

3P CONSORTIUM

Newsletter, 4th edition

The third quarter of 2020 was focused on catching up on the slight delays induced by the programme's adaptation and response to COVID-19. With the end of the project now in sight (early 2021), several mitigation, preparedness and response plans were completed or endorsed during this last quarter. The plans cover environmental protection, industrial risks mitigation and aim to improve communication systems. Continued strong collaboration with local authorities has also meant a strong engagement in activities that can reduce the spread of COVID-19.

To address heavy environmental concerns in the project's area of intervention – i.e. frontline raions and cities in Donbas, ACTED finalized the draft **Pervomaiskugol mine risks mitigation plan** (in Popasna raion), partly based on the results of water quality testing. Moreover, the **Tailing Management Facilities preparedness and emergency response plan** (in Yasinovata raion) was finalized and tested through a table top simulation involving all the stakeholders who would take part in a potential response.

Regarding industrial risks, following an intensive collaboration with local authorities, the **mercury mitigation plan (Standard Operating Procedure)** developed in 2019 has now been officially endorsed by the Popasna raion. Implementation of the plan will be supported during the last quarter of the project through monitoring of the presence of mercury in order to do the territory cleaning in timely manner.

Finally, in close collaboration with the Toretsk municipality, ACTED supported the installation of a **Mass Public Awareness and Information System (MPAIS)**, whose operation will be based on a multi-phase plan developed jointly by ACTED and Toretsk authorities. Implementation of the first phase of this plan was partly covered by this project, with financial contributions from Toretsk and oblast authorities: the equipment has now been installed. In parallel of the installation, ACTED supported the development of a strategy to broadcast emergency, alert and awareness messages, which will be used by the local Civil Protection unit when employing the MPAIS.

Moreover, to present the 3P program results and discuss future ways forward for the Consortium and other DRR stakeholders in Ukraine, a **second annual conference on industrial and environmental risks** will be held by the end of 2020.



RESPONSE TO COVID-19

Following discussions with local authorities in Popasna raion regarding their current capacity, ACTED developed a **COVID-19 preparedness and response plan**, with strong participation of the raion Health Care and Civil Protection units. This plan aims to ensure regular monitoring of access to the resources needed to cope with COVID-19, and encourages the preparation of standard operational procedures to support case management and limit risks of infection, all the while ensuring proper coordination mechanisms with all raion departments involved. The plan was tested through a table-top simulation with all stakeholders.

SUPPORT TO LOCAL COMMUNITIES

From July 1 to September 30, the Ukrainian Red Cross Society (URCS) conducted information, training, and communication activities to reduce risks in case of emergencies in 25 settlements of Eastern Ukraine.

8 one-day trainings were conducted for communities in the Donetsk region, involving 74 participants. During the event, 11 disaster risk reduction kits for use by the settlements, and 11 were distributed to schools (4 in Bakhmut, 2 in Yasinuvata, 14 in Toretsk municipality, Donetsk oblast, 2 in Popasna raion in the Luhansk oblast). Moreover, URCS worked on public awareness of chemical, biological, and radiation threats: 30,000 informational booklets were distributed.

In parallel, URCS held sessions on the preparation of family emergency plans in case of emergencies in schools in Toretsk municipality, Donetsk oblast and Popasna raion, Luhansk oblast. More than 600 students from grades 8 to 11 participated.

In the village of Kodema, Bakhmut raion, a stand with information on chemical threats and additional information that may be useful for the population in case of emergencies was installed.



In 12 settlements of Bakhmut, Yasinuvata raions, Toretsk municipality in Donetsk region, URCS conducted 5 first aid trainings, involving 36 participants, and 11 psychological first aid trainings, involving 106 participants.

Moreover, 5 first aid kits and 9 psychological first aid kits were distributed in these settlements. A 1000 information materials on first aid and 5000 information materials on psychological first aid were shared as well.



AREA-BASED RISK ASSESMENT (ABRA)

Since August, IMPACT Initiatives has been conducting three final area-based risk assessments (ABRAs) for another 3 raions located close to the contact line; namely, Bakhmut, Yasynuvata and Volnovakha raions.

