



2022 FACTSHEET UKRAINE



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

CONTEXT

Ukraine has been heavily affected by armed conflict since 2014 following Russia's annexation of Crimea and its support for pro-Russia separatist forces in the eastern regions (Oblasts) of Donetsk and Luhansk. Since that time, the armed conflict in the Donbas has evolved into a simmering conflict with regular violations of the 2015 Minsk II ceasefire agreement along what is commonly called the "contact line". However, the situation has recently changed significantly.

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

BACKGROUND

bombings and multiple launch rocket system (MLRS). As of October 2022, 6.2 million Internally Displaced People (IDPs) and about 7.6 million refugees currently recorded across Europe. More than 17 million people are in desperate need of humanitarian assistance of which around 14 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



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aid, thus exacerbating the already critical situation.

Since April 2022, NPA has been working to establish a mine action programme based out of Kyiv with funding provided by the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs. In early August 2022, NPA registered as non-profit organisation before the Ministry of Justice of Ukraine and is therefore authorised to implement humanitarian projects. In addition, NPA is undertaking the necessary processes to get accredited as a Mine Action operator in Ukraine which will allow NPA to receive tasking from the National Mine Action Authority (NMAA), get access to the national IMSMA database and commence field activities such as EORE, NTS and clearance operations. To this end, NPA is currently recruiting national staff members, procuring the necessary equipment and assets and preparing and developing the required Standard Operating Procedures and policies.

While consolidating its presence in Ukraine, NPA country team has established and developed sound professional relationships with key Mine Action stakeholders and actors, including but not limited to: The Ministry of Defence and the Secretariat of the NMAA, the Ministry of Internal Affairs, the State Emergency Service, the Ministry for the Reintegration of Temporary Occupied Territories, UNDP, international Mine Action operators, the ICRC and the OSCE PCU. As well as different UN Clusters and sub-clusters.

NPA's assistance to Ukraine has been in the form of material support to the State Emergency Services of Ukraine (SESU), providing them with much-needed EOD and mine clearance equipment, Personal Protection Equipment, mine detectors, medical supplies, communication equipment and vehicles.

Furthermore, NPA has been engaging directly with SESU in order to establish long-term collaboration in the fields of Explosive Ordnance Risk Education (EORE), Conflict Preparedness and Protection (CPP), and Mine Detection Dogs (MDD). To this end, 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.

Moreover, in mid-July 2022 NPA and SESU conducted a joint needs assessment visit to the SESU's Interregional Rapid Response Centre in Romny, Sumy region to identify

the needs and gaps related to the development of a

NPA's Plans for 4th Quarter 2022 and 1st Quarter 2023:

Reduce the humanitarian impact of EO through:

- 12 Non-Technical Survey Teams trained and accredited, starting NTS and EORE activities from January 2023
- Eight manual Multi-Task teams trained to conduct clearance, EOD spot-tasks and Battle Area Clearance (BAC)
- EORE & CPP interventions continued through local partner
- Commenced training for six Mine Detection Dogs and Dog-Handlers within SESU's response capacity

national Mine Detection Dog (MDD) capacity in Ukraine. Following this visit, NPA organised visit for the SESU team to NPA Global Training Centre in Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina. (*please see Mine Detection Dog Capacity Development project below*).

After a comprehensive and thorough CPP Needs Assessment in Ukraine, NPA has started an EORE and CPP pilot project 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 both in-person and digital EORE and CPP campaigns. As of end of October 2022, CPP and EORE session were delivered for more than 2,500 people in Kharkiv, Sumy, Dnipro and Kyiv regions.

Finally, NPA is an active member of all relevant institutional coordination mechanisms in Ukraine. In particular, NPA regularly contributes and coordinates with the UN Protection Cluster, the UNDP-led Mine Action Sub-Cluster, as well as the Logistics Cluster, the Security Cluster and the Environment Cluster. NPA also actively participates in the EORE and Information Management working groups.



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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 through which NPA identified the needs and gaps for the establishment of an operational MDD capacity within SESU's structure.

The visit identified the SESU's existing canine unit as the state institution better placed to host the MDD capacity, and developed a work plan for the improvement and enhancement of the existing facilities and personnel. 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 in early 2023 and include the provision of specialised equipment and material necessary for the successful and sustainable establishment of an operational MDD capacity in Ukraine.

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 with technical and safety equipment for the conduct of their operations;
- Provided CPP and EORE sessions for more than 2,500 people in Kharkiv, Sumy, Dnipro and Kyiv regions in partnership with a local organization UDA;
- Conducted a thorough Mine Detection Dog Needs Assessment and established a capacity development project to build SESU's MDD capacity in Ukraine.
- 12 Non-Technical Survey Teams to be trained and accredited during December 2022, starting NTS and EORE activities from January 2023

DONORS

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

MORE INFORMATION

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

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