacy resources.

It will remain a contractual obligation for all entities implementing EU-funded external actions to inform the relevant audiences of the Union's support for their work by displaying the EU emblem and a short funding statement as appropriate on all communication materials related to the actions concerned. This obligation will continue to apply equally, regardless of whether the actions concerned are implemented by the Commission, partner countries, service providers, grant beneficiaries or entrusted or delegated entities such as UN agencies, international financial institutions and agencies of EU Member States.

The 2022 "Communicating and Raising EU Visibility: Guidance for external actions" reference document shall be used to establish the appropriate contractual obligations.

7. COMPLEMENTARITY, COORDINATION AND FOLLOW-UP

The action will complement ongoing EU support managed by DG NEAR on the resilience of Ukrainian communities and decentralisation reform, mental health and social support managed by DG SANTE, as well as humanitarian support managed by DG ECHO. Given the high level of international support to Ukraine in the response to the ongoing crisis situation, particular emphasis will also be given to ensuring good coordination with other support initiatives by EU Member States and other donors.