Under the 3P Consortium, and with support of Danish Red Cross and Austrian Red Cross experts, volunteers and staff of the Ukrainian Red Cross Society (URCS) have completed a full cycle of trainings to prepare and train communities to industrial and environmental risks along the Line of Contact.

In October, the most active community representatives of Kodema village (Bakhmut raion) received first aid training. Altogether 10 participants gained vital knowledge from Red Cross first aid instructors. As a next step, the participants/active members of the community gained skills in psychological first aid. As the last step in the preparedness curriculum, 2 representatives of Kodema village took part in a three-day community-based disaster risk management workshop in Svitogorsk on how to prepare emergency response plans at the community level. During the workshop organized by the Red Cross with direct support of 3P partner IMPACT Initiatives, it was not only possible to identify what biological and chemical hazards prevail around Kodema, but also to prepare a draft community emergency preparedness plan for the residents of the area.

On December 3, URCS’ team gathered with motivated village members to finalize the plan and discuss preparedness of the population to respond to various emergencies. Now, thanks to the developed documents, residents will be able to quickly receive information about emergency situations when they occur, including instructions on how to act/react and - in case of a large emergency - even organize an evacuation on their own.

With support from the EU, tools and skills were thus provided to 430 villagers in 2019 - they can now reduce the impact of different harmful situations on their communities. This is especially relevant in the context of the ongoing armed conflict in Eastern Ukraine.
As 2020 starts, time has come to review some of the progress made by the 3P Consortium in 2019, including on the analytical side. During the last few months of 2019, IMPACT Initiatives’ Geographic Information Systems (GIS) team in Ukraine was busy on several fronts, preparing a report on area-based risk assessment for Popasna raion (to be published in 2020), advocating for an area-based risk approach understanding disaster risk, and conducting technical workshops for partners and communities.

In Focus: The Area-Based Risk Assessment (ABRA) conducted by IMPACT in Popasna raion is currently being finalized. The resulting report looks at industrial, environmental, and conflict-related hazards in the area. ABRA will be a resource for local-level risk management activities and advocacy. Main findings were already presented at “Mind the Gap!” conference, advocating for an area-based risk approach for Popasna raion (to be published in 2020), and will result in a white book with recommendations for Ministries, Verkhovna Rada, the Office of the President and others.

R2P experts also engaged various stakeholders on topics of importance to Donbas and the risk of an ecological and/or industrial disaster in conflict-affected regions at a number of events held in the last few months of 2019, including public discussions, roundtables, radio broadcasts, and other fora. This engagement forms part of the 3P Consortium’s overarching approach to information dissemination and advocacy, whereby partners aim to raise awareness of the disaster risk in conflict areas among local, national and international actors.

As per this discussion, potential ways forward for improving the current environmental situation in Ukraine discussed at the Forum could include the inclusion of questions pertaining to ecological security into a new National Security Strategy. R2P experts also engaged various stakeholders on topics of importance to Donbas and the risk of an ecological and/or industrial disaster in conflict-affected regions at a number of events held in the last few months of 2019, including public discussions, roundtables, radio broadcasts, and other fora.

This engagement forms part of the 3P Consortium’s overarching approach to information dissemination and advocacy, whereby partners aim to raise awareness of the disaster risk in conflict areas among local, national and international actors.

“Ecological migrants - this is a conditionally named people who can become residents of Donetsk and Luhansk regions in case of ecological catastrophe in Donbas. The region was quite problematic even before the conflict from the point of view of the environmental situation. And in the long perspective, it can get a completely unsuitable region for living, as it will become an area of environmental disaster”, said Ms. Anastasia Bondarenko, legal analyst in Right to Protection.