



# Norwegian People's Aid

February 2023 FACTSHEET

## UKRAINE



*SESU's EOD and Demining team undergoing training in Kharkiv region with equipment donated by NPA, August 2022*



*Ten NPA teams successfully completed NTS training in Romny, Sumy region, December 2022*

### CONTEXT

On 24 February 2022, Russia initiated a large-scale military operation in Ukraine targeting all major cities in the northern, eastern, and southern parts of the country. Since its early stages, the military invasion of Ukraine has been characterized by the widespread use of explosive weapons in populated areas, including reports of use of anti-personnel and anti-vehicle mines, cluster munitions, aerial bombings and multiple launch rocket system (MLRS).

As of February 2023, 5.4 million Internally Displaced People (IDPs) and about 8 million refugees currently recorded across Europe. More than 17.7 million people are in desperate need of humanitarian assistance of which around 10.7 million need mine action-related services.

To date there has been no systematic, wide-scale assessment of EO contamination and what humanitarian impact they pose, but initial information indicates that the size of contamination and its impact is massive.

The extensive EO contamination not only put at great risk the lives and limbs of thousands of civilians, but also hinders the access to basic services and the delivery of live-saving humanitarian aid, thus exacerbating the already critical situation.

### NPA IN UKRAINE

NPA deployed to the country in May 2022. In early August 2022, NPA registered as a non-profit organisation with the Ministry of Justice of Ukraine and is therefore authorised to implement humanitarian projects.

NPA's initial intervention in conflict-affected Ukraine has taken the form of material and equipment support to the State Emergency Services of Ukraine (SESU) with the provision of much-needed Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) equipment, vehicles, personal protective equipment, medical supplies and communication equipment. NPA fully equipped ten new SESU Demining Teams deployed in Kharkiv and Kyiv regions.

After a comprehensive CPP Needs Assessment in Ukraine, NPA started EORE and CPP in partnership with the Ukrainian Deminer's Association (UDA) with the aim of disseminating life-saving safety messages to at-risk women, men, girls and boys in the conflict regions of Kharkiv, Sumy and Dnipro through in-person EORE and CPP training.

NPA has its country office in Kyiv with Programme management team consisting of international and national support staff, an operations base in Sumy region creating preconditions for deployment of operational teams.

During December 2022, NPA completed training for ten Non-Technical Survey (NTS) / Explosive Ordnance Risk



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Education (EORE) teams. Following completion of the training, NPA was accredited for NTS and EORE by the National Mine Action Coordination Center (MACC) on 15<sup>th</sup> February. NPA now deploys ten operational NTS/EORE teams in Sumy region.

NPA Ukraine has established and maintains sound professional relationships with key Mine Action stakeholders, including but not limited to: The Ministry of Defence and the Secretariat of the NMAA, the Ministry of Internal Affairs, SESU, the Ministry for the Reintegration of Temporary Occupied Territories, UNDP, and other Mine Action operators. As well as all relevant UN Clusters and sub-clusters.

NPA has been engaging directly with SESU to establish long-term collaboration in the fields of EORE, Conflict Preparedness and Protection (CPP), and Mine Detection Dogs (MDD). NPA and SESU have signed a long-term partnership agreement which lays the ground for a sustainable programme focused on the development of national mine action capacity in Ukraine. In addition, see MDD capacity development project below.

## Overall Results 2022

- Country Office in Kyiv registered and operational from August 2022.
- Partnership Agreement signed with the State Emergency Service of Ukraine covering multiple mine action pillars.
- Equipped ten SESU EOD/Demining teams.
- Provided CPP and EORE sessions for more than 7,000 people in Kharkiv, Sumy, and Dnipro regions in partnership with UDA.
- Conducted a thorough MDD Needs Assessment and started a capacity development project to build SESU's MDD capacity.
- Established field office in Sumy region.

## NPA's Plans for 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter 2023:

- Ten NTS/EORE teams accredited, conducting NTS and EORE activities from February 2023.
- Commence operations in Mykolaiv Oblast.
- Clearance operations certified, NPA Multi-skilled Operational Teams (MSOT) trained to conduct clearance and Battle Area Clearance (BAC).
- EORE & CPP interventions continued through local partners.
- Six MDDs and dog-handlers within SESU's response capacity and eight MDDs and dog-handlers trained for the NPA programme.
- Provision of technical and safety equipment for ten additional SESU EOD/demining teams.

## Mine Detection Dog Capacity Development Project

A clear desire was expressed by the Ukrainian authorities for the establishment of a Mine Detection Dog capacity in Ukraine for the conduct of Land Release activities. Therefore, in mid-July 2022 NPA conducted a thorough MDD capacity needs assessment visit through which NPA identified the needs and gaps for the establishment of an operational MDD capacity within SESU's structure.

Following this visit, NPA hosted SESU at NPA's Global Training Centre for Mine Detection Dogs in Sarajevo. The outcome of this visit is an action plan on the capacity building of SESU MDD team that will be followed by the deployment of a NPA Technical Advisor to support the SESU canine unit in preparing and conducting a 2-month training for MDD, dog-handlers and Team Leaders. The project's plan is to conduct the training first half of 2023 and include the provision of specialised equipment and material necessary for the successful and sustainable establishment of an operational MDD capacity in Ukraine.

### DONORS

NPA is grateful for **the generous support from the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs (NMFA) in 2022 and 2023** for the establishment of NPA's Mine Action and Disarmament programme in Ukraine which contributes to protection of civilians against explosive weapons.

### MORE INFORMATION

- [NPA's webpage](#)
- [Mine Action Review - Ukraine](#)