ABRA results were presented to local authorities, including representatives of the civil protection department of sub-divisions of the State Emergency Service of Ukraine. Meetings were held in Popasna, Bakhmut, Ocheretyne (Yasynuvata raion) and Toretsk on September 29 and October 6-7, 2020.

Each ABRA includes more than 25 maps indicating potential industrial and natural risks in the raion, as well as exposure of water and energy supply infrastructure to conflict. Using the Flash Environmental Assessment Tool (FEAT) 2.0 Pocket Guide, key hazardous facilities within the region and their substances were cross-referenced to determine potential human and environmental exposure. This was provided in distances (km) based on low and high substance quantities (kg) to provide insight into a minimum and maximum exposure.

The map shown above is taken from one of the ABRAs and shows the areas of potential exposure of Novotroitske ore mining to human health, soil and rivers. This information helped to raise awareness about the actual risk at the local level and aimed to help in building the coping capacity of the community to the exposed hazards.



AD HOC RESPONSE

Throughout the summer and into autumn this year, a series of wildfires have occurred across Eastern Ukraine. This is due to a combination of factors, including drought conditions, climatic anomaly, severe fire weather and significant forested areas for fuel in the northern region of Luhansk oblast. Proximity to the contact line exacerbates wildfire risk by increasing the likelihood they will ignite as a result of the ongoing conflict.

Besides the active fire maps developed in response to the wildfire event that started on September 30, 2020, the IMPACT team developed a set of precondition maps, such as the fire weather index map shown below, based on data from Copernicus Emergency Management Service. They also provided a consultancy for the Luhansk department of the State Emergency Service of Ukraine (SESU) on using satellite monitoring data. This aimed to highlight the importance of early warning systems in disaster monitoring.



ENGAGING STAKEHOLDERS ON RISKS

A range of issues related to environmental/industrial risks remain the subject of active discussions between R2P and key stakeholders at the national level. Thus, problems related to Sendai priorities were discussed with the Ministry of Environmental Protection. Following these consultations, the Ministry gave positive feedback on the analytical report on the legal framework on environmental/industrial risks elaborated by R2P.

Besides, issues related to legal regulation of emergency risk monitoring were brought into focus during discussions with SESU. Another important topic that was discussed with SESU experts concerned the legal framework around industrial safety. Thus, in July R2P held a working meeting with the SESU representative responsible for the monitoring of emergencies and subsequent reporting to UN DesInventar under the Sendai Program reporting framework. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss two draft regulations related to the monitoring of emergencies:

- “Regulations on Interaction of Stakeholders responsible for Monitoring, Observation, Laboratory Control and Forecasting of Emergencies”;
- “Operational Procedure for Emergency Monitoring and Forecasting System”.



In parallel, since a few years now and with a noticeable increase in speed this year, the decentralization reform has been vesting additional powers and responsibilities in amalgamated hromadas, including in the field of civil protection. At the same time, this process is being accompanied by new challenges, mainly related to the creation of an efficient civil protection system at the local level, including mass and public alert systems (MPAISs). Therefore, in parallel with advocacy activities at the national level, R2P continues its field discussions at the local level, to facilitate the elaboration of feasible solutions for communities. Thus, in August R2P had a bilateral meeting with SESU's Educational and Methodological Center in Kostyantynivka to discuss prospects for using internationally recognized solutions in the field of MPAISs. The discussion focused on the opportunity to adopt international best practices in the Ukrainian context.

Additionally, to have a broader look at civil protection issues through the lens of decentralization, R2P is working closely with stakeholders at the raion level. In August, a multilateral meeting was organized by R2P with Bakhmut raion state administration and ACTED, to discuss key challenges caused by the decentralization reform and restructuring of raions.

To present the findings of R2P's legal analysis, as well as the outcomes of the Consortium's activities, R2P has drafted a White Book on DRR and Civil Protection issues. This White Book will be introduced to key stakeholders through a series of informational events to be conducted soon at raion and national level.

